

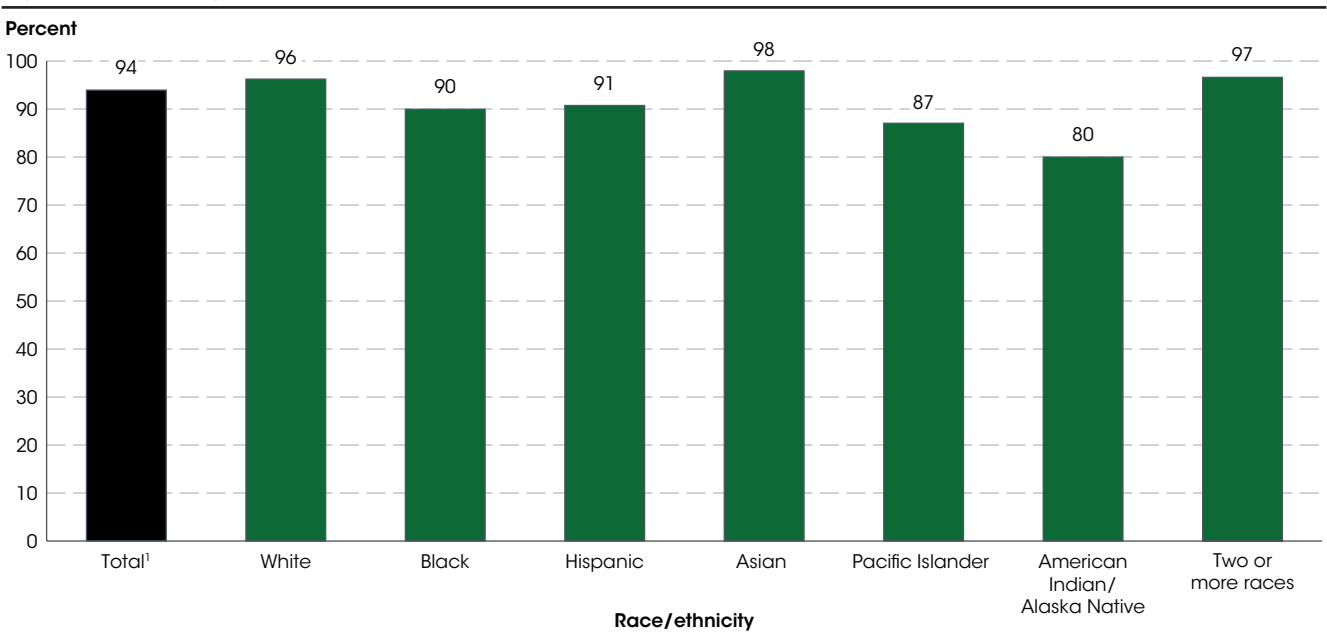
Children's Internet Access at Home

In 2018, some 94 percent of 3- to 18-year-olds had home internet access: 88 percent had access through a computer, and 6 percent had access only through a smartphone. The remaining 6 percent had no internet access at home.

This indicator uses data from the American Community Survey (ACS) to describe the percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds with home internet access and the percentage with home internet access only through a smartphone in 2018. This indicator also uses data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) to examine the main reasons reported for not having access in 2017, which is the most recent year such data were collected by CPS.

In 2018, some 94 percent of 3- to 18-year-olds had home internet access: 88 percent had access through a computer,¹ and 6 percent had access only through a smartphone.² The remaining 6 percent had no internet access at home. Compared with 2018, the percentages with home internet access through a computer and with access only through a smartphone were lower in 2016 (87 and 5 percent, respectively). 2016 was the first year data on internet access through smartphones were collected by ACS.

Figure 1. Percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds who had home internet access, by child’s race/ethnicity: 2018



¹ Total includes other racial/ethnic groups not shown separately.
NOTE: Includes only 3- to 18-year-olds living in households (respondents living in group quarters such as shelters, healthcare facilities, or correctional facilities were not asked about internet access). Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Although rounded numbers are displayed, the figures are based on unrounded data.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2018. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, table 702.12.

