



# Telehealth Primer:

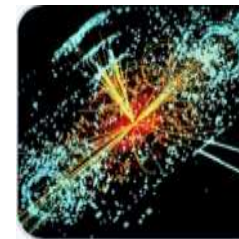
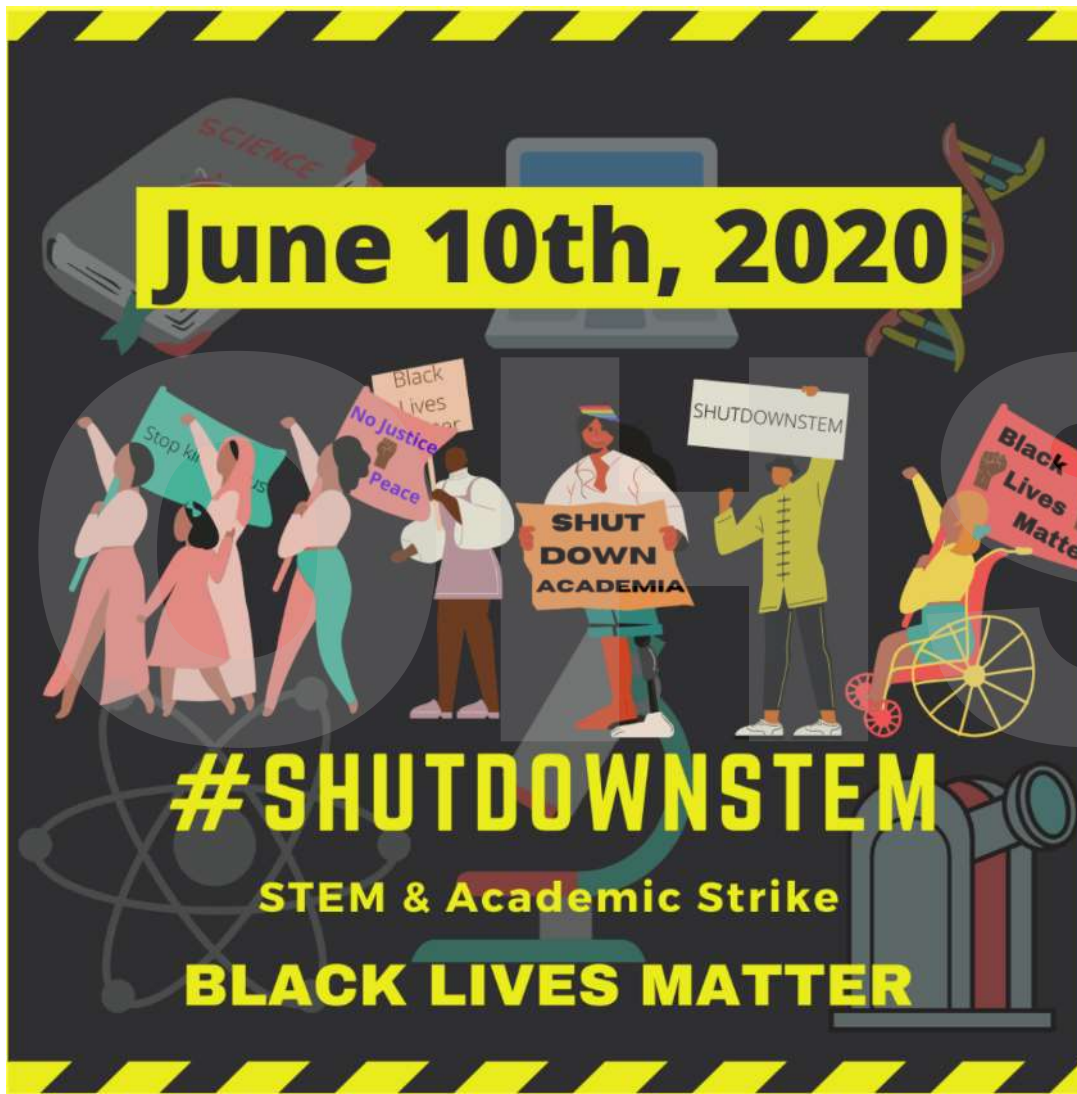
## The Right Care at the Right Place at the Right Time

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Program Manager



Particles for Justice  
Strike for Black Lives  
[particlesforjustice.org](https://particlesforjustice.org)

*All ordinary meetings of classes, research groups, and seminars should be cancelled or replaced with discussions with colleagues about anti-Black bias in the world and in academia.*

# What has brought us here today?

## The Power of Video and Connectivity

- in the delivery of healthcare
- during the global response to COVID-19
- to shine a light on racial disparities in  
policing
- to facilitate a global discussion about racism

# Equity in Telehealth

Telehealth is about increasing access to care,  
regardless of geography & time constraints

## The Digital Divide:

- any uneven distribution in the access to, use of, or impact of Information and Communication Technologies between any number of distinct groups... based on social, geographical, or geopolitical criteria, or otherwise
- term coined by Larry Irving as head of National Telecommunications and Information Administration in 1990s



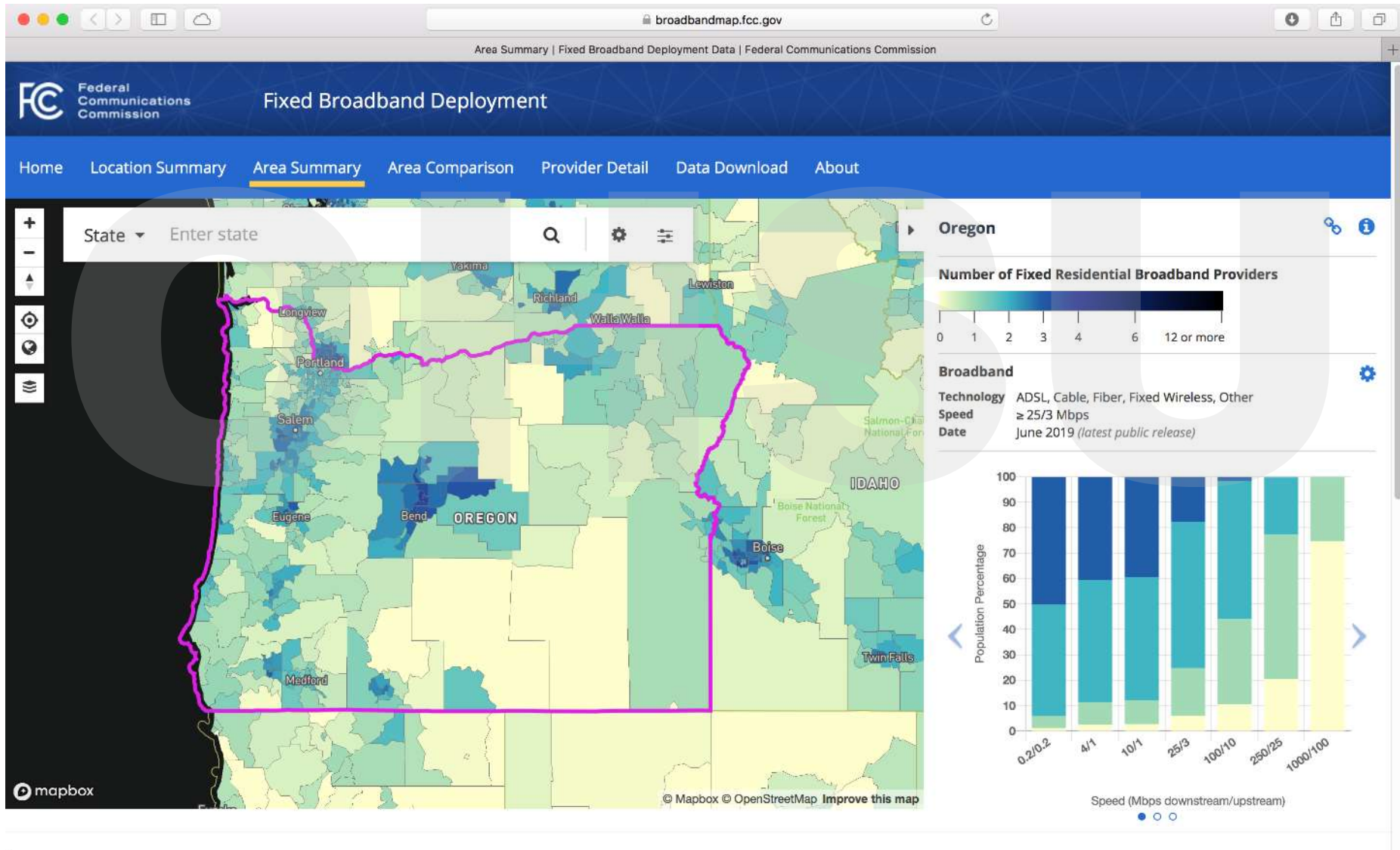
# Digital Denied: The Impact of Systemic Racial Discrimination on Home-Internet Adoption (2015)

|                                   | Home Internet (wired or wireless) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| White                             | 81                                |
| Asian                             | 83                                |
| Hispanic                          | 70                                |
| Black                             | 68                                |
| Native Americans                  | 72                                |
| Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders | 68                                |

