

BASTROP COUNTY, TEXAS

Higher Education Survey Results

Higher Education Survey Results



Post-secondary education contributes significantly to the talent and workforce development of a community. While the structure of K-12 education is relatively similar from one community to the next, higher education can take many forms. From community colleges and traditional universities to trade schools, higher education offers a variety of educational programs and content to meet the needs of the community. Higher education can also be an attractor for the community, drawing students and faculty from abroad. Similar to K-12 institutions, higher education has many opportunities to leverage internet-enabled technologies to facilitate a more robust learning environment.

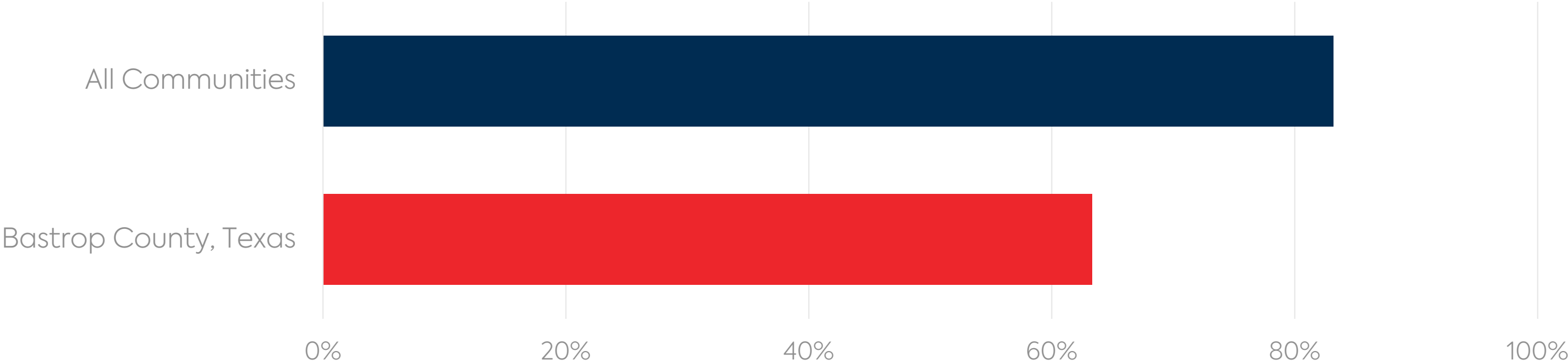
These data show the connectivity and use of technology among higher education institutions in the community compared to those in other communities participating in Connected Nation's Connected program. These data should be used to make informed decisions and implement solutions for improving connectivity in the community. This information was gathered through surveys distributed in the community.

Data from Bastrop County represent survey responses collected between July 6, 2020, and November 16, 2020. Four institutes of higher education responded to this survey in Bastrop County. Data from all Connected communities represent survey responses collected between January 1, 2017, and January 29, 2021. As more communities participate in the Connected program, these figures are likely to change.

