

# THE CURRENT DILEMMAS OF ADOLESCENCE, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND PORNOGRAPHY

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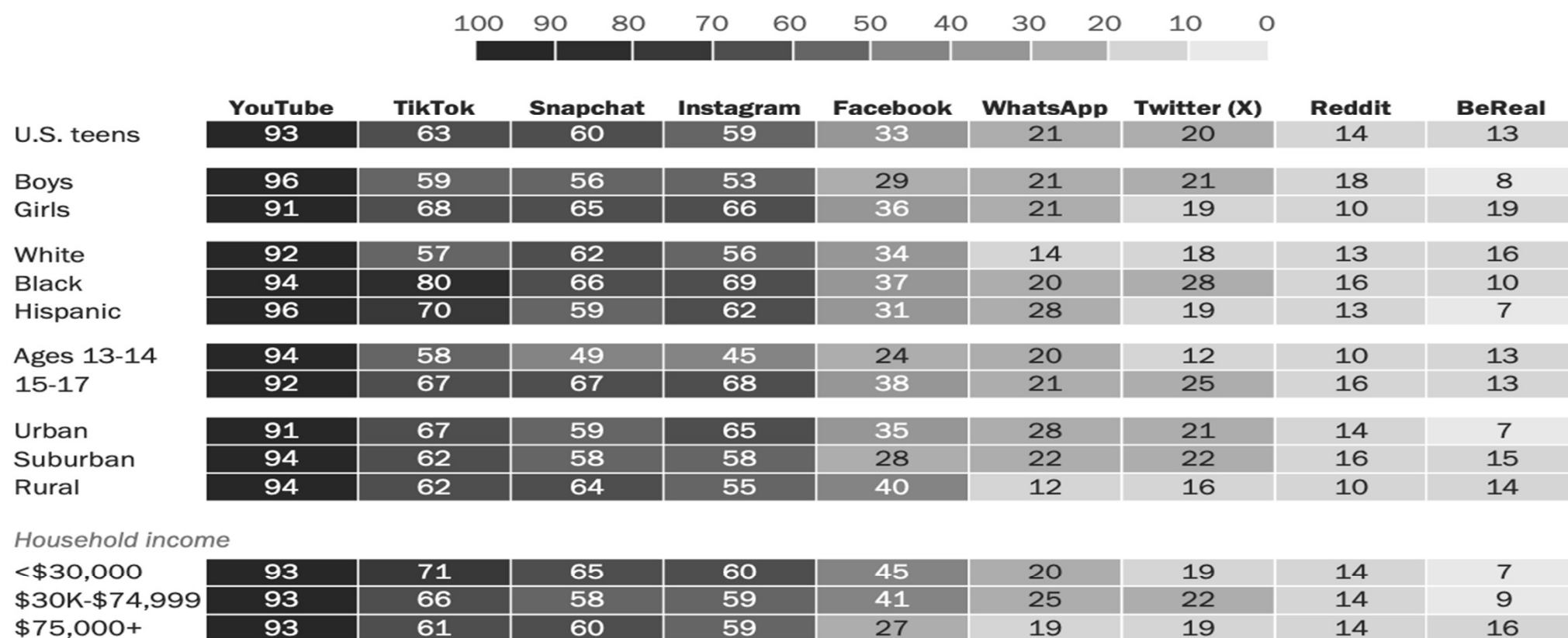
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## CAVEATS AND QUICK BACKGROUND

- NOTE: THIS TALK DOES NOT HAVE AN EXPLICIT FOCUS ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MEDIA (CSAM; FORMERLY KNOWN AS “CHILD PORNOGRAPHY”)
  - WE’RE HAPPY TO ADDRESS IT BRIEFLY IF WE CAN. 😊
- WE USED TO BE MUCH MORE NON-COMMITTAL IN OUR VIEWS. RECENT RESEARCH SHOULD CAUSE ANYONE CONCERN.
- WE’VE BEEN INFLUENCED MORE BY THE RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA THAN BY THE RESEARCH ON PORNOGRAPHY’S EFFECTS

## Teen girls more likely than boys to use several sites, including Instagram, Snapchat

% of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 who say they ever use the following apps or sites



Note: Not all numerical differences between groups shown are statistically significant. White and Black teens include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic teens are of any race. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. teens conducted Sept. 26-Oct. 23, 2023.

