Teen and Young Adult Perspectives on Generative AI

Patterns of use, excitements, and concerns

HOPELAB

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CENTER FOR DIGITAL THRIVING

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Introduction

Generative artificial intelligence (AI)[1] has quickly become an integral part of the digital landscape, shaping how individuals interact with technology and creating new opportunities for creativity and innovation. At the same time, generative AI brings real and unknown risks, including those related to privacy, equity, and accuracy. Of particular importance is its influence on young people, who not only serve as early adopters and influencers in the digital realm but also stand at the forefront of grappling with its implications.

Understanding young people's perspectives on generative AI is paramount, especially considering ongoing apprehensions about the effects of digital technologies on youth mental health.[2] As generative AI becomes more integrated into daily life across different domains, including jobs, schools, and social interactions, there is a need to delve deeper into its use among young people to guide practice and policy-making decisions and foster a more informed dialogue on its utilization. By examining their reasons for using or not using generative AI tools, we can uncover underlying motivations and concerns influencing youth engagement with this technology. Moreover, analyzing generative AI use by race/ethnicity, age, gender, and LGBTQ+ identity[3] allows a nuanced understanding of how different demographic groups currently perceive and interact with generative AI technology.

Findings in this report primarily come from a larger national survey of digital technology and youth mental health[4] (Common Sense Media & Hopelab, 2024). This study centered young people in the creation of survey topics and questions, as well as the interpretation of results. The questions in the Appendix, including content and specific wording, were developed through interviews, focus groups, and item testing with young people.

This report examines differences in experiences and perceptions of generative AI across racial and ethnic groups, between teens (ages 14-17) and young adults (ages 18-22), and across LGBTQ+ and gender identities. We also utilized open-ended questions to provide more detailed context about generative AI use, concerns, and excitement among young people. Additionally, since teens' use of AI[5] might be more heavily monitored or influenced by parents and other adults, we included data from a separate survey (Center for Digital Thriving & Common Sense Media, forthcoming) that contained an open-ended question asking teens (ages 13-17) to describe one thing they wanted adults to know about how teens use AI.

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1   Generative AI was framed to the young people in this report as, "a type of artificial intelligence (AI) system that can generate original images, sounds, and text — including artwork, music, and stories — in response to your prompts."

2   Odgers, C. L., & Jensen, M. R. (2020). Annual research review: Adolescent mental health in the digital age: Facts, fears, and future directions. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, *61*(3), 336-348. https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13190

3   Analyses of LGBTQ+ identity compare young people who described their sexual orientation as lesbian, gay, bisexual or pansexual, or asexual, or who identified as transgender or nonbinary (LGBTQ+) to those who endorsed heterosexual or straight for their sexual orientation without describing themself as transgender or nonbinary (cisgender/straight).

4   Common Sense Media & Hopelab (2024). A Double-Edged Sword: How diverse communities of young people think about the multifaceted relationship between social media and mental health. Available at: www.commonsense.org/youth-perspectives-social-media-mental-health

5   All questions from the survey of young people ages 14-22 focused specifically on generative AI. The open-ended survey question for teens ages 13-17 asked about AI more broadly.

Summary of Methodology

- Quantitative data was part of a nationally representative survey of 1,274 U.S.-based teens and young adults ages 14-22 collected from October to November 2023.

- In the report, "teens" refers to those ages 17 and younger, "young adults" refers to those ages 18-22, and "youth" or "young people" refers to the entire sample. The term "boy" or "girl" is used for those under age 17. The term "man" or "woman" is used for those ages 18-22.

- Data collection was conducted by the NORC at the University of Chicago using their probability-based panel as well as online opt-in panels to oversample for those who were LGBTQ+, Black, and Latinx.

- The margin of sampling error is +/- 5.9 percentage points, including the design effect for the whole sample.

- Data was analyzed by race/ethnicity, LGBTQ+ identity, gender, and age.

- Differences between subgroups were tested for statistical significance at the $p<.05$ level.

- The survey of 1,274 teens and young adults included two open-ended questions for respondents to share personal perspectives on the future of AI.

- An additional open-ended question was included from a separate survey of 1,545 U.S.-based teens (ages 13-17), with an oversampling for Black and LGBTQ+ young people, that asked about one thing adults should know about how teens use AI.

- The sample of 1,545 teens were reached through their parents via the SSRS Opinion Panel and non-probability panels between October and November 2023.

- Quotes are directly from young people, but have been lightly edited to correct misspellings, punctuation, capitalization, and typos.

- For additional details, please see the Methodology section of our previous report.[6]

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6   Common Sense Media & Hopelab (2024). A Double-Edged Sword: How diverse communities of young people think about the multifaceted relationship between social media and mental health. Available at: www.commonsense.org/youth-perspectives-social-media-mental-health
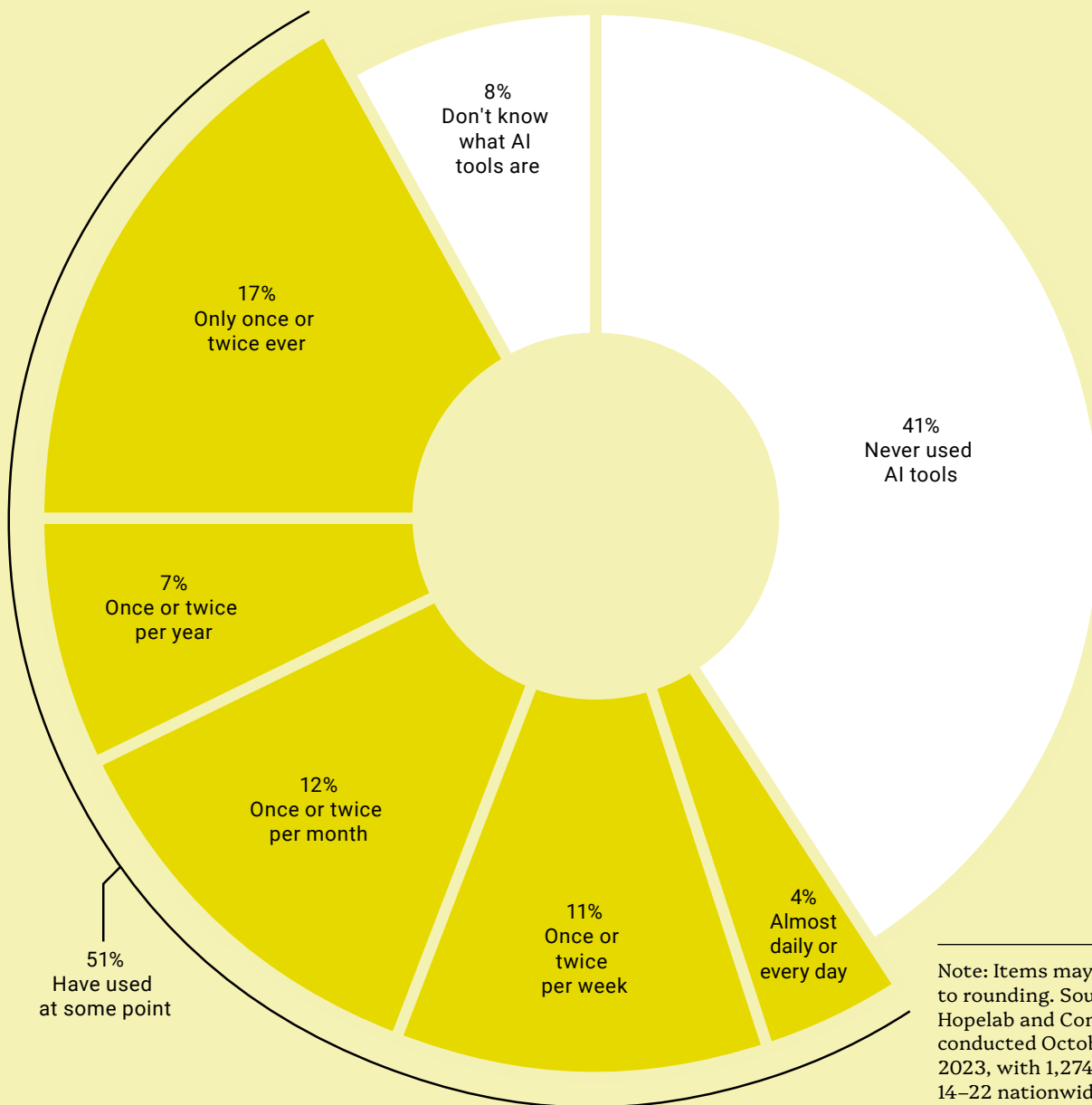
Key Findings

KEY FINDING 1:

Half (51%) of young people ages 14-22 have used generative AI at some point in their lives; however, **only 4%** report being daily users.

Frequency of generative AI use among young people ages 14-22

8%
Don't know what AI tools are

41%
Never used AI tools

17%
Only once or twice ever

7%
Once or twice per year

12%
Once or twice per month

11%
Once or twice per week

4%
Almost daily or every day

51%
Have used at some point

Note: Items may not sum exactly due to rounding. Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense Media conducted October 4–November 14, 2023, with 1,274 young people ages 14–22 nationwide.
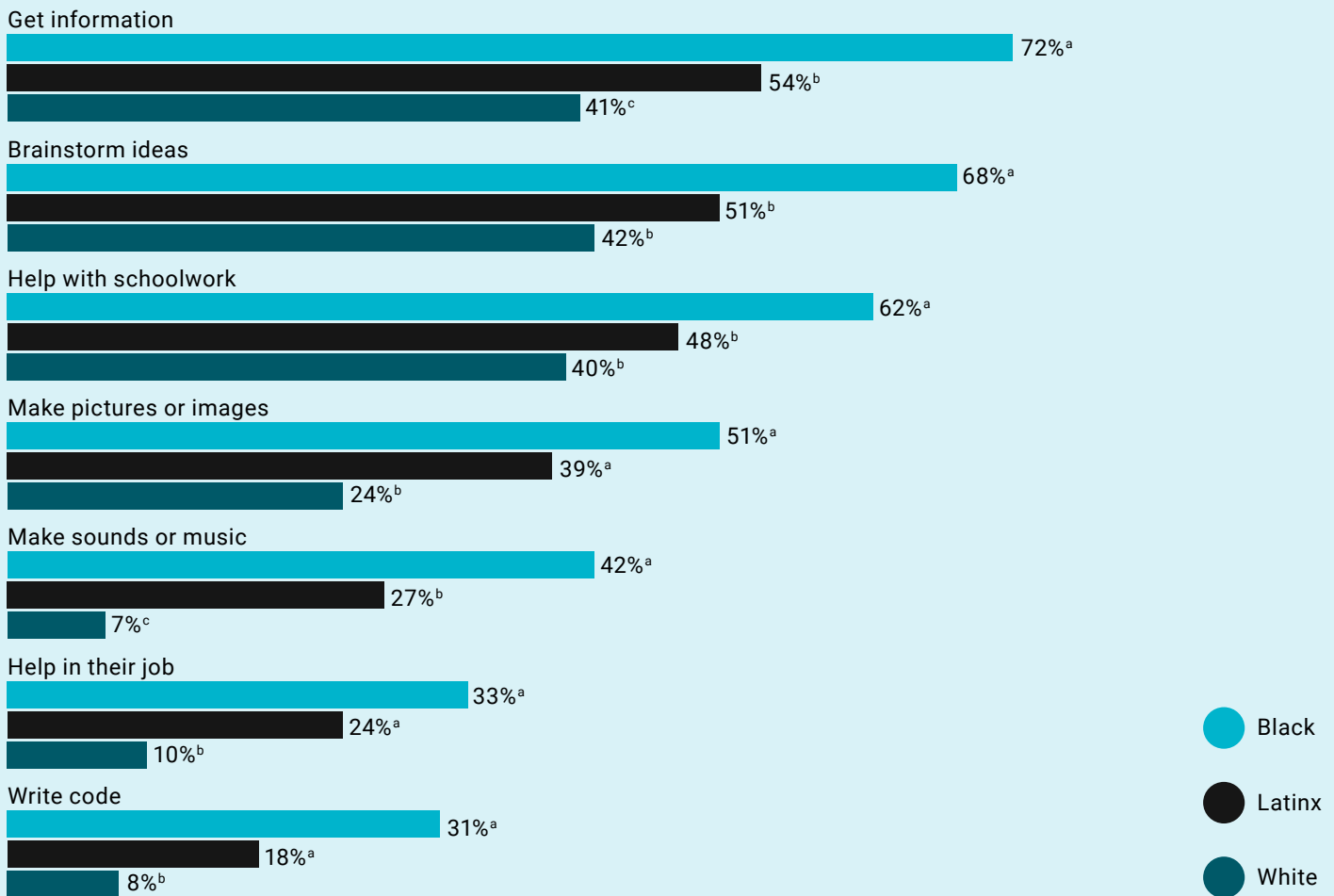
While half (51%) of young people have used generative AI, 8% report not knowing what generative AI tools are. The percentage of those who have ever used generative AI is similar across race/ethnicity, LGBTQ+ identity, gender, and age. Black and Latinx young people are twice as likely as white young people to report using generative AI at least weekly (22% and 18% vs. 10%, respectively).

