The Challenging Path to Broadband Internet Access Equity

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Agenda

Analysis of the **Broadband Data Collection Availability Challenges Dataset**
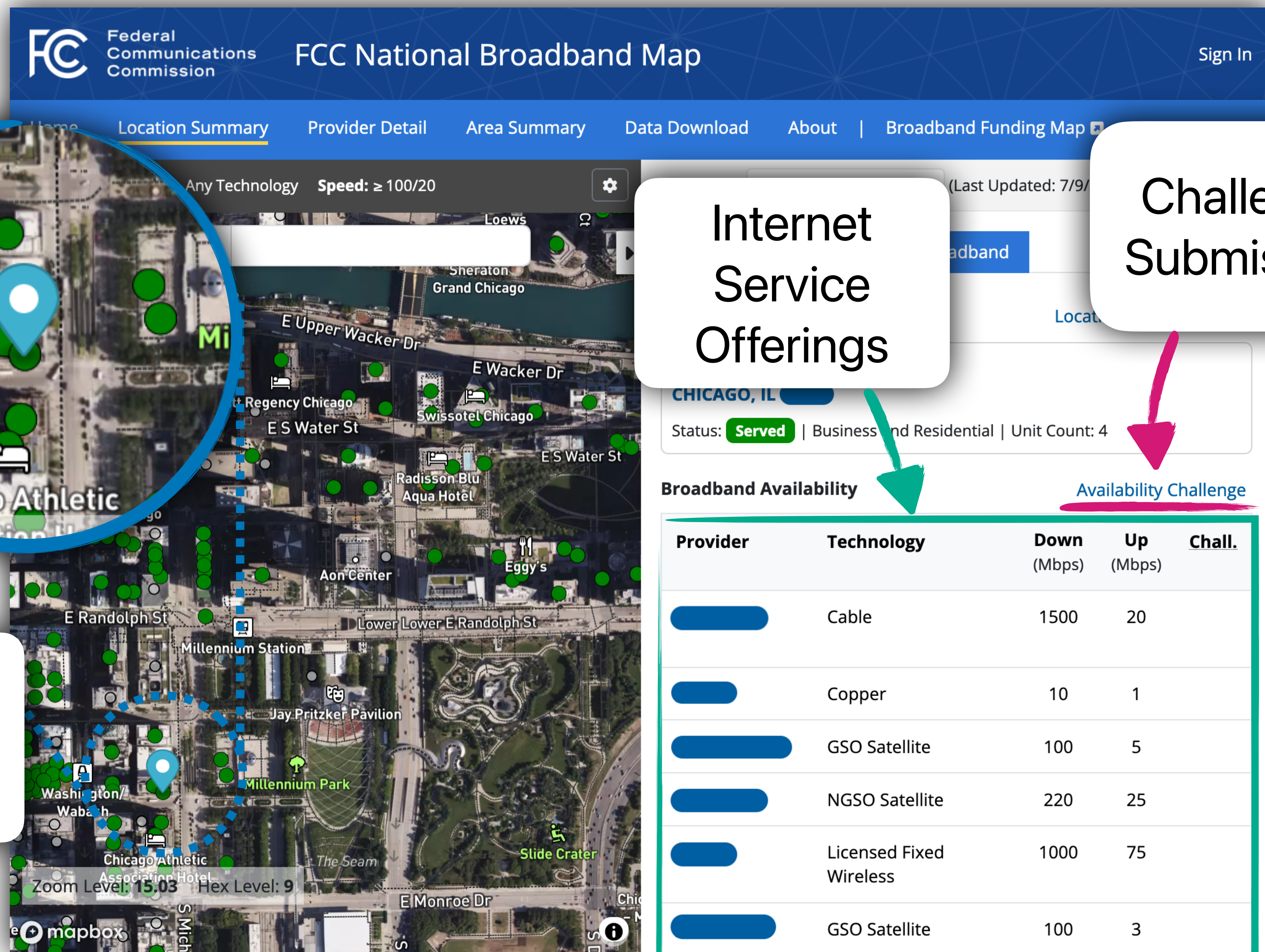
- **Broadband Data Collection** and **National Broadband Map**

- Main Analysis **Results and Takeaways**

Broadband Data Collection (**BDC**) – **FCC program** that **maps** broadband **Internet** access **availability** in the United States

The BDC program publishes the **National Broadband Map**, one of the **key factors** for the **distribution** of investment **funds** in **Internet infrastructure** deployment

For example, **$42 Billion** from the **BEAD** program

Analysis of the BDC Availability Challenges Dataset

Big Picture

A **total** of **3,690,772** **challenges** were submitted

2,872,304 **locations** had at least one associated challenge

2.40% of the **known locations** across the nation

872 **providers** had at least one associated challenge

Challenges per Location

The **challenges** are **widely spread** among participating locations

The **maximum** number of challenges associated to a single location is **eleven**

The **vast majority** of locations (≈96%) had **2 challenges or less**

Challenges (#)	BSLs (#)	BSLs (%)
1	2,210,556	76.96
2	552,166	19.22
3	65,332	2.27
4	41,913	1.46
5	1,888	0.07
6	370	0.01
7	66	0.00
8	8	0.00
9	1	0.00
10	3	0.00
11	1	0.00

