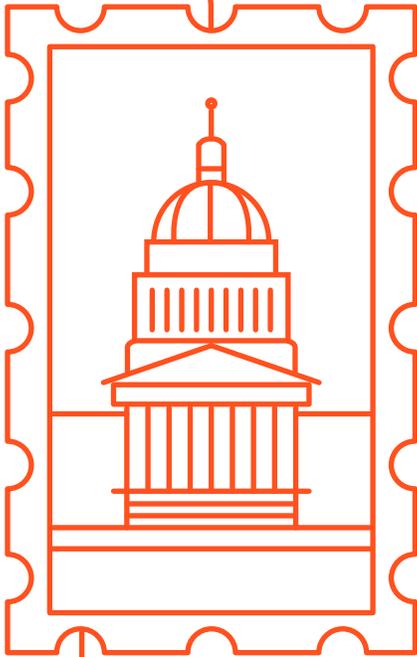


WEST VIRGINIA

POPULATION: 1.77 MILLION
COUNTIES: 55



In 2020, the West Virginia Broadband Enhancement Council (WVBEC) introduced a new West Virginia Broadband Availability Map with granular information about broadband availability and speeds.

The FCC evaluated 1.8 million West Virginia residents statewide and found that 1.5 million (82.2%) had fixed broadband access. In rural areas, it determined that 651,000 of 914,000 residents (71.3%) have access to a fixed connection at minimum speeds. Of 879,000 residents surveyed in urban areas, 822,000 (93.5%) had access to fixed broadband connections.

The Commission's most recent broadband deployment documented a 2.4% drop in overall access among West Virginia residents, down from 84.6% in 2019. Rural access dropped 1.2%, down from 72.5% in 2019. Broadband access for residents in urban areas was most disparately impacted, down 3.7% from 97.2% in 2019.

On November 30, 2020, the West Virginia Broadband Enhancement Council (WVBEC) [announced](#) that it will introduce a new West Virginia Broadband Availability Map. The map will include more granular information about broadband availability. WVBEC's website also includes a [speed test](#) and Internet use survey component for residents to collect more accurate information for the map.

Delegate [Daniel Linville said](#):

What we've all known is that there are areas of the state that do not have Internet service but that the existing national maps consider as being served. This allows us to, all the way down to the address level, be able to determine where Internet is and where it is not in the State of West Virginia and it

could be used by other states and the federal government all across the country.

West Virginia has a Broadband Mapping Program, which uses a [regional planning team](#) approach to tackling broadband mapping. West Virginia's state broadband map uses [Form 477 data](#) collected for June 2019. The map allows users to view layers based on funding made available to different areas. West Virginia's website similarly offers [a map of Wi-Fi locations](#).

[BroadbandNow estimates](#) that 69.2% of the state is covered with terrestrial broadband and 39.3% access to a plan that costs at or less than \$60 per month. Microsoft estimates that around [1.3 million people in West Virginia](#) do not use the Internet at broadband speeds as of November 2019. These numbers suggest that both access and adoption are a challenge for West Virginians, with high prices being a dominant concern.

Additional Resources:

- [Interactive map shows areas receiving rural broadband expansion](#)
- [West Virginia leaders announce new broadband map](#)
- [WV says \\$766 million in broadband investment available in upcoming FCC auction](#)
- [Sen. Manchin collects more than 1,000 speed tests](#)
- [In the Quiet Zone: What To Do When Wireless is Unavailable](#)