KEY FINDING 2:

The most commonly reported uses of generative AI are for **getting information** (53%) and **brainstorming** (51%). Among those who used generative AI, Black and Latinx young people are significantly more likely to use it for most activities.

% of generative AI users who have used it for the following reasons by race/ethnicity

Get information
- 72%[a]
- 54%[b]
- 41%[c]

Brainstorm ideas
- 68%[a]
- 51%[b]
- 42%[b]

Help with schoolwork
- 62%[a]
- 48%[b]
- 40%[b]

Make pictures or images
- 51%[a]
- 39%[a]
- 24%[b]

Make sounds or music
- 42%[a]
- 27%[b]
- 7%[c]

Help in their job
- 33%[a]
- 24%[a]
- 10%[b]

Write code
- 31%[a]
- 18%[a]
- 8%[b]

- ● Black
- ● Latinx
- ● White

Note: Items may not sum exactly due to rounding. Items with different superscripts differ significantly across bars within each category (p<.05). Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense Media conducted October 4-November 14, 2023. Responses represent 573 young people who reported using generative AI, including 158 Black young people, 190 Latinx young people, and 225 white young people ages 14–22 nationwide.
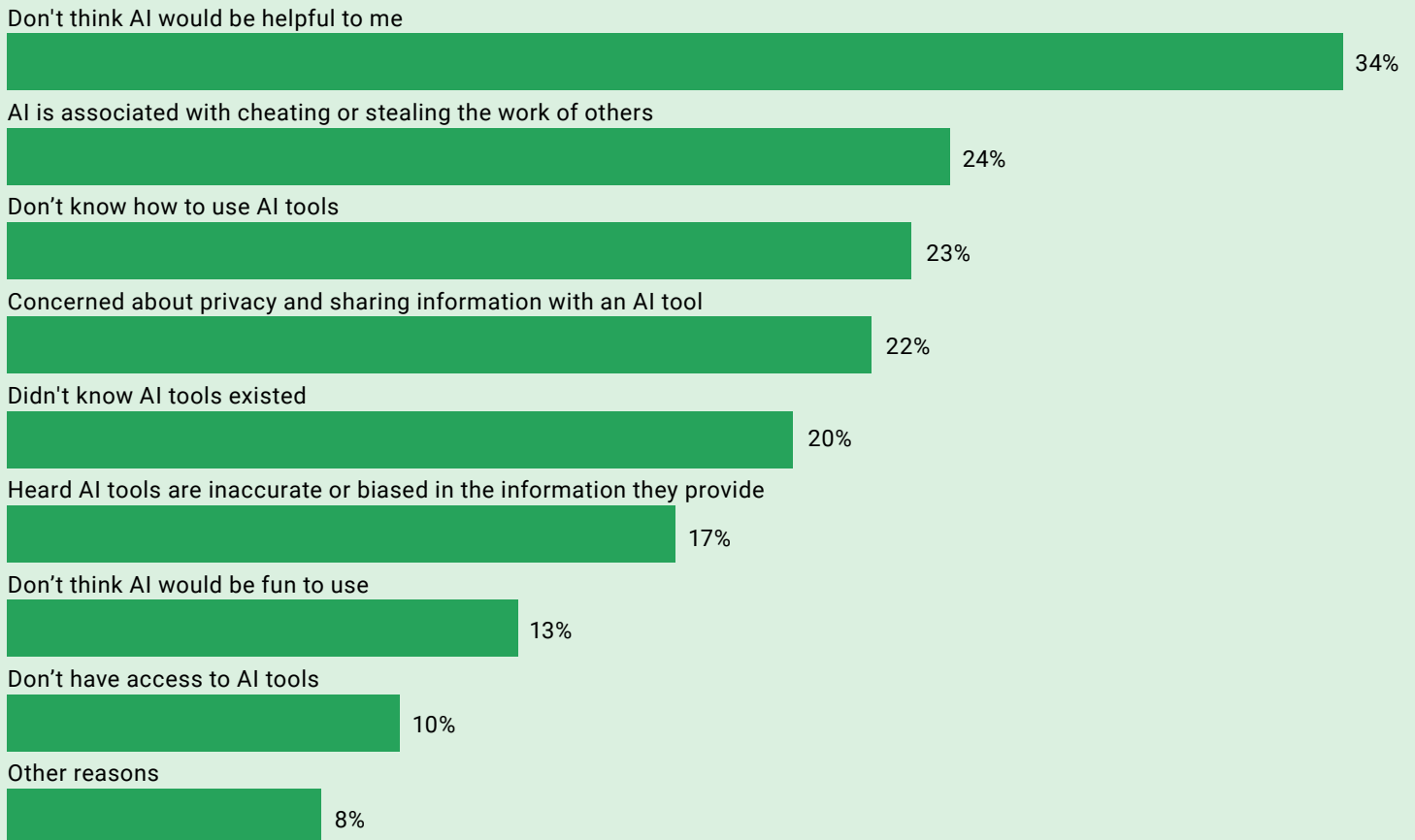
Among those who ever used generative AI, Black young people are significantly more likely than their white peers to turn to generative AI to get information (72% vs. 41%), brainstorm ideas (68% vs. 42%), help with schoolwork (62% vs. 40%), make pictures or images (51% vs. 24%), make sounds or music (42% vs. 7%), help in their job (33% vs. 10%), and to write code (31% vs. 8%). Latinx young people who have ever used generative AI are more likely than white young people to get information (54% vs. 41%), make pictures or images (39% vs. 24%), make sounds or music (27% vs. 7%), help with their job (24% vs. 10%), and write code (18% vs. 8%).

KEY FINDING 3:

Among those who have never used generative AI, one-third (34%) think it **would not be helpful**.

Reasons provided by young people who have never used generative AI

Don't think AI would be helpful to me
34%

AI is associated with cheating or stealing the work of others
24%

Don't know how to use AI tools
23%

Concerned about privacy and sharing information with an AI tool
22%

Didn't know AI tools existed
20%

Heard AI tools are inaccurate or biased in the information they provide
17%

Don't think AI would be fun to use
13%

Don't have access to AI tools
10%

Other reasons
8%

Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense Media conducted October 4-November 14, 2023, with 510 young people ages 14–22 nationwide who reported never using generative AI.
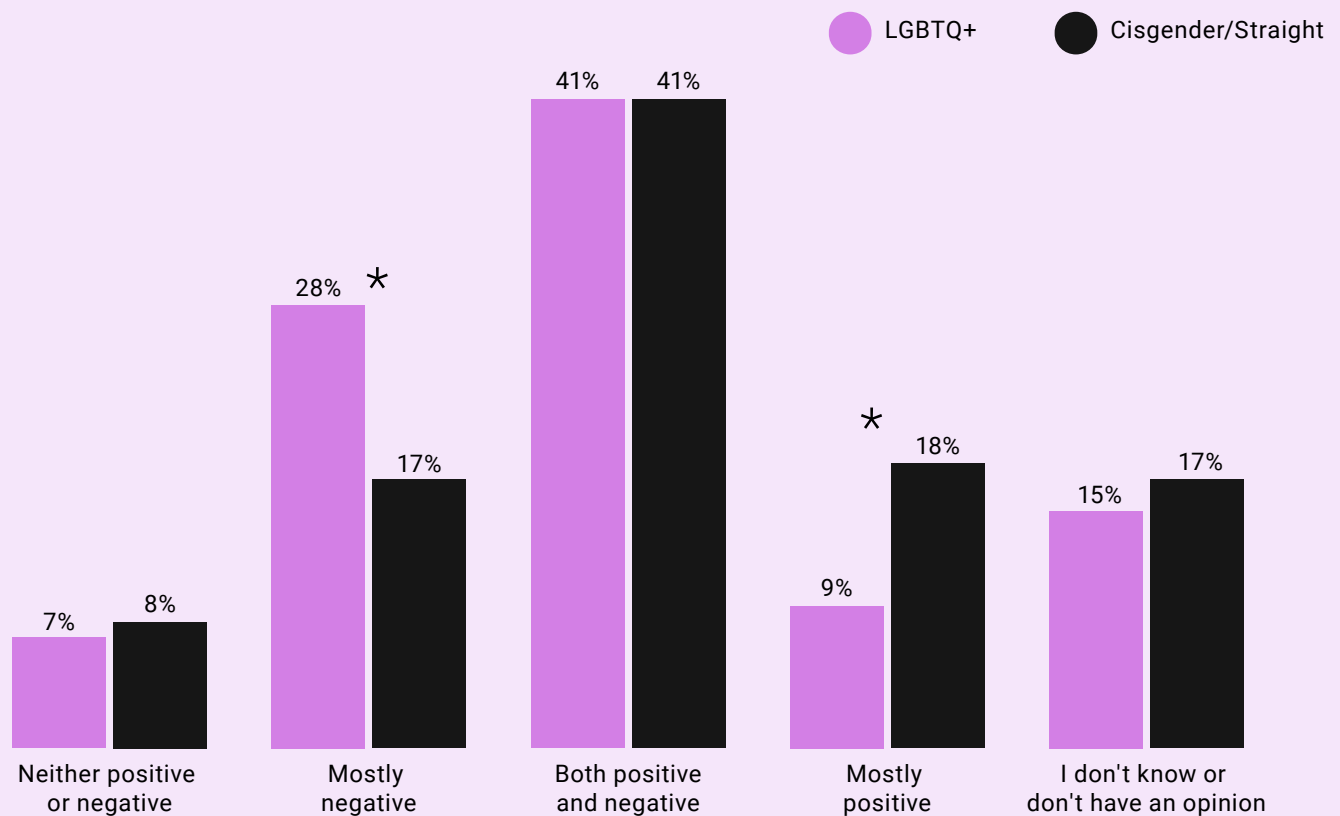
Among those who have never used generative AI, the top reasons for not using are a belief that it wouldn't be helpful (34%), its association with cheating or stealing the work of others (24%), a lack of knowledge on how to use it (23%), and concerns around privacy and sharing information (22%), with differences emerging by demographic groups. For example, LGBTQ+ young people who have never used generative AI are more likely than their cisgender/straight peers to say that they don't use generative AI tools due to concerns about inaccuracy and bias in the information provided (34% vs. 14%). In addition, teens ages 14-17 who have never used generative AI are more likely to report not knowing that generative AI tools existed, compared to young adults ages 18-22 (27% vs. 16%).

