2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
Wave 194: Meeting Friends Online
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

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD

INT_FRIEND1
ASK ALL:

Thinking about the people you consider friends, did you first meet any of them online?

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24	Yes, I met at least one of my friends online
70	No, I met all my friends in other ways
5	I don't consider anyone a friend these days
1	No answer

INT_FRIEND2
ASK IF HAS FRIENDS THEY MET ONLINE (INT_FRIEND1=1) [N=2,113]:

Thinking about the friends you first met online, have you ever met any of them in person?

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85	Yes, I have met at least one of them in person
15	No, I haven't met any of them in person
*	No answer

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD