

# **INFRASTRUCTURE**

## **FAST FACTS**

Joint Economic Committee

@JEC Dems

### **In Six States, More Than One in Ten Residents Live in Digitally Distressed Communities**

- Communities that are digitally distressed have a high percent of homes not subscribing to any internet or subscribing to it only through a cellular plan, and a high percent of homes with no computing devices or relying only on mobile devices.
- Certain states are particularly affected by digital distress. In Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, New Mexico, Mississippi and Texas, more than one in ten residents live in a community that is digitally distressed.
- In Mississippi, almost one third of the population lives in communities that are digitally distressed.

*In Six States, More Than One in Ten Residents Live in Digitally Distressed Communities*

Digital Distress by State, 2019		
State	Percent of Tracts in Digital Distress	Percent of Population Living in Digital Distress
Alabama	19.85%	13.5%
Alaska	7.23%	5.2%
Arizona	7.07%	5.7%
Arkansas	17.52%	11.4%
California	2.22%	2.0%
Colorado	1.13%	0.6%
Connecticut	2.06%	1.1%
Delaware	2.34%	1.8%
District of Columbia	3.37%	2.9%
Florida	3.65%	2.8%
Georgia	9.06%	5.0%
Hawaii	1.28%	0.4%
Idaho	1.01%	0.3%
Illinois	6.16%	3.6%
Indiana	5.38%	3.4%
Iowa	1.58%	1.0%
Kansas	4.08%	2.6%
Kentucky	5.25%	3.3%
Louisiana	20.27%	14.0%
Maine	0.28%	0.1%
Maryland	3.47%	2.1%
Massachusetts	1.58%	0.9%
Michigan	6.90%	3.7%
Minnesota	0.30%	0.1%
Mississippi	34.25%	28.7%
Missouri	6.48%	3.9%
Montana	2.23%	2.0%
Nebraska	0.76%	0.4%
Nevada	4.13%	2.9%
New Hampshire	0.34%	0.2%
New Jersey	2.96%	2.1%
New Mexico	14.29%	13.5%
New York	2.86%	2.4%
North Carolina	5.54%	4.1%
North Dakota	0.98%	0.5%
Ohio	5.89%	3.2%
Oklahoma	11.38%	8.9%
Oregon	0.24%	0.2%
Pennsylvania	3.01%	2.2%
Rhode Island	1.67%	1.6%
South Carolina	10.60%	7.7%
South Dakota	3.60%	3.2%
Tennessee	9.75%	6.8%
Texas	13.31%	10.2%
Utah	0.68%	0.4%
Vermont	0.00%	0.0%
Virginia	3.79%	2.5%
Washington	0.48%	0.4%
West Virginia	1.86%	1.1%
Wisconsin	4.03%	2.5%
Wyoming	0.00%	0.0%

Source: JEC Democratic staff calculations based on data from the 2019 5-year American Community Survey.

Notes: Digital distress is calculated from the share of homes not subscribing to any internet or subscribing only through a cellular plan and the share of homes with no computing devices or relying only on mobile phones. This is modeled after the index developed by Dr. Roberto Gallardo at the Purdue Center for Regional Development.