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Generative AI in Uncertain Times: How Teens are Navigating a New Digital Frontier

 Family Online Safety Institute

 November 10, 2025





As generative AI rapidly reshapes how we learn, create, and communicate, teenagers are among its earliest adopters. To better understand how young people are navigating this new digital frontier, FOSI's latest research explores teens' use of generative AI, their concerns and motivations, and the role of parents, educators, and industry in supporting safe and responsible use.

Drawing on both qualitative and quantitative data, the study captures the perspectives of U.S. teens ages 15 to 18 who use generative AI tools. The findings reveal that teens see clear benefits such as speed and convenience, yet express concerns about the technology's impact on critical thinking, job prospects, and future generations. Despite frequent use, most report limited household rules or guidance, underscoring the importance of collaboration between families, schools, and platforms.

The report also highlights teens' growing emotional engagement with AI, including their use of chatbots for companionship, and their desire to have a voice in shaping the design of future technologies.



This research offers insights for parents, industry leaders, and policymakers working to create safer, more ethical AI systems that prioritize the well-being of young people.

Explore the full materials below:

- **Read the Full Report**
- **Read the Press Release**
- **Access the Social Pack** – *featuring shareable graphics, topline findings, and sample social posts*

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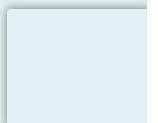
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