Classrooms with Wi-Fi Service

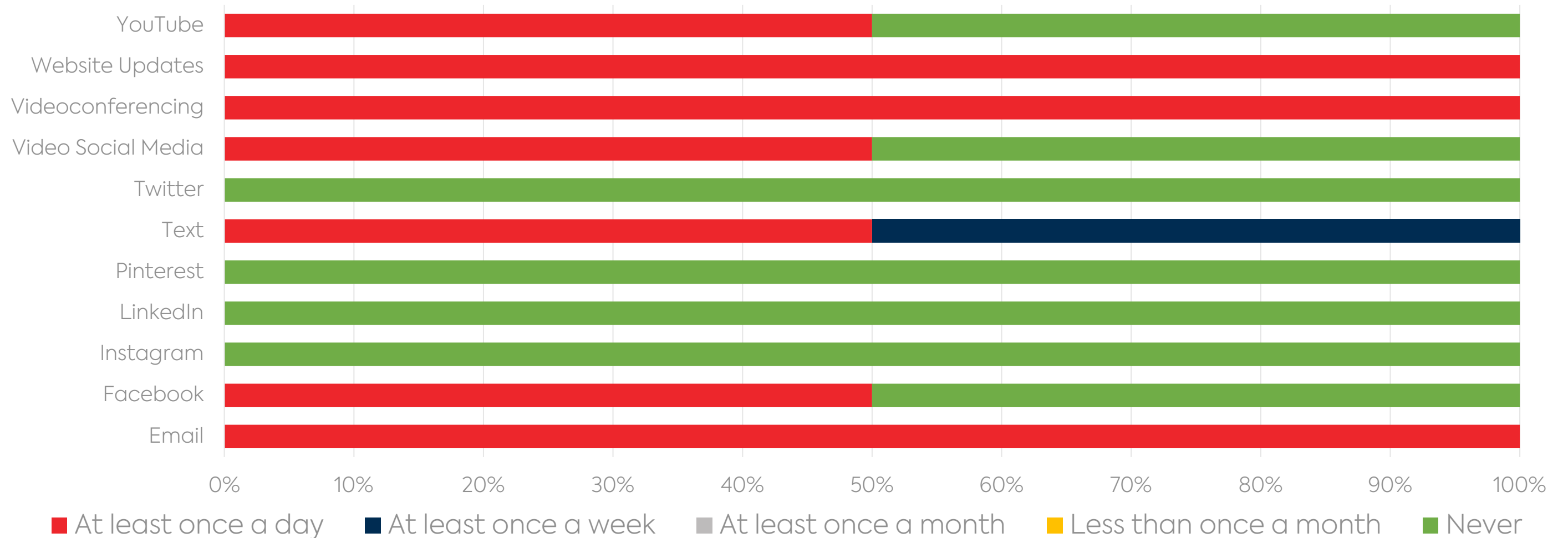


Wireless connectivity allows for a wide range of devices to be connected to the institution’s network. While Wi-Fi is important in public and common areas, it is also important for Wi-Fi signals to penetrate into classrooms throughout campus. This chart shows the average percent of higher education classrooms in the community with Wi-Fi connectivity available compared to average percent of classrooms connected among institutions in other Connected communities.



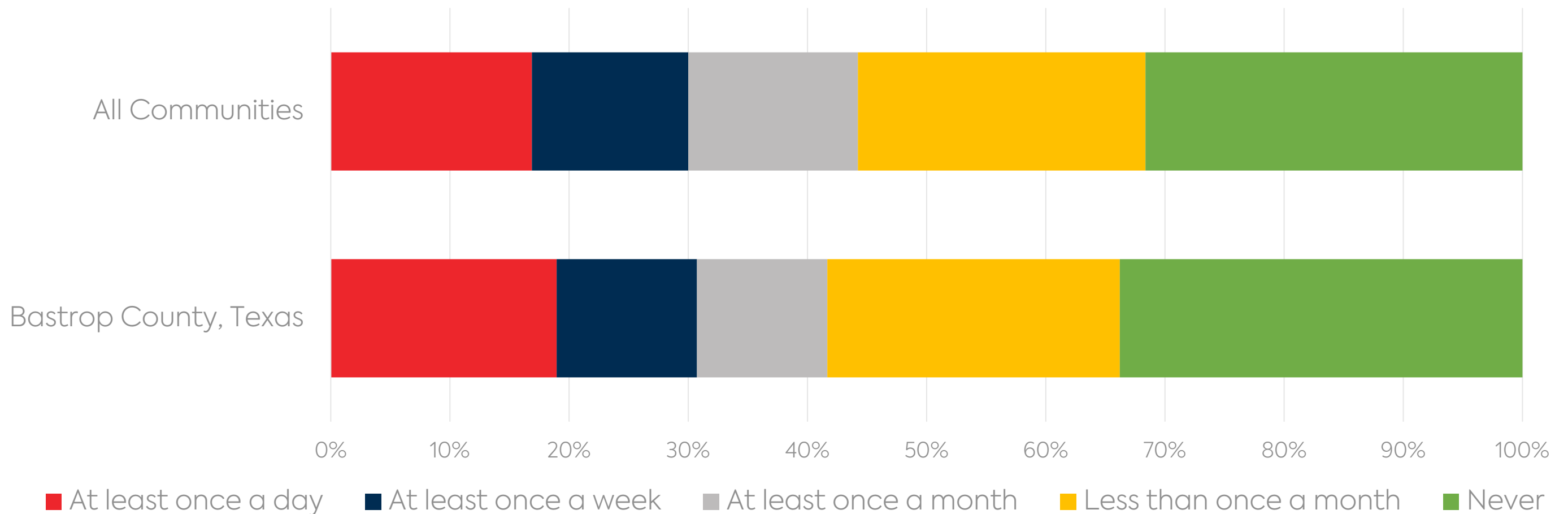
Digital Communications

This chart shows the frequency with which higher education institutions in the community use various digital tools to communicate with the public.



