

## **Key Information**

### ***Understanding Pathways to Care For Individuals in Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas***

#### **What Am I Being Asked To Do?**

You are being asked to be a volunteer in a research study. This page will give you key information to help you decide if you would like to participate. Your participation is voluntary. As you read, please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the research.

#### **What Is This Study About and What Procedures Will You be Asked to Follow?**

The purpose of this study is to better understand how people find access to mental healthcare. You will be asked survey questions about yourself, as well as the different resources you use to feel better when you are not feeling well.

#### **Are There Any Risks or Discomforts you Might Experience by Being in this Study?**

Survey questions deal with your mental health background and may touch on topics you do not want to discuss. You are not required to answer any questions and choose to not answer and move to a different question or choose to stop participating in the study at any time.

#### **What Are the Reasons You Might Want to Volunteer For This Study?**

You are not likely to benefit in any way from joining this study. However, your participation in this study may assist researchers in understanding how people in resource-limited areas find access to mental healthcare.

#### **Do You Have to Take Part in the This Study?**

It is fully your decision if you wish to be in this study or not. If you choose not to participate, or choose to participate and later determine you no longer wish to, you will not lose any rights, services, or benefits as a result of your withdrawal. The study is completely voluntary.

# CONSENT DOCUMENT FOR ENROLLING ADULT PARTICIPANTS IN A RESEARCH STUDY

Georgia Institute of Technology

Project Title: Understanding Pathways to Care For Individuals in Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas

Investigators: Dr. Munmun De Choudhury (Co-Principal Investigator), Dr. Neha Kumar (Co-Principal Investigator)

You are being asked to volunteer in a research study.

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this study is to identify how people find care for their mental health, and what roles technology might play.

## **Exclusion/Inclusion Criteria:**

Participants in this study must be adults.

## **Procedure:**

If you decide to be in this study, you will be asked survey questions about where you live and how you have sought support for mental health concerns. You will not be compensated for participation in this study.

## **Risks and Benefits:**

There is a risk that you may find some of the questions to be sensitive given that the questions are designed to better understand your thoughts on mental health, both individual and general. Note that you may skip any questions that you do not want to answer. You are not likely to directly benefit in any way by participating in this study. However, through this study, we hope to uncover valuable information relating to mental healthcare in underserved areas. As a result of this research, we hope that what we learn will help us better design tools for people with mental health issues in underserved areas.

## **Confidentiality:**

The following procedures will be followed to keep your personal information confidential in this study. Data collected from this survey will be stored in an access controlled electronic format and will not be associated with any identifying information unless you consent to a follow-up interview. Your responses will remain confidential. The reporting of the findings of this study will contain no personal or identifying information about individual participants. To make sure that this research is being carried out in the proper way, the Georgia Institute of Technology IRB may review study records. The Office of Human Research Protections may also look over study records during required reviews. We will comply with any applicable laws and regulations regarding confidentiality. You should also be aware that the experiment is not being run from a secure https server of the kind typically used to handle credit card transactions, so there is a small possibility that responses could be viewed by unauthorized third parties such as computer hackers. In general, the web page software will log as header lines the IP address of the machine you use to access this page, e.g., 102.403.506.807, but otherwise, no other information will be

stored unless you explicitly enter it. We will comply with any applicable laws and regulations regarding confidentiality.

**Costs to You:**

There are no costs to you, other than your time, for being in this study.

**Compensation to You:**

There is no compensation for participation in this study.

**Participant Rights:**

- Your participation in this study is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study if you don't want to be.
- You have the right to change your mind and leave the study at any time without giving any reason and without penalty.
- Any new information that may make you change your mind about being in this study will be given to you.
- You do not waive any of your legal rights through accepting this consent form.

**In Case of Injury/Harm:**

If you are injured as a result of being in this study, please contact Co-Principal Investigator, Munmun De Choudhury at (404) 385-8603 or Co-Principal Investigator Neha Kumar at (650) 516-6342. Neither the Principal Investigator nor Georgia Institute of Technology has made provision for providing mental illness diagnosis, treatment, or payment of costs to participants of this study.

If you are experiencing extreme stress, anxiety, or emotional distress, please consider using one or more of the resources included in the resource attachment of the study.

**Questions about the Study:**

If you have any questions about the study, you may contact Co-Principal Investigator Munmun De Choudhury at (404) 385-8603 or [munmund@gatech.edu](mailto:munmund@gatech.edu) or Neha Kumar at (650) 516-6342 or [neha.kumar@gatech.edu](mailto:neha.kumar@gatech.edu).

**Questions about Your Rights as a Research Participant:**

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact  
Ms. Kelly Winn, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Office of Research Integrity Assurance, at (404) 385- 2175.

**Waiver of documentation of consent:** If you proceed to answer the following survey questions, it means that you have read the information contained in this consent form, and you would like to be a volunteer in this study. It is recommended that you save or print a copy of this consent form for your own records.

Thank you,

Munmun De Choudhury  
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