

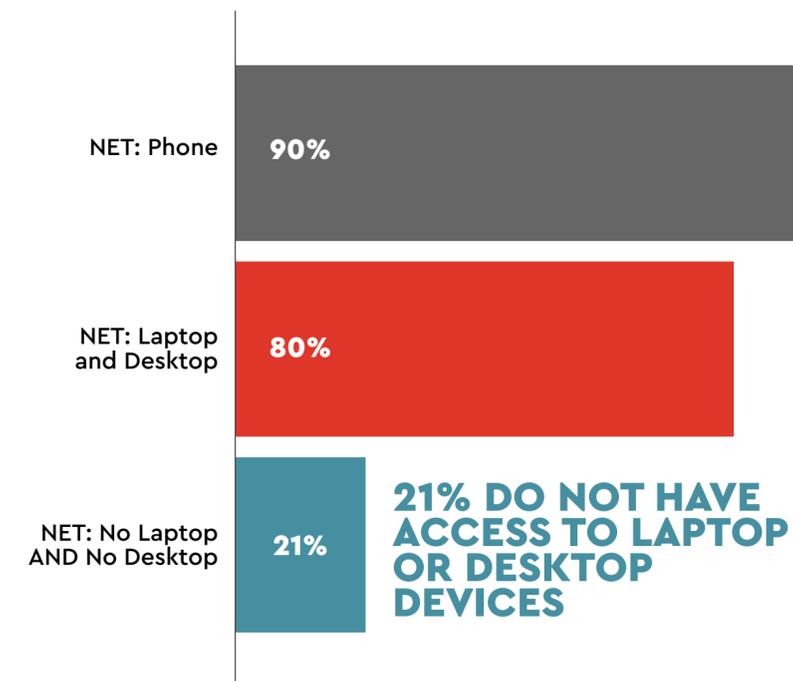


2.1 MILLION YOUNG ADULTS

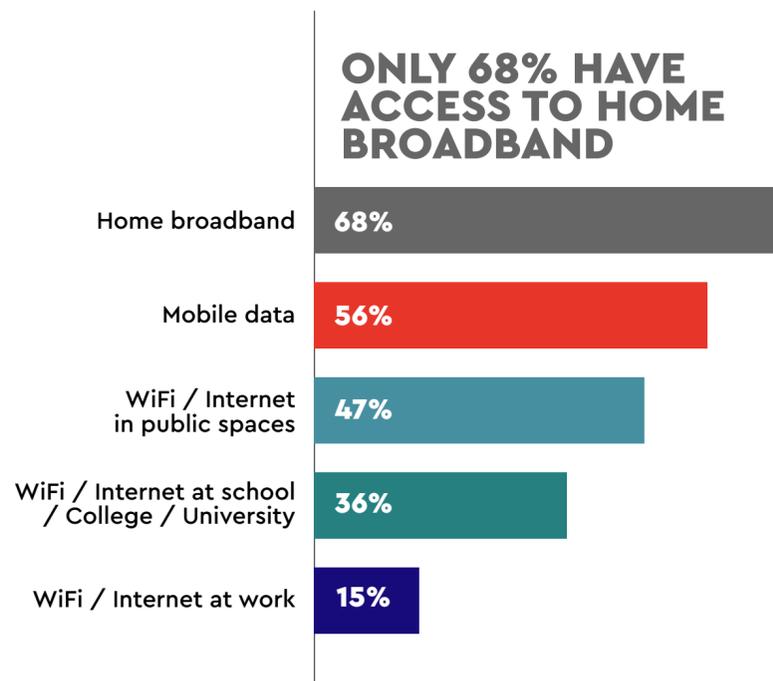
ARE AT RISK OF BECOMING DIGITAL CASTAWAYS

INEQUALITY IN OUR DIGITAL LIVES - HOW DO WE LEAVE NO-ONE BEHIND?

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DIGITAL DEVICES DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO?



WHAT KIND OF INTERNET CONNECTIONS DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO?



INSIGHT

2.9 million young people (21%) do not have access to either a laptop or desktop and a third (32%) of young people do not have access to home broadband. Combined, this leaves 6 million (42%) young people without home broadband or a laptop/desktop. While many of these will be younger people, it equates to 30% of those aged 18 and above who are more likely to be living alone and relying on work, colleges or universities for their IT needs, equivalent to 2.1 million young people.



Some students had no access to laptops during lockdown – they were just using phones which wasn't ideal... It's been harder. Trying to engage with the students was tough, as we only had audio, so we couldn't see them. The motivation from the students was practically non-existent.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER



The platform that the school chose to use was really hard to use and not compatible with iPads so I ended up using my work tablet and then [gave] my work laptop for her to do work on... [my daughter] did most of her work on paper in the end.

PARENT (DIGITALLY DISADVANTAGED)



WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

When it comes to digital adoption, we might all be in the same storm – but we are all in different boats. Young people are all unique – and it can often be specific things that leave them stranded. For instance: can school support with providing a device? Does the area have good quality broadband infrastructure? Is the household needing to share devices and bandwidth with parents, carers and siblings? How do very personal circumstances at home, like having a supportive role model, affect attitudes to home learning? The Digital Youth Index starts with a young person as an individual with needs, aspirations, fears, perceptions, relationships, and motivations. Overlaying the insights around the use of digital technology paints a picture of who benefits and who is left behind.

IMPLICATIONS

- Do we need to redefine digital exclusion to better reflect not just the structural barriers, but the circumstantial and personal factors at play?
- What does a holistic response look like to factors that lead to digital exclusion?
- Do we think young people in the UK have a "right" to home broadband and a device to utilise this connection?
- Is distributing devices an appropriate response to the complex dynamics of unequal access or what else needs to be included?