



generation lab

AXIOS

Axios + Generation Lab Student Poll

Dating

A study on college student views on dating, based on a survey of 978 college students in October 2023

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INTRODUCTION

The backdrop: College is often thought of as a time of newfound independence and experimentation, especially when it comes to dating and romantic relationships. But is this truly the experience of today's college students?

The state of play: Changes in cultural beliefs, technology, and the lasting impacts of the pandemic have affected romantic relationships in all stages of life. How are these forces reflected in the dating beliefs and behaviors of college students in 2023?

So: Generation Lab and Axios asked hundreds of college students around the country to explain their dating experiences and beliefs.

Based on a survey of 978 college students, conducted in October 2023.



KEY INSIGHTS

Overall

- ❖ A majority of respondents are currently in a relationship
- ❖ Nearly 80% of respondents report having had 3 or fewer relationships in their lives

Dating Apps

- ❖ 79% of respondents do not use dating apps regularly
- ❖ Over half of respondents report meeting their current or previous partner through in-person connections

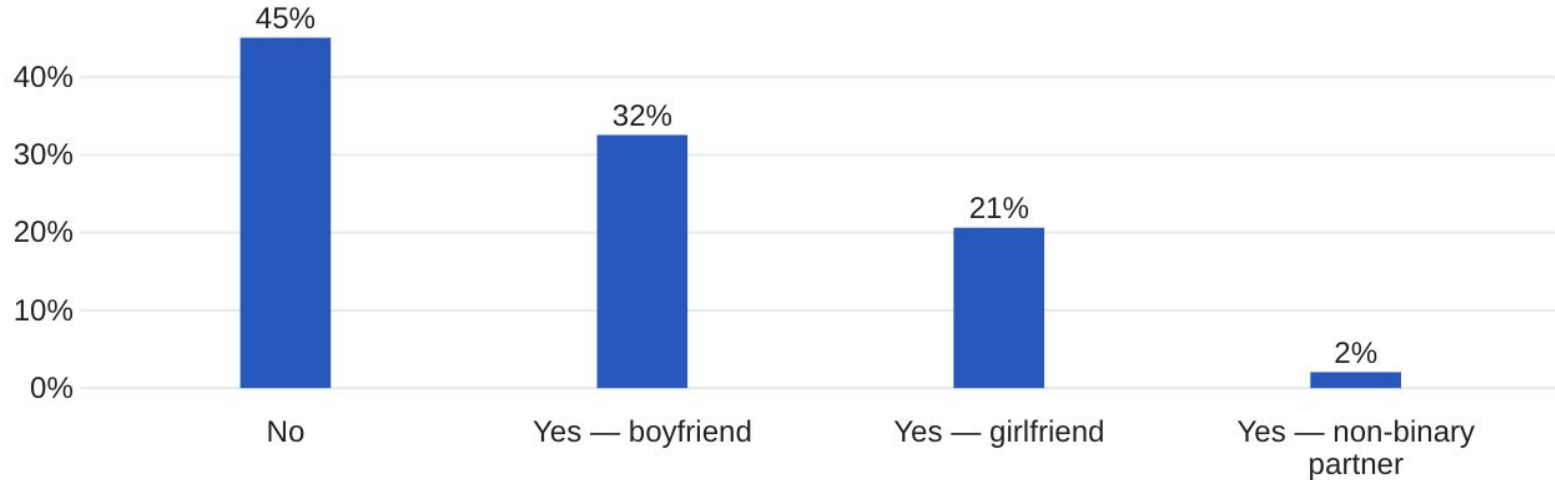
Important Factors

- ❖ Beliefs and sense of humor were particularly important factors when looking for a partner
- ❖ More respondents ranked professional goals as an important factor than physical appearance

1. Over half of respondents are partnered up

Q: "Do you have a significant other?"

