

Topline

2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
Wave 194: Online Communities and Connection in America
May 26-June 1, 2026

TOPLINE
N=9,750

Note: All numbers are percentages unless otherwise noted. Percentages less than 0.5% are replaced by an asterisk (*). Rows/columns may not total 100% due to rounding. The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel.

"No answer" includes web respondents who do not answer the question as well as telephone respondents who refuse to answer or who say they don't know how to answer. In cases where "Not sure" was offered as an explicit option to web and telephone respondents, the "No answer" category includes only web skips and telephone refusals.

This survey was conducted primarily online, with some interviews conducted by live telephone. This topline shows the programming language for online administration. For details on how questions were slightly modified for phone administration, visit the questionnaire.

PN = Programming note

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	9,750	+/- 1.4 percentage points

SATLIFE_MOD

ASK ALL:

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]

How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your life?

		<u>Extremely satisfied</u>	<u>Very satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat satisfied</u>	<u>Not too satisfied</u>	<u>Not at all satisfied</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a	Your family life						
	May 26-Jun 1, 2026	22	39	28	8	3	*
b	Your social life						
	May 26-Jun 1, 2026	11	32	39	14	4	*
NO ITEMS c, d							
e	The quality of life in your local community						
	May 26-Jun 1, 2026	9	35	41	11	3	*

NO ITEM f

INT_PPL**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]**

Overall, do you think the internet...

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11	Does more to bring people together
31	Does more to drive people apart
58	Does both about equally
1	No answer

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD**ONVSOFF****ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]**

In general, do you think personal relationships people form online...

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34	Can be just as meaningful as in-person relationships
47	Are not as meaningful as in-person relationships
20	Not sure
*	No answer

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD⁷**OC1****ASK ALL:**

Next are some questions about people feeling part of a community online.

By this, we mean people connecting with others online, such as by joining or feeling part of a group or doing things together.

This could happen in places like social media, online discussion forums, by emailing or messaging with a group, or in video games online.

Would you say you are part of any online communities?

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36	Yes, I am
63	No, I am not
*	No answer

⁷ PLTFM asked, "Do you ever: Use video sites or apps, like YouTube or Twitch; Use online discussion forums, like Reddit, Nextdoor, or Discord; Use messaging sites or apps, like WhatsApp; Use social media sites or apps, like Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok; Use sites or apps for people who share a hobby, like Goodreads, Strava, Ravelry, or Letterboxd; Play video games online." These items were used to filter OCWHERE. For the shares of U.S. adults who use various platforms, refer to our [social media fact sheets](#).

OCWHERE

ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:
[PN: DO NOT RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

Are you part of any online communities...

		Yes, I am part of an online <u>community there</u>	No, I am not part of an online <u>community there</u>	No <u>answer</u>
VID	ASK IF USES VIDEO SITES OR APPS (PLTFM_VID=1) [N=3,260]: On video sites or apps, like YouTube or Twitch May 26-Jun 1, 2026	34	65	*
DIS	ASK IF USES ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUMS (PLTFM_DIS=1) [N=2,025]: On online discussion forums, like Reddit, Nextdoor, or Discord May 26-Jun 1, 2026	70	30	*
MSG	ASK IF USES MESSAGING SITES OR APPS (PLTFM_MSG=1) [N=1,939]: On messaging sites or apps, like WhatsApp May 26-Jun 1, 2026	51	49	*
SM	ASK IF USES SOCIAL MEDIA SITES OR APPS (PLTFM_SM=1) [N=3,231]: On social media sites or apps, like Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok May 26-Jun 1, 2026	81	19	*
HOB	ASK IF USES HOBBY SITES OR APPS (PLTFM_HOB=1) [N=953]: On sites or apps for people who share a hobby, like Goodreads, Strava, Ravelry, or Letterboxd May 26-Jun 1, 2026	53	46	1
GAM	ASK IF PLAYS VIDEO GAMES ONLINE (PLTFM_GAM=1) [N=1,608]: In video games you play online May 26-Jun 1, 2026	54	46	*
OTH	Somewhere else (please specify): [PN: INSERT SINGLE LINE TEXT BOX] May 26-Jun 1, 2026	13	54	33

BASED ON ALL ADULTS:

		Yes, I am part of an online community <u>there</u>	NET Not part of an online community <u>there</u> ⁸	NET No <u>answer</u> ⁹
VID	On video sites or apps, like YouTube or Twitch May 26-Jun 1, 2026	11	88	1
DIS	On online discussion forums, like Reddit, Nextdoor, or Discord May 26-Jun 1, 2026	15	84	1
MSG	On messaging sites or apps, like WhatsApp May 26-Jun 1, 2026	10	90	1
SM	On social media sites or apps, like Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok May 26-Jun 1, 2026	26	74	1
HOB	On sites or apps for people who share a hobby, like Goodreads, Strava, Ravelry, or Letterboxd May 26-Jun 1, 2026	5	95	1
GAM	In video games you play online May 26-Jun 1, 2026	10	90	1
OTH	Somewhere else (please specify): [PN: INSERT SINGLE LINE TEXT BOX] May 26-Jun 1, 2026	5	83	12

OCVALUE**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]**

Overall, how much value do online communities bring to your life?

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6	A great deal
21	Quite a bit
43	Some
24	A little
5	None
*	No answer

⁸ This includes respondents who said "No, I am not part of an online community there" in OCWHERE, that they do not use this type of platform and/or that they are not part of any online communities.

⁹ This includes respondents who received but did not answer OCWHERE, PLTFM and/or did not answer OC1.

OCCOUNT**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:****[PN: PROGRAM NUMERIC TEXT BOX]**

How many online communities would you say you are currently part of?

If you are part of 10 or more online communities, enter 10 and click "Next".

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13	One
20	Two
22	Three
10	Four
16	Five
4	Six
2	Seven
2	Eight
*	Nine
10	NET Ten or more
1	No answer

OCTOPIC**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:****[PN: IF OCCOUNT=1: Thinking about the online community you are part of...]****[PN: IF OCCOUNT > 1 OR OCCOUNT=998,999: Please think about the online community where you spend the most time.****[PN: SHORT OPEN-END, CODED ANSWERS SHOWN BELOW]**In just a few words, what is the main focus of this online community – that is, its topic or theme?

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17	Hobbies or interests
11	Video games
9	Connections, friends and family
8	NET Media and entertainment
3	Media and entertainment: Movies, books, and TV shows
4	Media and entertainment: Other media and entertainment
7	Local area
4	Physical or mental health
4	Sports
4	Religion or spirituality
3	Parenting
3	Specific platform, app or website
3	News and current events
3	Politics or political issues
2	Diet or fitness
1	Other demographic or identity groups
11	Other
7	No answer

OCFREQ**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:**

[PN: IF OCCOUNT > 1 OR OCCOUNT=998,999: Still thinking about this online community where you spend the most time...]

About how often do you go to this online community?

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27	Several times a day
29	About once a day
26	Several times a week
12	Several times a month
6	Less often
*	No answer

BASED ON ALL ADULTS:

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10	Several times a day
11	About once a day
10	Several times a week
4	Several times a month
2	Less often
63	Not part of an online community
*	No answer to OC1
*	No answer to OCFREQ

OCUNIQUE**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:**

Do you feel this community is...

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63	Something you could only find online
36	Similar to what you could find elsewhere
1	No answer

OCCLS**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:**

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS SATLIFE_MOD]

How close do you feel to the other people in this online community?

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5	Extremely close
13	Very close
37	Somewhat close
31	Not too close
14	Not at all close
*	No answer

OCWHY**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS TWO SCREENS WITH FOUR ITEMS ON EACH SCREEN]**

How much is each of the following a reason you go to this online community?

		<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
SHR	To share your thoughts May 26-Jun 1, 2026	25	43	31	1
ADV	To get advice or recommendations May 26-Jun 1, 2026	42	36	21	1
DRM	To see if there's drama May 26-Jun 1, 2026	9	24	67	1
FUN	For fun May 26-Jun 1, 2026	54	28	17	*
PPL	To meet new people May 26-Jun 1, 2026	13	30	57	1
INF	To stay informed May 26-Jun 1, 2026	57	29	13	1
SUP	To get support May 26-Jun 1, 2026	26	37	36	1
ACC	You feel accepted there May 26-Jun 1, 2026	25	29	45	1

OCENV**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1, HOLDING 5 LAST]**

Are the people in this online community...

