ActionPoint: An App to Combat Cyberbullying by Strengthening Parent-Teen Relationships

Students: Maddie Juarez, Natali Barragan   Advisors: Yasin N. Silva, Deborah Hall, George K. Thiruvathukal
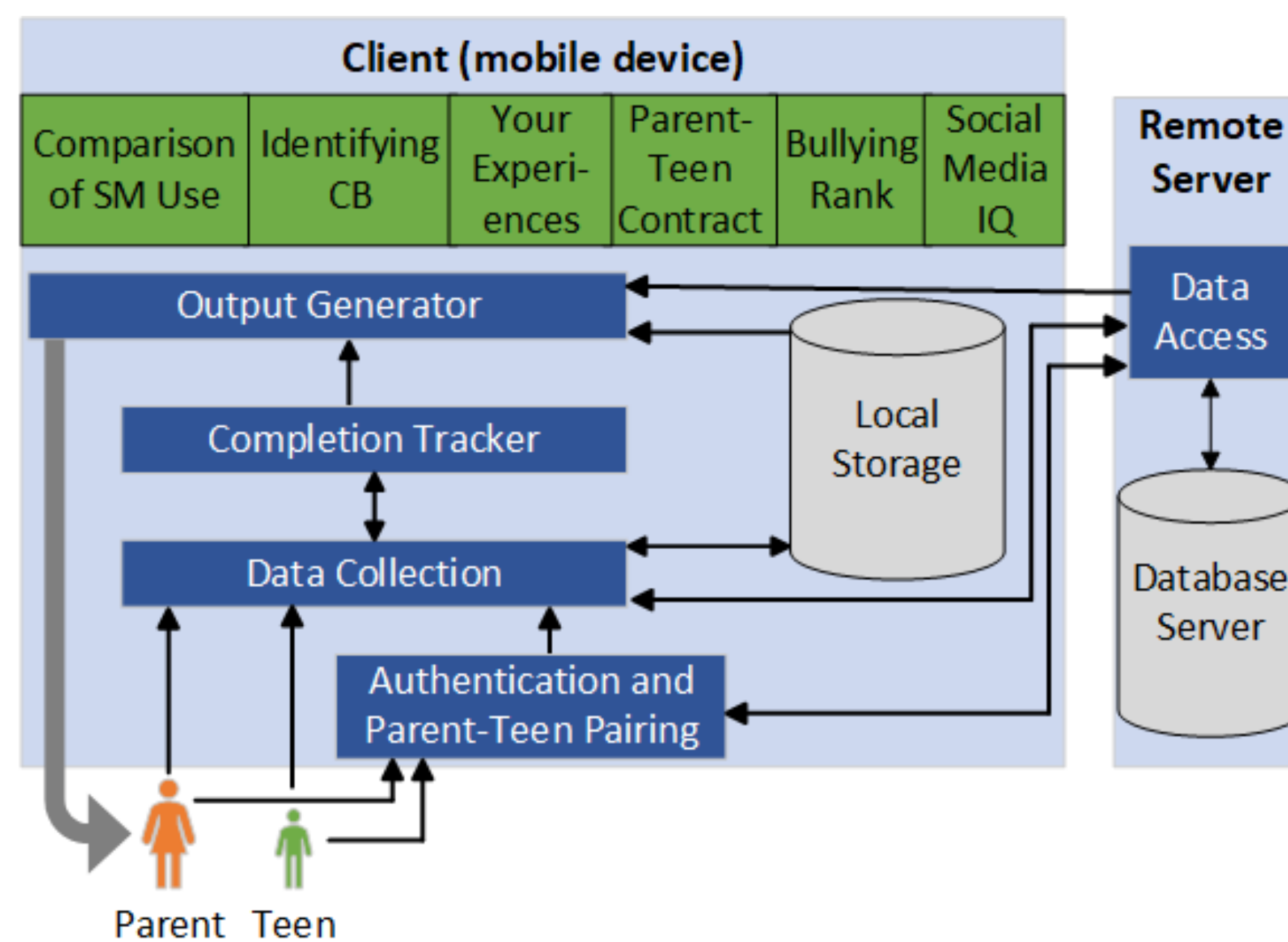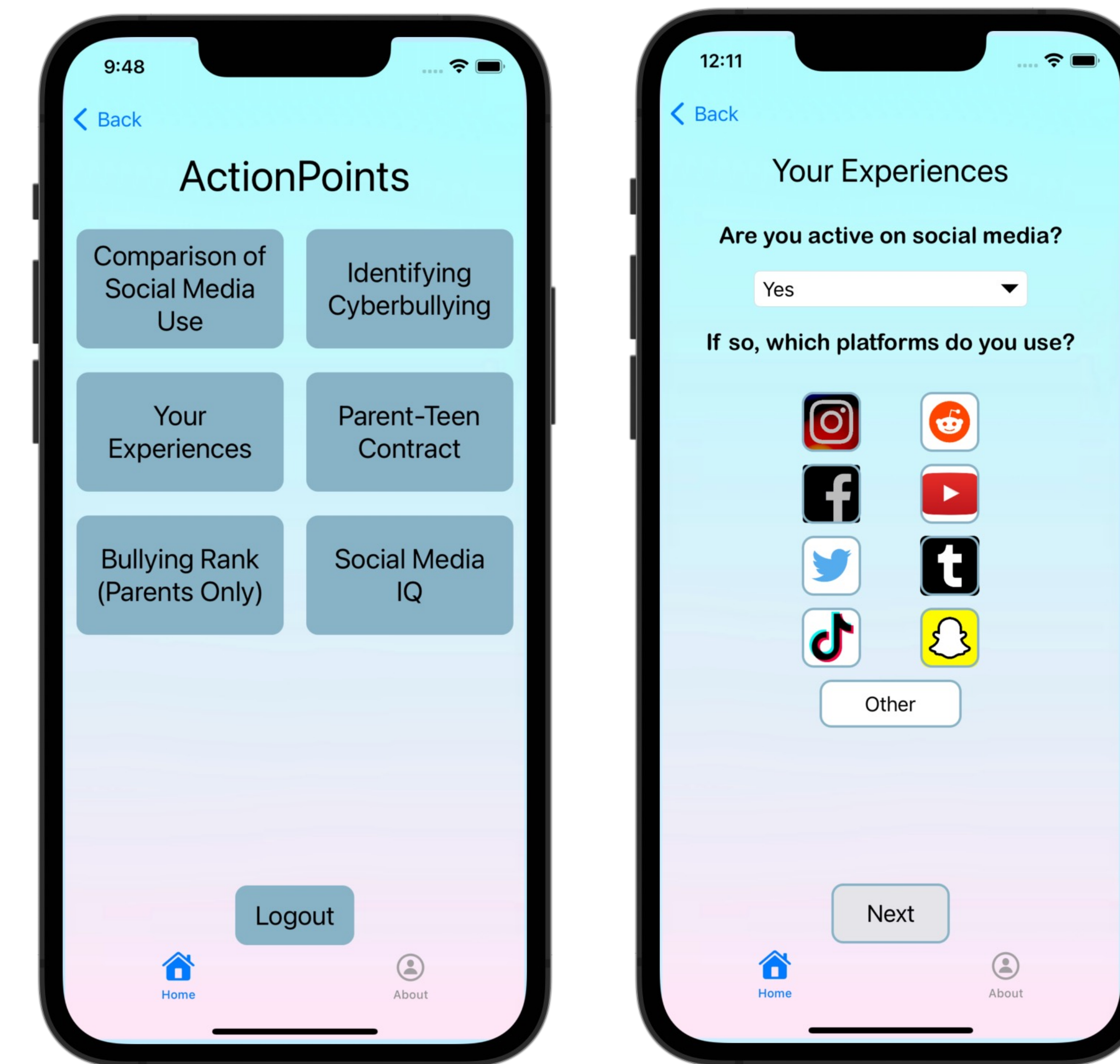
Overview