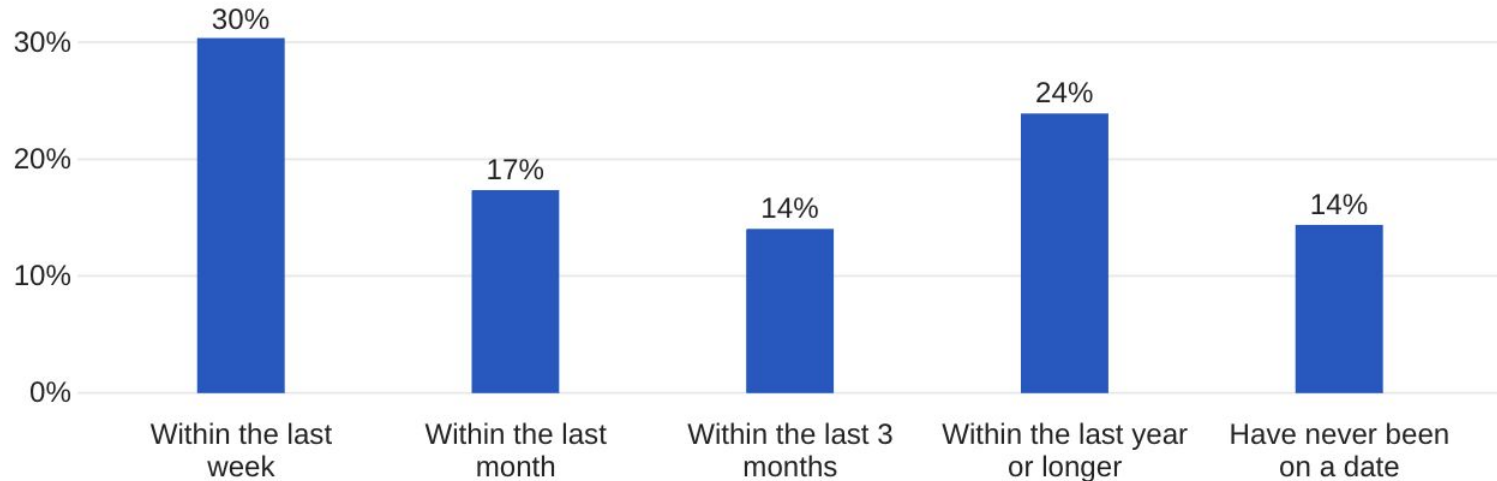
Overall



2. 61% of students have been on a date within the past 3 months

Q: "When is the last time you were on a date?"

