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The State of Broadband in Utah

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- Broadband as a public utility
- Federal vs. state regulation of broadband internet service providers (BIAS)
- Net neutrality
- Technical aspects



- Broadband 101
- Access
- Actions taken in Utah
- Federal Packages

What is broadband?

- “always-on”
- High-speed internet connection
 - Min. download speed of 25 Mbps
 - Min. upload speed of 3 Mbps

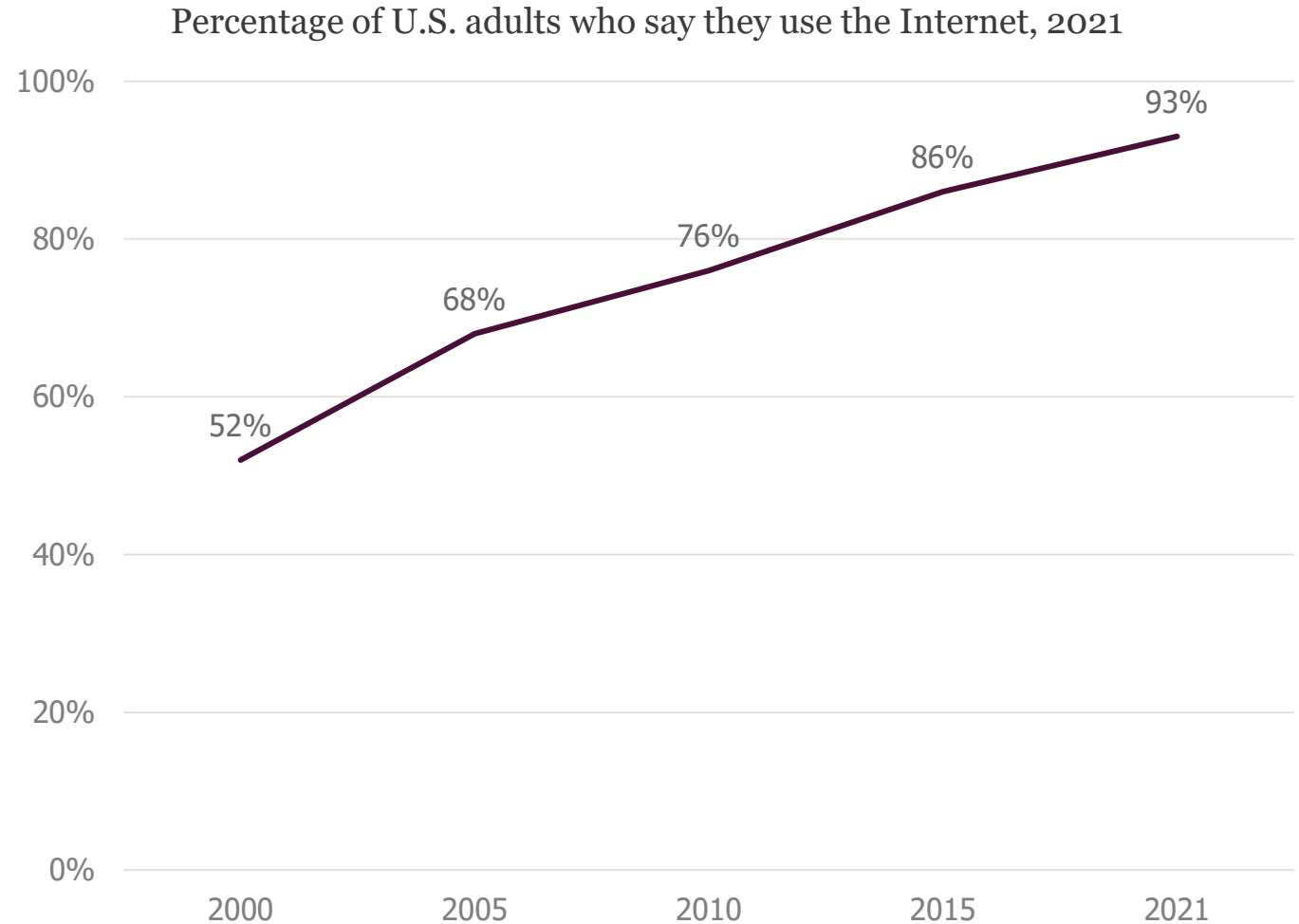
Median speed in U.S.

