

Majority of Houston Residents Deny Smartphone Overuse

Many interact with mobile more than loved ones; increasingly turn to digital for banking and payments

We are increasingly reliant on devices to navigate everyday life. Accordingly, the third annual **Bank of America Trends in Consumer Mobility Report** delves further into the drivers and emotions behind our mobile behaviors, including the impact on our key relationships and daily interactions. It also takes a closer look at the notable impact on the changing financial landscape, seeking to explain where, why and how we are using mobile devices to manage finances, including the evolving constructs of payments and banking, particularly as mobile wallets and digital currencies become more mainstream.



Daily Dependency

The majority of Houston residents appear to need a dose of reality when it comes to their own smartphone behaviors. Fewer than one in five (17 percent) local residents believe they are on their mobile phone too much, while nearly six in 10 (58 percent) believe other adults are guilty of overuse. Just 15 percent consider themselves 'tuned out to the world' while on their device and 56 percent believe they mind their mobile manners; these perceptions are drastically different when considering the behaviors of others at 48 percent and 21 percent, respectively.

What's more, nearly one-third (32 percent) of Houston residents cite that in an average day they interact with their smartphone more than anyone, including their parents (6 percent) and friends (5 percent). More than half (52 percent) even admit to using their mobile to escape a social interaction.

This growing device reliance is also visible in managing finances: More than half (54 percent) of Houstonians are constantly checking their finances via mobile, including account balances and budgets, compared to only 36 percent that report frequently checking health-related items, such as steps and calories.

Banking Behaviors and Payment Preferences

Houston residents are increasingly turning to digital channels to engage with their financial institutions. Nearly seven in 10 (68 percent) use mobile or online as their preferred method of banking, and 63 percent say they actively use a mobile banking app. Of those mobile banking users, nearly half (45 percent) access the app once a day or more, higher than the national average (35 percent) and any other market surveyed, while an overwhelming majority (85 percent) check once a week or more.

In further examining behaviors of Houston residents using a mobile banking app:

- Popular activities include checking balances or statements (80 percent), transferring funds (63 percent) and depositing checks (52 percent)
- Majority (89 percent) are using banking notifications and alerts, such as deposit made (55 percent) and low balance (51 percent) alerts
- Three-quarters (75 percent) are taking action when they receive an alert, with contacting the bank (43 percent) and transferring money between accounts (42 percent) the most popular actions

Houston residents are also adopting digital payments. The majority (67 percent) of Houstonians would consider or are already using a peer-to-peer money transfer service from their bank, 10 percent higher than the national average (57 percent). Additionally, nearly half (47 percent) would use or already use their phone to make a purchase at checkout.

Changing Communications

While in person (30 percent) still appears to be the preferred method of conversing for many Houstonians, calling (29 percent) and texting (27 percent) closely follow. When texting, Houston residents are looking for instant gratification, as the majority (67 percent) believe the appropriate response time is under an hour and 44 percent say under 10 minutes.

Emojis and selfies are also on the rise. More than three-quarters (77 percent) of Houstonians say they take selfies, and nearly three in 10 (28 percent) report taking them at least once a week, which is more often than those nationally (19 percent) and any other market surveyed. Similarly, 74 percent of local residents admit to using emojis, and 16 percent say they use them in every text.

Additional Houston Highlights

- The majority (64 percent) of Houston residents own multiple devices and one-quarter (25 percent) possess three or more
- More than half (58 percent) of Houstonians say their mobile personality differs from their in-person personality. Respondents are most likely to say their smartphone makes them more confident (29 percent) and more likely to share (22 percent).
- In the next decade, nearly half of local residents believe children currently under the age of 18 won't use cash (44 percent) or physical credit cards (43 percent)

At a glance: Mobile use across the country



About Bank of America Mobile Banking

With 20 million active mobile users and growing, Bank of America's mobile banking platform is an evolving source of increased customer engagement and satisfaction. During the first quarter of 2016, mobile banking customers logged into their accounts almost 900 million times, or approximately 46 times per user. During that same period, customers made nearly 24 million mobile bill payments and 70 million transfers, a growth of 29 percent and 20 percent, respectively, over 2015. Customers also used their mobile devices to deposit more than 254,000 checks daily and to schedule 104,000 appointments with a personal banker or financial center specialist. More customers are opening new accounts through mobile, with sales increasing by 50 percent over the past year.

Methodology

Braun Research, Inc. (an independent market research company) conducted a nationally representative, telephone survey on behalf of Bank of America March 29-April 12, 2016. Braun surveyed 1,004 respondents throughout the U.S., comprised of adults 18+ with a current banking relationship (checking or savings) and who own a smartphone. The survey was conducted by phone to a dual-frame landline and cell. In addition, approximately 300 adults were also surveyed in seven target markets: Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Phoenix and San Francisco. The margin of error for the national quota of n=1,004 is +/- 3.1 percent with a 95 percent confidence level; the margin of error for the oversampled markets (where n=301-307) is +/- 5.6 percent; and the margin of error for the oversampled markets (where n=300) is +/- 5.7 percent, with each reported at a 95 percent confidence level.