

US teens drawn to social media despite 'drama'

November 28 2018



Smartphone-connected teens say they see more good than bad in social networks like Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram

American teenagers remain generally upbeat about social media, saying it helps them feel included and connected, despite persistent problems of

social pressure and bullying, a study showed Wednesday.

The Pew Research Center report found a strong majority of the 13- to 17-year-olds had positive rather than [negative feelings](#) about their [social media experiences](#).

The nationally representative survey found 81 percent of teens said social media makes them feel more connected to their friends.

And 97 percent said they used at least one of the seven major online platforms that were queried in the survey.

The survey also highlighted a number of the negative aspects of social media which have drawn attention recently including [peer pressure](#) and bullying, but said teens appeared to see more good than bad in their online experiences.

More teens —71 percent to 25 percent—said that social media makes them feel included rather than excluded, confident rather than insecure (69 to 26 percent), authentic rather than fake (64 to 33 percent) and outgoing rather than reserved (61 to 34 percent).

Many of teens also said social media can help them become more civic-minded and exposes them to greater diversity than in the offline world.

Large percentages said social networks help them meet people with similar interests and making them feel more accepted.

Still, 45 percent of teens say they feel overwhelmed by the "drama" on social media. Among those who have disconnected, more than three-fourths cited excessive "drama."

Some 43 percent said they feel pressure to only post content that makes

them look good to others.

Nearly half of the teens said they at least sometimes unfriend or unfollow people on social media.

The survey did not ask about experiences with specific social networks but included data confirming that Facebook had been overtaken by rivals as the most popular social media application.

It found Facebook-owned Instagram used by 72 percent of the teens, with Snapchat at 69 percent and Facebook 51 percent. Twitter was used by 32 percent.

The report was based on a [survey](#) of 743 teens from randomly selected households between March 7 to April 10, with an estimated margin of error of five percentage points.

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