



# **Wisconsin Broadband Office**

# Wisconsin Broadband Office Vision and Mission

## Vision

- All Wisconsinites have the information technology capacity needed to fully participate in society

## Mission

- Make high performance broadband more accessible, ubiquitous, competitive and affordable in Wisconsin

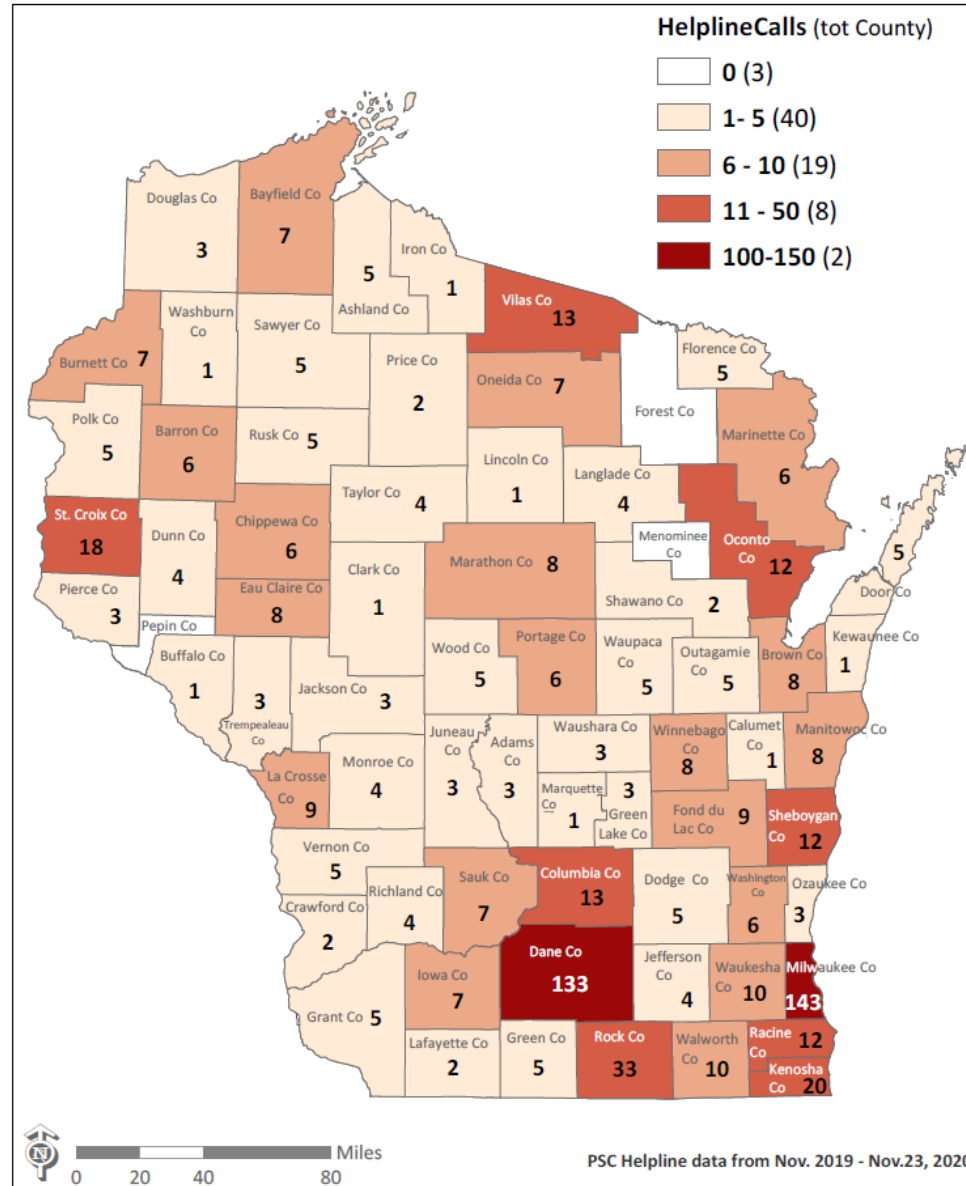
# Why is the state focused on Broadband?

Broadband is necessary for access to essential services and full participation in our democracy and economy.

