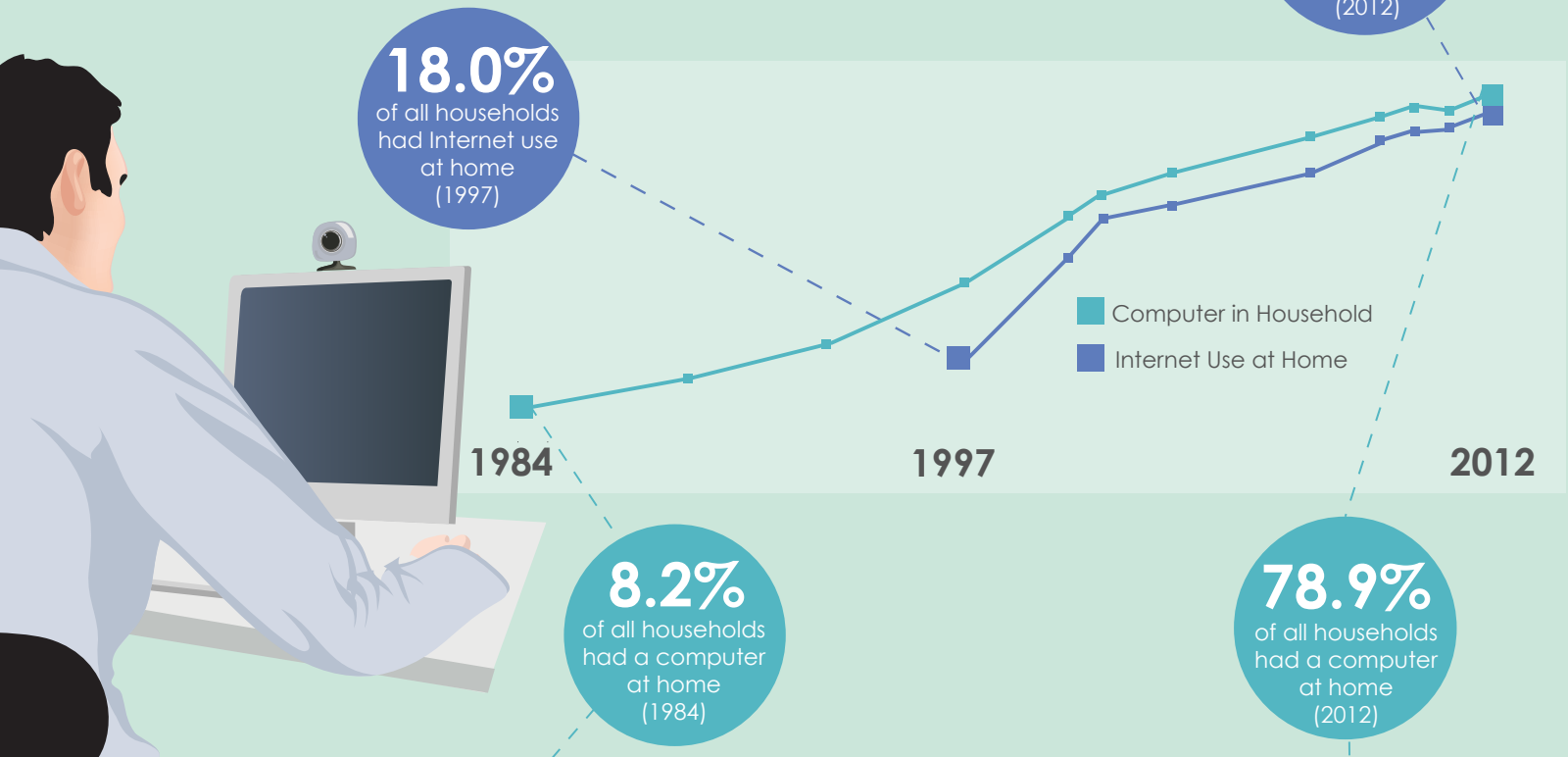


COMPUTER & INTERNET TRENDS IN AMERICA

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



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

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

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

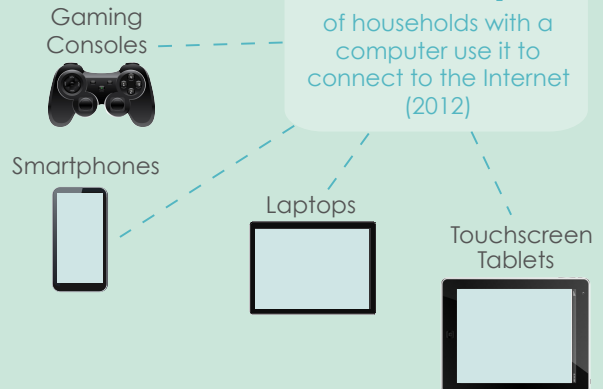
78.9%
of all households had a computer at home (2012)