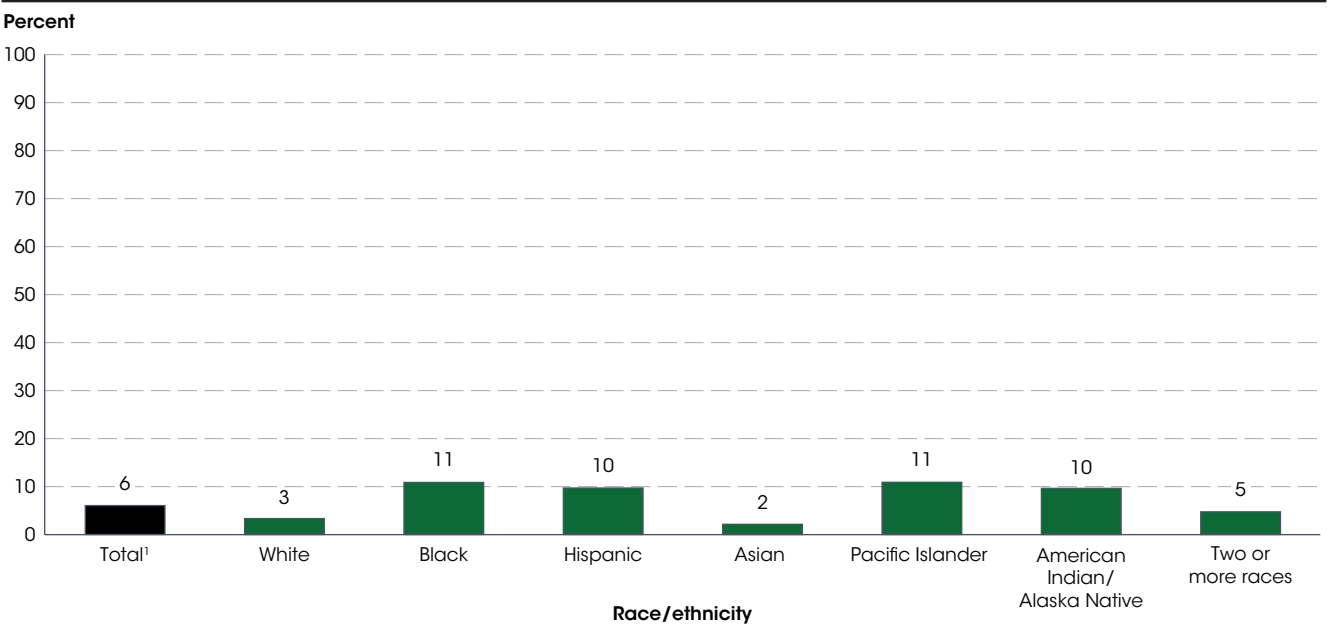
The percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds with home internet access varied across racial/ethnic groups. For instance, in 2018, the percentage with home internet access was highest for those who were Asian (98 percent) and lowest for those who were American Indian/Alaska Native (80 percent). In addition, the percentages with home internet access were higher for those who were of Two or more races (97 percent) and White (96 percent) than for those who were Hispanic (91 percent), Black (90 percent), and Pacific Islander (87 percent).

The percentages of 3- to 18-year-olds with home internet access were higher for those whose parents had attained higher levels of education. For instance, in 2018, the percentage with home internet access was highest for those

whose parents had attained a bachelor’s or higher degree (99 percent), followed by those whose parents had an associate’s degree (96 percent), some college but no degree (94 percent), a high school credential³ (90 percent), and less than a high school credential (82 percent).

The percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds with home internet access was higher for those in higher income families. In 2018, some 99 percent of those in families in the highest family income quarter and 97 percent of those in families in the middle-high quarter had home internet access, compared with 94 percent and 87 percent of those in families in the middle-low and lowest quarters, respectively.⁴

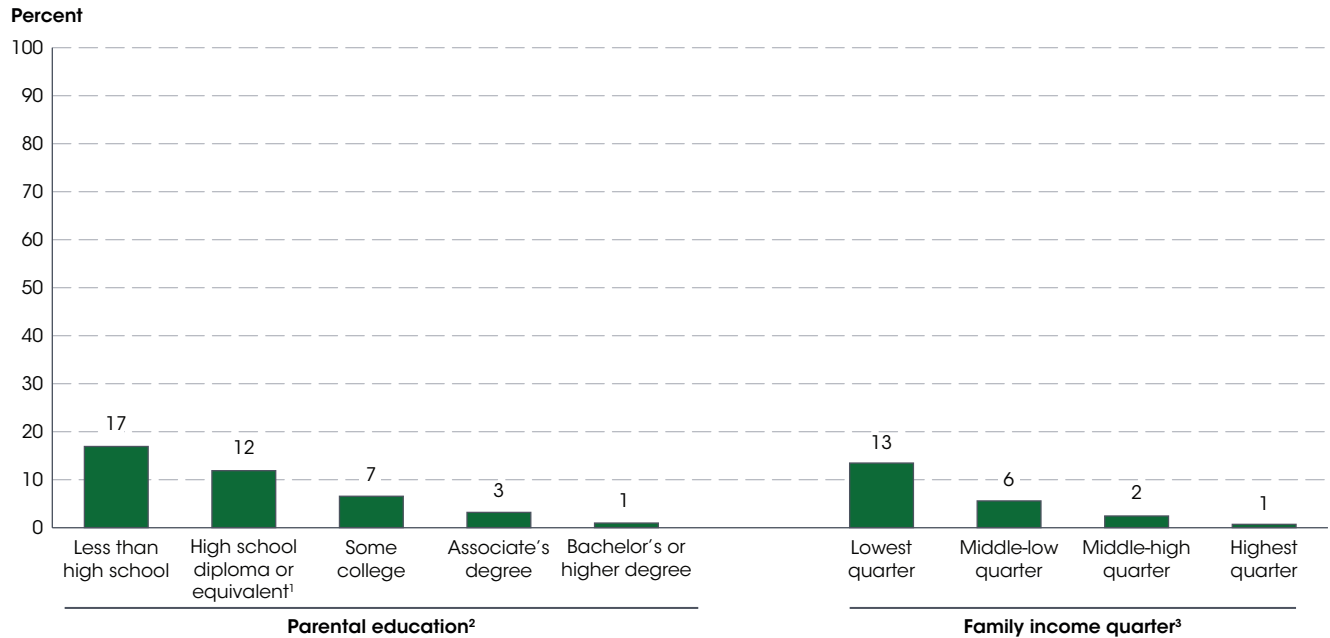
Figure 2. Percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds who had home internet access only through a smartphone, by child’s race/ethnicity: 2018



