

Divergent effects of social media use on meaning in life via loneliness and existential isolation during the coronavirus pandemic

Supplemental Materials

Item 2 of the emotional loneliness scale (De Jong Gierveld & van Tillburg, 2006) was dropped in Studies 1 and 2 to improve scale reliability. Models utilizing each item separately was not possible because *PROCESS* (Hayes, 2012) mediation is unable to specify dichotomous variables as mediators. Thus, Tables S1-S3 report the specific paths and indirect effects for Study 1 and 2 analyses utilizing different combinations of emotional loneliness items. Results only differ in Study 1 (Table S1) such that all other combinations of emotional loneliness items lead to significant indirect effects from social media use to meaning in life. However, the utilized combination (items 1 and 3) resulted in the best internal reliability.

Table S1

Specific pathways and indirect effect of social media use on meaning in life via emotional loneliness item combinations in Study 1

X	EL items	Y	<i>a</i> -path (SE)	<i>b</i> -path (SE)	Ind. Effect (SE)	95% CI
SM use	1, 3	MIL	.01 (.01)	-.94 (.19)	-.01 (.01)	[-.04, .01]
SM use	1, 2, 3	MIL	.02 (.01)	-.94 (.21)	-.02 (.01)	[-.05, -.001]
SM use	1, 2	MIL	.03 (.01)	-.69 (.18)	-.02 (.01)	[-.05, -.003]
SM use	2, 3	MIL	.03 (.01)	-.69 (.20)	-.02 (.01)	[-.04, -.002]

Note: EL = emotional loneliness; MIL = meaning in life. Ind. Effect = indirect effect. Item combination 1 & 3 (bolded) was reported in manuscript. 95% CI refers to indirect effect. Other variables in model include state existential isolation, social loneliness, age, gender, if participants were in a state with active stay-at-home orders, and whether participants were following those orders.

Table S2

Specific pathways and indirect effect of active social media use on meaning in life via emotional loneliness item combinations in Study 2

X	EL items	Y	<i>a</i> -path (SE)	<i>b</i> -path (SE)	Ind. Effect (SE)	95% CI
Active use	1, 3	MIL	.03 (.01)	-.82 (.09)	-.03 (.01)	[-.04, -.02]
Active use	1, 2, 3	MIL	.04 (.01)	-.80 (.11)	-.03 (.01)	[-.05, -.02]
Active use	1, 2	MIL	.03 (.01)	-.46 (.11)	-.02 (.01)	[-.02, -.01]
Active use	2, 3	MIL	.03 (.01)	-.46 (.11)	-.02 (.01)	[-.03, -.01]

Note: EL = emotional loneliness; MIL = meaning in life. Ind. Effect = indirect effect. Item combination 1 & 3 (bolded) was reported in manuscript. 95% CI refers to indirect effect. Other variables in model include state existential isolation, social loneliness, age, gender, if participants were in a state with active stay-at-home orders, whether participants were following those orders, passive social media use, week of data collection.

Table S3

Specific pathways and indirect effect of passive social media use on meaning in life via emotional loneliness item combinations in Study 2

X	EL items	Y	a-path (SE)	b-path (SE)	Ind. Effect (SE)	95% CI
Passive use	1, 3	MIL	.02 (.01)	-.82 (.09)	-.02 (.01)	[-.03, -.001]
Passive use	1, 2, 3	MIL	.02 (.01)	-.80 (.11)	-.01 (.01)	[-.03, -.003]
Passive use	1, 2	MIL	.02 (.01)	-.58 (.10)	-.01 (.01)	[-.02, -.003]
Passive use	2, 3	MIL	.01 (.01)	-.46 (.11)	-.01 (.004)	[-.01, -.0001]

Note: EL = emotional loneliness; MIL = meaning in life. Ind. Effect = indirect effect. Item combination 1 & 3 (bolded) was reported in manuscript. 95% CI refers to indirect effect. Other variables in model include state existential isolation, social loneliness, age, gender, if participants were in a state with active stay-at-home orders, whether participants were following those orders, active social media use, week of data collection.