"Teens, Social Media and Technology 2023"

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**

SENDING, RECEIVING, AND NONCONSENSUALLY SHARING NUDE OR NEAR-NUDE IMAGES  
BY YOUTH  
SETO, ET. AL. (2023)

TABLE 2    Prevalence of image-related behaviors across age and gender.

	9–12-year-old girls ( <i>n</i> = 211)	9–12-year-old boys ( <i>n</i> = 167)	13–17-year-old girls ( <i>n</i> = 390)	13–17-year-old boys ( <i>n</i> = 185)	Total ( <i>N</i> = 996)
Self-sharing images	2.8% ( <i>n</i> = 6)	5.4% ( <i>n</i> = 9)	15.1% ( <i>n</i> = 59)	8.6% ( <i>n</i> = 16)	9.5% ( <i>n</i> = 95)
Received images of others	8.1% ( <i>n</i> = 17)	15% ( <i>n</i> = 25)	30.3% ( <i>n</i> = 118)	25.9% ( <i>n</i> = 48)	21.6% ( <i>n</i> = 215)
Nonconsensually reshared images of others	6.2% ( <i>n</i> = 13)	12% ( <i>n</i> = 20)	9.7% ( <i>n</i> = 38)	10.8% ( <i>n</i> = 20)	9.6% ( <i>n</i> = 96)
Own images nonconsensually reshared	2.8% ( <i>n</i> = 6)	6.6% ( <i>n</i> = 11)	12.1% ( <i>n</i> = 47)	13% ( <i>n</i> = 24)	9.5% ( <i>n</i> = 95)

*Note:* Sample sizes vary across variables and age-gender categories as some participants elected not to answer some questions or selected “prefer not to answer.”

# SOCIAL MEDIA AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

## THE U.S. SURGEON GENERAL'S ADVISORY 2023

*SOCIAL MEDIA USE BY YOUTH IS NEARLY UNIVERSAL. UP TO 95% OF YOUTH AGES 13–17 REPORT USING A SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM, WITH MORE THAN A THIRD SAYING THEY USE SOCIAL MEDIA “ALMOST CONSTANTLY.” ALTHOUGH AGE 13 IS COMMONLY THE REQUIRED MINIMUM AGE USED BY SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS IN THE U.S.,<sup>3</sup> NEARLY 40% OF CHILDREN AGES 8–12 USE SOCIAL MEDIA.*

