

Poll: Despite mobile options and cord-cutting, sports fans still turn on the TV

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Despite the growth of mobile technology and viewing options, when sports fans want to watch a game, they turn to traditional live TV, according to results of a UMass Lowell-Washington Post poll released today.

Eighty-six percent of [sports fans](#) said they watched games or highlights on TV in the last 12 months, including 88 percent of 18- to 39-year-olds. That age group includes millennials (those from 18 to 34), who are the least likely to watch traditional live TV and are leading the way in "cutting the cord" on cable television, according to other published research.

The UMass Lowell-Washington Post poll found that young sports fans are more likely to use [mobile technology](#) to expand how they are able to access sports. Thirty-five percent of all sports fans watched games or game highlights on their cellphones in the last year and 51 percent of all fans checked [game scores](#) online using a computer or smartphone. Among sports fans younger than 40, the use of mobile and Internet technology to watch games or highlights increased

to 55 percent and 67 percent checked [game scores](#) using a computer or cellphone.

"The survey findings suggest that young people are not turning away from watching sports on live television or attending live events. Rather, they are using technology to diversify how they watch and get information about sports," said Prof. Joshua Dyck, co-director of the UMass Lowell Center for Public Opinion, which partnered with The Washington Post on the national poll.

Sports fans are deeply committed to and personally invested in watching their games of choice, the [poll](#) found. Nineteen percent of fans said they find themselves yelling at the TV "all the time" when watching their favorite sport or team. Another 16 percent said they exhibit similar behavior most of the time, 25 percent said sometimes, 21 percent said they hardly ever yell at the TV and 19 said they never do. Women sports fans, 23 percent, were more likely to say they yell at the TV all the time while watching sports compared to 15 percent of men who admitted to doing so.

Other findings from the poll include:

- 85 percent of sports fans ages 40 to 64 and 84 percent of those 65 and older said they have watched games or highlights on live TV in the past year.
- Among those ages 18 to 39, 51 percent attended a live sporting event compared to 45 percent of those ages 40 to 64 and 22 percent of those 65 and over.
- The survey also found a generation gap among sports fans who follow athletes on social media: 44 percent of those younger than 40 reported they use Facebook, Twitter and other platforms to follow athletes compared to 23 percent of those ages 40 to 64 and just 7 percent of those 65 and older.

Provided by University of Massachusetts Lowell

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