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MISSISSIPPI

POPULATION: 2.97 MILLION
COUNTIES: 82

The name Mississippi comes from a Chippewa Indian word that means “Big River” or “Father of Waters.” By low estimates, [about 20%](#) of residents statewide live in areas where there is no broadband available.

The FCC evaluated nearly 3 million residents and found that 2.4 million people (80.3%) had access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum speeds of 25/3 Mbps, a speed that Northern District Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley called “[fictitiously low](#)” as it does not meet the current needs of Mississippi residents.

In rural Mississippi, the Commission evaluated 1.5 million people and found that 958,000 people (63.4%) had access to a fixed broadband. It also found that 1.4 of 1.5 million (97%) of urban residents had access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum speeds.

The State of Mississippi disputes the FCC's claim that fixed broadband is available at the rates Form 477 data show. In 2018, the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation and Mississippi Public Service Commission [challenged the accuracy of the FCC's map](#), including 8,400 speed test results, but none of the challenges were successful.

BroadbandNow estimates that [58.7% of Mississippi residents](#) have broadband access and 56.8% access to a low-price plan. This amounts to 368,000 people in Mississippi who do not have access to a wired Internet connection that satisfies the FCC's definition for broadband, with 236,000 people from that group not having access to any wired Internet plans. Microsoft's November 2019 data

show that around [2.4 million people](#) in Mississippi do not use the Internet at broadband speeds.

State officials used [CARES Act funds to rollout high-speed broadband](#) to the most underserved areas of the state. They partnered with rural electric co-ops Gigabit speed broadband to hard to reach areas.

Additional Resources:

- [Broadband access: Swift action needed to address problem in Mississippi, elsewhere](#)
- [Mississippi Legislature Could Establish a Rural Broadband Grant Program](#)
- [Mississippi Farm Bureau: Accurate Broadband Maps are Crucial](#)