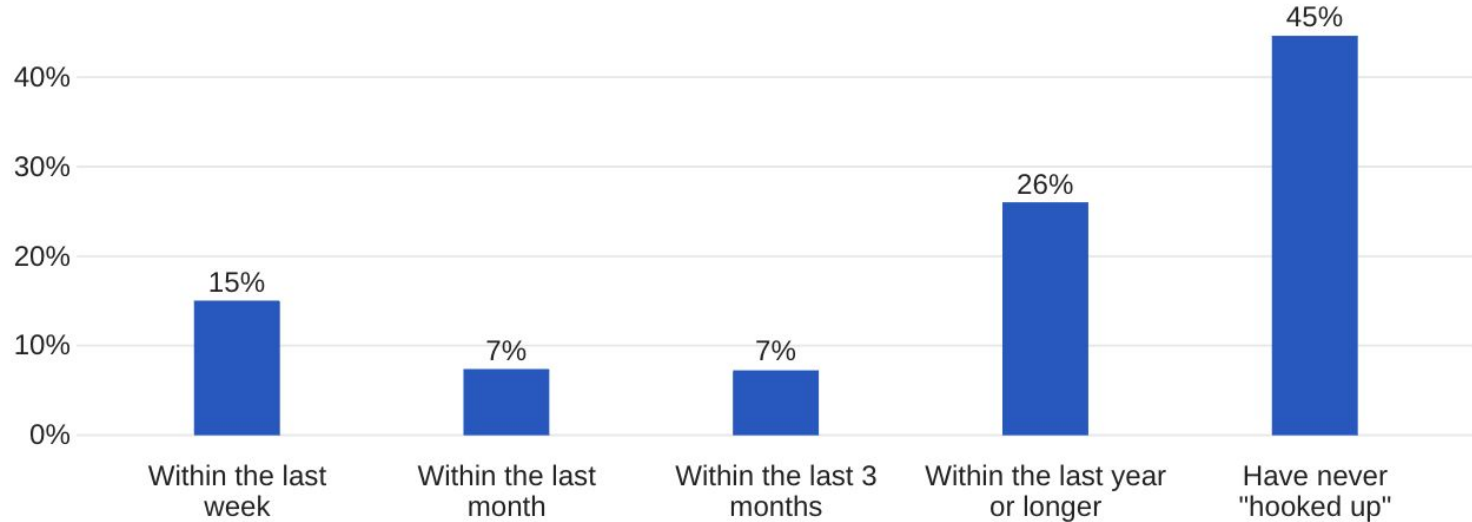
Overall



3. Nearly half of respondents don't participate in hookup culture

Q: "When was the last time you "hooked up" with someone?"

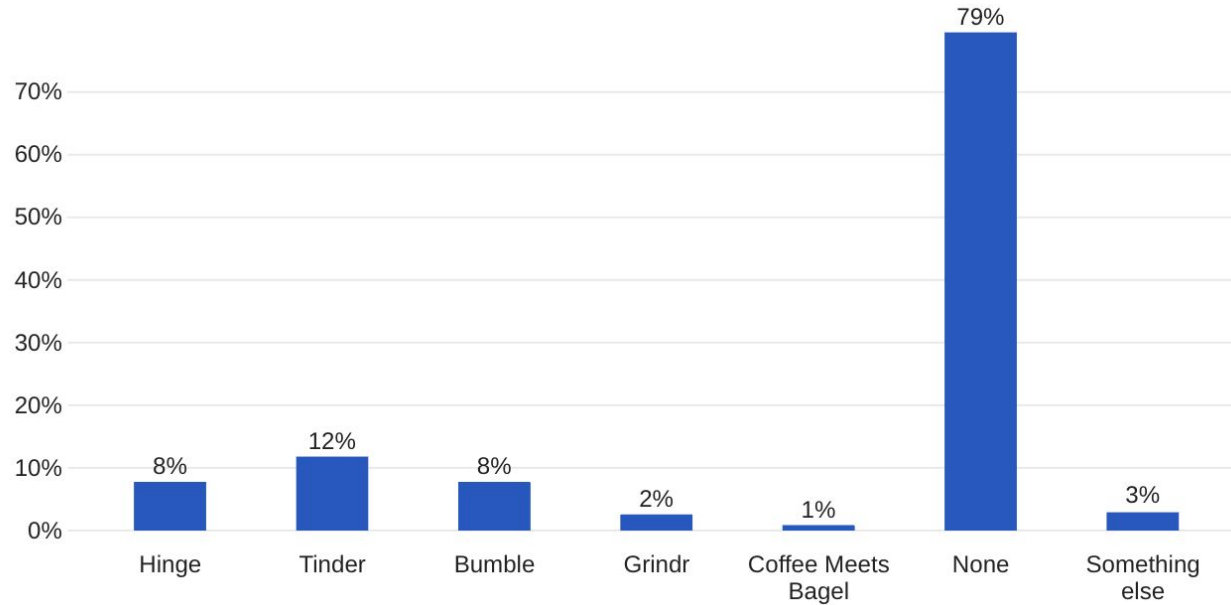
Overall



4. Most are not actively using dating apps

Q: "Which of the following apps do you use at least once a month?"

