CONFRONTING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE ON THE SMART CITY FRONTIER

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY - GLOBAL LEADERSHIP & CHANGE PROGRAM
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Context/ Problem

The United States has worked to increase programs to tackle the digital divide that has traditionally effected marginalized communities. However, there are significant inequities that persist affecting the quality of life for marginalized groups due to the lack of data collection and access. **By 2050, 70% of the global population and 8% of the U.S. population will live in smart cities. 11% of the U.S. households do not have access to the Internet which translates into approximately 36.9 million people**. Although progress has been made, valuable information is missing from marginalized communities that can be generated by data to inform policy. The data divide will weaken the future possibilities of U.S. cities to be able to provide a quality of life for all of its citizens as the world continues to advance in innovation and technology.

Problem: **THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN COMMUNITIES CREATES DISPROPORTIONATE REALTIES FOR THE FUTURE OF SMART CITIES.**

Current Policy

Significant progress has been made to counter the digital divide in cities that affects marginalized groups such as black, brown, and poor people. However, there is a lack of policy development to ensure that funding for access to the internet.

2021 Infrastructure Bill:
Proposes $42 billion to be divided up among states and territories to provide universal broadband access by 2030 (Mason et al., 2023)

American Data Privacy and Protection Act (2022):
Regulates how organizations use and share consumer data that creates strict oversight.

Lack of data mining and access for communities of color affects health, education, and financial services

Policy Recommendations

Crafting a policy response that addresses critical gaps in data quantity, **data access**, and data quality while reframing privacy policy

The Eightfold Path for Effective Problem Solving Model was used in constructing alternatives (Bardach & Patashnik, 2020).

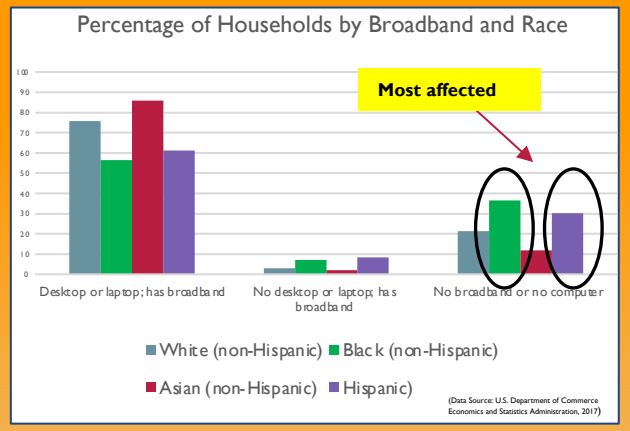
Develop privacy protection strategy that has wider benefits to society
Expand privacy laws protection to include sharing of information that may be beneficial for eliminating bias. (i.e., Student debt data)

Balance Data Protection and Privacy with Federal Policy
Ensure that consumer rights, benefits, and information are protected without state law interference.

Reform access to sectoral data
Expanding data access to critical information regarding health behaviors and educational performance to researchers can provide deeper understanding on how to better serve communities of color. (HIPAA and FERPA)

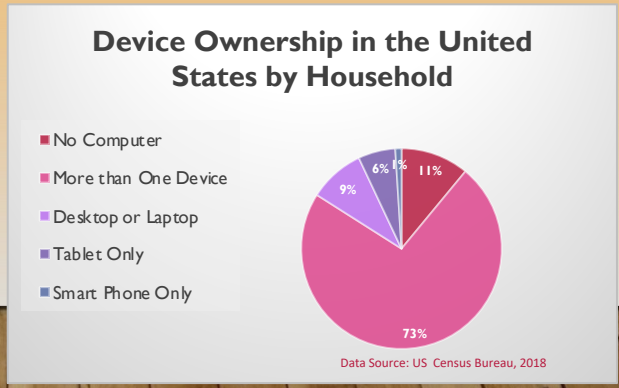
State Legislatures to Approve Community Broadband

Data Visual



Data Visual

11 Percent of the U.S. households do not own a computer



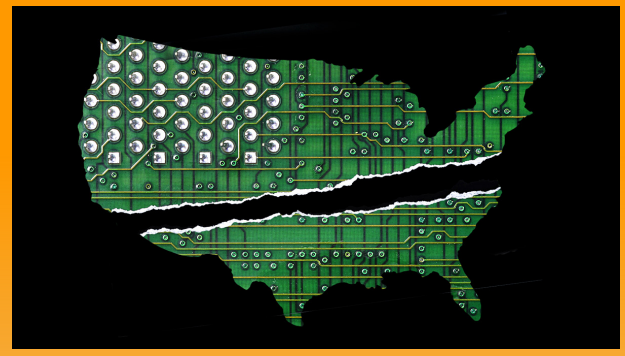


Image Retrieved from HBR, 2021

Consulted Resources

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