



NEWS

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FCC RELEASES TELEPHONE NUMBERING RESOURCE UTILIZATION REPORT

Numbering Resource Utilization in the United States Shows Improvement

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released its third report on telephone number utilization in the United States. Telephone number utilization refers to how well telephone numbers are being used by carriers. The report presents numbering resource utilization statistics based on June 30, 2001 data that carriers submitted to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), as well as other information submitted by the NANPA through September 30, 2001. The number utilization reports are the first to examine comprehensively telephone number utilization in the United States since the development of local competition.

Numbering resource utilization in the United States has slightly improved since the Commission's last publication. When comparing utilization of numbering resources that were reported by the same carriers with the previous report, the overall utilization rate increased from 45% to 46% (see Table 11 of report).

Reporting carriers have nearly 1.2 billion telephone numbers, of which 470 million were assigned to customers, about 600 million were available to be assigned, and about 110 million were used for other purposes. The report shows utilization statistics for ILECs, CLECs, Cellular/PCS carriers and paging carriers (see Table 1 of report).

- The overall utilization rate for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) is 52.1%.
- The overall utilization rate for Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) is 10.9%.
- The overall utilization rate for Cellular/PCS carriers is 45.3%.
- The overall utilization rate for Paging carriers is 24.8%.

Carriers are returning large quantities of telephone numbers that they do not need immediately to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator so that those numbers can be assigned to other carriers with more immediate needs (see Table 12 of report).

- In the first quarter of 2001, carriers returned 17.3 million telephone numbers to the NANPA.
- In the second quarter of 2001, carriers returned 13.2 million telephone numbers to the NANPA.
- In the third quarter of 2001, carriers returned 16.1 million telephone numbers to the NANPA.

Each area code has up to 7.9 million telephone numbers, so in the first three quarters of 2001, carriers have returned the equivalent of nearly 6 area codes to the NANPA. No significant quantities of telephone numbers had been voluntarily returned to the NANPA before the second quarter of 1999 (see table 12 of report).

- As of July 1, 2001, 15 states had assigned pooled thousands-blocks to carriers in need of numbers.
- Well over 28,000 thousands-blocks were reassigned in this way. As each “block” contains 1,000 individual telephone numbers, this made over 28 million telephone numbers available to carriers in need of numbering resources.
- If number pooling were implemented nationwide by local exchange carriers and cellular/PCS carriers, about 330,000 blocks could be made available to carriers in need of numbering resources (see Table 8 of report).

This report will be updated twice a year and is available in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Contact the Commission's duplicating contractor Qualex International at (202) 863-2893 to purchase a copy. This and many other reports can be downloaded from the **FCC-State Link** Internet site at www.fcc.gov/ccb/stats.

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