

Connected Communities and Inclusive Growth

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Outline:

1. Project overview
2. Home Internet in California in US context
3. Where are the unconnected Californians? Who are they?
4. Digital Inequality in Los Angeles: Community case studies

Why connected communities?

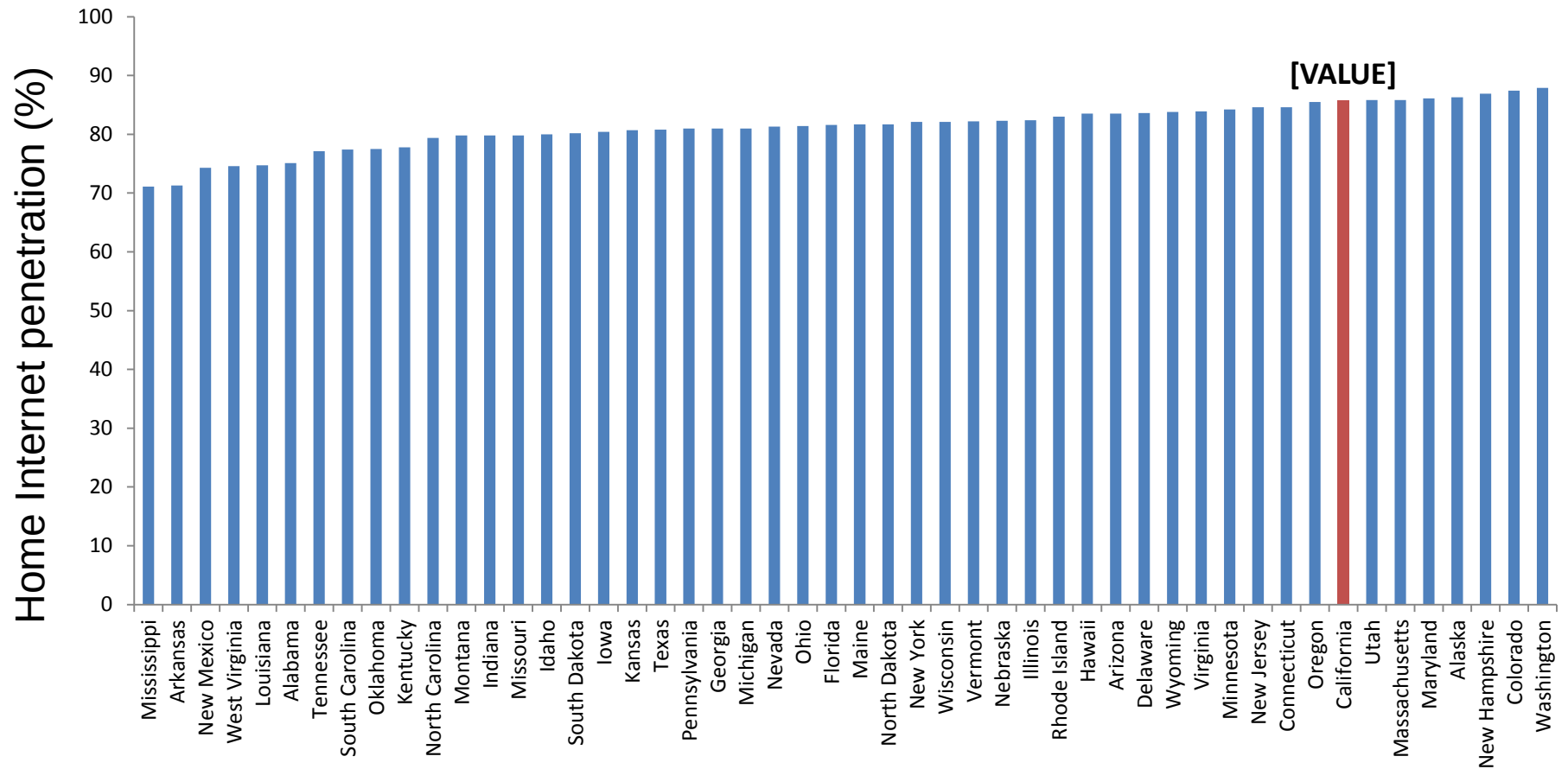
- Internet as a public utility for the 21st century
- Not just availability, but also affordability and skills
- State and local initiatives are critical

Connected Cities and Inclusive Growth (CCIG) project

- Goals:
 - map/analyze digital inequalities at local community level
 - offer user-friendly data visualization tool
- Data sources:
 - Availability → CPUC data (type and speed of service)
 - Adoption → American Community Survey (ACS): ~350K in CA
- Complementary to other studies
- International comparisons

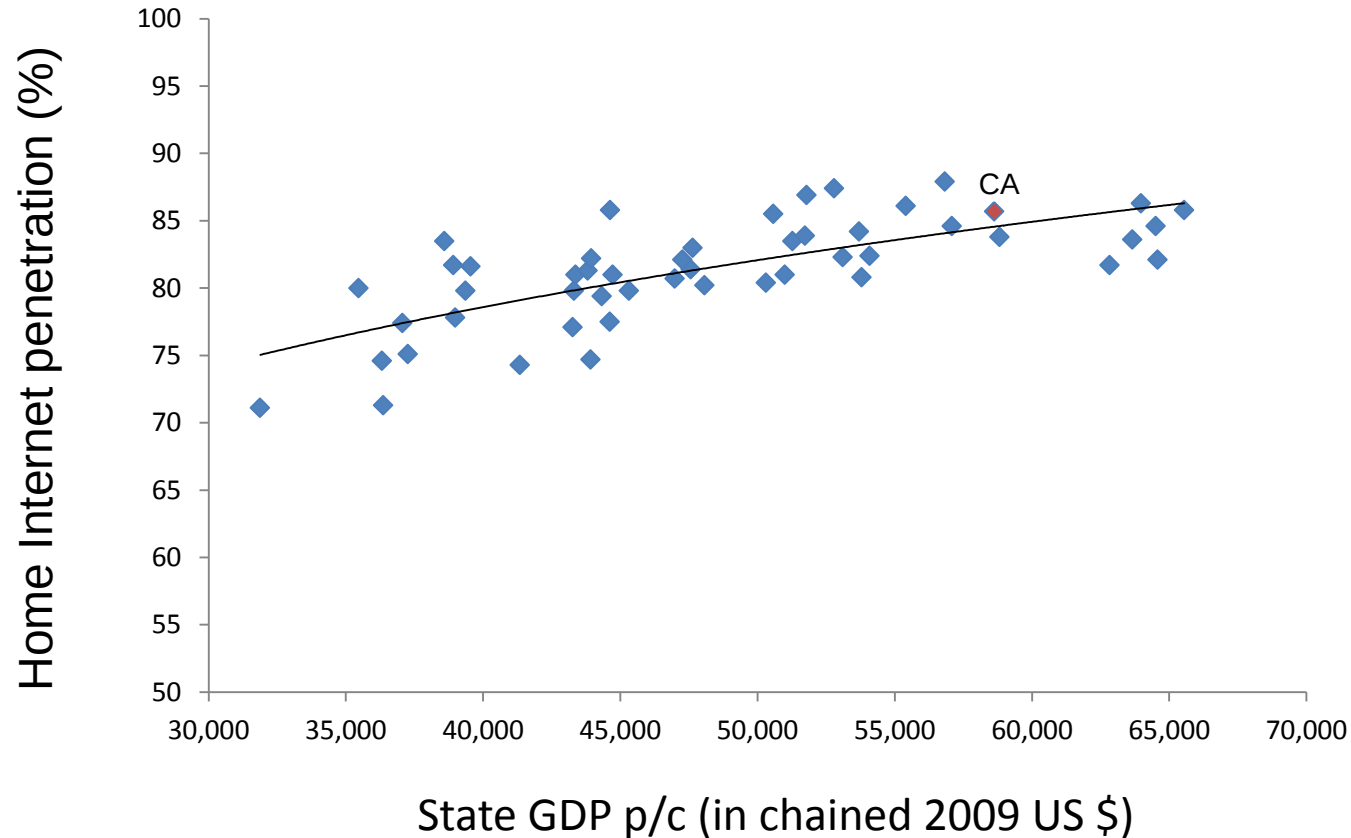
The Big Picture: California in the US context