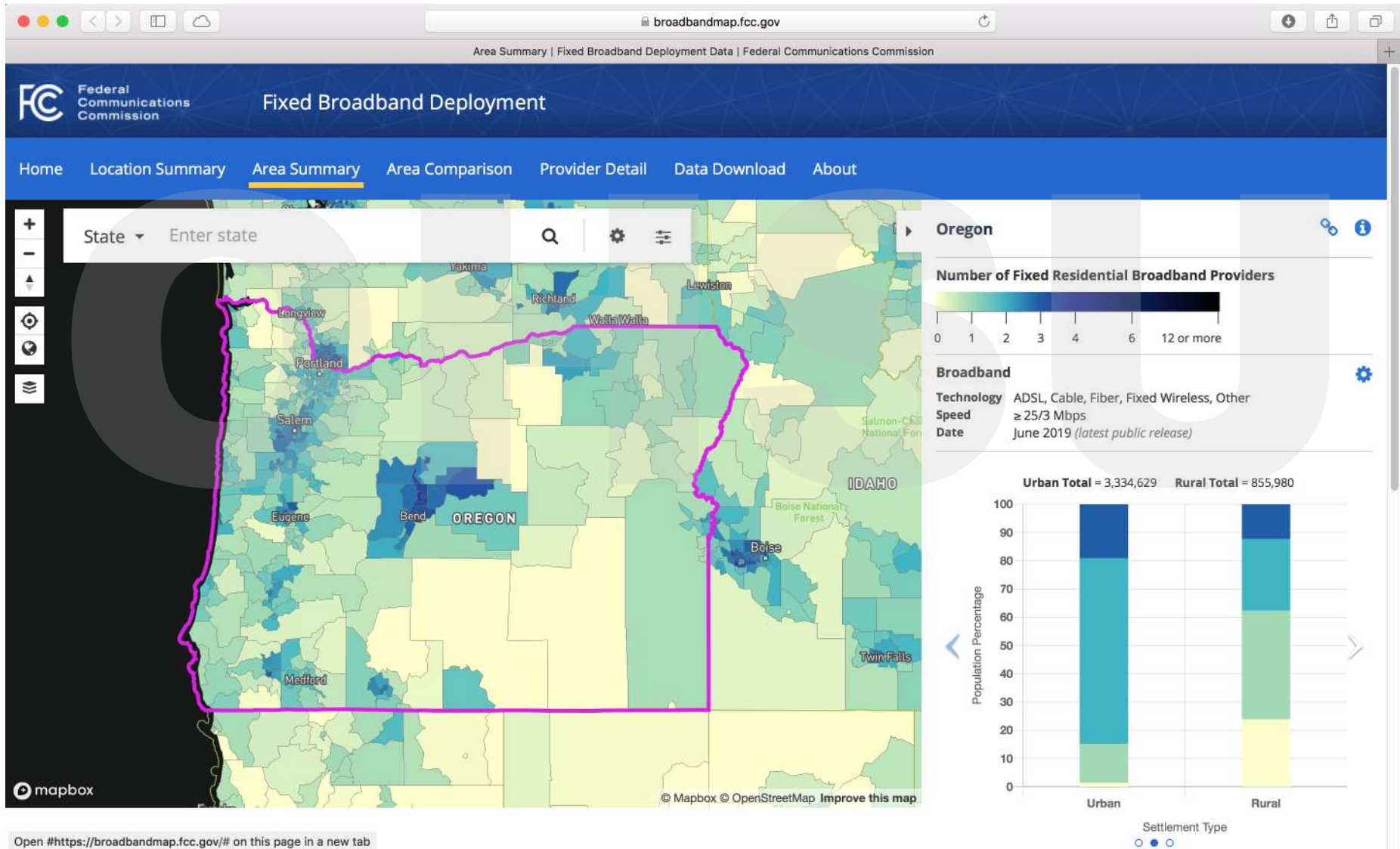
“Differences in income across race and ethnicity do not explain the entirety of this digital divide”



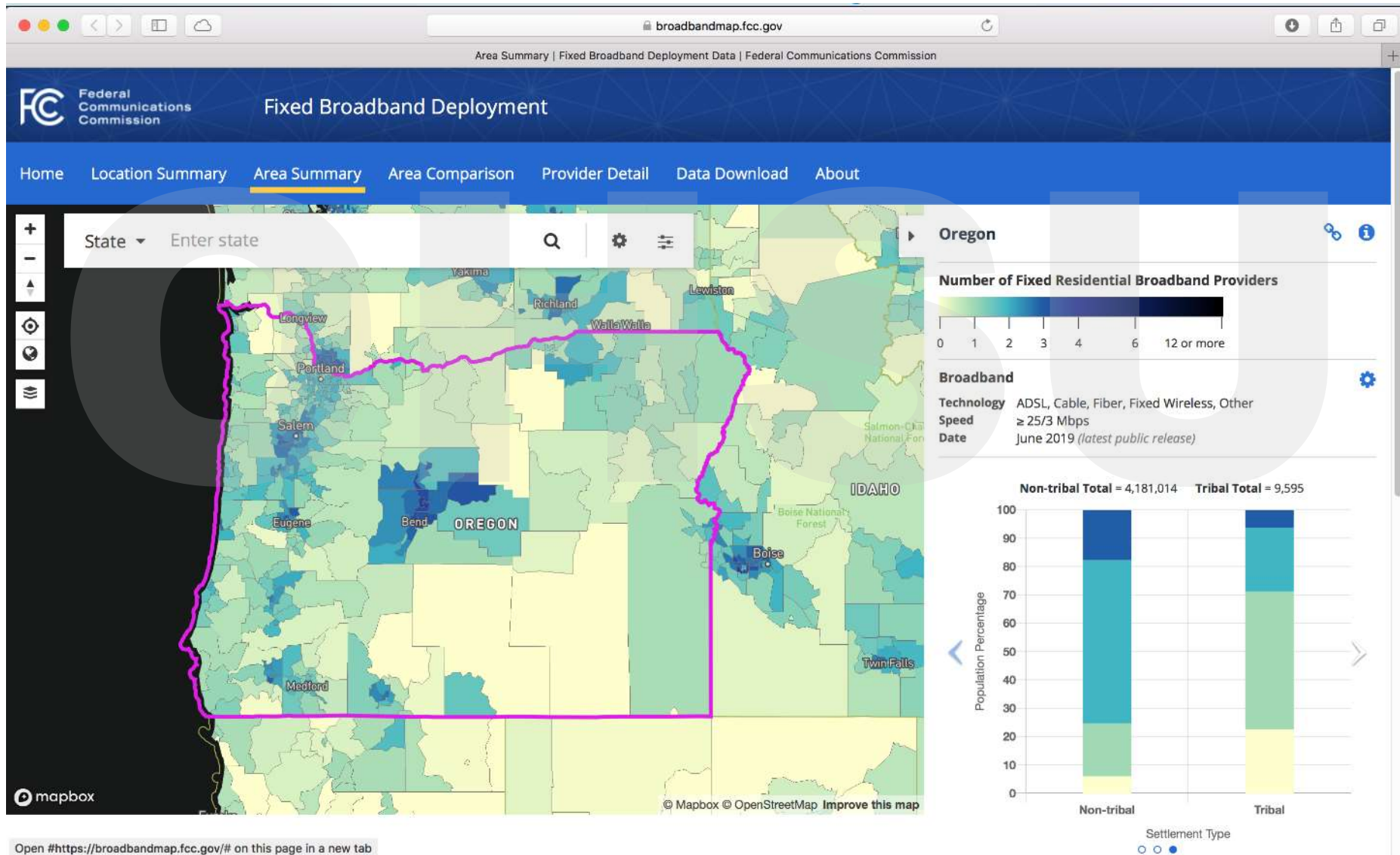
# OR Broadband Map



# OR Broadband Map

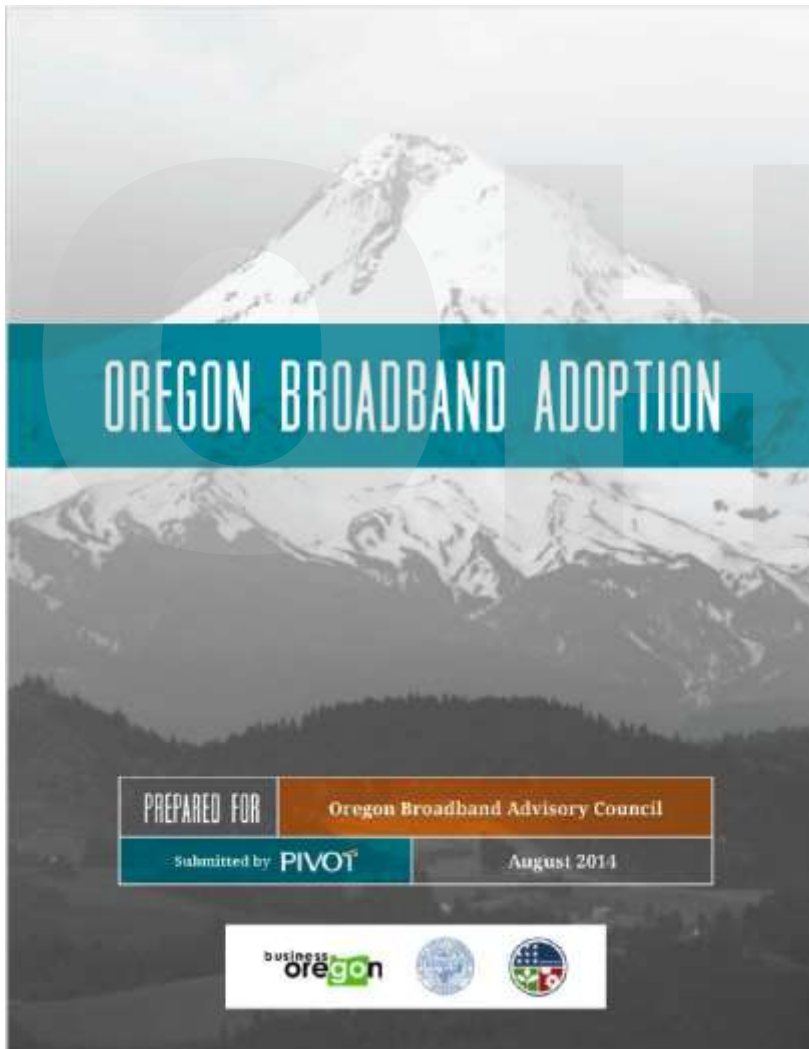


# OR Broadband Map





# OR Broadband Adoption



- broadband adoption
- computer ownership
- service availability
- Internet use
- barriers to adoption
- perceptions of cost
- user satisfaction

