Media use grew faster in the last two years than it did in the four years prior to the pandemic. Overall, boys use more screen media than girls. Black and Hispanic/Latino children use screens more than White children. And children in higher-income households use screens for entertainment less than children in middle- and lower-income households.

Average daily entertainment screen use, 2021

By gender
- GIRLS: 4:55
- BOYS: 6:11

By race/ethnicity
- WHITE: 4:29
- BLACK: 6:26
- HISPANIC/LATINO: 7:00

By household income
- HIGHER: 4:21
- MIDDLE: 5:47
- LOWER: 7:42

Average daily entertainment screen use, by activity and age, 2021

- TV/VIDEOS
- GAMING
- BROWSING WEBSITES
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- CONTENT CREATION
- VIDEO CHATTING
- E-READING
- OTHER

Percent of 8- to 18-year-olds who enjoy each activity “a lot,” 2021

- ONLINE VIDEOS: 61%
- VIDEO GAMES: 47%
- SOCIAL MEDIA: 34%

Watching online videos is the favorite media activity of both tweens and teens.

Average daily entertainment screen use, by activity and age, 2021

- TWITTER
- INSTAGRAM
- FACEBOOK
- YOUTUBE
- SNAPCHAT
- INSTAGRAM
- TIKTOK
- FACEBOOK

If you had to pick one site you didn’t want to lose without, which would it be?*

- TWITTER
- INSTAGRAM
- FACEBOOK
- YOUTUBE
- SNAPCHAT
- TIKTOK

When forced to choose, more teens prefer YouTube over other popular platforms.

Digital Divide: Children in higher-income households have access to computers at greater rates than those in lower-income households.

- LOWER INCOME
- MIDDLE INCOME
- HIGHER INCOME

Percent of 8- to 18-year-olds with a laptop or desktop computer in the home, 2021

- 67%
- 89%
- 94%

Use of screen media is up 17% for tweens and teens since the start of the pandemic.

Note: Tweens are 8- to 12-year-olds; Teens are 13- to 18-year-olds.

* Among the 79% of 13- to 18-year-olds who use social media and online videos at least once a week.

** Top 3 in importance.

Methodology: The data in this report is from a nationally representative, probability-based mail survey of 3,190 young people aged 12 to 18 who live in the United States. The survey was conducted online from Sept. 29–March 23, 2021, by Xcelerarc for Common Sense Media using Ipsos’s KnowledgePanel©. The survey was offered in English and Spanish.