

Digital Divide Among School-Age Children Narrows, but Millions Still Lack Internet Connections

by Rafi Goldberg, Policy Analyst, Office of Policy Analysis and Development

America continues to make significant strides in reducing the digital divide among school-age children, according to NTIA's November 2017 Internet Use Survey. In 2017, 14 percent of the U.S. population between ages 6 and 17 lived in homes with no Internet service, down from 19 percent in 2015. These are encouraging numbers that echo our previous report on the narrowing digital divide. Still, significant challenges remain, especially for the approximately 7 million school-age children that lived in households without home Internet service in 2017. These children were also less likely than their peers to use the Internet from other locations. [See the complete blog here.](#)

Broadband News and Updates

Federal News

- [911 Grant Program Now Accepting Applications to Upgrade Nation's Call Centers](#)
- [NTIA Releases Comments on the Development of a National Spectrum Strategy](#)
- [Will There Be an Infrastructure Package This Year?](#)
- [NTIA Seeks Comment on Development of a National Spectrum Strategy](#)
- [Looking to 2019: U.S. Leadership in 5G: Securing our Digital Infrastructure](#)
- [ITS Marks Next Milestone Toward Spectrum Sharing in 3.5 GHz](#)
- [Five-Year Trends Available for Median Household Income, Poverty Rates and Computer and Internet Use](#)

State News

- Pew Charitable Trusts: [Can You Hear Me Now? In Quest for Federal Money, States Debunk Providers' Coverage Claims](#)
- Alaska: [20% of Alaskans Don't Have Access To Broadband Internet. This Satellite Startup Aims To Change That](#)
- Colorado: [More Colorado Cities Jump On the Fiber-Broadband Bandwagon](#)
- Georgia: [Internet Service For Rural Georgia Could Come From Power Companies](#)
- Illinois: [State's New Ag Director Talks Trade, Farm Bill and Department Priorities](#)
- Kansas: [Kansas Broadband Task Force's First Meeting](#)
- Mississippi: [A Bipartisan Bill in Mississippi Could Bring High-Speed Broadband to the Delta](#)
- Missouri: [Missouri Still Looking to Expand Rural Broadband](#)
- New Hampshire: [Broadband Public-Private Partnerships Emerge In New Hampshire](#)
- North Carolina: [North Carolina, Nation's First Gigabit State? That's the Goal, Say State Officials](#)
- Oregon: [Oregon Opens Broadband Office to Connect Rural Residents](#)
- Pennsylvania: [Penn State Study Says Most of Pa. Lacks Access to High-speed Broadband](#)
- Vermont: [State's Wireless Coverage Map Shows Phone Company Estimates Overstated](#)
- Virginia: [Government-subsidized Internet Crosses Political Boundaries in Southwest Virginia](#)
- Washington: [Washington Gov. Jay Inslee "Proposes Broadband Access For All"; Announces Creation Of State Broadband Office](#)
- West Virginia: [W.Va. House Passes Broadband Internet Bill, Sends to Senate and West Virginia's new chief technology officer says he's taking a 'risk approach'](#)

Public Safety/FirstNet

- [More Than 50,000 Square Miles of LTE Coverage Added to Support AT&T and FirstNet Users](#)
- [FirstNet Moves Forward with New Board Members, Vision for Maximizing Network Impact for Public Safety](#)
- [FirstNet Brings Tech Focus to Community Resiliency; Encourages Innovation for First Responders at CES 2019](#)
- [A New Era of Situational Awareness](#)
- [FirstNet pushes Through the Crowd at Las Vegas' Life is Beautiful Music and Art Festival](#)
- [Data Sharing, Cost Savings Incentivize Local EMS to Adopt FirstNet](#)

Funding

- [Economic Development Administration: 2019 Regional Innovation Strategies Grant Competition is Now Open for Proposals](#)
- [Federal Register: The Rural Utilities Service \(RUS\) Announces Its General Policy and Application Procedures for Funding Under the Broadband Pilot Program](#)
- [FCC Offers \\$67 Million More Per Year for Rural Broadband Programs](#)

General News

- [How Smart Strategy and Rigorous Analysis Enable Boston to Save While Effectuating City and Public Broadband Needs](#)
- [Why These Utilities Are Dialing Up Efforts To Bring High-Speed Internet To Rural America](#)
- [Rural Broadband Deployment Ideas: Panelists Offer Some New Thinking at Opportunities for Bipartisan Tech Policy Meeting in DC](#)
- [Broad-Based Broadband Usage Accelerated in 2018](#)
- [WISPA to NTIA: Think Small and Rural -- New Spectrum is Fastest Way to Close Digital Divide](#)
- [2017 ACS Data Released: New Data on Internet Access and Healthcare](#)
- [City, Cincinnati Bell bring free Wi-Fi to Downtown](#)
- [Digital Divide Is Wider Than We Think, Study Says](#)
- [Microsoft Airband: An Update on Connecting Rural America](#)
- [Enabling Opportunities: 5G, the Internet of Things, and Communities of Color](#)
- [COSN: Broadband Connectivity is Rising in K-12 as Cost Falls, Report Finds](#)
- [Libraries Evolve to Bridge Digital Divide](#)
- [ALA, Grow with Google Kick Off Economic Opportunity Initiative in Public Libraries Nationwide](#)
- [How America's Internet Connectivity Issues are Holding the Country Back](#)

