

Footnotes

(1) PUMAs are geographic areas defined for studying statistics. PUMAs are built using sections of land as they are divided for taking the census. They are also built using the boundaries of counties. PUMAs nest within states. Each one contains roughly 100,000 residents. They cover the entire United States.

(2) We asked people a specific question to find out how many households had the Internet. It was question 10 of 2013 ACS, "At this house, apartment, or mobile homes-do you or any members of this household access the Internet?" By asking the question this way, we did not include householders who only use the Internet at a public location. These people might use the Internet at school or the library. We only count the people who use the Internet at home.

(3) We examine home computer use rather than home Internet use. The pattern is very similar. The average rates of computer use are higher those of Internet use, though. It is most that way for the poorest 20 percent of households. Estimates suggest that doubling median household income leads to a 19.3 percentage point increase in the probability of having a computer at home.

(4) Note that a person is counted as using the Internet at home if they live in a household that has Internet. It does not matter whether or not they are the primary user of the Internet.

(5) Let us use a 2011 study by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration as an example. This study looked at people who do not have home Internet access. In this group, 67 percent of the those over age 65 say that they simply are not interested in it. Only 26 percent of those aged 16 to 44 gave the same explanation.