Digital Inclusion Guide Overview

Understand who in your community has the world at their fingertips—and for whom it's just out of reach.
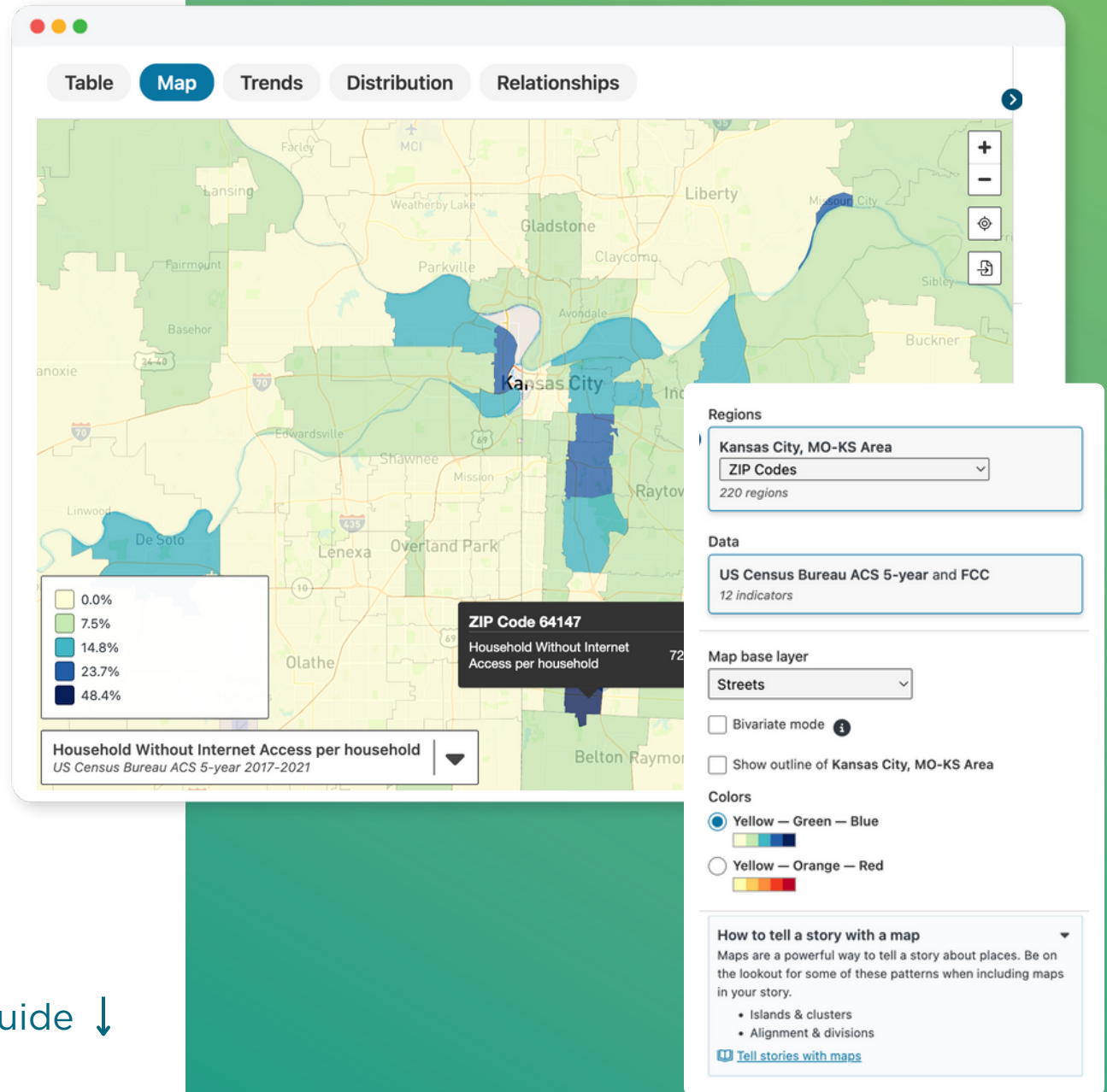
Connection is calling.

Access to the internet is no longer a nice to have. It's a critical utility necessary to navigate modern society.

The same is true for data storytelling. It's imperative for making decisions about communities. At mySidewalk, we make it simple for everyone.

Explore the Digital Inclusion Guide ↓

Inside the Guide...

mySidewalk Guides make it easy to explore and start telling data stories about topics communities care about most.

By organizing the most relevant data sets to the issues at hand, we make it easy for anyone focused on increasing digital access and connectivity in communities to find the information and create engaging stories that can make a difference.

How do we select data to include?

Great question! Guides are curated by mySidewalk's data experts who have a wide array of experience and service in public and private organizations. We also leverage the deep knowledge of our customer base, many whom are well-known and trusted industry leaders, to align Guides and templates with field standards and requirements.

Access to Devices	Access to Internet	Inequitable Access

Access to Devices

Understand how people in your community access and experience the internet.

Access to Devices

Even for those with the internet, lacking access to a computer or other device can impact access and a user's experience with necessary services such as online education and telemedicine.

Data related to the presence and quality of devices can help to show where access is limited and where programs that provide devices to those most affected are critical to ensure equity.

Recommended Data

Household w/ Computer per Household
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By Total Households

Household w/out Computer per Household
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By Total Households

People in Households w/ Computer + Internet
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
Normalized by Population in Households

People in Households w/out Computer or Internet
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
Normalized by Population in Households

Household w/ Computer Only – Tablet
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By Total Households

Household w/ Computer Only – Smartphone
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By Total Households

Household w/ Computer Only – Desktop or Laptop
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By Total Households

Access to Internet

How might varying access to internet subscriptions and quality of speed impact your community?

