Assessment of Mobile Broadband in California

Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Services, Panel on Internet Access and Adoption Programs and Strategies

November 19, 2014

Robert Osborn
Senior Analyst
Broadband, Policy & Analysis Branch
California Public Utilities Commission
robert.osborn@cpuc.ca.gov

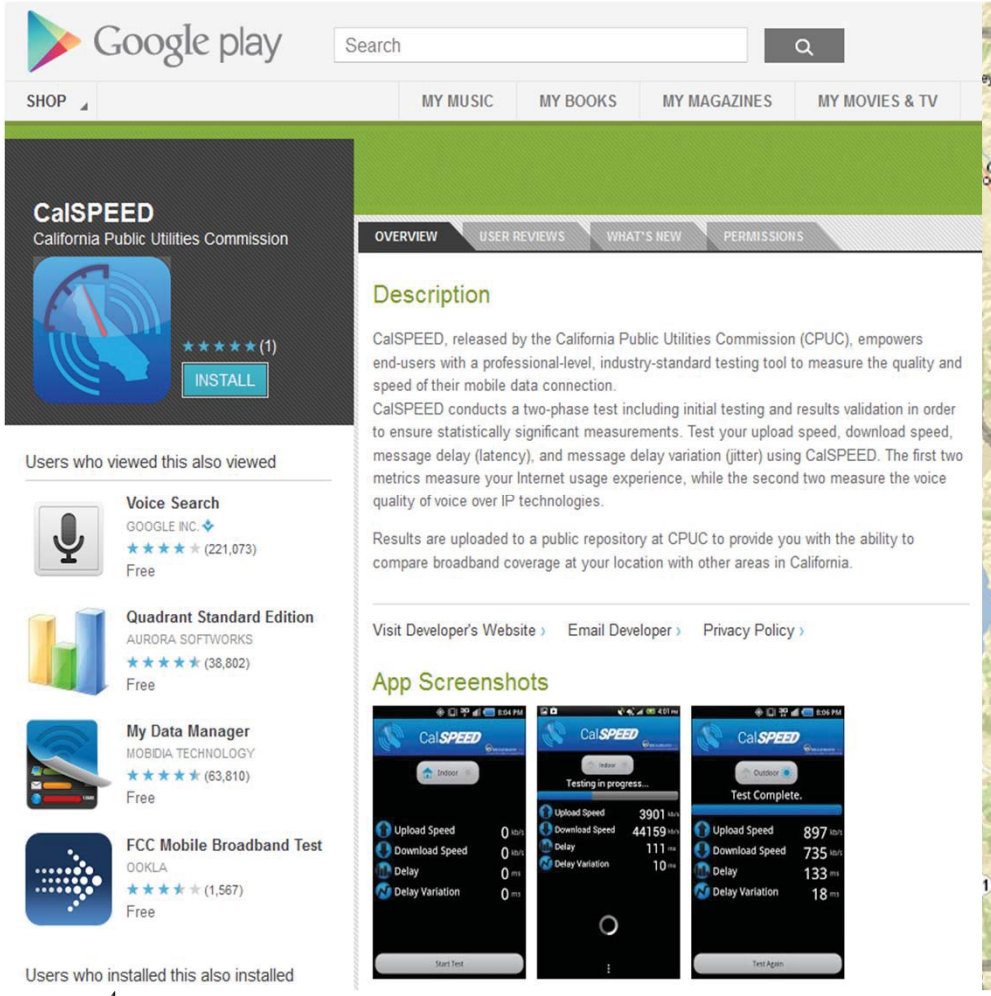
Key Points

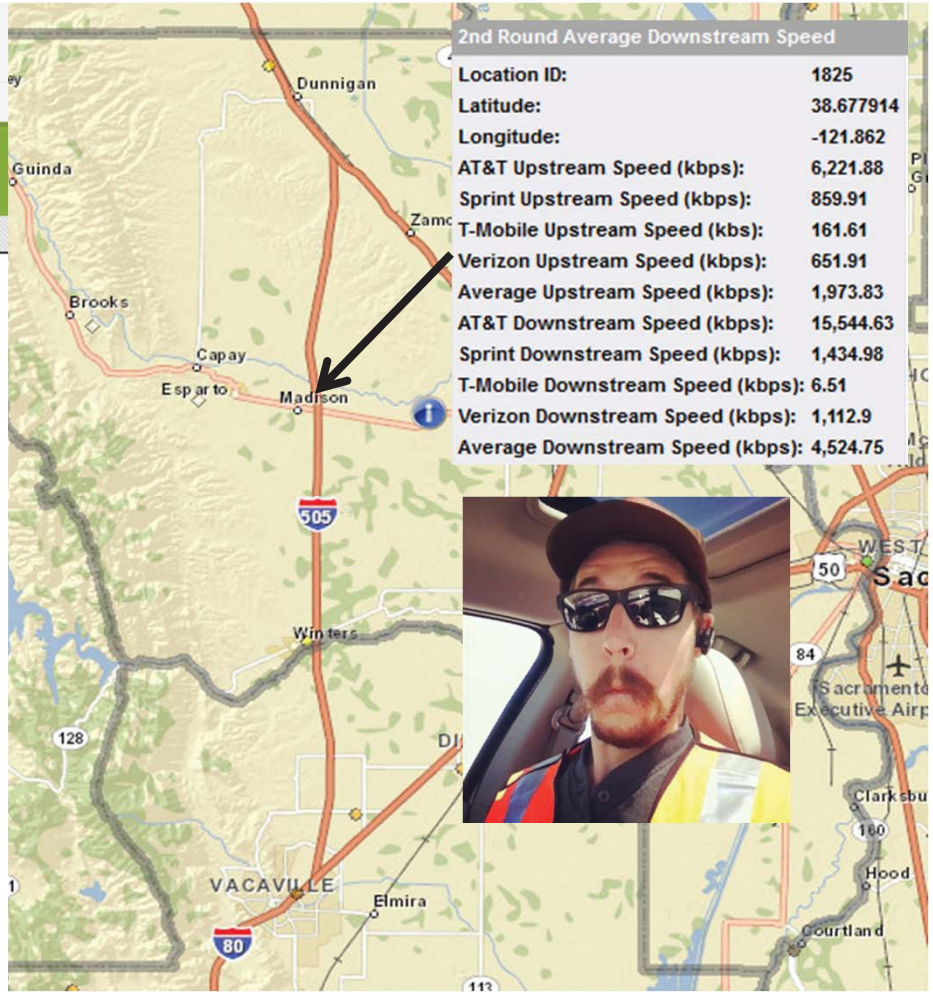
- Advertised coverage is meaningless without reliable service level parameters
- Despite prevalence of LTE, rural service is substantially inferior to urban service
- Mobile broadband is becoming more, important, but is it a reliable substitute for wireline?

