

CALIFORNIA'S DIGITAL DIVIDE

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► **Broadband access is up significantly since 2008.**

A large majority of Californians—73%—have a broadband Internet connection at home, up sharply from 55% in 2008. Broadband access at home is 7 points higher in California than in the nation as a whole: Nationwide, 66% of adults report having broadband (Pew Internet & American Life Project). Currently, 87% of Californians use the Internet (up from 70% in 2008), compared to 85% of adults nationwide.

► **The digital divide is closing, but demographic differences in access are striking.**

Home broadband access among Latinos has increased sharply since 2008 (from 34% to 58%), but other racial/ethnic groups are still much more likely to use broadband: whites (84%), Asians (76%), and blacks (74%). Still, the Latino-white gap has narrowed 8 points, while the divide between Latinos and other racial/ethnic groups has halved since 2008. And while broadband access among non-citizens has increased 28 points since 2008 (from 23% to 51%), U.S.-born residents (82%) and naturalized citizens (64%) are still more likely to report broadband access. Despite this gap, the divide between U.S.-born residents and non-citizens has narrowed by 13 points since 2008. Other demographic trends show that broadband access is higher among college graduates (91%) and those with some college education (81%) than among less educated Californians (56%). Similarly, broadband access is higher among adults with household incomes of \$80,000 or more (93%) and among those who earn between \$40,000 and \$80,000 (80%) than among less affluent Californians (60%). Broadband access is also more prevalent among residents in Orange/San Diego Counties (78%, up 20 points since 2008) and in the San Francisco Bay Area (78%, up 13 points) than in the Central Valley (71%, up 18), the Inland Empire (71%, up 15), and Los Angeles (69%, up 21).

► **Differences exist even across Latino subgroups.**

While broadband access among Latinos has increased 24 points since 2008, disparities among Latinos persist. Some Latino subgroups are similar to other racial/ethnic groups in their access to broadband. For example, relatively high rates of access are evident among those who are U.S. born (76%), prefer to speak English (75%), and earn at least \$40,000 per year (75%). But other Latino subgroups still lag far behind, such as those who are foreign born (48%), prefer to speak Spanish (46%), and earn under \$40,000 (50%).

► **Older residents and those with disabilities lag behind.**

Older Californians are less likely than younger residents to report broadband or Internet use. Those age 55 and older are the least likely to report using this technology (63% broadband, 76% Internet) compared to those in the 35–54 age group (74% broadband, 89% Internet) and the 18–34 age group (82% broadband, 96% Internet). Not every adult with a disability is able to participate in telephone surveys. Among those in our surveys who do report a disability, handicap, or chronic disease, or who have difficulty seeing, hearing, talking, or walking, 56% report they have broadband access, compared to 77% without a disability. Residents with disabilities are also far less likely than others to report Internet use (76% vs. 90%).

► **Younger, more educated, and wealthier adults are more likely to access the Internet with a cell phone.**

Sixty percent of adults use a cell phone to access the Internet, a 41-point increase since 2008 (19% 2008, 60% today). Residents ages 18 to 34 are far more likely than adults age 55 and older to use a cell phone to go online (78% vs. 37%). Using a cell phone to access the Internet is highest among blacks (72%), followed by whites (62%), Latinos (57%), and Asians (56%). The percentage of adults using cell phones to connect to the Internet increases sharply with education and is far higher among those with household incomes of \$80,000 or more than among less affluent Californians.



California's digital divide

		Internet use*		Broadband at home				
		2008	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
All adults		70%	87%	55%	62%	70%	72%	73%
Race/Ethnicity	Asians	80	88	67	74	77	76	76
	Blacks	82	93	66	62	70	74	74
	Latinos	48	78	34	39	50	55	58
	Whites	81	93	68	75	82	81	84
Citizenship	U.S.-born	81	93	67	71	79	80	82
	Naturalized citizen	62	81	46	57	60	64	64
	Noncitizen	36	73	23	31	36	50	51
Education	No college	47	76	32	37	46	53	56
	Some college	81	93	63	69	75	84	81
	College graduate	92	98	81	83	90	90	91
Household income	Under \$40,000	49	79	33	40	49	58	60
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	83	93	64	74	78	82	80
	\$80,000 or more	92	97	85	89	94	93	93
Homeownership	Own	76	89	64	73	77	78	77
	Rent	61	85	44	48	61	63	70
Disability**	Yes	57	76	36	47	55	49	56
	No	73	90	60	65	75	76	77
Age	18 to 34	78	96	60	65	76	81	82
	35 to 54	73	89	61	64	73	72	74
	55 and older	58	76	44	57	64	61	63
Gender	Men	71	89	59	65	74	74	78
	Women	68	85	52	59	67	69	68
Children age 18 or younger?	Yes	69	87	54	62	71	72	73
	No	71	87	57	63	71	72	74
Region	Central Valley	71	88	53	51	64	70	71
	San Francisco Bay Area	77	88	65	73	79	78	78
	Los Angeles	61	86	48	58	67	68	69
	Orange/San Diego	73	90	58	70	75	76	78
	Inland Empire	70	84	56	60	71	66	71

* For 2009–2010, "Internet use" includes those who answered yes to the question "Do you ever go online to access the Internet or send or receive email?" or to the question "Do you send or receive email, at least occasionally?" For 2011, it includes those who said yes to the question "Do you use the Internet, at least occasionally?" or to the question "Do you send or receive email, at least occasionally?" For 2012, it includes those who said yes to the question "Do you use the Internet, at least occasionally?" or to the question "Do you send or receive email, at least occasionally?" or to the question "Do you access the Internet on a cell phone, tablet, or other mobile handheld device, at least occasionally?"

** "Disability" includes those who answered yes to the question "Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities, or not?" or "Do you often have difficulty seeing, hearing, talking, or walking in the course of your everyday life?"

Sources: PPIC Statewide Surveys, June 2008 (2,503 adults), June 2009 (2,502 adults), July 2010 (2,502 adults), June 2011 (2,502 adults), July 2012 (2,500). The margin of error for all adults in 2012 is ±2.9%; the margin of error for subgroups is larger. Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project.

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