- Download = 192.73 Mbps
 - Upload = 22.57 Mbps
- ([Speedtest.net](https://www.speedtest.net), 2022)



Why is it important?

- Economic development
- Education
- Telehealth
- Civic engagement
- Public Safety
- Quality of life



(*Pew Research Center, 2021*)



Technology has been a lifeline for some during the coronavirus outbreak ...

% of U.S. adults who ...

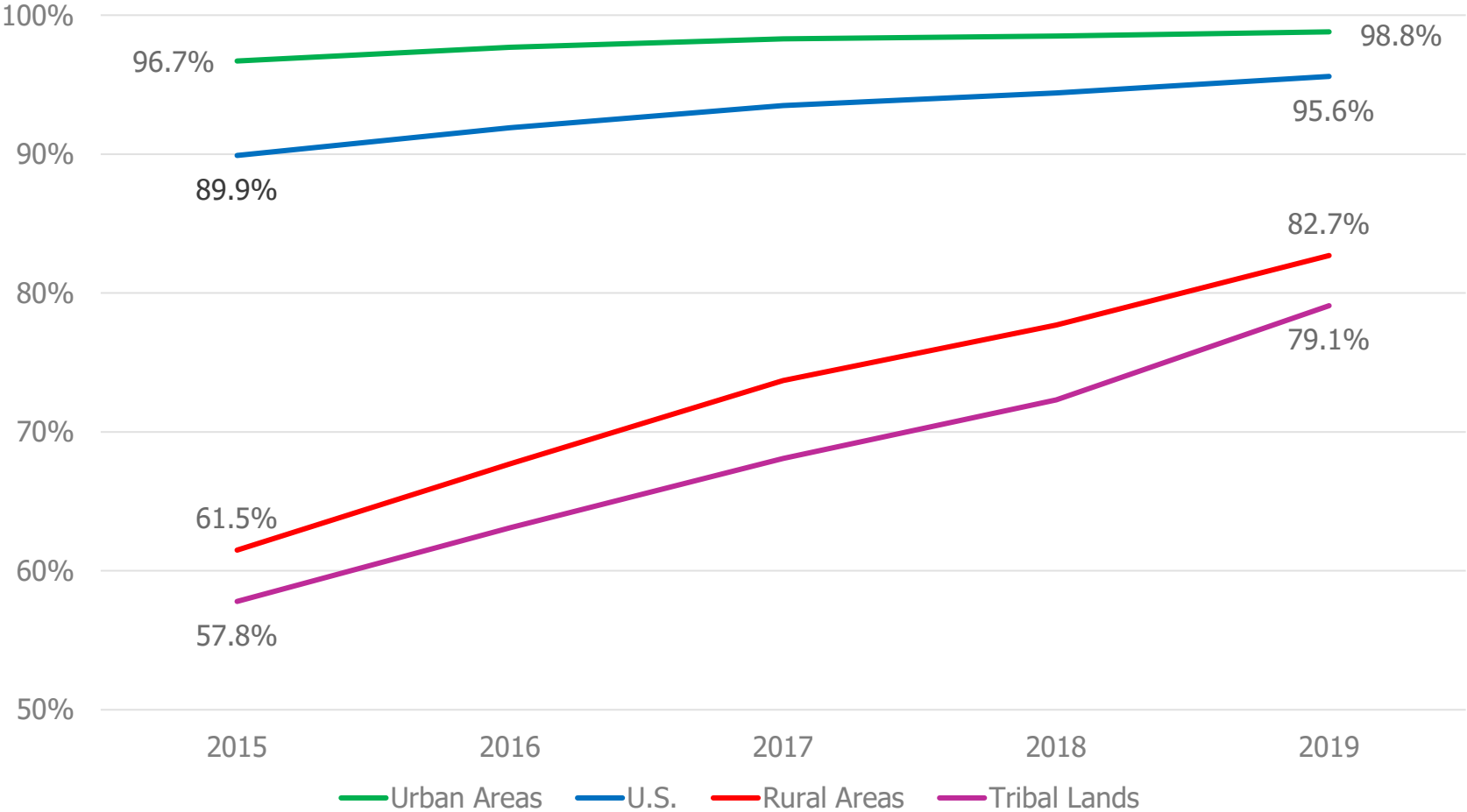
- 90%** say the internet has been **essential** or **important** for them personally during the coronavirus outbreak
- 81%** say they have **ever*** talked with others via video calls since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in February 2020
- 40%** say they used digital technology or the internet in any new or different ways compared with before the beginning of the outbreak