KEY FINDING 4:

Forty-one percent of young people believe that generative AI is likely to have **both positive and negative impacts** on their lives in the next ten years. LGBTQ+ young people are more likely to say the impact of generative AI will be mostly negative and less likely to say it will be positive compared to cisgender/straight young people.

Perceptions of the impact of generative AI in the next 10 years among young people ages 14-22 by LGBTQ+ identity

● LGBTQ+   ● Cisgender/Straight

	Neither positive or negative	Mostly negative	Both positive and negative	Mostly positive	I don't know or don't have an opinion
LGBTQ+	7%	28% *	41%	9% *	15%
Cisgender/Straight	8%	17%	41%	18%	17%

Note: Items may not sum exactly due to rounding. Bars with * differ significantly within each category (*p*<.05). Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense conducted October 4-November 14, 2023, with young people ages 14–22 nationwide, including 154 LGBTQ+ young people and 984 straight/cisgender young people.

When asked about the future impacts of generative AI on their lives, the most common response (41%) was that it would likely be a mix of positives and negatives. By comparison, approximately one in five (19%) believe that the impact of generative AI on their life will be mostly negative, while 16% believe the impact will be mostly positive. LGBTQ+ young people are more likely than cisgender/straight young people to say the impact of generative AI will be mostly negative (28% vs. 17%) and are less likely to say it will be mostly positive (9% vs. 18%).

KEY FINDING 5:

Those who expect mostly positive personal impacts from the future of generative AI describe how broader access to information **will help with school, work, and their wider community; enhance creativity; and foster opportunities for human advancement.**

When asked, "When it comes to generative AI, what are you most excited about?", young people who anticipated positive developments for their future with AI shared a range of excitement about the impact that generative AI might have at school and work, making learning and working more efficient and faster. Young people are also excited about the accessibility of so much knowledge and information. When it came to creativity, there is excitement about the potential to enhance existing artistic endeavors for those who already engaged in creative activities. Young people who describe themselves as lacking creativity feel generative AI could help them grow in those areas.

KEY FINDING 6:

Young people anticipating mostly negative personal impacts highlight concerns about the future of generative AI related to the **loss of jobs, AI taking over the world, intellectual property theft, misinformation/disinformation, and privacy.**

Many of the same areas where young people see the potential benefits of generative AI also emerge in their concerns. For example, among those who expect to see negative impacts in their lives, respondents often shared that they were worried about generative AI taking over job opportunities altogether and negatively impacting the creative community. Related to privacy concerns, many young people are concerned that the proliferation of generative AI might make it easier for their personal information to be compromised, stolen, and hacked. Young people also describe harms related to creating and spreading misinformation and disinformation online, including "deep fakes" and "fake news." There is also a more general and broad fear described by numerous young people as AI "taking over."

KEY FINDING 7:

Young people want adults to know that "the world is changing," "we are the future," and "AI is the future." Some are concerned, saying, "AI is very creepy," and "AI concerns me," while others are optimistic, sharing sentiments like, "I really cannot wait to see how it evolves in the future."

AI is the future

AI is very creepy
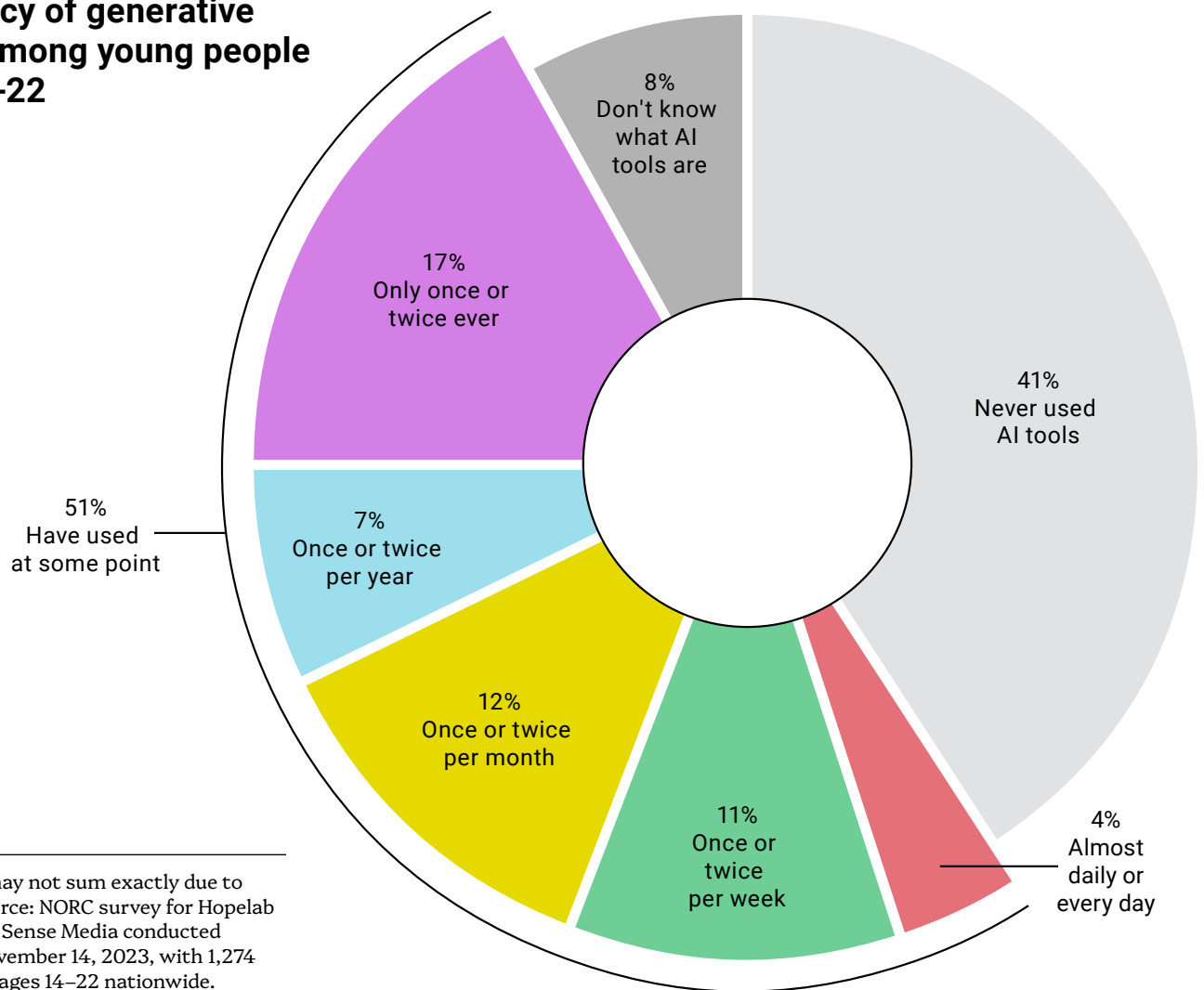
I really cannot wait to see how it evolves

The world is changing

AI concerns me

In an open-ended question on a second survey, when asked what they thought adults should know about young people and AI, the key message of teens ages 13-17 is "the world is changing" and that they see a role for adults in supporting their use of generative AI. Regarding generative AI and education, teens want adults to know that they use generative AI for schoolwork beyond cheating, though cheating does happen. With respect to social connection, creativity, and identity exploration, young people want adults to recognize how generative AI can offer a safe place for asking questions, a way to seek comfort and companionship, and a space for creativity and fun. Similarly, young people want adults to know about potential AI-related harms, such as those connected to bullying and lying.

Generative AI Use

Frequency of generative AI use among young people ages 14-22

8%
Don't know what AI tools are

17%
Only once or twice ever

51%
Have used at some point

7%
Once or twice per year

12%
Once or twice per month

11%
Once or twice per week

41%
Never used AI tools

4%
Almost daily or every day

Note: Items may not sum exactly due to rounding. Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense Media conducted October 4-November 14, 2023, with 1,274 young people ages 14–22 nationwide.

Although most young people know what generative AI tools are, regular use has yet to become commonplace. Approximately half (51%) of teens and young adults ages 14–22 say they have used generative AI tools at some point; however, only 4% say they use them daily. Forty-one percent of young people have never used these types of tools, and another 8% are unfamiliar with them.

When looking at the percentage of young people who have ever used generative AI tools, there are no significant differences by race/ethnicity. However, some subtle differences emerge around levels of usage. Black or Latinx young people are twice as likely to report using generative AI tools once or twice a week than white young people (16% and 14%, respectively vs. 7%). White young

people are twice as likely as their Black peers to say they have used generative AI tools only once or twice in their lives (21% vs. 10%). On the flip side, while Black and Latinx young people use generative AI more frequently when they use it, they are also more likely than their white peers to say they have not heard of generative AI (15% and 10%, respectively vs. 5%).

Gender differences emerge around both the awareness and use of generative AI. More men and boys have ever used generative AI compared to women and girls (53% vs. 48%). Men and boys are also more likely than women and girls to use it once or twice a week (14% vs. 8%). There are no significant differences in the frequency of generative AI usage by LGBTQ+ identity or age.

Frequency of generative AI use by race/ethnicity

	Black	Latinx	White
Ever	**48%**	**51%**	**50%**
Almost daily or every day	7%[a]	5%[ab]	3%[b]
Once or twice per week	16%[a]	14%[a]	7%[b]
Once or twice per month	8%[a]	14%[b]	10%[ab]
Once or twice per year	7%[ab]	5%[a]	9%[b]
Only once or twice in my life	10%[a]	14%[a]	21%[b]
Never	**37%**	**39%**	**45%**
I don't know what ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence, or AI, tools are	**15%[a]**	**10%[a]**	**5%[b]**

Note: Items may not sum exactly due to rounding. Items with different superscripts differ significantly across rows within each category (*p*<.05). Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense conducted October 4-November 14, 2023, with young people ages 14–22 nationwide.
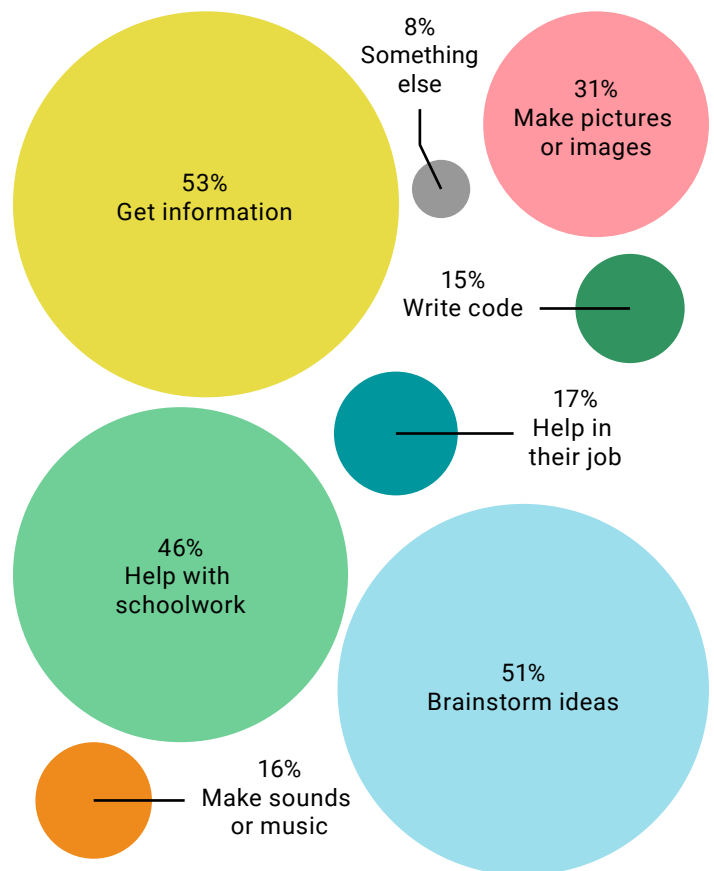
Reasons for Using Generative AI

Young people who use generative AI do so for various reasons, primarily related to information seeking, idea generation, schoolwork, and creative pursuits. Among those who say they have ever used AI, 53% say they are currently using it to get information, and 51% say they are using it for brainstorming. Forty-six percent say they use it to help with schoolwork, and 31% generate pictures or images. Fewer than 1 in 5 report using it to make music (16%), for help in their job (16%), to write code (15%), or for some other reason (8%).

