



Research Brief

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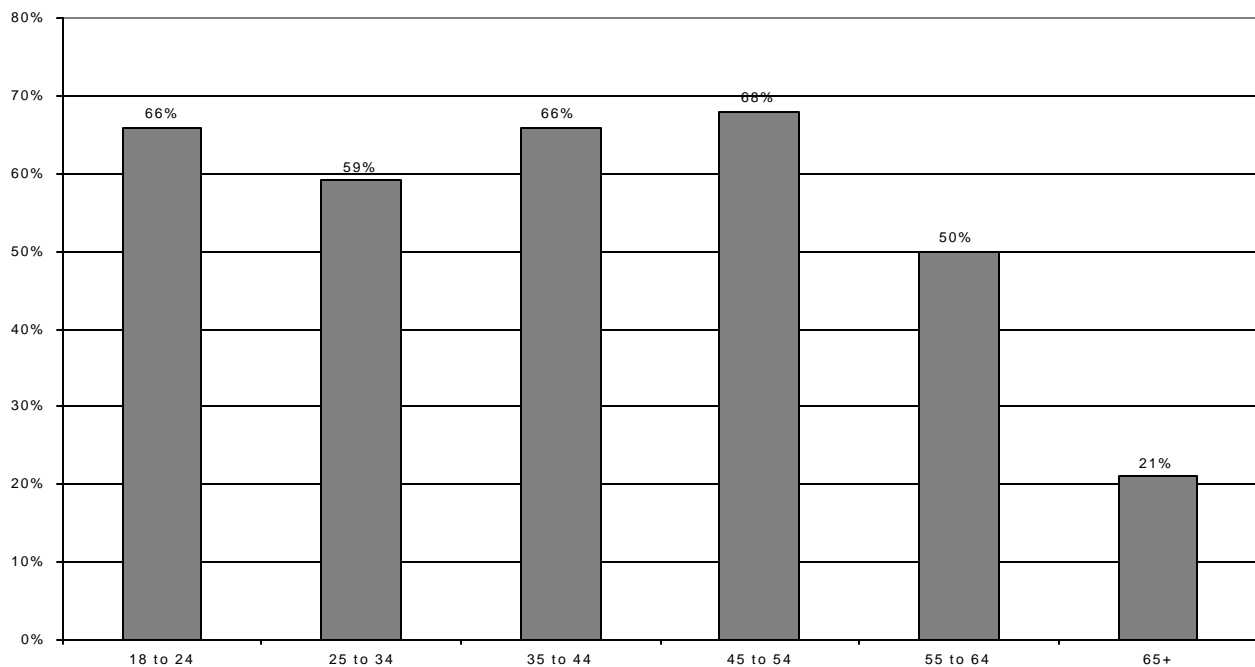
March 2, 2000

Over Half of Pennsylvanians have Access to a Computer in their Home

MIDDLETOWN, Pa—More individuals have computer access at home than at work reports the Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg. Fifty-four percent of the people polled in the 1999 *Penn State Poll*, an omnibus survey conducted annually, reported having personal computers at home while only 43 percent reported having access to a computer at work.

Computers at Home: Correlations between computers in the home and age, educational attainment, and income were identified. Not surprisingly, younger people were more likely to have computers at home than the elderly. At least half of respondents under age 65 had computers while only 21 percent of those age 65 and older did.

