

Discussing the Essence of the Findings
from
Study of Digital Divide Within the SCAG Region
Depiction of the Existing Digital Access Within Six Counties of the Region and Across Selected Demographic Indicators in Each Zip Code

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Ideas & Topics Explored

- ❖ We looked at each county within the region and recorded the availability of devices, Internet connection, affordability across different demographic characteristics, for households and individuals with each zip code. This includes every possible zip code for which information was available. As a results we found information for 14 in Imperial, 276 in LA, 87 in Orange, 69 in Riverside, 82 in San Bernardino, 24 in Ventura, and altogether **552 zip codes in the Region**. These include all the zip codes in the report and in its addendum.
- ❖ **The Study Provides the Following Information:**
 - A Basic Evidence of the Prevailing Digital Divide: Percentage of households with no computer or Internet connection
 - Digital Divide Based on Race: Percentage of population without computer across different races
 - Digital Divide Based on Race: Percentage of population without Internet connection across different races
 - Digital Divide Based on Ethnicity: Percentage of population without computer across ethnicity (White Alone No Hispanic Or Hispanic or Latino Origin (of any race)
 - Digital Divide Based on Ethnicity: Percentage of population without Internet connection across ethnicity (White Alone No Hispanic Or Hispanic or Latino Origin (of any race)
 - Percentage of population under 18 years of age without computer or Internet connection (separately)
 - Percentages of households who cannot afford digital services based on its cost exceeding 5% of their household budget
- ❖ **The Study Does Not Provide The Following Information Which May Be Needed For Looking Into the Subject Matter:**
 - Lack of adequate infrastructure through any plausible measure/indicator. This may be more evident in rural areas. Such study may include: industry structure, high initial fixed cost, insufficient market size, population density, government investment and subsidy, etc.
 - Quality of services available
 - Educational needs of population: age structure, educational attainment, access to information,.....



Important Issues To Consider When Focusing on Zip Codes

- ❖ Zip Codes Come With Various Sizes of Population and Analyses of their Numbers Should Not be Taken as Equal To Size of Population or Households.
- ❖ Zip Codes Provides Good Socioeconomic Information With Reasonable Margin of Errors From Pool of 5-Year Data.
- ❖ Zip Codes Provide Good Geographic Maps of Population and Therefore They Provide a Good Understanding of Neighborhood.
- ❖ Combining Geographically Neighboring Zip Codes May Come Useful When Certain Policy Interventions are Considered. This May Allow for Making Good Use of Economies of Scale For Certain Large Scale Infrastructural Investment.



Breakdown Of Indicators of Digital Divide Across SCAG Region

Summary of Selected Findings Across Different Counties Within SCAG Region							
Findings	Name of the Counties						Total
	Imperial	Los Angeles	Orange	Riverside	San Bernardino	Ventura	
# of Zip Codes with 20% or more of Households Without Computer and Internet Connection	10 Or 71.4%	72 Or 26.1%	3 Or 3.4%	20 Or 29.0%	24 Or 29.3%	5 Or 20.8%	134 Or 24.3%
# of Zip Codes with White Alone Population When 10% or More Are Without Computer	5 Or 35.7%	40 Or 14.5%	1 Or 1.1%	5 Or 7.2%	6 Or 7.3%	0 Or 0%	57 Or 10.3%
# of Zip Codes with White Alone Population when 10% or More Are Without Internet Connection	3 Or 21.4%	28 Or 10.1%	2 Or 2.3%	6 Or 8.7%	8 Or 9.8%	0 or 0%	44 Or 8.0%
# of Zip Codes with Hispanic/Latino Population when 10% or More Are Without Computer	1 Or 7.1%	29 Or 10.5%	4 Or 4.6%	14 Or 20.3%	6 Or 7.3%	4 Or 16.7%	58 Or 10.5%
# of Zip Codes with Hispanic/Latino Population when 10% or More Are Without Internet Connection	5 Or 35.7%	84 Or 30.4%	7 Or 8.1%	13 Or 18.8%	19 Or 23.1%	3 Or 12.5%	131 Or 23.7%
# of Zip Codes with More than 5% Under 18-Year-Old Are Without Computer	3 Or 21.4%	54 Or 19.6%	4 Or 4.6%	16 Or 23.2%	10 Or 12.2%	4 Or 16.7%	91 Or 16.5%
# of Zip Codes with More than 5% of Under 18-Year-Old Are Without Internet Connection	8 Or 57.1%	155 Or 56.2%	19 Or 21.8%	37 Or 53.6%	39 Or 47.6%	8 Or 33.3%	266 Or 48.2%
# of Zip Codes with More than 30% of Households Who Cannot Afford to Pay for Devices and Internet Connection	10 Or 71.4%	189 Or 64.5%	29 Or 33.3%	50 Or 72.4%	53 Or 64.6%	10 Or 41.7%	338 Or 61.2%
Total Zip Codes Within the County	14	276	87	69	82	24	552



Summary of Findings

- ❖ Lack of an Internet Connection is a Greater Barrier than the Inability to Have a Computer or Other Digital Devices.
- ❖ Hispanics (of All Races) Are at a far Greater Disadvantage than the White Alone (Not Hispanic or Latino).
- ❖ Taking Zip Codes Wherein 30% or More of its Households Cannot Afford to Pay for Devices and/or an Internet Connection Shows that 61% of Neighborhoods in the SCAG Region are Faced with This Problem.
- ❖ In a Significant Proportion of Zip Codes, the Percentages of Households Faced with Unaffordability of These Essential Services Are Much Greater.
- ❖ Los Angeles County Houses More than 50% of the Total Population of SCAG Region. However, the Severity of its Local Problems in Most Areas of Are Proportionally Larger and Harder.
- ❖ Imperial County Faces a Disproportionate Level of Problems and Obstacles.



Possible Policy Implications

- ❖ Lack of Access To Internet Connection & Device for Younger Generation Implies Clear Disinvestment in Young Generation and a Major Educational Impediments Now and Even Larger in Years to Come.
- ❖ Severe Lack of Access Deserves Its Own Focus.
- ❖ Inability to Afford Creates a Negative Impact Which Brings Its Own Adverse Consequences for Further Development of Infrastructure, If Such Changes Are Left Solely to Market Demand.
- ❖ We Clearly Have to Move from a Model of Providing for Market Demand to Include Satisfying Needs as an Important Component of Service Providing Model.
- ❖ Such Model Requires a Reliable and Sustainable Government Subsidy Policy.

The End

Q & A

