

17-year-olds use 'hook up' app than their 35 to 44-year-old parents

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A growing number of teenagers are now using the dating app Tinder.

More than seven per cent of Tinder's users are aged between 13 and 17, according to Tinder's co-founder Justin Mateen, which means they actually outnumber the 35 to 44-year-olds, who make up 6.5 percent of the app's users.

'Early on, over 90per cent of our user base was aged between 18 and 24. Today, that number is about 51 percent,' Mr Mateen told [The Guardian](#).

He added that 25 to 32-year-olds make up about 32per cent of Tinder's users, 'and the remainder are older than 45.'

Mr Mateen believes that teens are interested the app because initially, it was mostly being used by college students.

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'As someone who's younger in high school, you want to be a college kid,' he said -- despite the fact that Tinder's privacy policy and its user agreement states users have to be over 18.

But rather than high school students hoping to find romantic dates on the app, Scott Driscoll of Internet Safety Concepts believes they use Tinder, where people simply look at your picture to see if they like or don't like you, to boost their self esteem.

'It was brought to my attention by middle school principals and middle school parents that their young children are using it,' Mr Driscoll told [Eyewitness News](#).

'Young kids are dealing with self-esteem issues sometimes and if someone likes them that's going to make them feel really good,' he explained.

'Middle school principals and middle school parents say that their young children are using it'

And because Tinder also works with GPS, teens can find other users based on where they are located.

'Let's say for example I go to the mall and I turn Tinder on and I start scrolling through and I see a picture of someone I like, it can tell me they're within one mile of me,' Mr Driscoll said.

'The major concern I have with this is my child being exposed to pictures that aren't appropriate for his or her age and communicating with strangers,' Mr Driscoll said, adding: 'And possibly having strangers trying to meet my child.'