



Impact, Scalability and Sustainability

Brief Biannual Report (January-June, 2016)



We here at TeenSmart are still celebrating the enormous honor of having been chosen from among 140 incredibly-qualified organizations in Latin America as **the Carlos Slim Exceptional Health Institute for 2016**. This Prize defines a significant new step forward for our organization as we reflect on our accomplishments and envision a new tomorrow.

Why was TeenSmart chosen from among so many other deserving organizations to receive the Prize? According to the Carlos Slim Foundation, it came down to three ingredients: **Impact. Scalability. Sustainability.**

TeenSmart and its growing Alliance Joven Salud are pleased to share with you our mid-year report of accomplishments that highlights these three ingredients at work. Thanks to your valued support, we continue to reach more youth and engage more partners!





Four members of the Board of Directors and two staff attended the Carlos Slim Award Ceremonies at the Soumaya Museum in Mexico City on June 29. And back in Central America, the telecommunications company CLARO opened its stores to live-stream the ceremony and host our Youth Leadership teams.

Join in on the fun! [Click here to view photos](#) of the Carlos Slim Ceremony events and to leave your comments of support. We also invite you to [watch the video about TeenSmart that was shown at the award ceremony by clicking here](#).

Impact

TeenSmart's impact is not only represented in the number of youth we reach, but also in their individual testimonies, the quality of the relationships we build with each institution, and the statistical tools we give schools and other implementing partners to identify the major risk behaviors in their community so that they can create a personalized action plan to transform and improve the lives of these young people.

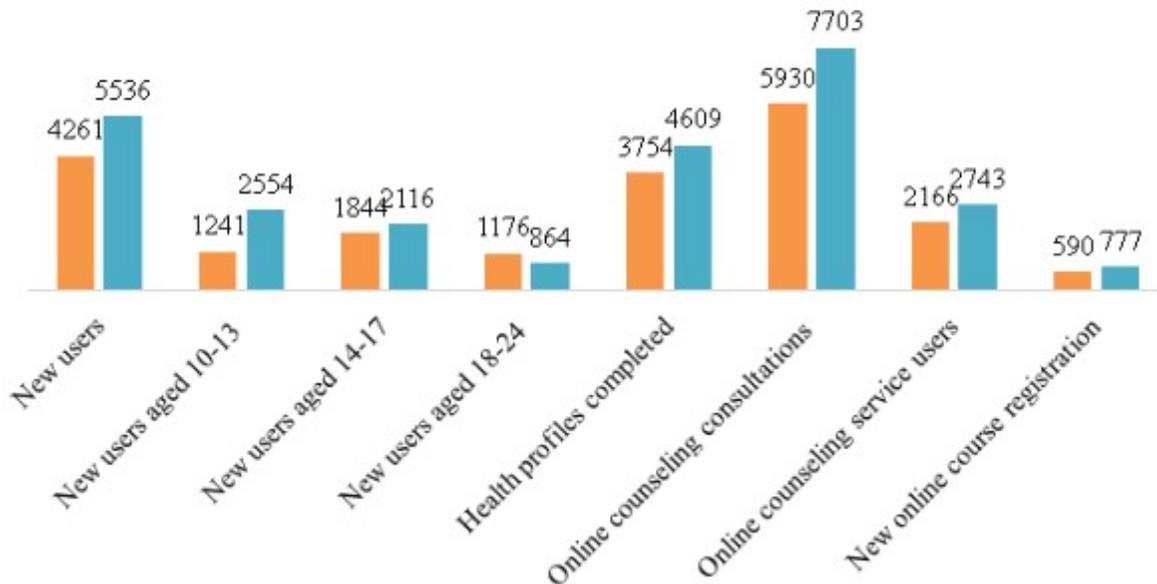
- Total number of registered users: 36,100
- New users registered between January 1-June 30, 2016: 5,536
 - New users aged 10-13: 46%
 - New users aged 14-17: 38%
 - New users aged 18 years or older: 16%
- On-line counseling consultations: 7,703 unique questions from 2,743 individuals
- Users registered in on-line courses: 777
- Major risk behaviors (identified in the Health Profile completed by 4,609 users)
 - 53.4% do not always use a seatbelt when riding in a car
 - 49.2% do not speak with family members about their conflicts and issues
 - 16.7% have smoked a cigarette at some point