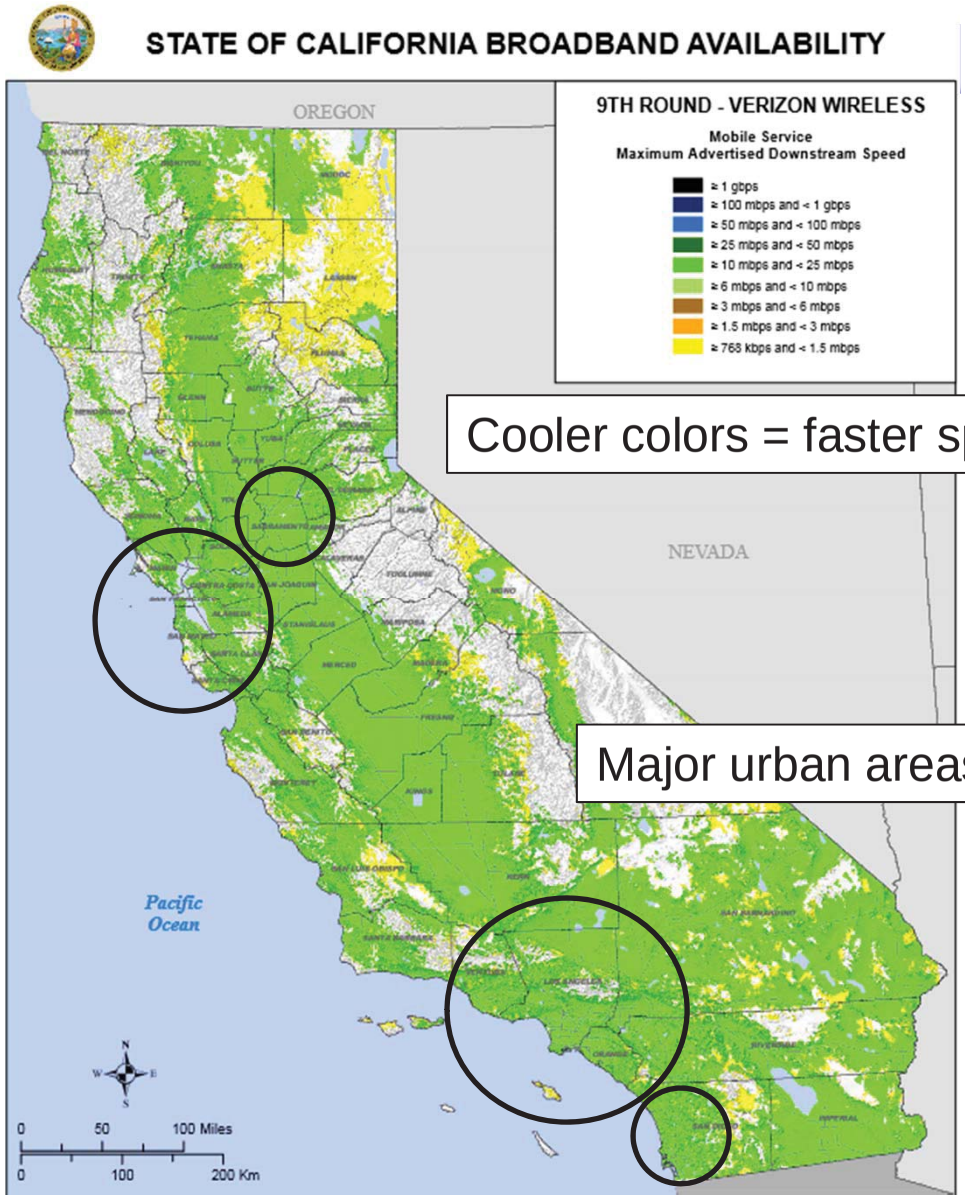
California Advanced Services Fund

- 0.464% surcharge on telephone bills in California
- Four accounts ($315M total):
  - Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account ($270M)
  - Broadband Infrastructure Revolving Loan Account ($10M)
  - Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account ($10M)
  - Broadband Public Housing Account ($25M)
- Provides funding for capital costs of broadband infrastructure projects in unserved and underserved areas in California.
- Maximum grant award:
  - 70% total costs for projects in unserved areas (<768 Kb/s down/200 up)
  - 60% total costs for projects in underserved areas (<6 Mb/s down/1.5 up)