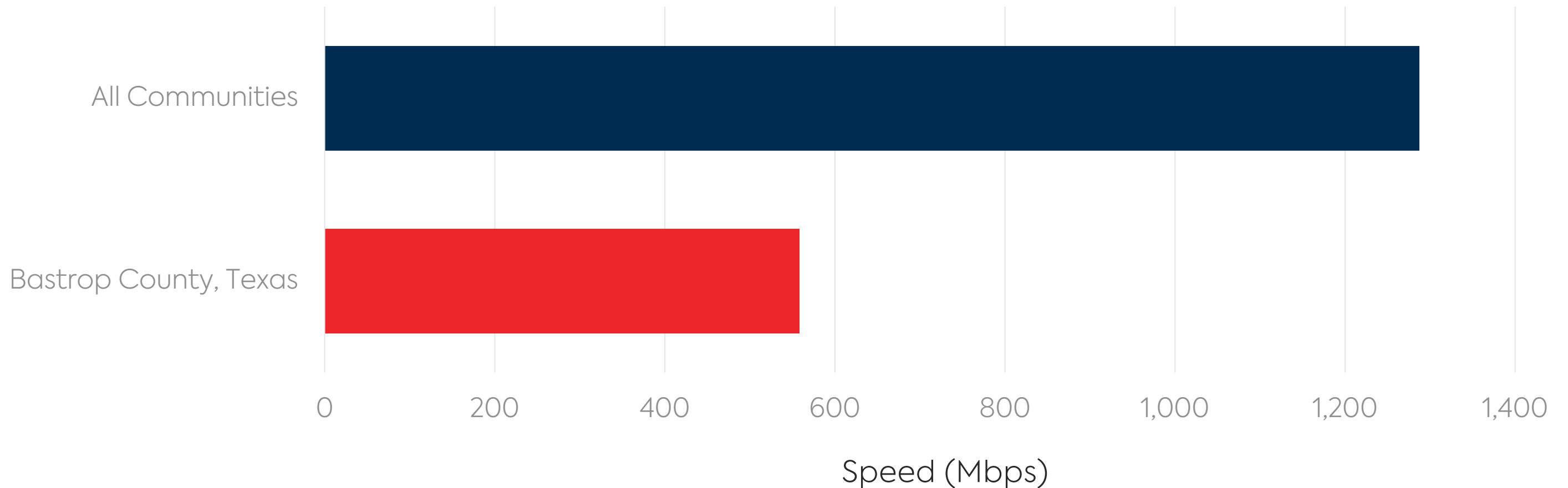
Digital Interactions

This chart shows the frequency with which residents in the community report that they digitally interact with higher education institutions. Examining the digital interaction of residents and the digital communications tools used by higher education institutions can help identify ways to increase the online presence of these institutions.



Download Speeds

Connection speeds can have a major impact on how the internet is used. This chart shows the average reported download speed among higher education institutions with a connection in the community compared to those in other Connected communities.