California ranks 8th in home Internet penetration



Source: American Community Survey 2016

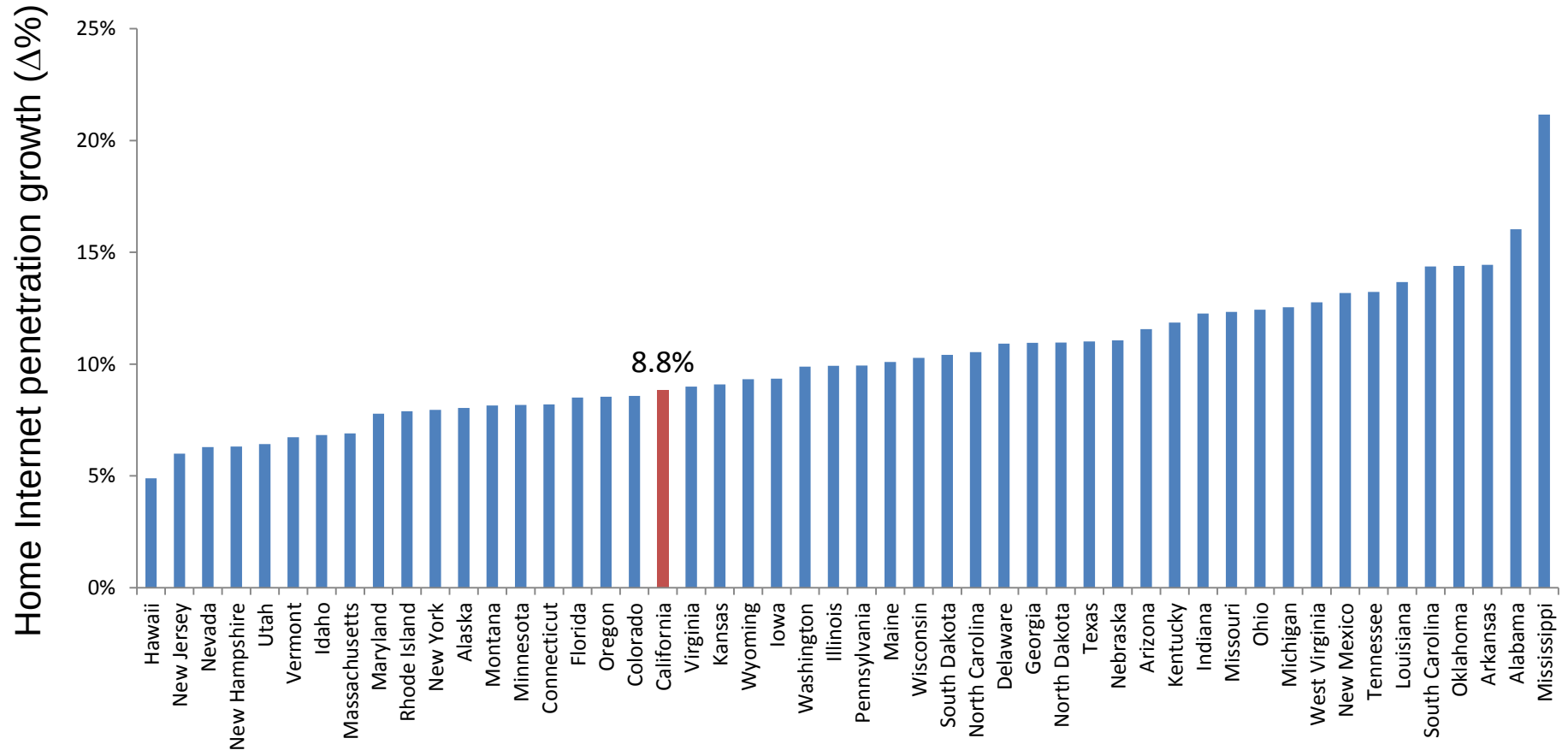
California also ranks 8th in GDP per capita



Source: American Community Survey 2016 and Federal Reserve

Growth in California has recently slowed down: ~350K new HH per year

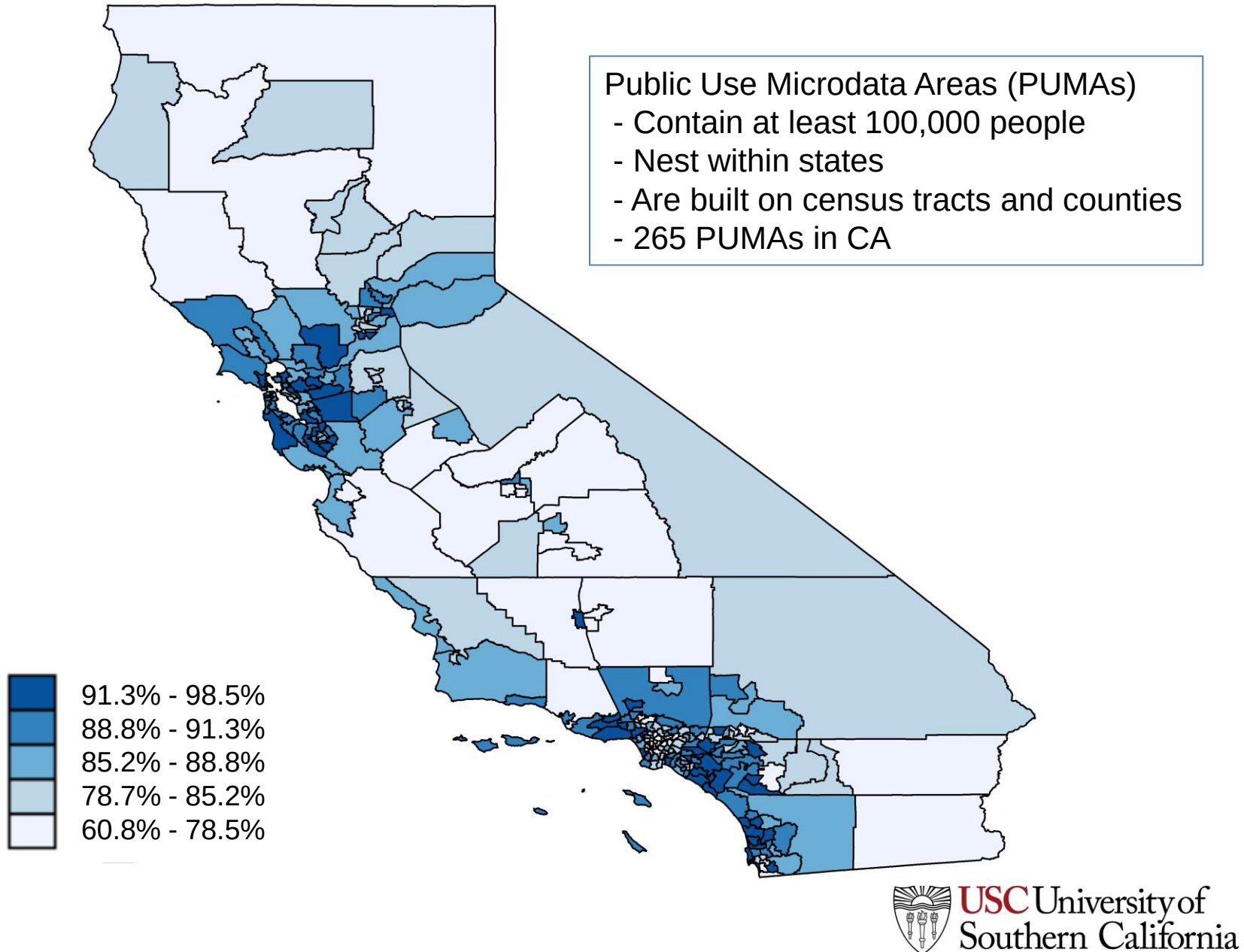
2013-2016 growth in home Internet penetration (in %)