Challenges per Outcome

Most challenges were **upheld**

Many challenges were **overturned**

Surprisingly, **many** challenges were **withdrawn**

Outcome	Challenges (#)	Challenges (%)
Upheld	2540062	68.82
Overturned	589931	15.98
Withdrawn	560779	15.19

Challenges per Access Technology

The **majority** of challenges (≈61%) were against **Fixed Wireless**

Most **other technologies** received **at least 130,000** challenges

Except for **Geostationary Satellite**

Technology	Challenges (#)	Challenges (%)
[71] LTF Wireless	2122299	57.50
[50] Fiber	478155	12.96
[40] Coaxial	450389	12.20
[61] NGS Sat	276866	7.50
[10] Copper	231021	6.26
[70] UTF Wireless	130390	3.53
[60] GS Sat	1254	0.03
[72] LbRTF Wireless	398	0.01

Challenges per Category

Vast majority of challenges (≈97%) **argued** that a **provider does not offer** either the **technology or** the **speed reported** to be available at a location

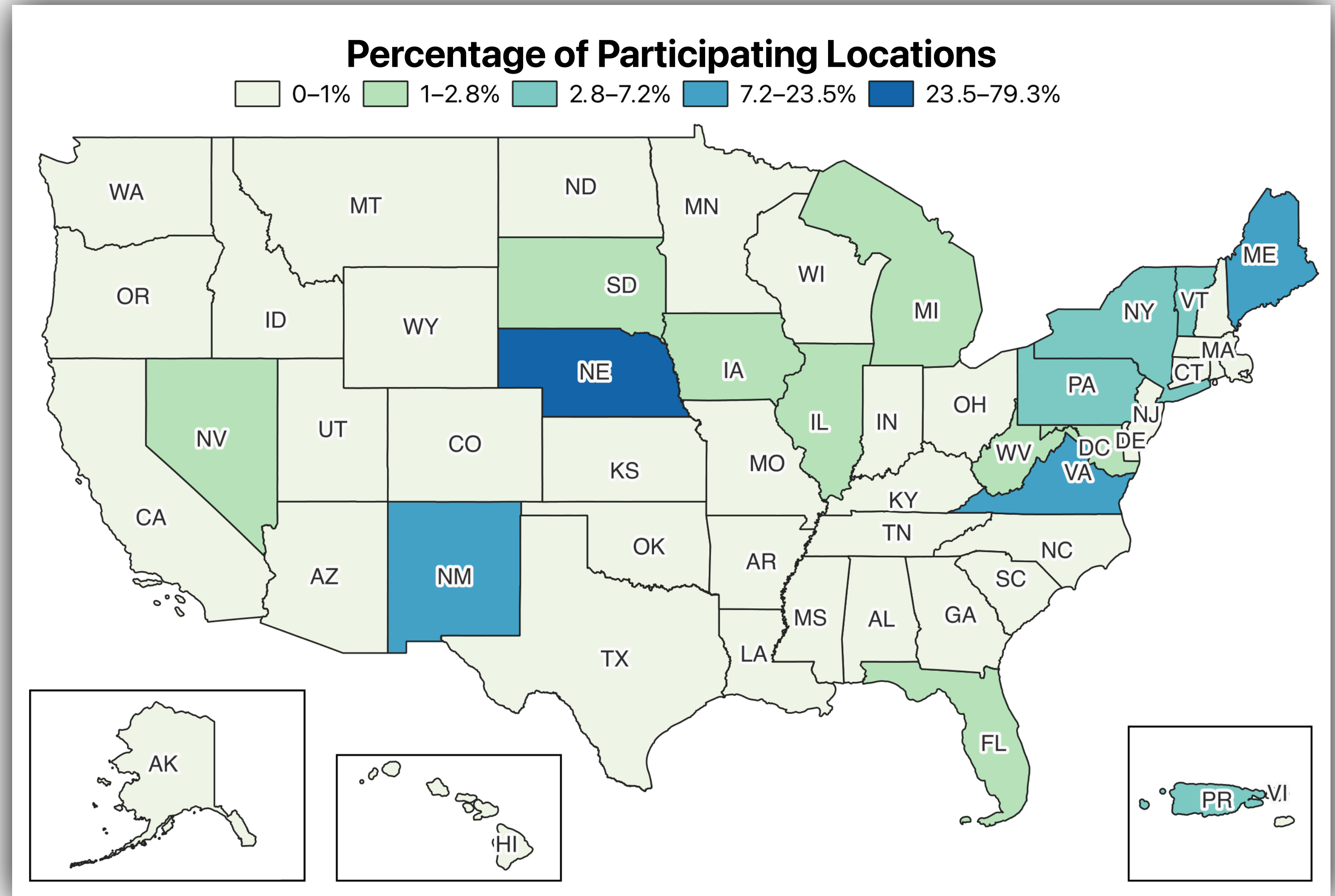| Category	Challenges (#)	Challenges (%)
[5] No Technology	1993503	54.01
[6] No Speed	1613047	43.70
[4] Service Denied	46465	1.26
[8] No Signal	36882	1.00
[3] Extra Fee	393	0.01
[1] No Appt	278	0.01
[9] New Equipment	107	0.00
[2] No Show	97	0.00

