The Problem: Social media algorithms knowingly promote harmful mental health content to youth in return for boosted engagement and profits.

Social media platform algorithms place extreme pro-eating disorder, suicide, & depression content next to youth-targeted advertising and serve this content to youth to maximize engagement & spending.

Instagram has 90k pro-eating disorder content creators reaching 20 million followers & earns more than $230M/yr from pro-ED content.

On TikTok, harmful content is served every: 2.6 mins for suicide & 8 mins for eating disorders.

Nearly half of U.S. teens report experiencing cyberbullying, which increases suicide risk.

The Impact: Social media-fueled rise in youth psychiatric conditions.

U.S. DOJ, FBI actively investigating Snapchat for fentanyl & other drug sales on platform.

Algorithm boosts certain content without disclosure to users.

Meta

“Actively encouraged girls into body dysmorphia” with plastic surgery filter promotion.

Designed products to exploit teen brains’ dopamine sensitivity and their “insatiable appetite for novelty”.

According to State Attorneys General Court Filings.

The Solution: Hold Big Tech accountable through a safety by design approach for users under 17.

Duty of care to protect minors from mental health harms, sexual exploitation, narcotics, and more.

Independent external audits to assess compliance and risk.

Enforced via FTC’s Unfair and Deceptive Practices Act authority.

Enhanced youth and parental controls.

National Academy of Sciences authority to study and report on social media impact on youth.

Interested in cosponsoring?

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Sources