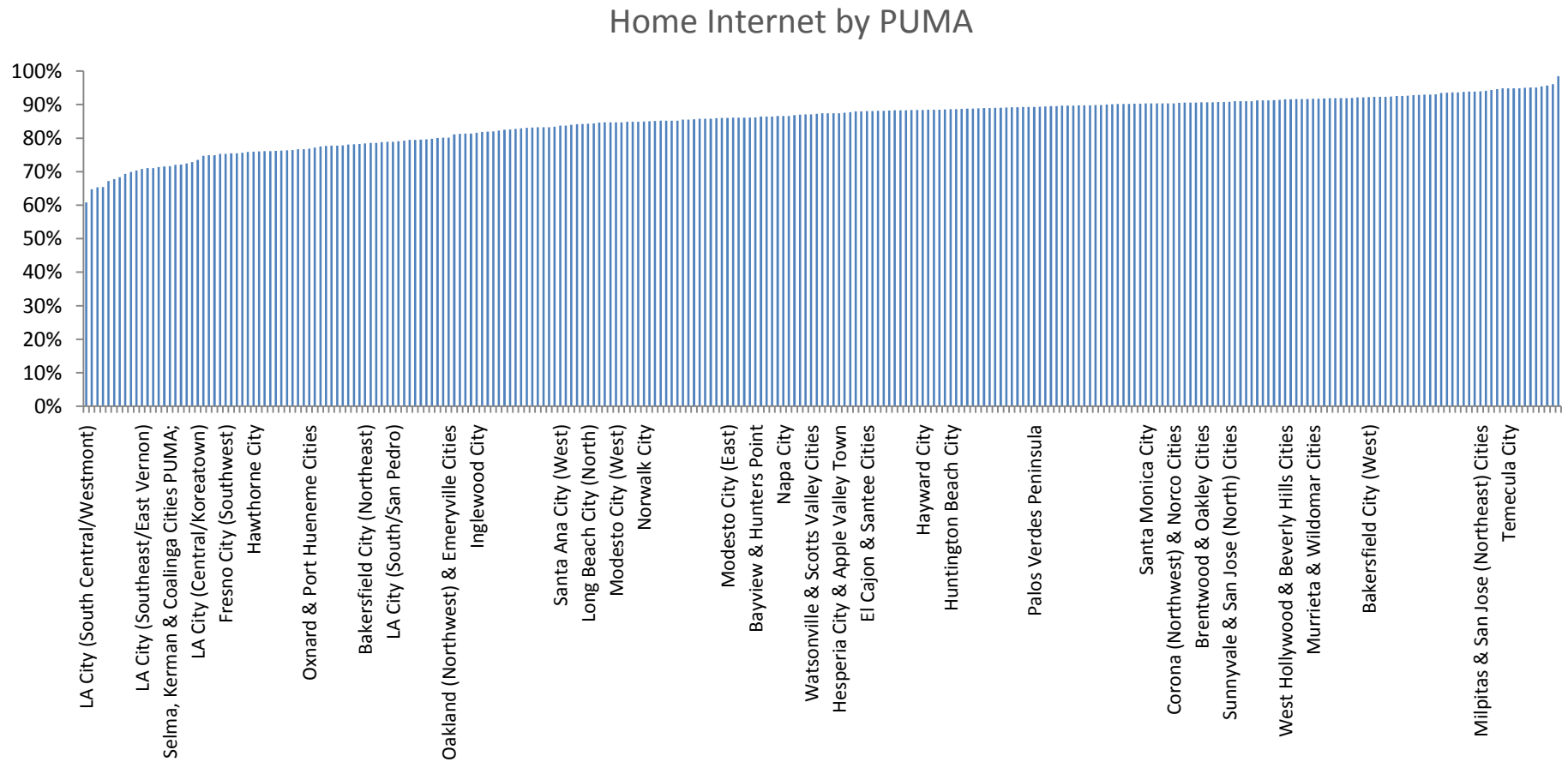
Source: American Community Survey 2016

Where are the unconnected Californians?
Who are they?

