

Who Gets Left Behind

Income, race, and geography shape digital access in America. The broadband divide is a mirror of the nation's deepest inequities.

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The Demographics of Disconnection

Income, race, and geography shape who has broadband in America

40pp

Home broadband gap under \$30K vs \$100K+

15-16M

K-12 students lacking internet or a device (2020)



47%

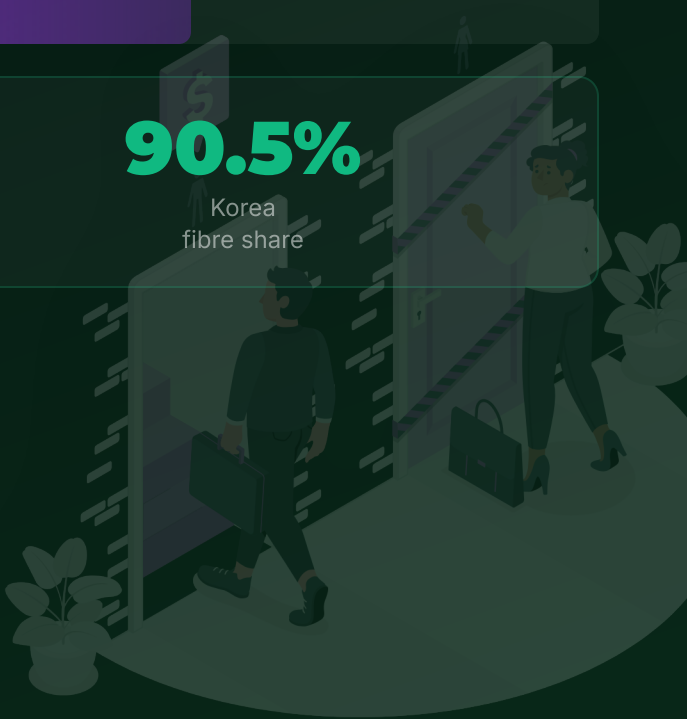
OECD average fibre share

90.5%

Korea fibre share

93%

Iceland fibre share



Building an Equitable Digital Future

- **Target investment using equity metrics** that prioritize communities with the lowest adoption rates, highest poverty, and greatest racial disparities in connectivity.
- **Require digital equity impact assessments** for all federally funded broadband projects, ensuring deployment plans address demographic gaps rather than reinforcing existing inequities.
- **Invest in community anchor institutions** including libraries, schools, HBCUs, and community health centers as broadband access hubs that serve populations furthest from connectivity.
- **Fund health outcomes research** linking broadband access to telehealth utilization, chronic disease management, and healthcare costs in underserved communities.
- **Establish a federal Office of Digital Equity** with permanent staffing and authority to coordinate cross agency digital inclusion efforts and track national progress.

How AGI Affinity Can Help

AGI Affinity's **TSDOH Assessment Matrix** maps the intersection of broadband access with social determinants of health, income, race, and geography. We help communities identify their most vulnerable populations, design targeted interventions, and measure outcomes that demonstrate the return on investment of equitable connectivity.

SOURCES

Pew Research Center, "Internet, Broadband Fact Sheet" (home broadband survey 6/18/2025; figures are U.S. adults) | Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, "Affordability & Availability: Expanding Broadband in the Black Rural South," October 6, 2021 (38% of Black and 23% of White residents lack home internet) | Common Sense Media, press release, October 29, 2020, citing the June 2020 Boston Consulting Group and Common Sense analysis (15 million to 16 million K-12 public school students) | OECD, "Fibre and 5G drive OECD digital transformation as broadband markets mature," October 30, 2025 (end-2024 data)