# Digital Inclusion – 5 elements

- 1) affordable, robust broadband internet service
- 2) internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user
- 3) access to digital literacy training
- 4) quality technical support
- 5) applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration

National Digital Inclusion Alliance - 2015



# What is TeleHealth?

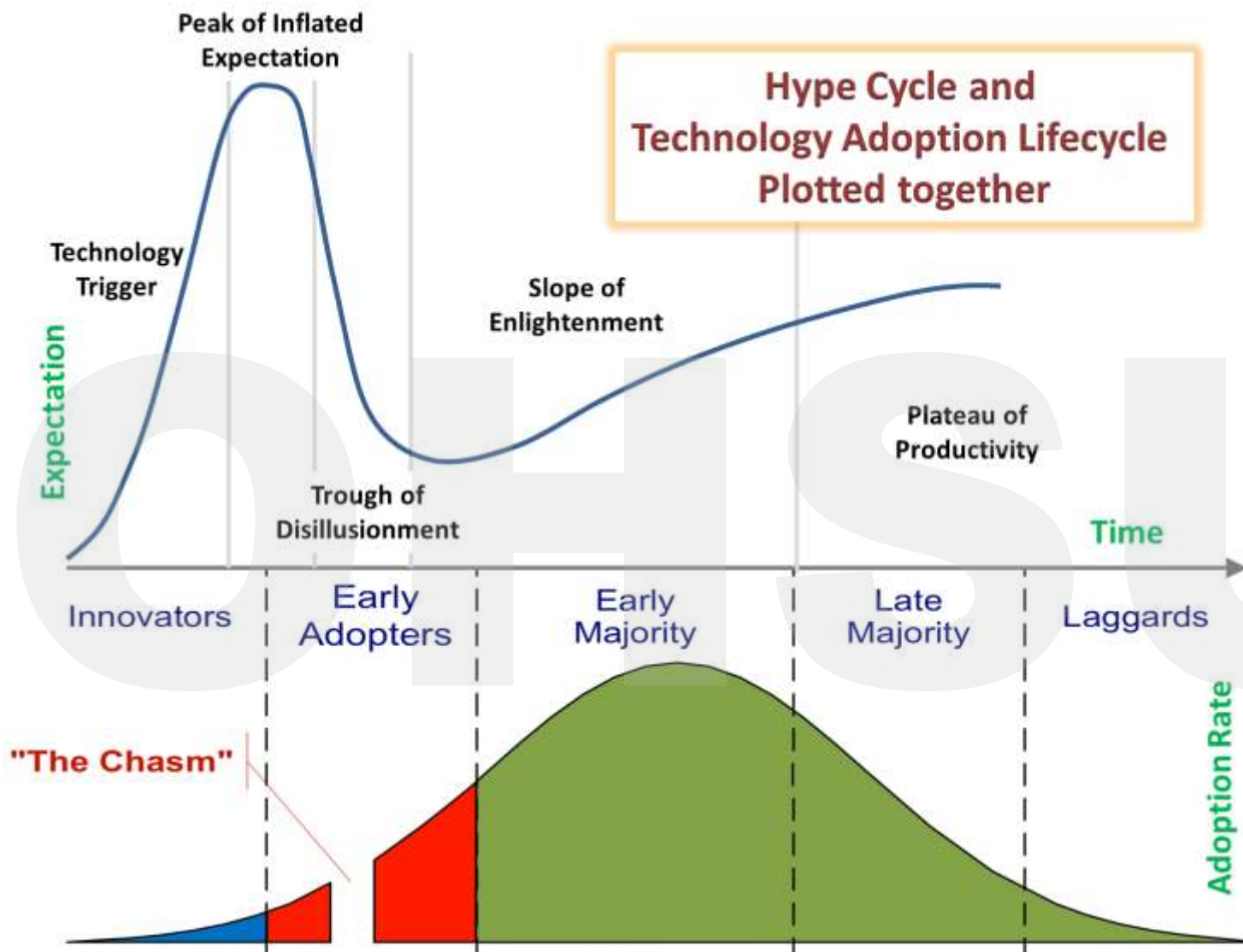
Not a New Idea

“Diagnosis By Radio”

*Science and Invention*

February 1925





Technology Adoption Lifecycle - Everett Rogers (1962) - *Diffusion of Innovations*  
 - Geoffrey Moore(1991) - *Crossing the Chasm*  
 Hype Cycle - Gartner (1995)



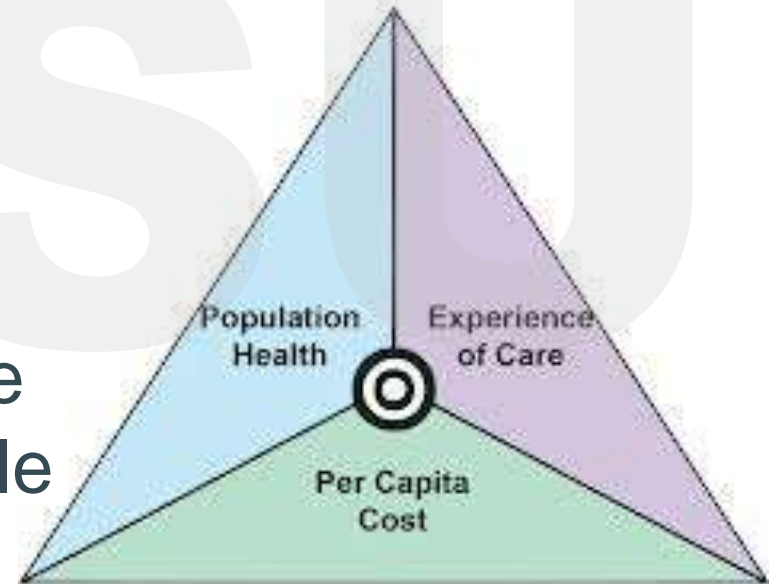
# Telehealth Primer

## Why?

Institute for Healthcare Improvement

## The Triple Aim of Healthcare Reform

- Improving access
- Improving outcomes while:
  - Keeping patients as close to home as safely possible
  - Reducing cost



IHI Triple Aim

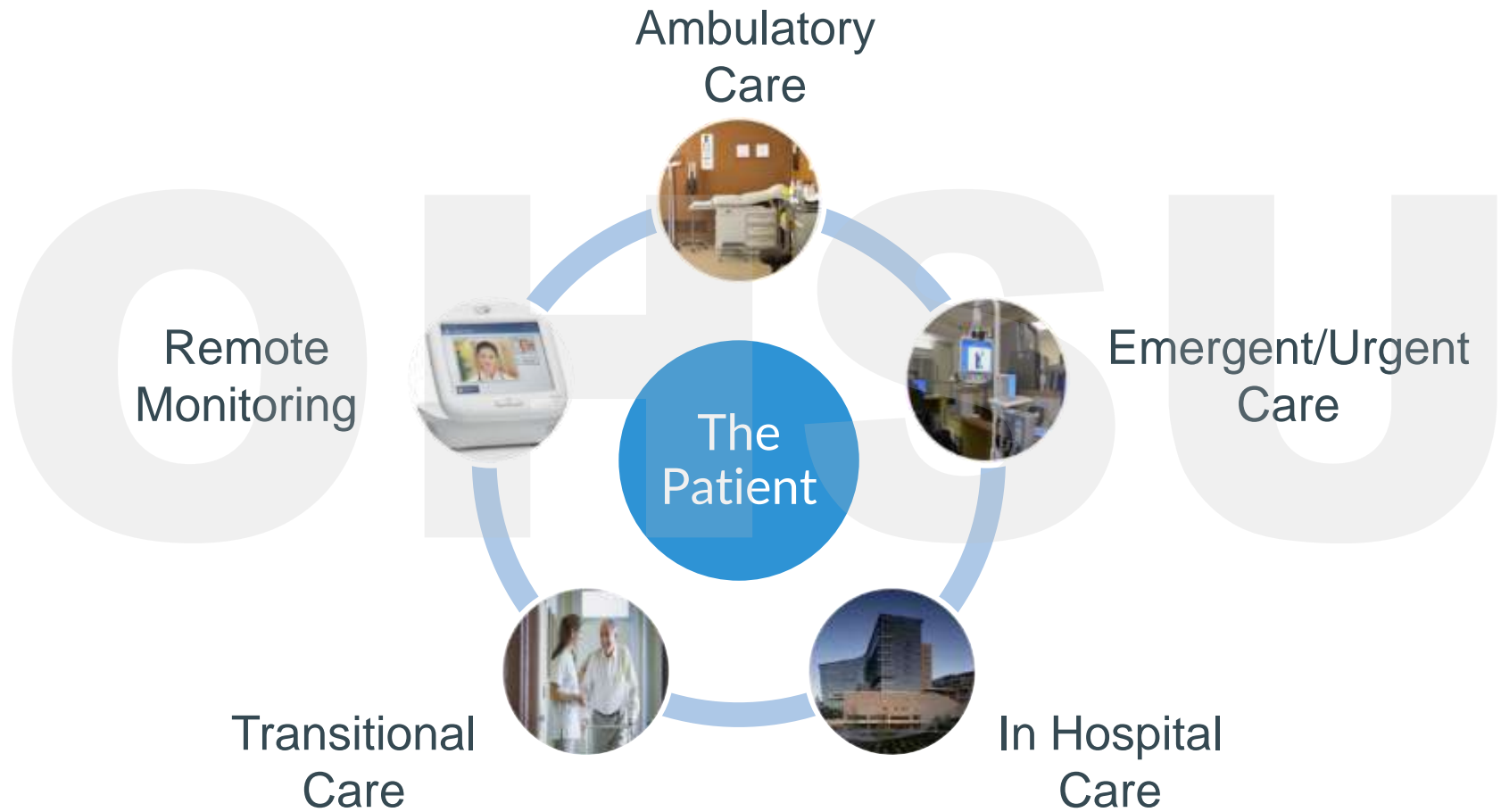
- Improving provider experience (and efficiency?)

