

— SECTION 06

Who Gets Left Behind

Income, race, geography, and age determine 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, geography, and age determine who has broadband in America

40pp

Income gap
54% vs 94%

15M

Students in the
homework gap



32nd

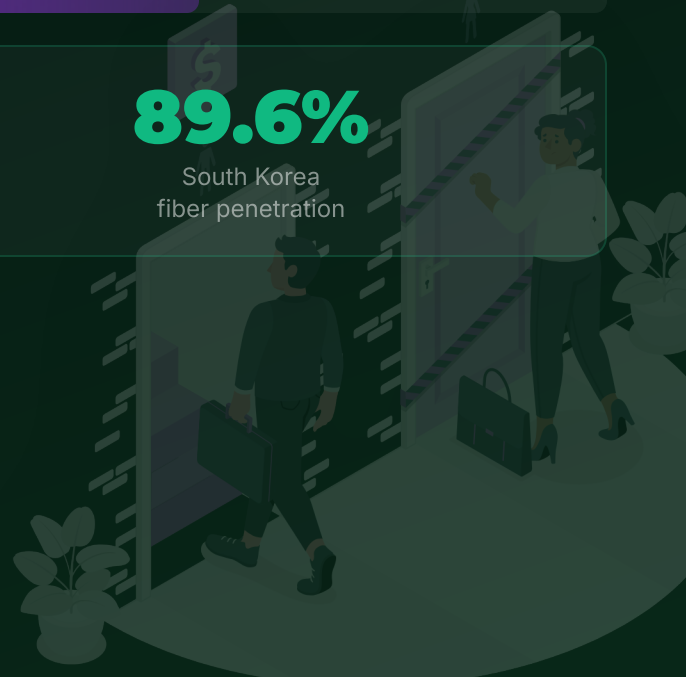
US fiber
penetration rank

89.6%

South Korea
fiber penetration

23.1%

US fiber
penetration rate



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" (2024) | FCC Broadband Deployment Reports | OECD Broadband Statistics Database | U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey | Common Sense Media, "Homework Gap" Research | WHO Digital Health and Equity Reports