Table 1: Personal Computers in the Home by Age of Respondent: 1999



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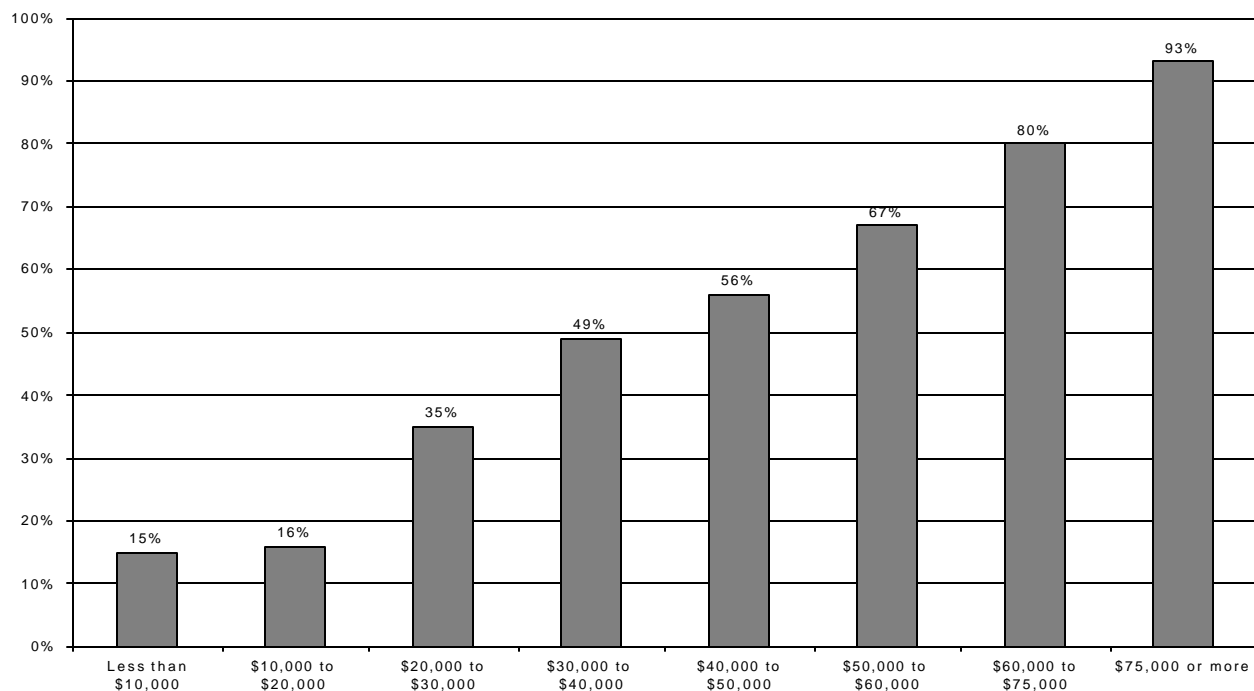


Harrisburg

Institute of State and Regional Affairs

Nearly three-fourths of the college graduates and 64 percent of those with some college education had a computer at home compared to 23 percent of persons without a high school education and 40 percent of high school graduates. Respondents with higher incomes were also more likely to have a computer.

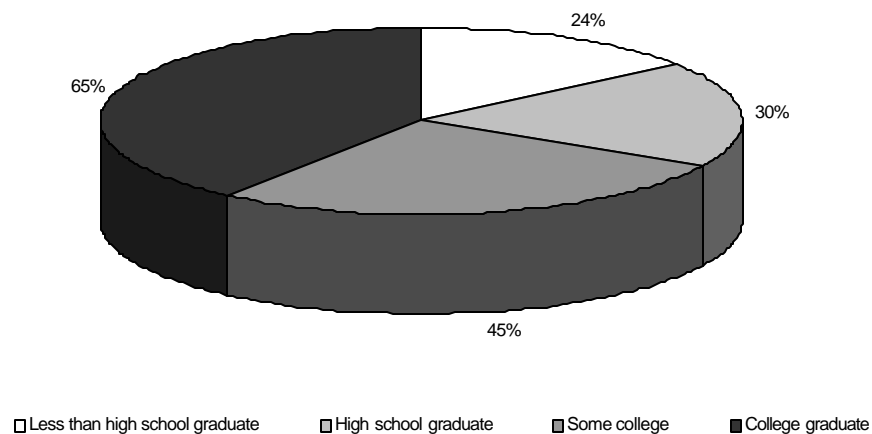
Table2 : Personal Computer in the Home by Income of the Respondent: 1999



