Cumulus Media and Signal Hill Insights' Podcast Download Spring 2023 Report

## Key areas of focus

Cumulus Media | Westwood One and Signal Hill Insights commissioned MARU/Matchbox to survey weekly podcast consumers in April 2023 for our latest Podcast Download Report. Here are the major questions we sought to address:

- What is the profile of weekly and heavy podcast consumers?
- How are Podcast Newcomers (started listening in past year) distinct from Podcast Pioneers (4+ years)?
- Platform usage: What are the latest shifts in preferred platform? How does that vary by segment?
- Podcasts with video: What are consumer preferences? To what extent do they watch or listen to them?
- How interested are podcast consumers in engaging and interacting with their favorite hosts and podcasts?
- How engaged are podcast consumers with ad-free video streaming services?
- Advertiser Perceptions: What is the current state of podcast advertising consideration and usage?
- What are consumer attitudes towards podcast advertising?
- How they feel about the types of ads they hear?


## Methodology

Cumulus Media and Signal Hill Insights' Podcast Download - April 2023 Report represents the tenth installment in the series, with the inaugural report dating back to July 2017.

This study was fielded online using a nationally representative sample of 608 respondents who met the following criteria:

- Persons 18+
- All respondents spent at least one hour listening to, or watching*, podcasts within the past week
- Respondents were not employed in the advertising, public relations, marketing, market research, AM/FM radio, television, digital, or podcasting industries
- Surveys were conducted from April 14 to 27, 2023

[^0]
## Key takeaways

- The longer you have been listening to podcasts, the more podcasts you consume: Average weekly time spent with podcasts and the average number of podcast shows and episodes listened to increases as podcast consumer tenure increases.
- Podcast advertising captures hard-to-reach, ad-free video streamers: Weekly podcast consumers are also heavy viewers of ad-free video streaming services.
- Podcast consumers want more content: Most weekly consumers follow hosts on social media and plan to attend live podcast events. When considering paid subscriptions, they value exclusive content/access ahead of an ad-free experience.
- Advertiser use of podcast ads continues to grow at a breakneck pace: In the Advertiser Perceptions study, advertisers say their use of podcasts has jumped from $15 \%$ to $58 \%$ in the past eight years.

- Funny and entertaining ads offer a creative opportunity: While podcast consumers remain highly receptive to podcast ads, they prefer funny and entertaining podcast ads in contrast to the more rational podcast ads they currently hear most often.


## Key fakeaways: Watchable podcasts

- YouTube is the leading podcast platform: Growing interest in video podcasts has helped to propel YouTube to overtake Spotify as the most used platform by weekly podcast consumers across major demos.
- Watchable podcasts have grown in popularity: Driven by Podcast Newcomers, more consumers prefer podcasts with video they can actively watch or minimize to listen in the background vs. podcasts that are just audio.
- YouTube is a critical entry point for podcast discovery: $34 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who listened to a new podcast in the past 6 months started listening to their latest podcast on YouTube. This is more than both Spotify and Apple Podcasts combined (33\%).
- YouTube podcast consumers aren't tied to the platform: $77 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who have consumed podcasts on YouTube say they would switch
 platforms from YouTube if a podcast were to become available only on another platform. $54 \%$ of YouTube podcast consumers say they already have listened to the same podcasts they consume on YouTube in another place.

92\% of podcast consumers say they listened to podcasts in the last week; $\mathbf{8 \%}$ say they only watched podcasts

Expanding the definition of the podcast audience to those who "watch" rather than just "listen" increased the podcast universe by $8 \%$


## Podcasts: Who's listening?



## Słudy ferminology and definitions



# Podcast Pioneers spend more time with podcasts and consume more episodes. Podcast Newcomers are younger and more female. 

## State of weekly podcast consumers

## Profile of the $31 \%$ of Americans who are weekly podcast consumers

Heavy podcast listening
\% who listened to 6+ hours
40\%
of total weekly podcast consumers are heavy users

Average weekly time spent with podcasts

Weekly podcast consumers consumed an average of
6.8 hours
of podcasts

Average number of podcast episodes listened to

Weekly podcast consumers tuned into an average of
6.2
podcast episodes in the past week

Average number of podcast shows listened to

On average, weekly podcast consumers listen to

different shows per week

## Weekly podcast consumers: Skew 18-34 and $30 \%$ started listening in the past year



Heavy podcast consumers (6+ hours in past week): Spend 1.9X the time listening than average; Over half are Podcast Pioneers

40\%

of total weekly podcast consumers are heavy podcast consumers


Average weekly time spent with podcasts (hours):
12.9
1.9X greater than podcast consumers

Average number of podcast episodes listened to in the past week:

1.4X greater than podcast consumers

Q: "When did you first start listening to podcasts?"

| $54, \%$ | $26 \% 0$ | $20 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Podcast Pioneers | Podcast | Podcast |
| $(4+$ years ago $)$ | Intermediates | Newcomers |
| (2-3 years ago) | (past year) |  |

How to read: 44\% of heavy podcast consumers (those who listened/watched to 6+ hours of podcasts in the past week) are 18-34.

## Podcast Pioneers (started listening 4+ years ago): Skew male and are heavier podcast consumers than average

## $43 \%$

of total weekly podcast consumers are Podcast Pioneers

\% who are heav
podcast consume
(6+ hours/week)
$+28 \%$ greater than podcast consumers

Average weekly time spent with podcasts (hours):

## 8.6

$+26 \%$ greater than podcast consumers


Average number of podcast episodes listened to in the past week:
7.3
$+18 \%$ greater than podcast consumers

How to read: $59 \%$ of Podcast Pioneers (those who started listening to podcasts 4 or more years ago) are men.

## Podcast Newcomers (starłed listening in past year): More likely to be female and 18-34; 1 in 4 Newcomers are 50+

## $30 \%$

of total weekly podcast consumers are Podcast Newcomers

\% who are heavy podcast consumers (6+ hours/week)

## $27 \%$

$-33 \%$ lower than podcast consumers

$-21 \%$ lower than podcast consumers

How to read: $60 \%$ of Podcast Newcomers (those who started listening to podcasts in the past year) are women.

## Women are more likely to be among Podcast Newcomers

## Q: "When did you first start listening to podcasts?" - gender composition (\%) <br> ■ Male composition (\%) <br> ■ Female composition (\%)



How to read: 55\% of Podcast Intermediates (those who began listening 2-3 years ago) are men.

## Podcast Pioneers listen to more podcasts and spend more time with podcasts versus Podcast Newcomers

Pioneers spend +79\% more time with podcasts than Newcomers

Average time (hours) spent
with podcasts/past week


Pioneers listen to $+49 \%$ more podcast episodes than Newcomers

Average number of podcasts episodes listened to/past week

## 7.3

6.0
4.9

Podcast Intermediates (2-3 years ago)
Podcast Pioneers (4+ years ago)

How to read: Podcast Newcomers spent an average of 4.8 hours with podcasts/past week.

## Once you're in, you're in: Even Podcast Newcomers

 listen to 4 average shows per week| Average number of weekly shows |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (Pioneers 4+ years) | (Intermediates 2-3 years) | (Newcomers <1 year) | (Heavy consumers 6+ hours) |
| $5.6$ | $5.3$ | $4.2$ | 7.5 |



## Podcast Newcomers aren't the only ones finding new podcasts to listen to

Q: "Have you started listening to any new podcasts over the past 3 months?"
(\% who said yes)


How to read: $45 \%$ of Podcast Pioneers have started listening to new podcasts in the past 3 months.

