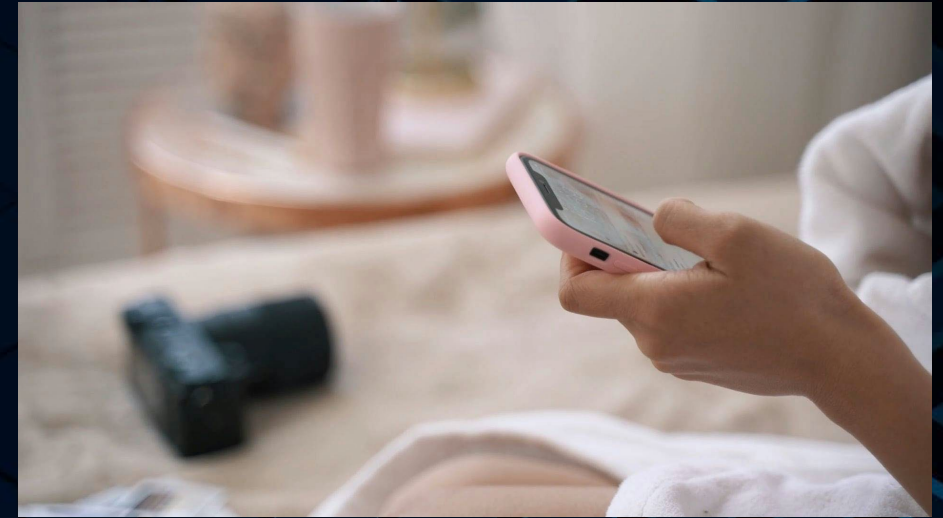


Connected Online, Disconnected Offline?

EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERNET USE
AND IN-PERSON SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

CRJS 436: CAPSTONE RESEARCH

GROUP 2: CONNER, SHAUNTELL, EBONY, KAIYA, LEANNA



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Introduction

- ▶ We will be examining the relationship between **internet use and face-to-face interaction**
- ▶ Internet use is a major part of daily life
- ▶ The potential impact on real-world social connections
- ▶ Focus: Time w/friends, family, neighbors.
- ▶ Data source: General Social Survey (GSS)



Review of The Literature

- ▶ Problematic internet use linked to negative outcomes, which included mindfulness, emotional connectedness with others, and life satisfaction (Zewude et al., 2025).
- ▶ When social networks/platforms become an environment rather than a tool, the time spent in said environment directly competes with the time an individual may be spending in-person or physically with their family, friends, and groups (Pandey 2025).
- ▶ The intentions behind the features of social media platforms are to maximize the engagement time of the user (Roberts and David 2025).
- ▶ Students who spend more than three hours per day on social media are about 7.4 times more likely to experience feelings of social isolation and loneliness compared to those who use it 3 hours or less per day (Osman, 2025).

Review of the Literature (cont'd)

- ▶ Displacement Hypothesis: suggests that time is finite, so the more time individuals spend on social media, the less time they have available for other in-person activities and social interactions.
- ▶ Hypothesis does not require that users consciously choose being online and technology over other people. It only requires that the hours go somewhere, and that social media has become a primary destination for discretionary time in ways that may reduce face-to-face activities.
- ▶ Sönmez Sari et al. (2025) found that younger adolescent girls with higher social media addiction scores showed a noticeable decline in activities that were offline and this included decreased participation in face-to-face interactions with their family and friends.

Methods

- ▶ Design: Correlational
- ▶ Type of data: Quantitative (existing numerical survey data) from GSS
- ▶ Variables: internet use (independent), face-to-face social interactions (dependent)
- ▶ Statistical Tests: ANOVA, Chi-Square

Results

- ▶ Age, education, income and spending time with others were constants in the analysis.
- ▶ The dependent variables (DV) were analyzed for correlation to the (IV) spending time with others