Online Courses and Degrees



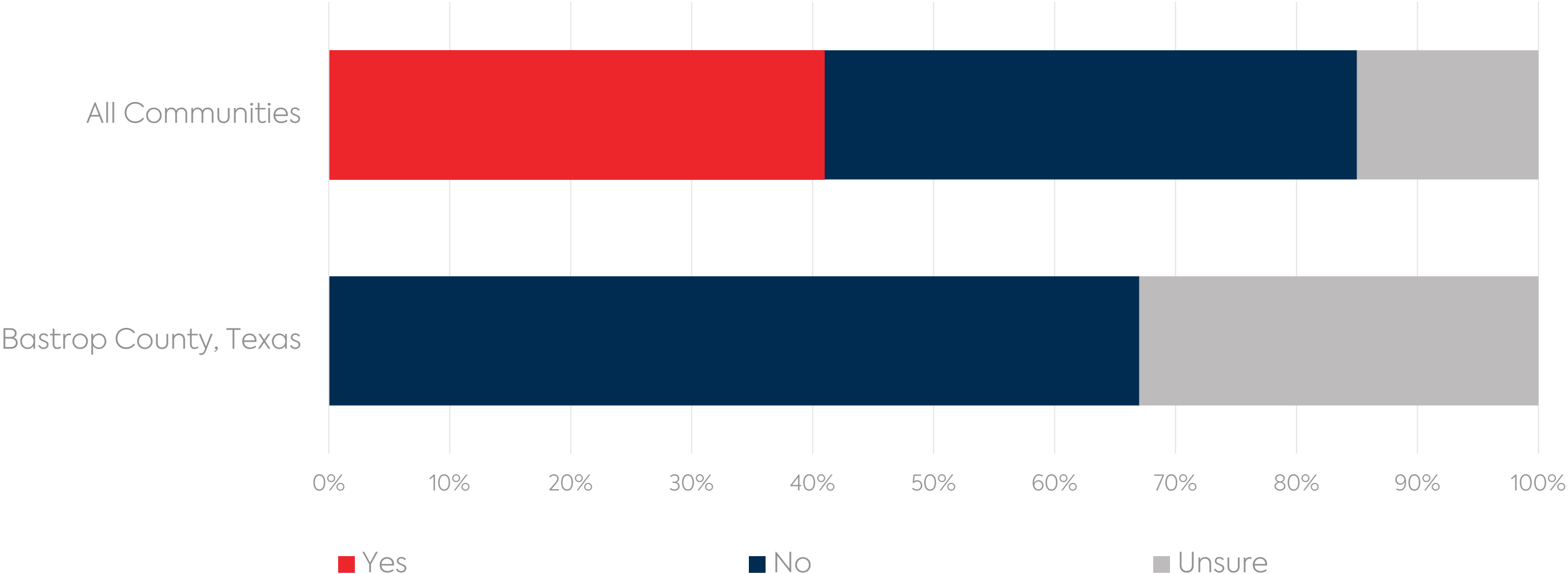
While the traditional higher education environment has stood the test of time as a format conducive to improving the knowledge, talent, and skills of students, a fluctuating global economy rooted in the production and transmission of information built on the backbone of the internet requires more and flexible options for students to expand their skillsets. Occupations in the technology field, including even those outside the field that rely heavily on the use of technology, often require new and updated skills. To gain these skills, the workforce needs access to educational opportunities and credentialing that may not be available in their community. Online degrees and online educational programs offer this flexibility to local students and those from around the globe.

Another method of delivering curriculum in an online environment is through the development of massive open online courses (MOOCs). A MOOC is a course of study made available over the internet without charge to a very large number of people. MOOCs have gained popularity in higher education to provide educational content to a global audience.

