

## CALIFORNIA'S DIGITAL DIVIDE

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### ► Internet use and broadband access are widespread among Californians.

A large majority of Californians have a broadband Internet connection at home (72%, up from 55% in 2008). Broadband use at home is 11 points higher in California than in the nation as a whole: In a recent Pew Internet & American Life Project survey, 61% of adults nationwide reported having broadband. Currently, 84% of Californians use the Internet (up from 70% in 2008), compared to 77% of adults nationwide.

### ► But demographic differences are striking.

Despite a 21-point increase in broadband use among Latinos since 2008 (rising from 34% to 55%), other racial/ethnic groups are still much more likely to use broadband: whites (81%), Asians (76%), and blacks (74%). Still, the divide between Latinos and other racial/ethnic groups has narrowed somewhat since 2008 (minus 8 points compared to whites, minus 12 points compared to Asians, and minus 13 points compared to blacks). Similarly, despite a 27-point increase in broadband use among non-citizens since 2008 (rising from 23% to 50%), U.S.-born residents (80%) and naturalized citizens (64%) are still more likely to report broadband use. Still, although a gap remains, the divide between U.S.-born residents and non-citizens has narrowed by 14 points since 2008. Broadband use is higher among college graduates (90%) and those with some college education (84%) than among less educated Californians (53%). Similarly, broadband use is higher among adults with household incomes of \$80,000 or more (93%) and among those who earn between \$40,000 and \$80,000 (82%) than among less affluent Californians (58%). Higher broadband use is also reported by residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (78%, up 13 points since 2008) and in the Orange/San Diego County area (76%, up 18 points) than by residents in the Central Valley (70%, up 17), Los Angeles (68%, up 20), and the Inland Empire (66%, up 10).

### ► And differences exist even across Latino subgroups.

While broadband use among Latinos has increased 21 points since 2008, disparities among Latinos persist. Some Latino subgroups are similar to other racial/ethnic groups in their use of broadband. For example, relatively high rates of broadband use are evident among those who are U.S. born (79%), who prefer to speak English (82%), and who earn at least \$40,000 per year (78%). But other Latino subgroups still lag far behind, such as those who are foreign-born (40%), who prefer to speak Spanish (35%), and who earn under \$40,000 per year (47%).

### ► Residents with disabilities and older residents lag behind.

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, 49% report they use broadband, compared to 76% without a disability. Residents with a disability are also far less likely than others to report Internet use (67% vs. 87%). Similarly, older Californians are less likely than younger generations to report broadband or Internet use. Those age 55 and older are the least likely to report using this technology (61% broadband, 74% Internet) compared to those in the 35-54 age group (72% broadband, 84% Internet) and the 18-34 age group (81% broadband, 92% Internet).

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

Forty percent of adults use their cell phone to access the Internet, a 21-point increase since 2008 (19% 2008, 26% 2009, 40% today). Residents ages 18 to 34 are far more likely than adults age 55 and older to use their cell phone to go online (57% vs. 17%). Using a cell phone to access the Internet is highest among blacks (57%), followed by whites (43%), Asians (41%), and Latinos (32%). The percentage of adults using cell phones to connect to the Internet declines sharply with age and increases sharply with education and income.



**California's digital divide**

		Internet use*				Broadband at home			
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>All adults</b>		70%	76%	81%	84%	55%	62%	70%	72%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Asians</b>	80	85	87	86	67	74	77	76
	<b>Blacks</b>	82	81	82	85	66	62	70	74
	<b>Latinos</b>	48	53	65	70	34	39	50	55
	<b>Whites</b>	81	88	90	92	68	75	82	81
<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>U.S.-born</b>	81	85	89	91	67	71	79	80
	<b>Naturalized citizen</b>	62	68	71	78	46	57	60	64
	<b>Noncitizen</b>	36	45	51	65	23	31	36	50
<b>Education</b>	<b>No college</b>	47	54	62	69	32	37	46	53
	<b>Some college</b>	81	84	88	94	63	69	75	84
	<b>College graduate</b>	92	93	95	97	81	83	90	90
<b>Income</b>	<b>Under \$40,000</b>	49	58	66	72	33	40	49	58
	<b>\$40,000 to under \$80,000</b>	83	87	86	94	64	74	78	82
	<b>\$80,000 or more</b>	92	97	98	98	85	89	94	93
<b>Homeownership</b>	<b>Owners</b>	76	83	85	87	64	73	77	78
	<b>Renters</b>	61	66	75	78	44	48	61	63
<b>Disability**</b>	<b>Yes</b>	57	60	68	67	36	47	55	49
	<b>No</b>	73	79	85	87	60	65	75	76
<b>Age</b>	<b>18 to 34</b>	78	83	87	92	60	65	76	81
	<b>35 to 54</b>	73	75	83	84	61	64	73	72
	<b>55 and older</b>	58	68	73	74	44	57	64	61
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men</b>	71	77	83	86	59	65	74	74
	<b>Women</b>	68	74	79	82	52	59	67	69
<b>Children age 18 or younger</b>	<b>Yes</b>	69	74	83	83	54	62	71	72
	<b>No</b>	71	77	81	84	57	63	71	72
<b>Region</b>	<b>Central Valley</b>	71	67	78	85	53	51	64	70
	<b>San Francisco Bay Area</b>	77	86	86	89	65	73	79	78
	<b>Los Angeles</b>	61	71	78	79	48	58	67	68
	<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	73	81	82	89	58	70	75	76
	<b>Inland Empire</b>	70	76	81	83	56	60	71	66

\* For 2008–2010, "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 2008, "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?" Since 2009, it includes those who answered yes to that question or to the question "Do you often have difficulty seeing, hearing, talking, or walking in the course of your everyday life?"

**Sources:** (1) PPIC Statewide Surveys, June 2008 (2,503 adults), June 2009 (2,502 adults), July 2010 (2,502 adults), and June 2011 (2,502 adults). Margin of error for all adults in 2011 ±2.8%; margin of error for subgroups is larger. (2) Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, www.pewinternet.org.

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