## COMPUTER & INTERNET TRENDS IN AMERICA

Since the Census Bureau first started collecting information on computers nearly thirty-years ago, America's relationship with computers has radically changed. Data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) helps us to better understand this technological evolution.

Computer and Internet Use
1984-2012

74.8%
of all households have Internet use at home
(2012)
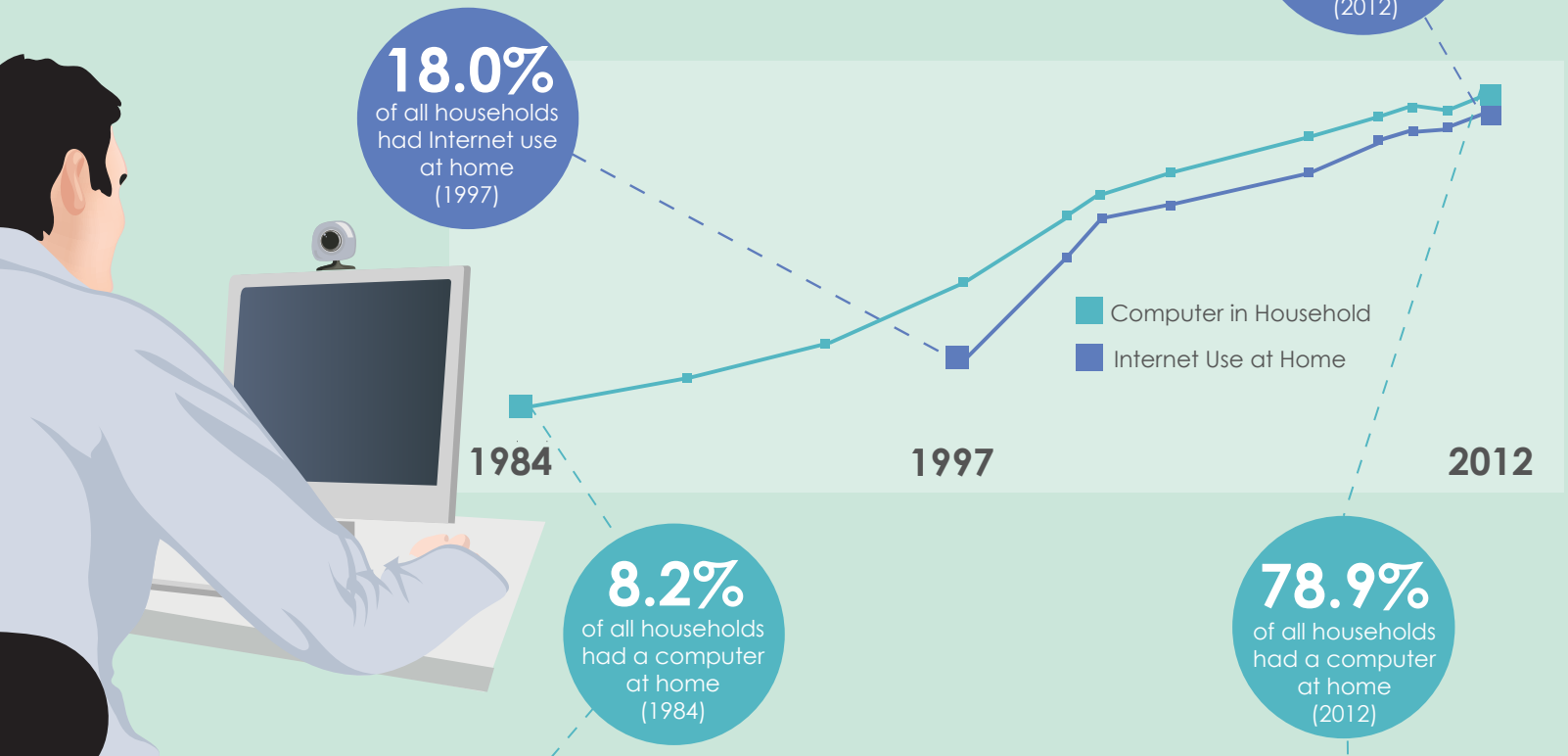
18.0%
of all households had Internet use at home
(1997)

- Computer in Household
- Internet Use at Home

1984   **1997**   **2012**

8.2%
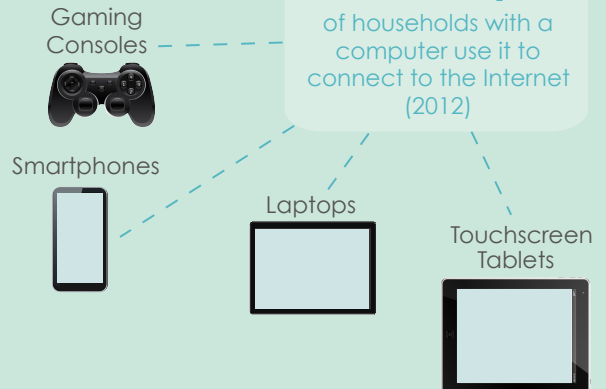of all households had a computer at home
(1984)

78.9%
of all households had a computer at home
(2012)

