

Topline questionnaire

**2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 74 SEPTEMBER 2020
FINAL TOPLINE
SEPTEMBER 8-13, 2020
N = 10,093**

THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED BELOW ARE PART OF A LARGER SURVEY CONDUCTED ON THE AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL. OTHER QUESTIONS ON THIS SURVEY HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE PERCENTAGES LESS THAN 0.5% ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (*). ROWS/COLUMNS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING.

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	10,093	+/- 1.6 percentage points

ASK ALL:

PROB1a Thinking of some experiences that might happen to people when they use the internet, how much of a problem, if at all, is people being harassed or bullied?⁷

Sept 8-13, 2020

55	Major problem
37	Minor problem
7	Not a problem
2	No answer

Jan 9-23, 2017

62
33
5
1

ASK ALL:

SMSUEOH In your opinion, should people who have been bullied or harassed by others on social media be able to sue the platforms where the harassment occurred? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

Sept 8-13, 2020

33	Yes, they should be able to sue social media platforms
63	No, they should not be able to sue social media platforms
4	No answer

⁷ In the 2017 survey, this was part of a larger battery regarding how much of a problem, if at all, people thought various experiences that might happen to people when they use the internet might be.

ASK ALL:

OHCONS

How effective, if at all, do you think the following steps would be in helping to reduce harassment or bullying on social media? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Very effective</u>	<u>Somewhat effective</u>	<u>Not too effective</u>	<u>Not at all effective</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Criminal charges for users who bully or harass Sept 8-13, 2020	43	32	14	10	1
b. Users getting temporarily suspended if they bully or harass others Sept 8-13, 2020	32	37	19	10	1
c. Users getting permanently suspended if they bully or harass others Sept 8-13, 2020	51	29	12	7	1
d. Social media companies proactively deleting bullying or harassing posts Sept 8-13, 2020	40	33	15	10	1
e. Requiring users of these platforms to disclose their real identities Sept 8-13, 2020	48	29	13	9	1

ASK ALL:

SMOH

In your opinion, how good of a job are social media companies doing when it comes to addressing online harassment or bullying on their platforms?

Sept 8-13, 2020

2	Excellent
16	Good
47	Only fair
32	Poor
3	No answer

ASK IF INTERNET USER (XTABLET=2) [N=9,925]:

ON7 Which, if any, of the following have happened to you, personally, ONLINE?⁸
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	Yes, this has happened to <u>me online</u> ⁹	No, this has not happened <u>to me online</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Been called offensive names			
Sept 8-13, 2020	32	67	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	30	70	
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	26	74	
b. Been physically threatened			
Sept 8-13, 2020	14	85	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	11	89	
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	8	92	
c. Been harassed for a sustained period			
Sept 8-13, 2020	11	88	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	8	92	
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	7	93	
d. Been stalked			
Sept 8-13, 2020	12	87	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	8	92	
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	7	93	
e. Had someone try to purposefully embarrass you			
Sept 8-13, 2020	28	72	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	25	75	
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	21	79	
NO ITEMS F OR G			
h. Been sexually harassed			
Sept 8-13, 2020	12	87	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	7	93	
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	5	95	
Yes to any (NET)			
Sept 8-13, 2020	43		
Jan 9-23, 2017	45		
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	39		

⁸ The question wording in the 2014 survey was "Which, if any, of the following have occurred to you, personally, ONLINE?" which differs from the wording used in the 2017 and current surveys.

⁹ This battery in the 2017 and 2014 surveys was a checklist where people were instructed to "Check all that apply," which differs slightly from the response options in the current survey. As a result, not checking a box (i.e., not responding to an item) in the 2017 and 2014 surveys was coded as people not experiencing that type of harassment online.

ON7 BASED ON ALL RESPONDENTS:

	Yes, this has happened to <u>me online</u> ¹⁰	No, this has not happened <u>to me online</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Does not use internet</u>
a. Been called offensive names				
Sept 8-13, 2020	31	64	1	4
Jan 9-23, 2017	27	63		10
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	23	66		11
b. Been physically threatened				
Sept 8-13, 2020	14	81	1	4
Jan 9-23, 2017	10	80		10
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	7	82		11
c. Been harassed for a sustained period				
Sept 8-13, 2020	11	84	1	4
Jan 9-23, 2017	7	83		10
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	6	82		11
d. Been stalked				
Sept 8-13, 2020	11	84	1	4
Jan 9-23, 2017	7	83		10
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	7	82		11
e. Had someone try to purposefully embarrass you				
Sept 8-13, 2020	26	69	1	4
Jan 9-23, 2017	22	67		10
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	19	70		11
NO ITEMS F OR G				
h. Been sexually harassed				
Sept 8-13, 2020	11	84	1	4
Jan 9-23, 2017	6	83		10
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	5	84		11
Yes to any (NET)				
Sept 8-13, 2020	41			
Jan 9-23, 2017	41			
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	35			

¹⁰ This battery in the 2017 and 2014 surveys was a checklist where people were instructed to "Check all that apply," which differs slightly from the response options in the current survey. As a result, not checking a box (i.e., not responding to an item) in the 2017 and 2014 surveys was coded as people not experiencing that type of harassment online.