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26	Always <u>respectful</u> to each other
54	Mostly <u>respectful</u> to each other
4	Mostly <u>disrespectful</u> to each other
1	Always <u>disrespectful</u> to each other
15	About an equal mix
*	No answer

OCTALK**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:**

[PN: IF OCCOUNT > 1 OR OCCOUNT=998,999: Still thinking about this online community where you spend the most time...]

Do you ever post or share in this online community?

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74	Yes, I do
26	No, I don't
1	No answer

OCPOL1**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:**

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]

How much of the discussion in this online community is about politics or political issues?

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2	All of it
5	Most of it
22	Some of it
27	A little of it
44	None of it
*	No answer

OCPOL2**ASK IF AT LEAST A LITTLE POLITICAL DISCUSSION (OCPOL1=1,2,3,4) [N=1,952]:**

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]

Are the things you see about politics or political issues in this online community...

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34	Mostly things you <u>agree</u> with
10	Mostly things you <u>disagree</u> with
56	About an equal mix of both
*	No answer

BASED ON PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:

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19	Mostly things you <u>agree</u> with
6	Mostly things you <u>disagree</u> with
31	About an equal mix of both
*	No answer to OCPOL2
44	None of the discussion in this online community is about politics or political issues
*	No answer to OCPOL1

OCPOL3

ASK IF AT LEAST A LITTLE POLITICAL DISCUSSION (OCPOL1=1,2,3,4) [N=1,952]:
[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]

Is what you see about politics or political issues in this online community...

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9	Mostly new to you
46	Mostly what you already see elsewhere
43	Both about equally
2	No answer

BASED ON PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:

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5	Mostly new to you
26	Mostly what you already see elsewhere
24	Both about equally
1	No answer to OCPOL3
44	None of the discussion in this online community is about politics or political issues
*	No answer to OCPOL1

OCPOL4

ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:
[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]

Would you say...

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25	Political discussion <u>belongs</u> in this online community
54	Political discussion <u>does not belong</u> in this online community
21	Not sure
1	No answer

OCKNOW

ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:
[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS OCPOL1]

How many of the people in this online community did you know before you started taking part in it?

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5	All of them
9	Most of them
17	Some of them
23	Very few of them
45	None of them
*	No answer

OCOFF**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:**

Does this online community ever have in-person gatherings?

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36	Yes, it does
42	No, it doesn't
21	Not sure
1	No answer

OCOTHERS**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:**

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS TWO SCREENS WITH HOB ALWAYS LAST ITEM ON SCREEN 2]

Now we want to understand more about the online communities you are part of, in general.

Are you part of any online communities that are related to...

		Yes, I am part of an online community <u>related to this</u>	No, I am not part of an online community <u>related to this</u>	No <u>answer</u>
SPT	Sports May 26-Jun 1, 2026	23	76	1
GAM	Video games May 26-Jun 1, 2026	33	66	1
LOC	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=1,844]: Your local area May 26-Jun 1, 2026	57	42	1
SCH	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=1,844]: A school you attend or went to May 26-Jun 1, 2026	29	70	1
WRK	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=1,844]: Your work or profession May 26-Jun 1, 2026	34	66	1
BEA	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=1,844]: Beauty or fashion May 26-Jun 1, 2026	14	85	1
REL	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=1,844]: Religion or spirituality May 26-Jun 1, 2026	22	77	1
POL	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=1,844]: Politics or political issues May 26-Jun 1, 2026	21	78	1

		Yes, I am part of an online community related to this	No, I am not part of an online community related to this	No answer
HLT	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=1,791]: Physical or mental health May 26-Jun 1, 2026	30	70	*
DIT	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=1,791]: Diet or fitness May 26-Jun 1, 2026	27	73	1
PAR	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=1,791]: Parenting May 26-Jun 1, 2026	20	80	1
DAT	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=1,791]: Dating and relationships May 26-Jun 1, 2026	13	87	*
RE	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=1,791]: Race and ethnicity May 26-Jun 1, 2026	15	84	1
ENT	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=1,791]: Movies, books, or TV shows May 26-Jun 1, 2026	37	62	1
HOB	Hobbies May 26-Jun 1, 2026	62	37	1

BASED ON ALL ADULTS:

		Yes, I am part of an online community related to this	NET Not part of an online community related to this ¹⁰	NET No answer ¹¹
SPT	Sports May 26-Jun 1, 2026	8	91	1
GAM	Video games May 26-Jun 1, 2026	12	87	1
LOC	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=4,843]: Your local area May 26-Jun 1, 2026	21	78	1
SCH	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=4,843]: A school you attend or went to May 26-Jun 1, 2026	11	89	*

¹⁰ This includes respondents who said "No, I am not part of an online community related to this" in OCOTHERS or that they are not part of any online communities.