- Urgent need for intervention tools to mitigate increase in cyberbullying
- ActionPoint is based on parent-teen relationship research
- App includes interactive modules to improve family communication and online behavior to combat cyberbullying effects
- To be presented in the IEEE World Forum on Public Safety Technology 2024.
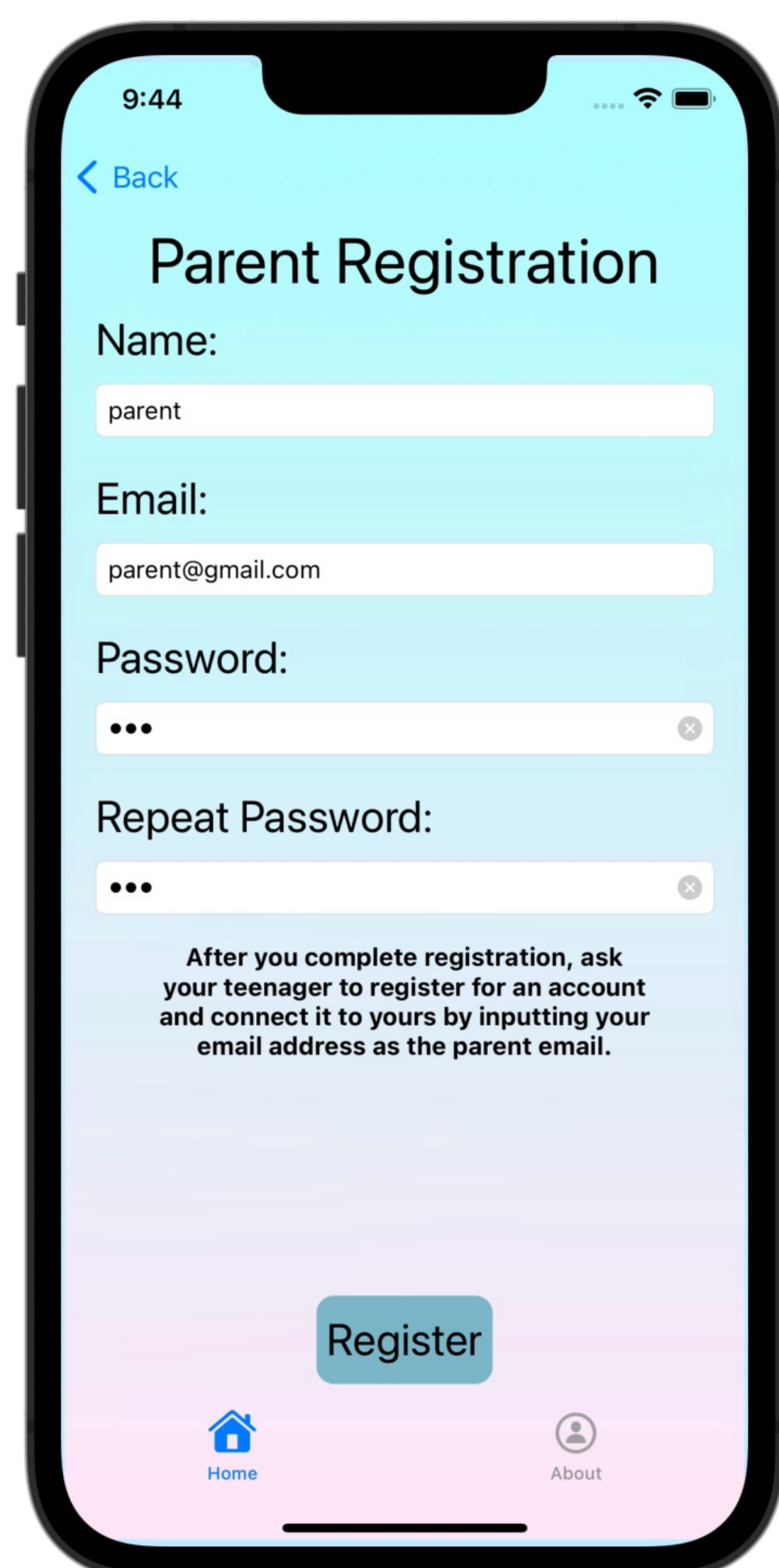
Design & Architecture

