## **2022 Digital Well-Being Index**

**Research Findings** 





- → Research background
- → Summary of findings
- Introducing the Digital Well-Being Index
- → Online risk landscape
- → Gen Z adults had lower Digital Well-Being
- → Parents were in tune with their teenagers' Digital Well-Being
- → Country detail
- → Supplemental material



**METHODOLOGY** 



## 1. THE DIGITAL WELL-BEING INDEX IS A COMPELLING MEASURE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING ONLINE

#### Foundation

The Index drew upon more than four decades of research on subjective well being, adapted for the online environment, and incorporated multi-year studies on online risks conducted by the research team among teens and adults in 34 countries.

#### Validity

The resulting DWB index shows clear relationships between risk exposure, social media, and social support assets and current online well being. Four groups were identified based on their well-being scores: Flourishing, Thriving, Middling, and Struggling.

#### **Multi-dimensional**

The scale shows areas where users are experiencing positive benefits and growth, which can outweigh negative incidents for many.

#### **Statistically robust**

Items refined through pretesting and post hoc analyses. The final DWBI scale demonstrated robust statistical properties (e.g., validity, internal consistency).



## 2. SOCIAL MEDIA PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN DIGITAL WELL-BEING



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#### **Positive Influence**

Those who saw social media as a positive influence in digital well-being

#### Quality over quantity

Digital well-being is more dependent on the nature and quality of your interactions online and less dependent on how much time is spent on social media



#### Type of risk matters

Personally targeted risks exhibit a strong relationship while 'normalized' risks have a weak relationship with digital well-being

## 3. PARENTS ARE GENERALLY IN TUNE WITH THEIR TEENAGERS' DIGITAL WELL-BEING

## Regular parent communication about online activities with teens can make a difference

- The ability of parents to accurately estimate the extent of their teen's digital well-being was driven by parents checking in regularly
- Teens whose parents regularly checked in had higher digital well-being and retained higher levels of trust from their parents
- Conversely, the subset of parents who did <u>not</u> regularly check in about teens' online experiences significantly underestimated teens' risk exposure (by nearly 20-points).

Parents of Teens (13-17) correctly estimated their digital well-being Parents who don't check-in significantly underestimated their teenagers' risk exposure



# 4. GEN Z ADULTS (18–24-YEAR-OLDS) HAD LOWER DIGITAL WELL-BEING THAN TEENS

- Our data likely reflects the unprecedented feelings of uncertainty felt most strongly by Gen Z adults. National surveys consistently report Gen Z adults are doing worse mentally and physically than other demographic groups
- Compared to teens, Gen Z adults were less satisfied with their life online and reported much lower scores on physical and emotional health

### DWBI



## INTRODUCING THE DIGITAL WELL-BEING INDEX



## **DWBI GROUP SIZES & SCORE RANGES**



DWB group	Description	
Flourishing (Very high)	Extremely positive – rate everything at the top end of the scale	
Thriving (High)	Average top two box across the dimensions; may not be top box o everything but experiences overa are very positive	
Middling (Medium)	"Mid-range" in their evaluations. Mix of favorable and unfavorable ratings; everything's not rosy	
Struggling (Low)	Rate all dimensions on the low end of the scale (1-3 range); consistently encounter negative experiences and outcomes	

Base: Gen Z, N=6002



## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DWBI & RISKS**

The relationship was dependent on the type of risk

#### Strong negative relationships with DWBI

DWBI Bullying Flourishing Struggling Teasing, name 59% 42% calling, purposeful embarrassment 42% Flaming 31% Damaging 38% 27% relationships Sexual 54% 44% Sexual solicitation Self-harm 20% 9% Thoughts self-harm 18% 5% Thoughts of suicide

Weak relationships with DWBI. Have these risks been "normalized?"



Base: Gen Z, N=6002, \* Small samples in the low and very high groups

Q5: Which, if any, of the following have happened to you personally ONLINE, on any electronic device during the past three months? Select all that apply.