Several significant differences in the use of generative AI to get information emerge. Black young people are more likely than their Latinx and white peers to use generative AI to get information, with Latinx young people also being significantly more likely to use generative AI for this purpose than their white peers (72% vs. 54% vs. 41%). Men and boys also report using generative AI more often than women and girls to get information (57% vs. 48%). Cisgender and straight young people are more likely to report using generative AI to get information than LGBTQ+ young people (54% vs. 43%).

Across the board, variations in use by demographic groups are also prominent around using generative AI to brainstorm ideas. Black young people are more likely than their Latinx and white peers to use generative AI to brainstorm ideas (68% vs. 51% and 42%, respectively). Men and boys are also more likely to use generative AI to brainstorm ideas (58% vs. 48%) than women and girls. Further, cisgender and straight young people who used generative AI were more likely to do so for brainstorming ideas than LGBTQ+ young people (53% vs. 41%).

Finding information and inspiration are key uses

% of generative AI users ages 14-22 who have used it for the following reasons

8%
Something else

31%
Make pictures or images

53%
Get information

15%
Write code

17%
Help in their job

46%
Help with schoolwork

51%
Brainstorm ideas

16%
Make sounds or music

Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense Media conducted October 4-November 14, 2023, with 632 young people ages 14–22 nationwide who reported using generative AI.
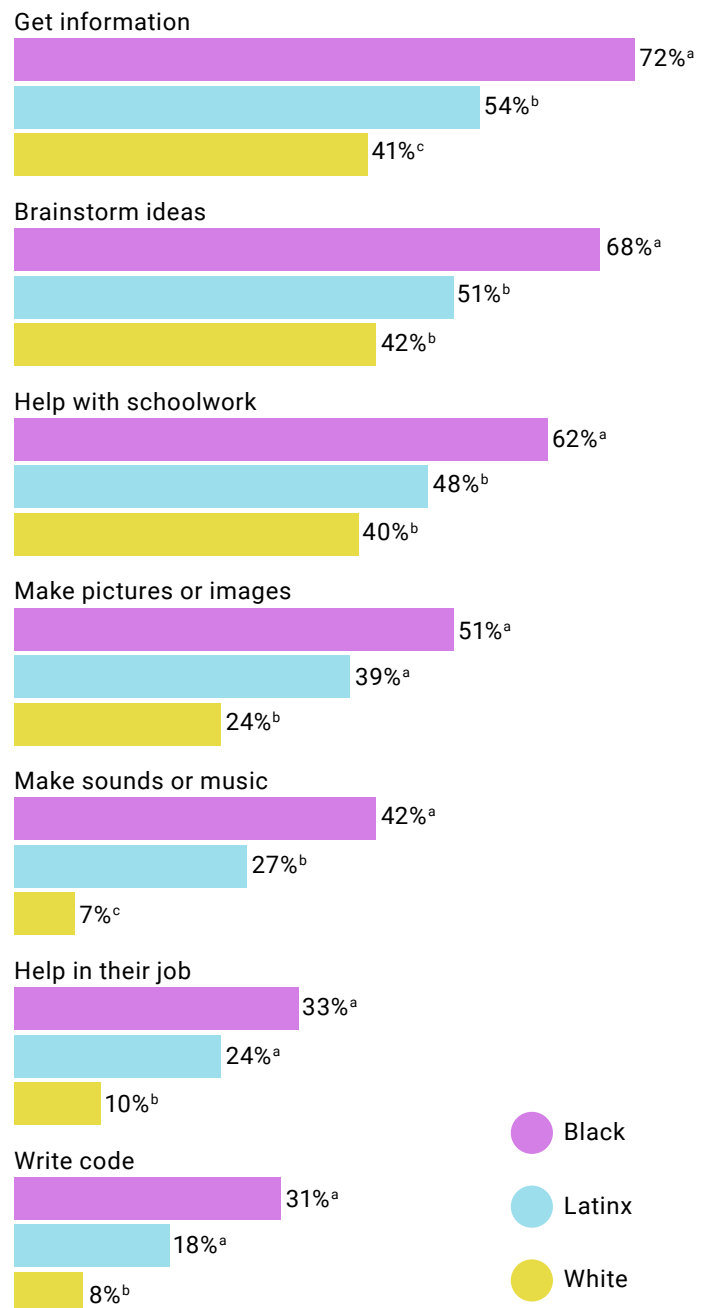
Among those who ever used generative AI, a few demographic differences emerge related to its use to support schoolwork or jobs. Black young people are more likely than their Latinx and white peers to use generative AI to help with schoolwork (62% vs. 48% and 40%, respectively). Black young people are more likely than white young people who use generative AI to use it for help in their jobs (33% vs. 10%). Latinx young people are also more likely than white young people to use generative AI to help with their jobs (24% vs. 10%). No other significant demographic differences emerge among those who use generative AI to help with schoolwork or jobs.

Related to using generative AI to express creativity, Black and Latinx young people are more likely than white young people to use it for making pictures or images (51% and 39%, respectively vs. 24%) and making sounds or music (42% and 27% vs. 7%, respectively). Compared to their cisgender and straight counterparts, LGBTQ+ young people more often report using generative AI to make pictures or images (40% vs. 29%). Teen users of generative AI are also more likely to use it for making pictures or images than young adults (35% vs. 28%).

Although writing code is one of the less common uses of generative AI (15%), a few significant demographic differences were found. Black and Latinx young people are significantly more likely than white young people to report using generative AI to write code (31% and 18%, respectively vs. 8%). Men and boys also reported using generative AI more often than women and girls to write code (20% vs. 10%).

Among those who used generative AI, Black and Latinx young people were much more likely to use it for most activities

% of generative AI users who have used it for the following reasons by race/ethnicity

Get information
- Black: 72%[a]
- Latinx: 54%[b]
- White: 41%[c]

Brainstorm ideas
- Black: 68%[a]
- Latinx: 51%[b]
- White: 42%[b]

Help with schoolwork
- Black: 62%[a]
- Latinx: 48%[b]
- White: 40%[b]

Make pictures or images
- Black: 51%[a]
- Latinx: 39%[a]
- White: 24%[b]

Make sounds or music
- Black: 42%[a]
- Latinx: 27%[b]
- White: 7%[c]

Help in their job
- Black: 33%[a]
- Latinx: 24%[a]
- White: 10%[b]

Write code
- Black: 31%[a]
- Latinx: 18%[a]
- White: 8%[b]

Legend:
- ● Black
- ● Latinx
- ● White

Note: Items may not sum exactly due to rounding. Items with different superscripts differ significantly across bars within each category (*p*<.05). Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense Media conducted October 4-November 14, 2023. Responses represent 573 young people who reported using generative AI, including 158 Black young people, 190 Latinx young people, and 225 white young people ages 14–22 nationwide.
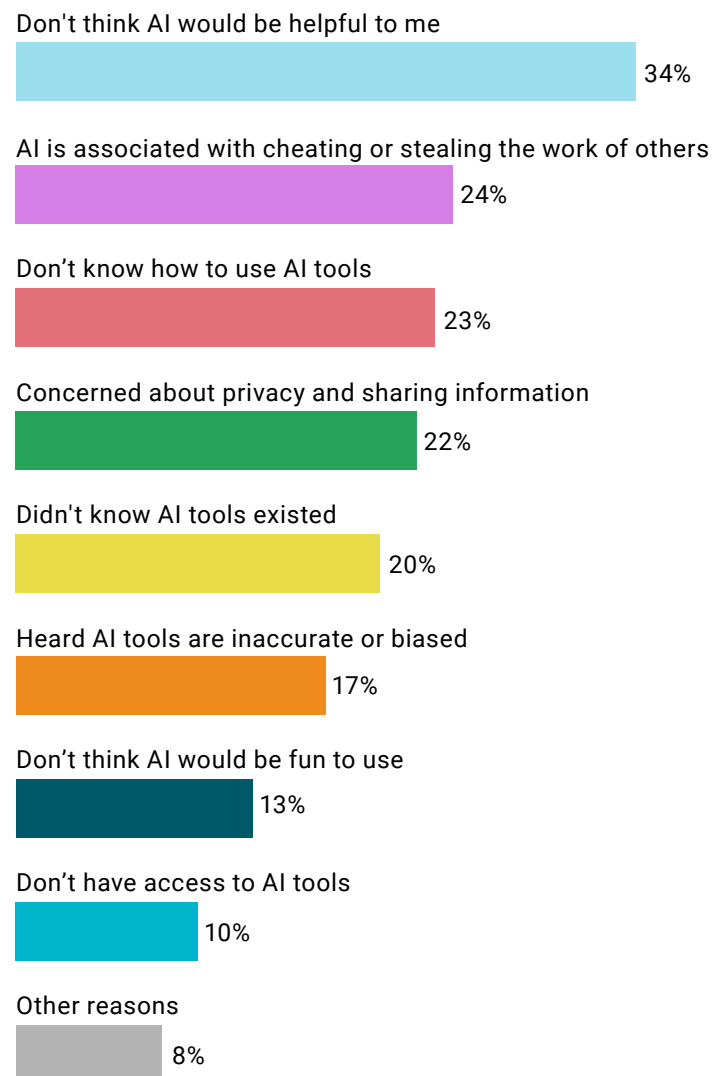
Reasons For Not Using Generative AI

Among young people who haven't used generative AI tools, their reasons for not doing so are varied. Regarding awareness of and access to generative AI, one in five young people do not know that these types of tools existed, and one in 10 reports that they did not have access.[7] Along with awareness and access gaps, 23% have never used generative AI tools because they don't know how. About a third (34%) believe that generative AI tools wouldn't be helpful to them. Other young people cite issues related to privacy and bias as reasons for not using generative AI: 22% are concerned about privacy and sharing information with an AI tool, and 17% have heard that AI tools are inaccurate or biased in the information they provide. In addition, some youth chose not to use generative AI due to its negative associations. More specifically, about a quarter (24%) report not using these tools because they are associated with cheating or stealing the work of others. Fewer (13%) say they haven't used generative AI tools because they don't think it would be fun to use.

Across race and ethnicity, a roughly equal percentage of respondents reports that they don't use generative AI tools because they don't have access to them. Differences across racial and ethnic groups emerge, however, when it comes to the other reasons why teens and young adults have not yet used generative AI tools. Among those who have never used generative AI tools, more Black (35%) and Latinx (28%) young people are not aware that these types of tools existed, compared to their white peers (15%).

Approximately 1 in 3 young people don't use generative AI because they don't think it would be helpful

% of young people ages 14-22 who never used generative AI for the following reasons

Don't think AI would be helpful to me
34%

AI is associated with cheating or stealing the work of others
24%

Don't know how to use AI tools
23%

Concerned about privacy and sharing information
22%

Didn't know AI tools existed
20%

Heard AI tools are inaccurate or biased
17%

Don't think AI would be fun to use
13%

Don't have access to AI tools
10%

Other reasons
8%

Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense Media conducted October 4-November 14, 2023, with 510 young people ages 14–22 nationwide who reported never using generative AI.

