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Internet, Broadband Fact Sheet

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The internet represents a fundamental shift in how Americans connect with one another, gather information and conduct their day-to-day lives. For more than 20 years, Pew Research Center has documented its growth and distribution in the United States. Explore the patterns of internet and home broadband adoption below.

How we did this ⊕

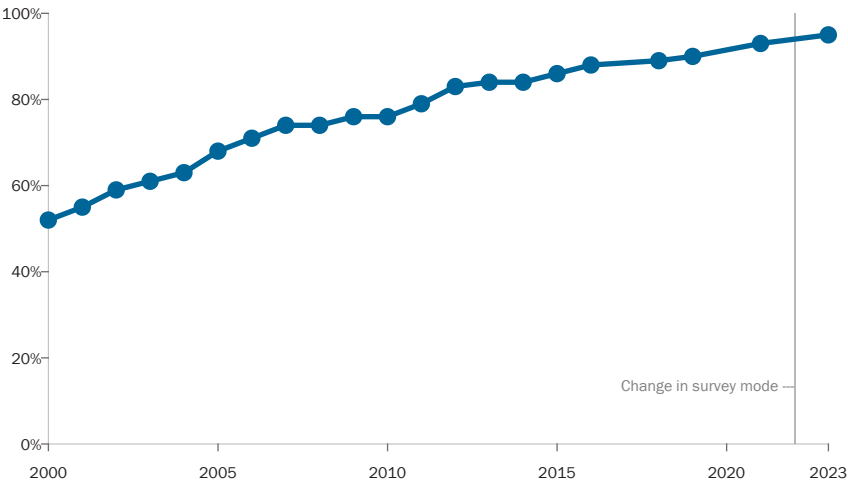


Internet use over time

When Pew Research Center began systematically tracking Americans’ internet usage in early 2000, about half of all adults were already online. Today, 95% of U.S. adults say they use the internet.

Internet use

% of U.S. adults who say they use the internet



Note: The vertical line indicates a change in mode. Polls from 2000-2021 were conducted via phone. In 2023, the poll was conducted via web and mail. For more details on this shift, please [read our Q&A](#). Refer to the topline for more information on how question wording varied over the years. Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted 2000-2023. Data for each year is based on a pooled analysis of all surveys conducted during that year.

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Chart Data Share



Who uses the internet?

For some demographic groups – such as young adults, those with at least some college experience and those from high-income households – internet usage is near universal.

AGE	RACE & ETHNICITY	GENDER	INCOME	EDUCATION	COMMUNITY
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Internet use over time

Who uses the internet?

Home broadband use over time

Who has home broadband?

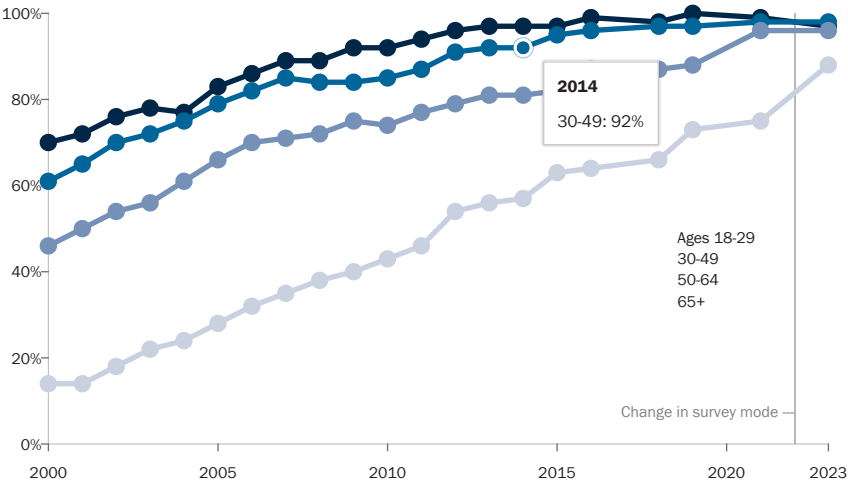
Smartphone dependency over time

Who is smartphone dependent?

