What is it

Tinder is a wildly popular mobile dating app, mostly comprised of college-aged users. The app was launched in 2012 by Sean Rad and Justin Mateen. In 2004, the two decided to combine forces and create a dating app that would resonate with college kids in socially charged environments. Tinder is a mobile dating app that people can use to locate other singles in their geographic area. Users upload photos and create a brief bio. They can view profiles of users who meet their age, gender, and location criteria. If users are interested, they swipe right. If they are not interested, they swipe left. When two people swipe right on each other’s profiles, they are notified that they've received a match.

Referring to Tinder as a “hookup app” has become a common stereotype, but research conducted by Leah LeFebvre on 395 young adults (ages 18-34) who said they had used the app reveals that Tinder users are more likely to be seeking relationships than casual sex.

In the beginning, 90% of Tinder users were between the ages of 18 and 24. Now the app has expanded to a broader age demographic, with 18-25 year olds making up just over 50% of users.

There is even a small percentage of users between the ages of 13 and 17, but creators assure these young users that their profiles are only visible to other users in their age range. With over 10 million daily active users, Tinder remains one of the most popular lifestyle apps today.
Importance to Law Enforcement

It is important for law enforcement to be aware that, while Tinder isn’t inherently dangerous, misuse of the app can lead to potential danger. Tinder was created as a way for users to meet potential partners, but not all individuals who use the app are truthful in their identity. It is difficult to know for sure if people are who they claim to be. For example, 24-year-old Sydney Loofe from Lincoln Nebraska was abducted and killed by her Tinder date, Bailey Boswell’s, boyfriend. Loofe did not know that the boyfriend would be present when she agreed to meet with Boswell. Though this type of danger is rare and the majority of Tinder users use the app appropriately, it is important to take proper precautions with platforms that cultivate social and physical interaction between strangers-as there are always individuals who abuse this type of technology.

Investigative Information

Tinder provides an email for law enforcement officials to contact: legaldept@gotinder.com. The website notes that this email address does not respond to emails sent by non-law enforcement officials.

References


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