7   This may be due to actual lack of access or misunderstandings about how one might access generative AI tools.

Differences by race/ethnicity also arise around privacy and bias concerns. For example, white young people are two times more likely than Black young people to report concerns about privacy in sharing information with a generative AI tool (26% vs. 13%). White participants are also more likely than Black participants to report that they have heard generative AI tools provide inaccurate or biased information (14% vs. 5%).

Although no significant differences emerge by gender, a few notable differences arise based on LGBTQ+ identity and age. LGBTQ+ young people are more likely than their cisgender/straight peers to say that they haven't used generative AI tools because they're concerned about inaccuracy and bias in the information provided (34% vs. 14%), they don't think it would be fun (36% vs. 9%), and they feel that it was associated with cheating (36% vs. 22%). Cisgender/straight young people are more

likely than LGBTQ+ young people to report that they don't use generative AI because they didn't know it existed (22% vs. 9%).

When it comes to age and reasons for not using generative AI, young adults are more likely than teens to indicate reasons related to biases, privacy concerns, and associations with cheating. More specifically, young adults ages 18-22 are more likely to report that they associate generative AI with cheating or stealing the work of others compared to teens ages 14-17 (29% vs. 16%) and that they've heard it provides inaccurate or biased information (20% vs. 12%). Young adults are also more likely than teens to report that they did not think generative AI would be fun (17% vs. 9%). Additionally, teens ages 14-17 (27%) are more likely to report that they didn't know generative AI tools existed compared to young adults ages 18-22 (16%).

Reasons for not using generative AI tools by race/ethnicity

	Black	Latinx	White
I don't think generative AI would be helpful to me	17%[a]	40%[b]	36%[b]
I think generative AI is associated with cheating or stealing the work of others	19%[ab]	16%[a]	27%[b]
I'm concerned about privacy and sharing information with a generative AI tool	13%[a]	18%[ab]	26%[b]
I don't know how to use generative AI tools	21%	22%	23%
I didn't know generative AI tools existed	35%[a]	28%[a]	15%[b]
I've heard generative AI tools are inaccurate or biased in the information they provide	5%[a]	19%[b]	14%[b]
I don't think generative AI would be fun to use	7%[a]	18%[b]	12%[ab]
I don't have access to generative AI tools	15%	13%	8%

Note: Items may not sum exactly due to rounding. Items with different superscripts differ significantly across rows within each category (p<.05). Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense conducted October 4-November 14, 2023, with young people ages 14–22 nationwide who never used generative AI.
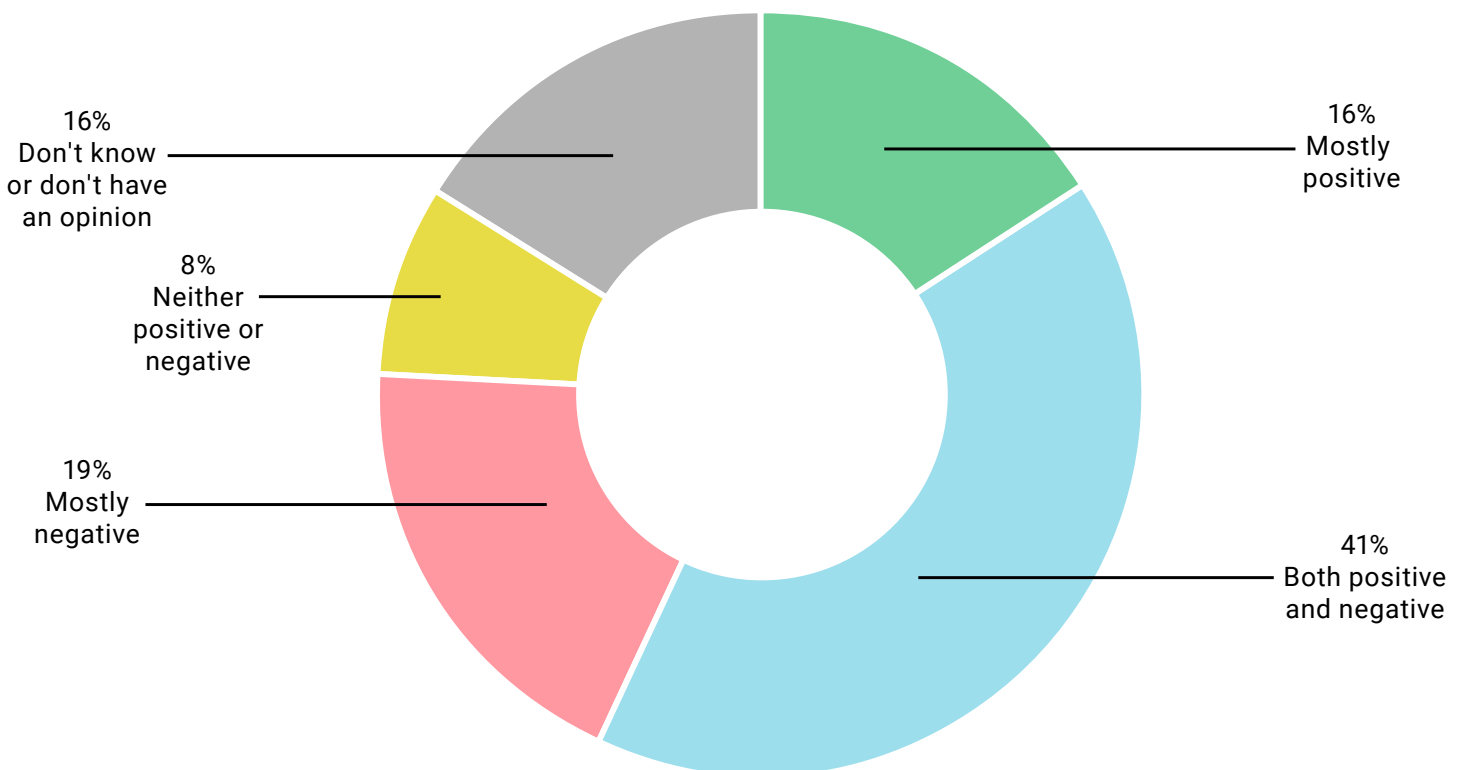
Perceptions of the Future of Generative AI

Looking ahead, young people are most likely to say that generative AI will have both positive and negative effects on their lives. Among those who have ever heard of generative AI, 41% say generative AI will have both a positive and negative impact on their lives in the next ten years, and 8% say it will have neither a positive nor negative impact. Nineteen percent say it will have a mostly negative impact, and 16% say it will have a mostly positive impact. Sixteen percent are unsure of its long-term impact.

Both LGBTQ+ and cisgender/straight young people share the same level of agreement (41%) that generative AI is likely to have both positive and negative impacts on their lives in the next ten years. However, LGBTQ+ young people express more pessimism about the long-term impact of generative AI tools than their cisgender/straight counterparts. LGBTQ+ young people are more likely than cisgender/straight young people to say the impact of generative AI on their lives will be mostly negative (28% vs. 17%) and are less likely to say the impact will be mostly positive (9% vs. 18%).

Young people are most likely to say generative AI will have both positive and negative impacts on their lives in the next 10 years

Perceptions of the impact of generative AI in the next 10 years among young people ages 14-22

16%
Don't know
or don't have
an opinion

8%
Neither
positive or
negative

19%
Mostly
negative

16%
Mostly
positive

41%
Both positive
and negative

Note: Items may not sum exactly due to rounding. Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense Media conducted October 4-November 14, 2023, with 1,274 young people ages 14–22 nationwide.

Regarding gender, women and girls are more likely than men and boys to say the impact of generative AI will be mostly negative for them (21% vs. 14%).

With respect to race/ethnicity, Latinx and white young people are more likely than Black young people to say they expect the effect of generative AI to be mostly negative (23% and 19%, respectively vs. 12%), Black young people are more likely than Latinx and white peers to report that they don't know about the future impact of generative AI in their lives (23% vs. 14% and 16%, respectively).

Black young adults are more likely than Latinx young adults to anticipate a mostly positive future impact of generative AI on their lives (20% vs. 12%). No other race and ethnicity differences are statistically significant.

In terms of age, only one difference emerges: teens are more likely to report not knowing or being unsure about the future personal impacts of generative AI compared with young adults (20% vs. 14%).

LGBTQ+ young people are more likely to say the impact of generative AI on their life will be mostly negative and less likely to say it will be mostly positive in the next 10 years compared to cisgender/straight young people.

Perceptions of the impact of generative AI in the next 10 years among young people ages 14-22 by LGBTQ+ identity

LGBTQ+   Cisgender/Straight

	Neither positive or negative	Mostly negative	Both positive and negative	Mostly positive	I don't know or don't have an opinion
LGBTQ+	7%	28% *	41%	9% *	15%
Cisgender/Straight	8%	17%	41%	18%	17%
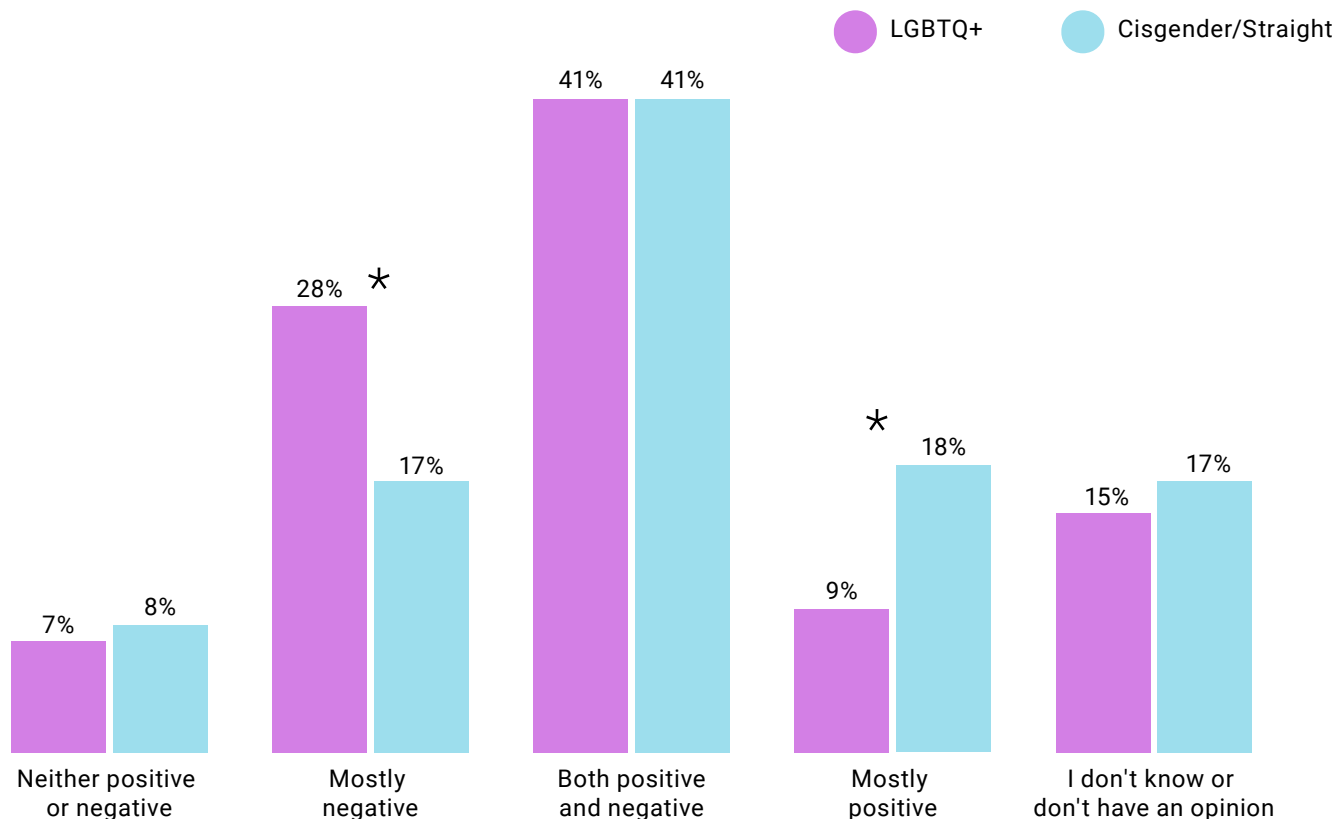
Note: Items may not sum exactly due to rounding. Bars with * differ significantly within each category (*p*<.05).
Source: NORC survey for Hopelab and Common Sense conducted October 4-November 14, 2023, with young people ages 14–22 nationwide, including 154 LGBTQ+ young people and 984 straight/cisgender young people.