## **EVIDENCE FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF RISKS**





#### Reasons not to report an incident

Base: typically use Snapchat, Instagram and other social platforms N=6087

Q21: What are the reasons you do not or would not report an incident?

## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DWBI & SOCIAL MEDIA**

For most, social media had a positive influence on digital well-being



## GEN Z SAW SOCIAL MEDIA AS A POSITIVE FORCE IN THEIR LIVES



of Gen Zers believed social media had a positive influence on their quality of life

- Belief among teens (84%) was significantly stronger than Gen Z adults (71%)
- Gen Z males (81%) were more likely to believe this than females (75%); this difference held for both Teens and Gen Z adults
- Parents' (73%) opinion about social media's influence mirrored Gen Z adults



## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DWB & SUPPORT NETWORKS**

Broad support networks had a positive impact on DWB



\*Support assets are people who support Gen Zs at home, school, community and among friends & peers, must have selected completely agree or agree a lot Base: Gen Z, N=6002

## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DWB & HEALTH**

Physical and mental health had a strong positive relationship with DWB



Q12, Q12p How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements... In general my <parents insert: teenage children's>...

## **ONLINE RISK LANDSCAPE**



## THREE IN FOUR GEN ZS REPORTED EXPERIENCING A RISK

#### More than eight in 10 for Gen Z adults



## **RISK DISTRIBUTION: NON-PERSONAL = MOST COMMON**

Non-personal	Threatening behavior	Sexual	
		Non-consensual intimate imagery & unwanted sexual attention, 26%	
Fake news or misinformation, 50%	Hate speech, bullying & harassment, threats of violence, 39%	Contraband, extremism	Self-harm
	Fake identity		
		Extremist	Thoughto of
Unwanted contact, 35%	Online impersonation, Account hijacking, 27%	content, Illegal drug, weapon sales, 16%	Thoughts of self-harm & suicide, 14%
onwanted contact, 55%	njacking, 2776	Sales, 1070	Suicide, 1470

Base: Gen Z, N=6002

Q5. Which, if any, of the following have happened to you personally ONLINE, on any electronic device during the past three months? Select all that apply

## **RISK DETAIL**

### **21%** Bullying & harassment



#### **19%** Online impersonation



## **12%** Non-consensual intimate imagery



Base: Gen Z, N=6002

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### GEN Z ADULTS EXPERIENCED MORE RISKS THAN TEENS



Q5. Which, if any, of the following have happened to you personally ONLINE, on any electronic device during the past three months? Select all that apply

ONE IN SEVEN (14%) OF GEN Zers HAD THOUGHTS OF SELF-HARM



## FOLLOWED THROUGH ON THEIR THOUGHTS TO COMMIT SELF-HARM

• Teens (57%) were more likely to follow-through on thoughts of self-harm than Gen Z adults (44%)

Q6D. You mentioned that you [parent: your child] had thoughts of self-harm. Did you follow through on thoughts to harm yourself? Base Gen Z who had thoughts of self harm N=619

## **TYPES OF SELF-HARM**



Base: Gen Z who followed through on thoughts of self-harm, N=303

0%

Q6Da. If it is not too unsettling and you are comfortable responding, which of the following best describes how you hurt self-harmed yourself. Select all that apply

## ARE HIGH ACHIEVERS MORE LIKELY TO SELF HARM?



Base: Gen Z who had thoughts of self-harm, N=619 \* Small samples (N<90) in the low and very high groups

## GEN Z ADULTS HAD LOWER DIGITAL WELL-BEING THAN TEENS



**GEN Z ADULTS HAD LOWER DWBI** 



# GEN Z ADULTS SCORED LOWER THAN TEENS ON POSITIVE / NEGATIVE EMOTIONS & RELATIONSHIPS ONLINE

Teens vs. Gen Z adults scores on DWBI inventory items 7 6 Was very satisfied with my personal relationships online Teens Mean scores, 7-pt. scale 5 Gen Z 4 adults I generally felt that what I did online was valuable and worthwhile I often felt lonely 3 2 Ρ P Е Е R R R R Ν E E N N А Δ А Δ N Positive emotion Engagement Relationships Negative emotions Achievement

