

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Why Americans Suddenly Stopped Hanging Out](#)

Article

Link: <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2024/02/america-decline-hanging-out/677451/>

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Tweet: Citing @jean_twenge data @DKThomp highlights a 30% decline of teenage in-person socialization between 1976 and 2022; the majority of the trend, 17pp, was in the last decade.

Summary: In the late 1970s, more than half of 12th graders got together with their buddies almost every day. By 2017, only 28% did. “There’s very clearly been a striking decline in in-person socializing among teens and young adults, whether it’s going to parties, driving around in cars, going to the mall, or just about anything that has to do with getting together in person,” says Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University. From 1976 to 2022, the number of socializers fell by about 30%. For young people, all this seems to clearly correlate with actual depression. According to the CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, the share of teenage girls who say they experience “persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness” increased from 36 to 57%, and the share of girls who said they’ve contemplated suicide increased 50% in the same decade. The rise in teen depression coincides with the proliferation of smartphones and social media. Related: Generation Z and the Transformation of American Adolescence: How Gen Z’s Formative Experiences Shape Its Politics, Priorities, and Future and Teens, Social Media and Technology 2023 and Is There Really a Generational Difference in Identifying as Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual?

Primary Topic: Family/Marriage

Topics: Family/Marriage, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Politics, Workforce

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