

# RESEARCH BRIEF

## Internet and Technology Access Dashboard Guide

### BACKGROUND

In response to the national social distancing requirements, institutions in UT System have transitioned to distance learning. OIRA created the Internet and Technology Access Dashboard, which provides the percentage of Texas households with internet and technology access to help users understand how students might be impacted by transitioning to distance learning this semester. This dashboard provides information on:

- the percentage of households that do or do not have internet access by internet access type and zip code
- the percentage of households that do or do not have internet access by internet access type and family income
- the percentage of households that do or do not have technology access by types of device and zip code
- the number of Texas residents enrolled in UT institutions in the past five years by county

### HOW TO USE THIS DASHBOARD

The link to the dashboard is: <https://data.utsystem.edu/Internet-Access-COVID-19>

The dashboard includes three map tabs: Internet Access by Zip Code, Internet Access by Family Income, and Technology Access by Zip Code, and three table tabs: Internet Access by Zip Code Table, Internet Access by Family Income Table, and Technology Access by Zip Code Table.

The dashboard has data broken down by institution and internet and technology access type. To show the percentages properly, users should select exactly one category for all filters. Each bubble on the map represents a zip code in Texas. The maps visualize the impact of access to computers and the internet – the darker the bubble color, the higher the percentage. Users can hover over bubbles to view more details. In those populated areas, bubbles may overlap. In that case, users can zoom in to see those overlapped bubbles. Users can also search the city name on the map.

In the table tabs, the overall percentages of each variable are displayed in addition to the percentages for each county. For example, with the filter “Institution = UTA” and “Degree Level = Undergraduate”, the “Estimated % with an internet subscription” is 79.7%. This percentage means that among those counties where undergraduate UTA students in the past five years, the average percentage of households with internet subscription in those counties is 79.7%.

### KEY FINDINGS

- > Among the three family income categories, families with incomes less than \$20,000 have the highest percentage of households that do not have internet access.
- > Most families with incomes more than \$75,000 have internet access.
- > Counties near Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin have higher percentages of households with internet access.
- > Counties near Rio Grande Valley and El Paso have higher percentages of households without internet access.
- > East and northeast Texas have higher percentages of households without computers, smartphones, or internet.

**Sources:** United States Census Bureau. *2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*, Table S2801, “Types of Computers and Internet Subscriptions”; United States Census Bureau. *2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*, Table B28004, “Household Income in the Last 12 Months (in Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) by Presence and Type of Internet Subscription in Household”; Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board “Student Report”