## Broadband Access

- Increases access to health care
- Increases community prosperity, economic development and tourism
- Increases property value
- Supports agriculture and manufacturing
- Decreases the learning gap
- Increases participation in government and society
- Provides access to economic and educational opportunity

## BROADBAND HELPLINE Unique Calls (684) by County

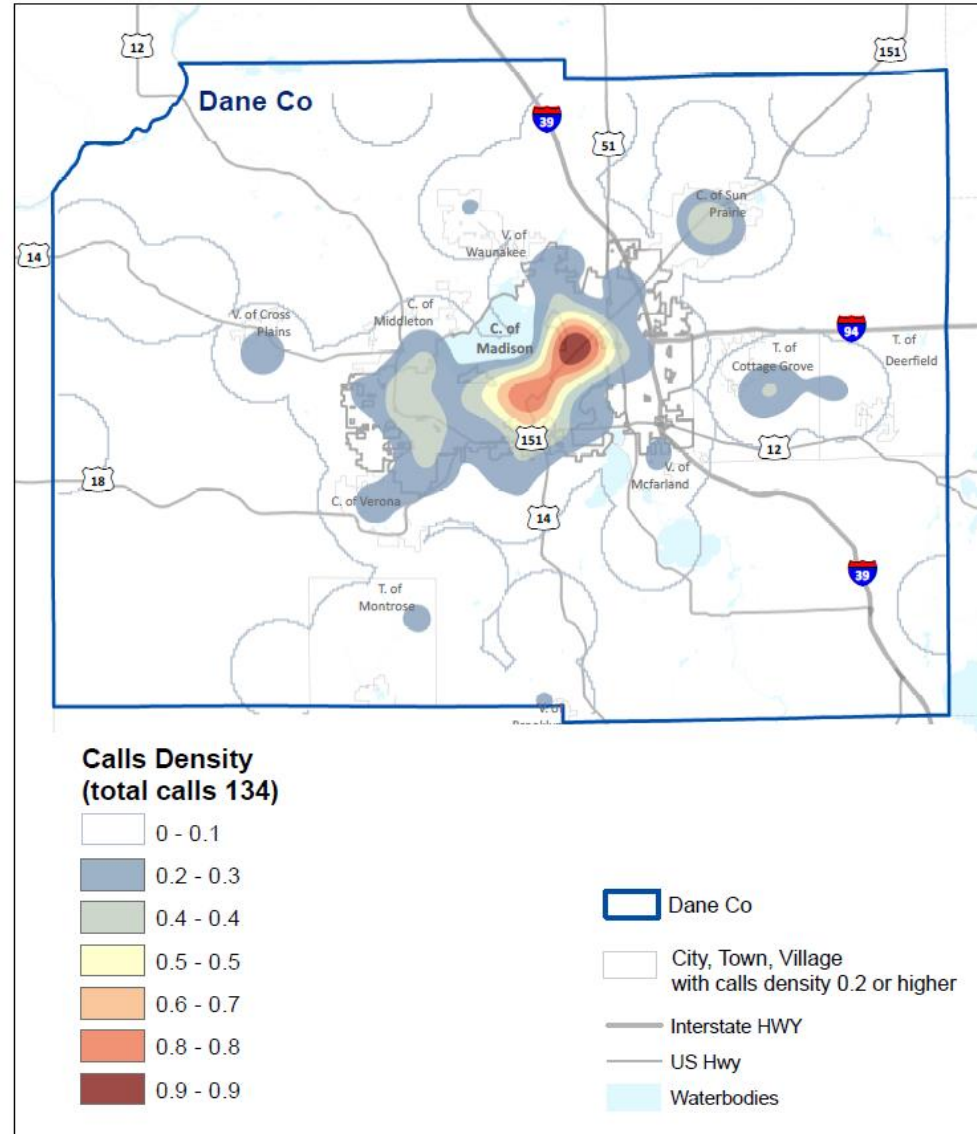


PSC Helpline data from Nov. 2019 - Nov.23, 2020

Prepared by PSC OBTA | WBO mb 1/12/2021

# BROADBAND HELPLINE

## Unique Calls Density - Dane Co



# Wisconsin Digital Equity - Home Internet Access Survey

Access

Performance



## Internet Access in Primary Residence

Wisconsin, 2020 - 2021 School Year

### About the Data

This dashboard shows the district breakdown of students without the Internet in their primary residence. Data are current as of **February 9, 2021** and will be updated periodically.

Only districts reporting having students without home internet access will appear in the district list on the right hand side of the page.

Collecting whether students have Internet access at home is part of the [digital equity collection](#), which is intended to collect data to help address inequity in Internet access and virtual learning capabilities. Statewide digital equity data can be found on the [WISEdash Public Portal](#).

