

Screening Survey

Informed Consent

We are a team of researchers at [REDACTED] investigating users' perspectives toward the use of artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots for mental wellness purposes.

In this short screening survey, we will ask you a few questions to determine your eligibility to participate in our main interview study. Regardless of whether or not you are eligible for the remote interview session, you will be compensated for your time in completing this survey.

If you are eligible to participate in our main interview study, we will provide you access to a separate Prolific instance where you can schedule an interview over the next 3 days. The remote interview will take around 45–60 minutes, and as an appreciation of your time, you will receive \$30 compensation through Prolific.

Your responses to this screening survey will be anonymized. Data from this survey will be stored securely and kept confidential. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may withdraw your participation at any time.

In order to participate, you must be at least 18 years old and live in the United States. We expect that this survey will take about 2 minutes to complete.

For questions about this study, please contact the team at [REDACTED]. For questions about your rights, please contact the [REDACTED] Institutional Review Board at [REDACTED]. It will be helpful if you include Protocol ID [REDACTED] in your communication.

Pre-Screening Questions

– I am at least 18 years old.

- Yes
- No

– I live in the United States.

- Yes
- No

– I have read and understood this consent form, and I agree to participate in this screening survey.

- Yes
- No

– What is your Prolific ID? (This response should auto-fill with the correct ID.)

[Open-ended]

Screening Questions

– Have you ever used an AI-enabled chatbot for mental wellness support?

- Yes
- No

– Please name the AI-enabled chatbot(s) that you have used for mental wellness support.

[Open-ended]

– How long have you been a user of your AI-enabled chatbot(s) for mental wellness support?

- Less than 1 month
- 1–3 months
- 4–6 months
- 7–12 months
- More than 1 year

– How often do you currently use your AI-enabled chatbot(s) for mental wellness support?

- Daily
- Several times a week
- Once a week
- Once a month
- Never

– Please specify the mental wellness–related purpose(s) that you use your AI-enabled chatbot(s) for. (Check as many as apply.)

- Alleviate mental health issues (e.g., anxiety, depression, stress, addiction, etc.)
- Build helpful habits for mental health
- Identify mental health issues
- Look for appropriate mental health services (e.g., therapy, healthcare providers, etc.)
- Replace in-person mental health services
- Track moods
- Other (please specify) [Open-ended]

– What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18–24
- 25–34
- 35–44
- 45–54
- 55–64
- 65–74
- 75–84
- 85 or older
- Prefer not to say

– How do you describe your ethnicity? (Check as many as apply.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino, or Spanish origin of any race
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other (please specify) [Open-ended]
- Prefer not to say

– What is your gender identification?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender Male
- Transgender Female
- Genderqueer / Gender non-conforming
- Prefer to self-describe [Open-ended]
- Prefer not to say

– What is the highest degree you have earned?

- No schooling completed
- Nursery school
- Grades 1 through 11
- 12th grade—no diploma
- Regular high school diploma
- GED or alternative credential

- Some college credit, but less than 1 year of college
- 1 or more years of college credit, no degree
- Associate's degree (e.g., AA, AS)
- Bachelor's degree (e.g., BA, BS)
- Master's degree (e.g., MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
- Professional degree beyond bachelor's degree (e.g., MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
- Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD)
- Prefer not to say

– Which of the following best describes your English proficiency?

- Native or bilingual proficiency
- Full professional proficiency
- Professional working proficiency
- Limited working proficiency
- Elementary proficiency
- No proficiency
- Prefer not to say

– Which of the following best describes your personal income last year?

- \$0–\$9,999
- \$10,000–\$24,999
- \$25,000–\$49,999
- \$50,000–\$74,999
- \$75,000–\$99,999
- \$100,000–\$149,999
- \$150,000+
- Prefer not to say

– Do you have an academic or professional background in technology?

- Yes (please specify) [Open-ended]
- No
- Prefer not to say

– Do you have an academic or professional background in mental health?

- Yes (please specify) [Open-ended]
- No
- Prefer not to say

– Have you ever been formally diagnosed with a mental health condition?

- Yes, I have been formally diagnosed with mental health condition(s). (Please specify your condition only if you feel comfortable doing so.) [Open-ended]
- No, I have never been diagnosed with any mental health conditions.
- Prefer not to say

– Are you willing to participate in a 45–60 minute interview within the next 3 days to discuss your use of AI-enabled chatbots for mental wellness, compensated at a flat rate of \$30 through Prolific?

- Yes
- No

Informed Consent for Interviews

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as part of our research project on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots for mental wellness purposes; I truly appreciate your time. I would like to discuss your thoughts and perceptions about the technologies that you're currently using, with the intention of identifying subjective concerns with these technologies. I'm also interested in understanding your perspectives of the legal protections and ownership you have regarding the data collected via these technologies.

The interview will take approximately 45–60 minutes, and we don't expect there to be any harmful effects associated with involvement in this study. With your permission, we'll be recording the audio for this interview and transcribing it afterward. We will not include in our findings your name or any other information that might identify you. Although collected data may be made public or used for future research purposes, your identity will always remain confidential.

Your participation in this interview is voluntary; you can skip any questions you do not want to answer or stop the interview at any time, for any reason. Upon completion of the interview, you'll be compensated with \$30 through Prolific. Do you have any questions about our research group, the research we've described, or your involvement? Please feel free to ask now, or email at a later time.

You can contact me later at [REDACTED]. You can also contact my research advisor, [REDACTED], at [REDACTED]. For questions about your rights as a participant in this research, please contact the [REDACTED] Campus IRB at [REDACTED]. If contacting the IRB, please reference protocol ID [REDACTED].