The Commission evaluated 624,000 Vermont residents and found that 581,000 people (93.1%) had fixed broadband access. In rural areas, the agency concluded that 344,000 of 384,000 people (89.6%) have access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum speeds. Of 240,000 urban residents surveyed, it found that 237,000 people (98.8%) had fixed broadband access.

In the wake of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Governor Phil Scott was particularly concerned with making the locations of public WiFi available to residents, saying:

> Internet connectivity is an important resource for Vermonters during this crisis, which is keeping us physically distanced from one another. As we’re asking many to work and learn remotely, these public WiFi points are especially critical to keeping workers and students connected if they do not have access at home.

BroadbandNow’s finding that 79% of the state has terrestrial broadband access is in line with the results of the state’s survey. Even more troubling, BroadbandNow found that wired plans priced below $60 a month are only available 1.1% of the state. The lack of affordable service may be one reason that approximately 358,000 out of 623,989 residents do not use the Internet at broadband speeds according to Microsoft’s data.

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