Online Degrees

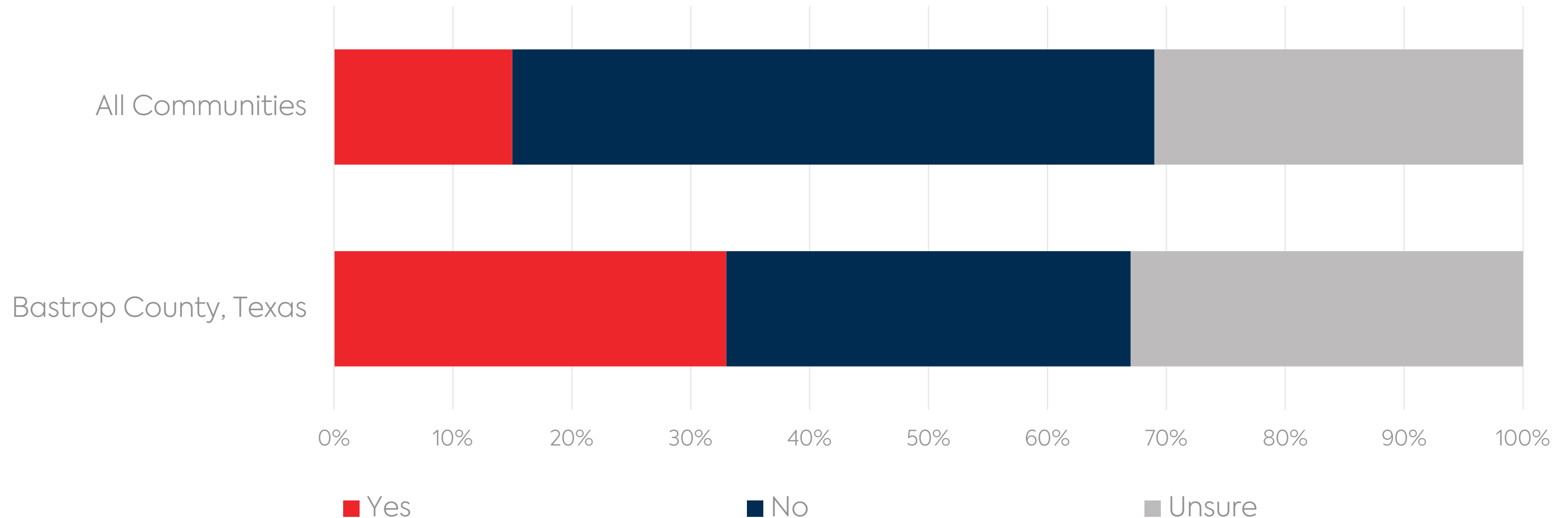


This chart shows the percent of higher education institutions offering degrees that students can complete entirely online.



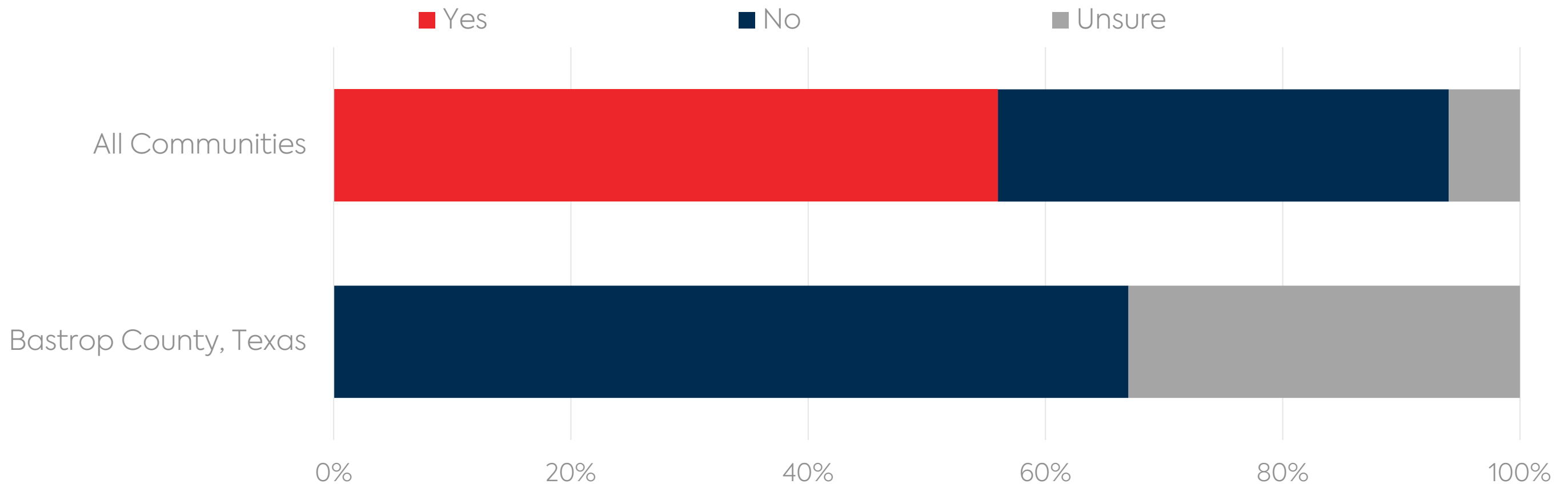
Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

This chart shows the percent of higher education institutions offering massive open online courses (MOOCs). A MOOC is a course of study made available over the internet without charge to a very large number of people.