Pew Research Center, 2021



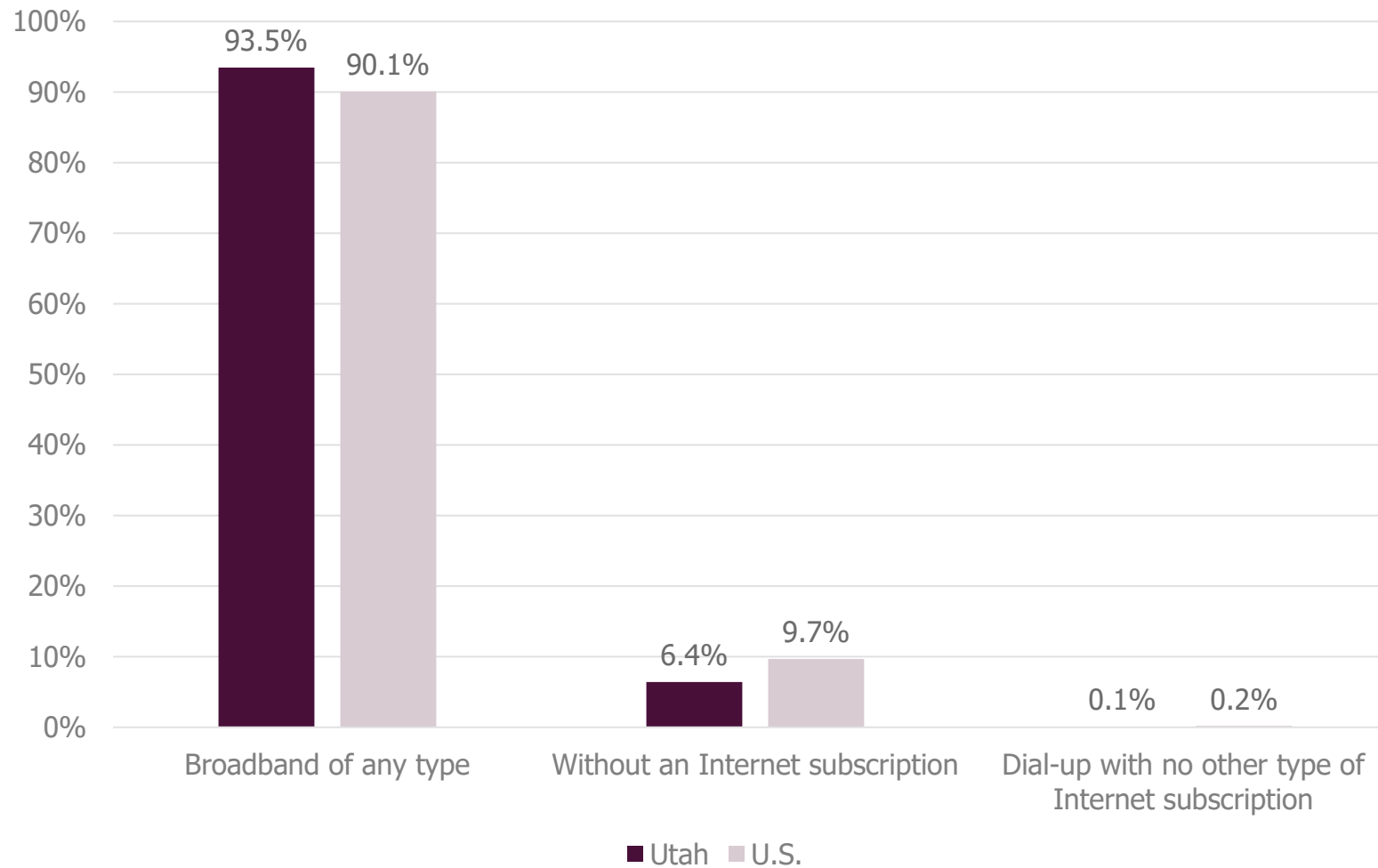
Percentage of Individuals with Broadband Access in the U.S., 2015 - 2019