Base: Gen Z, N=6002 Detailed inventory of items on slide 79 **DWBI** dimensions

# FEMALES HAD HIGHER REPRESENTATION IN THE STRUGGLING & MIDDLING GROUPS VS. MALES



## UNWANTED CONTACT & SEXUAL RISKS WERE MORE PREVALENT AMONG FEMALES



Gen Z Adults

Q5. Which, if any, of the following have happened to you personally ONLINE, on any electronic device during the past three months? Select all that apply

Teens

## PARENTS WERE IN TUNE WITH THEIR TEENAGERS' DIGITAL WELL-BEING



## PARENTS WERE GOOD JUDGES OF THEIR TEENS' DIGITAL WELL-BEING



## PARENTS TRUSTED THEIR TEENS TO ACT RESPONSIBLY ONLINE...



Parents of Young Adults (18-19) were much less likely to regularly check in at 54% vs. 71%

I trust my child to act responsibly online and don't feel the need to actively monitor them

I regularly check in with my child about their online activities and ask if they are experiencing any problems

## ... AND THAT TRUST WAS GENERALLY RETURNED BY THEIR TEENS

On average, 62% of teenagers told their parents what happened after experiencing a risk



Teenagers were less likely to come forward as the

risks got more dangerous

own

Q10. You mentioned that your child experienced incidents online during the past three months. How did you learn about what happened to your child?

## CHECKING IN WAS POSITIVELY RELATED TO TEENAGERS' DWB



Base: Parents of 13–19-year-olds who checked in with their teenager regularly about their online activities N=1256

Q3. On average, about how much time do you spend per day on social media for personal use (excluding any use for business or educational purposes) Your best guess is fine Q4. I regularly check in with my child about their online activities and ask if they are experiencing any problems, agree-disagree

## 52% OF GEN Z SOUGHT HELP AFTER EXPERIENCING A RISK

Teens were much more likely to seek help

Teens went to their parents for help Gen Z adults asked friends for help most often



Base: Gen Z who experienced a risk, N=4537

Q7: You mentioned that you experienced incidents online such as ... during the past three months. After what happened to you, did you talk with or seek help from anyone? Q8. Who did you talk with or seek help from? Select all that apply

## AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO SOUGHT HELP FROM A PARENT

### OR NEARLY TWICE AS MANY GEN ZERS SOUGHT HELP FROM MOM VS. DAD

- Teens (48%) and Gen Z adults (45%) both preferred talking with moms by a wide margin vs. dads (25%, 23%, respectively)
- 53% of Gen Z males sought help slightly more than females (50%); however, when females sought help, they overwhelming talked to mom (57% vs. 38%)
- Gen Z adults (33%) were more likely to seek help from both parents vs. Teens (27%)



47%
# **COUNTRY DETAIL**



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### DWBI AROUND THE WORLD GLOBAL AVERAGE = 62



# INDIA HAD THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF "FLOURISHING" & "THRIVING" RESPONDENTS



1. Flourishing

# INDIA'S HIGHER DWBI WAS DRIVEN BY GREATER PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND NUMBER OF SUPPORT ASSETS



Indian teens stand out for having a wealth of support assets



# **ONLINE RISK COUNTRY PROFILES**

- India was highest on all risks
- Threatening behavior was a bigger problem in Australia
- Fake news, misinformation was a bigger problem in France

### Online risk incidence by country



# **DWBI DIMENSIONS COUNTRY PROFILES**

- India DWBI was driven by users citing Achievement from online activities. Engagement and Relationship scores also were high.
- However few Indians avoided negative emotions, in line with the higher number of risks they experienced
- Engagement and Achievement supported DWBI in the United States and Australia