CalSPEED and Field Testing

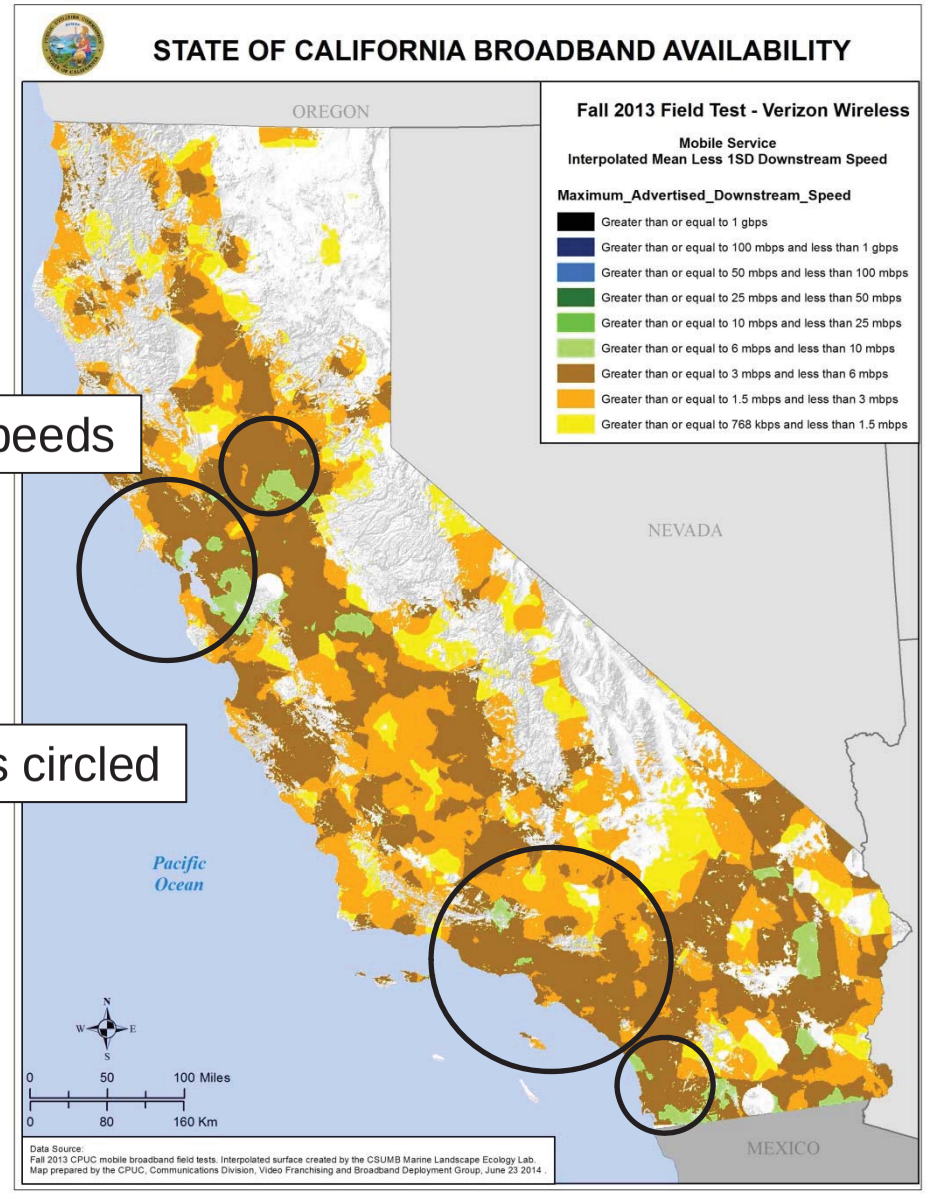




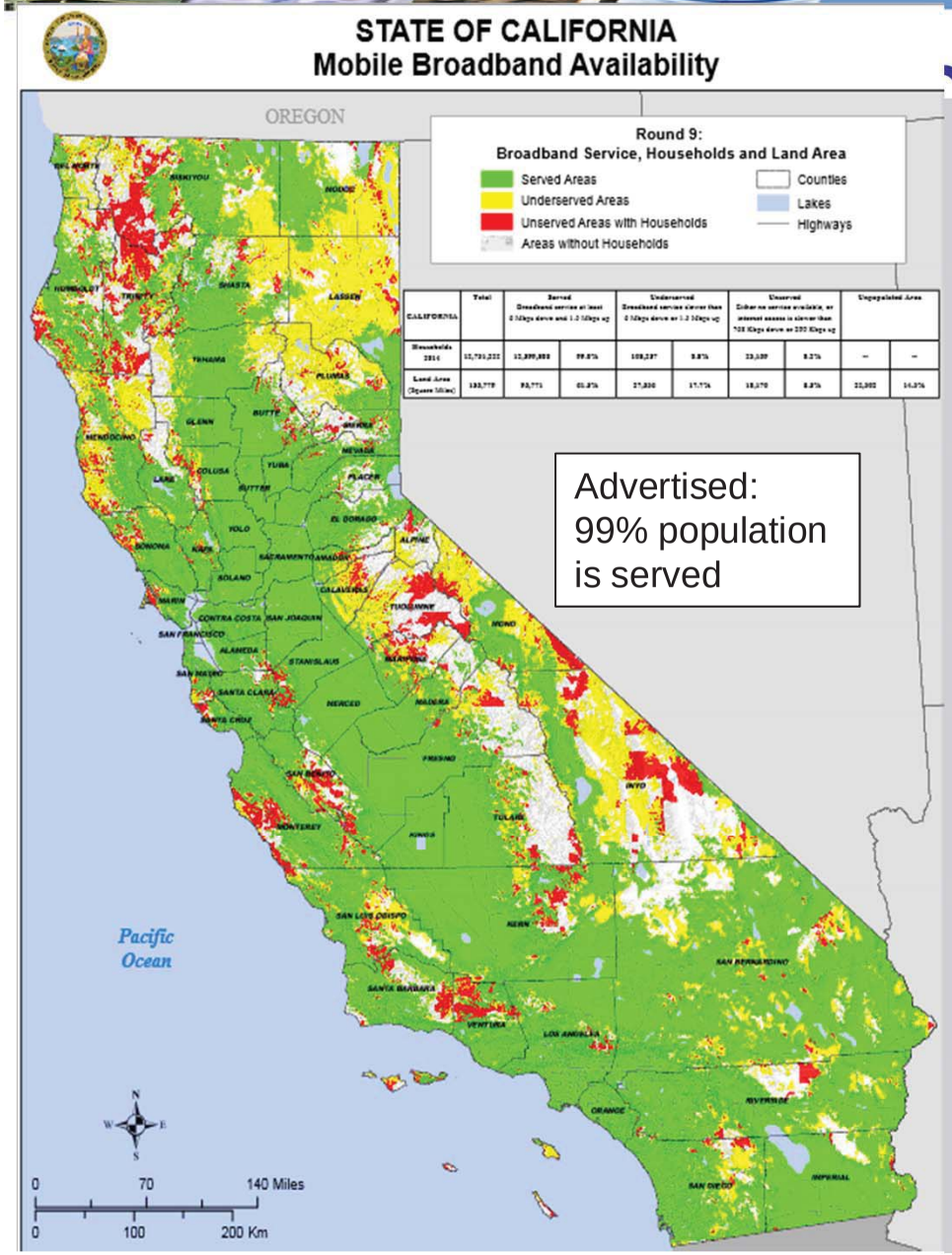


Cooler colors = faster speeds