ASK IF YES TO ANY IN ON7 (ON7a-h=1) [N=3,893]:

IDENTITY Do you think any of these experiences were a result of your... [IF ONLY ONE SELECTED IN ON7 "Do you think this experience was a result of your..."] **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		Yes, were [was] <u>a result of this¹¹</u>	No, were [was] <u>not a result of this</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Gender			
	Sept 8-13, 2020	33	66	*
	Jan 9-23, 2017	20	80	
NO ITEM B				
c.	Sexual orientation			
	Sept 8-13, 2020	16	83	1
	Jan 9-23, 2017	8	92	
d.	Political views			
	Sept 8-13, 2020	50	50	*
	Jan 9-23, 2017	35	65	
e.	Religion			
	Sept 8-13, 2020	19	81	*
	Jan 9-23, 2017	12	88	
f.	Race or ethnicity			
	Sept 8-13, 2020	29	71	*
	Jan 9-23, 2017	19	81	

NO ITEMS G - I

¹¹ This battery in the 2017 survey was a checklist where people were instructed to "Check all that apply," which differs slightly from the response options in the current survey. As a result, not checking a box (i.e., not responding to an item) in the 2017 survey was coded as that characteristic not contributing to prior online harassment experiences.

ASK IF YES TO MORE THAN 1 ITEM IN ON7 (MORE THAN 1 ON7a-h=1) [N=2,484]:

ON7REC Still thinking about the behaviors you have experienced, which of the following were involved the MOST RECENT time something like this happened to you?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ONLY INCLUDE SELECTED RESPONSES FROM ON7 AND DISPLAY IN SAME ORDER]

NOTE: RESULTS ARE PRESENTED BASED ON THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED ANY ONLINE HARASSMENT (ON7A-H=1) [N=3,893]

		Yes, this was involved the most <u>recent time</u> ¹²	No, this was not involved the most <u>recent time</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Being called offensive names			
	Sept 8-13, 2020	54	46	1
	Jan 9-23, 2017	50	50	
b.	Being physically threatened			
	Sept 8-13, 2020	14	85	1
	Jan 9-23, 2017	9	91	
c.	Being harassed for a sustained period			
	Sept 8-13, 2020	12	88	*
	Jan 9-23, 2017	7	93	
d.	Being stalked			
	Sept 8-13, 2020	12	87	1
	Jan 9-23, 2017	8	92	
e.	Having someone try to purposefully embarrass you			
	Sept 8-13, 2020	39	60	1
	Jan 9-23, 2017	36	64	
NO ITEMS F OR G				
h.	Being sexually harassed			
	Sept 8-13, 2020	13	86	1
	Jan 9-23, 2017	6	94	

¹² This battery in the 2017 survey was a checklist where people were instructed to "Check all that apply," which differs slightly from the response options in the current survey. As a result, not checking a box (i.e., not responding to an item) in the 2017 survey was coded as that person not experiencing that type of harassment online in their most recent experience.

ASK IF YES TO ANY IN ON7 (ON7a-h=1) [N=3,893]:ON10 Thinking about your most recent experience, how upsetting was this, if at all?¹³**[REVERSE SCALE FOR RANDOM ½ OF RESPONDENTS]**

<u>Sept 8-13, 2020</u>		<u>Jan 9-23, 2017</u>	<u>May 30-Jun 30, 2014</u>
10	Extremely upsetting	12	13
14	Very upsetting	13	14
28	Somewhat upsetting	25	22
27	A little upsetting	26	29
20	Not at all upsetting	23	22
*	No answer	*	*

¹³ The question wording in the 2014 survey was "Overall, how upsetting was this, if at all?" which differs from the wording used in the 2017 and current surveys.

ASK IF YES TO ANY IN ON7 (ON7a-h=1) [N=3,893]:

ON12 In which of the following online environments did your most recent experience occur?¹⁴
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	Yes, it happened in this online environment ¹⁵	No, it did not happen in this online environment	No answer
a. Social media sites ¹⁶			
Sept 8-13, 2020	75	25	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	58	42	
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	65	35	
b. Online dating sites or apps ¹⁷			
Sept 8-13, 2020	10	88	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	6	94	
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	6	94	
NO ITEMS C OR D			
e. Online gaming			
Sept 8-13, 2020	16	83	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	10	90	
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	16	84	
f. Personal email account			
Sept 8-13, 2020	11	88	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	10	90	
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	16	84	
g. Online forum or discussion site ¹⁸			
Sept 8-13, 2020	25	74	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	7	93	
May 30-Jun 30, 2014	10	90	
h. A text or messaging app			
Sept 8-13, 2020	24	75	1
Jan 9-23, 2017	15	85	

NO ITEM I

¹⁴ The question wording in the 2014 survey was "In which of the following online environments did this occur?" which differs from the wording used in the 2017 and current surveys.

¹⁵ This battery in the 2017 and 2014 surveys was a checklist where people were instructed to "Check all that apply," which differs slightly from the response options in the current survey. As a result, not checking a box (i.e., not responding to an item) in the 2017 and 2014 surveys was coded as the most recent experience of online harassment not occurring in that environment.

¹⁶ This item in the 2017 and 2014 surveys read "Social networking sites/apps," which differs slightly from the wording used in the current survey.

¹⁷ This item in the 2017 and 2014 surveys read "Online dating websites/apps," which differs slightly from the wording used in the current survey.

¹⁸ This item in the 2017 and 2014 surveys read "Online discussion site such as Reddit," which differs slightly from the wording used in the current survey.

ASK IF YES TO ANY IN ON7 (ON7a-h=1) [N=3,893]:

YOU1 Still thinking about your most recent experience, do you consider what happened to you to be "online harassment"?

<u>Sept 8-13, 2020</u>		<u>Jan 9-23, 2017</u>
43	Yes, I consider it to be online harassment ¹⁹	36
36	No, I do not consider it to be online harassment	37
21	Not sure	27
*	No answer	*

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...²⁰

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
27	30	29	13	1	18	21

¹⁹ The response options for this item in the 2017 survey read "Yes," "No" or "Not sure," which differ slightly from the wording used in the current survey.

²⁰ PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.