## Podcast consumers mostly listen to podcasts by themselves, even heavy consumers

Q: "Of all the podcast listening you do, what percentage would you say you do by yourself and with others?"

■ By myself ■ With others


Heavy podcast consumers


How to read: Weekly podcast consumers spend $86 \%$ of their time listening by themselves.

## Weekly podcast consumers with children in the household spend more time listening to podcasts with others

Q: "Of all the podcast listening you do, what percentage would you say you do by yourself and with others?"

■ By myself ■ With others

No children in household

Has children in household


How to read: Weekly podcast consumers with children in the household spend $82 \%$ of their time listening by themselves.

## One-third of weekly podcast consumers with children have ever listened to podcasts with their kids

Among weekly podcast consumers with children in household

Podcast co-listening:
Ever listened with children

## $36 \%$

of weekly podcas $\dagger$ consumers with children say they have ever listened to podcasts with their children

Those with children listen frequently with their children

## $16 \%$

of weekly podcast consumers with children say they listen to podcasts with their children "frequently"

More disruption in podcast platform wars: Podcast Newcomers are helping to propel growth of video podcasts and YouTube as a podcast plafform.

## YouTube as a podcast plafform has been growing since 2019

\% of weekly podcast consumers who use platform the most for podcast consumption
$\square$ YouTube $\quad$ Spotify $\quad$ Apple Podcasts


* April 2022, October 2022 and April 2023 surveys include those who watch podcasts weekly in addition to weekly listening ( $8 \%$ of sample).

How to read: $29 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers used YouTube the most in April 2023. The big three make up $62 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers' most used platforms in April 2023.

[^1]
## Triton Digiłal: YouTube grows as mosł used platform over the past year while Spotify softens

|  | Q: "Which of the following places do you use the most to access the podcasts you listen to?" <br> (\% of weekly podcast consumers, Triton Digital Podcast Metrics Demost) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Q1 2022 | Q2 2022 | Q3 2022 | Q4 2022 | Q1 2023 |
| YouTube | 27\% | 28\% | 26\% | 28\% | 29\% |
| Spotify | 27\% | 25\% | 27\% | 26\% | 22\% |
| Apple Podcasts/iTunes | 19\% | 16\% | 14\% | 15\% | 16\% |

How to read: 29\% of weekly podcast consumers in the Triton Digital Podcast Metrics Demos+ study from Q1 2023 used YouTube the most to access podcasts.

## A tale of two studies: Weekly podcast consumers use YouTube and Spotify most often

\% of weekly podcast consumers who use platform the most for podcast consumption

Cumulus Media and Signal Hill Insights'
Podcast Download - April 2023
YouTube $\quad 29 \%$

| Spotify | $\mathbf{1 7 \%}$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Apple <br> Podcasts | $16 \%$ |

Triton Digital Podcast Metrics Demos+
Q1 2023

## YouTube <br> $29 \%$

Spotify

$22 \%$

## Apple Podcasts <br> $16 \%$

## YouTube is the \#1 most used platform among consumers regardless of tenure or heavy use

\% of weekly podcast consumers who use platform the most for podcast consumption

Podcast Newcomers (started listening/past year)

Spotify $20 \%$


Apple Podcasts

Podcast Pioneers
(started listening 4+ years ago)


## Apple Podcasts $20 \%$



Heavy podcast consumers
(6+ hours in past week)

## YouTube $31 \%$

## Spotify $21 \%$

 Podcasts

How to read: $30 \%$ of Podcast Newcomers use YouTube the most to access podcasts.

## Since 2019, YouTube and Spotify have been growing among Podcasł Newcomers at the expense of Apple Podcasts

\% of Podcast Newcomers who use platform the most for podcast consumption

$\square$ YouTube ■Spotify $\quad$ Apple Podcasts


* April 2022, October 2022 and April 2023 surveys include those who watch podcasts weekly in addition to weekly listening ( $8 \%$ of sample).

How to read: 30\% of Podcast Newcomers (started listening/past year) used YouTube the most in April 2023.

## Spotify skews young, Apple skews female, and YouTube leans male (61\%)

|  | Q: "Which of the following places do you use the most to access the podcasts you listen to?" |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Tołal weekly U.S podcast consumers | \% of weekly podcast consumers, by most used |  |  |
|  |  | YouTube | Spotify | Apple Podcasts |
| 18-34 | 40\% | 40\% | 58\% | 38\% |
| 35-49 | 30\% | 26\% | 27\% | 38\% |
| 50+ | 30\% | 34\% | 15\% | 25\% |
| Mean age | 41.9 | 42.3 | 37.2 | 41.0 |
| \% male | 52\% | $61 \%$ | 50\% | 39\% |
| \% female | 48\% | 39\% | 50\% | 61\% |
| \% non-binary | <1\% | - | - | - |
| Podcast Newcomers | 30\% | $31 \%$ | 36\% | 19\% |
| Podcast Intermediates | 27\% | 29\% | 25\% | 26\% |
| Podcast Pioneers | 43\% | 40\% | 39\% | 55\% |

How to read: $61 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who use YouTube the most to listen to podcasts are male.

## YouTube is \#1 for podcast discovery

\% of weekly podcast consumers who listened to a new podcast in past 6 months who used place/app start listening to their latest podcast
YouTube ..... $34 \%$
SpotifyApple Podcasts$18 \%$
How to read: $34 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who listened to a new podcast in the past 6 months, started listening to their latest podcast on YouTube.

## Weekly podcast consumers stick with YouTube for the video element, recommendations, comments, community, and platform features

Q: "For the podcasts you started on YouTube, why do you continue to watch/listen to any/all of them on YouTube?" (\% of weekly podcast consumers)


How to read: $19 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers continue to watch/listen to podcasts they started on YouTube because they like the video part of the podcasts.

# Content wears the crown: YouTube podcast consumers are not tied to the plafform. 

## More than half of YouTube podcast consumers listen to the same shows on other plafforms

Q: "Again, think about all of the podcasts you listen to/watch on YouTube. Do you ever listen to the same podcasts in another place?"
(\% who have listened to/watched podcasts on YouTube)


How to read: $54 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who have listened to/watched podcasts on YouTube say they have listened to the same podcasts they listen to/watch on YouTube in another place.

## Utility is the main reason podcast consumers listen to the same podcasts on platforms in addition to YouTube

## Q: "Why do you listen to these podcasts somewhere other than YouTube?" <br> (\% of weekly podcast consumers)



How to read: $17 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers listen to the same podcasts they watch on YouTube on other platforms because they are listening while in a vehicle.

## YouTube podcast consumers will switch platforms to follow their shows

Q: "Think of the podcast you access most often on YouTube. If that podcast were to become available ONLY on another platform (such as Spotify or Apple Podcasts), which best describes how your relationship with that podcast
would change?"
(\% who have listened to/watched podcasts on YouTube)


I would use the new platform to listen to that podcast

## 23\%

I would stop listening to/watching that podcast and find other content on YouTube

How to read: $77 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who have listened to/watched podcasts on YouTube say they would switch platforms from YouTube if a podcast were to become available only on another platform.

