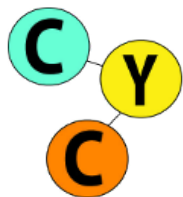


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Connect Your Community

Digital literacy and access for all our neighbors and neighborhoods

Factsheet: Ohio's worst-connected mid-sized and large communities

The U.S. Census' "2015-2019 [American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#)", released in December 2020, lists 144 incorporated cities and "Census designated places" (CDPs) in Ohio with more than 5,000 households. They range in size from Ravenna, Dover and Wilmington, each with about 5,100 households, to the city of Columbus with more than 377,000. Altogether, almost 2.5 million of Ohio's 4.7 million households live in these midsize-to-large communities.



17th worst-connected: Greenville (Darke County), where the most recent American Community Survey says 39% of the 5,800 households lacked wireline broadband connections..

ACS Table B28002, "Presence and types of Internet subscriptions in household", provides an estimate of the total households in each place during the survey period, as well as the number of those households that had subscriptions for various categories of Internet service. One of those categories is "Broadband such as cable, fiber optic or DSL". This category, which is distinct from wireless Internet (mobile or fixed), satellite or dial-up modem services, is the best indicator of how many households in the community have — and don't have — a mainstream broadband Internet connection at any speed. It is often called "wired" or "wireline" broadband.

Connect Your Community has taken the household totals and wireline broadband subscription totals for all 150 Ohio Census places with 5,000 or more households, and done the simple arithmetic to determine the number and percentage of households in each community that did *not* have wireline broadband connections, according to the ACS. We've then ranked all 150 communities by their "unconnected" percentages, highest to lowest.

[The full ranked list of all 150 communities can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF file here.](#)

From that list, **here are Ohio's fifty worst-connected mid-sized and large cities**, ranked by the percentage of households with no cable, fiber optic or DSL broadband service at any speed. These cities are scattered throughout the state, within major metropolitan areas as well as outside them. It's important to note that they all have cable, DSL and/or fiber broadband services physically available in virtually all of their residential areas, usually from more than one provider.

Yet the ACS found that between a third and two-thirds of their households lacked any kind of wireline broadband connection.

THE FIFTY WORST CONNECTED OHIO CITIES WITH 5,000 OR MORE HOUSEHOLDS – BY PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS LACKING CABLE, DSL OR FIBER OPTIC BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTIONS
2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B28002

	Total households	Households with no broadband such as cable, fiber optic or DSL	Worst connected rank
All 150 Ohio places with 5,000+ households	2,480,336	755,644 30.5%	

Median			27.5%	
East Cleveland	8,235	5,409	65.7%	1
Youngstown	27,883	13,238	47.5%	2
Cleveland	170,549	80,188	47.0%	3
Dayton	57,505	25,184	43.8%	4
Warren	16,933	7,398	43.7%	5
Lorain	25,577	11,137	43.5%	6
Trotwood	10,454	4,419	42.3%	7
Sandusky	10,941	4,504	41.2%	8
Zanesville	10,636	4,297	40.4%	9
Euclid	22,359	9,010	40.3%	10
Canton	30,843	12,319	39.9%	11
Warrensville Heights	6,054	2,417	39.9%	12
Steubenville	7,228	2,881	39.9%	13
Alliance	8,859	3,518	39.7%	14
Whitehall	7,243	2,842	39.2%	15
Portsmouth	8,582	3,354	39.1%	16
Greenville	5,805	2,259	38.9%	17
Barberton	11,033	4,285	38.8%	18
Marion	13,062	5,026	38.5%	19
Ashtabula	7,520	2,893	38.5%	20
Mansfield	18,065	6,944	38.4%	21
Bedford Heights	5,589	2,133	38.2%	22
Marietta	5,876	2,242	38.2%	23
Fremont	6,702	2,550	38.0%	24
Springfield	23,846	9,039	37.9%	25
Middletown	19,752	7,485	37.9%	26
Mount Vernon	6,794	2,566	37.8%	27
New Philadelphia	7,361	2,741	37.2%	28
Lima	14,562	5,417	37.2%	29
Washington Court House	6,057	2,241	37.0%	30
Toledo	118,365	43,653	36.9%	31
Niles	8,335	3,072	36.9%	32
Fostoria	5,541	2,036	36.7%	33
Akron	84,940	31,124	36.6%	34
Elyria	22,783	8,275	36.3%	35
Circleville	5,607	2,034	36.3%	36
Wilmington	5,100	1,826	35.8%	37
Piqua	8,387	2,987	35.6%	38
Garfield Heights	11,569	4,073	35.2%	39
Bedford	5,840	2,049	35.1%	40
Cincinnati	137,333	47,818	34.8%	41
Hamilton	24,731	8,609	34.8%	42
Norwalk	6,924	2,398	34.6%	43
Bucyrus	5,297	1,834	34.6%	44
Ashland	8,059	2,786	34.6%	45
Lancaster	16,369	5,607	34.3%	46
Maple Heights	9,359	3,204	34.2%	47
Chillicothe	9,173	3,110	33.9%	48
Ravenna	5,052	1,660	32.9%	49
Xenia	10,909	3,584	32.9%	50

Connect Your Community Institute, January 2021