COVID-19 is a Health Equity Issue: Digital Redlining, The Digital Divide & Vaccine Distribution

**AGE**

Only 50% of people who are 75+ use the Internet; 16.5% of those 65+ do not have access to the Internet.

The statistics are worse for older people of color, as 25% of Black, 21% of Latinx, and 28% of Native American people 65+ do not have internet access. Approximately 7.7 million older people live at or below the poverty line, and may not be able to afford internet access.

**RACE**

82% of white people report owning a desktop or laptop computer, compared with 58% of Black and 57% of Hispanic people. The lack of internet access in minority communities is one of the reasons that the vaccination rate for Black Americans is 50% less than that of white people, and the gap for Hispanic people is even larger.

Digital redlining follows the same geographical lines as neighborhood and housing redlining.

**GEOGRAPHY**

Both rural and urban areas are less likely to have access to the internet and technological devices than suburban areas.

27.9 million urban households or 10.8% of the urban population live without a broadband internet subscription. Rural Americans are 12% less likely than Americans overall to have home broadband, with only 63% having home access.

Nearly 50% of households earning less than $30,000 per year reported that they do not have a computer or broadband in their home. Those without home computers use a smartphone or public computer lab when they want to utilize online services, with significant connection issues.

These recommendations aim to alleviate the immediate roadblocks to COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

- Create accessible and multiple ways to register for the vaccine that do not rely solely on technology.
- Support and encourage both private and public sector initiatives to expand access to broadband and devices.
- Start and implement community-based immunization programs.

**Socioeconomic Status**

Even in regions with well connected internet access, differences arise for each household depending socioeconomic status.

For Sources click tiny.cc/infographicsources

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