## Podcast watching is a growing segment of podcast consumption.

## Watchable podcasts are growing in popularity; 1 in 3 now say they prefer actively watching podcasts with videos

## Q: "How do you prefer to listen to podcasts?" <br> Podcast audience preference in listening

October 2022
April 2023


## Advertiser Perceptions: Podcast consumers prefer podcasts with video components slightly more than advertisers believe

Podcast audience preference in listening
Q: "How do you prefer to listen to podcasts?"

Advertiser Perceptions: Podcast audience preference in listening Q: Of the following three options, what percentage of the podcast audience do you think prefer listening to podcasts in the following ways?


## Podcast consumers like video components but it is not the deciding factor; Consumers will also listen without actively watching

Average \% of time spent accessing podcasts on YouTube

## 58\%

Watching the video while listening

42\%
Listening to the audio
without watching

## Podcast Newcomers are more interested in watchable podcasts

Q: "How do you prefer to listen to podcasts?"


How to read: $45 \%$ of Podcast Pioneers prefer audio-only podcasts.

## Heavy podcast consumers like podcasts with video components

## Q: "How do you prefer to listen to podcasts?"



How to read: $33 \%$ of heavy podcast consumers prefer audio-only podcasts.

## Preference for watchable video is a key driver in plafform used most: YouTube is

 a runaway \#1 among podcast consumers who prefer video\% of weekly podcast consumers who use platform the most for podcast consumption

Among people who prefer podcasts with audio only (39\% of total weekly consumers)

Apple Podcasts $27 \%$

## Spotify 19\%

$10 \%$

Among people who prefer podcasts with video you actively watch or minimize/listen in background ( $61 \%$ of total weekly consumers)

YouTube
$41 \%$

## Spotify $16 \%$

## 8\% <br> Apple Podcasts

How to read: $41 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who prefer podcasts with video name YouTube as the podcast platform they use the most.

## Podcast consumers who watch video podcasts often have eyes on the screen with over 6 in 10 looking at the screen at least some of the time, even during ads

## Q: "How would you describe how often your eyes are on the screen (e.g., phone screen, laptop screen, TV screen) while the podcast episode is playing?" (\% of weekly podcast consumers who watch podcasts) <br> ■ During the episode <br> - During the ad



How to read: $40 \%$ of podcast consumers who watch podcasts say they keep their eyes on the screen most of time while watching an episode.

## Year over year, podcast watchers are increasing their time spent with eyes on the screen

|  | Q: "Since you watched a podcast before, how would you describe how often your eyes are on the screen (e.g., phone screen, laptop screen, TV screen) while the podcast episode is playing?" <br> (\% of weekly podcast consumers who watch podcasts) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | April 2022 | April 2023 |
| Eyes on the screen the whole time | 11\% | 15\% |
| Eyes on the screen most of the time | 39\% | 40\% |
| Eyes on the screen some of the time | 34\% | 25\% |
| Glancing occasionally | 15\% | 12\% |
| Not watching at all | 1\% | 7\% |

How to read: In April 2023, 15\% of weekly podcast consumers who watch podcasts say they have their eyes on the screen the whole time while watching podcasts.

## Podcast video ads are seen more: TV ads aren'ł seen $61 \%$ of the time

## \% of time TV ads are airing

Eyes on the screen $39 \%$

Eyes on a second screen $40 \%$

Out of the room
$21 \%$

## Weekly podcast consumers overwhelmingly associate YouTube with watching podcasts

Q: "Please identify which podcast platform or platforms, if any, you would associate with each of the following? Can watch as well as listen to podcasts."
(\% of total weekly consumers)


How to read: $59 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers associate YouTube with watching as well as listening to podcasts.

# Podcast watchers skew younger and more male than those who prefer audio only. 

(Podcast watchers are podcast consumers who have watched podcasts with a video component in the past week.)

## Podcast watchers are more likely to be heavy podcast consumers

|  | Q: "How do you preier to listen to podcasts" |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total weekly U.S. podcast consumers | \% of weekly podc ast consumers, by preference |  |  |
|  |  | Audio only without any video | Video you actively watch | Video you minimize/listen in background |
| Heavy podcast consumers (6+ hours/week) | 40\% | 35\% | 43\% | 45\% |
| Average weekly time spent with podcasts (hours): | 6.8 | 5.8 | 7.0 | 7.9 |
| Average number of podcast episodes listened to in the pas week: | 6.2 | 6.7 | 5.6 | 6.3 |

How to read: $35 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who prefer audio-only podcasts are heavy podcast consumers.

## The profile of those who actively watch podcast videos aligns with total podcast consumers

|  | Q: "How do you prefer to listen to podcasts?" |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total weekly u.S. <br> podcast <br> consumers | \% of weekly podcast consumers, by preference |  |  |
|  | Audio only without any <br> video | Video you actively watch | Video you minimize/listen <br> in background |  |
| $18-34$ | $40 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $40 \%$ | $48 \%$ |
| $35-49$ | $30 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $29 \%$ |
| $50+$ | $30 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $23 \%$ |
| Mean age | 41.9 | 42.9 | 43.0 | 38.7 |
| \% male | $52 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $60 \%$ | $50 \%$ |
| \% female | $48 \%$ | $53 \%$ | $40 \%$ | $50 \%$ |
| \% non-binary | $<1 \%$ | $1 \%$ | - | - |
| Podcast Newcomers | $30 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $38 \%$ | $26 \%$ |
| Podcast Intermediates | $27 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $28 \%$ |
| Podcast Pioneers | $43 \%$ | $49 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $45 \%$ |

How to read: $53 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who prefer audio-only podcasts are female.

Consumers who prefer watchable podcasts are more likely to say they like to listen to Music and Health/Fitness podcasts than the audio-only consumers who lean towards True Crime

|  | Q: Which types of podcasts do you like to listen to on a regular basis? |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rank | Prefer audio only | Prefer actively watching videos | Prefer videos in the <br> background |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | News/Current Events | News/Current Events | Comedy |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Comedy | Music | News/Current Events |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | True Crime | Comedy | Music |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Entertainment/Pop Culture | Entertainment/Pop Culture | Entertainment/Pop Culture |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Sports | Sports | Sports |
| $\mathbf{6}$ | Business | Technology | Technology |
| $\mathbf{7}$ | Education | Health/Fitness | Health/Fitness |
| $\mathbf{8}$ | Music | True Crime | True Crime |
| $\mathbf{9}$ | Technology | Business | Education |
| $\mathbf{1 0}$ | Health/Fitness | Education | Business |
| $\mathbf{1 1}$ | Fiction | Fiction | Fiction |
| $\mathbf{1 2}$ | Kids/family | Kids/family | Kids/family |
| $\mathbf{1 3}$ | Rewatch podcasts | Rewatch podcasts | Rewatch podcasts |

How to read: News/Current Events is the top genre listened to on a regular basis for weekly podcast consumers who prefer audio.

