

# Lit



# Scan

## Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

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### Access to a Home Computer and Use of the Internet at Home by Children 3 to 17 Years: August 2000

Characteristic	Access to Computer	Use Internet
<b>Age</b>		
3 to 5 years	58.0	7.3
6 to 11 years	64.1	24.7
12 to 17 years	69.5	47.9
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White (non-Hispanic)	77.3	38.4
Black	42.5	14.7
Asian and Pacific Islander	71.9	35.2
Hispanic (any race)	37.1	12.8
<b>Householder's Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than high school diploma	30.1	11.1
High school diploma/GED	55.8	24.3
Some college	74.8	34.9
Bachelor's degree or more	89.9	46.6
<b>Household Type</b>		
Married-couple household	73.6	35.1
Male householder	48.8	23.9
Female householder	43.0	17.8
<b>Metropolitan Status</b>		
Inside central city	53.4	23.7
Outside central city ("suburbs")	72.8	34.7
Non-metropolitan ("rural")	61.1	28.7
<b>Family Income</b>		
Under \$15,000	27.3	7.7
15,000-19,999	36.0	12.9
20,000-24,999	41.9	15.2
25,000-34,999	53.9	21.0
35,000-49,999	71.4	31.8
50,000-74,999	82.6	39.9
75,000+	93.2	51.7

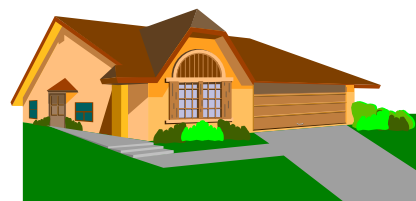
### Internet Access and Use at Home Lower for At-Risk Students

Increasingly, students and teachers rely on information available via the Internet. This is true to such an extent that students who do not have access to a home computer and do not have and use Internet access at home are at a distinct disadvantage at school.

According to a September 2001 report from the U.S. Census Bureau, pre-school and school-age children in groups traditionally considered "at risk" are less likely to live in homes where there is a computer and are less likely to use the Internet at home.

#### Age

While about two-thirds of school-age children live in homes with a computer, use of the Internet at home by children doubles from almost 25 percent to almost half between elementary and middle school grades.



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### **Race/Ethnicity**

A third or more of White and Asian/Pacific Islander children use the Internet at home; but, fewer than one out of seven Hispanic and Black children do so.

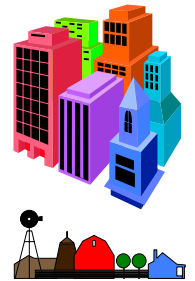


### **Householder's Educational Attainment**

The impact of parental education on home Internet use by children is dramatic. Only about one-tenth of children of high school dropouts use the Internet at home. That percentage increases to almost 25 percent for children whose parents completed high school only, more than a third for children whose parents completed some college, and almost half of children of college graduates.

### **Metropolitan Status**

Children who live in the suburbs have greater access to home computers and more often use the Internet from home compared to children who live in outlying, rural areas. The latter, however, have slightly greater access to home computers and use the Internet at home more than children who live in central cities of metropolitan areas.



### **Family Income**

Family income has a predictably powerful impact on the likelihood of a child being able to use a computer to access the Internet at home. Fewer than one in 12 children of the poorest families (those with incomes under \$15,000) have the level of access to technology that is enjoyed by over half of children from the wealthiest families (those with incomes of \$75,000 or more).

It is interesting to observe that, for all groups, the percentage of homes with a computer is always dramatically higher than the percentage of children who use the computer to access the Internet at home. In all likelihood, this discrepancy reflects the fact that most homes have only one computer, leading to competition among household members—children and adults both—for “computer time.”

## **SOURCES**

- **Home Computers and Internet Use in the United States: August 2000.** Current Population Survey Reports. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/computer.html>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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