Home Internet Penetration by PUMA

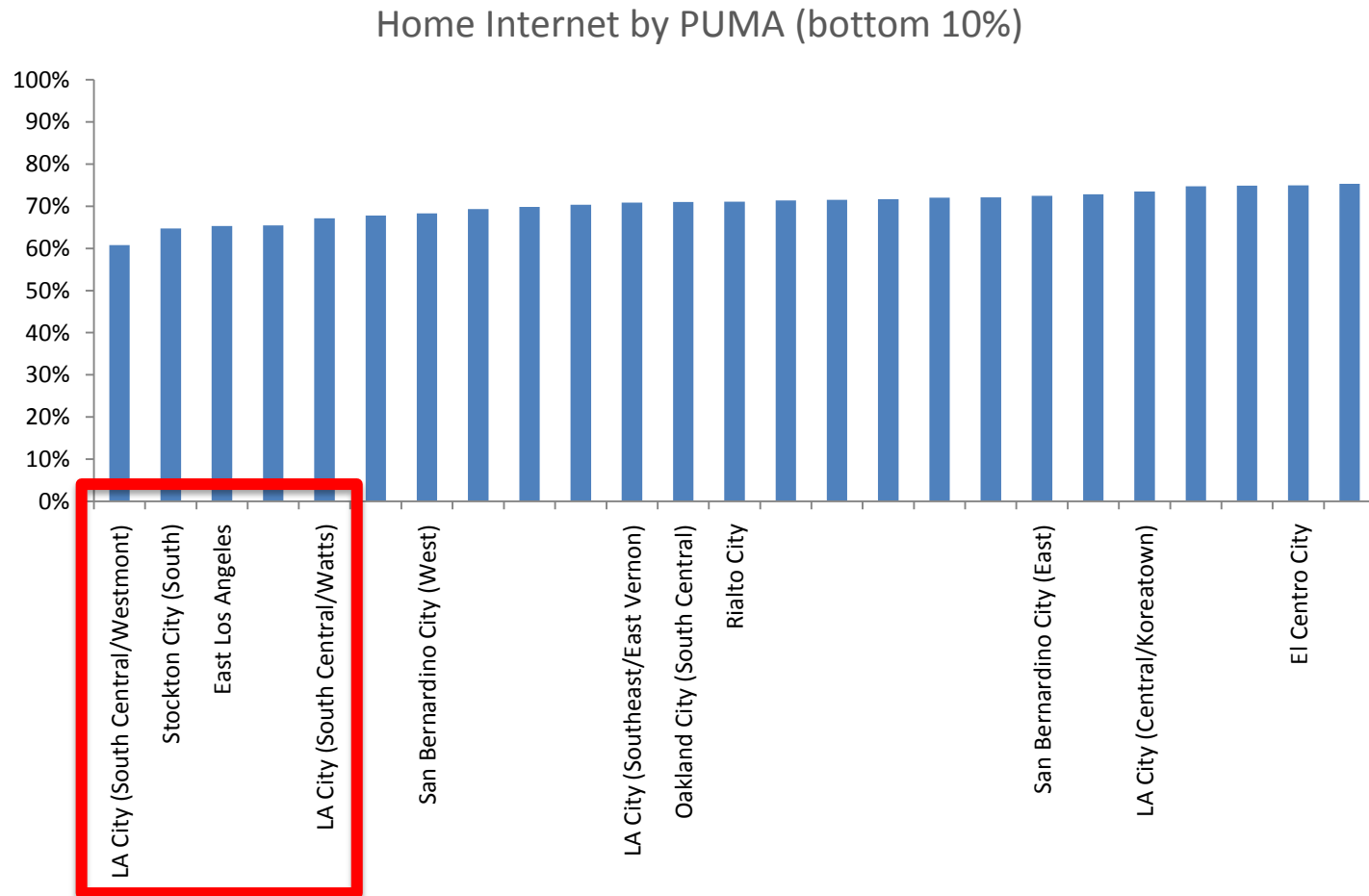


Internet penetration varies significantly across CA communities



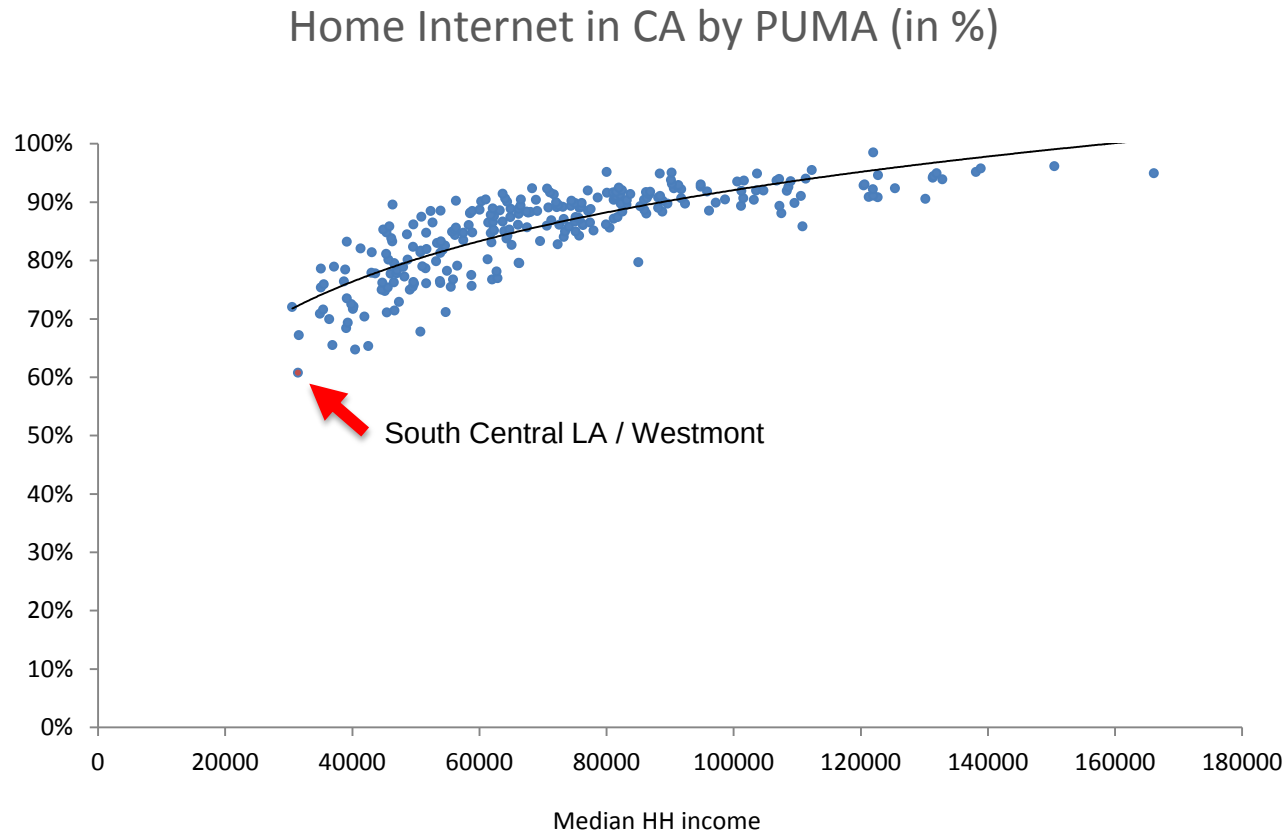
Source: American Community Survey 2016

Least connected CA communities located in dense urban areas



Source: American Community Survey 2016

Income differences explain some but not all gaps between California communities

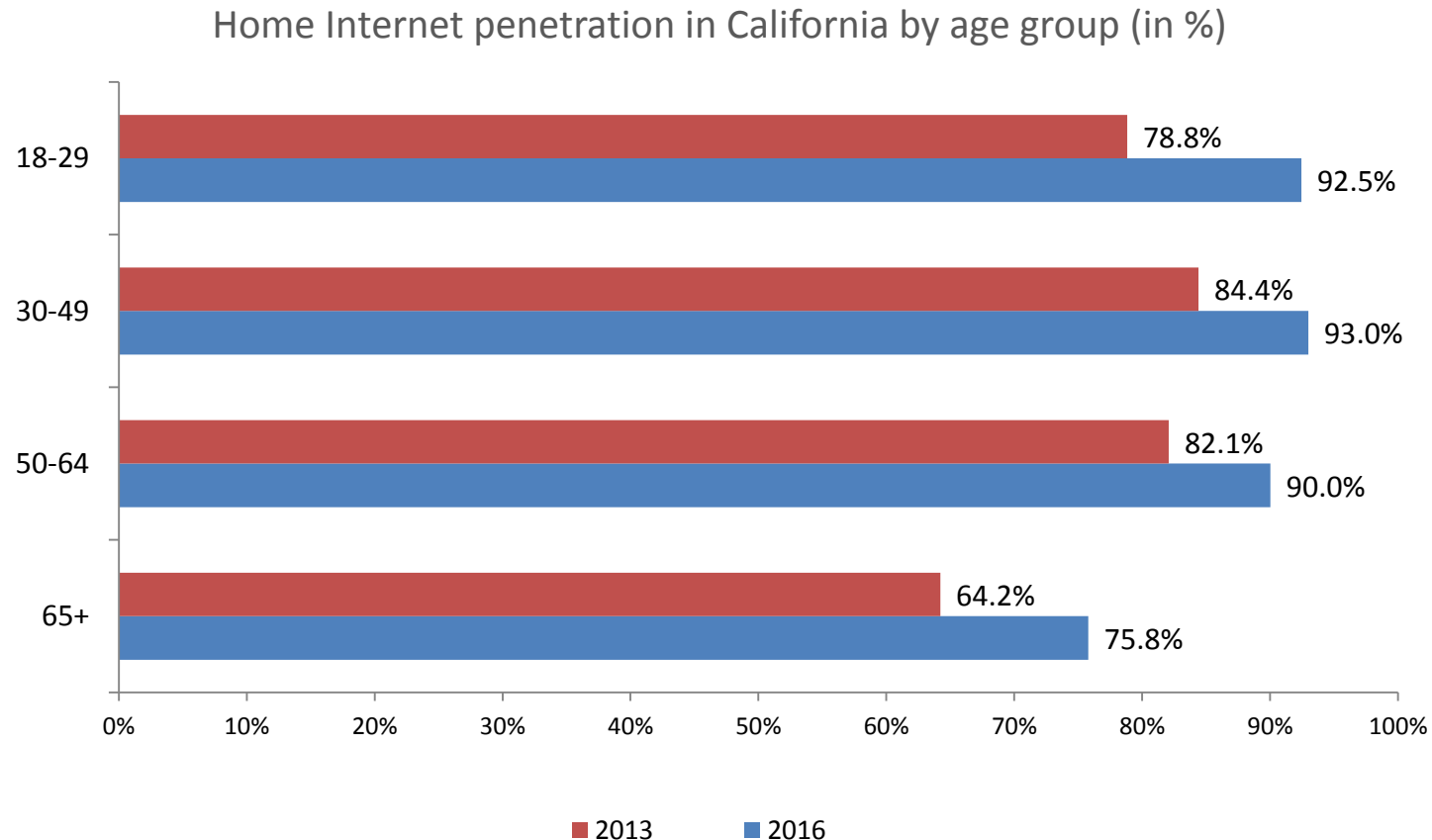


Source: American Community Survey 2016

Who are the unconnected Californians?

- Older
- Low-income
- Black or Hispanic
- People w/disabilities

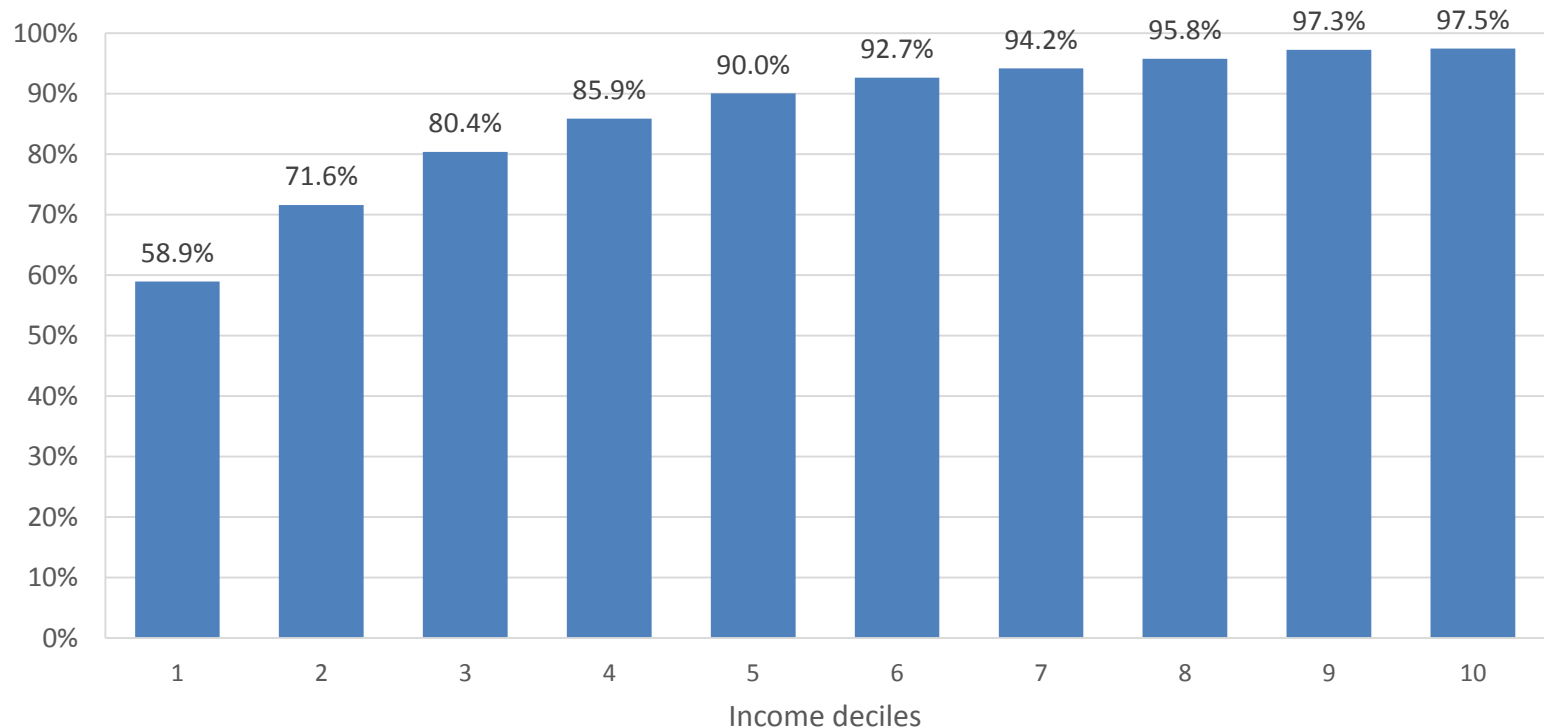
Significant gains in household connectivity among **older adults**, but gaps remain



