

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.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

- Adults with low level literacy skills remain among the 44% of Americans least likely to have access to computers or use the Internet.

SOURCE: Volunteer Literacy Task Force "Literacy is Good Business"

- 91% of households with a bachelor's degree or higher have a computer, compared to 39% of those households that have not completed high school.
- 29% of Americans who have not graduated from high school have access to the Internet, compared with 61% of high school graduates and 89% of college graduates.

SOURCE: Pew Internet and American Life Project, (2004-2005)

- Internet use by households earning less than \$25,000 is 62%.
- Internet access at home is 36% for both African Americans and Hispanics.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau. (2003)

ACCESS SPEED DIVIDE

Sixty-two percent of home Internet users with a college or graduate degree have a high-speed connection at home. That is notably higher than the 44% of home Internet users with high school diplomas who have broadband connections.

SOURCE: Pew Internet and American Life Project, (2004-2005)

SCHOOL DIVIDE

Wealthier schools are slightly 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), 95% of classrooms are connected to the Internet, compared to 90% for the poorest schools (75% or more of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch).

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, (February 2005)

U.S. Households with a Computer and Internet Access by Educational Attainment: 2003

Educational Attainment	Computer in Household	Internet Access
Less than high school graduate	28%	20%
High school graduate/GED	50%	43%
Some college or associate's degree	70%	63%
Bachelor's degree	82%	76%
Advanced degree	86%	81%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau. (2003)

FLORIDA STATISTICS

- 61% of households in Florida have a computer and 56% have Internet access.
- Florida is below the national average for households with a computer and Internet access.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau. (2003)