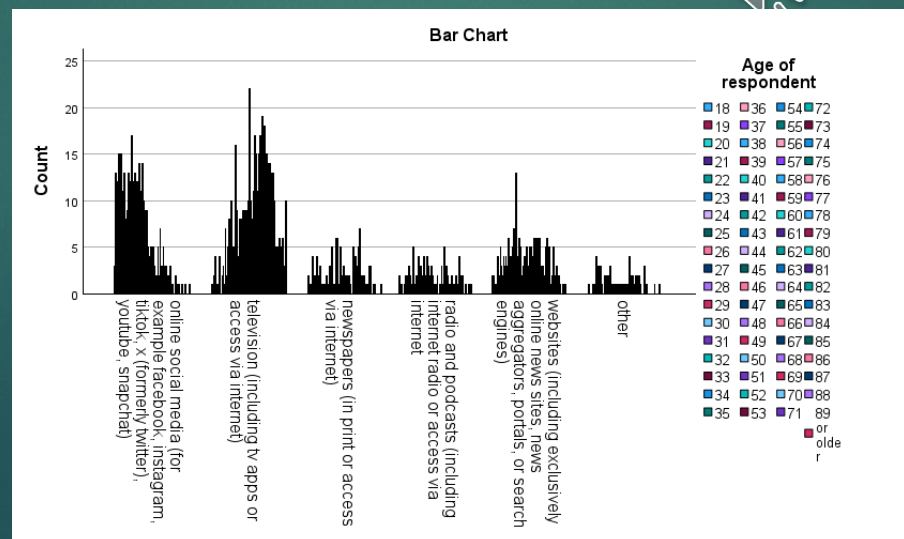
Ways internet is used (DV)	Age 18-89 & >	Income \$1,000-\$25,000 & >	Education 6 th grade & >
Communication	.000	-.045	-.012
Games	.000	-.045	-.012
News	.000	-.045	-.012
Financial	.000	-.045	-.012
Interactions with others (IV)	.000	-.045	-.012

Results-ANOVA

The p-value was consistently below .05, indicating statistical significance therefore the null hypothesis was rejected

Age was the only significant variable

Education and income showed no significant effect



Results-Chi Square

Chi-square values (.003, .006) $< .05$ – statistically significant



Null hypothesis rejected



No constant relationship between internet use and time w/others



Age showed only noticeable pattern

Results: Chi-Square (cont'd.)

→ Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Valid		Cases Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
dichotomy ~90th percentile * Spend evening with friends	1333	40.3%	1976	59.7%	3309	100.0%

dichotomy ~90th percentile * Spend evening with friends Crosstabulation

			Spend evening with friends							Total
			almost daily	once or twice a week	several times a month	about once a month	several times a year	about once a year	never	
dichotomy ~90th percentile	.00	Count	32	170	259	249	273	108	106	1197
		% within dichotomy ~90th percentile	2.7%	14.2%	21.6%	20.8%	22.8%	9.0%	8.9%	100.0%
	1.00	Count	2	18	22	25	24	20	25	136
		% within dichotomy ~90th percentile	1.5%	13.2%	16.2%	18.4%	17.6%	14.7%	18.4%	100.0%
Total		Count	34	188	281	274	297	128	131	1333
		% within dichotomy ~90th percentile	2.6%	14.1%	21.1%	20.6%	22.3%	9.6%	9.8%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	19.695 ^a	6	.003
Likelihood Ratio	17.497	6	.008
Linear-by-Linear Association	10.333	1	.001
N of Valid Cases	1333		

a. 1 cells (7.1%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.47.

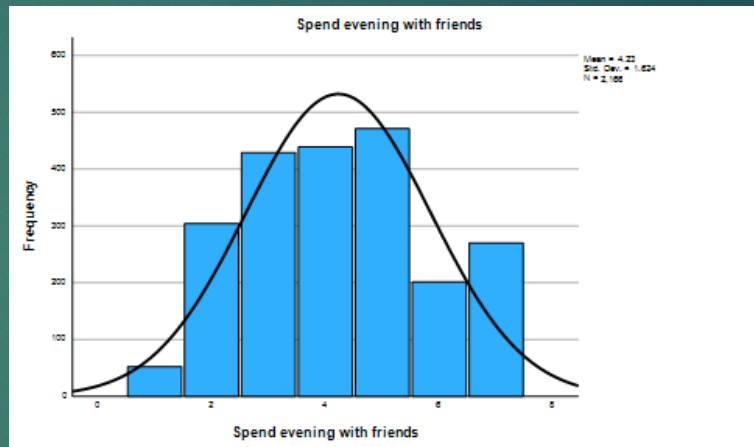


Results-Chi Square cont'd.