### Percent "Flourishing" on DWBI Dimensions



# **AUSTRALIA SNAPSHOT, DWBI = 63**





# **FRANCE SNAPSHOT, DWBI = 60**











# **INDIA SNAPSHOT, DWBI = 68**





# **WITED KINGDOM SNAPSHOT, DWBI = 62**



97%

7.1

6.0

90%

# UNITED STATES SNAPSHOT, DWBI = 64





# SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

- Digital well-being inventory statements
- Online risk definitions
- Life satisfaction measures
- LGBTQ profile
- Social media statistics
- Demographics

# THE DIGITAL WELL-BEING INVENTORY – 20 ITEMS











Often felt proud Often felt delighted I generally felt that what I did online was valuable and worthwhile Felt the things I did online gave me a sense of accomplishment and pride

Have had more good times than bad times online Got completely absorbed in what I was doing online Often felt really interested in what I am doing online Felt excited and interested in things online

Was very satisfied with my personal relationships online Have friends who really listen to me when I have something to say online Received help and support from others online when I needed Have people in my life online who really care about

Worried a lot that other people might not like me Worried about what other people might be saying about me online Often felt lonely Often felt left out and not close to anyone

Stayed informed so I felt in touch with what's happening in my community and the world Learned how to do things that are important to Was able to grow in my skills and abilities Learned things that gave me more self-confidence

# **RISK DEFINITIONS**

Risk	Definition
Account hijacking	Someone used my social media account or email to post or send things that did not come from me. [Includes someone using my phone or account to post messages pretending to be me.]
Fake news or misinformation	I saw or read a news story or learned something online that appeared to be true but turned out to be false and misleading. This includes altered images and videos.
Hate speech	I received or was exposed to speech that attacked a person or group based on factors such as age, gender, national origin, religion, race, disability, pregnancy, veteran status, or sexual orientation.
lllegal drug sales	I was sent/exposed to content promoting the sale, distribution, or delivery of illegal or counterfeit drugs through the Internet or online platforms.
Weapons sales	I was sent/exposed to content promoting the sale, distribution or delivery of guns and ammunition or other dangerous weapons through the Internet or online platforms.
Online bullying & harassment	I have been bullied, harassed, teased, or called hurtful names online
Online impersonation	I have had experiences where someone had approached me using a fake identity online
Non-consensual intimate imagery	Sexually explicit content produced or distributed without the consent of the people depicted.
Thoughts of self-harm	I have had thoughts about harming myself as a result of interacting online
Thoughts of suicide	I have had thoughts about suicide as a result of interacting online.
Threats of violence	Someone online threatened to harm me, another person, or place.
Unwanted contact	Being personally contacted by someone who obtained my information online that I don't want to interact with or didn't expect to hear from. [could include people 'following' me online to see my location, what I am doing, who I am with, spam accounts that tried to lure me to follow back, etc.]
Unwanted sexual attention	I received unwelcomed sexually-oriented teasing, joking or flirting
Violent extremism or terrorism content/messages	I was sent/exposed to extremist online communications or content that encouraged and condoned acts of violence based on things like religious, political, or racist beliefs.

Bold, respondents were asked for the type online bullying, online impersonation, etc.. Definitions for these are on the following slide

## **RISK DEFINITIONS - Continued**

### **Online bullying & harassment**

**Disrespecting**: Someone dissed or disrespected me online.

**Cyberstalking**: A person tracked or followed me making me feel very uncomfortable and fearful.

**Damaging my relationships**: Someone tried or succeeded in harming my relationships by spreading rumors or lies

**Doxing**: A person collected and distributed private personal information about me (e.g., name, age, email, address, phone number, images, etc.) without my permission.

**Excluding**: Someone deliberately left me out of an online group or text/message thread.

**Flaming**: A person sent me angry, hurtful, or abusive message(s) or email(s).

**Teasing, name calling, purposeful embarrassment**: Someone teased, called me offensive names, or embarrassed me online on purpose.