¹ Total includes other racial/ethnic groups not shown separately.
NOTE: Includes only 3- to 18-year-olds living in households (respondents living in group quarters such as shelters, healthcare facilities, or correctional facilities were not asked about internet access). Includes 3- to 18-year-olds who had home internet access only through a smartphone but did not have any of the following types of computers: desktop or laptop, tablet or other portable wireless computer, or “some other type of computer.” Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Although rounded numbers are displayed, the figures are based on unrounded data.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2018. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, table 702.12.

The percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds with home internet access only through a smartphone varied by race and ethnicity and was lower for those who were Asian (2 percent), White (3 percent), and of Two or more races

(5 percent) than for those who were American Indian/Alaska Native (10 percent), Hispanic (10 percent), Black (11 percent), and Pacific Islander (11 percent).

Figure 3. Percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds who had home internet access only through a smartphone, by parental education and family income quarter: 2018

¹ Includes those who completed high school through equivalency credentials, such as the GED.

² Highest education level of any parent residing with the 3- to 18-year-olds (including an adoptive or stepparent). Includes only 3- to 18-year-olds who resided with at least one of their parents.

³ The lowest quarter refers to the bottom 25 percent of all family incomes; the middle-low quarter refers to the 26th through the 50th percentile of all family incomes; the middle-high quarter refers to the 51st through the 75th percentile of all family incomes; and the highest quarter refers to the top 25 percent of all family incomes.

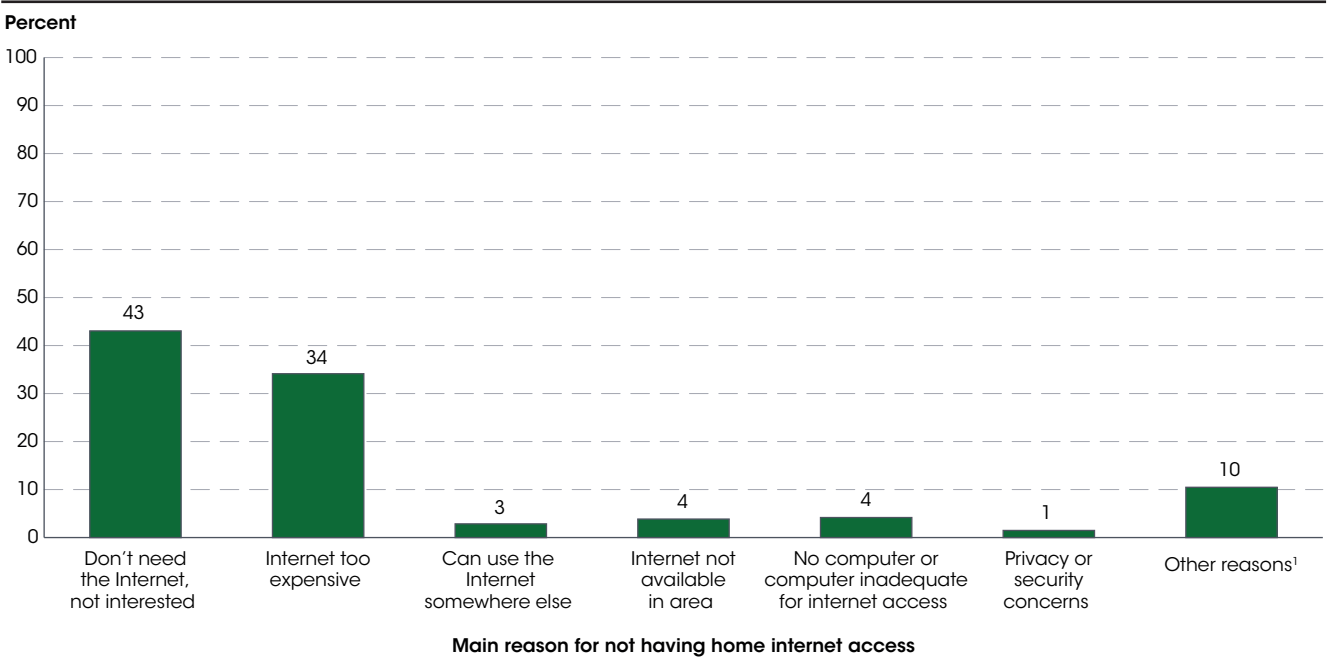
NOTE: Includes only 3- to 18-year-olds living in households (respondents living in group quarters such as shelters, healthcare facilities, or correctional facilities were not asked about internet access). Includes 3- to 18-year-olds who had home internet access only through a smartphone but did not have any of the following types of computers: desktop or laptop, tablet or other portable wireless computer, or "some other type of computer." Although rounded numbers are displayed, the figures are based on unrounded data.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2018. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, table 702.12.