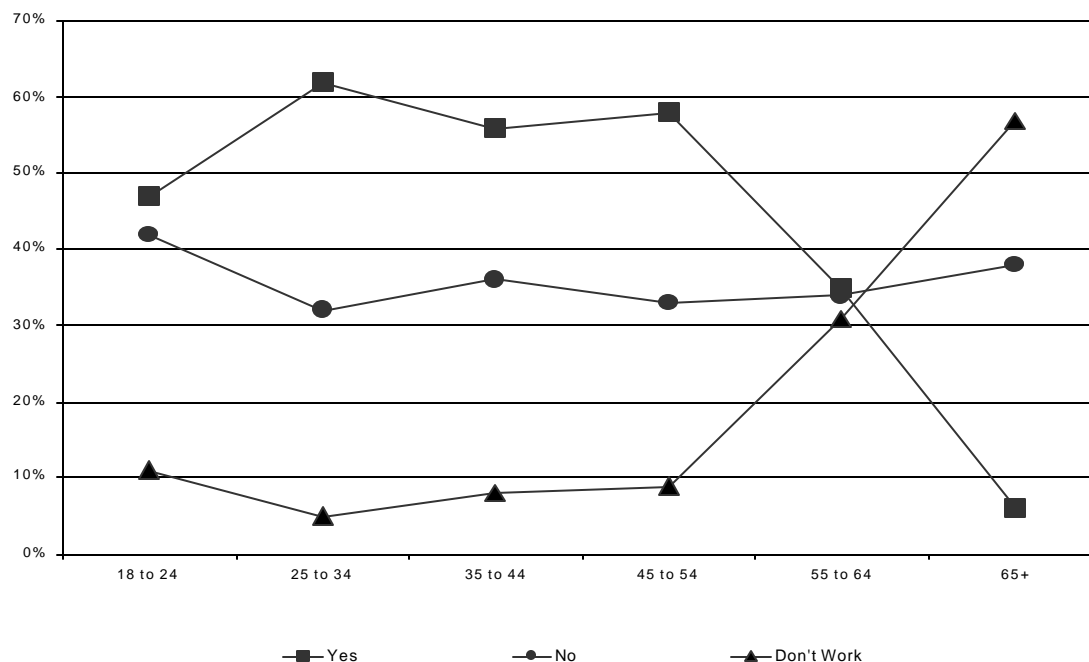
In addition, males (59 percent) were more likely to have a computer at home than females (50 percent). There was not much variance between whites (54 percent) and blacks (52 percent); however, 64 percent of persons defining themselves as a race other than white or black reported having a computer at home. The southeastern portion of the state (58 percent) ranked highest in home computer ownership followed by the central (55 percent), northwestern (52 percent), and southwestern (49 percent) areas of the Commonwealth.

Of those with a computer at home, 69 percent had a modem, allowing them to connect to the Internet and/or electronic mail. Of those with a modem, over 90 percent used it to access the Internet and 95 percent used it for electronic mail.

Computers at Work: While overall, 43 percent of the persons polled reported having access to a computer at work, income and educational attainment appeared to be strongly correlated with workplace computer access. The *Poll* found that 65 percent of college graduates had access to a computer at work while only 24 percent of those who were not high school graduates did.

Table 3: Access to a Personal Computer at Work by Educational Attainment: 1999

Other findings included: a higher percentage of males (48 percent) had access to computers at work than females (39 percent); whites (43 percent) were more likely to have access to computers in the workplace than blacks (37 percent); and younger employees were more likely to have access to a computer at work than older employees.

Table 4: Access to a Personal Computer at Work by Age: 1999

Of those with computer access at work, 72 percent had modems. And of those, 85 percent used work computers to connect to the Internet and 79 percent to receive electronic mail.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the Commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics and services. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's national State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact Wendy Sweigart at the Pennsylvania State Data Center, (717) 948-6696, or for questions regarding how the survey was conducted, sampling errors, etc., contact Jennifer Burns, Assistant Director of the Center for Survey Research at (717) 948-6428.

Information Source: Data was collected via the *Penn State Poll*, which was conducted by the Center for Survey Research at Penn State Harrisburg. The *Penn State Poll* is an omnibus survey conducted annually. The sample drawn for the 1999 *Poll* consisted of telephone numbers selected at random from all of Pennsylvania's 1,933 telephone exchanges using a random-digit-dialing sampling procedure. A total of 827 telephone interviews were conducted between October 18, 1999 and December 16, 1999.