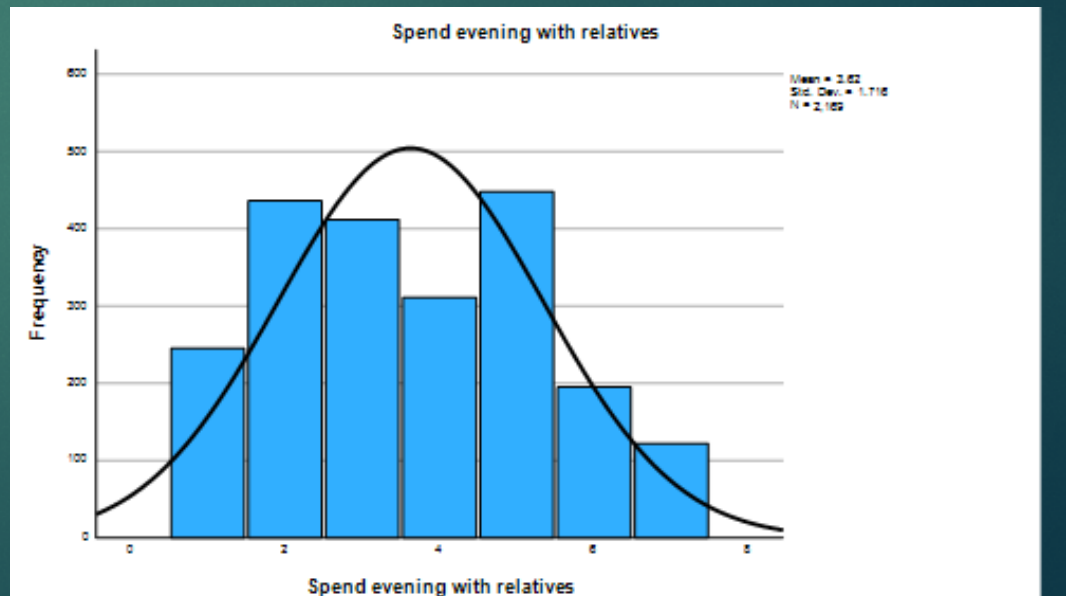
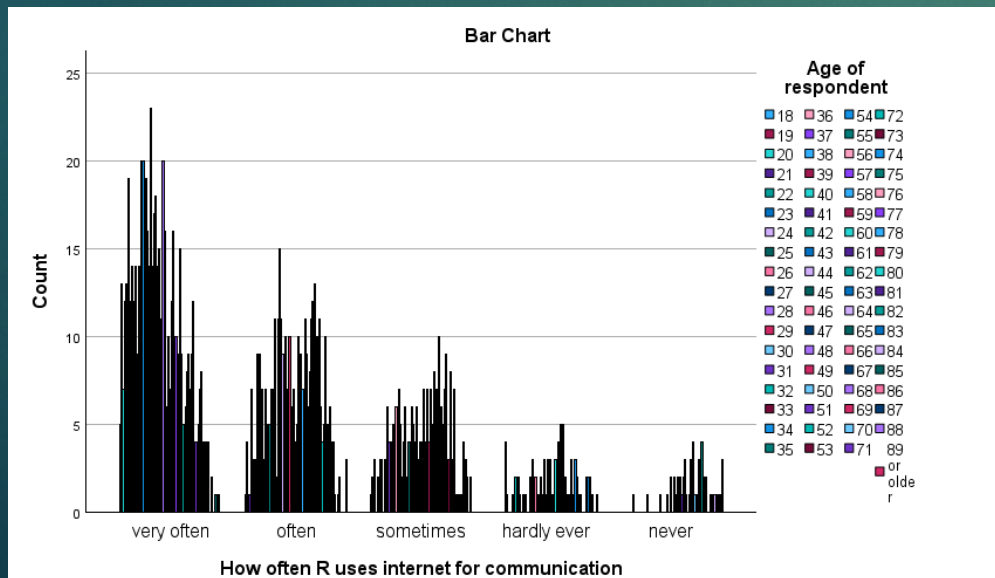
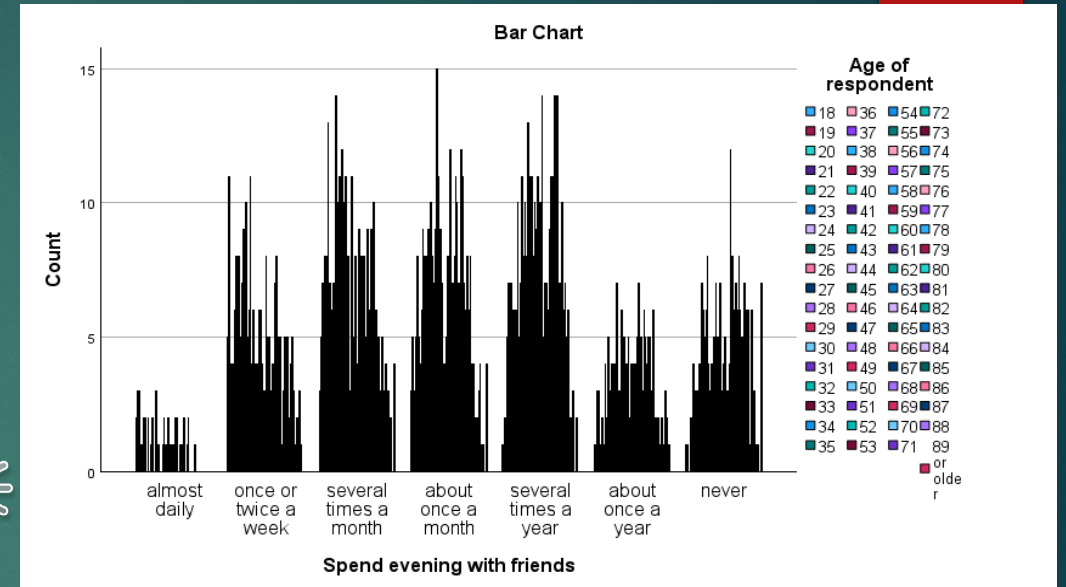
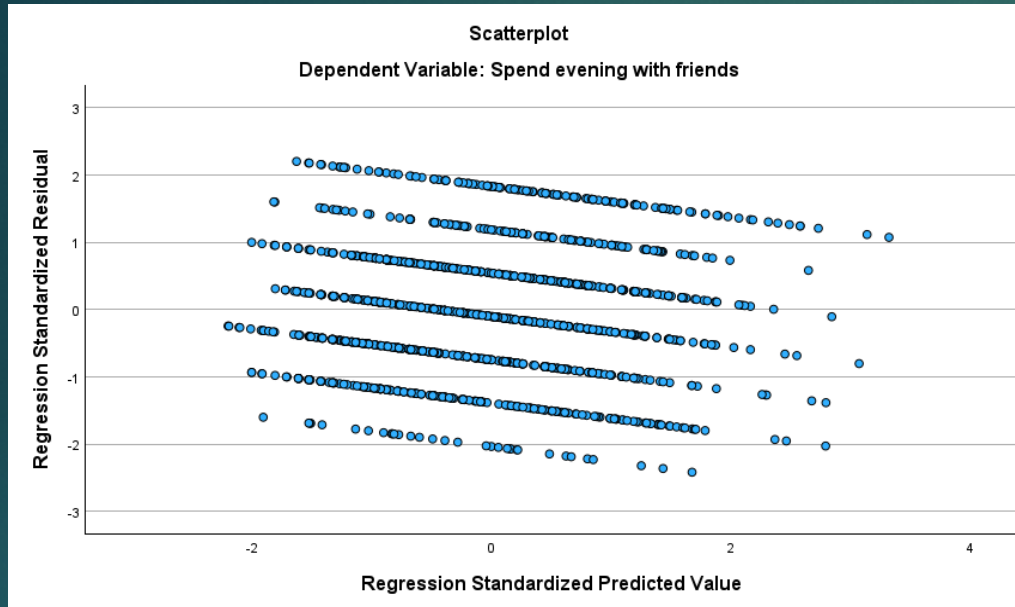
Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	28.642 ^a	11	.003
Likelihood Ratio	30.277	11	.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.635	1	.006
N of Valid Cases	506		

a. 5 cells (20.8%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.73.



More Data Visualizations



Conclusion & Key Takeaways

- ▶ Age was the only variable that was significantly related to time spent w/others.
- ▶ Younger individuals were found to spend more time on social media and therefore less time w/others 
- ▶ Income and education were NOT significant factors
- ▶ Higher income and education were associated with more time spent w/family and friends