## Triton Digital: The influence of video is reflected in genre listening among primary users of each platform; True Crime is strongest among Apple and Spotify users and Music is strongest among YouTube users.

| Genres listened to in past month, by platforms used most <br> (Triton Digital Podcast Metrics Demos+ Apr'22 - Mar '23) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Apple Podcasts | YouTube | Spotify |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Comedy (35\%) | Cociety \& Culture (31\%) | News (22\%) |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | News (25\%) | Society \& Culture (19\%) | Cociety \& Culture (25\%) |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | True Crime (22\%) | Sports (15\%) | True Crime (21\%) |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Sports (16\%) | Music (11\%) | News (21\%) |
| $\mathbf{6}$ | Business (15\%) | True Crime (11\%) | Educats (15\%) |
| $\mathbf{7}$ | Health \& Fitness (12\%) | Education (9\%) | Business (10\%) |
| $\mathbf{8}$ | Religion \& Spirituality (11\%) | Religion \& Spirituality (9\%) | Health \& Fitness (10\%) |
| $\mathbf{9}$ | Education (11\%) | Business (9\%) | Arts (9\%) |
| $\mathbf{1 0}$ | Arts (10\%) | Health \& Fitness (8\%) | TV \& Film (8\%) |
| $\mathbf{1 1}$ | TV \& Film (10\%) | TV \& Film (6\%) | Music (8\%) |
| $\mathbf{1 2}$ | History (7\%) | Arts (6\%) | Religion \& Spirituality (9\%) |

[^2]Podcast consumers seek ouł opportunities like events and social media to interact with their favorite podcasts.

## Half of weekly podcast consumers follow a favorite host on social media

Q: "Do you follow any of your favorite podcast hosts on social media?"
(\% of total weekly podcast consumers)


Q: "On which social media do you follow your favorite podcast hosts?"- leading platforms only
(\% who follow hosts on social media)


How to read: $52 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who follow hosts said they follow them on Instagram.

## 4 in 10 podcast consumers say they are likely to attend live in-person podcast events in next 6 months; Half would attend virtual events

Q: "How likely would you be to attend a live event for your favorite podcast in the next six months?


How to read: $25 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers are very likely to attend a live virtual event for their favorite podcast in the next six months.

## 1 in 3 heavy podcast consumers are paid subscribers of a podcast

Q: "Are you a paid subscriber of any podcasts?"
(\% of respondents who said yes) - April 2023


How to read: $33 \%$ of heavy podcast consumers say they are a paid subscriber of a podcast.

## When asked what would influence their decision to pay for podcasts, twice as many consumers choose exclusive content over an ad-free experience

Q: "Which one of the following features, if any, would influence your decision to pay for podcasts the most?" (\% of total weekly podcast consumers)


How to read: $34 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers said exclusive original content would most influence their decision to pay for podcasts.

## Extra content leads the list of exclusive benefits podcast consumers say they would pay for in a subscription, followed by the chance to interact with hosts

Q: "If your favorite podcast offered a subscription option which provided exclusive benefits for a monthly fee, which of the following would you be willing to pay for?" (\% of total weekly podcast consumers)


[^3]
## Podcast advertising is a great

 way to reach the ad-free video streaming audiences of Netilix, Amazon Prime, and Disney+.Average \% of time spent watching video (TV, streaming, etc.) among total weekly podcast consumers

## Podcast consumers spend nearly half of all viewing time with ad-free video

## Heavy podcast consumers are particularly massive users of ad-free video streaming

$+47 \%$ more likely to be a heavy ad-free TV streamer

Watch 11+ hours in past week
Spend $+24 \%$ more time with ad-free TV streaming services
Average weekly time spent with ad-free TV streaming services


Total weekly podcast consumers
Heavy podcast consumers ( $6+$ hrs/week)
How to read: $22 \%$ of heavy weekly podcast consumers are heavy ad-free TV streaming viewers (watch $11+$ hours of TV programs using a streaming service).

## Podcasts reach cord cutters: A third of weekly podcast consumers do not subscribe to pay TV

Q: "Which one of the following statements best describes how you currently get your TV:"
(\% of total weekly podcast consumers)

I don'ł have a subscription with any pay TV company
$33 \%$

I have a subscription with a cable company $35 \%$

## $18 \%$ I have a subscription with a satellite TV service

## $14 \%$

I have a subscription with a TV service from a phone company

How to read: $33 \%$ weekly podcast consumers don't have a subscription with any pay TV company.

## Weekly podcast consumers are avid users of video streaming services

Q: "When is the most recent time, if ever, you spent time doing the following types of activities?"
(\% of total weekly podcast consumers)

Used a video streaming service in the past month

Used an ad-free video streaming service in the past month

## $90 \%$

Used an ad-supported video streaming service in the past month

## 84\%

How to read: $90 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers used An ad-free streaming service in the past month.

## 3 of the top 4 video streaming services watched by weekly podcast consumers are mosily ad free

Q: "When is the most recent time, if ever, you used the following streaming services on any device?"
(\% of total weekly podcast consumers)
Streaming services used in the past month


## Podcast advertising reaches heavy users of ad-free subscription video

Among weekly podcast consumers

Ideal medium for reaching ad-free streaming audiences

of weekly podcast consumers used an adfree video streaming service in the past month

Strong TV streaming tune-in

## $66 \%$

of weekly podcast consumers spend at least 3 hours per week watching TV programs via ad-free streaming services

Reach cord-cutters and linear TV "ad-nevers"

## $33 \%$


of weekly podcast consumers do not have pay TV to see network or cable TV ads

Advertiser Perceptions June 2023 study of 302 media agencies and marketers: Podcast advertising consideration, intention, and usage are high.

## Advertiser Perceptions <br> Agency/advertiser interest is significant at every stage of the podcast ad purchase funnel

## Among agencies and brands

## 77\%

Have discussed podcast advertising for potential
media investment

62\%
Definitely would consider advertising in podcasts in the next six months

58\%
Definitely would advertise in podcasts in the coming six months

58\%
Currently advertise in podcasts

## Advertiser Perceptions: Advertiser discussion, intention, and usage of podcast continue to be high

| Advertiser Perceptions | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Sept } \\ & 2015 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 2016 \end{gathered}$ | May $2017$ | May $2018$ | May $2019$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 2020 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nov } \\ & 2021 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 2023 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Have you and your colleagues discussed podcast advertising for potential media investment? | 41\% | 58\% | 68\% | 70\% | 75\% | 66\% | 71\% | 87\% | 77\% |  |
| How likely are you to consider advertising in podcasts in the next six months? | 18\% | 28\% | 37\% | 43\% | 42\% | 46\% | 53\% | 51\% | 62\% |  |
| How likely are you to actually advertise in podcasts in the coming six months? | 10\% | 21\% | 27\% | 36\% | 34\% | 37\% | 44\% | 48\% | 58\% |  |
| Do you currently advertise in podcasts? | 15\% | 21\% | 29\% | 32\% | 39\% | 34\% | 45\% | 61\% | 58\% |  |

Podcast consumers remain uniquely receptive to podcast ads, less likely to avoid them than other digital media ads. Host-read ads are especially popular, yet there is an opportunity for more fun and entertaining ads.

## Ad łolerance remains stable going back to July 2017

Q: "How many ads would you consider to be appropriate for podcasts of the following lengths?" Average accepted ad occasions per podcast - by podcast length (Among total weekly podcast consumers)

- 30-minute podcast
- 60-minute podcast


July 2017 July 2018 July 2019 July $2020 \begin{array}{ccc}\text { March } & \text { October } & \text { April 2022* } \\ & 2021 & 2021\end{array}$

* April 2022, October 2022 and April 2023 surveys include those who watch podcasts weekly in addition to weekly listening (8\% of sample).