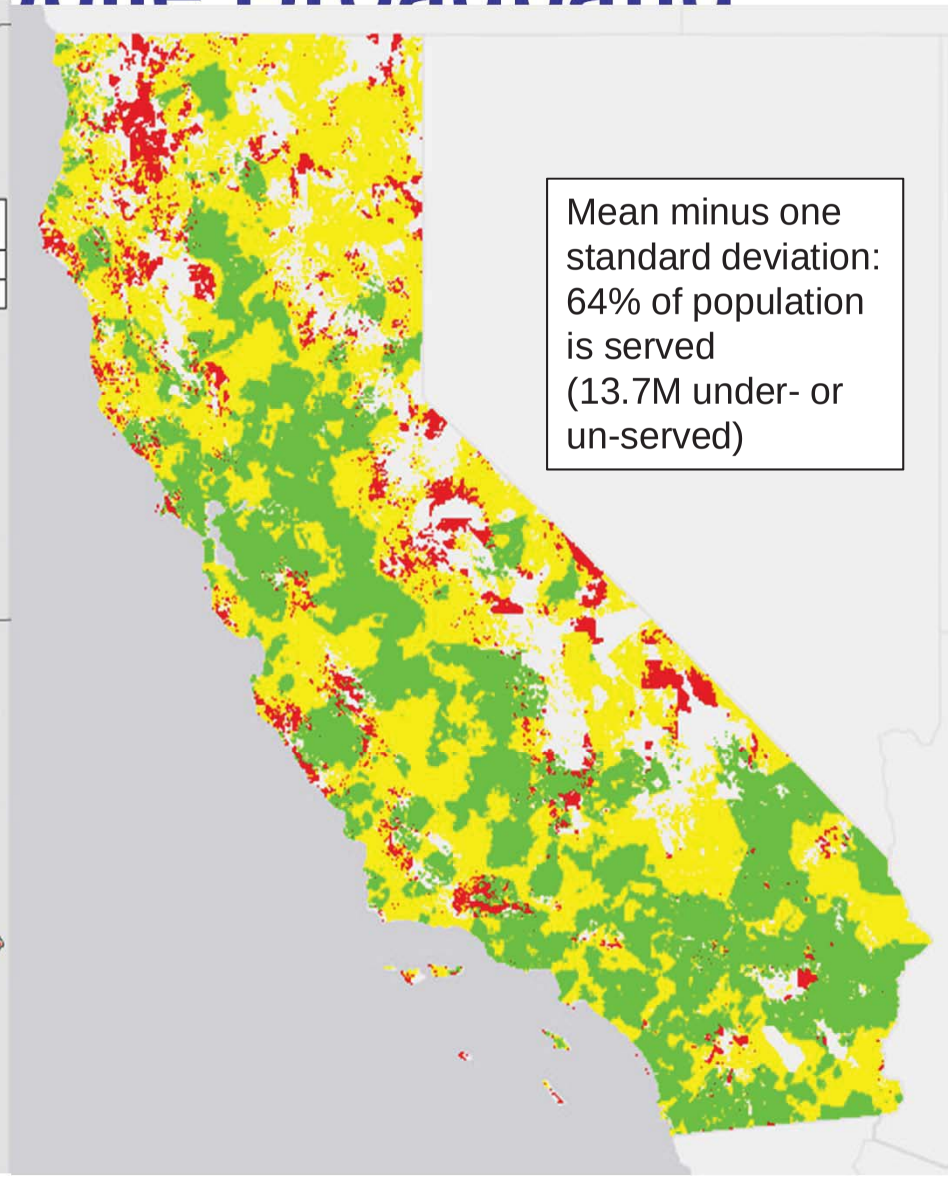
Major urban areas circled

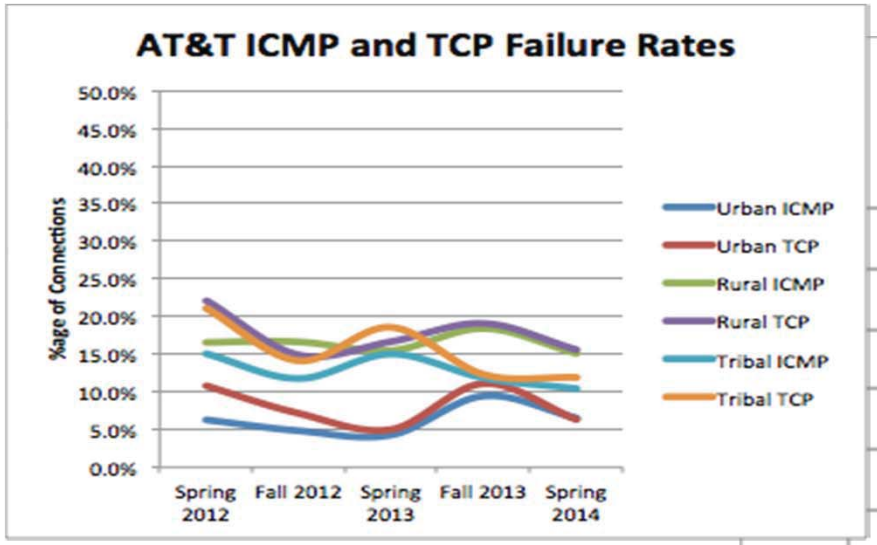
