

INFRASTRUCTURE

FAST FACTS

Joint Economic Committee

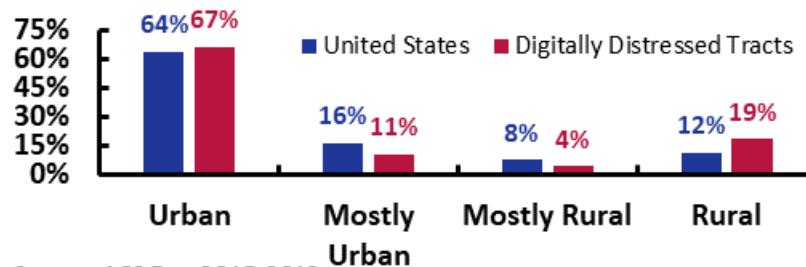
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Digital Distress Is Not Just a Rural Issue, It Is Also an Urban One

- Communities that are digitally distressed have a high percent of homes not subscribing to any internet or subscribing to it only through a cellular plan, and a high percent of homes with no computing devices or relying only on mobile devices.
- Digital distress affects both rural and urban communities. While 64 percent of communities in the United States are completely urban, 67 percent of digitally distressed communities are completely urban.
- Meanwhile, 12 percent of communities in the United States are completely rural, but 19 percent of digitally distressed communities are completely rural.
- Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, these disparities have costs on the abilities of residents to go to school, do their jobs or connect with family and friends.

Digital Distress Affects Rural and Urban Communities

Census tracts by digital distress and urbanization, 2019



Source: ACS 5-yr 2015-2019

Note: Urban refers to a tract where <1% of the population is rural, mostly urban means 1-49% of the population is rural, mostly rural means 50-99% of the population is rural, rural means >99% of the population is rural.