Excitements About Generative AI

As part of this research, we asked an open-ended question that allowed young people to discuss the aspects of generative AI that are most exciting to them.[8] The top emerging themes are how generative AI changes how they access information to assist with school, work, and their broader ecosystem; its impact on creativity; and opportunities for human advancement.

Young people are excited about the potential of generative AI for changing how they access information, which is evident in how they think about the future of school, work, and their broader information ecosystems. Those highlighting the potential of AI for helping with schoolwork noted a variety of school topics and assignments that can be supplemented with the use of AI. For example, one young person noted, "Generative AI helps to give ideas when I need a topic to write about or to help in finding the answer to a math or chemistry problem that a traditional math app cannot solve" (white teen boy). Another respondent stated, "Tools like ChatGPT could be useful for writing essays in the future. Not to write entire essays, but to help with the outline of one" (white nonbinary teen). Others more broadly noted the potential of generative AI to help "generate ideas for schoolwork" (Latinx teen boy) or for "getting support or help with homework problems" (white young adult woman).

> **"I think that it [generative AI] will revolutionize efficiency at school and in the workplace, freeing up workers for higher-level activities."**
>
> WHITE YOUNG ADULT WOMAN

Beyond schoolwork, young people discussed other ways generative AI can help in reducing work more broadly. In particular, a Black young woman described the time-saving potential of these tools as "being able to get information faster and more efficiently." Another young person noted: "I think that it will revolutionize efficiency at school and in the workplace, freeing up workers for higher-level activities. To me, AI is just as significant of an invention as the Internet was" (white young adult woman). A Latinx young adult man described the power of generative AI to help by "cutting down the time to do tasks, find information much more freely and quickly, more accurately and tailored to your needs." Some young people were excited by the large amount of information generative AI could make available to them. A white teen boy described their excitement about "being able to fully and properly converse with something that is supposed to have all the knowledge of the world."

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8   This question was asked only to those who reported that generative AI would have mostly positive or both positive and negative impacts in the next 10 years.

In addition to the potential applications for school, work, and broader access to information, another major theme emerges around the potential of generative AI related to creativity. One young person discussed how access to generative AI will impact the creativity of their entire generation and expressed their excitement at "being able to see it evolve into making everyone more creative, and further increasing my generation's imagination" (white LGBTQ+ young adult man). A white transgender/nonbinary teen noted, "People who can't make art due to lacking talent or practice have a chance to create without needing to pay someone who does have immense amounts of talent." Others discussed additional aspects of creativity, such as music, with one person noting, "I love that music can be changed, I loved that" (Black young adult woman).

> ## "I'm excited about how it [generative AI] will help us advance as humans and how it will be used by STEM."
>
> LATINX TEEN BOY

Some young people are also excited about the future positive potential of generative AI, particularly around science and medicine. One respondent imagined the different areas in which generative AI could impact our future, "The new realms of thinking, invention, creation, and development that can come from AI can help us in so many different ways" (white teen girl). Another young person stated, "I'm excited about how it will help us advance as humans and how it will be used by STEM" (Latinx teen boy). Example topic areas mentioned by young people included the power of AI to advance telehealth, health care access, and prediction of health risk factors.
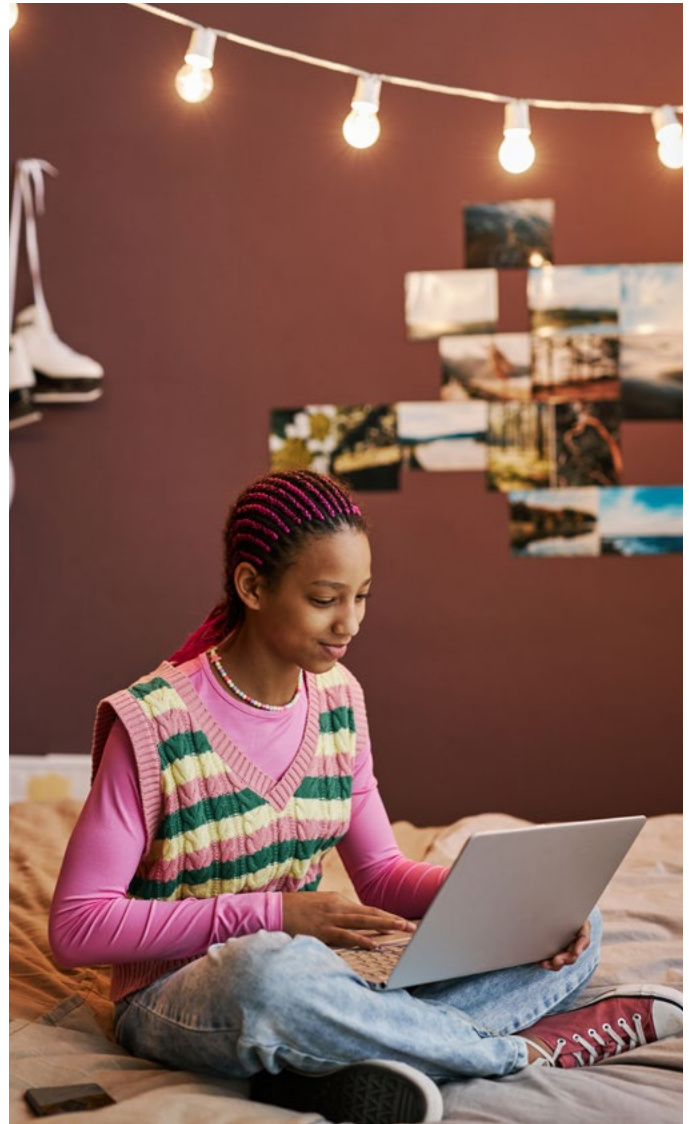
Concerns About Generative AI

Not every participant had a positive view of generative AI; a notable portion of respondents described their concerns about its future.[9] Major concerns related to themes around the impact on future jobs, AI "taking over the world," intellectual property theft, misinformation or disinformation, and privacy.

> ## "As an artist, I worry that many companies who would usually contract real artists will switch to lower quality AI-generated content to cut corners and save money."
>
> **WHITE TRANSGENDER YOUNG ADULT MAN**

Concerns related to dwindling future job prospects are one of the largest worries of young people. Some discussed concerns about generative AI leading to job loss more broadly. For example, a white nonbinary young adult said: "Society is becoming over-reliant on it, and people are losing their jobs to it even though it will do their jobs worse than them, because it saves their employers money." A Latinx young adult woman stated, "I think that it will outperform human tasks and there will be less jobs." Others were concerned about specific areas of work. For example, one young person said, "As an artist, I worry that many companies who would usually contract real artists will switch to lower quality AI-generated content to cut corners and save money" (white transgender young adult man). Another respondent noted, "I am worried it will start to replace a lot of news and writing jobs" (white transgender young adult woman).

Also among the major concerns for young people is a broader fear that AI might "take over the world." Many young people simply answered the question about what worried them about generative AI as "it taking over." This sentiment was expressed through statements like, "It will get too advanced on its own for humans to have control over it" (Latinx young adult man) and "AI might become too intelligent and conquer humans like a robot uprising" (white young adult man). Many young people also referenced movies about robots and AI, such as "The Terminator," as a foreshadowing of what they fear might happen.

> ## "[generative AI] will get too advanced on its own for humans to have control over it"
>
> **LATINX YOUNG ADULT MAN**

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9   This question was asked only to those who reported that generative AI would have mostly negative or both positive and negative impacts in the next 10 years.

Concerns related to intellectual property theft are particularly noted among those in the creative community. A Black transgender young adult man stated, "I'm worried about it stealing art from artists. I'm worried about it being used to generate slanderous material." Another young person discussed their worries about "scraping people's work to make a profit without proper credit" and said, "Most of my friends and I all create and post our work online for free. Many professionals in the creative industry have spoken out to say that using and supporting AI puts their jobs at risk" (Asian Pacific Islander nonbinary young adult).

Young people are also aware of and concerned about the harms of generative AI that stem from its potential to create and spread misinformation and disinformation, with one person noting, "It makes it a lot easier to do various kinds of harmful things, like spam and misinformation" (white young adult man). Others noted the potential for AI to create deep fakes, such as

"people believing things that seem to be real but in reality, it is all AI and fake" (Black LGBTQ+ young adult woman) and "faking people's identities or seeing videos of people doing things they wouldn't do, and it's just AI and not the actual person doing that" (Latina LGBTQ+ young adult woman). Another young person noted concerns with "fake news, or real news not being believed because of the prevalence of fake news" (white young adult man). Several young people mentioned a broader concern about not knowing what's real.

Related to privacy concerns, many young people are concerned that the proliferation of generative AI might make it easier for their personal information to be compromised, stolen, and hacked. One young person stated they had "privacy concerns about it being able to read all of our data" (Black young adult woman). Another young person pointed to concerns about "control through government or something else that causes lack of privacy" (white teen girl).
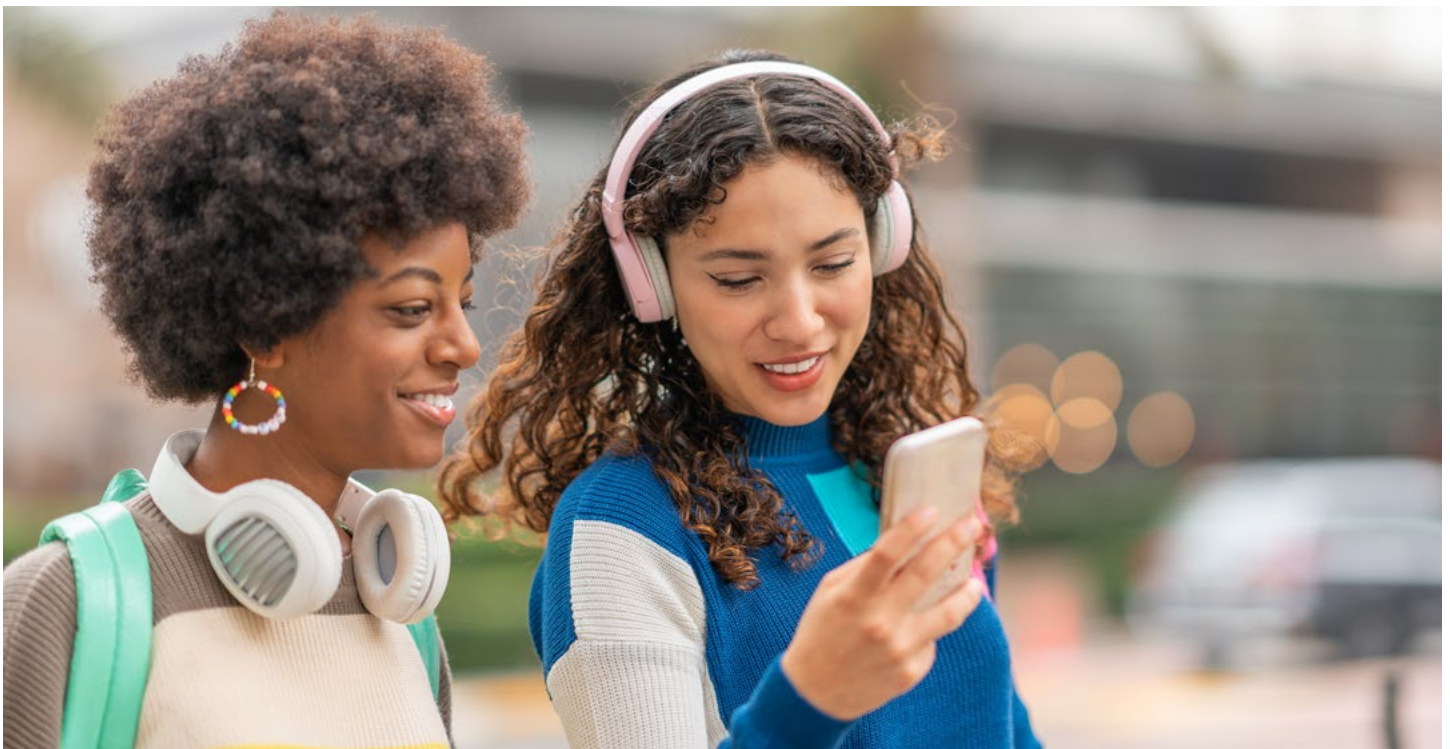
What Teens Say Adults Should Know About Their Uses of AI