How to read: In July 2017, for a 60-minute podcast, weekly podcast consumers would consider an average of 3.6 ads per podcast to be appropriate, compared to 3.7 ads per podcast in April 2023.

## More than half of weekly podcast consumers prefer host-read ads and ads voiced by someone other than the host vs. pre-produced ads

Q: "Given a choice between hearing these three types of ads on podcasts, which would you prefer?" (\% of total weekly podcast consumers)


How to read: Given a choice, $57 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers would prefer to hear an ad voiced by the show's host or someone other than the host.

## Weekly podcast consumers love it when hosts have fun with host-read ads

Q: "Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below:" (\% who answered "strongly agree" or "somewhat agree" to each statement)

- April 2023

■ Total weekly podcast listeners
■ Heavy podcast listeners (6+ hrs/week)


Source: Cumulus Media and Signal Hill Insights' Podcast Download - Spring 2023 Report, Cumulus Media, MARU/Matchbox National

## Creative opportunity: Podcast consumers prefer funny and entertaining podcast ads but hear more ads that communicate features/benefits

Podcast ads consumers want to hear vs. podcast ads consumers actually hear

Q: "Please indicate how interested you would be in hearing:"
(\% who answered "very" or "somewhat")

- April 2023


Podcast ads that are funny


Podcast ads that are entertaining


Podcast ads that communicate features/benefits of products/ services


Podcast ad that tell an interesting story abou $\dagger$ brands

Q: "Thinking about the time you spend with podcasts, how often do you hear:" (\% who answered "frequently" or "occasionally ") - April 2023


## Entertain for emotional gain

"Embrace the idea that advertising is at least as much showmanship as it is salesmanship. It is time to rediscover the fact that advertising builds brands best when it is entertaining, popular and memorable, when it is not just a pitch, but a performance."

Paul Feldwick
Why Does The Pedlar Sing? What Creativity Really Means In Advertising
"The buying of time or space is not the taking out of a hunting license on someone's private preserve, but it is the renting of a stage on which we may perform."

Howard Luck Gossage, advertising visionary frequently referred to as "The Socrates of San Francisco"

The majority of podcast consumers listen to a podcast episode within 24 hours of release.

Nearly three-fourths of weekly podcast consumers and over four-fifths of heavy podcast consumers listen to new episodes within 24 hours

Q: "Thinking about your favorite podcasts, which of the following describes how you listen?"


How to read: $20 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers selected "I listen to the podcast immediately after it is released."

## Key fakeaways

- The longer you have been listening to podcasts, the more podcasts you consume: Average weekly time spent with podcasts and the average number of podcast shows and episodes listened to increases as podcast consumer tenure increases.
- Podcast advertising captures hard-to-reach, ad-free video streamers: Weekly podcast consumers are also heavy viewers of ad-free video streaming services.
- Podcast consumers want more content: Most weekly consumers follow hosts on social media and plan to attend live podcast events. When considering paid subscriptions, they value exclusive content/access ahead of an ad-free experience.
- Advertiser use of podcast ads continues to grow at a breakneck pace: In the Advertiser Perceptions study, advertisers say their use of podcasts has jumped from $15 \%$ to $58 \%$ in the past eight years.

- Funny and entertaining ads offer a creative opportunity: While podcast consumers remain highly receptive to podcast ads, they prefer funny and entertaining podcast ads in contrast to the more rational podcast ads they currently hear most often.


## Key fakeaways: Watchable podcasts

- YouTube is the leading podcast platform: Growing interest in video podcasts has helped to propel YouTube to overtake Spotify as the most used platform by weekly podcast consumers across major demos.
- Watchable podcasts have grown in popularity: Driven by Podcast Newcomers, more consumers prefer podcasts with video they can actively watch or minimize to listen in the background vs. podcasts that are just audio.
- YouTube is a critical entry point for podcast discovery: $34 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who listened to a new podcast in the past 6 months started listening to their latest podcast on YouTube. This is more than both Spotify and Apple Podcasts combined (33\%).
- YouTube podcast consumers aren't tied to the platform: $77 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers who have consumed podcasts on YouTube say they would switch
 platforms from YouTube if a podcast were to become available only on another platform. $54 \%$ of YouTube podcast consumers say they already have listened to the same podcasts they consume on YouTube in another place.


## Recommendations

- Podcasters and publishers should contemplate the inclusion of video in their podcast planning: As podcast listening grows, it picks up new consumers who use YouTube as their one-stop entertainment/information destination. Spotify and Apple's recently expanded access to video provides more choice for consumers. Even audio-only podcasts should consider video trailers as a tool to drive discovery to their audio feeds.
- Consider YouTube: Even audio-only podcasts should consider using YouTube as a distribution and discovery platform. People often use YouTube to listen while not actively watching the video portion. The audio feed from a podcast can be posted with just a background instead of a full video to reach additional consumers on YouTube.
- Capitalize on consumers' deep engagement with their must-listen podcasts: Paid subscriptions could have advertising. Podcast consumers are in it for the content. Exclusive content (e.g., bonus episodes, extended episodes, early release) is a bigger driver than ad-free content.
- Advertisers can use podcasts to reclaim consumers lost to ad-free video streaming: As an ondemand medium, podcasts deliver heavy viewers of ad-free video streaming. $90 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers say they have watched an ad-free video streaming service in the past month.


# (C.) $\begin{gathered}\text { poocast Nerwork } \\ \text { cumulu } \\ \text { hnsighs }\end{gathered}$ <br> <br> Thank You 

 <br> <br> Thank You}

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Appendix

## Edison's "Share of Ear": Average daily reach among persons 18-49 up 4X from 2016

\% of 18-49 Americans reached daily on average by podcasts


## Profile of weekly podcast consumers

|  | \% of respondents - October 2022 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total <br> (weekly <br> consumercs) | Persons <br> $18-34$ | Persons <br> $35-49$ | Persons <br> $50+$ | Men | Women |  |  |
| Mean age | 41.9 | 27.5 | 41.4 | 61.6 | 41.7 | 42.1 |  |  |
| Men | $52 \%$ | $54 \%$ | $56 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $100 \%$ | - |  |  |
| Women | $48 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $44 \%$ | $54 \%$ | - | $100 \%$ |  |  |
| Podcast Pioneers | $43 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $55 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $49 \%$ | $37 \%$ |  |  |
| Podcast Intermediates | $27 \%$ | $27 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $26 \%$ |  |  |
| Podcast Newcomers | $30 \%$ | $41 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $27 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $38 \%$ |  |  |
| Apple mobile owner | $49 \%$ | $60 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $36 \%$ | $48 \%$ | $49 \%$ |  |  |
| Android mobile owner | $49 \%$ | $38 \%$ | $54 \%$ | $57 \%$ | $49 \%$ | $48 \%$ |  |  |

How to read: $49 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers are Apple mobile owners.