59.0%
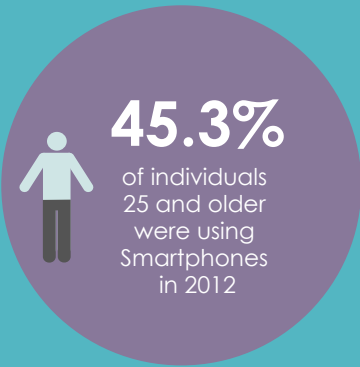of home computer users were learning to use them
(1984)

94.8%
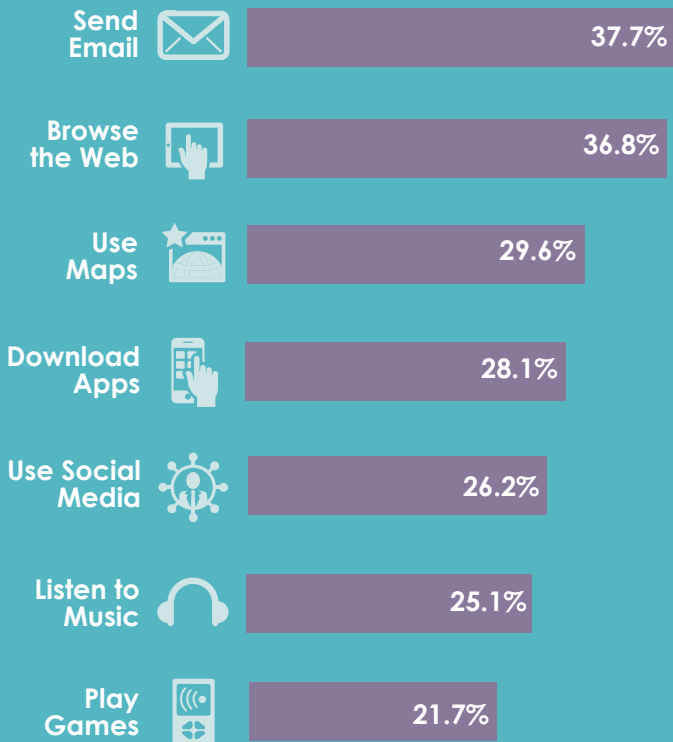of households with a computer use it to connect to the Internet
(2012)

Gaming Consoles

Smartphones

Laptops

Touchscreen Tablets

Commodore 64

1984's most popular computer, which held a mere 64 KB of memory.

An iPhone has about 16,000 times the RAM

45.3%
of individuals 25 and older were using Smartphones in 2012

Smartphones can be used to:

Send Email 37.7%

Browse the Web 36.8%

Use Maps 29.6%

Download Apps 28.1%

Use Social Media 26.2%

Listen to Music 25.1%

Play Games 21.7%

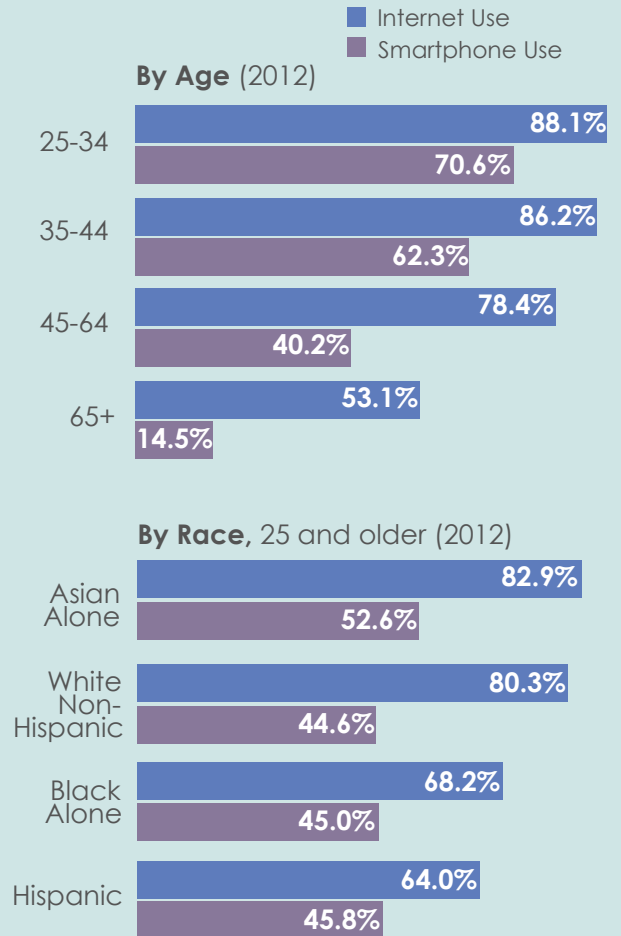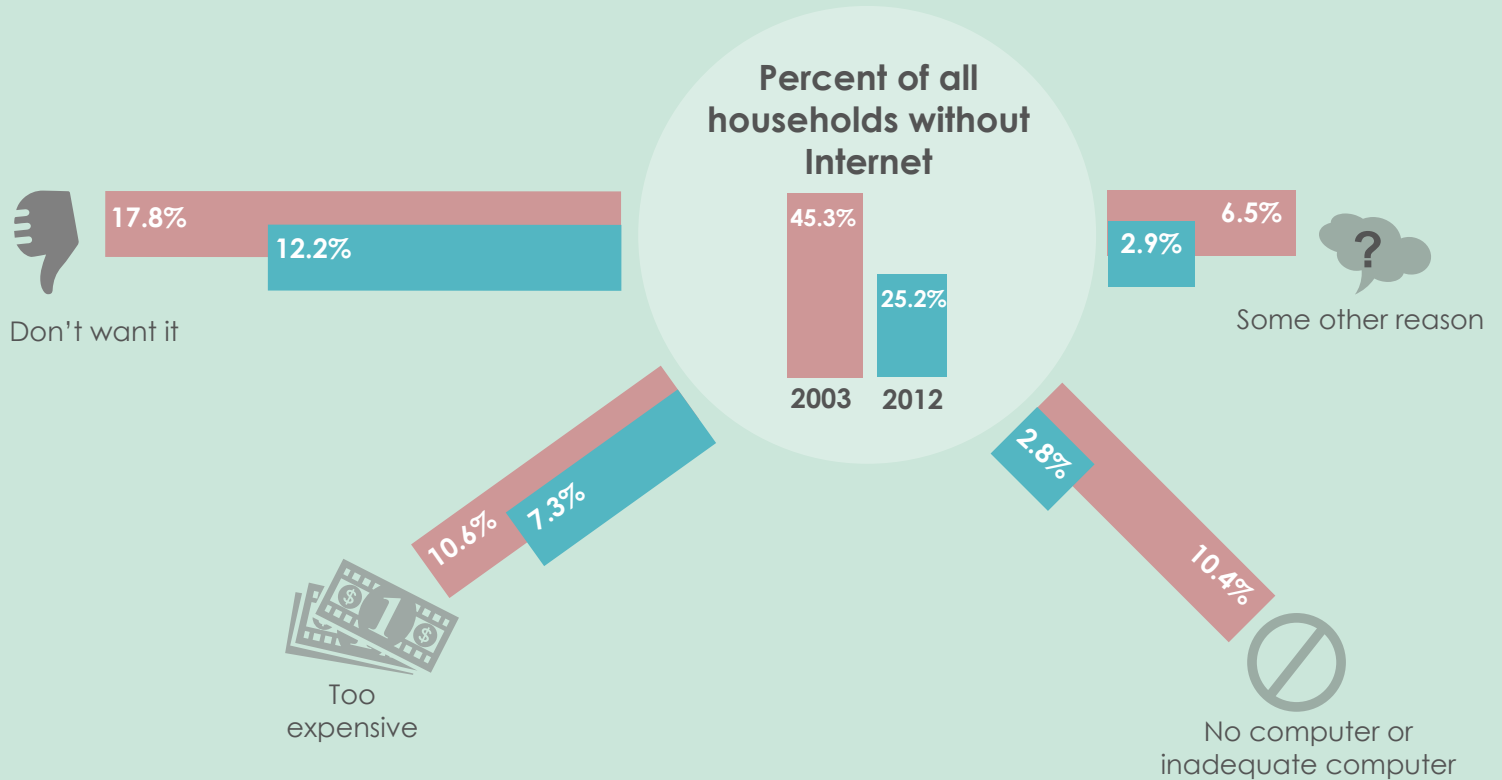## Internet and Smartphone Use

The "digital divide" is smaller for smartphone use than for Internet use across race and Hispanic origin. Across age groups, smartphone use has a difference as large, or larger, than Internet use.

- ■ Internet Use
- ■ Smartphone Use

By Age (2012)

25-34
- 88.1%
- 70.6%

35-44
- 86.2%
- 62.3%

45-64
- 78.4%
- 40.2%

65+
- 53.1%
- 14.5%

By Race, 25 and older (2012)

Asian Alone
- 82.9%
- 52.6%

White Non-Hispanic
- 80.3%
- 44.6%

Black Alone
- 68.2%
- 45.0%

Hispanic
- 64.0%
- 45.8%

*Note: The difference between age groups 45-64 and 65 and over in smartphone use is not statistically different from the difference in Internet use. The smartphone estimates for white non-Hispanics, Blacks, and Hipanics are not statistically different from one another.

Why **No Internet** at Home

Percent of all households without Internet

Don't want it
17.8%
12.2%

45.3% 2003
25.2% 2012

Some other reason
2.9%
6.5%

Too expensive
10.6%
7.3%

No computer or inadequate computer
2.8%
10.4%

Future Data Collection

For the first time ever, the 2013 American Community Survey collected data on:

* **Ownership or use of computers**
(laptop vs. desktop vs. smartphone vs. other device)

* **Access to the Internet with or without a subscription**

* **Types of Internet subscriptions**
(dial-up, DSL, cable, fiber-optic, mobile broadband, satellite, or some other service)

Beginning in the fall of 2014 the ACS will provide yearly data on Internet use not only for the nation and states, but smaller geographies as well, such as certain cities and counties.