FCC Broadband Deployment Report, 2021



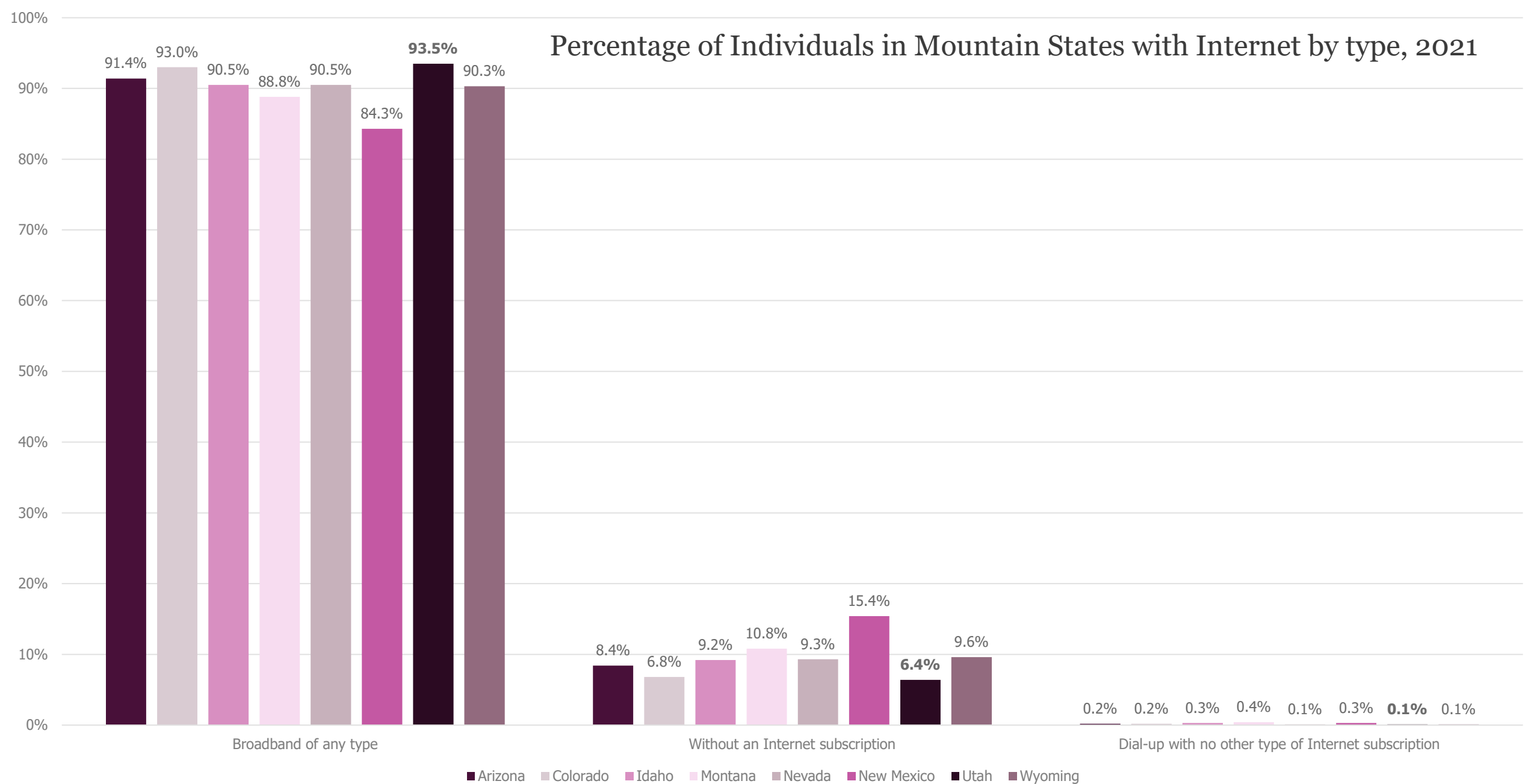
Percentage of Individuals in Utah & U.S. with Internet by type, 2021



