Patterns of connectivity in New York State: Households with computing devices and broadband internet

By Robin Blakely-Armitage, Jan Vink, and Adriana Hernandez, Cornell University

In order to connect to the outside world, households need a computing device and access to the internet. According to recently released data from the American Community Survey (2013-2017), 87% of New York State (NYS) households had a computer, and 79% had a broadband internet subscription, mirroring national trends. Having access to both a computer and internet access has become increasingly important in order to participate in broader economic, social, and other activities, and the trends in NYS reflect this. The percentage of households that owned a computer increased from 84% to 90% between 2013 and 2017, and the percentage of households with broadband access increased from 75% to 83% in the same period. NYS towns and cities with higher percentages of households with both a computer and internet access are clustered in metropolitan areas, whereas many of the rural areas of the state have a significantly lower rate of household connectivity, despite a statewide effort to provide almost-universal broadband access.

Additional Resources:

1 https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/acs-counties.html
2 https://nysbroadband.ny.gov/