

CA Telehealth Policy Coalition Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

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Executive Director

Insure the Uninsured Project

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About ITUP: Mission and Vision



Mission

Promote innovative and workable policy solutions that expand health care access and improve the health of all Californians.

Vision

ITUP believes that all Californians should have a fair opportunity to live their healthiest lives.

ITUP Values

ITUP seeks a health system that is:

- **Universal** – All Californians are eligible for comprehensive health coverage and services, including primary, specialty, behavioral, oral, and vision health services, as well as services that address the social determinants of health
- **Equitable** – All Californians receive health care coverage, treatment, and services that address the social determinants of health regardless of health status, age, ability, income, language, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, and geographic region
- **Accessible** – All Californians have access to coverage options and services that are available, timely, and appropriate
- **Effective** – Health, health care, and related services that address the social determinants of health are person-centered, value-based, coordinated, and high-quality
- **Affordable** – Coverage and services are affordable for consumers at the point of purchase and care; and, at the health system level for public and private purchasers



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Policy Priority Areas



[Save-the-Date: ITUP
Broadband and Health
Policy Forum](#)
[9 – 11am, Thurs., Nov. 17, 2021](#)

Coverage and Access

- 10 Statewide and Regional Coverage Snapshots
- Regional Workgroups
- 2020 Enrollment and Coverage Notes from the Field
- 2020 Telehealth Notes from the Field
- 2021 Notes from the Field
- Enrollment Policy Forum
- Telehealth Policy Forum
- Medicare Fact Sheet

Delivery System Transformation

- CaAIM Summary Blog
- Community Health Workers Fact Sheet
- Public Health and Delivery System Integration Fact Sheet
- Community-Based Organization Fact Sheet

The Future of Health

- Broadband for Health Fact Sheet
- Broadband Policy Forum
- Health Information Exchange Fact Sheet
- Health Information Exchange Policy Forum

Why Focus on Broadband?

- **Our Goal:** Achieve an Equitable and Accessible Health System by Closing the Digital Divide
- **Connectivity and Access to Devices**
 - Needed to Fulfill the Potential of:
 - Telehealth
 - Health Information Exchange
 - Health Access and Equity
 - Future Health Innovations
- **Address the Social Determinants of Health**, including economic mobility and education



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Digital Divide Consumer Impacts

- **Slow Broadband Speed**

- As of December 2019, 96.5% of Californian households reach the 25/3 Mbps broadband access
- However, only 73.8% of Californian households in rural regions of the state have access to this broadband availability

- **Lack of Affordability**

- In 2019, 30% of Californians don't have access to low-cost broadband

- **Lack of Access to Devices**

- More than 1 in 10 Californians don't have a computer

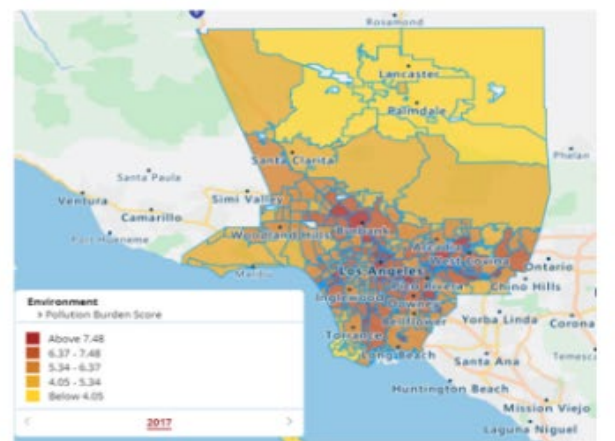
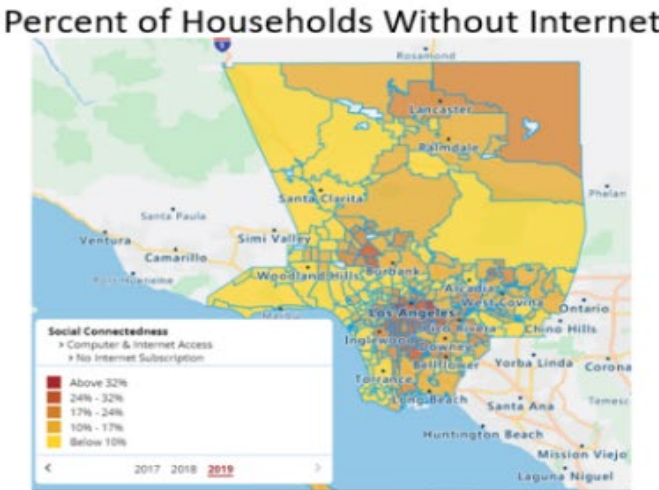
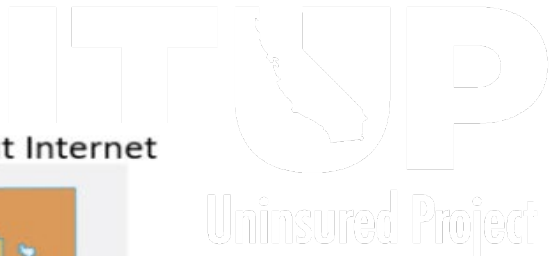
- **Lack of Access to Internet**

