



The Digital Divide Data Sheet: El Paso County

Borderplex Connect is a regional nonprofit organization and a supporting organization of the El Paso Community Foundation. Borderplex Connect is focused on closing the digital divide using a three-prong approach that includes: (1) reliable, high-speed broadband connectivity, (2) affordable internet services and devices; and (3) educational/skills training to make significant and lasting impact in high-need areas located in Far West Texas and Southern New Mexico.

Data indicates that El Paso County exceeds statewide averages in several categories:

- Households without a broadband internet subscription, particularly for low-income households
- Households without access to a computing device
- Low-income households
- Individuals without a high school diploma, college completion
- Individuals with limited English proficiency
- Residents relying on public healthcare
- Racial/ethnic minorities

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2023 Texas Digital Opportunity Survey Responses

Digital Education Needs

Groups most interested in Internet or computer training classes include individuals with limited English proficiency, low-income households, immigrants, and unhoused individuals.

Barriers to Connectivity

Racial/ethnic minorities and low-income households are more likely to lack digital devices and report heightened concerns over privacy, identity theft, and cybercrime.

A majority of respondents cited the lack of available home internet service and high costs as the primary reasons for not connecting.

Technical Support & Cybersecurity Measures

Certain subgroups—specifically individuals with limited English proficiency, tribal communities, and low-income households—reported having little or no access to technical support. These same groups also tend to have lower levels of cybersecurity familiarity and are less likely to implement security measures on their devices.

Data Source: Texas Digital Opportunity Hub (<https://www.digitalopportunityhub.org>), an interactive platform that aggregates data from various sources—including surveys, FCC reports, and other public data sets—to help policymakers, community leaders, and the public identify digital disparities, plan targeted interventions, and track progress in expanding affordable, reliable internet access.

Internet Subscriptions

9.9%

Share of Households with
No Internet Subscription in
Texas

11.6%

Share of Households with
No Internet Subscription in
El Paso County

In many communities outside the El Paso urban core, the proportion of households that lack an internet subscription or that rely on a cellular subscription only is even more stark, especially in the following areas:

29.5%

Fabens

22.1%

Sparks

24.4%

Tornillo

18.7%

Vinton

Geographic Area	Total Households	Households with Broadband such as cable, fiber optic or DSL	% with Broadband such as cable, fiber optic or DSL	Households with Satellite Internet	% with Satellite Internet	Households with Cellular Subscription Only	% with Cellular Subscription Only	Households without Internet Subscription	% Without Internet Subscription
Texas	10,747,240	7,796,179	72.5	921,267	8.6	1,377,002	12.8	1,068,890	9.9
El Paso County	296,341	212,205	71.6	23,865	8.1	37,521	12.7	34,371	11.6
Água Dulce CDP	825	629	76.2	76	9.2	23	2.8	102	12.4
Anthony town	1,220	922	75.6	37	3	192	15.7	93	7.6
Butterfield CDP	71	19	26.8	-	0	10	14.1	42	59.2
Canutillo CDP	1,861	1,333	71.6	39	2.1	270	14.5	233	12.5
Clint town	356	242	68	3	0.8	25	7	86	24.2
El Paso city	242,482	173,861	71.7	19,363	8	30,387	12.5	28,717	11.8
Fabens CDP	1,797	913	50.8	73	4.1	530	29.5	283	15.7
Homestead Meadows North CDP	1,677	915	54.6	424	25.3	210	12.5	176	10.5
Homestead Meadows South CDP	1,965	1,323	67.3	104	5.3	308	15.7	264	13.4
Horizon City city	6,892	5,220	75.7	472	6.8	698	10.1	584	8.5
Morning Glory CDP	151	83	55	-	0	26	17.2	21	13.9
Prado Verde CDP	142	131	92.3	-	0	-	0	11	7.7
San Elizario city	2,901	2,003	69	189	6.5	409	14.1	359	12.4
Socorro city	11,368	7,591	66.8	1,189	10.5	1,773	15.6	1,501	13.2
Sparks CDP	1,211	796	65.7	31	2.6	268	22.1	132	10.9
Tornillo CDP	409	193	47.2	21	5.1	100	24.4	68	16.6
Vinton village	600	422	70.3	15	2.5	112	18.7	63	10.5
Westway CDP	1,163	738	63.5	25	2.1	162	13.9	238	20.5

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Types of Computers and Internet Subscriptions." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2801, 2023

Internet Subscriptions by Income

28%

Share of Households earning
 < \$20,000 per year with
 No Internet Subscription
 in Texas

31.5%

Share of Households earning
 < \$20,000 per year with
 No Internet Subscription
 in El Paso County

The numbers of households earning less than \$20,000 per year with no internet subscription are even more significant in distinct geographic areas of the county and hover above a third of low-income residents reporting no internet subscription in the following areas:

40.82%

Clint

33.22%

Fabens

36.79%

Vinton

50.72%

Westway

Geographic Area	Total Households	Households < \$20K w/o Internet	% < \$20K w/o Internet	Households \$20K-\$74.9K w/o Internet	Households \$20K-\$74.9K w/o Internet	% \$20K-\$74.9K w/o Internet	Households > \$75K	Households > \$75K w/o Internet	% > \$75K w/o Internet
Texas	1,229,722	343,167	27.91	4,060,977	518,615	12.77	5,456,541	207,108	3.8
El Paso County	50,097	15,777	31.49	133,325	14,202	10.65	112,919	4,392	3.89
Agua Dulce CDP	128	24	18.75	459	78	16.99	238	-	0
Anthony town	211	52	24.64	618	13	2.1	391	28	7.16
Butterfield CDP	42	42	100	26	-	0	3	-	0
Canutillo CDP	508	150	29.53	735	41	5.58	618	42	6.8
Clint town	49	20	40.82	177	66	37.29	130	-	0
El Paso city	41,632	13,405	32.2	108,105	11,643	10.77	92,745	3,669	3.96
Fabens CDP	572	190	33.22	849	74	8.72	376	19	5.05
Homestead Meadows North CDP	291	36	12.37	782	92	11.76	604	48	7.95
Homestead Meadows South CDP	296	59	19.93	1,104	162	14.67	565	43	7.61
Horizon City city	672	220	32.74	3,552	238	6.7	2,668	126	4.72
Morning Glory CDP	5	-	0	87	-	0	59	21	35.59
Prado Verde CDP	-	-		32	11	34.38	110	-	0
San Elizario city	479	114	23.8	1,667	224	13.44	755	21	2.78
Socorro city	2,266	667	29.44	5,380	761	14.14	3,722	73	1.96
Sparks CDP	270	48	17.78	700	84	12	241	-	0
Tornillo CDP	60	16	26.67	188	33	17.55	161	19	11.8
Vinton village	106	39	36.79	272	20	7.35	222	4	1.8
Westway CDP	278	141	50.72	647	97	14.99	238	-	0

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Types of Computers and Internet Subscriptions." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2801, 2023

El Paso County lags behind the state in percent of households who report access to a computing device. The gap is more evident in specific communities. More than 40,000 households in El Paso County are smartphone-only households.

Geographic Area	Total Households	Households with Computing Device	Smartphone -Only Households	Households with No Computer
Texas	10,747,240	10,276,336	1,220,340	470,904
El Paso – county	296,341	276,579	40,535	19,762
Agua Dulce – CDP	825	780	54	45
Anthony – town	1,220	1,176	259	44
Butterfield – CDP	71	71	7	-
Canutillo – CDP	1,861	1,676	283	185
Clint – town	356	328	34	28
El Paso – city	242,482	225,045	31,364	17,437
Fabens – CDP	1,797	1,673	764	124
Homestead Meadows North – CDP	1,677	1,578	222	99
Homestead Meadows South– CDP	1,965	1,785	249	180
Horizon City - city	6,892	6,718	741	174
Morning Glory – CDP	151	151	21	-
Prado Verde – CDP	142	131	-	11
San Elizario – city	2,901	2,743	881	158
Socorro – city	11,368	10,883	2,311	485
Sparks – CDP	1,211	1,163	126	48
Tornillo – CDP	409	393	171	16
Vinton – village	600	571	85	29
Westway – CDP	1,163	965	355	198

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Types of Computers and Internet Subscriptions." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2801, 2023

Income & Poverty

El Paso County faces higher rates of economic hardship than Texas as a whole. While 13.8% of individuals in Texas live below the federal poverty level, that figure jumps to 18.9% in El Paso County. Median household income in the county is \$58,859, well below the state median of \$76,292. When considering individuals who live below 150% of the federal poverty level, the difference is even more significant: 22.7% of individuals in Texas vs. 30.7% of individuals in El Paso County.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1701, 2023 U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Median Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2024 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)" American Community Survey ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1901, 2023

Educational Attainment

In El Paso County, 19.4% of adults lack a high school diploma, compared to 14.3% of adults in Texas. College completion also lags in the county, with 17.1% holding a bachelor's degree versus 21.1% statewide. Educational gaps are stark in communities like Tornillo, Westway, and Morning Glory, where nearly half of adults haven't finished high school.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Educational Attainment." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1501, 2023.

Limited English-Speaking Households

El Paso County has a significantly higher share of limited English-speaking households (18.4%) compared to the Texas state average (6.8%). Several communities in the county report especially high rates: Westway (62%), Vinton (48.7%), Tornillo (46.5%), and Canutillo (41.6%). More urbanized areas also have a higher share of these households compared to the state average: El Paso city (17.3%) and Horizon City (16.0%).

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Limited English Speaking Households." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1602, 2023

Public Healthcare

Public healthcare covers 34.3% of El Paso County residents, higher than the Texas average of 28.9%.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Public Health Insurance Coverage by Type and Selected Characteristics." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table S2704, 2023

Minority Populations

El Paso County is overwhelmingly Hispanic and minority when compared to the state. El Paso County reports a nearly 89% minority population and is over 82% Hispanic compared to 60% minority and 39% Hispanic for Texas.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B03002, 2023