The Children's Partnership

Presidents
Wendy Lazarus
Laurie Lipper

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Youth and Technology Fact Sheet

A fact sheet for each of the 50 states can be viewed at
http://www.childrenspartnership.org/TPB/StateFactSheets/

The New Workforce: Benefits of Being Prepared With Technology Skills

- At present, over half (56%) of employed Americans over age 18 use a computer at work.[1]
- Between 2004 and 2014, jobs in the information technology fields are expected to increase by about 30%, for an addition of over 1 million jobs nationally.[2]
- 80 out of every 1,000 private sector workers in The District of Columbia are employed by high-tech firms (4th highest rate in the nation).[3]
- The District of Columbia ranks 36th in the U.S. for overall number of high-tech workers and 8th for average high-tech wage.[4]
- In The District of Columbia, high-tech industry workers earn an average of $18,520 more per year than other private sector workers.[5]

How Wide is the Digital Opportunity Gap?

- 69% of households in the District of Columbia earning less than $15,000 per year do not own a computer compared to 40% of all the District of Columbia's households and 38% of all households nationally.[6]
- 79% of households in the District of Columbia earning less than $15,000 per year do not use the Internet at home compared to 47% of all the District of Columbia's households and 45% of all households nationally.[7]
- 21% of all the District of Columbia's households have broadband compared to 20% of all households nationally.[8]
- Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia ranks 37th in percentage of households with a computer, 33rd in percentage of households with Internet access, and 17th in percentage of households with broadband access.[9]

Are Schools Equipping Today's Youth? Where The District of Columbia Stands

- 51% of 4th graders and 66% of 8th graders in The District of Columbia scored below the basic level of math that is expected in their grade (national average is 19% and 30%, respectively).[10]
- There are 4.2 students for every Internet-connected computer in The District of Columbia's public schools; in high-poverty schools there are 4.6 students per connected computer (the national average is 3.7 and 3.8, respectively).[11]
- Reliable data are not available on the percentage of schools in the District of Columbia where teachers are "beginners" when it comes to using technology (the national average is 15%).[12]
- The District of Columbia is not among the 34 states that has education technology standards by grade level.[13]

The District of Columbia's Young People Most in Need

- Of the 112,000 children in The District of Columbia, 31,000, or 28%, are living in poverty.[14] Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, The District of Columbia ranks 1st in percentage of children living in poverty.[15]
- 49% of The District of Columbia's children live with parents who do not have full-time, year-round employment (the national average is 34%).[16]
- 8% of teens in The District of Columbia do not attend school and do not work (the national average is 8%).[17]
- The District of Columbia residents aged 20-24 have an unemployment rate of 7.8% (the state unemployment rate for all ages is 5.8%).[18]

March 2008

[1] U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, *Computer Use and Internet Use in the United States: 2003,* Issued October 2005, Viewed March 5, 2008: 23-208 (www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/p23-208.pdf).

[2] Jay Vesgo, *BLS Current and Projected IT Employment Figures by Detailed Occupation*, Computing Research Association, Revised January 13, 2006, Viewed March 10, 2008 (http://www.cra.org/wp/index.php?p=71).

[3] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Covered Employment and Wages as reported in American Electronics Association, *Cyberstates 2007: A State-by-State Overview of the High-Technology Industry*. State rankings associated with footnotes #3-4 are based on data that includes Puerto Rico and Washington, DC, along with the fifty states. A ranking of #1 represents the best state; a ranking of #52 represents the worst. (Not available online.)

[4] Ibid.

[5] Ibid. Calculation by The Children's Partnership.

[6] U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey: Computer and Internet Use 2003*, special tabulation by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Calculation by The Children's Partnership. (2003 represents the most recent data available.)

[7] Ibid. Calculation by The Children's Partnership.

[8] Ibid. Calculation by The Children's Partnership.

[9] Ibid. Rankings calculated by The Children's Partnership. A ranking of #1 represents the best state; a ranking of #51 represents the worst.

[10] U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), *2007 Mathematics Assessment*, as reported by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Profiles by State, March 11, 2008 (http://www.kidscount.org/sld/profile.jsp).

[11] Market Data Retrieval, "2005-06 Public School Technology Survey," and unpublished tabulations from MDR's Public School Technology Survey (2005), as reported in Education Week, *Technology Counts 2007: A Digital Decade.* This figure includes only computers that are available for student instruction. High-poverty schools refer to schools in which more than half the students are eligible for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program. March 6, 2008: 3 (http://www.edweek.org/media/ew/tc/2007/DC_STR2007.pdf).

[12] *Education Counts Custom Table Builder*. Education Week, August 23, 2007 (http://www.edweek.org/rc/2007/06/07/edcounts.html).

[13] The Children's Partnership, review of the Department of Education Web sites for the 50 states, conducted December 2007.

[14] U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement*, Revised November 2, 2006, Viewed March 5, 2008 (http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032005/pov/new46_100125_03.htm).

[15] Ibid. Rankings calculated by The Children's Partnership. A ranking of #1 represents the worst state (highest percentage of children living in poverty); a ranking of #51 represents the best (lowest percentage of children living in poverty).

[16] Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, *2007 Kids Count Data Book*, as reported by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, February 29, 2008: 51 (http://www.aecf.org/upload/PublicationFiles/databook_2007.pdf).

[17] Ibid.

[18] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, *Preliminary 2006 Data on Employment Status by State and Demographic Group,* March 5, 2008: 3-53 (http://www.bls.gov/lau/ptable14full2006.pdf).