## YouTube dominates as most used platform

|  | Q: "Which of the following places do you use the most to access the podcasts you listen to?" (\% of respondents) - April 2023 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Tołal <br> (weekly podcast consumers) | Heavy podcast consumers (6+ hrs/week) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Persons } \\ 18-34 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Persons } \\ & 35-49 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Persons } \\ 50+ \end{gathered}$ | Men | Women | Podcast Pioneers (4+ years ago) | Podcast Newcomers (past year) |
| YouTube | 29\% | 31\% | 29\% | 24\% | 33\% | 34\% | 23\% | 27\% | 30\% |
| Spotify | 17\% | 21\% | 25\% | 15\% | 8\% | 16\% | 18\% | 15\% | 20\% |
| Apple Podcasts/iTunes | 16\% | 12\% | 15\% | 19\% | 13\% | 12\% | 20\% | 20\% | 10\% |
| Facebook | 5\% | 4\% | 8\% | 2\% | $3 \%$ | 5\% | 5\% | 2\% | 9\% |
| Google Podcasts | 5\% | 7\% | 5\% | 8\% | 4\% | 6\% | 5\% | 5\% | 6\% |
| Amazon Music/Audible | 4\% | 3\% | 2\% | 4\% | 7\% | 4\% | 4\% | 5\% | 4\% |
| iHeartRadio | 2\% | 2\% | 1\% | 5\% | 1\% | 1\% | 3\% | 2\% | 1\% |
| Pandora | 2\% | 2\% | 2\% | 1\% | 2\% | 3\% | 0\% | 1\% | 2\% |
| App/website of a specific radio station | 2\% | 3\% | 1\% | 2\% | 3\% | 2\% | 2\% | $3 \%$ | 1\% |
| Site/app of the people who produced the podcast | 2\% | 0\% | 0\% | 2\% | 5\% | 1\% | 3\% | 1\% | 2\% |
| Audacy | 1\% | 1\% | 2\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 2\% | 1\% |
| NPR One | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 2\% | 2\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% |
| Overcast | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% | 0\% |
| Pocket Casts | 1\% | 1\% | 0\% | 2\% | 0\% | 1\% | 0\% | 2\% | 0\% |
| Podcast Addict | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% | 2\% | 0\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% |
| Soundcloud | 1\% | 2\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% |
| Twitter | 1\% | 1\% | 2\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% |
| Castbox | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 1\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% |
| Luminary | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 1\% |
| RadioPublic | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% |
| Spreaker | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% |
| Stitcher | 0\% | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% | 1\% |
| Tuneln | 0\% | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% | 0\% |

How to read: $27 \%$ of Podcast Pioneers use YouTube the most to access podcasts.
Source: Cumulus Media and Signal Hill Insights' Podcast Download - Spring 2023 Report, Cumulus Media, MARU/Matchbox National Study -
April 2023; Q: "Which of the following places do you use the most to access the podcasts you listen to?" Apple Podcasts defined as
iTunes/Apple Podcasts; Google Podcasts defined as Google Play/Google Podcasts

## Facebook is tied as the 4th most used place for accessing podcasts the most among weekly podcast consumers despite no longer having a dedicałed podcast channel

| Top 10 places listed | Q: "Which of the following places do you use the most to access the podcasts you listen to?" (\% of respondents) - April 2023 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Heavy } \\ & \text { podcast } \\ & \text { consumers } \\ & \text { (6+ hrs/week) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Persons } \\ 18-34 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Persons } \\ 35-49 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Persons } \\ & 50+ \end{aligned}$ | Men | Women | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Podcast } \\ & \text { Pioneers } \\ & \text { (4+ yeacrs ago) } \end{aligned}$ | Podcast Newcomers (past year) |
| YouTube | 29\% | $31 \%$ | 29\% | 24\% | 33\% | 34\% | 23\% | 27\% | 30\% |
| Spotify | 17\% | 21\% | 25\% | 15\% | 8\% | 16\% | 18\% | 15\% | 20\% |
| Apple Podcasts/iTunes | 16\% | 12\% | 15\% | 19\% | 13\% | 12\% | 20\% | 20\% | 10\% |
| Facebook | 5\% | 4\% | 8\% | $2 \%$ | $3 \%$ | 5\% | 5\% | $2 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
| Google Podcasts | 5\% | 7\% | 5\% | 8\% | 4\% | 6\% | 5\% | 5\% | 6\% |
| Amazon Music/Audible | 4\% | 3\% | 2\% | 4\% | 7\% | 4\% | 4\% | 5\% | 4\% |
| iHeartRadio | $2 \%$ | 2\% | 1\% | 5\% | 1\% | 1\% | 3\% | $2 \%$ | 1\% |
| Pandora | $2 \%$ | $2 \%$ | 2\% | 1\% | 2\% | 3\% | 0\% | 1\% | 2\% |
| App/website of a specific radio station | $2 \%$ | 3\% | 1\% | 2\% | 3\% | $2 \%$ | 2\% | $3 \%$ | 1\% |
| Site/app of the people who produced the podcast | $2 \%$ | 0\% | 0\% | $2 \%$ | 5\% | 1\% | 3\% | 1\% | 2\% |

How to read: $27 \%$ of Podcast Pioneers use YouTube the most to access podcasts.

## YouTube is consistently the most used plafform for all age demos

Q: "Which of the following places do you use the most to access the podcasts you listen to?"
(\% of respondents) - April 2023

|  | Total <br> (weekly podcast <br> consumers) | Persons <br> $18-34$ | Persons <br> $35-49$ | Persons <br> $50+$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| YouTube | $29 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $33 \%$ |
| Spotify | $17 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $8 \%$ |
| Apple <br> Podcasts/iTunes | $16 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $13 \%$ |

How to read: $29 \%$ of persons 18-34 use YouTube the most to access podcasts.

## YouTube leads Spoiify and Apple for frequently accessed podcast platforms

|  | Q: "How frequently do you use each of the following places to access the podcasts you listen to?" (\% who answered "Frequently") - April 2023 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total (weekly podcast consumers) | Heavy podcast consumers <br> (6+ hrs/week) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Persons } \\ & \text { 18-34 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Persons } \\ & 35-49 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Persons } \\ 50+ \end{gathered}$ | Men | Women | Podcast Pioneers (4+ years ago) | Podcast Newcomers (past year) |
| YouTube | 50\% | 60\% | 56\% | 46\% | 45\% | 57\% | 41\% | 45\% | 54\% |
| Spotify | 34\% | 43\% | 48\% | 37\% | 13\% | 38\% | 29\% | 31\% | 39\% |
| Apple Podcasts/iTunes | 27\% | 29\% | 32\% | 30\% | 18\% | 27\% | 27\% | 29\% | 21\% |
| Facebook | 19\% | 24\% | 29\% | 15\% | 10\% | 23\% | 15\% | 11\% | 24\% |
| Amazon Music/Audible | 18\% | 23\% | 22\% | 17\% | 12\% | 20\% | 15\% | 16\% | 22\% |
| Google Podcasts | 18\% | 24\% | 22\% | 21\% | 10\% | 23\% | 13\% | 16\% | 22\% |
| Site/app of the people who produced the podcast | 15\% | 15\% | 19\% | 11\% | 14\% | 16\% | 14\% | 10\% | 19\% |
| iHeartRadio | 14\% | 20\% | 17\% | 18\% | 7\% | 16\% | 13\% | 10\% | 20\% |
| Pandora | 13\% | 21\% | 17\% | 16\% | 4\% | 18\% | 8\% | 10\% | 15\% |
| Twitter | 12\% | 17\% | 21\% | 9\% | 3\% | 15\% | 9\% | 8\% | 14\% |
| App/website of a specific radio station | 12\% | 16\% | 16\% | 12\% | 8\% | 13\% | 12\% | 10\% | 15\% |
| NPR One | 9\% | 11\% | 13\% | 8\% | 5\% | 11\% | 6\% | 6\% | 11\% |
| Soundcloud | 9\% | 13\% | 16\% | 8\% | 2\% | 10\% | 8\% | 4\% | 14\% |
| Podcast Addict | 8\% | 12\% | 16\% | 5\% | 0\% | 9\% | 7\% | 5\% | 13\% |
| RadioPublic | 8\% | 11\% | 14\% | 4\% | 4\% | 11\% | 6\% | 5\% | 11\% |
| Spreaker | 8\% | 9\% | 15\% | 4\% | 2\% | 9\% | 7\% | 3\% | 16\% |
| Audacy | 7\% | 9\% | 14\% | 3\% | 1\% | 9\% | 4\% | 5\% | 11\% |
| Overcast | 7\% | 7\% | 14\% | 3\% | 2\% | 8\% | 6\% | 2\% | 13\% |
| Pocket Casts | 7\% | 8\% | 13\% | 4\% | 1\% | 7\% | 6\% | 3\% | 14\% |
| Stitcher | 6\% | 9\% | 12\% | 3\% | 0\% | 8\% | 4\% | 3\% | 10\% |
| Tuneln | 6\% | 9\% | 11\% | 5\% | 2\% | 8\% | 5\% | 3\% | 12\% |
| Luminary | 5\% | 7\% | 12\% | 1\% | 1\% | 7\% | $3 \%$ | 2\% | 9\% |
| Castbox | 4\% | 5\% | 7\% | 4\% | 0\% | 4\% | 3\% | 2\% | 8\% |

