

Public Opinion Survey on Parents' Views on Children and Teen's Use of AI

The Institute for Families and Technology (IFT) commissioned a survey from October 22-27, 2025, to gain opinions of 800 registered voters on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) amongst children and teens. The results are below.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Only 16% of parents feel certain they can keep their kids safe online, while nearly half of parents (49%) are worried they can't keep their children safe online.
- 6 in 10 (61%) view AI as bad for kids, and only 20% say it is good for children and teens.
- Only 1 in 10 Americans give tech companies a score of 8 or above on a 0 to 10 scale, where 10 means they completely trust the tech companies that create apps, websites, and content that kids use to prioritize child safety, and 0 means they do not trust the companies at all to do this. Three-quarters gave responses of 0 to 5.
- 45% of parents say kids getting inappropriate romantic or sexual responses from AI chatbots is a *widespread* problem
 - 42% of parents say the same of AI chatbots not reporting troubling behavior from kids, including talk of suicide
 - 42% of parents say kids developing intense emotional bonds with AI chatbots is widespread or happening here and there.
 - Only 5% or fewer parents say each of these interactions are only rarely or not at all problems.
- Democrats are more likely than Republicans to think they can keep their kids safe online, but partisans feel similarly about the risks of AI for kids and share the same lack of trust in companies to prioritize child safety.
- On changing Section 230: Nearly 3 in 4 voters (73%), including 81% of Democrats and 71% of Republicans, support holding social media companies accountable for various situations where users may be harmed by content or exposed to illegal or prohibited content.
- Eight in 10 support holding social media companies accountable when the harm involves kids under age 13 or allowing children and predators to interact.

Frequency Questionnaire
October 22-27, 2025

800 Registered Voters Nationwide
332 Registered Voter Parents Nationwide

In general, do you think artificial intelligence, or AI, is good or bad for children and teens?

	Total	Parents
Mostly good.....	6	7
Somewhat good	11	13
Neither good nor bad.....	20	18
Somewhat bad.....	25	27
Mostly bad	38	35
Not sure	0	-
Total good.....	17	20
Total bad	63	61
Mostly good.....	6	7
Somewhat good	11	13
Neither good nor bad.....	20	18
Somewhat bad.....	25	27
Mostly bad	38	35
Not sure	0	-
Total good.....	17	20
Total bad	63	61

The way that current laws are interpreted, social media companies cannot be held legally accountable for prohibited or illegal content posted by users on their platforms. Would you support or oppose a change in the law that means social media companies can be held legally accountable for prohibited or illegal content on their platforms?

	Total	Parents
Strongly support.....	36	38
Somewhat support.....	37	37
Somewhat oppose.....	15	14
Strongly oppose.....	12	11
Not sure	-	-
Total support	73	75
Total oppose	27	25
Support - Oppose	46	49

For each situation below, please indicate if you support or oppose holding social media companies legally accountable.

	Strng Supp	Smwt Supp	Smwt Opp	Strng Opp	Not/ Sure	Total Supp	Total Opp	Supp - Opp
If the person harmed by prohibited or illegal content was under the age of 13 and the platform knew their age but failed to get parental consent for their use of the platform.....	54	28	11	7	0	82	18	64
Parents.....	58	23	9	10	-	81	19	62

If the platform design allows adults and children to interact and predators can use the platform to easily access, manipulate, and abuse children and teenagers.....	52	28	12	8	0	80	20	60
Parents.....	53	25	14	9	-	77	23	55

Thinking about social media and tech companies that create apps, websites, and content that kids use, please rate how much you trust those companies to prioritize child safety, on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is do not trust at all, and 10 is trust completely.

	Total	Parents
10.....	3	4
9.....	3	4
8.....	5	6
7.....	8	8
6.....	6	7
5.....	16	15
4.....	7	7
3.....	12	9
2.....	9	7
1.....	10	10
0.....	20	23
Not sure	0	0
10.....	3	4
8-10.....	11	15
6-10.....	25	30
0-5.....	75	70
Mean.....	3.7	3.8

For each of the following, please say whether you think it is a widespread problem, a problem here and there, very rarely a problem, or not a problem at all for kids on the internet.

	Wide spread Prob	Here And There	Very Rarely A Prob	Not At All	Don't Know Enough	Total Prob lem	Total Not Prob	Prob lem- Not
Kids talking to AI chatbots and getting inappropriate romantic or sexual responses.....	43	38	17	2	1	80	19	61
Parents.....	45	40	14	1	-	85	15	70
AI chatbots not reporting troubling behavior from kids, like talk of suicide	42	42	12	3	1	85	15	70
Parents.....	42	44	12	2	-	86	14	72
Kids developing intense emotional bonds with AI chatbots that replace relationships with parents, siblings, and friends	42	38	15	4	1	81	19	62
Parents.....	42	39	16	3	-	81	19	63

(PARENTS OF KIDS 5-18 ONLY) Thinking about your ability to prevent your child from seeing inappropriate content, chatting with AI bots, or interacting with predators in games or social spaces, which of the following comes closest to how you feel?

	Total	Parents
I am sure I can keep my child safe online	16	16
I think I can keep my child safe online	35	35
I am a little worried that I can't keep my child safe online	30	30
I am very worried that I can't keep my child safe online.....	18	18
Not sure	-	-
Total safe	51	51
Total not safe.....	49	49
Safe - Not	3	3

Survey methodology: GQR and American Viewpoint conducted a 20-minute mixed-mode text-to-web and online survey among 800 registered voters in the United States from October 22-27, 2025. The survey used voter file sample to reach text-to-web respondents and contacted online respondents from a panel sample of United States residents, who were then matched to the voter file to verify their eligibility. There are 332 parents of children under age 18, 296 parents of children between ages 5 and 18, and 239 parents of children between ages 11 and 18.

Data are weighted on the demographics of registered voters, including gender, age, race, education, and parental status, and the nonprobability online panel data are additionally calibrated to the probability-based text-to-web data based on frequency of survey participation and political interest.

If this entire survey was based on a probability sample, the margin of error would be +/- 4.5 percentage points for the full sample and +/- 7 percentage points for the parents subsample. The margin of error is higher among subgroups. Because the online sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation in the panel rather than a probability sample, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated.

In this report, results are expressed as percentages unless otherwise noted. Results may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses. Net results cited in the text may not exactly match individual results shown in the charts due to rounding.

About the Institute for Families and Technology (IFT)

The Institute for Families and Technology (IFT) is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit research and advocacy organization dedicated to supporting the movement to prioritize children's safety, health, development, and overall wellbeing in the design and use of digital technology.