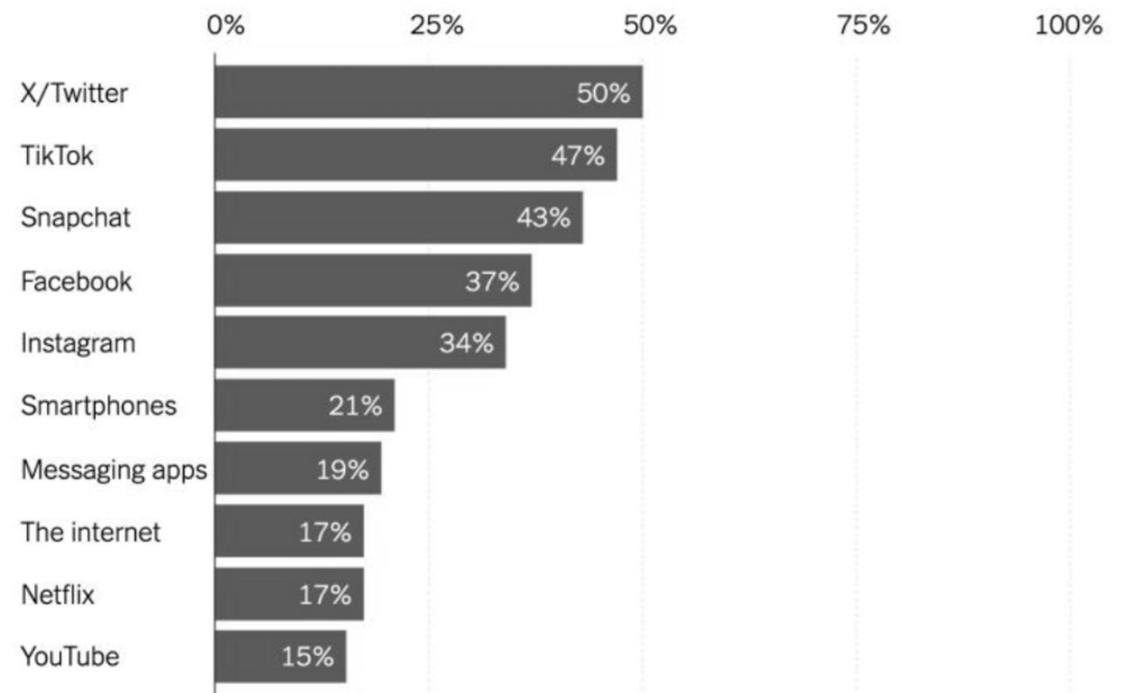
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# ARE WE TURNING THE CORNER?

- JONATHAN HAIDT
- [HTTPS://WWW.NYTIMES.COM/2024/09/17/OPINION/SOCIAL-MEDIA-SMARTPHONES-HARM-REGRET.HTML](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/17/opinion/social-media-smartphones-harm-regret.html)
- GEN Z: BORN BETWEEN 1997-2012
- CURRENT AGES: 12 - 27

## Almost half of Gen Z wishes social media platforms like X and TikTok didn't exist

Percentage of Gen Z respondents who agree with the statement "I wish \_\_\_\_ had never been invented"



Source: Harris Poll/Zach Rausch



# IMPACT OF PORNOGRAPHY ON YOUTH

- “THE PREDOMINANT HARM CAUSED BY EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY IS THE DESENSITIZATION AND NORMALIZATION OF THE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR DEPICTED IN THE PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL.” (CAMPBELL 2019)
- IN 2017 THE UK PARLIAMENT MANDATED AGE VERIFICATION FOR ACCESS TO PORNOGRAPHY SITES. IF SITES FAIL TO COMPLY, THEY MAY BE FINED, DENIED ACCESS TO ANCILLARY SERVICES OR BLOCKED.
  - SOME STATES DEMANDING VIEWERS UPLOAD GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION
  - SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT VERIFYING DEVICES AND NOT INDIVIDUALS
- THE DETERIORATION OF IMAGINATION
- SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE BENEFITS FOR EMERGING ADULTS COMING TO TERMS WITH SEXUAL IDENTITY
- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, YOUTH ARE LOOKING AT PORNOGRAPHY AND NOT MASTURBATING.



# TAKE-HOME POINTS

- NO ONE IS SAYING THAT PORN IS GOOD FOR YOUTH
  - WE DO NEED TO UNDERSTAND IT AS A REALITY
- THE CURRENT STATUS OF SOCIAL MEDIA IS CONCERNING
  - SOCIAL MEDIA AND SEXUALIZED MEDIA ARE A DANGEROUS COMBO
  - POSSIBLE ACCESS POINT FOR SEXTORTION AND OTHER FORMS OF EXPLOITATION
- WHERE SEX EDUCATION ONCE TOOK PLACE IN FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS...
  - WE WERE THEN CONCERNED ABOUT “PORN-EDUCATED” YOUTH
  - NOW WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED BY THE INTERACTION OF PORNOGRAPHY WITH SOCIAL MEDIA.
  - THE “LORD OF THE FLIES” EFFECT