As part of a separate national survey conducted by Common Sense Media and the Center for Digital Thriving, we asked 1,545 teens ages 13-17[10] to respond to the question: "What's one thing adults should know about how teens use artificial intelligence (AI)?" Their open-ended responses reveal considerable variation in the ways teens perceive AI. Some perceive AI as "very dangerous," while others want adults to know "it's safe" and that "AI helps, not hurts." Some teens readily point to risks and concerns (e.g., "cheating," "porn," "bullying," "privacy concerns," "addiction"). Yet there are also teens who emphasize a variety of benefits (e.g., "learning," "creativity," "to talk"). "AI is not scary for me," explained one Latinx nonbinary teen, "I use it to help me compose reports, build lists, plan days, fact check, and to have conversations." Others shared: "AI can be a helpful tool, like Google in the way it can help you search and even research things!" (Black teen girl); "We love it!" (biracial transgender teen) and adults should know "[teens] use [AI] for good purposes" (Asian teen boy). Teens expressed that these risks and benefits coexist: "It is a tool that can be used for both beneficial and malicious purposes" (Latinx teen boy) and "Sometimes it's not healthy and sometimes it is very beneficial. It's very confusing" (white teen girl).

> **"[generative AI] is a tool that can be used for both beneficial and malicious purposes."**
>
> LATINX TEEN BOY

Some teens say that they use AI tools "everyday and for everything" (multiracial teen girl) and that it's "a fundamental part of teens' lives" (white teen boy). Consistent with our findings above, some teens say they are not using generative AI at all, and they want adults to know: "We are not sure how to use AI" (multiracial teen girl); "We are not really good at using it yet" (white teen boy); and "I don't know too much about it" (Black teen girl). There is, for some, a feeling of "pressure" to learn and keep up with new technologies like generative AI. Reflecting that teens do not have monolithic experiences of generative AI, teens repeatedly expressed both the notion of never having used AI and the perception that it is now "an integral part [of life]" (white teen boy).

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10   Findings in this section are from a survey of 1,545 U.S.-based teens (ages 13-17) that focused primarily on pressures, personal burnout, and social media. Teens were reached through their parents via the SSRS Opinion Panel and non-probability panels. A mix of ethnicities were sought, including an oversample for Black teens (ethnicity was determined by parent responses about their child) and LGBTQ+ teens (as determined by the teens' responses to a series of questions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity) to ensure readable sample sizes for those particular groups of interest.

Here's what teens say adults should know:

Teens may be using generative AI as a regular part of their schoolwork and learning, including — but not only — for cheating.[11] Some teens say adults should know that cheating with generative AI is widespread and routine: "A lot of my friends use AI to cheat on assignments" (white LGBTQ+ teen boy); "Teens use it to cheat in school all the time" (white LGBTQ+ teen girl); "It does homework" (Black teen boy); "[We use it] to cheat on everything from writing term papers to figuring out answers to really hard assignments. We even have it write our book reports" (Multiracial teen trans boy); "Some [teens], not all, can use it for getting test answers" (white teen boy). While there are teens who say they or their peers use

generative AI for cheating, others want adults to know: "It is the modern approach to learning" (Black teen girl) and "Not all kids use [AI] to cheat in school" (white teen girl).

Reflecting insights we heard from teens and young adults about their excitement for the future of generative AI, teens also wanted adults to know: "We can use it for positive stuff" (white teen boy). Teens are using AI to scaffold writing assignments, "We use it to start papers and get a structure to a paper started. Just edit out the details and nuances to put my personal touches on it" (Asian teen boy); as a homework helper, "We use artificial intelligence to help us with our homework," (Asian teen boy); and even as a personal learning coach, "You can make a special learning plan just for you. [AI] can also help with vocabulary" (white teen boy). Teens also want adults to know that, "[Adults] can trust us to use it in a good way" (Latinx teen boy).

> **"It helps me ask questions without feeling any pressure."**
>
> **WHITE NONBINARY TEEN**

Teens are bringing their questions to generative AI tools. Echoing our quantitative findings that "getting information" was one of the primary uses of generative AI, teens described generative AI as an information source that some teens use "to get questions answered" (white teen girl). Teens may bring their questions to AI simply because they recognize it as an information source: "It helps us to understand everything easily" (Latinx teen boy); and "It helps and explains way

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11   In all cases, the themes reported are repeated across the dataset. However, such findings should be interpreted as perspectives of some teens and not all teens. These qualitative data is shared to offer thematic insights rather than any suggestion of prevalence.

better than most adults" (multiracial teen girl). But they may also ask AI the questions adults won't answer, "We ask questions they won't answer" (white teen boy). Some mentioned using AI "to find answers to questions teens are scared to ask their parents" (white teen boy).

> ## "Teens use AI to pretend they have someone to talk to, or to pretend they're talking to their favorite fictional character."
>
> LATINX TEEN GIRL

Teens said, "Parents should know that AI gives teens advice on any subject that it is asked, appropriate or not" (white teen girl). Teens may also bring questions to AI because it feels like a no-judgment zone: "It helps me ask questions without feeling any pressure" (white nonbinary teen); "We use it to ask questions about dating and stuff like that" (white teen girl). As generative AI use becomes more ubiquitous, adults should know that it may become the place teens go first: "Teens are asking AI before asking adults for answers" (Latinx teen girl). They may also lean on AI for guidance on what to say to others in conversation, including to "give the impression that things are fine and that they have no stress by just answering with answers [from AI] that make them seem ok" (Latinx teen girl).

Teens are turning to generative AI for companionship and comfort. For some teens, AI is a conversation partner: "Teens use AI to pretend they have someone to talk to, or to pretend they're talking to their favorite fictional character" (Latinx teen girl). Some even use AI as "a fake bf or friend" (white teen girl). "That robot makes me feel important," a white LGBTQ+ teen

girl explained; "It listens," shared a white teen girl. AI can fill a gap teens feel in their lives or social networks: "It can give you an outlet to talk about things you don't want anyone else to know" (white teen boy) or "When people around us can't help" (Asian teen boy). A Black LGBTQ+ teen girl stated, "[It's] helpful when you don't want to talk to anyone else about a certain situation." A white LGBTQ+ teen boy explained that sometimes "teens need help talking and don't think they can trust anyone." AI is a space "to vent." Others again find solace in the idea that AI does not judge the way that peers might: "People are trusting their AIs more because they don't judge you or make fun of you for telling them something so check in on your kids and don't make fun of them or tease them" (white teen boy); "We use AI because we are lonely and also because real people are mean and judging sometimes and AI isn't" (white teen girl).

> ## "We use it [gen AI] for very creative purposes, not just cheating on homework."
>
> LATINX LGBTQ+ TEEN GIRL

Generative AI can be used as a tool for creativity and fun. The creative aspects of generative AI, which were highlighted in data about current uses and future potential, were also described among the areas teens wanted adults to understand. Teens are using generative AI "for fun," "to entertain ourselves," and "to be creative." Creative outlets include written forms such as "to write lyrics to songs" (white teen girl) and visual forms such as "making digital art" (white teen boy). Teens think adults should know that generative AI offers "a way to show my creative style" (white teen boy).

"I'm using it to create music and family videos", a Latinx teen girl explained, while a Latinx LGBTQ+ teen girl offered: "We use it for very creative purposes, not just cheating on homework." AI has expanded the realm of creative possibilities: "We think it is cool and a good way to make life more interesting. AI also can help us to create things that we couldn't create before" (white teen girl). Another teen noted, "It can be used just for fun to come up with crazy combinations of characters we can't draw" (white teen boy). Teens value that AI supports fanfiction writing and songwriting, though similar to concerns we heard from teens and young adults about the future of generative AI, teens also express concern about how "it's begun to take jobs from artists and writers" (white nonbinary teen). In the realm of gaming, some teens also describe using generative AI to optimize their gaming experiences, including "to make games run faster"(white teen girl) and "to play VR games" (white teen girl).

> ## "[Gen AI] can be dangerous if we already have a lot of self-esteem issues."
>
> LATINX TEEN BOY

Teens are using generative AI to modify their self-presentation. Teens think adults should know that they are using generative AI to "change pictures of ourselves to make them look better" (white teen girl), "to make teens' photos look prettier" (white teen girl), and to "make younger teens look older" (white teen boy). Modifying appearance may be for fun exploration: "We love to use filters they provide to make us look different" (Latinx teen girl); "[it] is fun to see how different I can look" (white teen boy). However, other teens noted AI could also be used "to make ourselves look perfect and not real" (Black teen boy) in ways

that "could affect [teens'] self-image" (multiracial teen girl). This may be why some teens think AI "can be dangerous if we already have a lot of self-esteem issues" (Latinx teen boy).

> ## "I use AI to help myself with making myself feel better about being who I am"
>
> WHITE TEEN BOY

At the same time, others share that they actively use AI toward self-acceptance. Such as one teen who said, "I use AI to help myself with making myself feel better about being who I am" (white teen boy). Experiences vary in this regard, too: some teens want adults to know "It helps some of us teens' self-esteem" (Black teen boy), while others want adults to understand that generative AI "lowers self-esteem" (white teen girl). On the one hand, teens said that with AI, "we can change who we are and become someone else that we want to become" (Black teen girl) and "hide our true selves and to portray someone we want to be like or someone we have to act like" (white teen girl). On the other hand, they also said it can be a place "for us to be ourselves but in a fantasy world" (multiracial teen boy).

Generative AI can be used for bullying others and lying, including to parents. "Some teens use it to bully others" (white LGBTQ+ teen girl) and specifically "as a bullying tactic online when creating AI generated voices and images" (Black teen boy). Teens say that adults should know that "[teens] use it to do bad things to other teens" (multiracial teen girl) and "to make harmful images" (white teen boy) or "fake photos and audio" (white teen boy). Similar to concerns young people expressed about the future of generative AI related to "deep fakes," teens also wanted adults to know that generative AI facilitates impersonation.