# What is Telehealth?

- *Interactive healthcare over distance using telecommunication technology*
  - Store & Forward (Imaging, EEGs, ECH
  - Face-to-Face interactive
  - Remote Pt Monitoring
- Applications for different clinical scenarios
  - Inpatient/Outpatient
  - Asynchronous/Synchronous



# Telehealth Across the Care Continuum



# Recognizing Limitations OR “It can’t be as good.”

In-person care is the gold standard...  
when possible, when  
necessary.

Telemedicine’s intent:

- increase access for those who are unable to obtain in-person care (geography, time, etc)





# On the spectrum of how care can be delivered

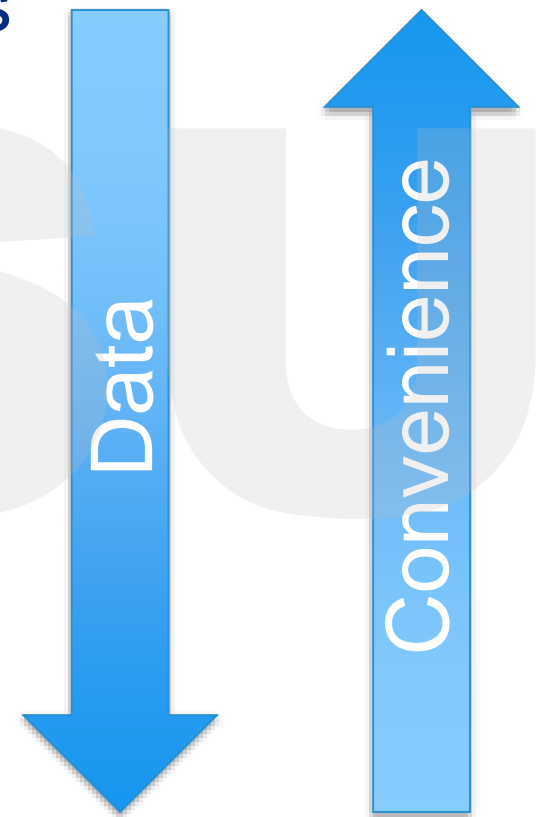
No Care due to access limitations

Asynchronous (Store & Forward)  
Email, Text, Web Portal

Audio (aka TelePhone)

Video (aka TeleMedicine)

In Person



# Motivation – The Desire & Reality of Access to Care

## Desire

Specialty services everywhere & at all times

## Realities

Children – 27% of all ER visits

Only 6% of US ER's have all necessary pediatric supplies

*Emergency Care for Children: Growing Pains*

*Institute of Medicine 2006 Report*

Regionalization of services improves Quality of Care  
and Outcomes

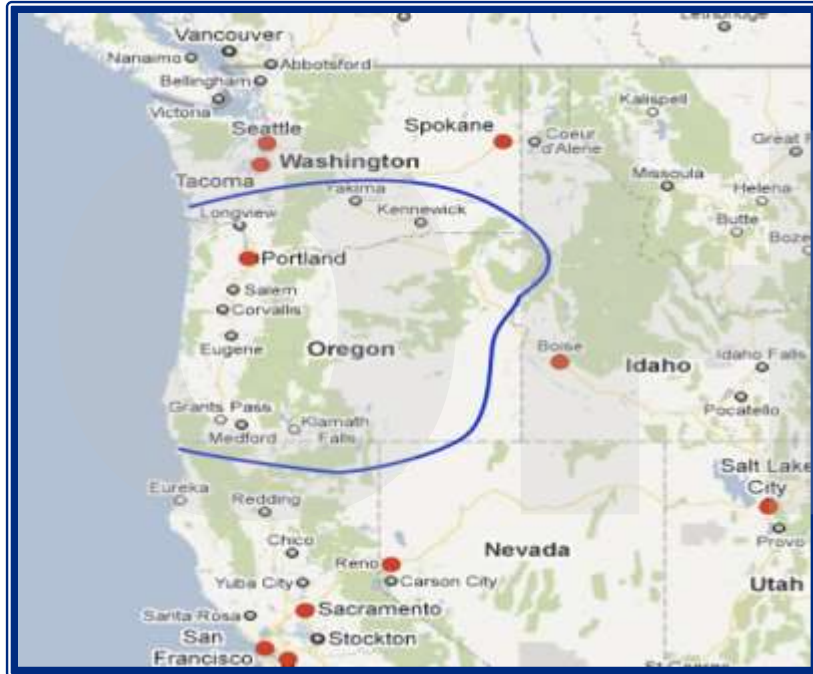
*Consensus report from the Pediatric Section of SCCM*

*Task Force on Regionalization of Pediatric Critical Care*

*Crit Care Med 2000; 28: 236-239*

# Oregon & Pediatric Intensive Care

## Limited Access due to Geography:



Only 3 PICUs in region

< 10 miles apart in Portland

> 100,000 sq. mile catchment area

> 800 neonates & infants  
transported/year to our center alone

Many transported unnecessarily, at great risk, & expense  
Some inadequately resuscitated

Due to poor data exchange/communication

# Triage Decisions

- Consult calls 24/7/365
- The Dilemma for ER MD, Pediatrician, & PICU

*Whether to transport...*

*Based on a verbal report &  
institutional, provider and parental comfort levels*

- Who is impacted by the Decision?

Child

Parents

Transport Team

Financial Impacts to Healthcare System, Family, & Local Economy

PANDA to Eugene (ground ambulance)      \$9,000

PANDA to Klamath Falls (fixed wing)      \$24,000



# Telemedicine



*Telephone Call:*

*Picture:*

*Live Interactive Video:*

*Helpful*

*A Thousand Words*

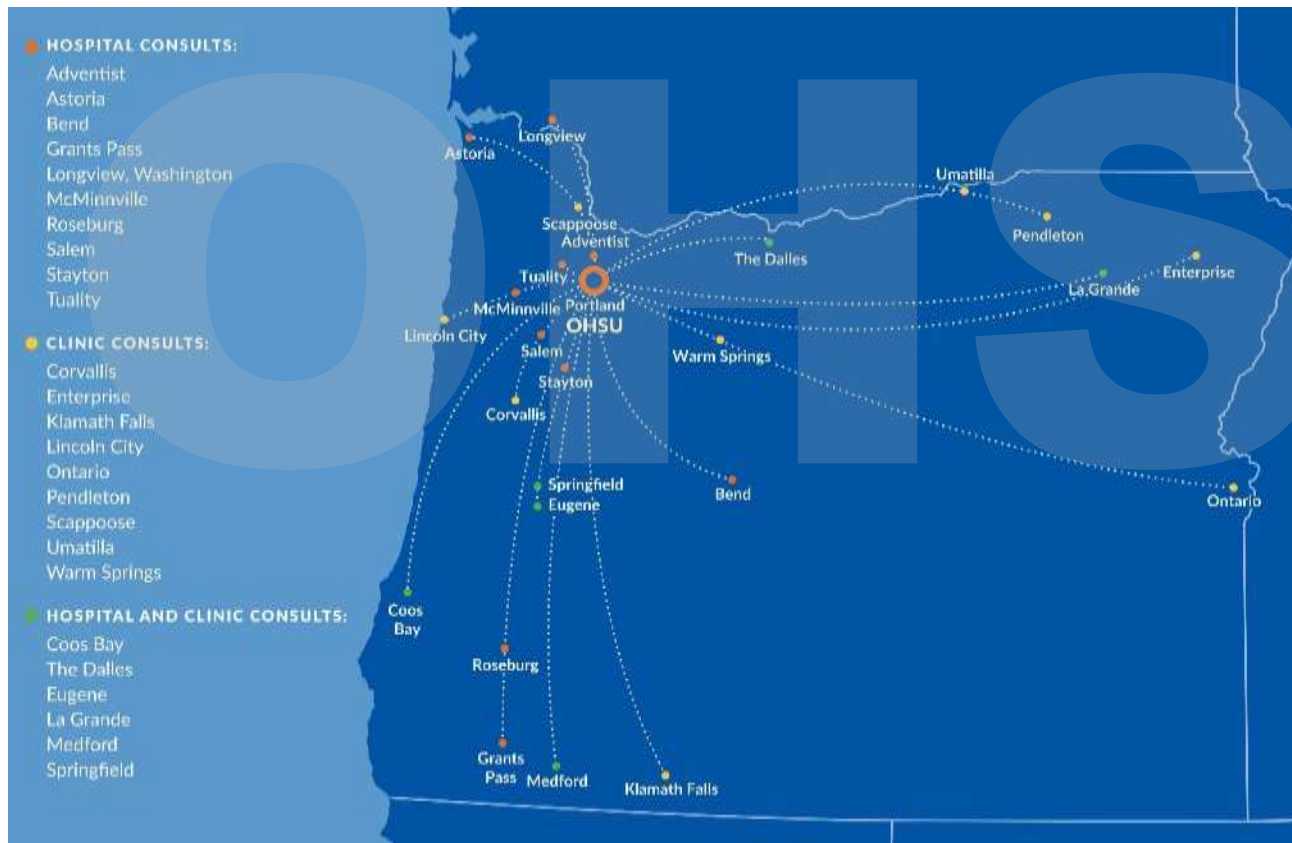
*Priceless*

*Replaces the Anonymity of a Phone Call  
with the Intimacy of Live Interactive Video*