Find out more

Internet use by age

% of U.S. adults who say they use the internet, by age



Note: The vertical line indicates a change in mode. Polls from 2000-2021 were conducted via phone. In 2023, the poll was conducted via web and mail. For more details on this shift, please [read our Q&A](#). Refer to the topline for more information on how question wording varied over the years. Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted 2000-2023. Data for each year is based on a pooled analysis of all surveys conducted during that year.

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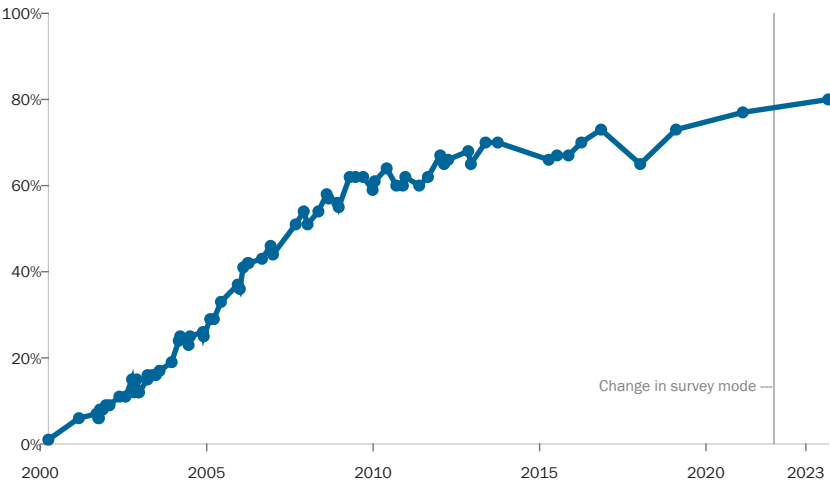


Home broadband use over time

The share of U.S. adults with high-speed broadband service at home increased rapidly between 2000 and 2010. Even since that rapid growth, increasing shares of Americans have access to broadband internet. Today, eight-in-ten U.S. adults say they subscribe to a broadband internet service at home.

Home broadband use

% of U.S. adults who say they subscribe to home broadband



Note: The vertical line indicates a change in mode. Polls from 2000-2021 were conducted via phone. In 2023, the poll was conducted via web and mail. For more details on this shift, please [read our Q&A](#). The Center has used several different question wordings to identify broadband users in recent years, which may account for some variance in broadband adoption figures between 2015 and 2018. Our survey conducted in July 2015 used a directly comparable question wording to the one conducted in January 2018. Refer to the topline for more information on how question wording varied over the years. Respondents who did not give an answer or gave other responses are not shown.

Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted 2000-2023.

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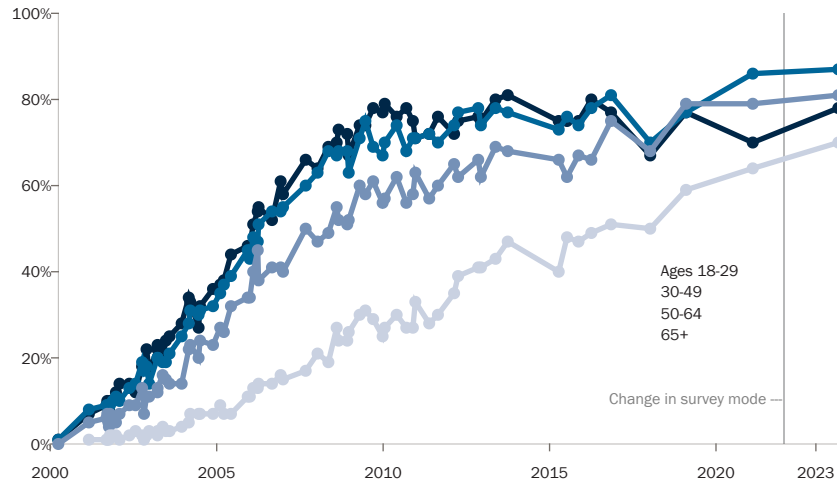
Who has home broadband?

As is true of internet adoption more broadly, home broadband adoption varies across demographic groups. Those with lower levels of income and formal education are less likely to have broadband service at home.

