

# BROADBAND AND BEYOND:

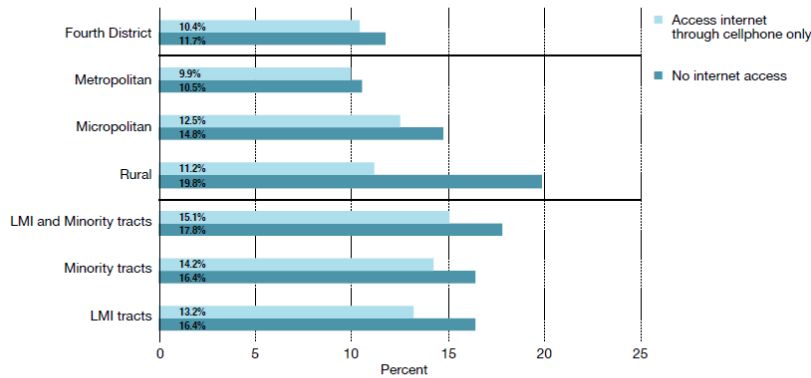
## Getting Connected in the Fourth District



## FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of CLEVELAND

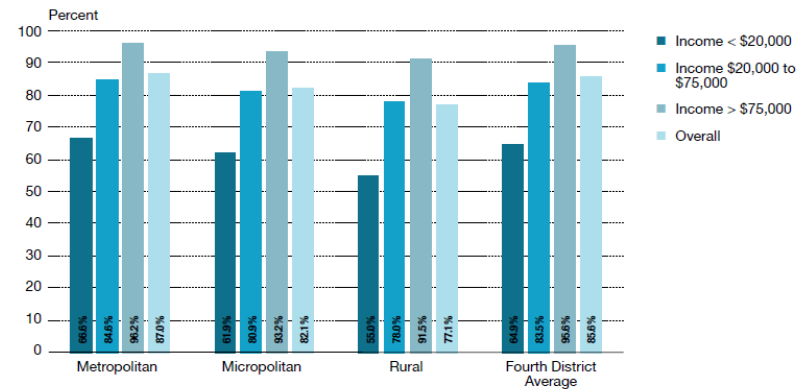
This report seeks to explore how access, affordability and adoption related issues play out in the Fourth District, examine the implications of these issues related to a variety of factors, and review current policies and programs, nationally and locally, designed to overcome these challenges.

**Figure 1. Fourth District Households Using Only a Cellphone Data Plan for Internet Access, by LMI- and Minority-Categorized Census Tracts and County Urban and Rural Designation**



Sources: Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, Tracy Kugler, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 17.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2022. <http://doi.org/10.18128/D050.V17.0>; American Community Survey 5-year annual estimates for 2017–2021.

**Figure 2. Fourth District Broadband Adoption by Income, 2017–2021**



Sources: Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, Tracy Kugler, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 17.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2022. <http://doi.org/10.18128/D050.V17.0>; American Community Survey 5-Year Annual Estimates, 2017–2021.

Almost 30 percent of those not in the labor force in rural areas do not have a computer with broadband subscription, and this has implications for this population’s ability to engage in the online economy and find sustainable employment. Similar trends can be seen when examining LMI- and minority-categorized census tracts.