- 44.6% of this group have smoked a cigarette in the past month (300+ youth)
- 36.4% have consumed alcohol
 - 43.3% of this group have consumed alcohol in the past month (749 youth)
- 20.6% have had sexual relations with a partner
 - 59.8% of this sexually active group do not always use a condom

TeenSmart is on the rise!
Comparison of first semester 2015 and 2016
(Gross values)

■ 2015 ■ 2016



Sustainability

Building strong partnerships with stable government institutions invested in our guiding mission, is important to TeenSmart's long-term sustainability.

New Alliance with the Ministry of Education in Nicaragua

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our Nicaraguan staff and our partnership with the Nicaraguan Ministry of External Cooperation, TeenSmart International has strengthened its alliance with the **Ministry of Education in Nicaragua (MINED)**. In this new partnership, 25 new schools will receive training in July 2016 to register around 3,000 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students on Joven Salud where they will fill out health questionnaires and have access to Joven Salud's online counseling services. We will be monitoring this new partnership incrementally as new schools incorporate and begin implementing Joven Salud's online courses. The Ministry of Education will be in charge of promoting the services and the participating public schools will provide access to computers, the Internet and electricity. These in-kind contributions will allow TeenSmart and the Joven Salud Alliance to focus chiefly on professional volunteer capacity building and on



the maintenance and development of the Joven Salud platform.

Scalability

Community volunteers and youth leaders scale out TeenSmart's model of self-empowerment and education around risky behaviors, and in so doing, they create more impact than we could ever achieve alone.

Examples of successful models of scaling in Costa Rica and Nicaragua

All new students at the **Technical University in Nicaragua (UPOLI)** are required to register on jovensalud.net so that they will have free access to the services and the university will have reliable statistics about the newly-arriving students' major health concerns. In addition, students enrolled in the Nutrition & Nursing Department are invited to participate in Joven Salud's online courses and then to facilitate these courses in their local communities.

In Costa Rica, all high school students are required to fulfill a community service requirement before they graduate. Recently, a group of seniors at the **Professional Technical High School in Escazu (TCU)**, gave back to their community and simultaneously fulfilled their community service requirements by facilitating recreational activities to younger students around the topics of smoking and alcohol. In preparation for these peer-trainings, the youth used information they acquired in online courses and in the virtual library on Jovensalud.net. They effectively promoted Joven Salud's services as an empowering and fun way to learn about oneself.

In the **Mayatan School in Honduras**, the TeenSmart leadership team has implemented jovensalud.net with 216 youth in a self-managed way that points towards initiative and leadership!

What motivated you to volunteer with TeenSmart?

"When they told me about the [Crece-para-Ser] Course, I was motivated to think that I was going to learn about myself, about my sexuality and to learn about risk factors. It seemed interesting to me because I wanted to be a leader in my community. I wanted to be one of the people who helps others. In my neighborhood, there are a lot of risk factors because there are so many gangs – peer pressure is fatal and I wanted to do something for my community. **My neighborhood was my motivation.** *[Translated from Spanish]*

-TeenSmart Volunteer from the Technical University in Nicaragua (UPOLI)

On behalf of TeenSmart, we thank you for your generous donations in time, money and other resources that keep TeenSmart focused, motivated and sustainable. The Carlos Slim prize belongs to all of you – donors, volunteers, staff, leadership teams, youth – for constantly improving the services of Joven Salud & TeenSmart. Adelante!

Follow us on Facebook at [TeenSmart](#) and [JovenSalud](#)

You can help! [Click here to make a donation online.](#)

Tell a friend about us or let us know about grant opportunities!

Write to: mcoffman@teensmart.net

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