# OHSU Acute Care Telemedicine Network

2007 – PICU pilot with Sacred Heart , Eugene

Goals: improve triage (reduce unnecessary transports), support resuscitation



2010 - Network

- PICU
- Stroke
- Newborn Resuscitation
- TeleICU

2019 - Virtual ICU

# Acute Care Telemedicine

Over 3,000 consults since inception  
16 hospitals in Oregon & SW Washington

- > \$15M estimated in avoided transport costs
- Many pts able to remain in local community
  - Varies by service line & community hospital



# Tele – Newborn Resuscitation

- Small Oregon Community Hospital
  - baby not tolerating labor → “Crash” C-Section
  - Family Medicine doctor on call from home
- 5:32 AM – C-Section
- 5:41 AM – Baby born → bradycardic, cyanotic → CPR
- 5:43 AM – OHSU NICU ‘arrives’ to support local team





# Tele – Newborn Resuscitation

- Video not available for distribution

# Ambulatory TeleHealth

- Delivering Value to Patients , Providers, Payers
  - Appropriate follow-up care
  - Improves compliance & outcomes
  - Cost containment
- Multiple applications
  - Home or clinic setting
  - Post-op checks
  - Primary Care
  - Chronic Disease Mgmt
  - Less mobile populations



OHSU ↔  
home

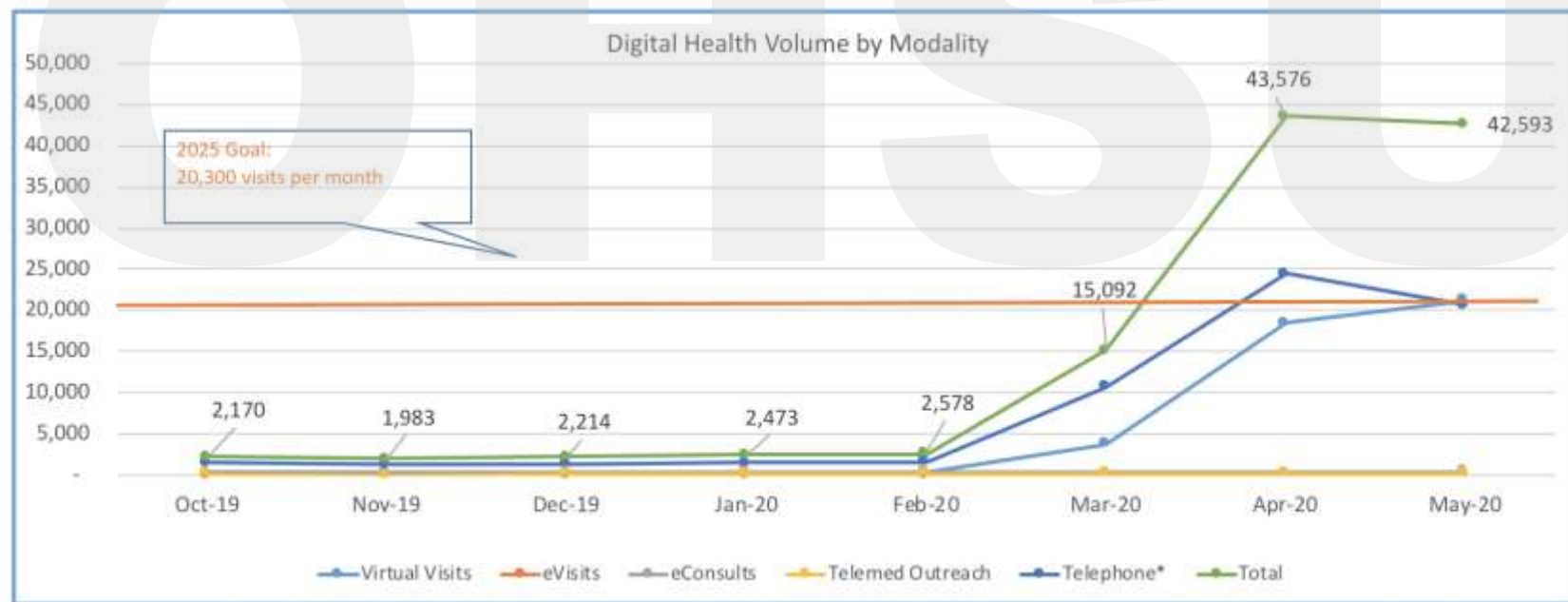
# Virtual Visits—Primary, Specialty, & Urgent

July 2018-April 2020 Digital Health Volumes

Data includes OHSU and Hillsboro Medical Center

| DH Modality      | Oct-19 | Nov-19 | Dec-19 | Jan-20 | Feb-20 | Mar-20 | Apr-20 | May-20 | Jun-20 | FY 2020 |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Virtual Visits   | 254    | 235    | 301    | 344    | 300    | 3,752  | 18,410 | 21,251 |        | 45,592  |
| eVisits          | 69     | 69     | 76     | 94     | 78     | 187    | 242    | 252    |        | 1,275   |
| eConsults        | 226    | 297    | 279    | 406    | 456    | 319    | 275    | 344    |        | 3,255   |
| Telemed Outreach | 121    | 104    | 143    | 108    | 116    | 142    | 159    | 134    |        | 1,348   |
| Telephone*       | 1,500  | 1,278  | 1,415  | 1,521  | 1,628  | 10,692 | 24,490 | 20,612 |        | 63,634  |
| Total            | 2,170  | 1,983  | 2,214  | 2,473  | 2,578  | 15,092 | 43,576 | 42,593 | -      | 115,104 |
| FY 20 Goal       | 1,333  | 1,333  | 1,333  | 1,333  | 1,333  | 1,333  | 1,333  | 1,333  | 1,333  | 16,000  |

\*Telephone encounters include Perioperative clinic encounters



# Jumping into the Telehealth Deep End – Sinking or Swimming?



## 7 Steps for Success

1. Prepare Yourself
2. Prepare Patients, see the Digital Divide
3. Acquire Tools & Technology
4. Prepare Your Team
5. Have a Good Visit
6. Assess Outcomes and Adapt
7. Advocate for Payment Reform

# 1. Prepare Yourself

- Identify barriers and address them

| Problem  | Solution  |
|--|---|
| Fear of Poor Quality Care                                    | Data  |
| Doubt ability to build rapport with a patient telephonically | Study up!   |
| Frustration with the process                                 | Identify tools, technology or staff support                           |
| Health equity  | Data, tools, technology, remove barriers, staff support, and advocacy |



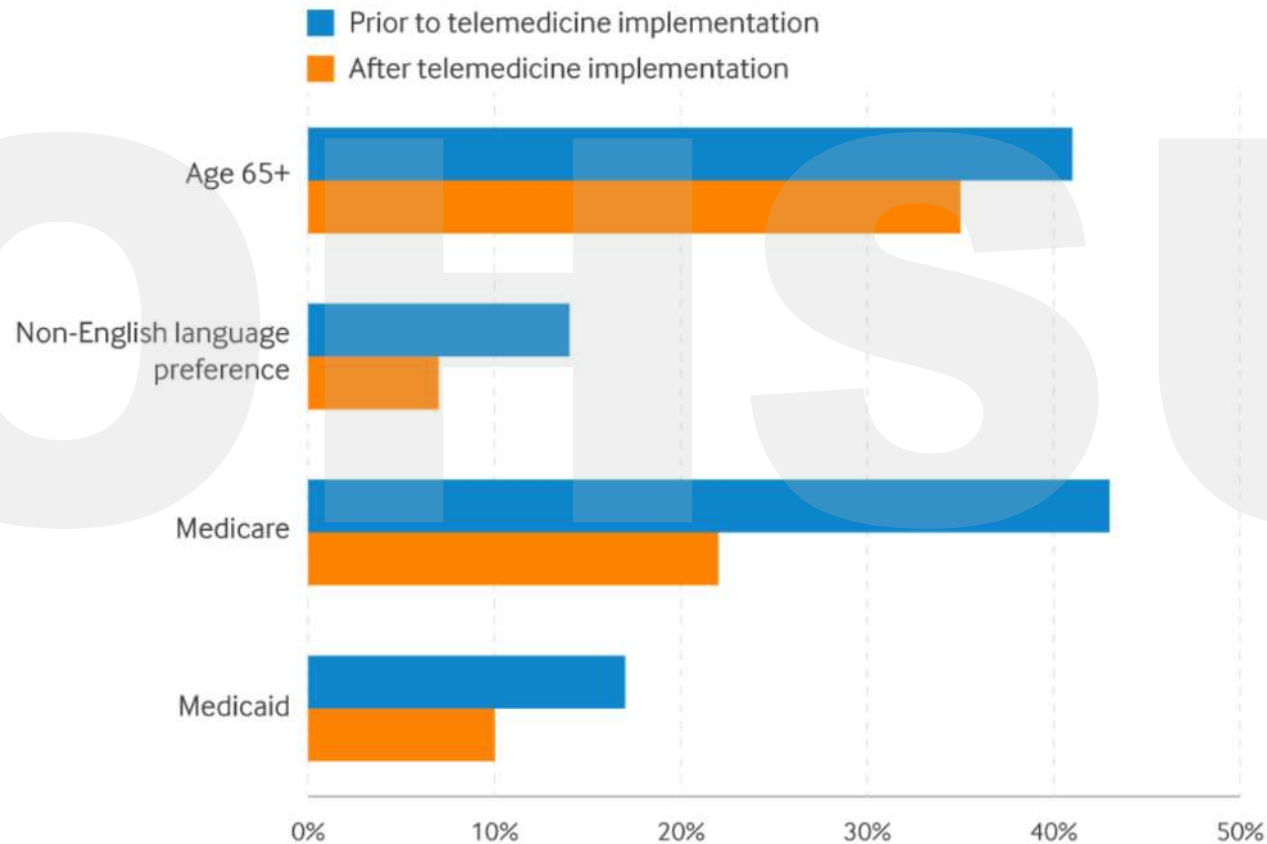
## 2. Prepare Patients

|                           | Home<br>Broadband | Smartphone | Desktop /<br>Laptop |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------|
| All Americans             | 75%               | 83%        | 74%                 |
| >65                       | 59%               | 53%        |                     |
| Black/African<br>American | 66%               | 80%        |                     |
| Rural                     | 63%               | 71%        | 69%                 |
| Income<br><\$30,000       | 56%               | 71%        |                     |

[Pew Research Center. Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet and Mobile Fact Sheet  
https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/internet-broadband/](https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/internet-broadband/)

## Patient Visits by Age, Language, and Insurance Before and After Telemedicine Scale-Up

This chart shows the proportion of patient visits seen by age, language preference, and insurance type prior to (2/17–2/28/2020) and after (3/23–4/3/2020) scaled-up telemedicine implementation to address the Covid-19 pandemic at the UCSF General Internal Medicine Primary Care Practice ( $P=0.002$  for age  $\geq 65$  and  $P<0.001$  for other comparisons). A significantly smaller proportion of visits after scaled-up telemedicine implementation were with vulnerable patients.