Access to Internet

Lack of internet limits a person's access to critical services, especially those housed entirely online or living in rural areas.

Dive into data relating to presence, type, and quality of internet available can help to understand affected areas to support work to increase access to broadband internet and address the disparities experienced by those with low access.

Recommended Data

Household Internet – Only Cellular
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
Normalized by Household w/ Internet Subscription

Number of Internet Providers by Technology
- Cable
- Fiber
- Satellite
- Wireless

FCC 2021
Not Normalized

Number of Internet Providers
FCC 2021
Not Normalized

Internet – Average Advertised; Upload and Download Speed
FCC 2021
Not Normalized

Internet – Maximum Advertised; Upload and Download Speed
FCC 2021
Not Normalized

Internet – Average Advertised
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By Total Households

People in Households – w/out Internet Subscription or no Computer
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By Population in Households

Inequitable Access

Close gaps in the digital divide with data-driven insights that focus on equity.

Inequitable Access

Access to the internet and appropriate devices impacts a person's access to critical services that are housed online.

mySidewalk makes it easy for you to support your advocacy for the expansion of broadband and help target areas of need with data about the demographics of people in your community.

Recommended Data

People in Household w/ Less than High School w/ Computer
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By People in Household per captia

People in Household w/ Bachelor's or Higher w/ Computer
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By People in Household per capita

Enrolled in Pre-K to 4th Grade w/ Computer w/ Computer + Internet
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By Enrolled in School per capita

Enrolled in Undergrad or Higher w/ Computer w/ Computer + Internet
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By Enrolled in School per capita

Two or More Races in Household w/ Computer
US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By Races in Household

Race Alone in Household w/ Computer
- Asian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black/African American
- White/Not Hispanic or Latino
- American Indian and Alaska Native
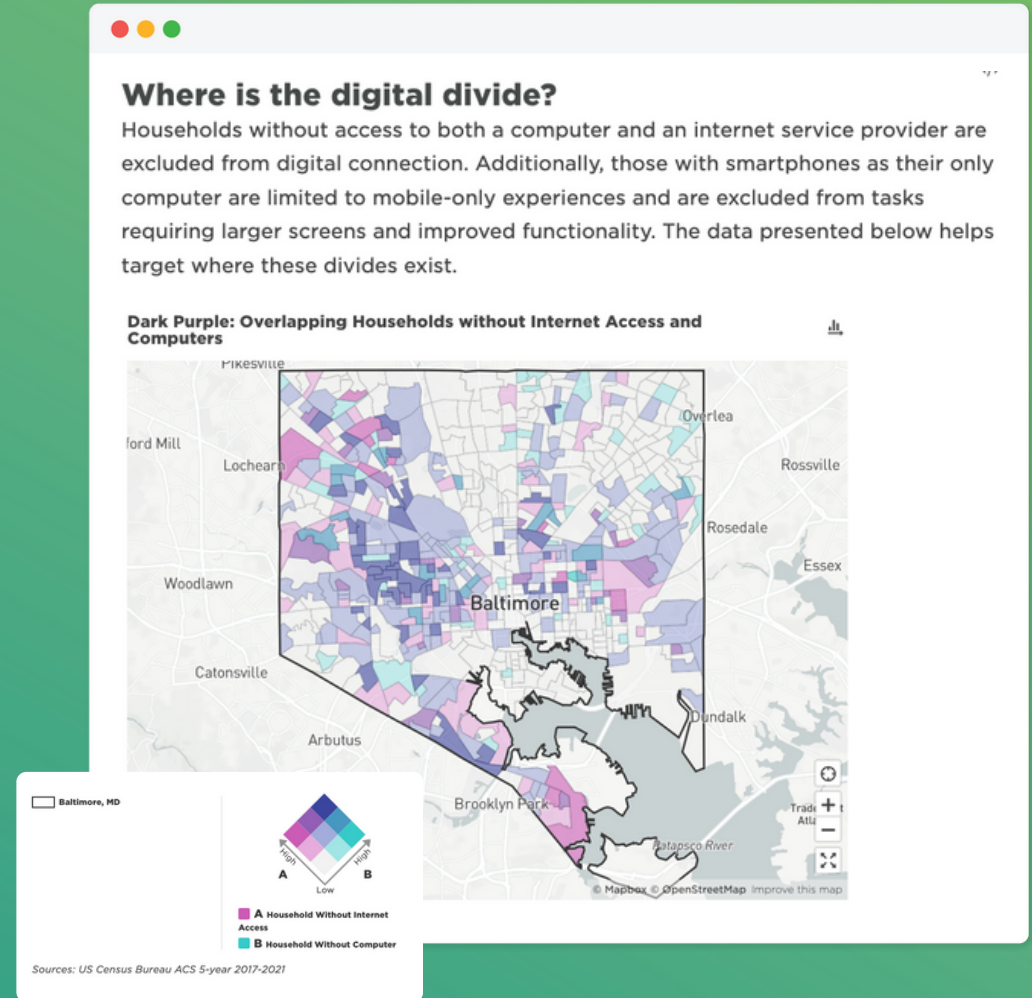- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

US Census Bureau ACS 5-Year 2017-2021
By Races in Household

Getting started is **easy.**

Find the right data tools for your team and join hundreds of communities across the country exploring critical data and building engaging stories with mySidewalk.

See more stories on mysidewalk.com

Where is the digital divide?

Households without access to both a computer and an internet service provider are excluded from digital connection. Additionally, those with smartphones as their only computer are limited to mobile-only experiences and are excluded from tasks requiring larger screens and improved functionality. The data presented below helps target where these divides exist.

Dark Purple: Overlapping Households without Internet Access and Computers

Baltimore, MD

High A — Low — High B

- A Household Without Internet Access
- B Household Without Computer

Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2017-2021

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