

The Power of Online Social Networks conducted by Disabled People



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Definition – Online Social Network

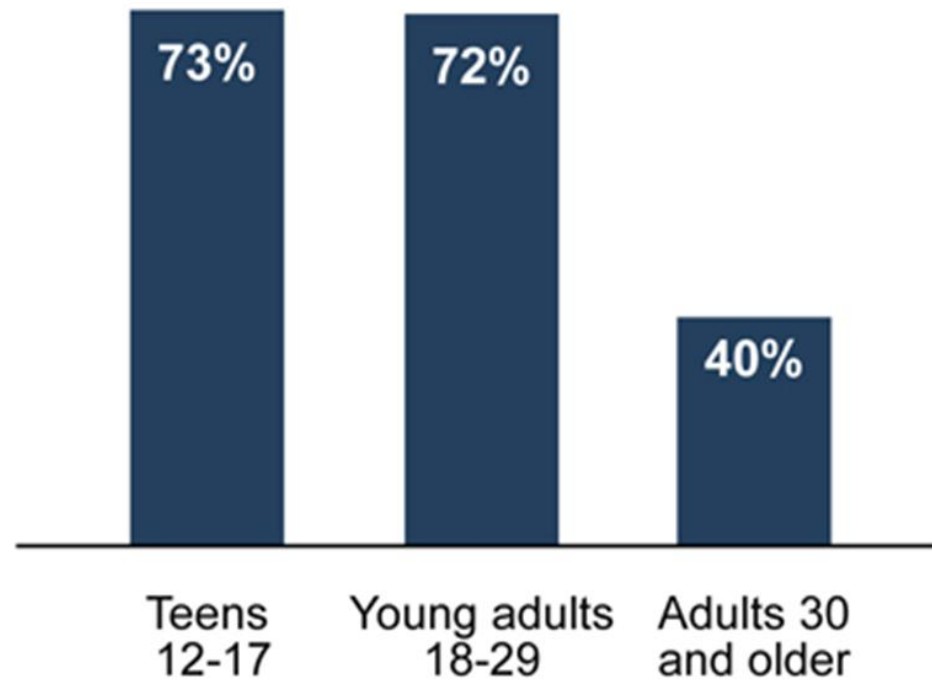
- (1) construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system.
- (2) articulate a list of other users with whom they share a connection.
- (3) view and traverse their list of connections and those made by others within the system.

(boyd & Ellison, 2007)



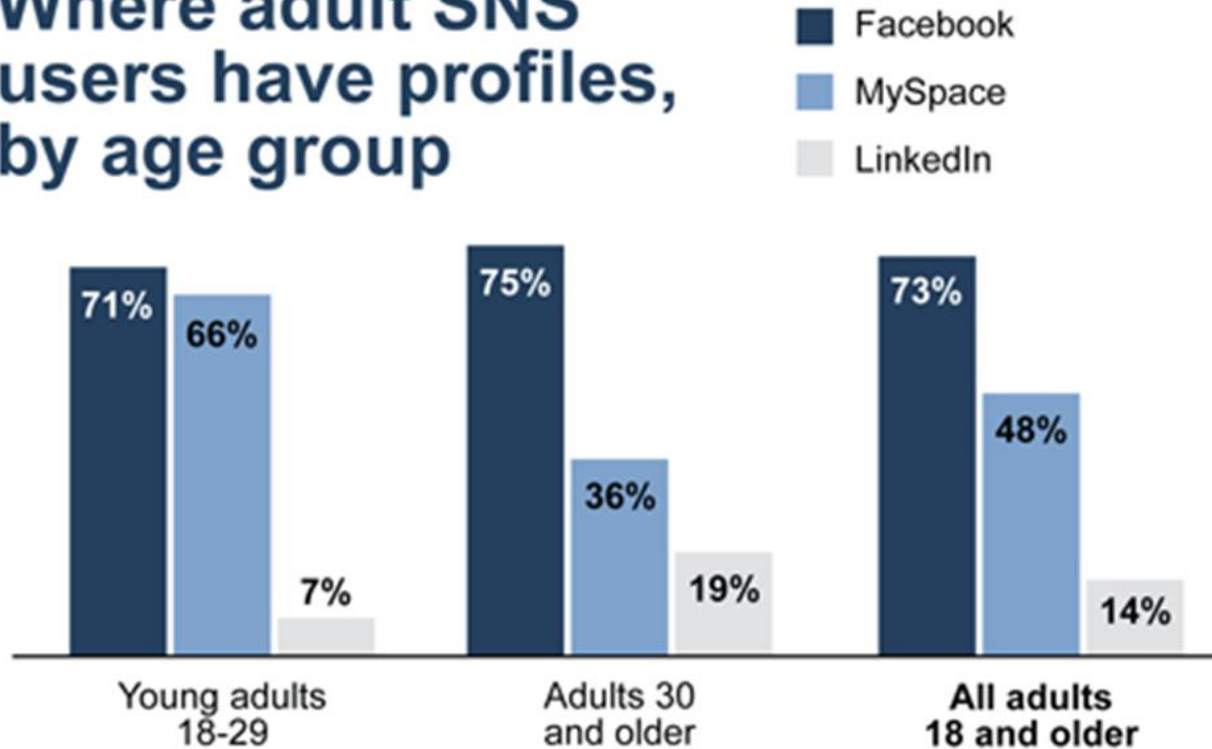
Data

Teens and young adults converge in enthusiasm for social networking sites



Data

Where adult SNS users have profiles, by age group



Percentages are for adults with profiles on social networking sites. September 2009 data.

 **Pew Internet**
Pew Internet & American Life Project



Online Social Networks & Disabilities

One in four internet users living with high blood pressure, diabetes, heart conditions, lung conditions, cancer, or some other chronic ailment (23%) say they have gone online to find others with similar health concerns.

<http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2011/P2PHealthcare.aspx>



Weak Tie Network Theory

“Weak tie” relationships typically take place between individuals who communicate on a daily basis, but are not intimate e.g., neighbors, service providers. These are people who one turns to during times of stress when closer ties e.g., friends and family members are unavailable.

(Granovetter, 1973, 1983)



Social Capital

- **Bonding ties**
- **Bridging ties**



Previous Research

- People with bridging ties across groups have higher levels of community involvement.
- Heavy Internet users with bridging ties have higher social engagement.

(Kavanaugh, Reese, Carroll, & Rosson, 2005)



Online Survey

- The aim of this research survey is to gather information about online behavior of adults (age 18 and over) with disabilities in Facebook.
- The survey was uploaded to <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/514404/Facebook-and-Disabilities> on April 9th 2011.



Results

The results will be presented here



Conclusions

The conclusions will be presented here

