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Title: MakeSafe: Developing an Application to Assist with Better Decision Making

Type: Undergraduate

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Abstract: The transition from incarceration to the community is a particularly high-risk period for offenders. During reentry, they are more likely to engage in unhealthy behaviors. The Institute of Behavioral Research (IBR) at TCU first developed and tested an in-prison group-paced curriculum titled WaySafe, targeted toward incarcerated offenders in their last phase of substance-abuse treatment to improve decision-making when they return to the community. StaySafe, based on the WaySafe intervention, consists of twelve self-paced sessions lasting 10-15 minutes for use among community corrections populations. The MakeSafe senior project, sponsored by IBR, developed the StaySafe application for Android™ to meet IBR's design requirements. Major objectives of this project included developing the StaySafe app, saving research data (e.g., user selections, usage statistics, and satisfaction survey responses), and creating a version-publishing application. Titled KeepSafe, this element provides the researchers with sustainability, a means of publishing future versions of the application without further developer involvement. With the IBR's research experience in behavioral science and public health, and the MakeSafe team's software programing expertise, we hope to deliver an effective intervention that guides better decisions and reduces the risk of HIV infection among probationers supervised by the community corrections system.