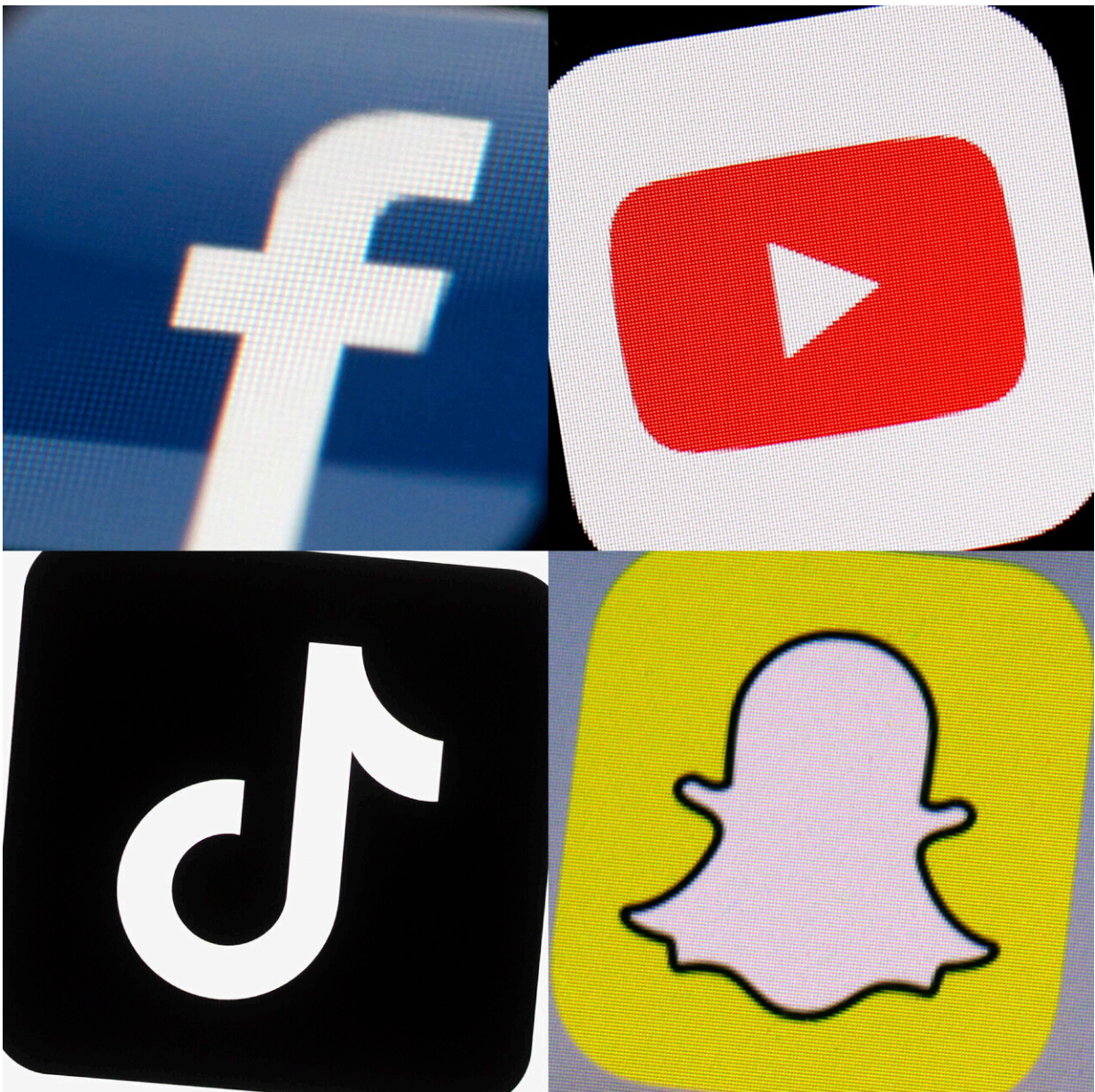


Pew survey: YouTube tops teens' social-media diet, with roughly a sixth using it almost constantly

December 13 2023



This combination of 2017-2022 photos shows the logos of Facebook, YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat on mobile devices. Teen usage of social media hasn't dropped much despite rising concerns about its effects on the mental health of adolescents. That's according to a new survey from the Pew Research Institute. But the data also found that roughly one in six teens describe their use of two platforms — YouTube and TikTok — as “almost constant.” Seventy-one percent of teens said they visit YouTube at least daily; 16% described their usage as “almost constant” according to the survey. A slightly larger group — 17% — said they used TikTok almost constantly. Credit: AP Photo, File

Teen usage of social media hasn't dropped much, despite rising concerns about its effects on the mental health of adolescents, a [survey from the Pew Research Institute](#) found.

But the data also found that roughly one in six [teens](#) describe their use of two platforms—YouTube and TikTok—as "almost constant."

Seventy-one percent of teens said they visit YouTube at least daily; 16% described their usage as "almost constant" according to the [survey](#). A slightly larger group—17%—said they used TikTok almost constantly. Those figures for Snapchat and Instagram came in at 14% and 8% respectively.

YouTube remains by far the most popular social platform among teens, with 93% responding that they use the service. That number was down two percentage points from 2022. Runners-up included TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram, although all three trailed YouTube in this measure by 30 percentage points or more. Three of those four platforms showed slight drops in usage over the past year, according to the survey. The exception, Snapchat, rose a single percentage point.

Facebook, whose overall usage by teens has dropped to 33% in 2023 from 71% in 2014-15, gets about the respect from teens you'd expect. Only 19% of teens reported checking Facebook daily or more frequently. Just 3% describe their usage as almost constant.

Social media is increasingly taking fire over the algorithmic techniques that platforms use to draw in and retain younger users. In October, a coalition of 33 states, including New York and California, sued Meta Platforms for contributing to the youth [mental health crisis](#), alleging that the company knowingly and deliberately designed features on Instagram and Facebook that addict children to its platforms. Meta has denied the charges.

The Pew survey, which was published Monday, was conducted from Sept. 26 to Oct. 23 with 1,453 teens aged 13 to 17.

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