Good morning,

Thank you for sending some statistics of the November 2019 survey. Given the COVID – driven usage of internet for primary education learning it might be worth noting in your statistics whether the ‘distance learning’ data collection, and related results, are referring to adults only (in other words, ‘distance learning’ is not including ‘primary education e-learning’).

Regarding your request for recommendation from the public, I would resume all the legacy questions related to the digital divide/equity related access, such as Internet Availability, Reliability/speed and Affordability. Still in relation to the COVID, I would also resume the Health and Health-care related questions. (tele-medicine is became the way-to-go for rural area and many seniors).

As analytical additions that can help in understating disparities, it would be worth to see some of the Nov 19 survey statistics stratified by age group, household type (with vs w/o kids below 18y.), and race.

I hope this helps.

Cordially,

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Last Year, Nearly a Third of American Employees Worked Remotely, and 43 Million Americans Took Online Classes

Dear Data Users:

This summer, NTIA reported initial results from our latest NTIA Internet Use Survey, which showed that Americans were increasingly using a larger and more varied range of devices. But with dozens of topics covered in the survey, there is a lot more we can learn from this data collection, including questions about online activities such as checking email, watching videos, and participating in the sharing economy. Two online activities of particular importance right now are remote work and taking online classes. Our data show that approximately 51 million Americans reported using the Internet to work remotely in 2019, and about 43 million said they used the Internet to take classes or complete job training last year. Although our survey was conducted in November 2019, a few months before the outbreak of the coronavirus, the results can be helpful to understanding the extent to which Americans were prepared to work and learn online. | Read the complete blog post >>

NTIA will continue to analyze results from our November 2019 survey to better understand today’s connectivity challenges and how digital inclusion can help improve our nation’s resiliency. We also plan to continue to track metrics on remote work and learning in our next survey to gauge the impact of COVID-19 on these activities. What other questions should NTIA ask in future surveys? As we mentioned a few weeks ago, NTIA is seeking recommendations from the public about how we can improve our survey and make it as relevant as possible. Comments are due on September 17th. | Read the Request for Comments >>

Best,
The NTIA Data Team
data@ntia.gov

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