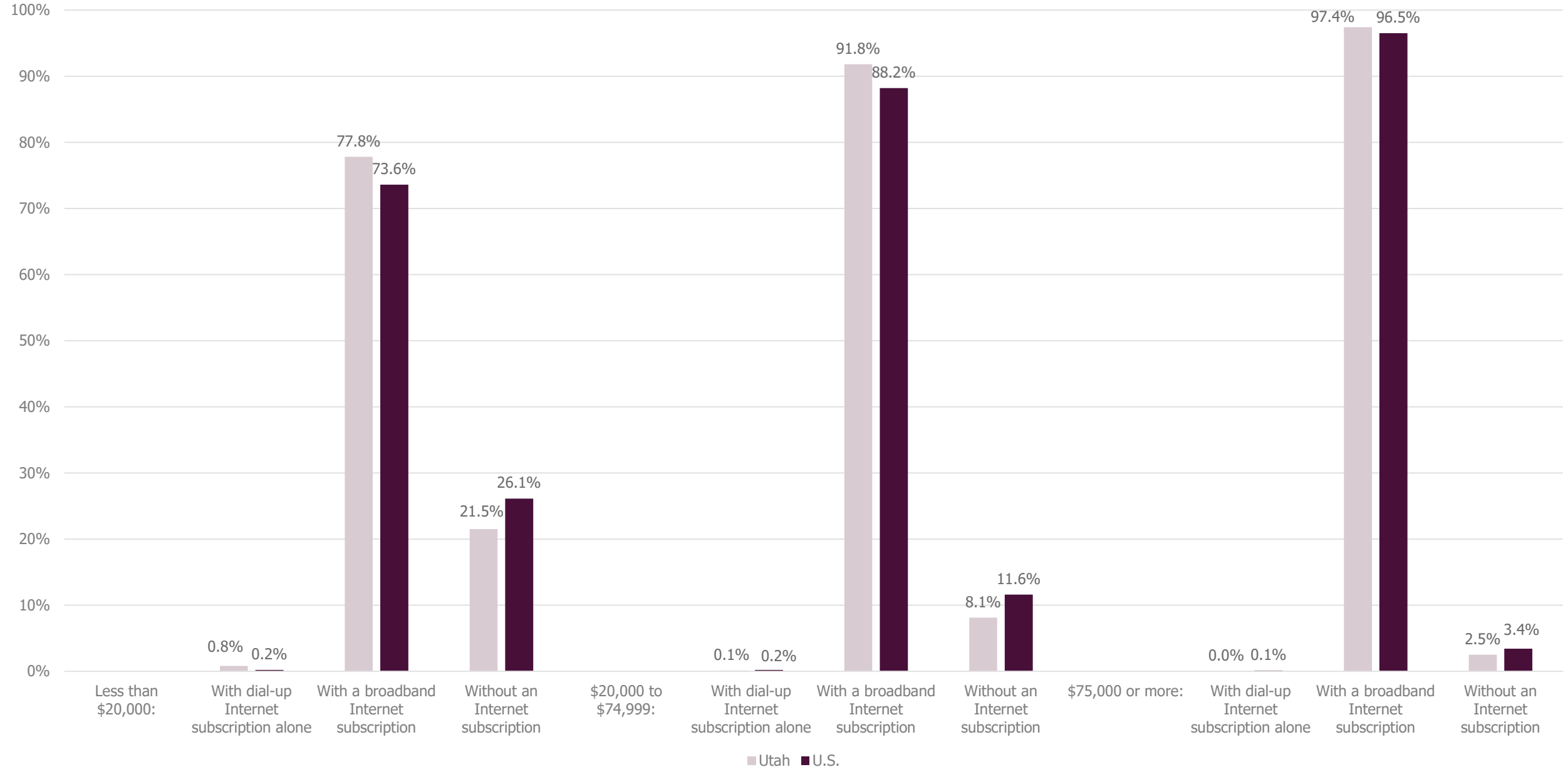
American Community Survey, 2021