Public Wi-Fi

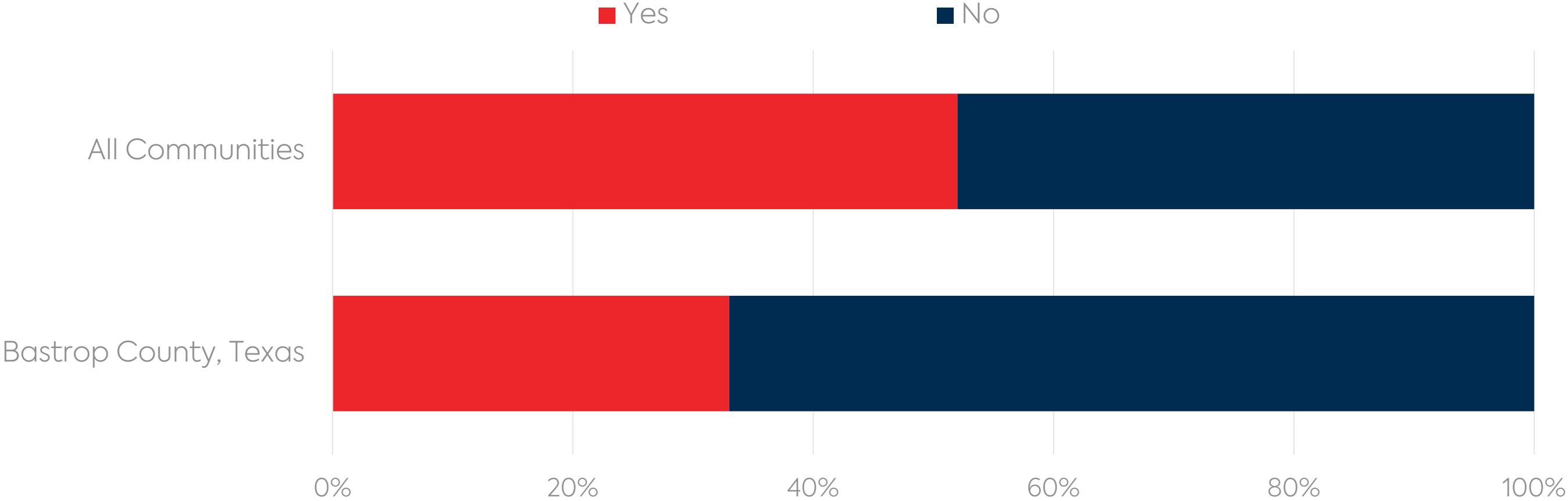
Public Wi-Fi can help create a better-connected community by providing additional access points for those with devices limited by mobile data plans or those without mobile broadband capability. This chart shows the percent of higher education institutions in the community that offer free public Wi-Fi access at their location compared to those in other participating communities.



