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COMPUTER AND BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS IN NEVADA AND THE MOUNTAIN WEST

Transportation and Infrastructure Fact Sheet No. 10 | August 2022

Prepared by: Peter Grema, Caitlin J. Saladino, and William E. Brown, Jr.

PURPOSE:

This fact sheet examines data on computer and broadband internet access throughout the Mountain West (Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah). The original dataset from the United States Census Bureau¹ is comprised of information from the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates on total households with a computer and broadband internet access for various geographic areas and demographic groups throughout the United States.

ABOUT THE DATA:

The American Community Survey includes three questions² on computer and internet use. From these responses, the U.S. Census Bureau reports three results, which are: percentage of households in the geographic area with a computer; percentage of households in the geographic area with a broadband internet subscription; and percentage of the population 65 years and older with no computer in the household.

The original dataset explores information for all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, available counties, and Census-Designated Places per the most recent 5-Year American Community Survey. This fact sheet presents data for Mountain West states, each of Nevada's 17 counties, and the 21 Census-Designated Places (CDPs) in Clark County, Nevada.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah perform above the national average for the percentage of households with a computer, the percentage of households with a broadband internet subscription, and the percentage of the population 65 years and older with no computer in the household; New Mexico performs below than the national average on all three metrics.
2. Five Nevada counties (Clark, Douglas, Elko, Storey, and Washoe) are at, or above the state-wide average of 93.6% of households with a computer.
3. The percentage of Nevada households with broadband internet subscriptions varies from a low of 62.3% in Esmeralda County to a high of 90.5% in Douglas County; five counties (Douglas, Humboldt, Lander, Storey, and Washoe) are above the state-wide average of 85.5%.
4. Over 20% of the population 65 years and older in Eureka, Pershing, and White Pine counties are without a household computer, nearly double the state-wide average of 11.5%.
5. 100% of households have computer access at Mount Charleston and Nellis Air Force Base in Clark County; under 80% of households have computer access in Blue Diamond, Indian Springs, Nelson, and Searchlight.

¹ United States Census Bureau, "Why We Ask Questions About Computer and Internet Use," July 2022 (www.census.gov/acs/www/about/why-we-ask-each-question/computer/).

² #9. At this house, apartment, or mobile home—do you or any member of this household own or use any of the following types of computers? (Four answer choices to choose from.) #10. At this house, apartment, or mobile home—do you or any member of this household have access to the Internet? (Three answer choices to choose from.) #11. Do you or any member of this household have access to the Internet using a— (five answer choices to choose from).

Table 1 provides data on computer and broadband internet access for the U.S. and Mountain West states. National averages are highlighted in grey, while best performing figures for the metrics are highlighted in green (all are in Utah). Worst performing figures for the metrics are highlighted in red (all are in New Mexico). Nevada, Arizona, and Colorado perform better than the national average for each of the three metrics.

Table 1: Computer and Internet Use in the United States and Mountain West

	Percent Households with a Computer	Percent Households with a Broadband Internet Subscription	Percent Population 65+ with No Computer in Household
<i>United States</i>	<i>91.9%</i>	<i>85.2%</i>	<i>15.7%</i>
Nevada	93.6%	85.5%	11.5%
Arizona	93.3%	86.6%	10.8%
Colorado	94.9%	89.6%	11.0%
New Mexico	88.1%	77.9%	20.0%
Utah	96.1%	89.3%	9.0%

*Adapted from “Why We Ask Questions About Computer and Internet Use”. *United States Census Bureau*. www.census.gov/acs/www/about/why-we-ask-each-question/computer/

Table 2 offers data on computer and broadband internet access in Nevada and its 17 counties. Statewide averages are highlighted in grey, and all values above the statewide average in each metric are highlighted in green. Douglas, Storey, and Washoe counties perform above the statewide average for all three metrics. The lowest performing counties in each metric are highlighted in red. Lincoln has the lowest percentage of households with a computer (85%), while Esmeralda has the lowest percentage of households with a broadband internet subscription (62.3%). White Pine has the highest percentage of population 65 years and older without a household computer (22.2%).