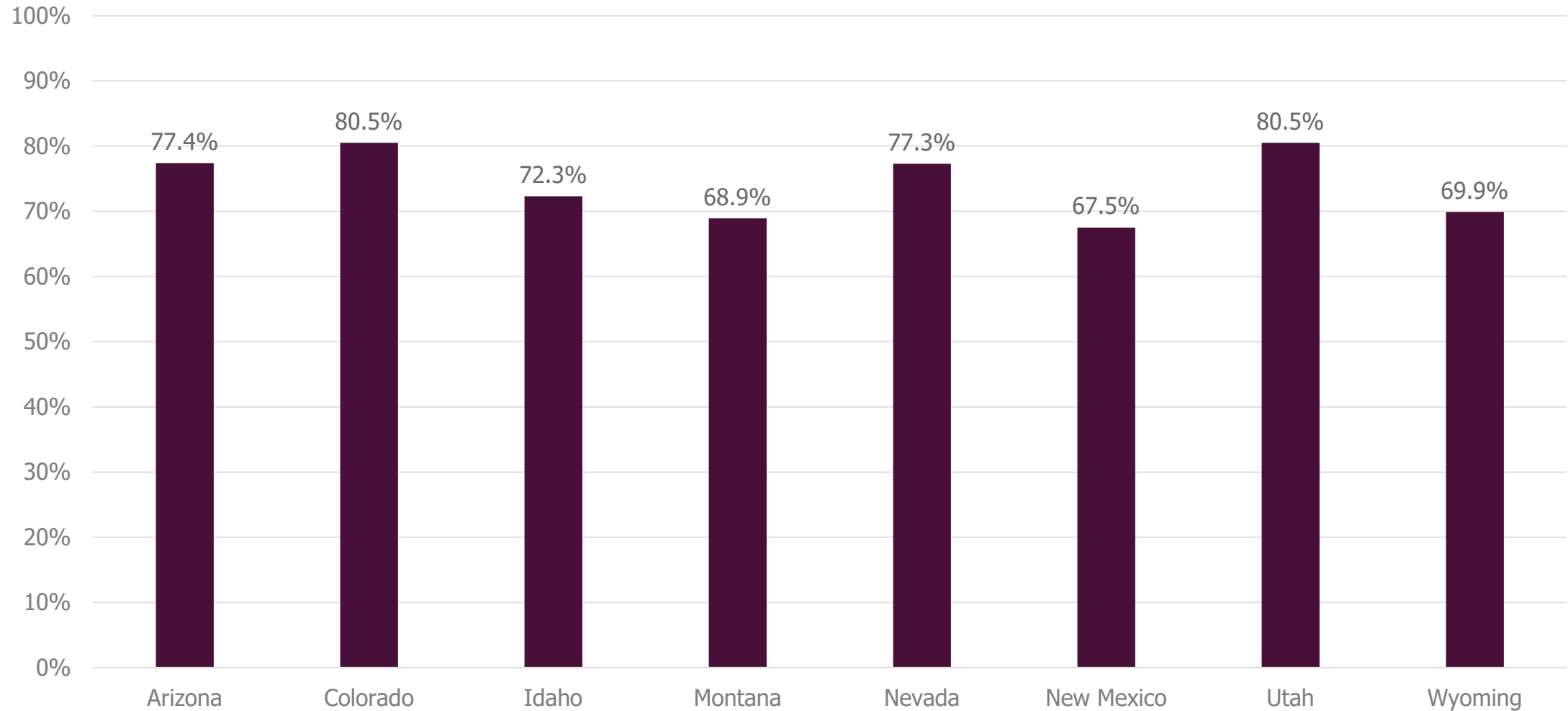
Percentage of Individuals in Mountain States with Internet by type, 2021