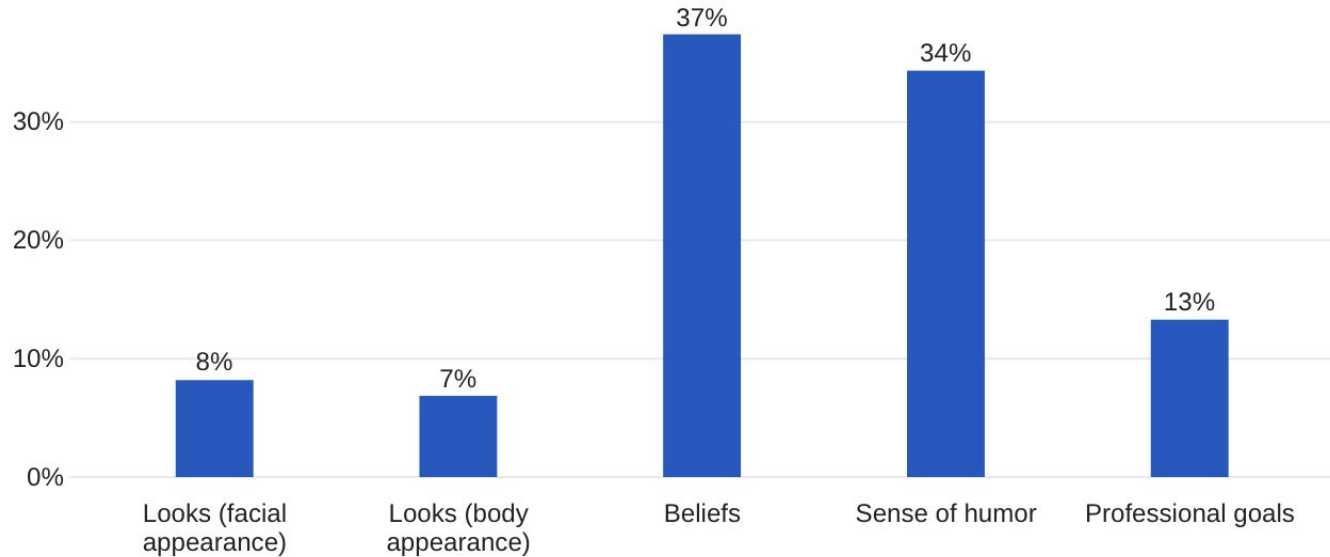
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5. Respondents report personality ranks above looks

Q: "When you consider a possible date or significant other, what is the most important factor for you?"

