



# NEWS

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

News media Information 202 / 418-0500  
TTY 202 / 418-2555  
Fax-On-Demand 202 / 418-2830  
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>  
<ftp.fcc.gov>

---

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 14, 2004

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:  
Michael Balmoris 202-418-0253  
Email [michael.balmoris@fcc.gov](mailto:michael.balmoris@fcc.gov)

## FCC RELEASES NEW TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERSHIP REPORT

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released its latest report on telephone subscribership levels in the United States, showing that approximately 94.7% of all households had telephone service. The report presents subscribership statistics based on the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the Census Bureau in November 2003. The report also shows subscribership levels by state, income level, race, age, household size, and employment status.

### Statistical Summary

In November 2003:

- The telephone subscribership penetration rate in the U.S. was 94.7%.
- The telephone penetration rate was 79.4% for households with annual incomes below \$5,000, while the rate for households with incomes over \$75,000 was 98.4%.
- By state, the penetration rates ranged from a low of 89.7% in Arkansas to a high of 98.0% in Maine.
- Households headed by whites had a penetration rate of 95.5%, while those headed by blacks had a rate of 89.7% and those headed by Hispanics had a rate of 90.5%.
- By age, penetration rates ranged from 86.5% for households headed by a person under 25 to 97.0% for households headed by a person over 70.
- Households with one person had a penetration rate of 91.7%, compared to a rate of 96.2% for households with four or five persons.
- The penetration rate for unemployed adults was 92.2%, while the rate for employed adults was 95.9%.

This report is updated three times a year and is available in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Call Qualex International at (202) 863-2893 to purchase a copy. This report can also be downloaded from the FCC-State Link Internet site at < <http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/iatd/stats.html> >.

-FCC-

Wireline Competition Bureau contact: Alexander Belinfante at (202) 418-0944;  
TTY (202) 418-0484.