Source: American Community Survey 2013/2016

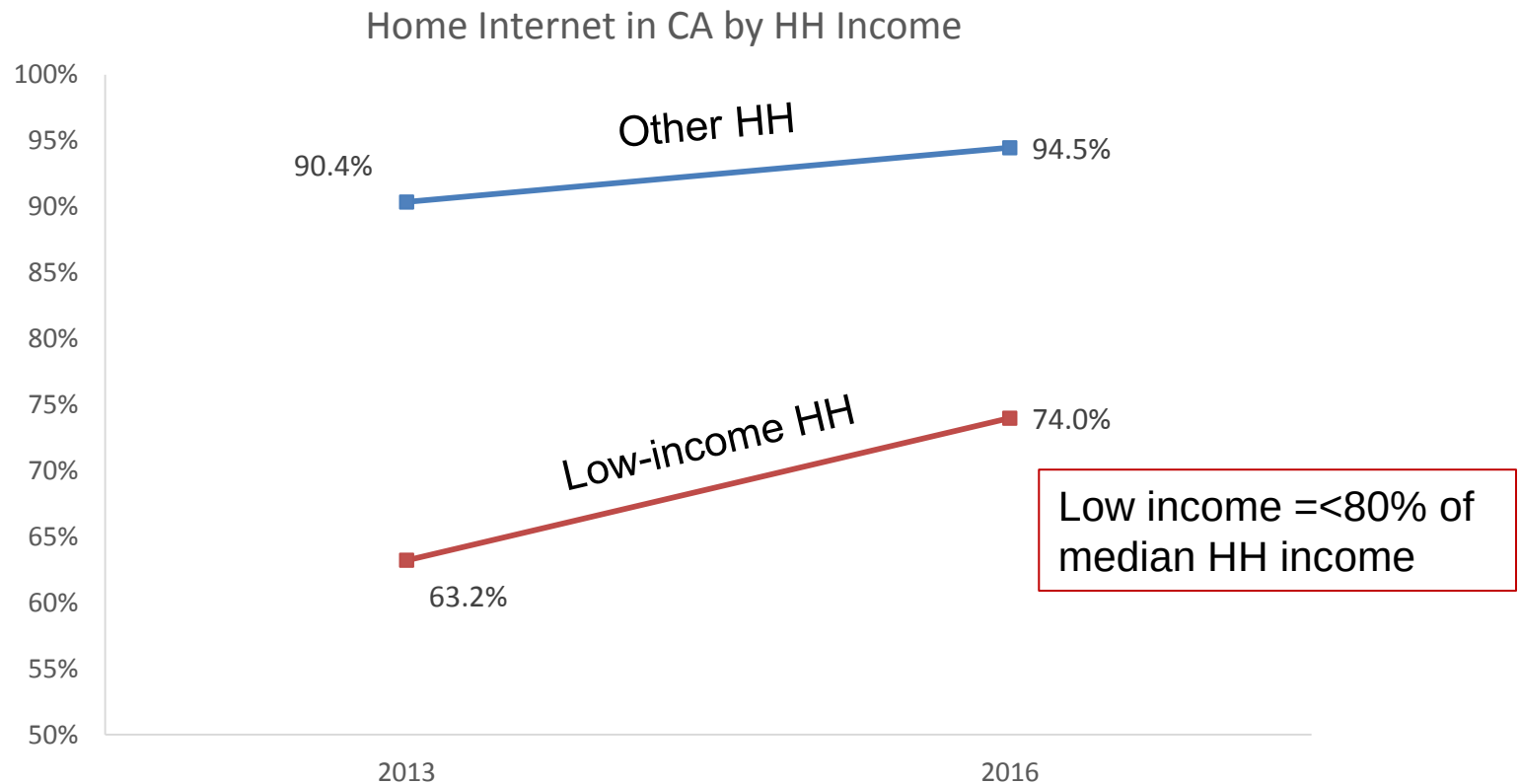
Low internet penetration concentrated in bottom 20% **income** distribution

Home Internet penetration in California by income decile (in %)



Source: American Community Survey 2016

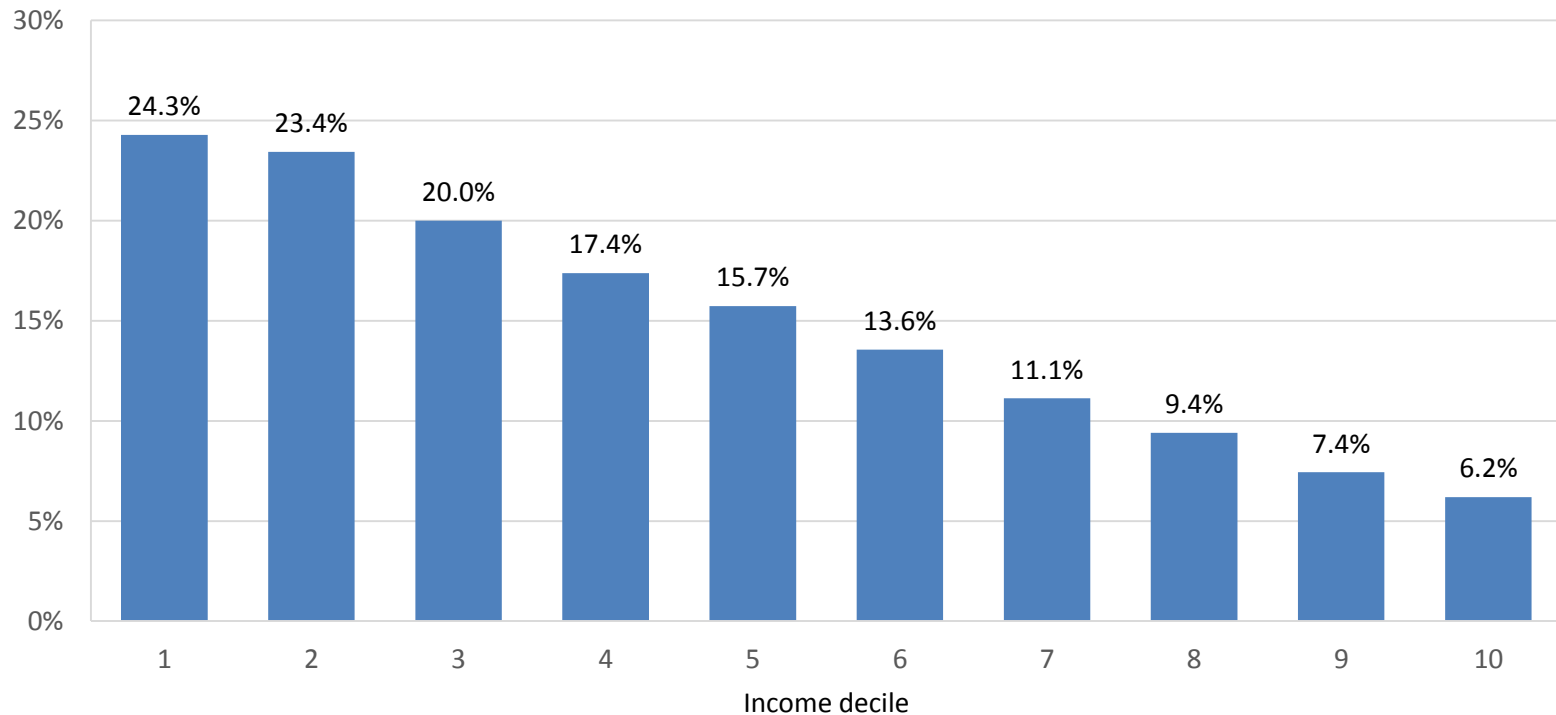
Low-income households are catching up with the rest ...though still below 75%