How to read: $50 \%$ of total weekly podcast consumers frequently access podcasts through YouTube.
Source: Cumulus Media and Signal Hill Insights' Podcast Download - Spring 2023 Report, Cumulus Media, MARU/Matchbox National Study -
April 2023; Q: "How frequently do you use each of the following places to access the podcasts you listen to?" Apple Podcasts defined as
iTunes/Apple Podcasts; Google Podcasts defined as Google Play/Google Podcasts

## YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter are all in the top ten platforms podcast consumers frequently use to access podcasts

Q: "How frequently do you use each of the following places to access the podcasts you listen to?"
(\% who answered "Frequently") - April 2023

| Top 10 places listed | Total <br> (weekly poccast <br> consumers) | Heavy podcast <br> consumers <br> (6+ hrs/week) | Persons <br> $18-34$ | Persons <br> $35-49$ | Persons <br> $50+$ | Men | Women | Podcast <br> Pioneers <br> (4+ years ago) | Podcast <br> Newcomers <br> (pastyear) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| YouTube | $50 \%$ | $60 \%$ | $56 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $57 \%$ | $41 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $54 \%$ |
| Spotify | $34 \%$ | $43 \%$ | $48 \%$ | $37 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $38 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $31 \%$ | $39 \%$ |
| Apple Podcasts/iTunes | $27 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $27 \%$ | $27 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $21 \%$ |
| Facebook | $19 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $24 \%$ |
| Amazon Music/Audible | $18 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $22 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $12 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $22 \%$ |
| Google Podcasts | $18 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $22 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $22 \%$ |
| Site/app of the people who produced <br> the podcast | $15 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $19 \%$ |
| iHeartRadio | $14 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $20 \%$ |
| Pandora | $13 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| Twitter | $12 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $14 \%$ |

How to read: $50 \%$ of total weekly podcast consumers frequently access podcasts through YouTube.
Source: Cumulus Media and Signal Hill Insights' Podcast Download - Spring 2023 Report, Cumulus Media, MARU/Matchbox National Study -
April 2023; Q: "How frequently do you use each of the following places to access the podcasts you listen to?" Apple Podcasts defined as
iTunes/Apple Podcasts; Google Podcasts defined as Google Play/Google Podcasts

## iPhone owners most often use Apple Podcasts; Android owners most often use YouTube

|  | Q: "Which of the following places do you use the most to access the podcasts you listen to?" (\% of respondents) - April 2023 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total (weekly podcast consumers) | iPhone owners | Android mobile phone owners |
| YouTube | 29\% | 23\% | 33\% |
| Spotify | 17\% | 15\% | 19\% |
| Apple Podcasts/iTunes | 16\% | 31\% | 1\% |
| Facebook | 5\% | 6\% | 3\% |
| Google Podcasts | 5\% | 1\% | 10\% |
| Amazon Music/Audible | 4\% | 4\% | 5\% |
| iHeartRadio | 2\% | 2\% | 3\% |
| Pandora | 2\% | 1\% | 2\% |
| App/website of a specific radio station | 2\% | 1\% | 3\% |
| Site/app of the people who produced the podcast | 2\% | 1\% | 3\% |
| Audacy | 1\% | 1\% | 1\% |
| NPR One | 1\% | 1\% | 2\% |
| Overcast | 1\% | 2\% | 0\% |
| Pocket Casts | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% |
| Podcast Addict | 1\% | 0\% | 2\% |
| Soundcloud | 1\% | 2\% | 1\% |
| Twitter | 1\% | 1\% | 0\% |
| Castbox | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% |
| Luminary | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% |
| RadioPublic | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% |
| Spreaker | 0\% | 0\% | 1\% |
| Stitcher | 0\% | 0\% | 1\% |
| Tuneln | 0\% | 0\% | 1\% |

How to read: $33 \%$ of Android mobile phone owners use YouTube the most to access podcasts.
Source: Cumulus Media and Signal Hill Insights' Podcast Download - Spring 2023 Report, Cumulus Media, MARU/Matchbox National Study April 2023; Q: "Which of the following places do you use the most to access the podcasts you listen to?" Apple Podcasts defined as iTunes/Apple Podcasts; Google Podcasts defined as Google Play/Google Podcasts

## Apple Podcasts still leads for most frequently accessed plaiform among iPhone owners, followed closely by YouTube

|  | Q: "How frequently do you use each of the following places to access the podcasts you listen to?" (\% who answered "Frequently") - April 2023 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total (weekly podcast consumers) | iPhone owners | Android mobile phone owners |
| YouTube | 50\% | 42\% | 56\% |
| Spotify | 34\% | 33\% | 35\% |
| Apple Podcasts/iTunes | 27\% | 47\% | 8\% |
| Facebook | 19\% | 20\% | 18\% |
| Amazon Music/Audible | 18\% | 19\% | 17\% |
| Google Podcasts | 18\% | 13\% | 24\% |
| Site/app of the people who produced the podcast | 15\% | 14\% | 18\% |
| iHeartRadio | 14\% | 15\% | 13\% |
| Pandora | 13\% | 14\% | 12\% |
| Twitter | 12\% | 11\% | 13\% |
| App/website of a specific radio station | 12\% | 12\% | 13\% |
| NPR One | 9\% | 10\% | 7\% |
| Soundcloud | 9\% | 11\% | 7\% |
| Podcast Addict | 8\% | 7\% | 9\% |
| RadioPublic | 8\% | 9\% | 6\% |
| Spreaker | 8\% | 8\% | 7\% |
| Audacy | 7\% | 8\% | 6\% |
| Overcast | 7\% | 10\% | 4\% |
| Pocket Casts | 7\% | 7\% | 6\% |
| Stitcher | 6\% | 7\% | 4\% |
| Tuneln | 6\% | 6\% | 7\% |
| Luminary | 5\% | 7\% | 3\% |
| Castbox | 4\% | 5\% | $3 \%$ |

How to read: $47 \%$ of iPhone owners frequently access podcasts through iTunes/Apple Podcasts.

