

INTERNET ACCESS IN WEST PHILADELPHIA

A 2018-2021 WPPN Survey Data Story

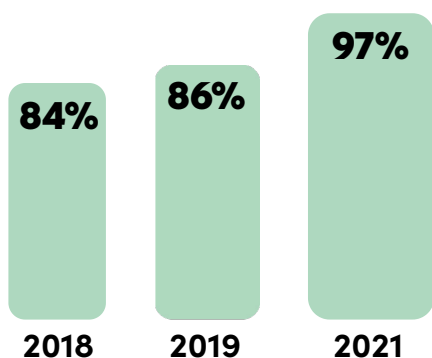


WEST PHILLY
PROMISE
NEIGHBORHOOD

The West Philly Promise Neighborhood (WPPN) team conducted surveys to understand internet access among West Philly households with school-aged children. These surveys helped highlight changes in internet access throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused students across the country to transition to virtual schooling. Two obstacles that families faced were **1) Not having devices for their children to use** and **2) Not having internet access**. Although the School District of Philadelphia supplied students with Chromebooks, many households still lacked access to the internet.



Internet Access in PN Households with Children



The first wave of surveys in 2018 indicated that only **84.4%** of households with children in the WPPN had internet access. The second wave of the surveys in 2019 highlighted that still only **86%** of households with children had internet access. By 2021, however, **96.9%** of households with children reported having internet access.



Through various partnerships, PHLConnectED provided free internet to families around Philadelphia. In the WPPN, this program was promoted through flyers and door-to-door canvassing. **The significant increase in access from the 2019 to the 2021 survey was due to this program.** The WPPN is currently doing outreach to help families previously on PHLConnectED get signed up for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a new federal program that reduces the cost of internet for low-income households.

3.1% of children

in the WPPN still lack reliable internet access. It is anticipated that enrollment in the federal program will help close this gap.



Suggested citation: Carl, J.; Cruz-Morillo, F.; Moore, C.; Munn, T.; Brown, C.; Terrell, H.; Nelson, R.; Dollery, R.; Gilliam, E.; Le-Scherban, F.; Carro I-Scott, A. Internet Access in West Philadelphia: A 2018-2021 WPPN Survey Data Story. Philadelphia, PA: Drexel University Urban Health Collaborative; July 2024.