

OFFICE OF DISTRICT
ATTORNEY MICHAEL J.
ROURKE

WELD COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**2017
REPORT**



POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA APPS

WHAT ARE THEY?
AND HOW ARE TEENS USING THEM?

THE STATISTICS

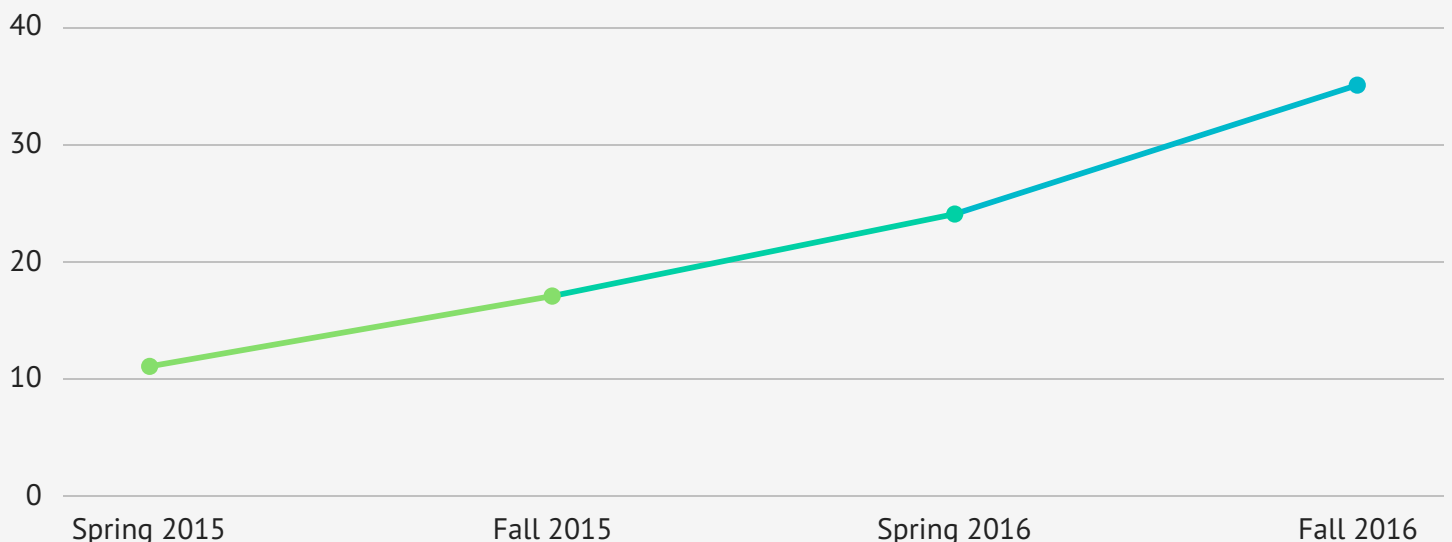
According to the latest research by Statista, teens spend an average of 9 hours a day browsing social media feeds. Tweens (pre-teens, ages 8-12) spent at least 6 hours a day in 2016.

35%

of teens rate Snapchat as the most important social network.

RISE OF SNAPCHAT

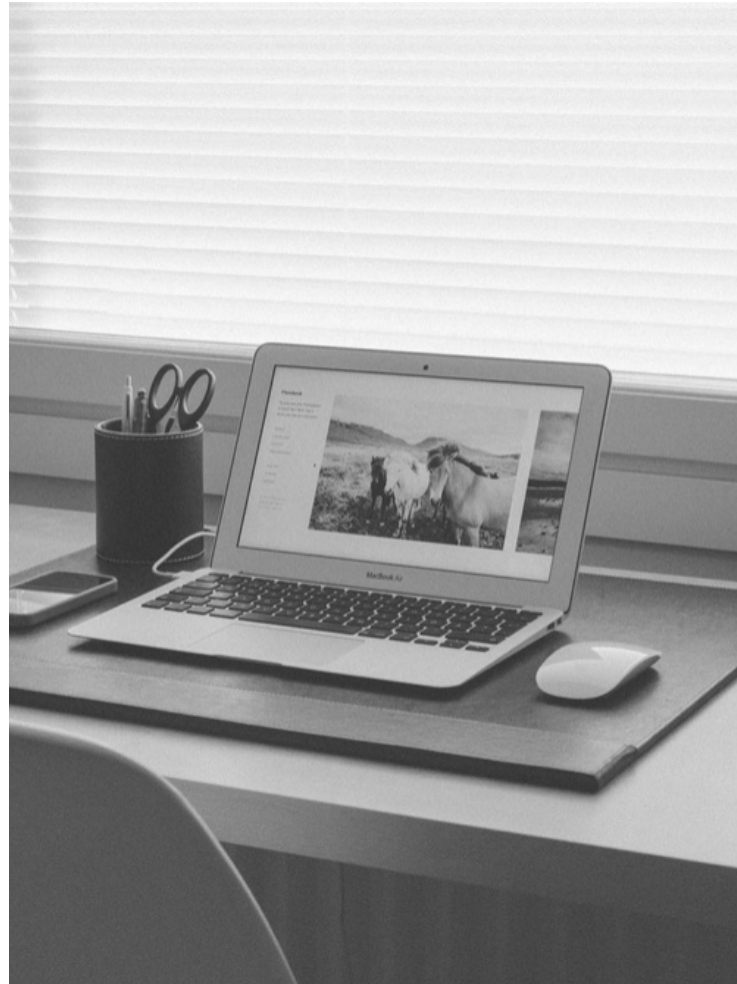
By Fall 2015, Snapchat surpassed all social media platforms in popularity among teens (35%). Meanwhile, Facebook continues to dip in this age group (13%)



WHAT KIDS THINK ABOUT PARENTAL CONTROLS

STATISTA 2017

- 67% say they know how to hide what they do online from parents
- 43% say they would change their online behavior if they knew their parents were watching
- 39% think their online activity is private from everyone, including parents
- 38% would feel offended if they found out parents were snooping without them knowing
- 20% think their parents have no idea what they're doing online
- 10% have unlocked parental controls to disable filtering



Statistics show that children, especially teens, will defy parents after learning of secret parental controls or monitoring.