AGE	RACE & ETHNICITY	GENDER	INCOME	EDUCATION	COMMUNITY
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Home broadband use by age

% of U.S. adults who say they subscribe to home broadband, by age



Note: The vertical line indicates a change in mode. Polls from 2000-2021 were conducted via phone. In 2023, the poll was conducted via web and mail. For more details on this shift, please [read our Q&A](#). The Center has used several different question wordings to identify broadband users in recent years, which may account for some variance in broadband adoption figures between 2015 and 2018. Our survey conducted in July 2015 used a directly comparable question wording to the one conducted in January 2018. Refer to the topline for more information on how question wording varied over the years. Respondents who did not give an answer or gave other responses are not shown.

Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted 2000-2023.

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Smartphone dependency over time

Today, 15% of U.S. adults are “smartphone-only” internet users – meaning they own a smartphone, but do not have home broadband service.

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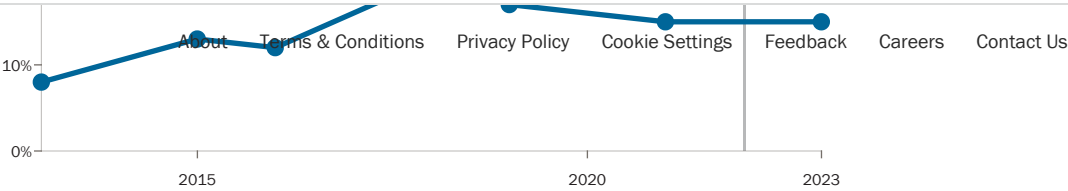
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Note: The vertical line indicates a change in mode. Polls from 2013-2021 were conducted via phone. In 2023, the poll was conducted via web and mail. For more details on this shift, please [read our Q&A](#). Refer to the topline for more information on how question wording varied over the years. Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted 2013-2023. Data for each year is based on a pooled analysis of all surveys containing broadband and smartphone questions fielded during that year.

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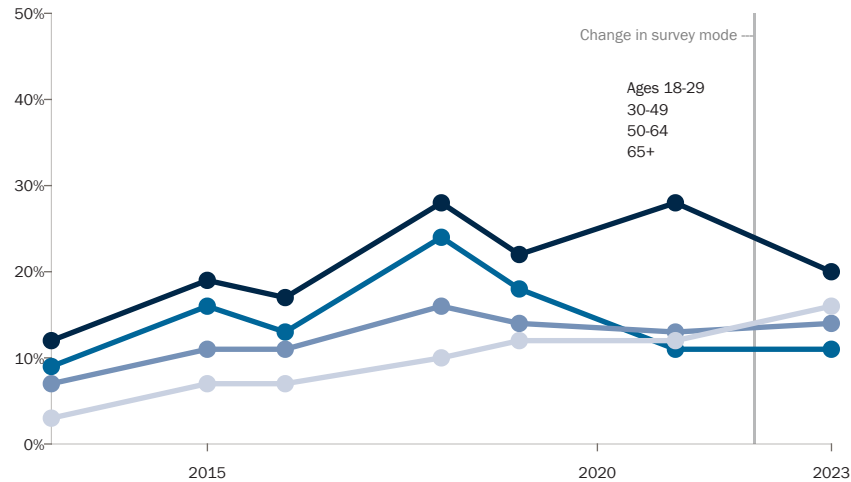
Who is smartphone dependent?

Reliance on smartphones for online access is especially common among Americans with lower household incomes and those with lower levels of formal education.

AGE	RACE & ETHNICITY	GENDER	INCOME	EDUCATION	COMMUNITY
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Smartphone dependency by age

% of U.S. adults who are smartphone dependent, by age



Note: The vertical line indicates a change in mode. Polls from 2013-2021 were conducted via phone. In 2023, the poll was conducted via web and mail. For more details on this shift, please [read our Q&A](#). Refer to the topline for more information on how question wording varied over the years. Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted 2013-2023. Data for each year is based on a pooled analysis of all surveys containing broadband and smartphone questions fielded during that year.

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Follow these links for more in-depth analysis of the impact of internet and broadband on American life.

- [Americans' Social Media Use](#) Jan. 31, 2024
- [Americans' Use of Mobile Technology and Home Broadband](#) Jan. 31 2024
- [Q&A: How and why we're changing the way we study tech adoption](#) Jan. 31, 2024

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CORRECTION (Feb. 1, 2024): A previous version of this fact sheet provided incorrect percentages for who subscribes to home broadband in 2023 by racial and ethnic group. This change does not affect the analysis or conclusions.