Table 2: Computer and Internet Use in Nevada Counties

	Percent Households with a Computer	Percent Households with a Broadband Internet Subscription	Percent Population 65+ with No Computer in Household
<i>Nevada (Statewide)</i>	<i>93.6%</i>	<i>85.5%</i>	<i>11.5%</i>
Churchill	93.1%	84.7%	15.1%
Clark	93.7%	85.3%	11.4%
Douglas	94.4%	90.5%	9.1%
Elko	93.6%	87.0%	14.2%
Esmeralda	91.8%	62.3%	7.3%
Eureka	90.3%	88.4%	20.1%
Humboldt	91.7%	85.3%	15.1%
Lander	93.0%	90.2%	15.0%
Lincoln	85.0%	73.3%	15.6%
Lyon	93.5%	88.0%	9.9%
Mineral	85.3%	73.9%	14.0%
Nye	89.0%	75.5%	14.9%
Pershing	87.5%	80.3%	20.0%
Storey	94.6%	85.9%	8.4%
Washoe	94.5%	87.2%	10.7%
White Pine	88.2%	79.0%	22.2%
Carson City	92.0%	85.4%	11.9%

*Adapted from “Why We Ask Questions About Computer and Internet Use”. *United States Census Bureau*. www.census.gov/acs/www/about/why-we-ask-each-question/computer/

Table 3 provides data on computer and broadband internet access in Clark County and its 21 Census-Designated Places.³ Countywide averages are highlighted in grey, while values above the countywide average are highlighted in green. The lowest performing counties in each metric are highlighted in red. Enterprise, Moapa Valley, Nellis Air Force Base, and Summerlin South perform above countywide averages in all three categories. There are no results available for Goodsprings, and data for Nelson indicates no computer and broadband internet access. According to the 2020 Decennial Census, the population of the Goodsprings CDP⁴ is 162, and the Nelson CDP⁵ population is 22.

Besides Nelson (highlighted in red), the lowest performing CDP for computer and internet access is Searchlight (lowest percentage of households with a computer at 72.5%, and lowest percentage of households with a broadband internet subscription at 49.3%) and Indian Springs (highest percentage of population 65 years and older without a household computer at 51.2%).

Table 3: Computer and Internet Use in Clark County Census-Designated Places

	Percent Households with a Computer	Percent Households with a Broadband Internet Subscription	Percent Population 65+ with No Computer in Household
<i>Clark County</i>	<i>93.7%</i>	<i>85.3%</i>	<i>11.4%</i>
Blue Diamond	75.9%	75.9%	44.3%
Bunkerville	82.8%	82.8%	43.7%
Cal-Nev-Ari	95.5%	61.8%	0.0%
Enterprise	98.0%	93.6%	3.6%
Goodsprings	<i>Results Unavailable</i>	<i>Results Unavailable</i>	<i>Results Unavailable</i>
Indian Springs	75.7%	53.1%	51.2%
Las Vegas City	92.9%	82.6%	13.2%
Laughlin	85.3%	72.8%	15.9%
Moapa Town	82.0%	70.7%	49.7%
Moapa Valley	97.0%	91.2%	6.5%
Mount Charleston	100.0%	80.6%	0.0%
Nellis Air Force Base	100.0%	97.6%	0.0%
Nelson	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Paradise	91.3%	79.7%	15.0%
Sandy Valley	93.1%	86.8%	1.4%
Searchlight	72.5%	49.3%	29.0%
Spring Valley	94.9%	87.2%	11.9%
Summerlin South	96.2%	91.5%	7.5%
Sunrise Manor	90.6%	79.4%	15.7%
Whitney	93.9%	84.9%	12.0%
Winchester	86.1%	72.0%	22.7%

*Adapted from “Why We Ask Questions About Computer and Internet Use”. *United States Census Bureau*. www.census.gov/acs/www/about/why-we-ask-each-question/computer/

³ According to the United States Census Bureau, Census Designated Places “represent unincorporated communities that do not have a legally defined boundary or an active, functioning governmental structure. Examples of CDPs include unincorporated communities, planned communities, military installments, university towns, resort towns, etc.” (www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas/information/cdp.html)

⁴ United States Census Bureau, “Goodsprings CDP, Nevada,” July 2022 (<https://www.census.gov/search-results.html?searchType=web&cssp=SERP&q=Nelson%20CDP,%20Nevada>).

⁵ United States Census Bureau, “Nelson CDP, Nevada,” July 2022 (<https://www.census.gov/search-results.html?searchType=web&cssp=SERP&q=Goodsprings%20CDP,%20Nevada>).