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## INFOGRAPHIC

### OVERVIEW

The Infographic is an eye catching document housing key information concerning broadband access to rural and underserved communities. The document explains North Carolina's national ranking concerning broadband access. A gradient map of North Carolina highlights regional average broadband speeds based on county. These facts are meant to contextualize broadband access on a state-level. The next section focuses on specific, state legislative barriers impeding rural broadband access. The last section reinstates the importance of broadband access as a civil liberty as declared by the United Nations.

### PURPOSE

The infographic is meant for utilization in spreading awareness of broadband in-access in rural communities. It is designed for use by stakeholders or legislatures to share for the general population's consumption.

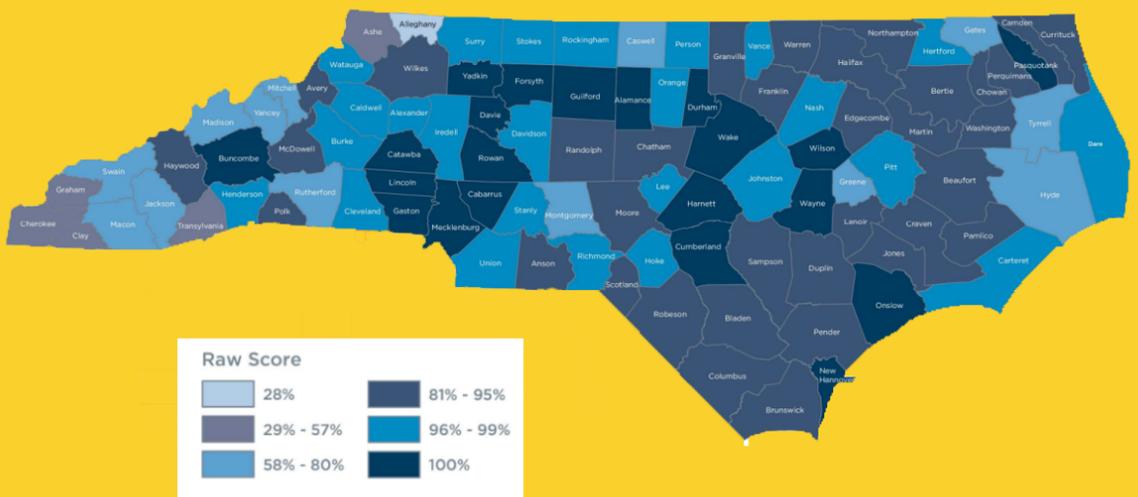


# NC: DISCONNECTED

What would you do without reliable internet access?

## % WITH BROADBAND IN NC

North Carolina ranks **14TH** in broadband connectivity among states



The US ranks **15TH** in average internet speed in the world

(Figure 1) This map from the North Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Office shows availability of broadband at the FCC standard download speed, 25 Mbps. Only 21 counties out of the 100 in North Carolina have 100% availability of standard broadband speed.

## MANY RURAL COMMUNITIES HAVE ONLY ONE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

## BARRIERS

The NC Cable Telecommunications Association hired a lobbyist with deep connections in the Senate. Legislation that would diminish barriers to internet access often push through the House, but tend to fail once entering the Senate.

A major barrier, supported by the telecom industry, is Chapter 160A, Article 16A of North Carolina State Statute. It is a law prohibiting local municipalities from establishing their own broadband services that would compete with private providers.



## CONNECTIVITY AS A CIVIL RIGHT

The Internet is a civil right as declared by the United Nations Article 19. Civil rights are “guarantees of equal social opportunities and equal protection under the law, regardless of race, religion, or other personal characteristics.” Without access to the internet, rural and poor communities do not have equal access to information, economic opportunities, and the larger society. Internet access promotes civil participation and engagement with community services through provision of online information.

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