

- **CALIFORNIANS GENERALLY HAVE HIGH RATES OF COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE...**
Today, three in four Californians (75%) report that they use a computer at home, work, or school, and 70% use the Internet. Since 2000, overall computer use has not changed much in California (2000: 76%, 2008: 75%), while Internet use has increased slightly (2000: 65%, 2008: 70%). Californians are similar to adults nationwide in both computer use (75% to 74%) and Internet use (70% to 73%).
- **... BUT LATINOS LAG FAR BEHIND OTHER GROUPS.**
Whites, blacks, and Asians currently have similarly high rates of computer and Internet use. Latinos have the lowest rates by far (computers 58%, Internet 48%).
- **USE IS HIGH AMONG THE YOUNG, THE AFFLUENT, THE COLLEGE-EDUCATED, AND HOMEOWNERS.**
California adults under age 35 are much more likely than those age 55 and older to use computers (83% to 62%) and the Internet (78% to 58%). Almost all adults with household incomes above \$80,000 use computers (94%) and the Internet (92%), while those with household incomes under \$40,000 are far less likely to use either computers (58%) or the Internet (49%). Gaps are also evident between college graduates and those with less education and between homeowners and renters.
- **SOME DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS MAKE A DIFFERENCE, OTHERS DO NOT.**
Men are somewhat more likely than women to use computers (77% to 72%), but Internet use is similar (71% to 68%). Adults living with children are similar to those living without children in computer use (77% to 74%) and Internet use (69% to 71%). Those with disabilities lag those without disabilities, and rural residents lag urban residents, in computer and Internet use.
- **COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE HAS INCREASED IN SOME GROUPS BUT NOT OTHERS.**
Since 2000, whites and blacks have increased their use of computers and the Internet, but among Latinos, computer use has declined and Internet use has not changed. Among Asians, both computer and Internet use has declined. U.S.-born residents have increased their computer and Internet use since 2000, but naturalized citizens and noncitizens have not. Internet use has grown sharply among those age 55 and older, but not among adults with household incomes of less than \$40,000 or renters.
- **THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA HAS THE HIGHEST RATE OF COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE.**
Across regions, Los Angeles County has the lowest rate of computer (70%) and Internet (61%) use, while the San Francisco Bay Area has the highest (computer 81%, Internet 77%). Since 2000, Internet use has increased in the Central Valley, the Inland Empire, and the San Francisco Bay Area, but not in Los Angeles, Orange, or San Diego Counties.
- **BROADBAND USE VARIES SHARPLY ACROSS CALIFORNIA'S POPULATION AND REGIONS.**
Over half of Californians today (55%) have broadband Internet access at home (DSL, cable modem, T-1 line), similar to adults nationwide (55%). Just 7% of Californians use a dial-up connection. As with overall Internet use, sharply lower rates of broadband use are evident among Latinos, older adults, non-college-educated adults, less affluent residents, renters, those with disabilities, and immigrants. The San Francisco Bay Area has the highest percentage of broadband use in the state.

California's Digital Divide

		Computer Use		Internet Use*		Broadband Use
		2000	2008	2000	2008	2008
All Adults		76%	75%	65%	70%	55%
Race/ethnicity	White	79	85	70	81	68
	Latino	64	58	47	48	34
	Black	76	83	60	82	66
	Asian	91	81	84	80	67
Region	Los Angeles	74	70	61	61	48
	SF Bay Area	82	81	73	77	65
	Central Valley	74	74	61	71	53
	Orange/San Diego	81	77	72	73	58
	Inland Empire	72	73	60	70	56
Age	18 to 34	85	83	75	78	60
	35 to 54	83	78	73	73	61
	55 and older	54	62	42	58	44
Education	No college	56	56	40	47	32
	Some college	81	84	70	81	63
	College graduate	89	94	82	92	81
Income	Under \$40,000	61	58	47	49	33
	\$40,000 to \$79,999	87	86	76	83	64
	\$80,000 or more	94	94	89	92	85
Own/Rent	Own	78	80	67	76	64
	Rent	74	69	63	61	44
Gender	Male	78	77	68	71	59
	Female	75	72	63	68	52
Children	Yes	81	77	68	69	54
	No	74	74	64	71	57
Citizenship	U.S.-born	79	85	69	81	67
	Naturalized citizen	73	68	61	62	46
	Noncitizen	51	46	34	36	23
Disability	Yes	N/A	60	N/A	57	36
	No	N/A	78	N/A	73	60
Community	Rural	N/A	66	N/A	63	51
	Urban	N/A	76	N/A	70	56

* For 2000, "Internet Use" includes those who answered yes to the question: "Do you ever go online to access the Internet or worldwide web or send or receive email?" For 2008, it includes those who answered yes to that question or to the question: "Do you send or receive email, at least occasionally?"

Sources: Five PPIC Statewide Surveys conducted between January and October 2000, including 10,091 adult residents, and one PPIC Statewide Survey conducted between June 3 and 17, 2008, including 2,503 adult residents. National comparisons derived from a recent Pew Internet and American Life Project survey.