Source: American Community Survey 2013/2016

Mobile-only internet households are significantly poorer

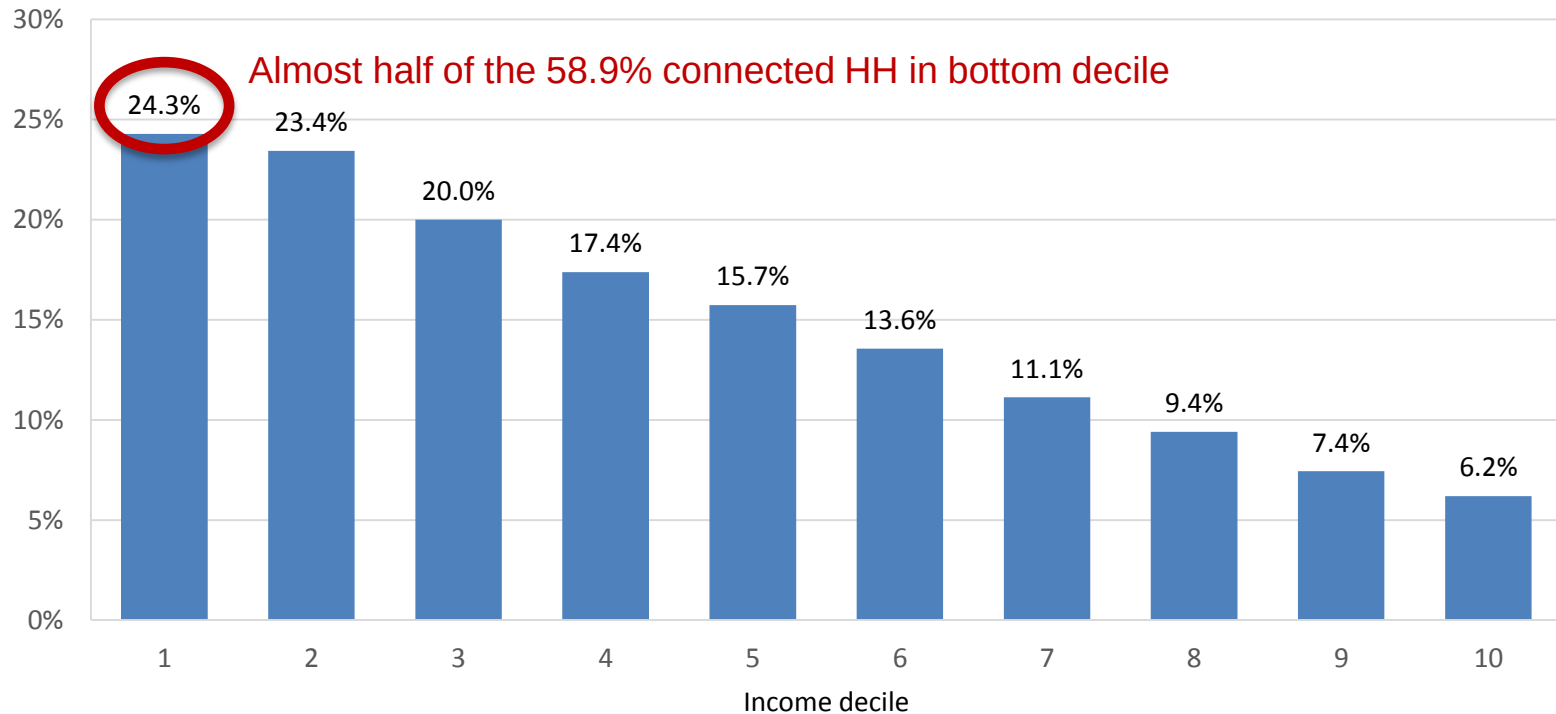
Mobile-only Internet households in California, by income decile (in %)



Source: American Community Survey 2016

Mobile-only internet households are poorer

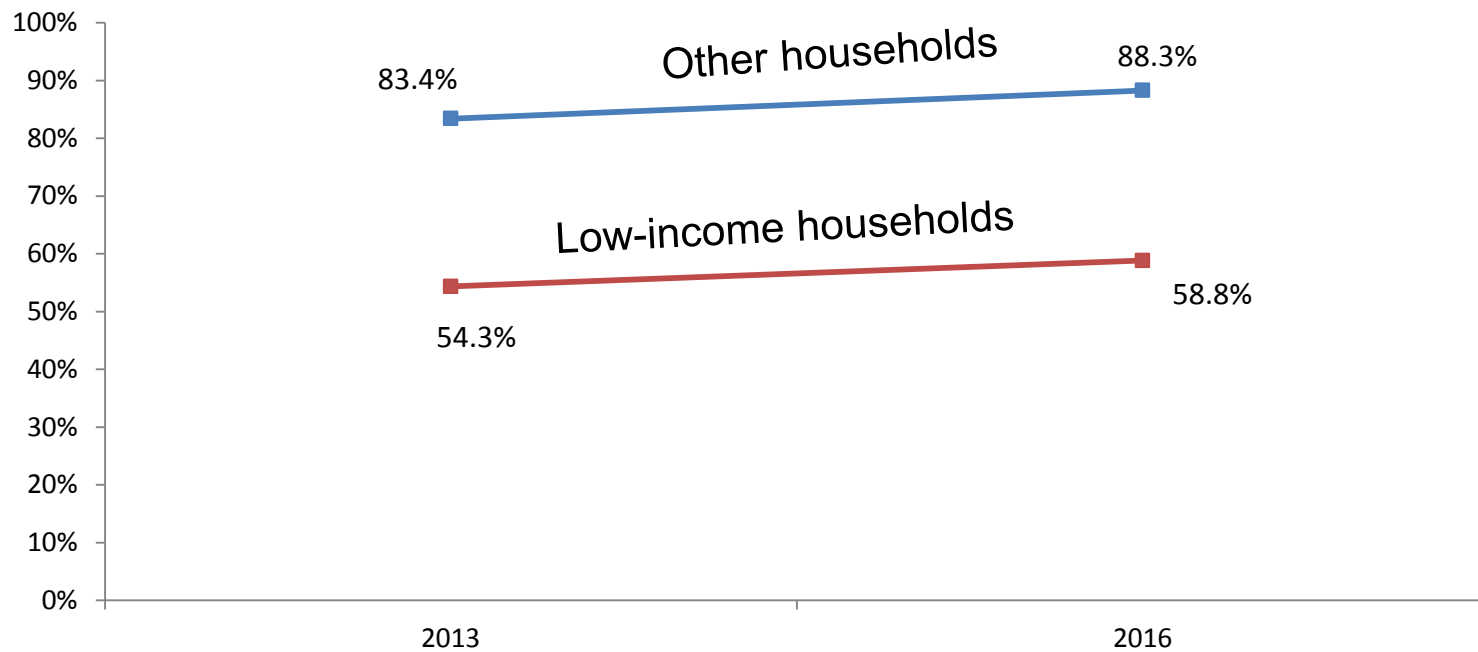
Mobile-only Internet households in California, by income decile (in %)



Source: American Community Survey 2016

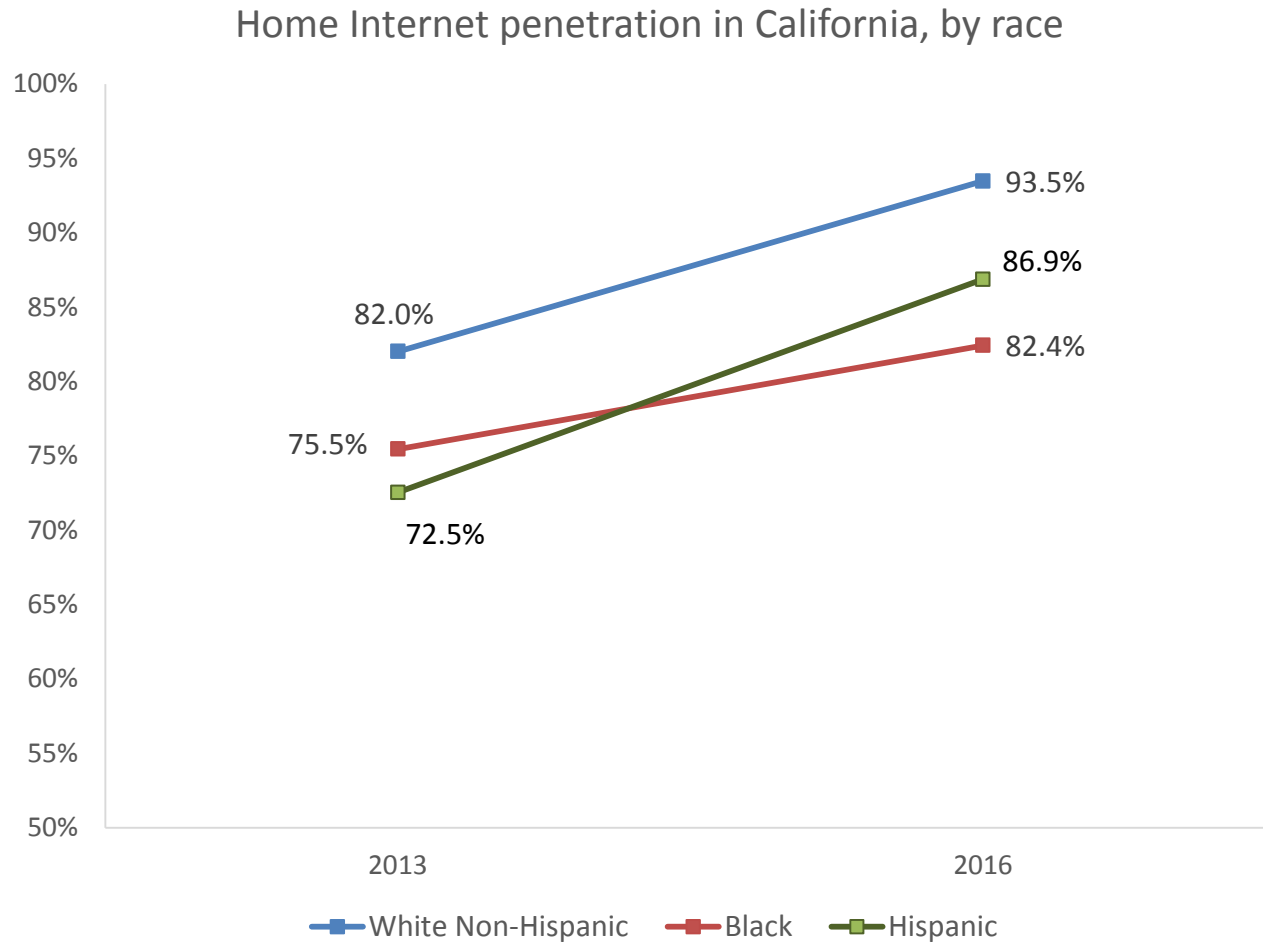
Income gap in full connectivity (PC + wired) remains unchanged