State-Level Analysis

Participation in the challenge process is **highly skewed** and **mostly low**

About **every 3 out of 4** locations in **Nebraska** raised **at least one challenge**

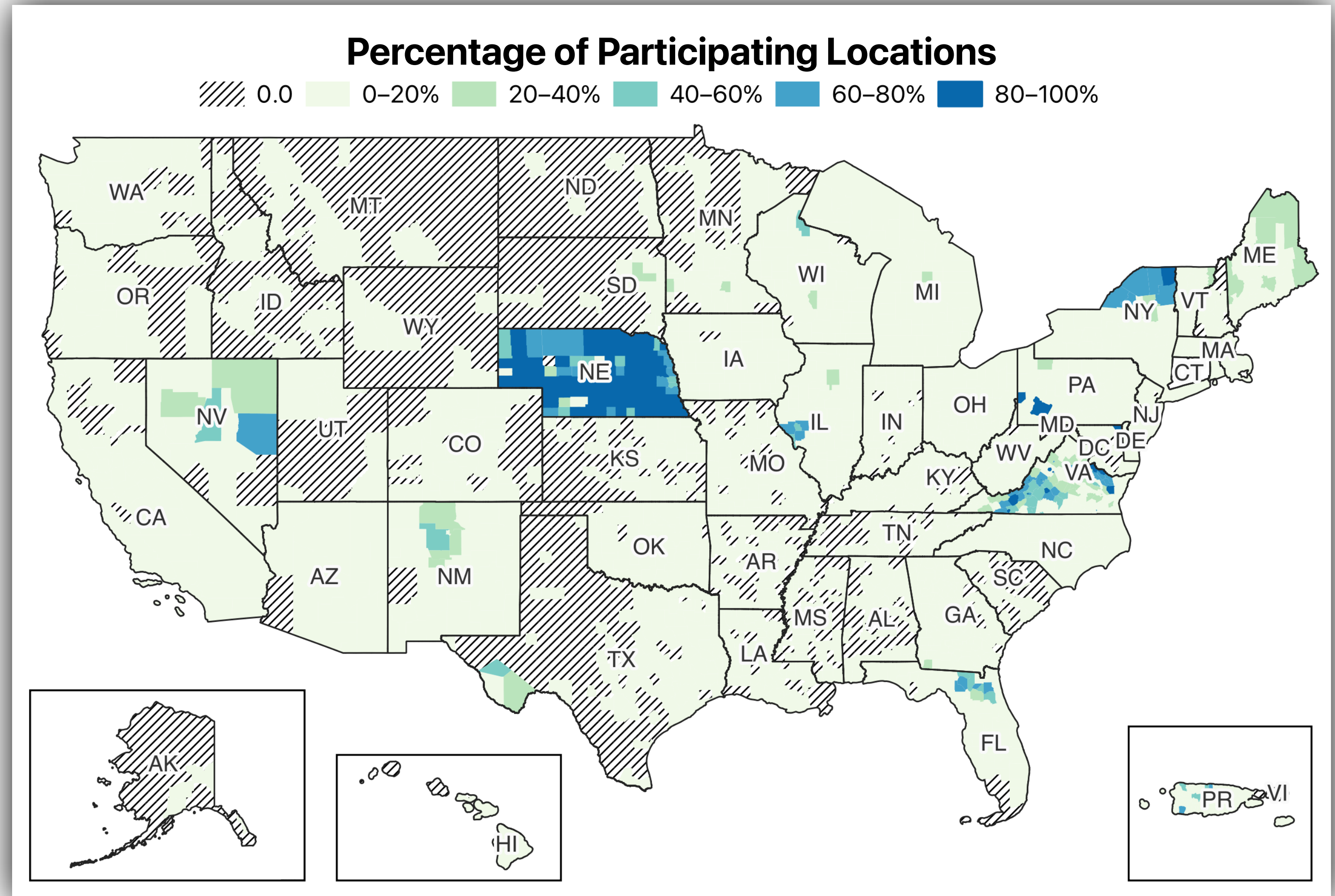**97%** of **Nebraska's challenges** were against **Fixed Wireless**

Percentage of Participating Locations
0–1% 1–2.8% 2.8–7.2% 7.2–23.5% 23.5–79.3%

County-Level Analysis

No participation in large swath of counties in the **central continental area**

Nebraska has **high** and **mostly homogeneous participation** across counties

For **other states**, **higher participation** is usually **concentrated** in a **few counties**

Percentage of Participating Locations

0.0 | 0–20% | 20–40% | 40–60% | 60–80% | 80–100%

Main Takeaways

Low overall participation in the challenge process

Marked **contrast** between **Nebraska** and **surrounding areas**

Higher participation is usually **concentrated**

Fixed wireless was the **main target** for challenges

Challenging is **challenging**

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