

how much does it cost to send an email or browse Facebook? How much is an hour of YouTube or Spotify? I crunched the numbers to show you why your family may be going over your data limit each month.

The piece is a little longer than normal at 1:38 with a standard outcue

supers:

Jamey Tucker 0-8

### **ANCHOR INTRO**

YOUR CELLPHONE BILL MAY BE HIGHER THESE DAYS FOR GOOD REASON. YOU'RE USING IT ALL THE TIME AND PAYING EXTRA FOR IT.

MORE PEOPLE ARE WATCHING VIDEOS, BROWSING THE INTERNET AND UPLOADING PHOTOS. HOW MUCH DOES ALL OF THAT COST? OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER JAMEY TUCKER HAS BEEN DIGGING THROUGH THE NUMBERS TO FIND OUT WHAT'S EATING UP YOUR DATA PLAN.

### **PACKAGE**

How much does it cost to post a photo to Facebook, or watch a YouTube video or send an e-mail?

Let's have a look, this 20 dollar bill represents 20gb of data which is a typical family data plan. First, email. As a general rule of thumb, if you send 25 emails a day, that's going to be 7 mb per month or 7 cents

Browsing the internet? Let's say you're checking 25 web pages a day which includes checking Facebook 293 mb per month or 2.93 cents

If you stream music using Pandora, Spotify or another music service. An hour a day is 1800 megabytes for an hour of music, or a buck 80 a month.

Watching youtube videos or netflix... streaming video is the biggest data hog. just 30 minutes a day, and that's conservative, is a little over 5 gigs a month, or 5 dollars and 25 cents.

if you upload or download pictures to Facebook, just 10 photos a day adds up to 90 cents.

Use Google Maps or Waze? An hour a day for GPS is another dollar 50.

All of that totals up to 11.5 gigs or 11.55 bucks a month.

If you're on a solo plan, that's plenty.

But add your family... a spouse makes it 23.1

2 kids on the plan, who'll probably use a more for video, pictures and music. it all adds up to a conservative 46.20 dollars.

fortunately for a family of four all of the wireless carriers are offering unlimited data plans again

because 20 gigs, just like \$20, doesn't go as far as it used to.  
That's what the tech, I'm Jamey Tucker

### **ANCHOR TAG**

JAMEY USED VERIZON'S DATA CALCULATOR TO COMPILE THOSE NUMBERS. THE RESULTS WILL VARY DEPENDING ON THE CELL SIGNAL AND EVEN THE TYPE OF PHONE YOU HAVE.

### **WEB STORY**

Have you ever wondered how much it costs to send an e-mail or browse Facebook? How much are you paying to watch YouTube or use your phone as a GPS?

It isn't very simple to figure all of these things out as the number varies between carriers and depending on your service and smartphone. Verizon has a data calculator on its website to help customers figure out which data plan they need. I decided to crunch the numbers to help you decide if you're buying enough data so as to not go over the limit.

According to Verizon's calculator, sending 25 emails a day from your phone generally takes up 7 mb of data a month. If you browse 25 websites a day on your phone, it's using around 293 mb/month.

Watching or streaming videos is the biggest data hog. Watching just 30 minutes a day of Netflix, YouTube or even those auto-play Facebook videos is 5.25 gigabytes of your data plan each Month.

Streaming music from Pandora, Spotify or Amazon Music for an hour a day takes another 1.8 gb of data and uploading photos to Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat every day will eat up around 9 mb a month.

Many people are using their phones for GPS navigation. If it's always on during your 30 minute commute each day, Waze or Google Maps will take 1.3 gb of your plan.

All of this, for one phone adds up to 11.55 gigabytes per month of data usage. That fits well into the limit of a 20gb monthly plan. It isn't enough for 2 phones sharing the same data. If the phones use the same amount of data you'll go over your limit by around 3 gigabytes.

Families trying to use the same 20gb plan will almost certainly go over and have to pay overage charges. Since kids generally use much more data than their parents uploading photos to Instagram and Snapchat and watching more videos over the network a family can easily reach 45-50 gb of data spent each month.

On a 20gb plan, that's a lot of overcharges. Fortunately for families all of the wireless carriers are offering data plans again because like a \$20 bill, 20gb doesn't go as far as it used to.

Verizon Data Calculator

<https://www.verizonwireless.com/data-calculator/>