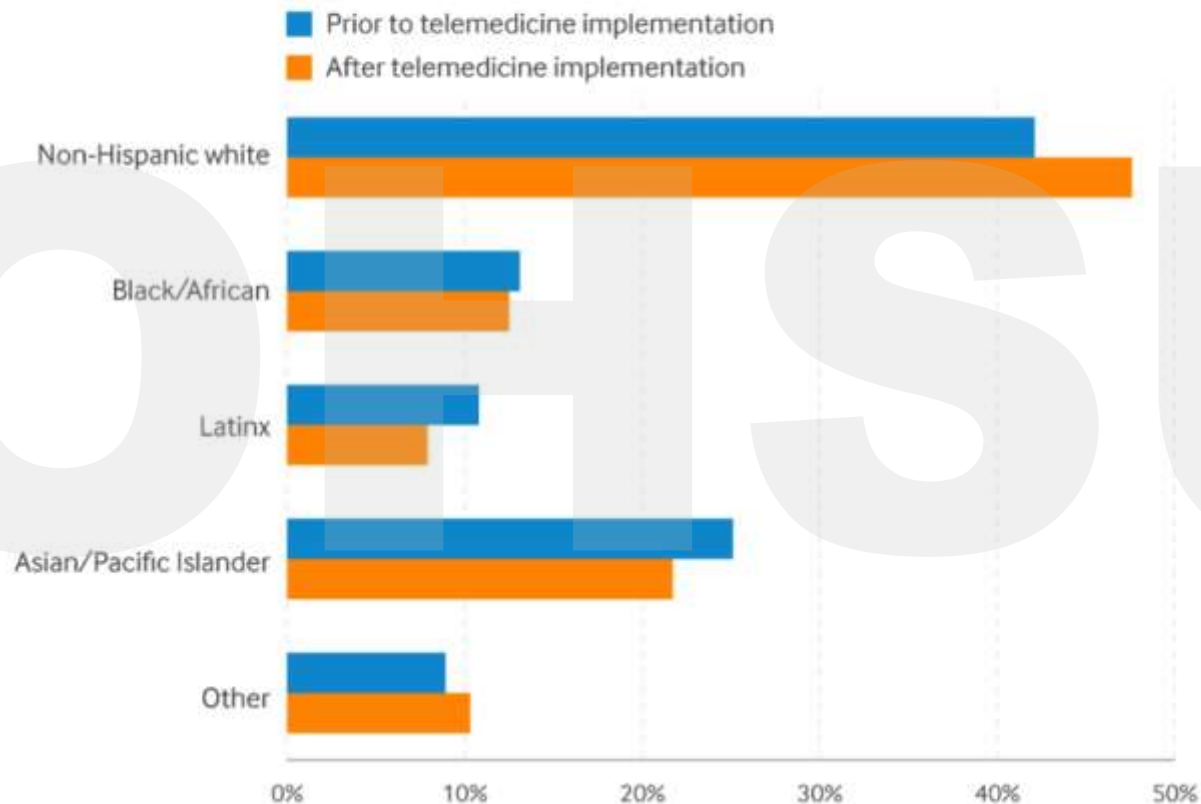


Nouri S, Khoong E, Lyles C, and Karliner L. Addressing Equity in Telemedicine for Chronic Disease Management During the COVID-19 Pandemic. NEJM Catalyst.

<https://catalyst.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/CAT.20.0123>

## Patient Visits by Race/Ethnicity Before and After Telemedicine Scale-Up

This chart shows the proportion of patient visits seen by patient race/ethnicity prior to (2/17–2/28/2020) and after (3/23–4/3/2020) scaled-up telemedicine implementation to address the Covid-19 pandemic at the UCSF General Internal Medicine Primary Care Practice (P=0.006 using chi-squared test). A smaller proportion of visits with vulnerable populations occurred after implementation.

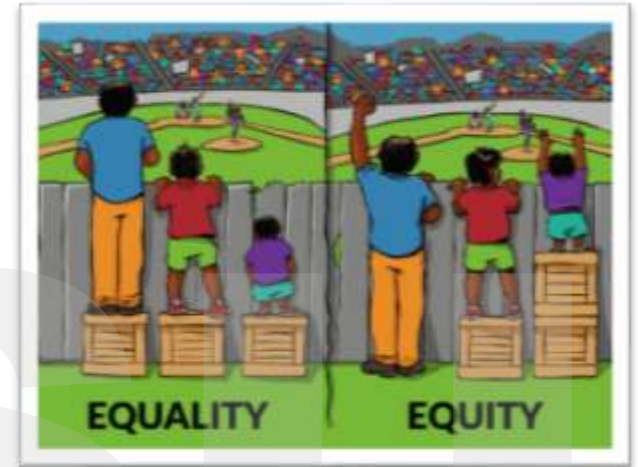


Nouri S, Khoong E, Lyles C, and Karliner L. Addressing Equity in Telemedicine for Chronic Disease Management During the COVID-19 Pandemic. NEJM Catalyst.

<https://catalyst.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/CAT.20.0123>

## 2. Prepare Patient (with Equity in Mind)

- Identify potential disparities in access
  - Older adults
  - Low SES
  - Limited Health Literacy
  - Limited English Proficiency
  - Racial/Ethnic Minorities



## 2. Prepare Patient (with Equity in Mind)

- Mitigate digital literacy and resource barriers
  - Develop education and training materials
  - Inform patients about free and low cost access to broadband and devices:
    - Digital Inclusion Network “Resource Document”
  - Workflows: “Virtual Visit Concierge”





## 2. Prepare Patient (with Equity in Mind)

- Remove Health System Barriers
  - Offer video visits to every patient
  - Ensure access to interpreters
  - Screen for barriers
  - Offer telephone as an alternative to video
  - Increase system leader awareness of barriers to telemedicine

# 3. Acquire Appropriate Tools & Technology

- HHS and OCR are exercising “enforcement discretion” related to HIPAA.
- Directories for vendors:
  - <https://www.techhealthdirectory.com/>
  - <https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/servicedirectory>

## 4. Prepare Your Team

- Workflows
- Scripting
- Scheduling Guidelines

# 5. Have a Good Visit

## Workarounds

- Patient reported vitals
- Self-exam
- Visualize a lesion
- Teleprompter

## New Opportunities

- Medication Review
- Use bystander to collect collateral information
- Close follow-up

# 5. Have a Good Visit

| Establish Rapport  | New Opportunities   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare with intention</li><li>• Listen intently and completely</li><li>• Agree on what matters most</li><li>• Connect with the patient's story</li><li>• Explore emotional cues</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Look at the camera to make eye contact</li><li>• Adjust lighting</li><li>• Ensure patient privacy</li></ul> |



## 6. Assess Outcomes and Adapt

- Quality Improvement Team:
  - Front desk staff, medical assistants, back office staff, providers
- Data:
  - Volume, Access, Productivity, Quality

# 7. Payment Reform

Existing payment reforms have expiration dates

|                                     | Before March 1        | After March 1                  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Virtual (99213)</b>              |                       |                                |
| Commercial (United Healthcare)      | Facility Rate (\$107) | Office Rate (\$153)            |
| Medicare                            | Facility Rate (\$52)  | Facility Rate +Q3014 (\$79.81) |
| <b>Telephone (99442, 11-20 min)</b> |                       |                                |
| Commercial (United Healthcare)      | \$0                   | Office Rate (\$56.63)          |
| Medicare                            | \$0                   | Facility Rate (\$52.76)        |

## 7. Payment Reform

"I think the genie's out of the bottle on this one. I think it's fair to say that the advent of telehealth has been just completely accelerated, that it's taken this crisis to push us to a new frontier, but there's absolutely no going back.

- Seema Verma, CMS Administrator

# 7. Payment Reform

Digital Health Access is a Public Health Concern

- Advocate for “Digital Inclusion”
  - Broadband access, smartphones
- Fund digital health deployment in less resourced health centers
- Pay parity for telephone and video visits
- Differentiate between visits with a medical home vs. immediate care or virtual care-only providers.