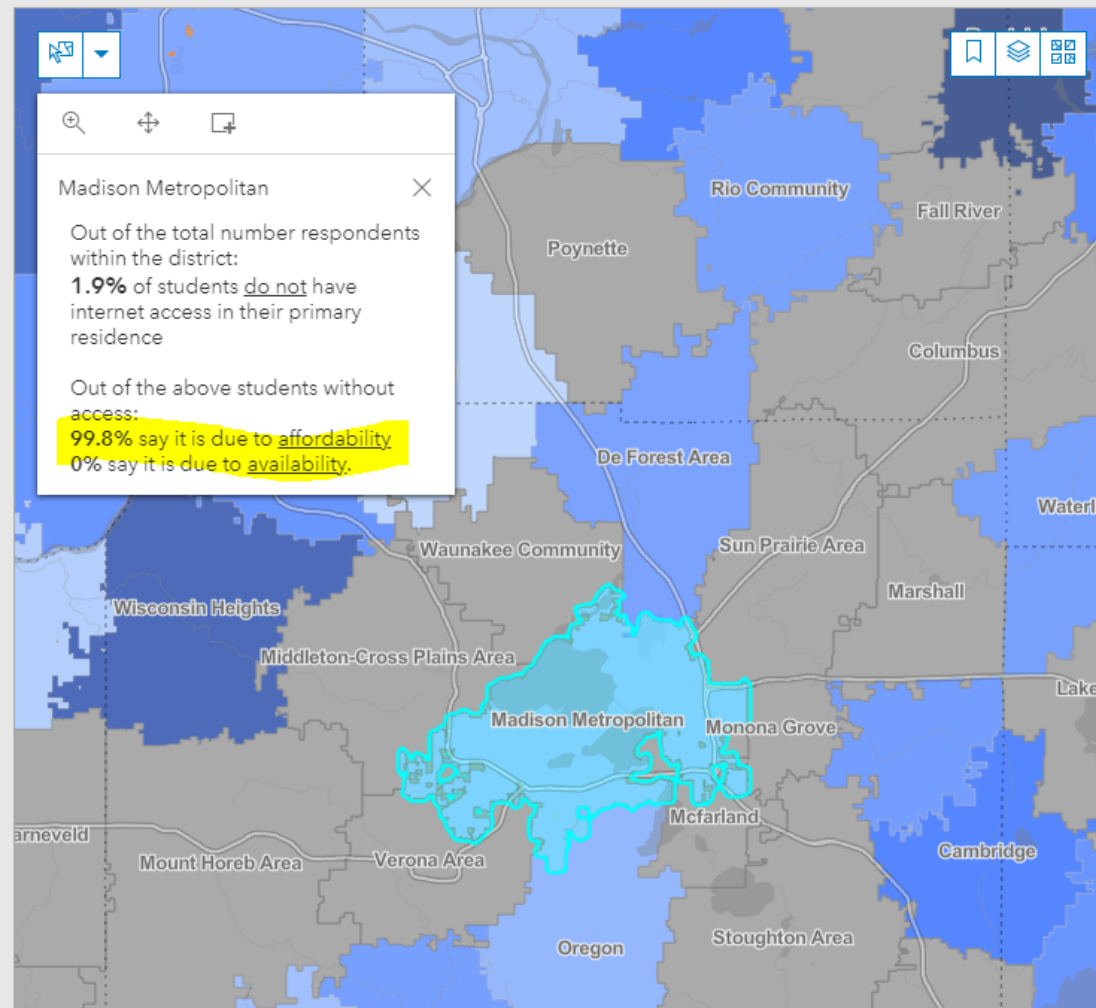
### About the Map

View the map in full-screen by clicking the expand button located in the upper-right corner of the map frame.

#### Legend

- Middle value = mean for all districts reporting student digital equity data
- Top and bottom values are 1 standard deviation from the mean
- "Other" category means either the district is not reporting digital equity data, or there are no students in that district who have answered Question 1 of the [digital equity survey](#)

View a particular district's data by either **a)** using the dropdown in the upper-right of the dashboard to select desired district, **b)** zooming into the district's location on the map, or **c)** locating district in the district list at right.



# Not an availability problem a digital equity problem

- Digital Equity is a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Digital Equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.

# The solution to digital equity is digital inclusion activities

This includes 5 elements:

- 1) **affordable**, robust open broadband internet service;
- 2) internet-enabled **devices** that meet the needs of the user;
- 3) access to **digital literacy** training;
- 4) **quality technical support**; and
- 5) applications and **online content** designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration with adequate consumer and privacy protections.

Digital Inclusion must evolve as technology advances. Digital Inclusion requires intentional strategies and investments to reduce and eliminate historical, institutional and structural barriers to access and use technology.



# 5 things this committee can do now

- 1) Fund, support and train digital navigators using existing systems
- 2) Get the word out about the Emergency Broadband Benefit and start signing people up
- 3) Get surplus devices cleaned, refurbished and in the hands of people who need them
- 4) Use your buying power to purchase bulk accounts

# Resources

- **Interim** Treasury Guidance: State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

- <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRP-Fact-Sheet-FINAL1-508A.pdf>

In view of the wide disparities in broadband access, assistance to households to support internet access or digital literacy is an eligible use to respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, as detailed above.

- Read The Lewis Latimer Plan for Digital Equity and Inclusion

- [https://nul.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/NUL%20LL%20DEIA%20041421%20Latimer%20Plan\\_vFINAL\\_1136AM.pdf](https://nul.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/NUL%20LL%20DEIA%20041421%20Latimer%20Plan_vFINAL_1136AM.pdf)

- Digital Inclusion Plan Template & Guide (from North Carolina)

- <https://www.ncbroadband.gov/assistance/digital-inclusion-template-guide>

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