**Trolling**: Someone deliberately made unsolicited and/or controversial comments to try and provoke an emotional reaction and engage me in a fight or argument

Dislike and contempt for females/Misogyny: I received or came across hurtful, hateful or sexist images or content based on my gender

### **Online impersonation**

Someone impersonated me online and made false or malicious statements while pretending to be me

A user pretended to be someone else to try and sell me something or for financial gain

A user pretended to be someone some else to try and establish a relationship with me

Someone pretended to be a celebrity or represent a brand to entice me to interact with them

### Non-consensual intimate imagery

**Unsolicited sexual content**: I received or came across unwanted sexual images, messages, or videos.

**"Revenge porn"**: Someone posted or shared sexually explicit images or videos of me online without my permission.

**Sexual solicitation**: A person asked me to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk, or to provide personal sexual information, including asking for or demanding nude images.

# VALIDATION OF DWBI THROUGH LIFE-SATISFACTION MEASURE

### **Online** Life Satisfaction





# VALIDATION OF DWBI THROUGH LIFE-SATISFACTION MEASURE

### Offline Life Satisfaction





# LIFE SATISFACTION MEASURES – OFFLINE SAT SLIGHTLY HIGHER

Online life satisfaction statements (completely agree, agree a lot %)	Total	Teens	Gen Z adults	Parents of 13-19-yr. old
I am satisfied with my life ONLINE	40%	46%	33%	42%
The conditions of my life ONLINE are excellent	30%	34%	26%	30%
So far, I have gotten the important things I want from my life ONLINE	29%	32%	25%	30%
In most ways my life ONLINE is close to my ideal	28%	31%	26%	28%

Offline life satisfaction statements (completely agree, agree a lot %)	Total	Teens	Gen Z adults	Parents of 13-19-yr. old
I am satisfied with my life OFFLINE	44%	48%	37%	46%
The conditions of my life OFFLINE are excellent	41%	46%	34%	43%
So far, I have gotten the important things I want from my life OFFLINE	41%	46%	35%	42%
In most ways my life OFFLINE is close to my ideal	38%	42%	33%	38%

# 90% of LGBTQ+ EXPERIENCED A RISK 13% IDENTIFIED AS LGBTQ+ N=784

LGBQT+ experienced a wider range of personal risks beyond fake news or unwanted contact



Identify as LBGQT+	Teens	Gen Z adults
Total	10%	16%
Male	9%	13%
Female	11%	20%

LGBQT showed similar overall DWBI scores, though a greater number do emerge in the "struggling" bucket



# AT THE EXTREMES, GEN Z HAD SLIGHTLY MORE NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS SOCIAL MEDIA



DAILY TIME SPENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA





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# DEMOGRAPHICS

Employment



### **Education level**

Q23: Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Q24: What is the highest level of education you have completed? Q25: Do you identify as a member of the LGBQT+ community? LGBTQ status

# **Archive**

Older/Original Slides



# **INTRODUCING THE DIGITAL WELL-BEING INDEX**



Base: Gen Z, N=6002 Scores range from 0-100, Inventory of items on slide 50

# **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DWBI & RISKS**

### The relationship was dependent on the type of risk

Strong negative relationships with DWBI

Weak relationships with DWBI. Have these risks been "normalized?"



Base: Gen Z, N=6002, \* Small samples in the low and very high groups

Q5. Which, if any, of the following have happened to you personally ONLINE, on any electronic device during the past three months? Select all that apply

# AUSTRALIA SNAPSHOT, DWBI = 63



16%

Parents of 13-19



Resource topics (Aware not used, used, base: total) Mental health Anxiety and depression Eating disorders LGBTQ issues Substance abuse Suicide hotline

Specific resources (Aware not used, used, base: total) Beyond Blue Headspace Here for You Kids Helpline Lifeline

tal)	
ser	46% 45%
ser	56% 25%
ory	62% <mark>19%</mark>
es	57% <mark>16%</mark>
ite	59% <mark>19%</mark>
ics	
tal)	
lth	44% <mark>13%</mark>
on	45% <mark>11%</mark>
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ce	52% <mark>16%</mark>
ou	37% <mark>9%</mark>
ne	54% <mark>14%</mark>
ne	54% <mark>13%</mark>