# OHSU Digital Health Ambulatory Care Tools



## Virtual Visit

- Two way video visit between patient and provider via MyChart
- Provider connects via Epic
- Urgent Care, Primary Care and Specialty Care



## eVisit

- Asynchronous communication between patient and provider via MyChart (currently dermatology only)
- Provider access via Epic Inbasket
- Efficient (85% completion success rate. Specialist time similar to eConsult)



## eConsult

- Asynchronous communication between PCP and Specialist
- Goal to reduce unnecessary visits to the specialist
- Efficient (90%+ success, PCP completes <10 minutes, specialist completes <8 minutes)



## Telemedicine to Outreach Clinics

- Two way video connection to clinic with telemedicine capability
- Allows for a higher level of exam due to tele-presenter (vitals, wound exam cams, stethoscope)
- Medicare visits covered when clinic located in rural setting

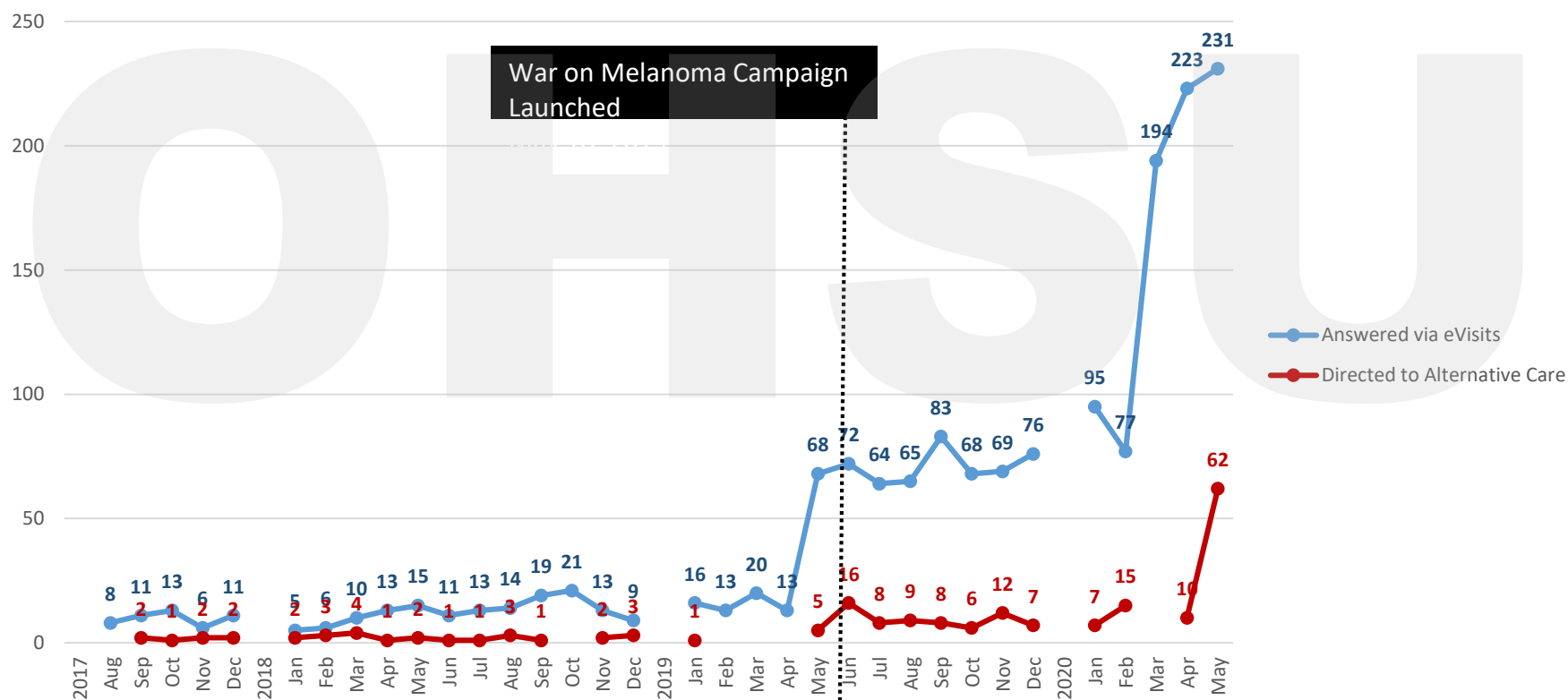


## Telephone Visits

- Visits with established patients
- Low complexity in nature
- Documented in Epic