- 889,000 CA residents do not have internet providers where they live, including 365,000 in LA County



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Figure 1. Historical Redlining Perpetuates Digital and Health Inequities



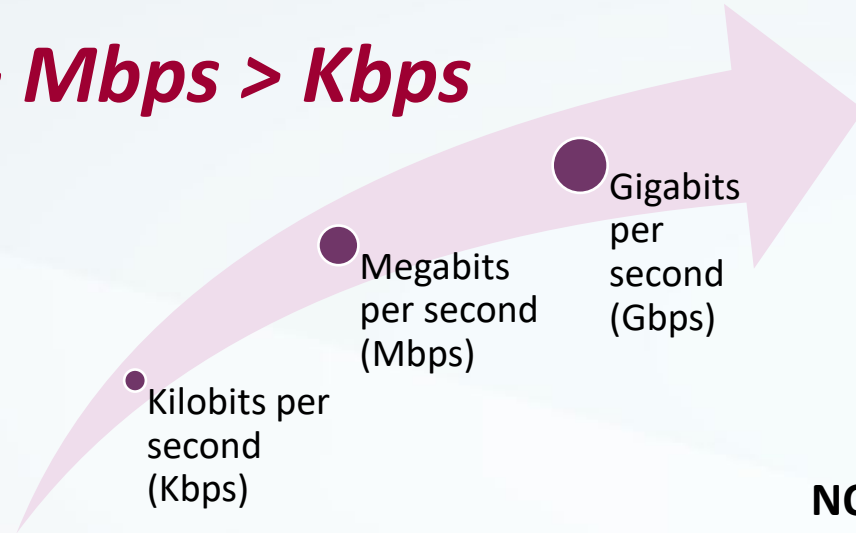
Pollution Burden Scores

Asthma Related ER Visits

Broadband Speed

More is Faster!!!

Gbps > Mbps > Kbps



NOTE: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sets sufficient broadband speeds at 25 Mbps download speeds and 3 Mbps upload speeds.

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How much broadband speed do residents need?

LIGHT



MEDIUM



HEAVY



1 device
2 devices
3 devices
4 devices

1 device	8 Mbps	8 Mbps	25 Mbps
2 devices	8 Mbps	25 Mbps	25 Mbps
3 devices	25 Mbps	25 Mbps	50+ Mbps
4 devices	25 Mbps	50+ Mbps	50+ Mbps

* Download speeds only.

Types of Broadband

- **Fiber-Optic Internet Networks (Fiber):**
 - Considered the gold standard
 - Network uses glass strands to send information
 - Useful life = decades
 - Most scalable technology to make sure future bandwidth needs are met
 - Fiber infrastructure can be 'lit' or active, or can be 'dark' and inactive
- **Phone Lines:**
 - Also Known As: Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL)
 - Internet connection through phone lines
 - Uses frequencies that degrade over distances
 - Consumer needs to be located within a mile of the central office supporting the DSL to have sufficient speeds
- **Cable Modem System:**
 - Cable television services offer internet access
 - Network is based on neighborhoods, where essentially the whole community shares on connection
 - Results in slower, often insufficient speeds for consumers



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Key Definitions for Health

Anchor Institutions: Anchor institutions are flagship community institutions that are sometimes connected to fiber even when fiber services are not commercially available to the broader community. Because of this, they can act as a connection to the Internet backbone. Health care facilities, schools, and libraries are examples of anchor institutions.

Digital Equity: The state of all members of a community having equal access and sufficient digital literacy to use communication technologies.

Internet Service Providers (ISPs): An entity that provides broadband services to subscribers/consumers.

Unserved Household: The California Public Utilities Code defines an unserved household as a household for which no facility-based broadband service at speeds of at least 6Mbps downstream and 1Mbps upstream.



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Key Definitions for Health

Last Mile: The portion of the internet which connects ISPs' shared infrastructure to end users, such as homes or businesses. For example, in a cellular wireless network, the last mile is the wireless connection between a base station and an individual mobile device. Sometimes this is also called the "first mile."

Middle Mile: This is a term most often referring to the network connection between the region and/or local network to the core network, or, the greater internet. For instance, in a rural area, the middle mile would likely connect the town's network to a larger metropolitan area where it interconnects with major ISPs.

Municipal Network: A broadband network owned by a local government, or "municipality". These networks take many forms, from modest networks serving a few businesses to networks that are available at every address across a community. Some are run by the municipality and others are managed by an ISP under contract.



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How to Engage?

