



THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Few technologies have spread as quickly or become so widely used as computers and the Internet. These information technologies are rapidly becoming common fixtures of modern social and economic life, opening opportunities and new avenues for many Americans.

Unfortunately, there is strong evidence of a "digital divide" between those individual and communities that have access to information age tools and those who don't. Better-educated Americans are more likely to be connected. Sixty-nine percent of households with a bachelor's degree or higher has computers, compared to 16 percent of those households that have not completed high school. Forty-five percent of households with a bachelor's degree or more have Internet access in the home, compared to 14 percent with a high school diploma or GED.

SOURCE: Dept. of Commerce, "Falling Through the Net," July 1999.

Wealthier schools are more likely to be connected to the Internet than poorer schools - In wealthy schools (less than 11 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch), 74 percent of classrooms are connected to the Internet, compared to 39 percent for the poorest schools (71 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch).

SOURCE: Fall 1999 data, Dept of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Internet Access in U.S. Public Schools and Classrooms," February 2000.

NATIONAL STATISTICS:

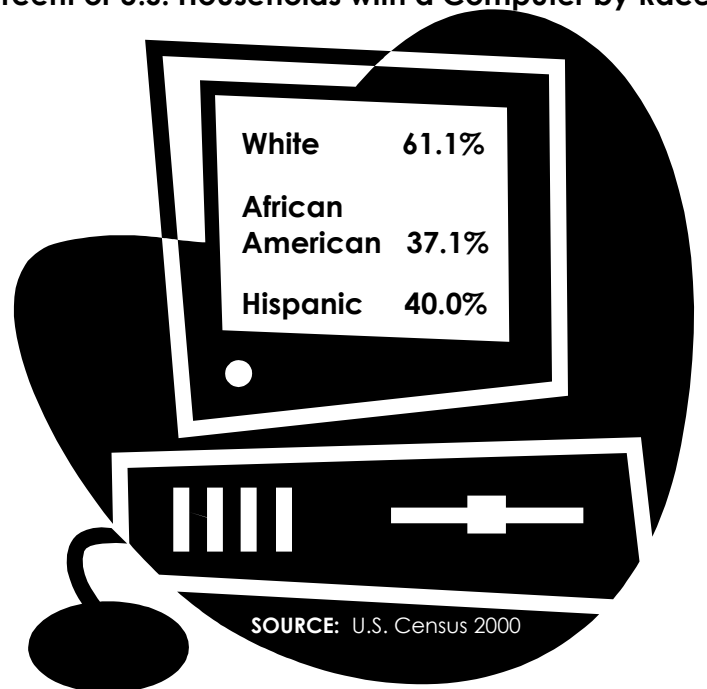
- 📁 90 % of children between the ages of 5 and 17 now use computers.
- 📁 75 % of 14-17 year olds use the Internet.
- 📁 65% of 10-13 year olds use the Internet.
- 📁 Internet use by households earning less than \$15,000 grew by 25% between 1998 and 2001.
- 📁 Internet use by African Americans and Hispanics grew by about 30% between 1998 and 2001.
- 📁 People with disabilities are less likely to use information technology.

SOURCE: *A Nation Online: How Americans Are Expanding Their Use of the Internet.*

Percent of U.S. Households with a Computer by Race

Percent of U.S. Households with a Computer by Income	
\$5000 - \$9,999	19.2%
\$10,00 - \$14,999	25.7%
\$15,000- \$19,999	31.8%
\$20,000-\$24,999	40.1%
\$25,000-\$34,999	49.7%
\$35,000-\$49,999	64.3%
\$50,000-\$74,999	77.7%
\$75,000 plus	89%

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics.



SOURCE: U.S. Census 2000