¹¹ This includes respondents who received but did not answer OCOTHERS and/or did not answer OC1.

		Yes, I am part of an online community related to this	NET Not part of an online community related to this ¹²	NET No answer ¹³
WRK	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=4,843]: Your work or profession May 26-Jun 1, 2026	12	87	*
BEA	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=4,843]: Beauty or fashion May 26-Jun 1, 2026	5	94	1
REL	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=4,843]: Religion or spirituality May 26-Jun 1, 2026	8	91	1
POL	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=4,843]: Politics or political issues May 26-Jun 1, 2026	8	92	1
HLT	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=4,907]: Physical or mental health May 26-Jun 1, 2026	11	89	1
DIT	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=4,907]: Diet or fitness May 26-Jun 1, 2026	10	90	1
PAR	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=4,907]: Parenting May 26-Jun 1, 2026	7	92	1
DAT	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=4,907]: Dating and relationships May 26-Jun 1, 2026	5	95	1
RE	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=4,907]: Race and ethnicity May 26-Jun 1, 2026	5	94	1
ENT	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=4,907]: Movies, books, or TV shows May 26-Jun 1, 2026	13	86	1
HOB	Hobbies May 26-Jun 1, 2026	23	77	1

¹² This includes respondents who said "No, I am not part of an online community related to this" in OCOTHERS or that they are not part of any online communities.

¹³ This includes respondents who received but did not answer OCOTHERS and/or did not answer OC1.

OCFAN**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:**

Are you part of an online fan community, like for a specific celebrity, movie, book, band, or sports team?

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33	Yes, I am part of an online fan community
67	No, I am not part of an online fan community
*	No answer

BASED ON ALL ADULTS:

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12	Yes, I am part of an online fan community
88	NET not part of an online fan community ¹⁴
*	NET no answer ¹⁵

OCGEN**ASK IF PART OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OC1=1) [N=3,635]:**

Are you part of any online communities that are specifically for [**PN: IF X_GENDER=1, DISPLAY "men"; IF X_GENDER=2, DISPLAY "women"; IF X_GENDER=3 OR 99, DISPLAY "people who are the same gender as you"]?**

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28	Yes, I am part of an online community like this
71	No, I am not part of an online community like this
1	No answer

BASED ON ALL ADULTS:

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10	Yes, I am part of an online community like this
89	NET not part of an online community like this ¹⁶
1	NET No answer ¹⁷

¹⁴ This includes respondents who said "No, I am not part of an online fan community" in OCFAN or that they are not part of any online communities.

¹⁵ This includes respondents who received but did not answer OCFAN and/or did not answer OC1.

¹⁶ This includes respondents who answered "No, I am not part of an online community like this" in OCGEN or that they are not part of any online communities.

¹⁷ This includes respondents who received but did not answer OCGEN and/or did not answer OC1.

OCLEAVE
ASK ALL:

Have you ever left an online community?

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34	Yes, I have
65	No, I haven't
1	No answer

OCLEAVEWHY

ASK IF LEFT AN ONLINE COMMUNITY (OCLEAVE=1) [N=3,333]:
[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

How much is each of the following a reason you have left an online community?

		<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ARG	There was too much arguing May 26-Jun 1, 2026	34	22	43	*
POL	People brought up politics too much May 26-Jun 1, 2026	23	21	56	1
REL	Your life changed, so you no longer needed it May 26-Jun 1, 2026	34	27	39	1
INT	You lost interest May 26-Jun 1, 2026	60	26	14	1
BEL	You didn't feel you belonged May 26-Jun 1, 2026	24	23	52	1
HAR	People were being harassed May 26-Jun 1, 2026	22	21	56	1
DEC	It wasn't as good as it used to be May 26-Jun 1, 2026	41	29	29	*
TIM	You were spending too much time there May 26-Jun 1, 2026	15	22	63	*

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a ...

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
28	29	29	13	2	17	21