# FRANCE SNAPSHOT, DWBI = 60

Segment size



- Support assets at home, school, community and peers
- 2. Feature = Blocked a user
- 3. Resource = Mental health

Flourishing	4
Thriving	
Middling	
Suffering	6

Any risk (Gen Z) Personal risks Fake news, misinformation Unwanted contact **Threatening Behavior** Sexual risks Fake identity Contraband, terrorism Self Harm

> **DWBI by Audience** Teens Gen Z adults

Parents Gen Z male Gen Z female

**Daily Snapchat users** 

Teens (13-17) Gen Z adults (18-24) Parents of 13-19





43% 58% 20%

Safety features (Aware not used, used, base: total) Block a user 45% 44%

58%

60%

52%

52%

Report Snapchat user Snapchat, personal story Discover content, stories Use in-app or support site

### **Resource topics** (Aware not used, used, base: total)

Mental health Anxiety and depression Eating disorders LGBTQ issues Substance abuse Suicide hotline



(Aware not used, used, base: total) Net Ecoute

SOS Suicide Phénix Suicide Ecoute Here for You

**Specific resources** 

33% 4% 29% 4%

32%

32%

30%



6%

6%

5%



26% 3% 17% 4%

### GERMANY SNAPSHOT, DWBI = 60



- community and peers 2. Feature = Blocked a user
- 3. Resource = Mental health



#### **Relationships** with DWBI Gen Z DWBI Struggling Risks 92% (experienced any risk) Social media 62% (positive influence) Support assets<sup>1</sup> (Avg. # of assets, 0-12) 3.4 Emotional health 4.4 (Avg. score, scale 0-7) Safety feature<sup>2</sup> 85% (Aware not used, used)

Safety resource<sup>3</sup> (Aware not used, used)



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- 1. community and peers
- Feature = Blocked a user 2.
- Resource = Mental health З.



Any risk (Gen Z) Personal risks Fake news, misinformation Unwanted contact **Threatening Behavior** Sexual risks Fake identity Contraband. terrorism Self Harm



**Daily Snapchat users** 



### 16% 56% 24% 3% 59% 44% 50% 32% 43% 22% 22% 70 64 69 67 67 36% 43%

28%

# 84% 70%

(Aware not used, used, base: total) Block a user Report Snapchat user Snapchat, personal story Discover content, stories Use in-app or support site

### **Resource topics** (Aware not used, used, base: total) Mental health Anxiety and depression Eating disorders

Safety features

LGBTQ issues Substance abuse Suicide hotline

Specific resources (Aware not used, used, base: total) AASRA Sneha India

Here for You

45%

54% 30% 52% 29% 51% 29% 48% 34%

45% 24% 47% 19%



35% 17%

38% 17%

43% 26%

### $\searrow \swarrow$ **UNITED KINGDOM SNAPSHOT, DWBI = 62**





16%

14%

15%

10%







# US SNAPSHOT, DWBI = 64

Flourishing

Thriving

Middling

Suffering

Segment size





- community and peers
- Feature = Blocked a user 2.
- Resource = Mental health З.



66

65

65

61

62

37%

17%

42%



#### **DWBI by Audience**

Teens Gen Z adults Parents Gen Z male Gen Z female

#### **Daily Snapchat users**

Teens (13-17) Gen Z adults (18-24) Parents of 13-19

Safety features (Aware not used, used, base: total) Block a user **Resource topics** (Aware not used, used, base: total)

Mental health Anxiety and depression Eating disorders LGBTQ issues Substance abuse Suicide hotline

(Aware not used, used, base; t Headsp Hope Trans Life 32% 11%

rces		
total)		
ace	41%	15%
line	33%	<mark>7%</mark>
line	31%	3%

Report Snapchat user Snapchat, personal story Discover content, stories Use in-app or support site

# Specific resour

Here for You

### 57% 45% 1.3%

41%

57%

62%

57%

49%

25%

18%

17%

19%

- 42% 12% 39% 9% 45% 9% 43%
- 9% 46% 11%

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