

## Safewatch: Detecting Mental Health Struggles on Social Media

FRISCO, TX, UNITED STATES, October 18, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- AI Platform Identifies Early Signs of Mental Health Struggles on Social Media

Mental health issues often manifest in ways that are not immediately visible. A recent incident at a local track meet, where a student attacked another participant in a fit of rage, underscored the need for earlier identification of emotional distress.

This raised the question of whether early indicators of mental health struggles could be detected before a crisis occurs.

Many individuals do not communicate openly about their emotional state but often leave digital indicators in their online behavior. Social media, for better or worse, has become the diary of Gen Z and Alpha. It's where people express frustration, isolation, and sadness in ways that feel safe, even if they're not asking for help directly.

The Problem: Signs of Poor Mental Health Often Go Unseen

Across platforms like X and TikTok, millions of young people post daily. However, signals of declining mental health, such as increased negativity, erratic posting, or sudden silence, often blend in with everyday noise.

Mental health professionals recognize that early detection can make a difference, but there is currently no scalable method to monitor subtle behavioral shifts on social media without compromising privacy. This gap led to the development of SafeWatch, a system designed to identify patterns of potential risk through Al analysis.

What Was Designed: SafeWatch

SafeWatch is a web platform that detects patterns of emotional distress in social media activity.

The system uses a fine-tuned GPT model that analyzes text and behavioral cues from public X posts. It evaluates posting frequency, tone, and emotional content to generate a "Safety Score" from 0 to 100, accompanied by a risk level: low, moderate, high, or crisis. The model does not provide diagnostic assessments but identifies recurring trends that may indicate concern.

The design includes four primary components:

Friends Monitor: analyzes public X accounts for potential mental health risk based on posting patterns and language use.

Safety Journal: allows users to privately record mood, stress, energy, and sleep quality through sliders and written reflections.

Survivor Network: connects users with peer support communities, counselors, and local mental health resources.

Recovery Progress: includes gamified elements such as badges and streaks that support consistent journaling and engagement.

Who Can Use It

SafeWatch is intended for individuals and professionals seeking data-driven insight into mental health-related behavioral patterns. Its structure prioritizes accessibility and usability, providing concise analytical feedback. The platform is designed for brief, periodic use, offering users an overview of trends based on their input and analysis.

The Path Forward and Challenges

Development is underway to extend SafeWatch's analysis to include TikTok, incorporating multimodal data such as visuals and captions. Building this capability requires models that can interpret tone and context in short-form videos.

A key challenge has been maintaining accuracy while ensuring empathy. Algorithms that flag negative language risk misunderstanding sarcasm or humor as distress. To mitigate this, SafeWatch employs multi-layered evaluation that considers behavior over time rather than isolated posts.

Ethical design remains a central focus. Mental health data is sensitive, and analysis tools must ensure user protection. SafeWatch implements a 15-minute data expiration policy and enables full use without requiring an account. All features were developed following trauma-informed design principles to safeguard privacy and user wellbeing.

Future development may include integration with campus counseling systems and community-

based mental health programs. While technology cannot resolve mental health challenges on its own, it can provide an additional layer of awareness that supports understanding and early recognition.

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