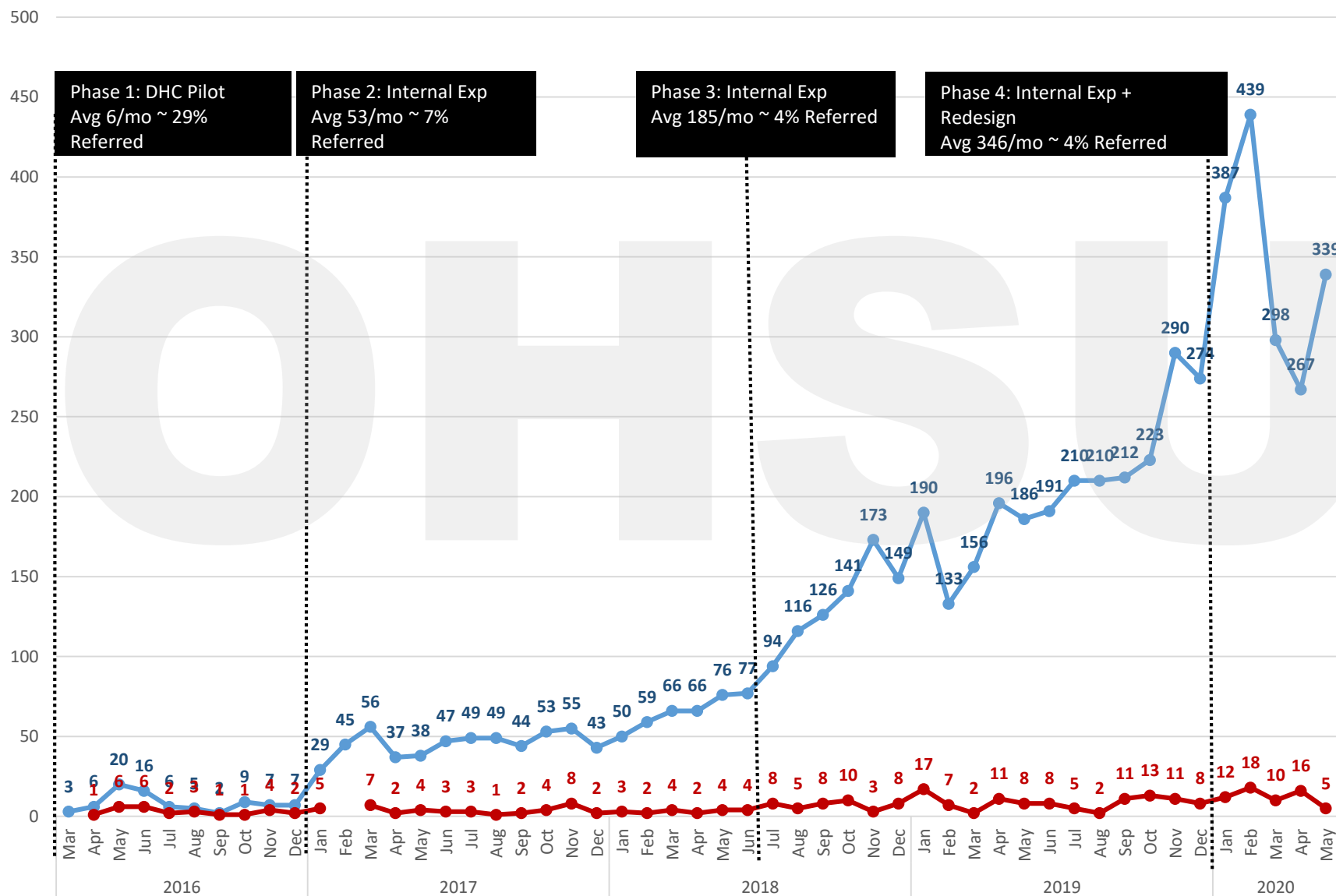


## Dermatology eVisit Volume August 2017 to May 2020



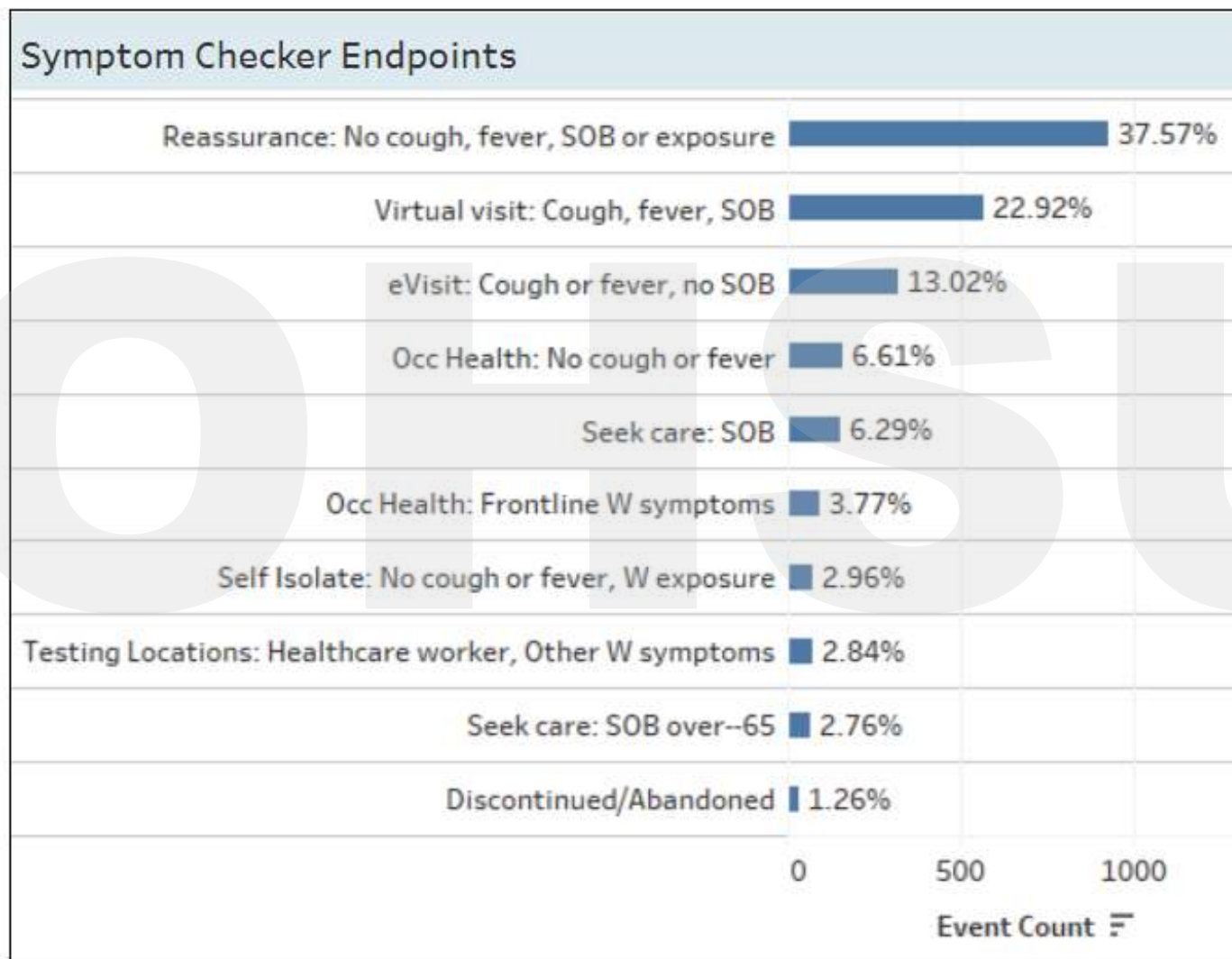
# Operations Report

eConsult Volume  
March 2016 to May 2020



# COVID 19 Screening Tool in MyChart:

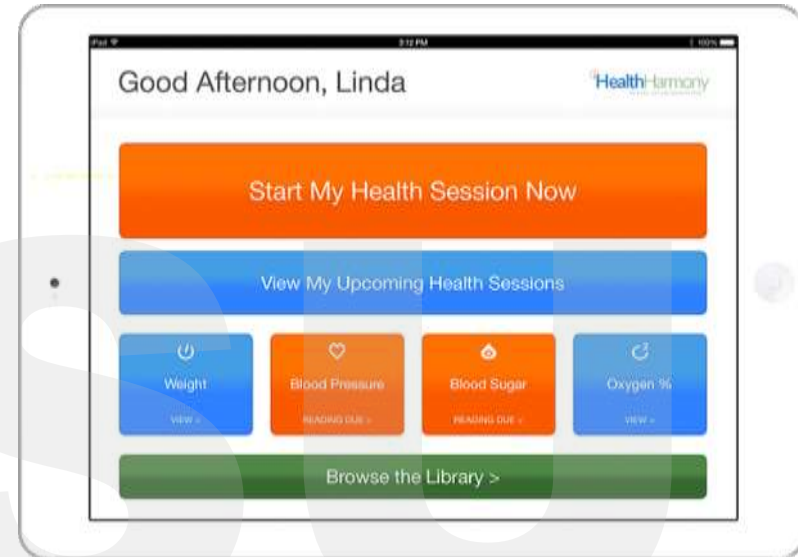
## Symptom Checker Endpoints from April 2020 to May 2020



# Remote Patient Monitoring

In home monitoring for patients with chronic disease &/or high risk for (re)admission

- Adult Chemo Symptom Mgmt
- Interstage Monitoring for Single Ventricle infants
- NICU “Feeders & Growers”



- Improve outcomes
- Reduce readmissions
- Facilitate early discharge for safe motivated patients (Home as the 4<sup>th</sup> campus)
- Patient satisfaction

# COVID specific response

## Ambulatory

- telephone and video
- early adopters to everyone
- from “luxury” to necessary , overnight
- rethink training

Symptom Checker to triage to appropriate level of follow-up care

## COVID Connected Care Center

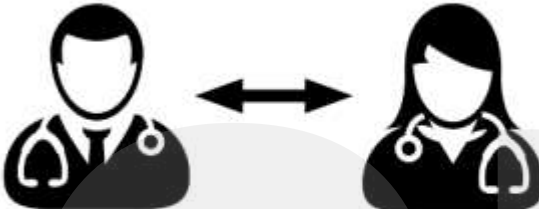
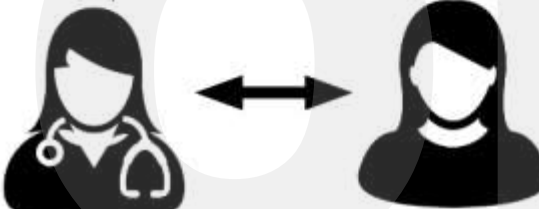

- RN triage - feeds Virtual Visit as indicated
- Where to get testing in state
- Manage results

## Inpatient work

- primary team use to decrease exposure & PPE utilization
- video & phone consults
- code team response

# Telehealth Across the Care Continuum

## Ways clinicians can use telemedicine for patients' benefit<sup>a</sup>

| Interaction  | Telemedicine tools  | Telemedicine services  |
|--|---|--|
| Clinician to clinician<br>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinicians often communicate through email, video, or both</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dermatology</li> <li>• Radiology</li> <li>• Surgical peer mentoring</li> <li>• Emergency trauma and ICU care</li> </ul>   |
| Clinician to patient<br>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video</li> <li>• Phone</li> <li>• Email</li> <li>• Remote wireless monitoring</li> <li>• Internet</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care for chronic conditions</li> <li>• Medication management</li> <li>• Wound care</li> <li>• Counseling</li> <li>• Postdischarge follow-up</li> <li>• Mental health</li> </ul> |
| Patient to mobile health technology<br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wearable monitors</li> <li>• Smartphones</li> <li>• Mobile apps</li> <li>• Video</li> <li>• Email</li> <li>• Web portals</li> <li>• Games</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health education</li> <li>• Monitoring of physical activity</li> <li>• Monitoring of diet</li> <li>• Medication adherence</li> <li>• Cognitive fitness</li> </ul>               |
| Integration with electronic medical records<br>Data analytics  |   |  |

- **OHSU:**
  - Acute Care
  - e-Consults
  - Project ECHO
- 
- Virtual Visits
    - to Clinic/SNF
    - to Home
  - e-Visits
  - Remote Pt Monitoring
  - Imaging, Study Interpret
  - CCC
- 
- e-Visits
  - Symptom Checker

Abbreviation: ICU, intensive care unit.

<sup>a</sup>Adapted from the American Telemedicine Association. <http://www.americantelemed.org/main/about/about-telemedicine/telemedicine-faqs>. Accessed November 15, 2017.



# Future Considerations

From Telemedicine to  
Telehealth to 'Digital Health'

Equity – Digital Divide

AI tools – SmartExam, Chat-bots

Payment & Regulatory Reform

Defining optimal use cases per  
clinical, economic, efficiency considerations



# Telehealth Resources

- OHSU Telemedicine  
[ohsu.edu/telemedicine](https://ohsu.edu/telemedicine)
- Telehealth Alliance of Oregon  
[ortelehealth.org](https://ortelehealth.org)
- American Telemedicine Association  
[americantelemed.org](https://americantelemed.org)
- Center for Telehealth & E-Health Law  
[ctel.org](https://ctel.org)
- Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT)  
[telehealth.hrsa.gov](https://telehealth.hrsa.gov)

# Telehealth Equity Resources

Digital Denied: The Impact of Systemic Racial Discrimination on Home-Internet Adoption

[www.freepress.net/sites/default/files/legacy-policy/digital\\_denied\\_free\\_press\\_report\\_december\\_2016.pdf](http://www.freepress.net/sites/default/files/legacy-policy/digital_denied_free_press_report_december_2016.pdf)

Healthcare From Anywhere: Telehealth Use & Perceptions in Rural Michigan (Feb 2020) – Connected Nation Michigan

[connectednation.org/blog/2020/03/05/healthcare-from-anywhere-groundbreaking-study-looks-at-the-impact-of-telehealth-in-rural-america/](http://connectednation.org/blog/2020/03/05/healthcare-from-anywhere-groundbreaking-study-looks-at-the-impact-of-telehealth-in-rural-america/)

NEJM Catalyst: Innovations in Care Delivery - Addressing Equity in Telemedicine for Chronic Disease Management During the Covid-19 Pandemic

[catalyst.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/CAT.20.0123](http://catalyst.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/CAT.20.0123)

National Digital Inclusion Alliance

[www.digitalinclusion.org/](http://www.digitalinclusion.org/)



# Telehealth Equity Resources

Oregon Broadband Office Strategic Plan

[www.oregon4biz.com/dev/www/BOR/Broadband-Office/OBAC/Reports/BroadbandStratPlan2020.pdf](http://www.oregon4biz.com/dev/www/BOR/Broadband-Office/OBAC/Reports/BroadbandStratPlan2020.pdf)

Oregon Broadband Map

[www.oregon4biz.com/Broadband-Office/Interactive-Map/](http://www.oregon4biz.com/Broadband-Office/Interactive-Map/)

Portland Resources for Digital Inclusion

COVID19

response: [www.portlandoregon.gov/oct/article/758723Low-cost](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/oct/article/758723Low-cost)

Computers: [www.portlandoregon.gov/oct/article/757365](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/oct/article/757365)

\$10/month internet: [www.portlandoregon.gov/oct/article/709742](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/oct/article/709742)

Digital Divide Fact Sheets (Broadband, Mobile Devices)

[www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/internet-broadband/](http://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/internet-broadband/)



# OHSU TeleHealth Services



[ohsu.edu/telemedicine](https://ohsu.edu/telemedicine)

[o2.ohsu.edu/telehealth](https://o2.ohsu.edu/telehealth)







RACISM  
IS A  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
CRISIS