Satisfaction Among Higher Education Institutions

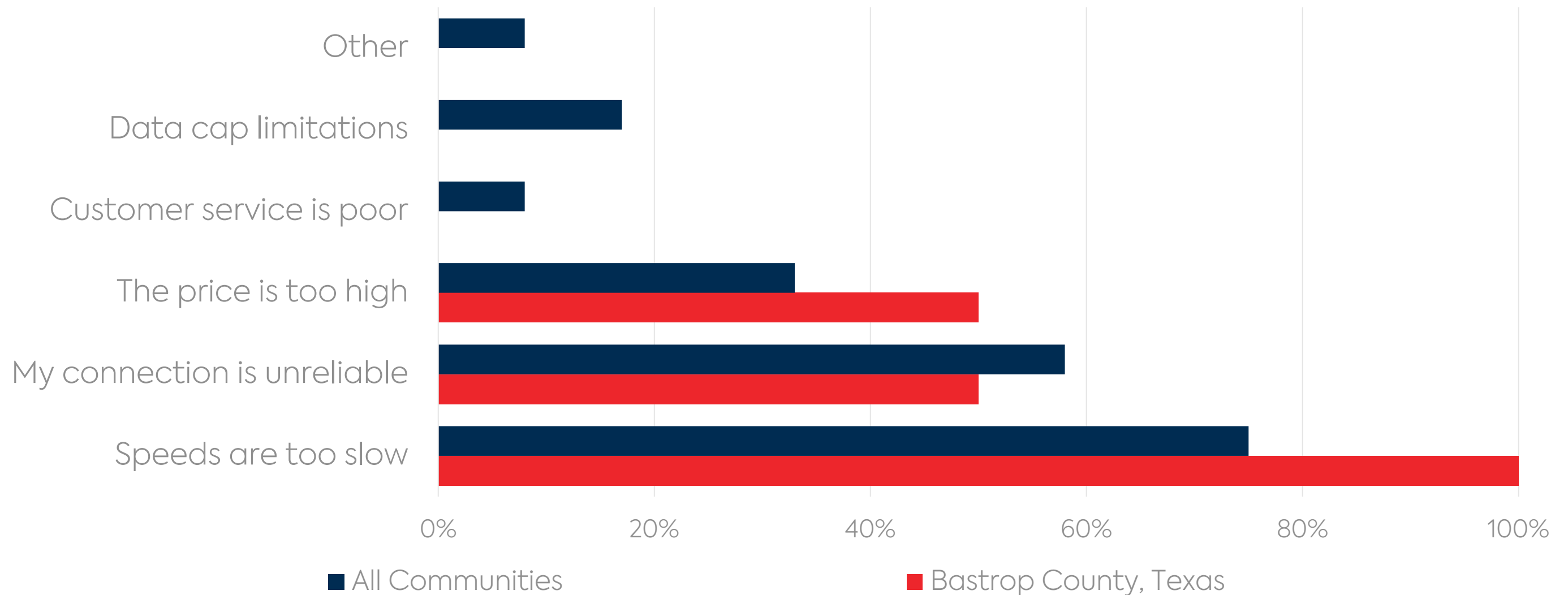


Competition provides communities with choices for service, allowing them the ability to switch providers if their current service does not meet their needs. This chart shows the percent of higher education institutions who state that their internet service meets or does not meet their needs.



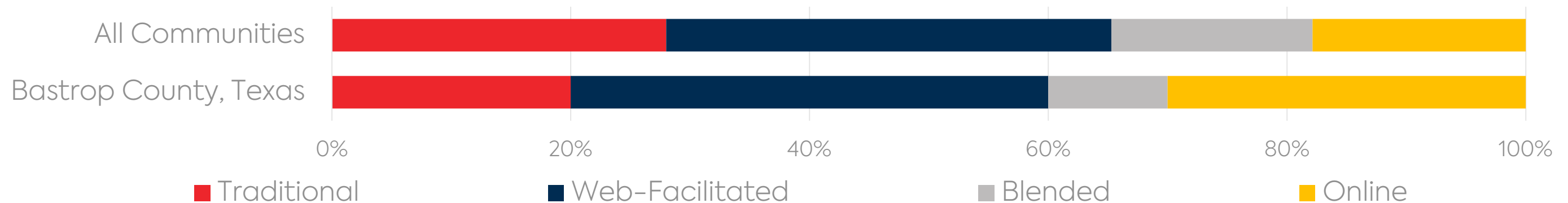
Reasons for Dissatisfaction

This chart shows the various reasons why local institutions of higher education report being dissatisfied with their current internet service.



Technology and Curriculum Delivery

Technology enables new forms of educational content delivery. Between traditional classroom instruction and online-only classes lies a spectrum of web- and technology-enabled methods of learning. This chart shows the mix of higher education curriculum delivered by colleges and universities in the community.



Traditional courses are those where no online technology is used and content is delivered in writing or orally. Web-facilitated courses use web-based technology to facilitate what is essentially a face-to-face course and may use a course management system or web pages to post the syllabus and assignments. Blended courses combine online and face-to-face delivery with a substantial portion of the content delivered online, using online discussions and having few face-to-face meetings. Online courses are those where most or all of the content is delivered online and typically have no face-to-face meetings.