"You can use it to take someone's voice and make it sound like they're saying something they didn't say" (white LGBTQ+ teen girl). This can be leveraged not just for bullying, but also to impersonate parents: "When we need an adult's permission we use [it] for the voice" (Latinx teen boy); "To voice over as the parent to speak to another parent" (Latinx teen boy). They say that some teens are using AI to scam their parents: "Teens these days use AI for catfishing and scamming their parents" (Latinx teen boy); "They use it to get around parental passwords and to look up stuff we know we shouldn't" (white teen boy).

> **"Adults need to research more about these new concepts and talk to their kids about it"**
>
> WHITE TEEN BOY

Teens may bring sexual curiosity to generative AI. Teens report that other teens use, or want to use, AI "in a sexual way" (white teen girl). One respondent noted, "I think some people want to use it in really sexual ways" (Latinx LGBTQ+ teen girl). While most popular generative AI tools, at least theoretically, prevent chatbots from venturing into intimate conversations or relationships, this use case is a focal point in AI discourse. Some teens say adults should know this is already happening in some ways: "They should know that AI has already tapped into the sex market, and it has characters that are influencing people" (Latinx teen boy). While these data don't reveal whether teens are consuming or generating pornography with generative AI, some responses mention that AI can be used by teens "for porn" (Black teen boy) or "to edit their bodies sexually or to make them look 'attractive'" (white teen girl).

> **"They should know that AI has already tapped into the sex market, and it has characters that are influencing people"**
>
> LATINX TEEN BOY

Teens see a role for adults in supporting young people's uses of generative AI. Teens recommend that adults learn about generative AI so they can play an active role in educating youth: "Adults need to research more about these new concepts and talk to their kids about it" (white teen boy); "Emphasize responsible and balanced usage while educating teens about privacy and potential risks" (Latinx teen boy). Some recommend direct supervision: "Monitor us" (white LGBTQ+ teen girl); "Maybe monitor the younger ones more" (Latinx teen boy); "Adults should always supervise how teenagers use AI" (white teen boy), while others want adults to "trust us." Direct supervision may be complicated, they caution, because: "We use AI to get around the rules that adults set for us" (white teen trans girl). Teens say that adults should know, "Children are smart enough to know what an adult is thinking and how to deceive them" (Black teen girl). Some teens also point out that "most of the adults need to learn about it" (Asian teen boy) because adults "need to understand how to work it for themselves first" (white teen boy) if they're going to effectively help teens.

Conclusion

Understanding the nuances of generative AI adoption and use among young people is crucial for educators, caring adults, tech companies, and policymakers. Tailoring educational initiatives to integrate ethical generative AI uses in the classroom while addressing privacy, accuracy, and bias concerns can promote more inclusive and informed use among young people. Educational efforts to build skills, understanding, and confidence in using generative AI tools are essential to ensure that young people are equipped to navigate the evolving landscape effectively and ethically. Young people may benefit from developing strategies and prompts for using generative AI as a thought partner and coach in their work, and educators may also need to play a more active role in helping to parse academically dishonest from academically supportive uses.

Young people's interest in AI as a source of information highlights the critical need for digital platforms to center safety, reliability, and transparency when they develop experiences like generative search, integrate generative AI into existing features, and imagine new applications of AI for information gathering. The emerging field of human-AI interaction recognizes the need for better understanding and shaping AI from a human-centered perspective beyond just the underlying technology involved in its technical design. It's essential that safety as well as psychological and social implications of AI technology be centered in the design process in order to support the needs and well-being of young users. Additionally, there is a need to increase education for young people on essential literacy skills for the age of generative AI. Adults can benefit from familiarizing themselves with generative AI tools to provide support to young people as they navigate use. Responses to our open-ended question about "what adults should know" serve as a reminder for adults to continue creating non-judgmental spaces for questions young people might be afraid to ask. Responses also reflected a continued search for connection and companionship that deserves an empathetic response from adults. Adults can learn more about ways to validate creative and playful uses of AI, while also having conversations about the value of human creativity and input in the creative process.

Tech designers creating generative AI chat tools (e.g., standalone and within social media sites) must design these tools with developmental considerations in mind, like young people's identity exploration interests, self-regulation, and heightened social sensitivities. Further, there is a need for increased attention to ways generative AI tools may impact the mental health and well-being of young people to minimize exposure to known harms, such as content related to body image or self-harm and to reduce the risk of providing inaccurate mental health advice and information. Moreover, designers and developers should consider diverse user needs and preferences when designing generative AI applications, recognizing that teen interactions and perceptions are not monolithic. This approach will help ensure that these applications are equitable and usable, provide meaningful value, and resonate with a wider range of teen users. By acknowledging both the benefits generative AI offers young people and their concerns (e.g., privacy, harmful and inaccurate content, biases, job losses, and ethical issues),

policymakers can incorporate youth perspectives to foster a more responsible and equitable digital environment for current and future generations.

As generative AI continues to shape various aspects of daily life, there is also a growing need for ongoing data collection and analysis to better understand and mitigate potential harms associated with its use and to promote equitable access to its benefits. Among these concerns are the ways in which access to generative AI and the impact of generative AI might differentially impact those of lower socioeconomic status. The rapid development and evolution of generative AI highlights the need for quicker access to research funding beyond lengthy grant funding cycles to capture emerging trends, assess risks, and guide informed decision-making. Earlier investment in large-scale data collection — including longitudinal and mixed-methods designs related to ways generative AI impacts young people — can allow researchers to uncover potential risks and challenges posed by generative AI and facilitate more proactive measures to prevent harm and promote responsible use among young people.

Young people want adults to know that "The world is changing" (Black teen boy), "We are the future" (Latinx teen girl), and "AI is the future" (Latinx LGBTQ+ teen boy). Some are concerned: "AI is very creepy. AI concerns me" (white teen girl). Meanwhile, others are optimistic: "I really cannot wait to see how it evolves in the future" (Latinx LGBTQ+ teen boy). This report underscores the importance of meaningfully engaging young people, especially LGBTQ+ and/or youth of color, in discussions about responsible technology and the future of generative AI. One approach is to create policies that combine the experiences of young people with the wisdom and technical expertise of established professionals. Together, this dynamic partnership can co-create

and guide decision-making processes related to the development, deployment, and regulation of generative AI. By leveraging the collective wisdom and insights of individuals invested in AI across generations, we can create a more inclusive and responsible generative AI ecosystem that allows for the anticipation and mitigation of risk to young people while also maximizing benefits and growth. Staying close to young people's perspectives and experiences is essential as adults consider how to prepare and support all teens with the shifting landscape, however generative AI fits into their lives.

Methodology

For a detailed description of the Methodology for this report, please refer to the Methodology section in our previous report based on this same data collection, "A Double-Edged Sword: How Diverse Communities of Young People Think About the Multifaceted Relationship Between Social Media and Mental Health." The report is available at: www.commonsense.org/youth-perspectives-social-media-mental-health.

Acknowledgements

About

Hopelab

Hopelab is a transformative social innovation lab and impact investor working to support the mental well-being of adolescents age 10–25, especially Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and LGBTQ+ young people. Through philanthropic funding, collaborations, and intergenerational partnerships, Hopelab works at the intersection of tech and mental health alongside entrepreneurs, funders, researchers, and young change-makers to create systems of change and build a thriving future for underserved young people. For more information, visit hopelab.org.

Center for Digital Thriving

The Center for Digital Thriving is a research and innovation center at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Our mission is to create knowledge and research-based resources that help people — especially youth — thrive in a tech-filled world. At the Center for Digital Thriving we envision a world where people can thrive as we live with ever-changing technologies. We are proudly based at Project Zero, which has a long history as a home to research that leans into areas where there is little or perceivably zero communicable knowledge or consensus. This is a world where people, and youth especially, have digital agency: meaningful choice, intentionality and control over the ways technology fits into our lives. For more information, visit: digitalthriving.gse.harvard.edu.

Common Sense Media

Common Sense is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of all kids and families by providing the trustworthy information, education, and independent voice they need to thrive in the 21st century. Our independent research is designed to provide parents and caregivers, educators, health organizations, and policymakers with reliable, independent data on children's use of media and technology and the impact it has on their physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development. For more information, visit commonsense.org/research.

NORC at the University of Chicago

NORC at the University of Chicago is an independent research institution that delivers reliable data and rigorous analysis to guide critical programmatic, business, and policy decisions. Since 1941, NORC has conducted groundbreaking studies, created and applied innovative methods and tools, and advanced principles of scientific integrity and collaboration. Today, government, corporate, and nonprofit clients around the world partner with NORC to transform increasingly complex information into useful knowledge. NORC conducts research in five main areas: Economics, Markets, and the Workforce; Education, Training, and Learning; Global Development; Health and Well-Being; and Society, Media, and Public Affairs. For more information visit norc.org.

SSRS (Social Science Research Solutions)

SSRS is a full-service survey and market research firm headquartered in Glen Mills, PA. Known for its reliable data across diverse areas including public opinion, health policy, and consumer behavior, SSRS serves a global clientele with the goal of connecting people through research and promoting a more informed society. The firm's long-standing commitment to scientific integrity and methodological innovation makes it a trusted partner for academic institutions, media organizations, and non-profit entities, contributing significantly to addressing complex societal challenges. For more information visit ssrs.com.

Appendix: Survey Items

Questions from the Hopelab and Common Sense Media Survey, 2024

Directions: The next questions will be about generative artificial intelligence (AI). Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) system that can generate original images, sounds, and text — including artwork, music, and stories — in response to your prompts. One example of generative AI is "ChatGPT." ChatGPT is a type of computer program called a chatbot that can answer questions, provide information, and have human-like conversations with you about virtually any topic using text. Other examples of generative AI you may have heard of include Snapchat's "My AI" and the photo editing tool "Photoshop AI."

Q20. How often do you use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT? *(asked of all survey respondents)*

○ Never
○ Only once or twice in my life
○ Once or twice per year
○ Once or twice per month
○ Once or twice per week
○ Almost daily or every day
○ I don't know what ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence, or AI, tools are

Q21. Do you currently use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, like ChatGPT, in order to: *(asked of those who had ever used generative AI)*

Select all that apply.

○ Help with schoolwork
○ Help in your job
○ Make pictures or images
○ Make sounds or music
○ Write code
○ Get information
○ Brainstorm ideas
○ Something else, please specify:

Q22. Why haven't you used generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, like ChatGPT? *(asked of those who had never used generative AI, but knew what it was)*

Select all that apply.

○ I didn't know generative AI tools existed
○ I don't know how to use generative AI tools
○ I don't have access to generative AI tools
○ I don't think generative AI would be helpful to me
○ I don't think generative AI would be fun to use
○ I've heard generative AI tools are inaccurate or biased in the information they provide
○ I'm concerned about privacy and sharing information with a generative AI tool
○ I think generative AI is associated with cheating or stealing the work of others
○ Other reasons, please specify:

Q23. Do you think generative artificial intelligence (AI) will have a positive or negative impact on your life in the next 10 years? *(asked of all survey respondents)*

○ Mostly positive
○ Both positive and negative
○ Mostly negative
○ Neither positive or negative
○ I don't know or don't have an opinion

Q24A. When it comes to generative AI, what are you most excited about? *(asked of survey respondents who responded that generative AI would have "mostly positive" or "both positive and negative" impacts)*

Q24B. When it comes to generative AI, what are you most worried about? (*asked of survey respondents who responded that generative AI would have "mostly negative" or "both positive and negative" impacts)*

Question from the Common Sense Media and Center for Digital Thriving Survey, forthcoming, late 2024.

Q20. New AI tools like Chat-GPT and Snapchat's My AI are rapidly becoming a part of our lives. What's one thing adults should know about how teens use artificial intelligence (AI)?" *(asked of all survey respondents)*