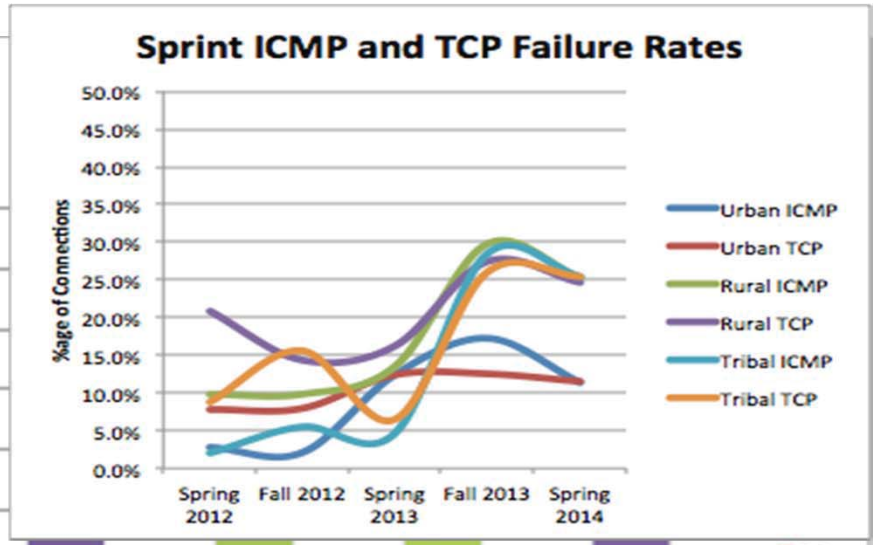
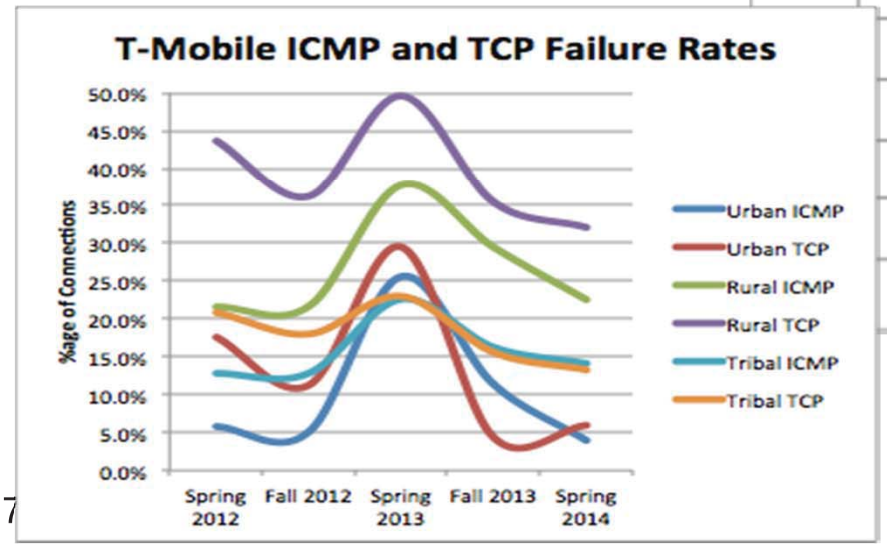
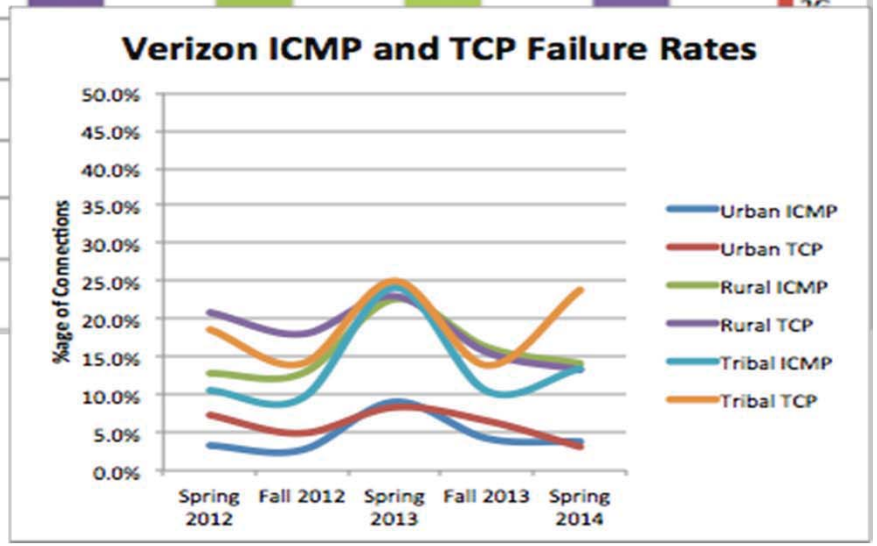


obile Broadband



Advertised:
99% population
is served



Mean minus one
standard deviation:
64% of population
is served
(13.7M under- or
un-served)

Urban vs. Rural