United States Census Bureau Releases Home Broadband Adoption Data for Iowa
October 1, 2015

On September 17, 2015, the United States Census Bureau released new information on home Internet adoption across the United States and Puerto Rico. The report is based on findings from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS), an ongoing survey that reaches out to approximately 295,000 American households each month. The findings are based on data collected from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

As part of the ACS, the Census Bureau asked, “At this household, apartment, or mobile home, do you or any member of this household subscribe to the Internet using... [Dial-up service, DSL service, Cable modem service, Fiber-optic service, Mobile broadband plan for a computer or cell phone, Satellite Internet service, or Some other service]?” Households with broadband include those that gave any response other than dial-up service alone and include those who said that their only home Internet subscription is through a mobile broadband plan for a computer or cell phone.

According to these findings, 74.2% of Iowa households subscribe to home broadband service, an increase of two percentage points from 2013, when the Census Bureau found that 72.2% of households subscribed to broadband.¹

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¹ Source: United States Census, 2013 and 2014 American Community Surveys

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By comparison, Connect Iowa's 2014 Residential Technology Assessment found that 71% of households subscribed to home broadband service.
While Iowa City is among the top urban areas with 50,000 or more residents in terms of home broadband adoption, other Iowa cities rank lower among the 591 United States and Puerto Rico cities measured by the ACS.

*Percentiles are measured against the 591 urban areas in the United States and Puerto Rico with populations of 50,000 or more. For example, a city in the 10th percentile has a broadband adoption rate lower than 90% of those 591 cities.

Connect Iowa continues to work to increase broadband access, adoption, and use across the state. To learn more, visit our website at www.connectiowa.org and follow us on Facebook or Twitter.