

# Facts for Families

## The Children's Home

### Social Media Use for Children & Adolescents

#### Social Media

Children and adolescents enjoy interacting with others online and have learned to use the internet as a resource for countless activities. Social media applications can be a way for youth to express themselves, learn about other cultures and ideas, and find information. At the same time, social media exposes youth to risks such as cyber-bullying, catfishing, and other online predators. In other words, social media can present a risk or an opportunity, depending on how it is used.



Common Social Media Platforms:

According to a Pew study (2018), the top four social media platforms used by teens are:

**You Tube** (est. in 2005): Used by 85% of U.S. teens. You Tube is a video-sharing website headquartered in California. Google bought the site in November 2006 and now operates it as one of Google's subsidiaries.

**Instagram** (est. in 2010): Used by 72% of teens and is a social networking service for taking, changing, sharing and captioning photos and videos.

**Snapchat** (est. in 2011): Used by 69% of teens and the site teenagers say they use most often. Snapchat is a mobile image messaging service that sends a photo or video lasting up to 10 seconds before it disappears.

**Facebook** (2004): No longer the most popular site for teens (51%). It's a free, online social networking site where individuals create profiles, share photos or information about themselves. Users add "friends" with whom they share information and can "like" or comment on posts. User profiles can be public or private.

# Social Media: What you need to know

- ④ 95% of teens have access to a smartphone and nearly half say they are online "almost constantly."
- ④ Lower-income teens tend to gravitate toward Facebook more than higher-income households.
- ④ Girls use Snapchat more frequently than boys.
- ④ Boys say YouTube is their "go to" platform of choice.
- ④ 59% of teens say they've experienced some form of cyberbullying, with offensive name-calling being the top issue.
- ④ 1-in-5 youth are exposed to unwanted sexual material online; about one in eight youth forward explicit images or messages without the permission of the original sender, and nearly one in 12 youth have a sext forwarded without their consent.



More resources are available at [www.tchcincy.org](http://www.tchcincy.org)



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