- Survey-based response system
- Developed for iOS compatibility and colorblind-friendly features
- Generates comparison of answers
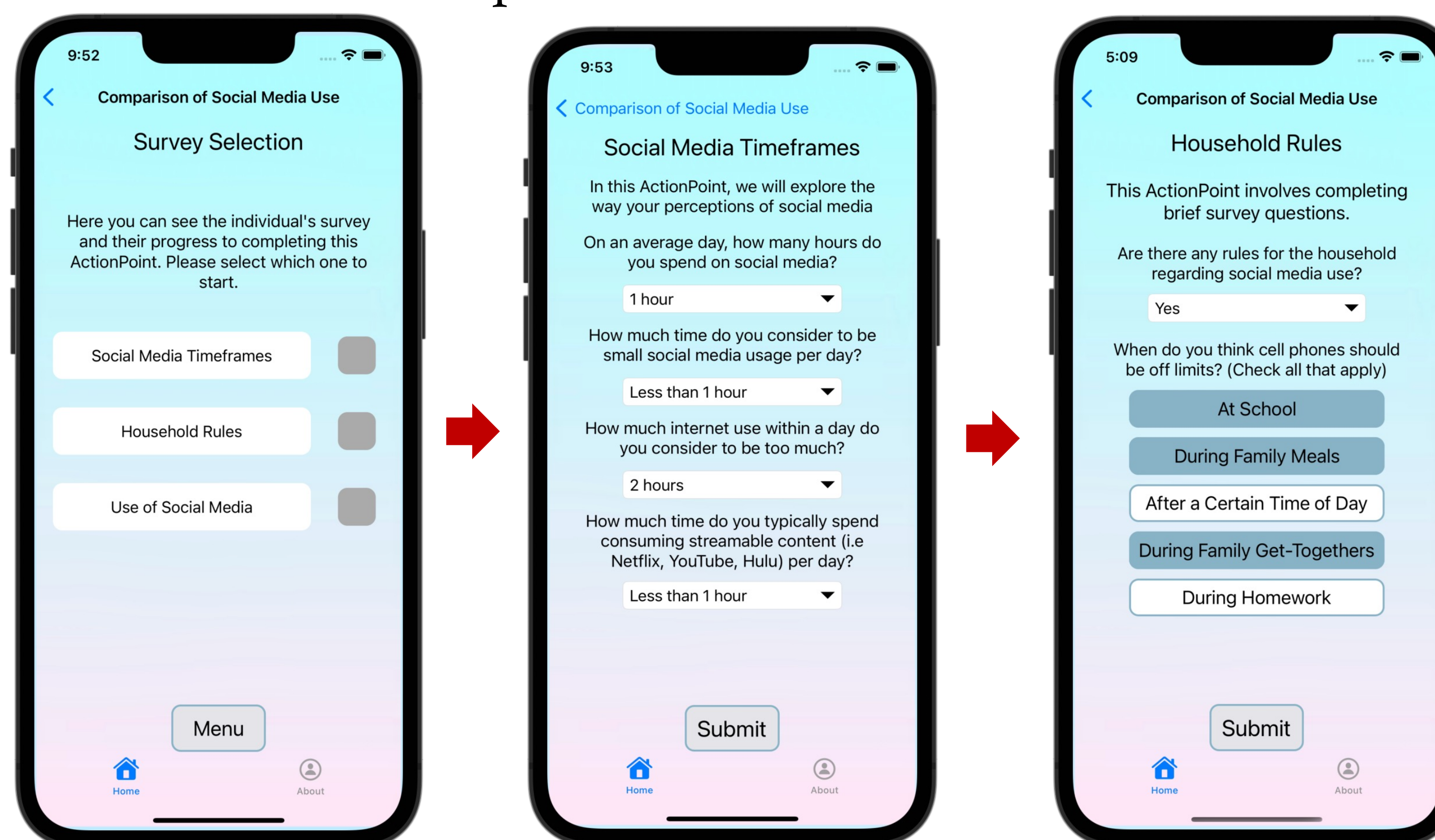- Allows one-to-one engagement with parents and teens