Home Internet (PC+wired only) in CA by income (in %)



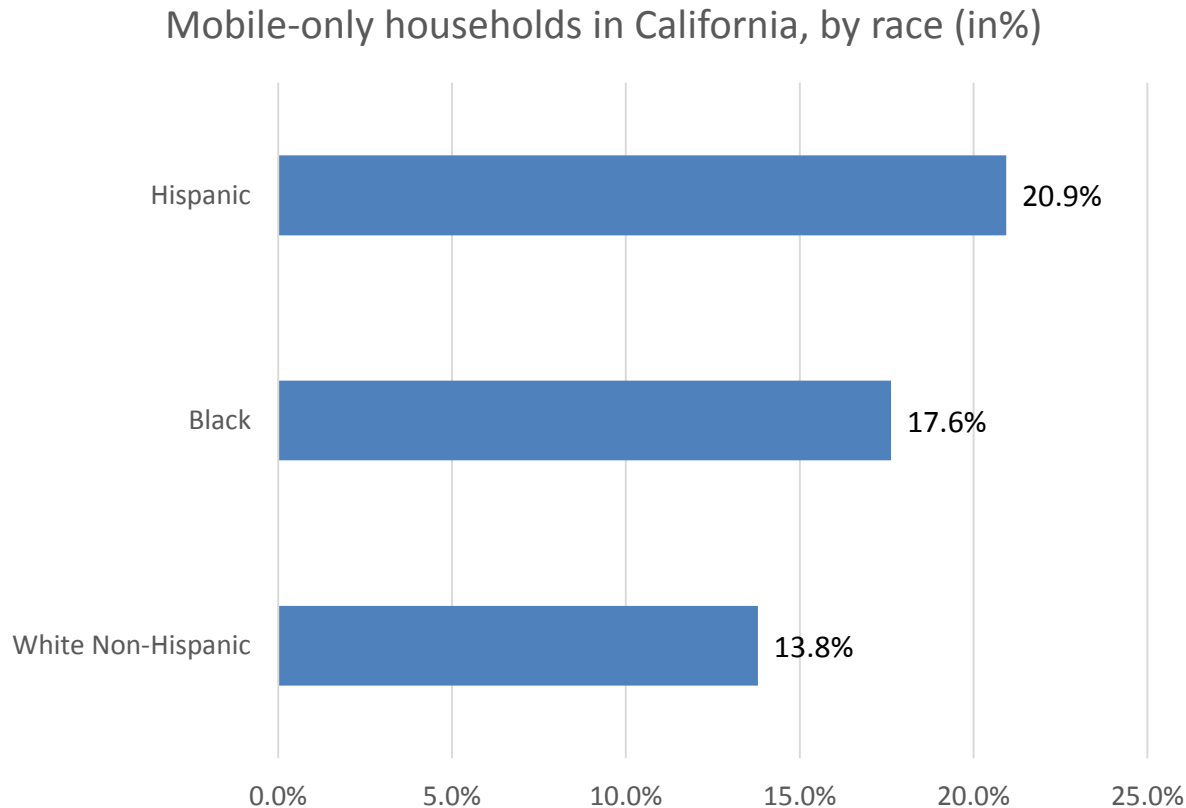
Source: American Community Survey 2013/2016

Hispanic/white gap closing, but black/white gap growing



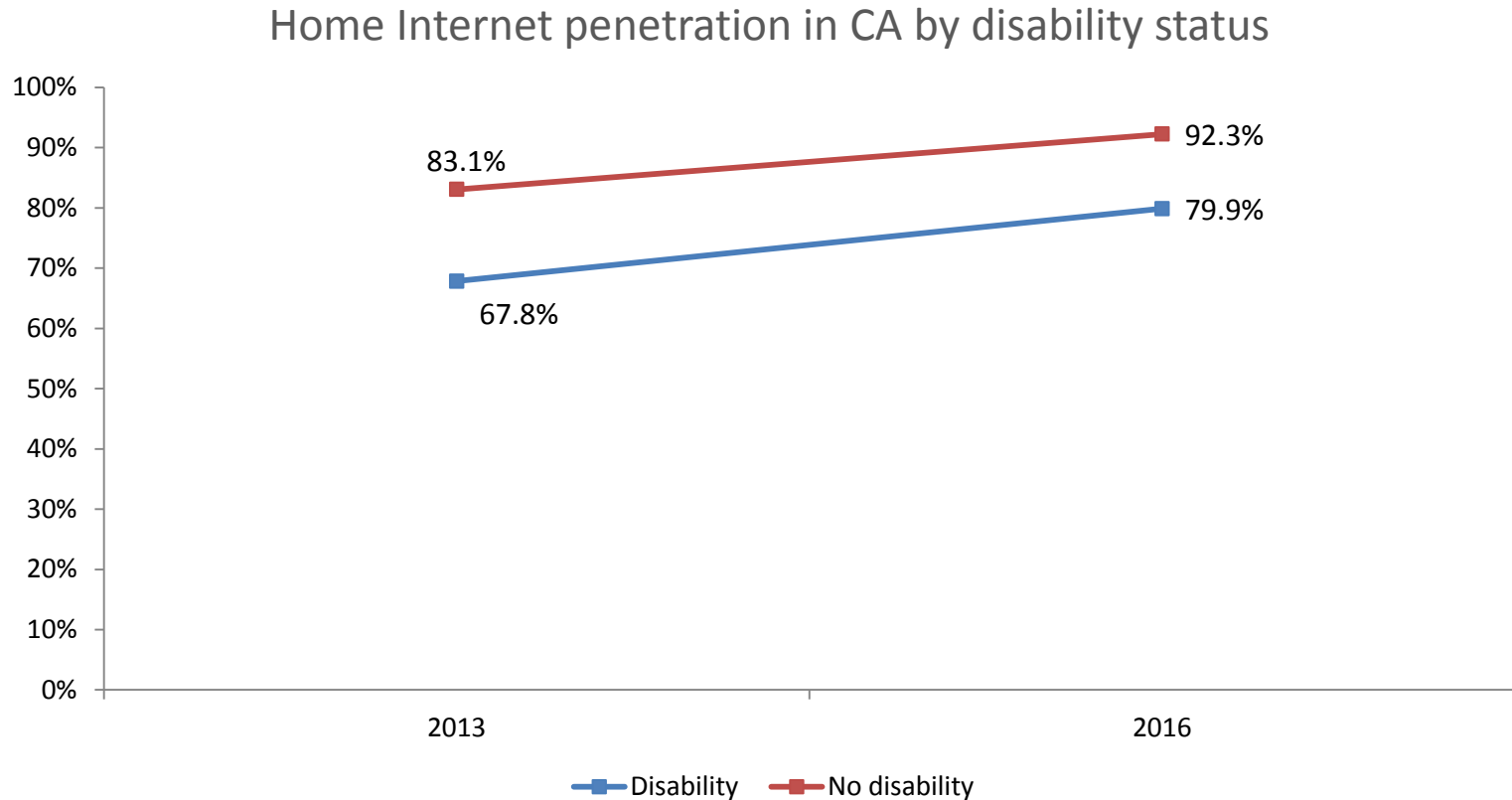
Source: American Community Survey 2016

Does mobile-only connectivity explain the closing of the racial gap?