# 96 CATEGORIES ON PORNHUB

AMATEUR	BRITISH	EBONY	HENTAI	ORGY	SCHOOL
ANAL	BRUNETTE	EURO	INDIAN	PARODY	SFW
ARAB	BUKKAKE	EXCLUSIVE*	INTERACTIVE	PARTY	SMALL TITS
ASIAN	CARTOON	FEET	INTERRACIAL	PISSING	SMOKING
BABE	CASTING	FEMALE ORGASM	ITALIAN	PODCAST	SOLO FEMALE
BABYSITTER	CELEBRITY	FETISH	JAPANESE	POPULAR W/ WOMEN	SOLO MALE
BBW	CLOSED CAPTIONS	FINGERING	KOREAN	PORNSTAR	SQUIRT
BEHIND THE SCENES	COLLEGE	FISTING	LATINA	POV	STEP FANTASY
BIG ASS	COMPILATION	FRENCH	LESBIAN	PUBLIC	STRAPON
BIG DICK	COSPLAY	FUNNY	MASSAGE	PUSSY LICKING	STRIPTease
BIG TITS	CREAMPIE	GAMING	MASTURBATION	REALITY	TATTOOED WOMEN
BISexual MALE	CUCKOLD	GANGBANG	MATURE	RED HEAD	TEEN (18+)
BLONDE	CUMSHOT	GERMAN	MILF	ROLE PLAY	THREESOME
BLOWJOB	CZECH	HANDJOB	MUSCULAR MEN	ROMANTIC	TOYS
BONDAGE	DESCRIBED VIDEO	HARDCORE	MUSIC	ROUGH SEX	TRANSGENDER
BRAZILIAN	DOUBLE PENETRATION	HD	Old/YOUNG	RUSSIAN	WEBCAM

# AFTER TEENS DISCOVER PORNOGRAPHY

- EXPECTATIONS SHOULD BE BASED ON THEIR REALITY, NOT OUR MORALITY
  - FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE IS A STRONG CONSIDERATION TO NAVIGATE.
- GOAL IS TO HELP THEM LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE PORN EXISTS, IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE, AND ALWAYS AVAILABLE — AND TO MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES AROUND IT.
  - SAVVY CONSUMERS OF MEDIA
- FOR ADOLESCENTS, ZERO-TOLERANCE IS A SHORT-TERM SOLUTION FOR A LONG-TERM ISSUE



# POSITIVE RESOURCES

- JONATHAN HAIDT: *THE ANXIOUS GENERATION*
  - [HTTPS://JONATHANHAIDT.COM/ANXIOUS-GENERATION/](https://jonathanhaidt.com/anxious-generation/)
- DEBBY HERBENICK: *YES YOUR KID*
  - [HTTPS://WWW.DEBBYHERBENICK.COM/BOOKS-MEDIA/](https://www.debbyherbenick.com/books-media/)
- SCARLETTEEN: [HTTPS://WWW.SCARLETEEN.COM/](https://www.scarleteen.com/)
- SAFE HAVYNN: [HTTPS://SAFEHAVYNN.ORG/RESOURCES-FOR-TEENS/](https://safehavynn.org/resources-for-teens/)
- POWER TO DECIDE: [HTTPS://POWERTODECIDE.ORG/TEEN-TALK](https://powertodecide.org/teen-talk)
- TEEN HEALTH: [HTTPS://KIDSHEALTH.ORG/EN/TEENS/SEXUAL-HEALTH/](https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/sexual-health/)
- AMAZE.ORG: [HTTPS://AMAZE.ORG](https://amaze.org)
- MAREE CRABBE: [HTTPS://ITSTIMEWETALKED.COM](https://itstimewetalked.com)

