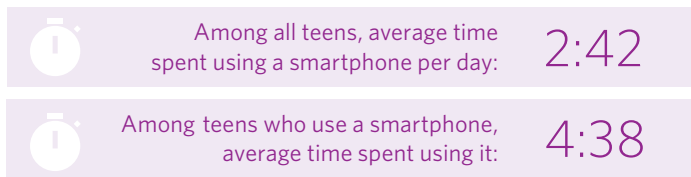




# Fact Sheet: TEENS AND SMARTPHONES

The Common Sense Census: Media Use by Tweens and Teens

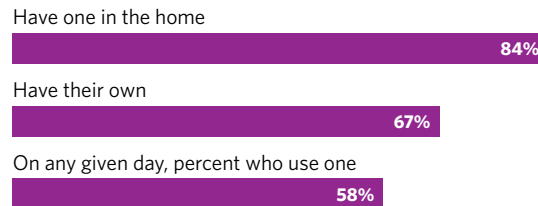
The vast majority of teens live in homes where at least one person has a smartphone, and the majority of teens have their own smartphones, but in a time when the common perception is that all teens are using smartphones all the time, it is useful to remember that more than three in 10 teens don't have smartphones. Smartphones are used for a variety of activities, including listening to music, watching videos, playing games, and using social media (the survey did not measure time spent talking on the phone or texting).



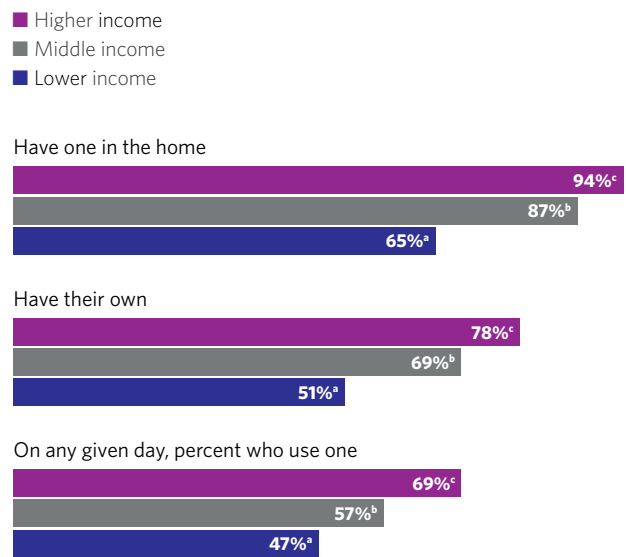
## Demographic differences in smartphone ownership and use

- There are substantial differences in smartphone ownership by income. Almost all (94 percent of) teens in higher-income families say someone in their home has a smartphone, while only 65 percent of lower-income teens do. Three-quarters (78 percent) of higher-income teens have their own smartphones, compared with 51 percent of lower-income teens.
- Lower-income teens who use smartphones on any given day spend far more time doing so (6:18) than their higher-income peers (3:03), possibly because they have fewer other Internet-capable devices such as laptops, desktop computers, and tablets.

## TEEN SMARTPHONE OWNERSHIP AND USE



## TEEN SMARTPHONE OWNERSHIP AND USE, BY INCOME



Note: "Lower income" is defined as <\$35,000; "middle" is \$35,000-99,999; and "higher" is \$100,000 or more. Superscripts are used to denote whether differences between groups are statistically significant (p<.05). Items with different superscripts differ significantly. Items that do not have a superscript, or that share a common superscript, do not differ significantly.

**In a time when the common perception is that all teens are using smartphones all the time, it is useful to remember that more than three in ten teens don't have smartphones.**

## Activities on smartphones

- Using social media and listening to music are the two activities that dominate teens' use of their smartphones.
- Other popular activities, engaged in by about a quarter of teens each day, include playing games, browsing websites, and watching online videos.

### SMARTPHONE USE AMONG TEENS

On any given day, time spent using a smartphone to ...	Average among all	Percent who do activity	Average among those who do
Use social media	:45	40%	1:52
Listen to music	:41	40%	1:41
Play games	:15	23%	1:04
Watch online videos	:15	22%	1:08
Browse websites	:15	22%	1:06
Watch TV	:08	6%	2:16
Video-chat	:06	7%	1:18
Make digital art or music	:02	2%	†
Read	:02	4%	:52
Write	*	1%	†
Do anything else‡	:13	22%	1:01
<b>Any smartphone use</b>	<b>2:42</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>4:38</b>

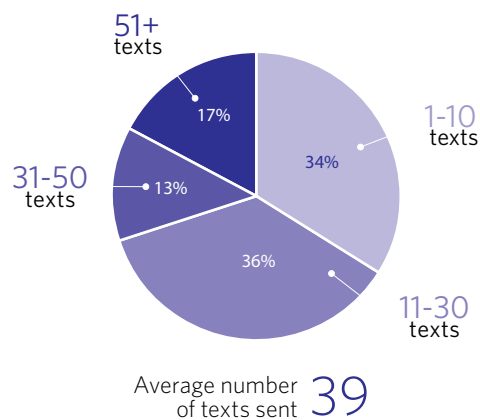
\* Indicates more than zero but less than one-half minute. † Sample size too small for reliable results. ‡ Other than texting or talking.

## Frequency and amount of texting

- While this generation of young people is widely perceived as being near-constant texters, only about half (53 percent) of all teens send text messages on any given day.
- Among those teens who text, the average number of texts sent in a day is 55, but the average masks some real diversity in how many texts young people send. Many texters (28 percent) send 10 or fewer texts in a day, and another third sends between 11 and 30. Another third sends more than 30 texts, including 21 percent who send 51 or more.
- On any given day, 66 percent of higher-income teens send text messages, compared with 54 percent of middle-income teens, and 36 percent of lower-income teens.

### AMONG TEENS WHO TEXT, NUMBER OF TEXTS SENT IN A DAY, BY GENDER

#### BOYS



#### GIRLS