Experts say it's best to create and implement a policy before your teen joins the social media world. Creating a sense of understanding and establishing rules may help avoid risky teen behavior on social media.

SOME POPULAR APPS

AND WHAT THEY ARE.

P4



Snapchat is a messaging app that lets users put a time limit on the pictures and videos they send before they "disappear."



Instagram lets users share photos and 15-second videos, either publicly or privately.



Yellow is "Tinder for teens." Designed for ages 12+ to meet "friends" within a geographical location. Live video and physical meetings are encouraged.



Yik Yak is a location-based app designed to give users a glimpse at what people in the area are saying. Posts are anonymous.



musical.ly

Musical.ly is a video sharing network that mostly features teens lip syncing, but also includes original songwriting and singing. Posts are typically public.



Houseparty lets groups of teens connect via live video. Up to 8 people can join the chat, including strangers.

SOME POPULAR APPS

AND WHAT THEY ARE.

P5



Tinder is a location-based social media app that allows users to meet strangers. Typically used among teens and college students to "hook up."



Anonymous is a live, video chatroom that allows users to chat with anyone from across the world.

whisper

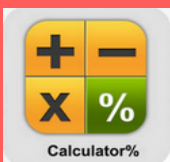
Whisper is a social "confessional" app that allows users to post whatever's on their minds, anonymously.



Although intended for employer-employee relations, Sarahah is a platform to receive anonymous, "honest" feedback; known for crude humor and bullying.



Kik Messenger lets users text for free. It's fast and has no message limits or fees. Texts also won't show up on the phone's text service.



Calculator% is one of many vault apps that allows users to hide photos, videos and other files from people using their phones. Typically password protected.

the dangers

Note: All apps pose risks. Parents should monitor their teens' accounts to limit those dangers.

SNAPCHAT

It's a myth that Snapchats go away forever. When an image is sent, it never truly goes away.

For example, the person receiving the photo can take a screenshot of the image before it disappears.

There are also third-party apps that allow users to download Snapchat videos.

It can make sexting seem OK. It seems risk-free but encourages some to send nude images.

INSTAGRAM

Teens want "likes," therefore they may measure their self-worth by the number of likes or comments they receive.

Posting a photo or video can spell trouble if teens are in it solely for the likes or to validate their popularity.

Like most apps, private messaging is available. Instagram, however, is made for photos, which raises the probability of inappropriate images and videos.

HOUSEPARTY

Come on, it says Houseparty. Red flags anyone?

Like many apps, the good intentions are there, but the bad intentions outweigh the good.

This app allows you to group video chat anyone from around the world.

There's also no moderator or screenshot prevention.

Think Spin The Bottle, but online and more like strip poker.

the dangers

Note: All apps pose risks. Parents should monitor their teens' accounts to limit those dangers.

YELLOW

By default, people within a 50 mile radius can find your profile.

Described as "Tinder for teens," the purpose is to meet people within your geographical location to become "friends."

Users swipe right if they like the looks of the person, left if they don't.

Approved for ages 12-18, but there is no safety measure blocking older adults, possibly leading to dangerous encounters.

WHISPER

Whispers are often sexual in nature. Many users will use this app to "confess" their desires towards each other - meaning lots of nude pics.

Because it's full of anonymous confessions, the content can be dark and include talks of depression, substance abuse and suicide.

Despite starting out as being anonymous, the app encourages users to exchange personal information and meet up.

CALCULATOR%

Teens will hide things from their parents at all cost, and this app helps them do it.

Despite the App Store cracking down on apps like Calculator%, similar apps are constantly popping up.

The only way to access the files within the app is to have a password.

Teens will hide nude images of themselves and others, as well as videos and explicit texts.

OVERWHELMED? HERE ARE SOME TIPS.

Parenting is hard. Parenting a teen in this social media world? It might be your greatest test.

Social Media is not something we should fear; rather, we need to embrace it but safely. The great news? You're not in it alone.

Experts suggest a healthy balance by implementing common sense solutions without helicoptering your teens through their most vulnerable years.

Here are a few tips to guide you through these crazy times. Don't worry. You can do this!

1. Educate yourself about available social media apps.

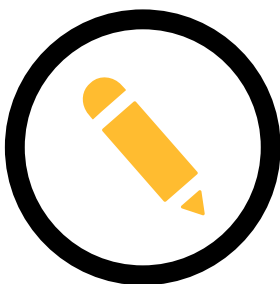
2. Establish an age limit for certain social media platforms. Look at the eligibility requirements set forth by the company.

3. Check your child's privacy settings regularly.

4. Set guidelines or rules. Make those rules clear and have a known punishment in place for violating those rules.

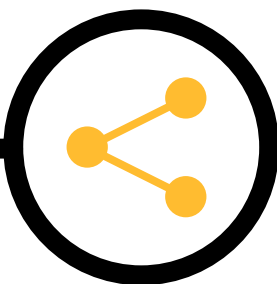
5. TALK TO YOUR TEEN AND CREATE AN UNDERSTANDING!

STILL CONFUSED?



THINK AHEAD

Decide what's best for your family, and create a plan.



MONITOR

Once the plan is in place, regularly monitor the devices for content and privacy.



TALK

Please, talk to your kid. Don't shut them out of the decision making process.