In addition, the percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds with home internet access only through a smartphone was lower for those whose parents had attained higher levels of education. For instance, in 2018, the percentage with home internet access only through a smartphone was lowest for those whose parents had attained a bachelor's or higher degree (1 percent), followed by those whose parents had an associate's degree (3 percent), some college but no degree (7 percent), a high school credential (12 percent), and less than a high school credential (17 percent).

Similarly, the percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds with home internet access only through a smartphone was lower for those in higher income families. In 2018, some 1 percent of those in families in the highest family income quarter and 2 percent of those in families in the middle-high quarter had home internet access only through a smartphone, compared with 6 percent and 13 percent of those in families in the middle-low and lowest quarters, respectively.

Figure 4. Percentage distribution of 3- to 18-year-olds with no internet access at home, by main reason for not having access: 2017



¹ Respondents could specify “other” reasons. Examples of other reasons were not provided to respondents.
NOTE: Includes only 3- to 18-year-olds living in homes with no internet access. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutionalized population, which excludes persons in the military and persons living in institutions (e.g., prisons or nursing facilities). The survey respondent usually is the person who either owns or rents the housing unit. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Although rounded numbers are displayed, the figures are based on unrounded data.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), November 2017. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2018*, table 702.40.

In 2017, the two most commonly cited main reasons that 3- to 18-year-olds did not have home internet access were that the family did not need it or was not interested in having it (43 percent) and that it was too expensive (34 percent). Other main reasons cited for not having home internet access included the following: the home either had no computer or had a computer inadequate for internet use (4 percent), internet service was not available in the area (4 percent), the Internet could be used somewhere else (3 percent), and the existence of privacy or security concerns (1 percent).

In 2017, the percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds whose main barrier to home internet access was that it was too expensive was higher for those who were Hispanic (45 percent) than for those who were of Two or more

racess (30 percent), White (25 percent), and American Indian/Alaska Native (24 percent). The percentage whose main barrier to home internet access was that it was too expensive was also higher for those who were Black (39 percent) than for those who were White. In addition, the percentages whose main barrier to home internet access was that it was too expensive were higher for those whose parents had less than a high school credential (46 percent) and a high school credential (39 percent) than for those whose parents had attained a bachelor’s or higher degree (25 percent) in 2017. Similarly, the percentage whose main barrier to home internet access was that it was too expensive was higher for those with family income levels of less than \$40,000 than for those with family income levels of \$50,000 or more in 2017.

Endnotes:

¹ Refers to the percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds with home internet access through one or more of the following types of computers: desktop or laptop, tablet or other portable wireless computer, or “some other type of computer.” Includes homes having both smartphones and any of these types of computers.
² Refers to the percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds with home internet access only through a smartphone but did not have any of the types of computers listed in endnote 1.

³ Includes those who completed high school through equivalency credentials, such as the GED.
⁴ The highest quarter refers to the top 25 percent of all family incomes; the middle-high quarter refers to the 51st through the 75th percentile of all family incomes; the middle-low quarter refers to the 26th through the 50th percentile of all family incomes; and the lowest quarter refers to the bottom 25 percent of all family incomes.

Reference tables: *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, table 702.12; *Digest of Education Statistics 2018*, table 702.40
Related indicators and resources: *Student Access to Digital Learning Resources Outside of the Classroom*; *Technology and Engineering Literacy* [web-only]

Glossary: Bachelor’s degree; College; Educational attainment; Educational attainment (Current Population Survey); Gap; High school completer; Racial/ethnic group