



More than two million Texas households do not have high-speed internet access. Brownsville and Laredo residents are among the least connected communities.

Texas has several geographical challenges to deploying broadband including [low population density and challenging terrain](#). At the same time, the people who live in rural areas need broadband access for telehealth and distance learning just like people in urban areas and Internet access has become increasingly important for farmers in recent years. In 2019, a USDA report showed that [25 percent of Texas's nearly 247,000 farms](#) lack any Internet access at all.

The FCC evaluated 30 million Texans statewide. Overall, the agency found that 27.7 million residents (95.8%) had access to a fixed connection at minimum 25/3 Mbps speeds. Of 4.9 million residents in rural areas, it found that 4.1 million (83.9%) have fixed broadband access. The agency also concluded that 23.6 of 24 million urban residents (98.2%) had access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum speeds.

Connected Nation ("CN") Texas uses a [confidence methodology](#) to identify areas that may be understated by Form 477, but collecting the data is time and resource intensive because it involves a variety of data collection techniques including provider outreach and independent research. CN Texas's most recent map was published on [July 31st, 2020](#) and shows that 88.5% of households have 100/10 Mbps broadband, finding that 1,026,071 households do not have access to 100/10 Mbps broadband. CN Texas will provide an updated map in December 2020. [CN Texas's 2020 report](#) showed that Texas lags behind the national average in broadband adoption, with American Community Survey statistics showing that only 65.6% of households have a fixed home broadband subscription.

The MOTRAN Alliance, [an organization](#) of community members in Odessa and Midland to improve infrastructure in the Permian Basin area, conducted [a survey](#) of 3,000-5,000 participants, which found that while broadband was available in 99.3% of Ector County and 97.9% of households in West and South Odessa, 33% of homes in Ector County do not have broadband connections because they either do not know about the service or because it is too expensive. Summarizing the survey, Dustin Fawcett, MOTRAN's Vice President said *"What we found was over 65% of respondents were paying \$45-55 more for a level of service than what they could be getting for a smaller price."*

BroadbandNow reports 85.3% terrestrial broadband coverage in Texas and shows that 67.3% of the state has access to a plan that costs less than \$60 a month. As of November 2019, Microsoft data show that around [13.7 million people](#) in Texas do not use the Internet at broadband speeds.

In September 2020, [88 Texas lawmakers](#) submitted a letter to Governor Greg Abbott, urging him to develop a state broadband plan. The [Governor's Broadband Deployment Council](#) did release a 2020 report which set developing a state broadband plan and establishing a state broadband office as its two main recommendations. The report relies on CN Texas maps and shows that over [300,000 locations in Texas](#) do not have broadband access and 927,000 Texans lack a home broadband subscription.

#### Additional Resources:

- [Connected Nation: Texas](#)
- [How Connected is Texas? Broadband Coverage Maps Give New Insights](#)
- [Broadband initiative maps statewide Internet connectivity](#)