Resources

- Congressional Research Service: [Tribal Broadband: Status of Deployment and Federal Funding Programs](#) (PDF)
- Congressional Research Service: [Broadband Internet Access and the Digital Divide: Federal Assistance Programs](#) (PDF)
- Benton Foundation: [Elections Matter: Who's Who in Telecommunications Policy in the 116th Congress](#)
- [Next Century Cities Launches "Becoming Broadband Ready" - A Toolkit For Community Leaders Seeking To Connect Residents To Broadband](#) (PDF)
- [Consortium for School Networking \(COSN\): Driving K-12 Innovation](#)

Events

NTIA Events

February 20, 2019

BroadbandUSA Practical Broadband Conversations Webinar Series: [Measuring the Digital Divide: Review of Recent Surveys and Data](#) (See details in column on right.)

Events of Interest

February 7 and 13, 2019

[United States Department of Agriculture: Rural Development Informational Webinars.](#)

[Download Flyer Here](#)

February 3-6, 2019

[NTCA's Rural Telecom Industry Meeting & Expo \(RTIME\) | R|evolution](#), New Orleans, LA

February 10-13, 2019

[National Association of Regional Councils \(NARC\) 2019 National Conference of Regions](#), Washington, DC

February 10-13, 2019

[NARUC Winter Policy Summit](#), Washington, DC

February 12-13, 2019

[State Broadband Leaders Summit](#), Washington, DC

February 15, 2019

[Joint Venture Silicon Valley State of the Valley Conference](#), San Jose, CA

February 19-20, 2019

[Georgia Telecommunications Association \(GTA\) 22nd Annual Vendor Showcase](#), Macon, GA

February 27 - March 1, 2019

[Louisiana Telecommunications Association and LCTA - The Internet & Television Association 70th Annual Meetings and Conference](#), New Orleans, LA

March 2-6, 2019

[2019 NACo Legislative Conference](#), Washington, DC

March 5-6, 2019

[National Collaborative for Digital Equity \(NCDE\) 2019 Summit](#), Washington, DC

March 7-13, 2019

[2019 NRECA Annual Meeting and Exposition](#), Orlando, FL

March 10-12, 2019

[NTCA, The Rural Broadband Association 2019 Telecom Executive Forum](#), Clearwater, FL

March 10-13, 2019

[National League of Cities \(NLC\) 2019 Congressional City Conference](#), Washington, DC

March 14-15, 2019

[The Iowa State Association of Counties \(ISAC\) 2019 Spring Conference](#), Des Moines, IA

March 18-20, 2019

[Minnesota Telecom Alliance \(MTA\) Annual Convention and Trade Show](#), Minneapolis, MN

March 17-20, 2019

[National Association of Development Organizations \(NADO\) 2019 Washington Policy Conference](#), Arlington, VA

March 19-20, 2019

[Healthcare Informatics Midwest Health IT Summit](#), Cleveland, OH

March 25-27, 2019

[Iowa Communications Alliance \(ICA\) 6th Annual Meeting & Expo](#), Des Moines, IA

February Webinar

BroadbandUSA Practical Broadband Conversations Webinar Series

Topic: [Measuring the Digital Divide: Review of Recent Surveys and Data](#)

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019

Time: 2:00 PM Eastern

This has been rescheduled from January 2019. If you have already registered, please register again. Thank you!

NTIA and the U.S. Census Bureau will present information on two large-scale consumer studies focused on computer and Internet use in America. The speakers will highlight the latest data from the surveys about who is online, who is not, how and where people access and use the Internet, what concerns they have, and more. Experts will show you how to access the data yourself, point you to open data resources, and answer questions. Learn more about the NTIA Internet Use Survey, a survey of 123,000 people in 52,000 households across the U.S. that provides in-depth insights on how people ages 3 and up use computers and the Internet. Then dive down to the Census block and tract level with the December 2018 release of the American Community Survey data on computer and Internet use.

Our scheduled speakers include:

- Rafi Goldberg, Policy Analyst, Office of Policy Analysis and Development
- Ryan Dolan, Data Visualization Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau
- Gerson Vasquez, Data Visualization Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau

Moderator:

- Karen Archer Perry, Senior Policy Analyst, BroadbandUSA

[Click here to register](#)

Want to access past Practical Broadband Conversations webinars?

Visit our [Webinar Archives](#) for past presentations, transcripts and audio recordings.





NTIA's **BroadbandUSA** program promotes innovation and economic growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband connectivity and digital inclusion across America. In this role, BroadbandUSA serves state and local government, industry and non-profits that want to expand broadband infrastructure and promote digital inclusion.

Contact Us

If you are interested in receiving technical assistance, please email broadbandusa@ntia.doc.gov or call 202-482-2048. For more information, visit our website at broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov.

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