Framework

- Comparison of Social Media Use
- Identifying Cyberbullying
- Your Experiences,
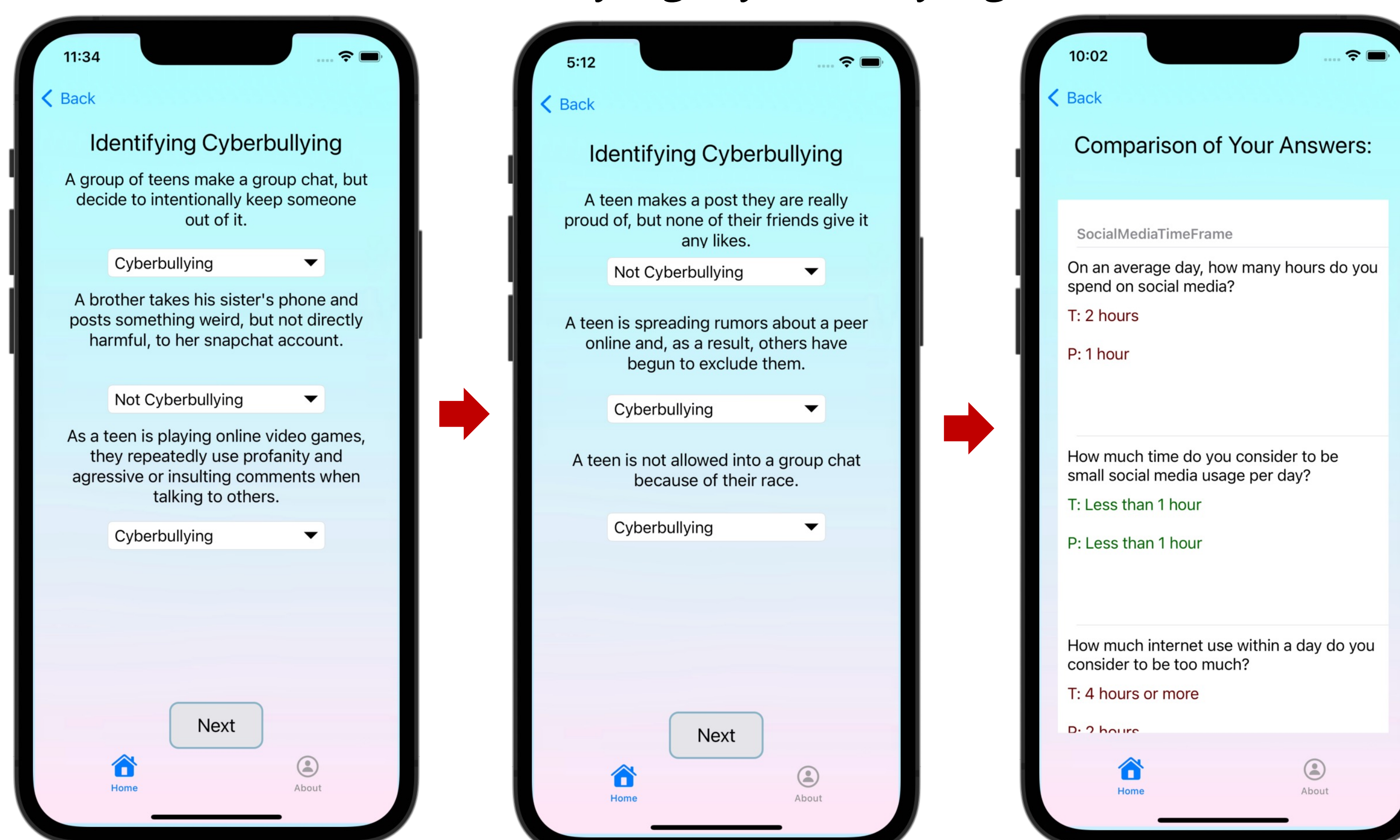- Bullying Rank
- Social Media IQ
- Parent-Teen contract.

Comparison of Social Media Use

Helps parents and teens compare their understanding of household rules with technology and social media use.

Research shows that open conversations about the teen's technology use and jointly established family rules were linked with a decrease in cyberbullying [3]. Parents and teens do this in 3 surveys:

- Social Media Timeframes
- Household Rules
- Social Media Use

Identifying Cyberbullying

Measures parents' and teens' ability to identify cyberbullying instances in a variety of scenarios.

- Research suggests that educational and intervention efforts can improve ability to recognize cyberbullying [2].
- Designed to gain greater awareness of many forms cyberbullying can take

References

[1] M. Juarez, N. Barragan, Y. Silva, D. Hall and G. K. Thiruvathukal, "ActionPoint: An App to Combat Cyberbullying by Strengthening Parent-Teen Relationships," in *World Forum on Public Safety Technology*, 2024.

[2] M. Campbell, C. Whiteford and J. Hooijer, "Teachers' and parents' understanding of traditional and cyberbullying," *Journal of School Violence,* pp. 388-402, 2019.

[3] P. Wisniewski, H. Xu, M. B. Rosson and J. M. Caroll, "Parents Just Don't Understand: Why Teens Don't Talk to Parents about Their Online Risk Experiences," in *ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing*, 2017.