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

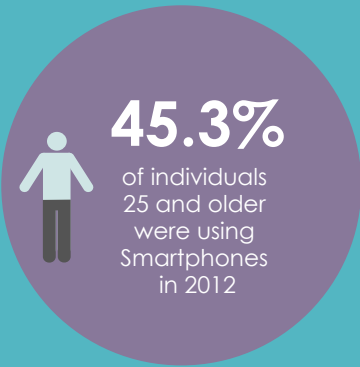
94.8%
of households with a computer use it to connect to the Internet (2012)



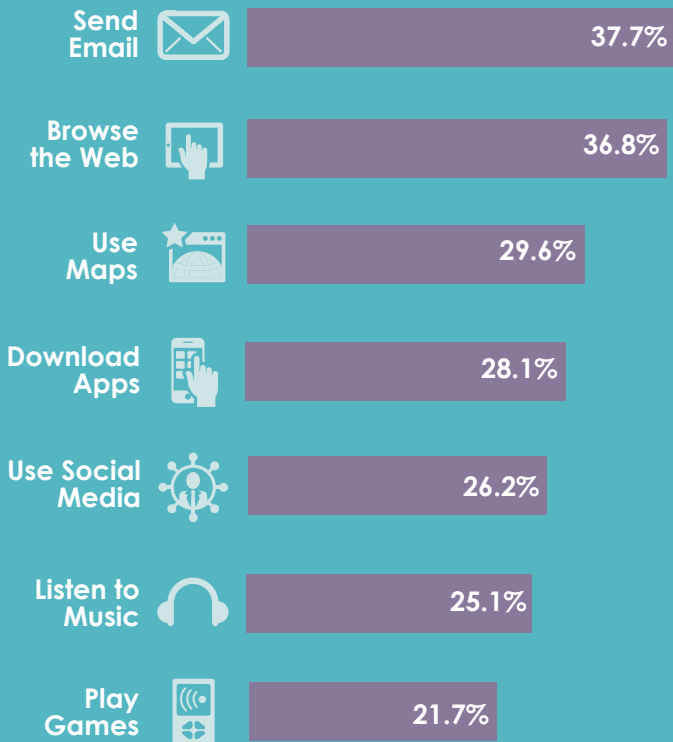
Commodore 64
1984's most popular computer, which held a mere 64 KB of memory.
An iPhone has about 16,000 times the RAM



Breaking It Down by Demographics

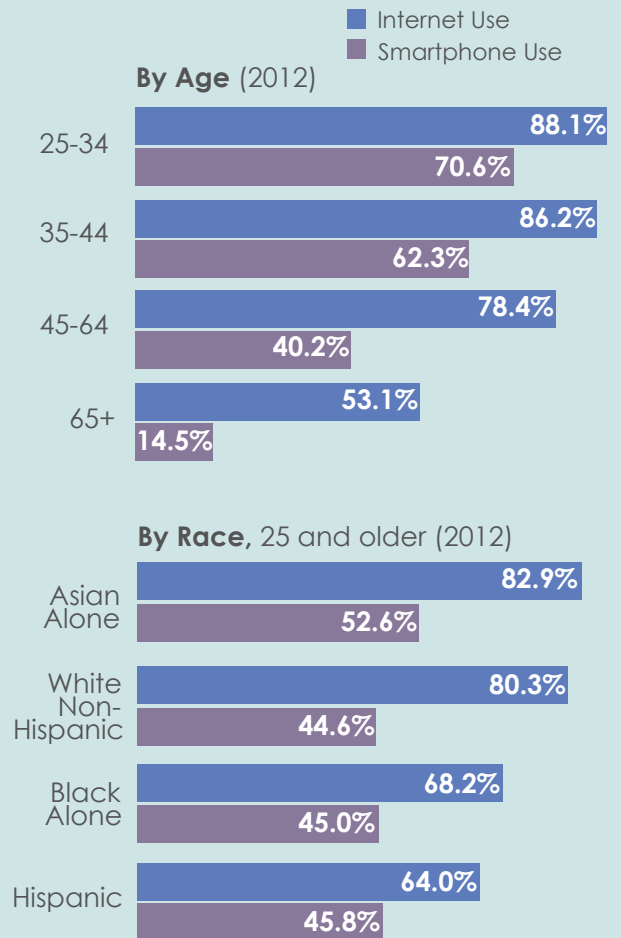


Smartphones can be used to:



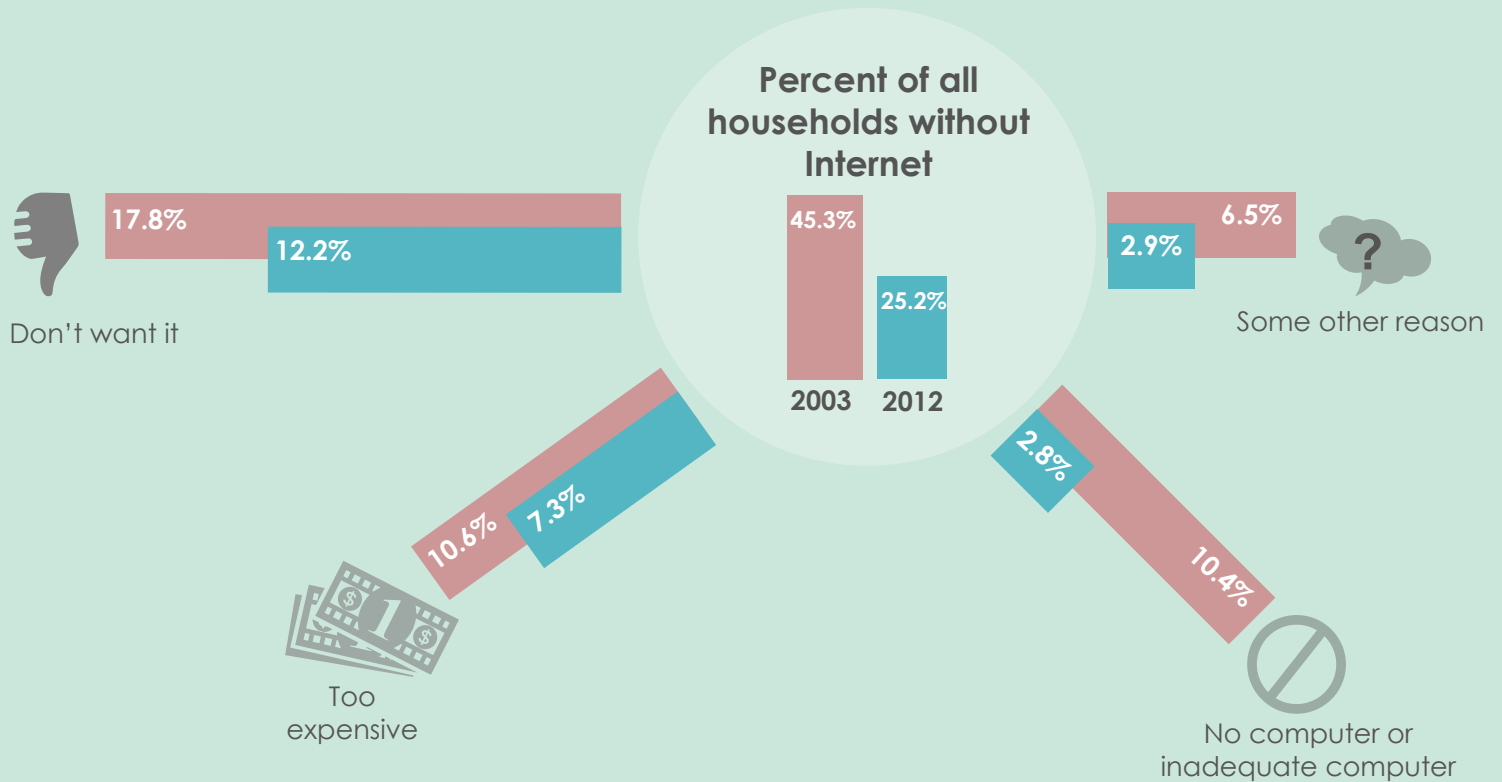
Internet and Smartphone Use

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.



*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 Hispanics are not statistically different from one another.

Why No Internet at Home



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.



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

#MeasuringAmerica