- **California Public Utilities Commission**
 - [Regional Broadband Consortia](#)
 - [Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group](#)
 - Meets Monthly (1pm, Nov. 19)
- **California Department of Technology**
 - [Middle-Mile Advisory Committee](#)
 - Meets Monthly (1 – 2:30pm, Nov. 17)
- **[CA Broadband Council](#)** (Meets Ad Hoc)
- **Legislature**
 - Senator Lena Gonzalez (SB 4)
 - Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (AB 14)
- **Budget**
 - Newsom Administration and Legislature (SB 156)



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Learn More

California Research Bureau:

[https://www.library.ca.gov/Content/pdf/crb/reports/Broadband in California May %202021.pdf](https://www.library.ca.gov/Content/pdf/crb/reports/Broadband%20in%20California%20May%202021.pdf)

Community Networks Fact Sheets and Other Resources:

<https://muninetworks.org/content/resources>

Community Networks Glossary: <https://muninetworks.org/glossary>

Electronic Frontier Foundation Key Terms: <https://www.eff.org/wp/case-fiber-home-today-why-fiber-superior-medium-21st-century-broadband>

ITUP Broadband for Health Basics Fact Sheet:

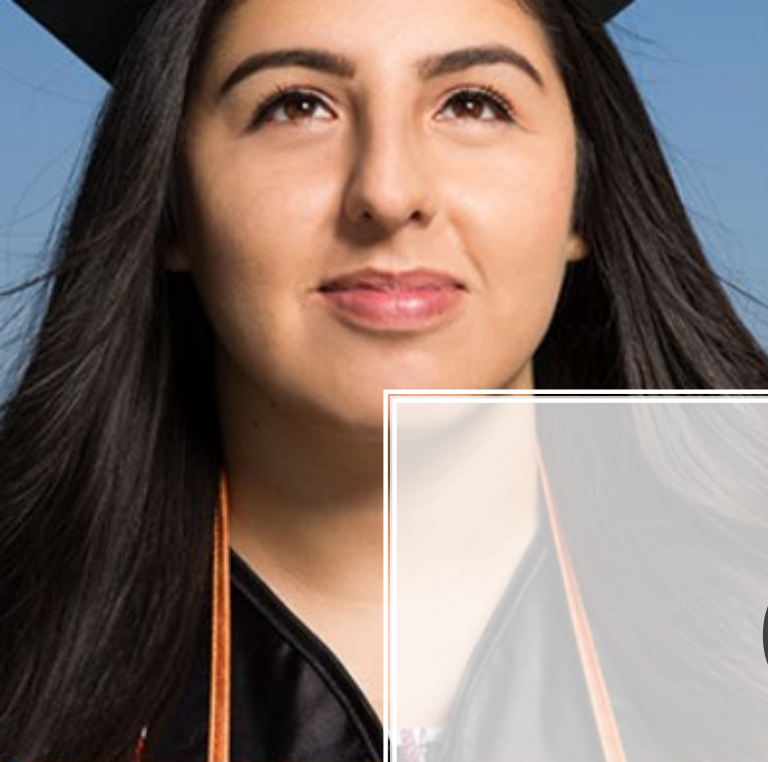
<https://www.itup.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Broadband-and-Health-Basics-FINAL-V1.pdf>

LA County Broadband Report (October 2021):

[http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1113566 UtilizingExistingInfrastructure andResourcestoAccelerateDigitalEquity9-30-21.pdf](http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1113566_UtilizingExistingInfrastructureandResourcestoAccelerateDigitalEquity9-30-21.pdf)



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education

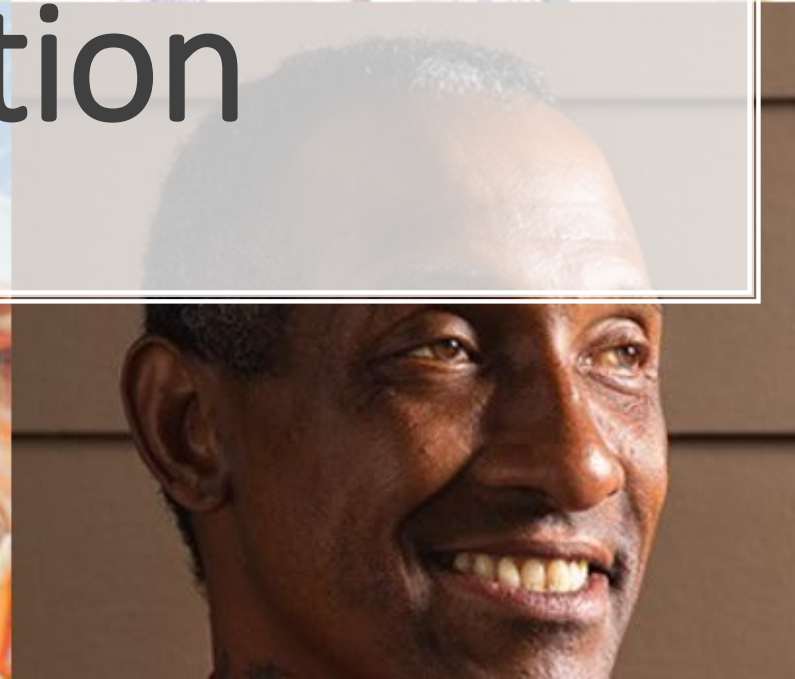


health

CA Community Foundation



immigration



housing

Thank You!

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