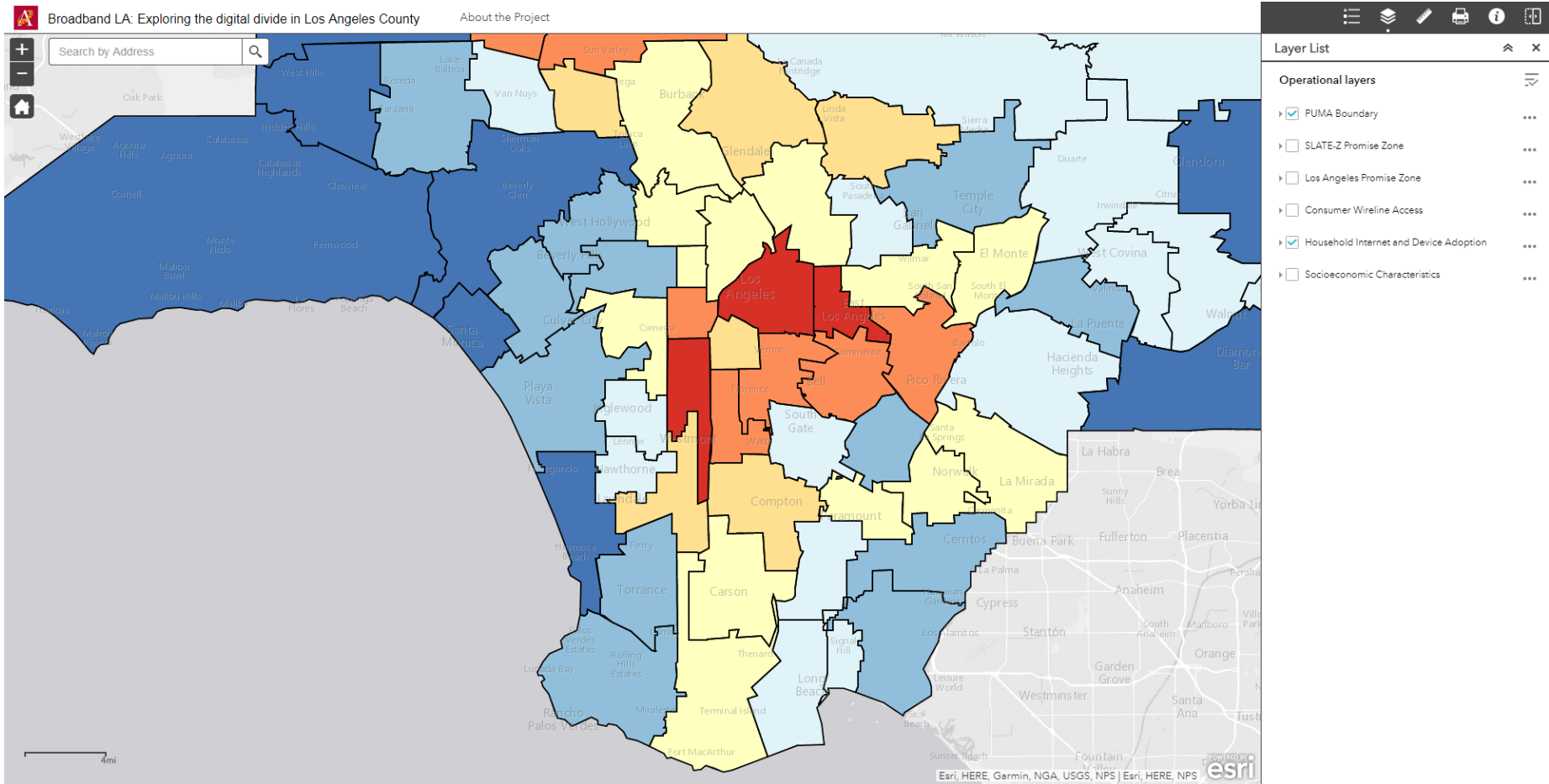
Source: American Community Survey 2016

Significant connectivity gains among people with disabilities



Source: American Community Survey 2016

Digital inequality in Los Angeles: Community case studies



Mapping project url: tiny.cc/broadbandLA

Community case study: South LA (Westmont)

- Least connected community in California:
 - 60% home Internet
 - Almost half (26%) are mobile only
 - K-12 households: 26% unconnected & 28% mobile only
- Intersectionality of factors:
 - Poverty (67%)
 - Black and Hispanic (94%)
 - Disability (14%)

Community case study: East LA (Boyle Heights)

- Low home Internet adoption rate:
 - 71% home Internet
 - 16% households are mobile only
- Intersectionality of factors:
 - Poverty (65%)
 - Black and Hispanic (76%)
 - Disability (15%)
 - Non-English households: 67%

Next steps/ongoing work

- Continue to update analysis and viz tool with new data
- Partner with local organizations for community case studies
- Develop case studies of underserved populations (eg, people with disabilities, homeless)
- Engage with policymakers and community partners to support targeted connectivity and literacy initiatives

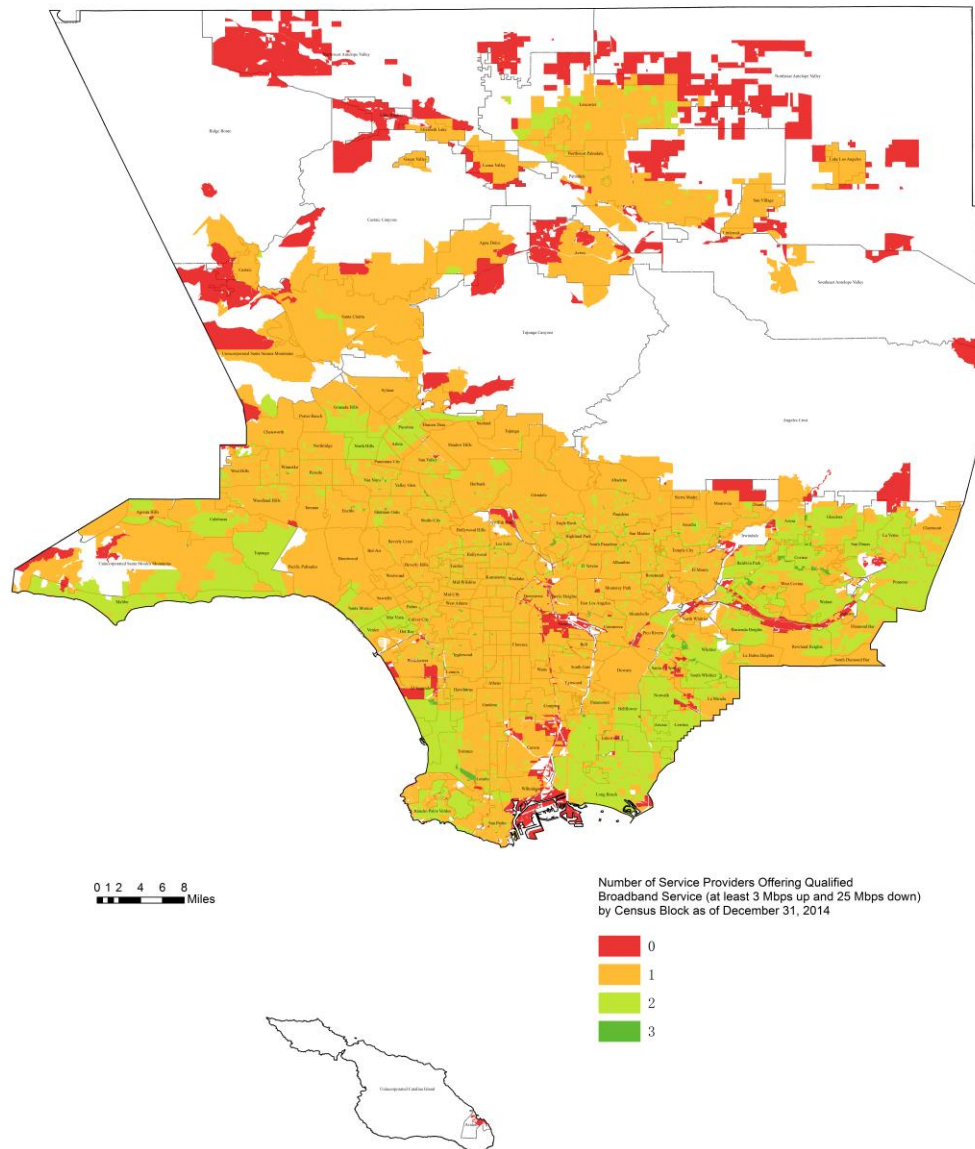
thank you

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www.arnicusc.org/research/connected-cities

Number of high-speed Internet Service Providers (ISPs) by census block in LA County



Source: CPUC 2015