## Podcast consumers prefer host-voiced ads vs. pre-produced ads, especially Podcast Pioneers

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ \text { (podcast } \\ \text { consumers) } \end{gathered}$ | Heavy podcast consumers ( $6+$ hrs/week) | 18-34 | 35-49 | 50+ | Men | Women | Podcast Pioneers (4+ years ago) | Podcast Newcomers (past year) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 40\% | 40\% | 40\% | 42\% | $39 \%$ | 42\% | $39 \%$ | 47\% | 26\% |
| 17\% | 20\% | 20\% | 16\% | 15\% | 20\% | 15\% | 16\% | 24\% |
| 22\% | 22\% | 29\% | 19\% | 14\% | 21\% | 22\% | 13\% | 34\% |
| 21\% | 18\% | $12 \%$ | 23\% | $31 \%$ | 18\% | 24\% | 25\% | 16\% |

How to read: Given a choice, $40 \%$ of podcast consumers would prefer to hear an ad voiced by the show's host versus an ad that sounds like one heard on AM/FM radio.

Source: Cumulus Media and Signal Hill Insights' Podcast Download - Spring 2023 Report, Cumulus Media, MARU/Matchbox National Study April 2023; Q: "Given a choice between hearing an ad in a podcast that is read by the podcast's host vs. one that sounds like an ad you might hear on AM/FM radio, which would you prefer?"

## Weekly podcast consumers continue to have receptive attitudes towards podcast advertising

|  | Q: "Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below:" (\% of weekly podcast consumers who answered "strongly agree" or "somewhat agree" to each statement) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 2017 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 2018 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 2019 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 2020 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { March } \\ 2021 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { October } \\ 2021 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { April } \\ & \text { 2022* } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { October } \\ \text { 2022** } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { April } \\ & \text { 2023* } \end{aligned}$ |
| I wouldn't mind a couple of extra ads per show so my favorite podcasts can continue | 63\% | 65\% | 60\% | 63\% | 65\% | 60\% | 57\% | 56\% | 56\% |
| I get tired of hearing the same ads repeatedly on my favorite podcasts | - | - | 61\% | 65\% | 66\% | 66\% | 62\% | 57\% | 55\% |
| Most of the ads that I hear on podcasts are engaging | 43\% | 45\% | 41\% | 44\% | 46\% | 39\% | 46\% | 47\% | 45\% |
| Most of the ads I hear on podcasts are relevant to me | 41\% | 45\% | 39\% | 43\% | 43\% | 35\% | 43\% | 42\% | 40\% |
| I like most of the ads I hear on podcasts | 40\% | 44\% | 34\% | 39\% | 40\% | 32\% | 43\% | 44\% | 43\% |
| Most of the ads I hear on podcasts are memorable | 40\% | 43\% | 35\% | 40\% | 39\% | 30\% | 38\% | 43\% | 39\% |
| I go out of my way to support brands that advertise on my favorite podcasts | 36\% | 40\% | 33\% | 37\% | 39\% | 28\% | 34\% | 37\% | 39\% |

* April 2022, October 2022 and April 2023 surveys include those who watch podcasts weekly in addition to weekly listening ( $8 \%$ of sample).

How to read: In April 2023, 45\% of weekly podcast consumers agreed with the following statement: "Most of the ads that I hear on podcasts are engaging."
Source: Cumulus Media and Signal Hill Insights' Podcast Download - Spring 2023 Report, Cumulus Media, MARU/Matchbox National Study July 2017, July 2018, July 2019, July 2020, March 2021, October 2021, April 2022, October 2022, April 2023; Q: "Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below:"

Edison Podcast Metrics: The vast majority of the Apple and Spotify plafform audience uses the smartphone, while a third of YouTube's podcast audience uses laptops and TV

| Method used most | Total weekly <br> podcast <br> audience | YouTube | Apple | Spotify |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mobile Phone | $73 \%$ | $58 \%$ | $86 \%$ | $80 \%$ |
| Compułer/laptop | $12 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
| A TV | $4 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $.4 \%$ | $2 \%$ |
| Tablet | $5 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $4 \%$ |
| Smart speaker | $5 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $5 \%$ |

## Advertiser Perceptions <br> Agency/advertiser interest is significant at every stage of the podcast ad purchase funnel

## Among agencies and brands

## 77\%

Have discussed podcast advertising for potential
media investment

62\%
Definitely would consider advertising in podcasts in the next six months

58\%
Definitely would advertise in podcasts in the coming six months

## 58\%

Currently advertise in podcasts

## Advertiser Perceptions: Advertiser discussion, intention, and usage of podcast continue to be high

| Advertiser Perceptions | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Sept } \\ & 2015 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 2016 \end{gathered}$ | May $2017$ | May $2018$ | May $2019$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 2020 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Nov } \\ 2021 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 2023 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Have you and your colleagues discussed podcast advertising for potential media investment? | 41\% | 58\% | 68\% | 70\% | 75\% | 66\% | 71\% | 87\% | 77\% |  |
| How likely are you to consider advertising in podcasts in the next six months? | 18\% | 28\% | 37\% | 43\% | 42\% | 46\% | 53\% | 51\% | 62\% |  |
| How likely are you to actually advertise in podcasts in the coming six months? | 10\% | 21\% | 27\% | 36\% | 34\% | 37\% | 44\% | 48\% | 58\% |  |
| Do you currently advertise in podcasts? | 15\% | 21\% | 29\% | 32\% | 39\% | 34\% | 45\% | 61\% | 58\% |  |

Discussion: Nearly $\mathbf{8 0 \%}$ of agencies/advertisers have discussed podcast advertising as a potential media investment

Q: Have you and your colleagues discussed podcast advertising for potential media investment?
\% who said yes


## Consideration: $62 \%$ of agencies/advertisers would definitely consider advertising in podcasts in the next six months, an all time high

Q: How likely are you to consider advertising in podcasts in the next six months?
\% who said definitely would consider


Spend intention: $58 \%$ of agencies/advertisers say they will definitely advertise on podcasts in the next six months, an all time high

Q: How likely are you to actually advertise in podcasts in the coming six months?
\% who said definitely will advertise


Currently advertise: Nearly 60\% of agencies/advertisers currently advertise in podcasts, growing substantially since 2021

## Q: Do you currently advertise in podcasts? <br> $\%$ who said yes




[^0]:    * This is the $3^{\text {rd }}$ wave where respondents could qualify for the Download by saying they "watched" a podcast in the past week. In total, $8 \%$ of the sample qualified by saying they watched but didn't listen to podcasts in the past week. Wherever trending comparisons are made to previous waves, the difference in samples is noted.

[^1]:    Source: Cumulus Media and Signal Hill Insights' Podcast Download - Spring 2023 Report, Cumulus Media, MARU/Matchbox National Study -
    April 2023; Q: "Which of the following places do you use the most to access the podcasts you listen to?" Apple Podcasts defined as iTunes/Apple Podcasts

[^2]:    How to read: $47 \%$ of monthly podcast consumers who name Spotify as the platform they use most often recalled listening to a Comedy podcast.

[^3]:    How to read: $33 \%$ of weekly podcast consumers said they would be willing to pay for bonus episodes for a monthly fee.