Percentage of Individuals in Utah & U.S. by type & income, 2021



Percentage of Individuals in Mountain States with DSL, Cable, or Fiber Broadband Connections, 2021



Legislative Actions in Utah

- HB 348 Economic Development Amendments, GS2021
 - Created Utah Broadband Center
 - Established Broadband Access Grant Program
- SB 214 Utah Broadband Advisory Commission, GS2022
 - Created the Utah Broadband Advisory Commission



American Rescue Plan Act

\$25 billion*

(*Broadband investment)

Capital Projects
Fund

\$10 billion

State & Local
Funds

\$8 billion

Emergency
Connectivity Fund

\$7 billion



Capital Projects Fund

- “Provides \$10 billion for payments to eligible governments to carry out critical capital projects that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options.”
 - Utah Broadband Center was awarded \$10 million for broadband infrastructure
 - Estimated 3,080 households and businesses
 - Center awarded 5 rural recipients
 - Box Elder County
 - Croydon
 - Millard County
 - West Mountain
 - Montezuma Creek in the Navajo Nation in San Juan County



State Fiscal Recovery Funds

- Delivered \$350 billion to state, local, and Tribal governments to support their response to and recovery from COVID-19
- May 2021 Special Session
 - Utah appropriated \$10,000,000 “to expand reliable and affordable broadband access for rural Utahns in unserved or underserved areas.”



Emergency Connectivity Fund

- Designed to help schools and libraries provide the tools and services for remote learning, including broadband connection
- As a result:
 - Utah has \$35.5 million in cumulative committed funding
 - 22,546 broadband connections
 - 108,861 connected devices



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

\$65 billion*

(*Broadband investment)

Broadband Equity,
Access, & Deployment
Program (BEAD)
\$42.45 billion

Tribal Connectivity
Technical Amendments
\$2.0 billion

Digital Equity Act
Program
\$2.75 billion

Enabling Middle Mile
Infrastructure
\$1.0 billion



BEAD

- Program objective: close the availability gap and increase access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband
 - Unserved locations (no access to 25/3 mbps)
 - Underserved locations (no access to 100/20 mbps)
 - Community anchor institutions
- Utah Broadband Center:
 - Received \$5 million from BEAD in planning funds to create a strategic plan
 - Created Local Broadband Planning Grant



Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (Technical Amendments)

- Already existed, ARPA appropriated additional funds and removed some existing barriers to how funds could be spent
- 133 projects nationwide
- \$1.7 billion



Digital Equity Act Program

- Program objective: “support closure of digital divide” and to ensure individuals and communities have the tools they need to succeed
 - Individuals living in households earning at or below %150 FPL
 - Veterans
 - Aging individuals
 - Incarcerated individuals
 - Individuals with a language barrier
 - Individuals with disabilities
 - Individuals that are members of a racial or ethnic minority group
 - Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area



Enabling Middle Mile Infrastructure

- Program objective: “encourage the expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas and promote broadband connectivity resilience”



Questions?

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