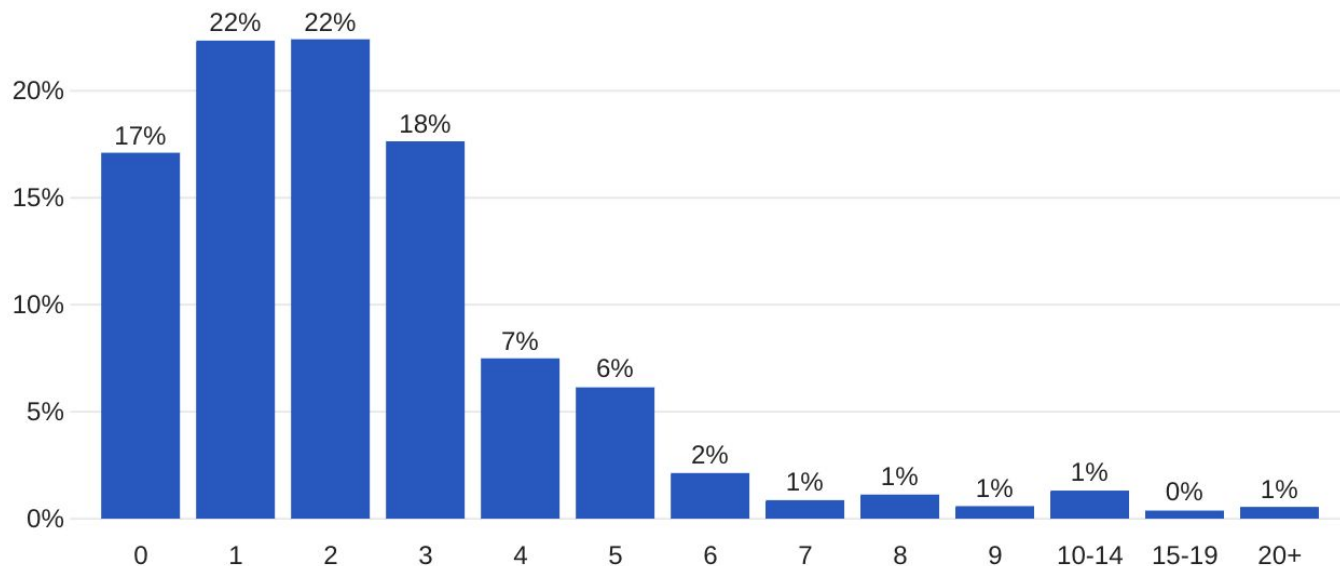
Overall



6. 17% haven't yet been in a committed relationship

Q: "How many "significant others" (someone you'd call a "boyfriend", "girlfriend" or "partner") have you had in your life?"

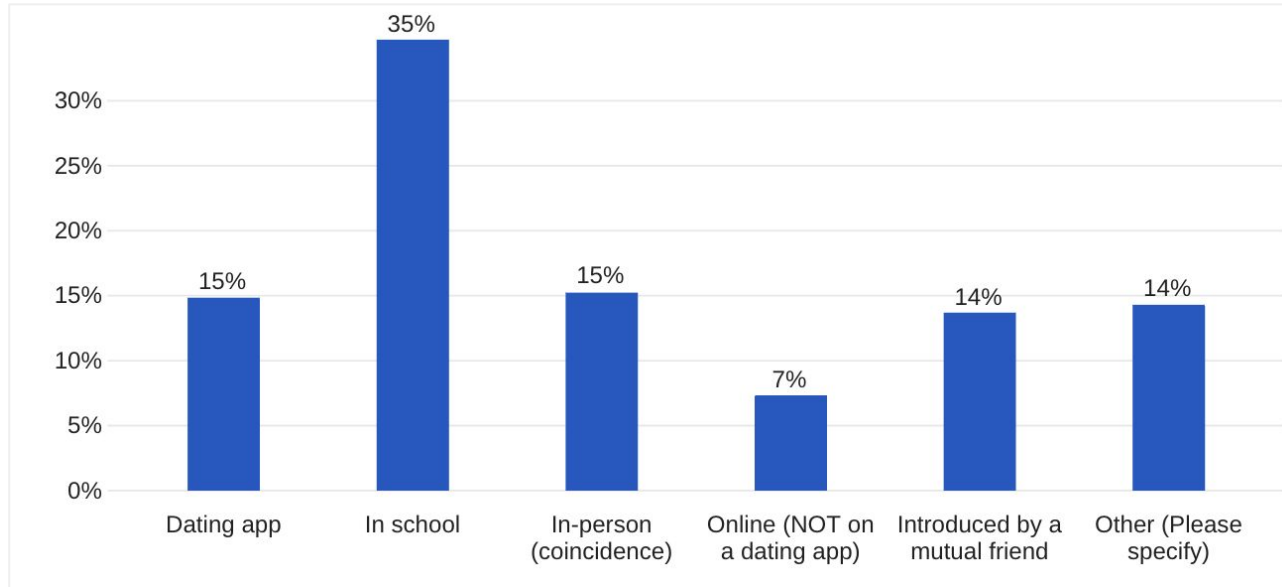
Overall



7. Over half of relationships began with in-person connections

Q: "How did you meet your current (or most recent) significant other?"

Overall



METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in October 2023 from a representative sample of 978 college students nationwide.

- The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percentage points. The Generation Lab conducts polling using a demographically representative sample frame of young people

ABOUT GENERATION LAB

The Generation Lab is a polling and research firm studying young people and the trends that shape their world.

- We translate youth views and behavior for media, academia, businesses, government, and the American public. Whether through a one-day snapshot poll, or a multi-year longitudinal study, we pursue youth truth for our clients and the American public.



OUR **TOOLS**



LATEST **DATA**



GET **IN TOUCH**

