

Internet Access and Connectivity across the Urban- Rural Spectrum

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Background

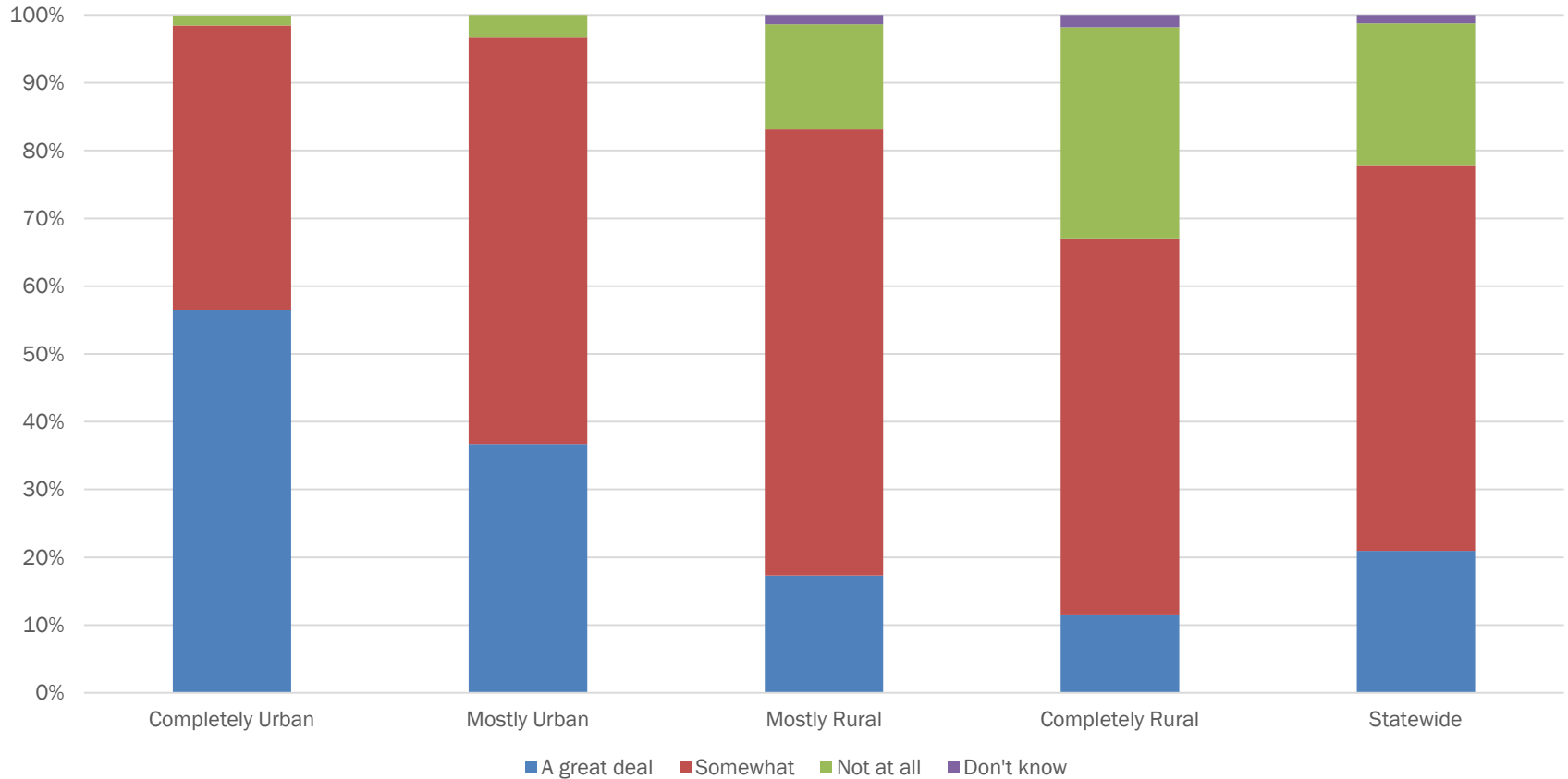
- While access to broadband expands, there remains a “digital divide”.
- When this digital divide falls along urbanity, it can contribute to a “rural penalty”.
- Access to broadband is correlated with access to goods and services.

Methodology

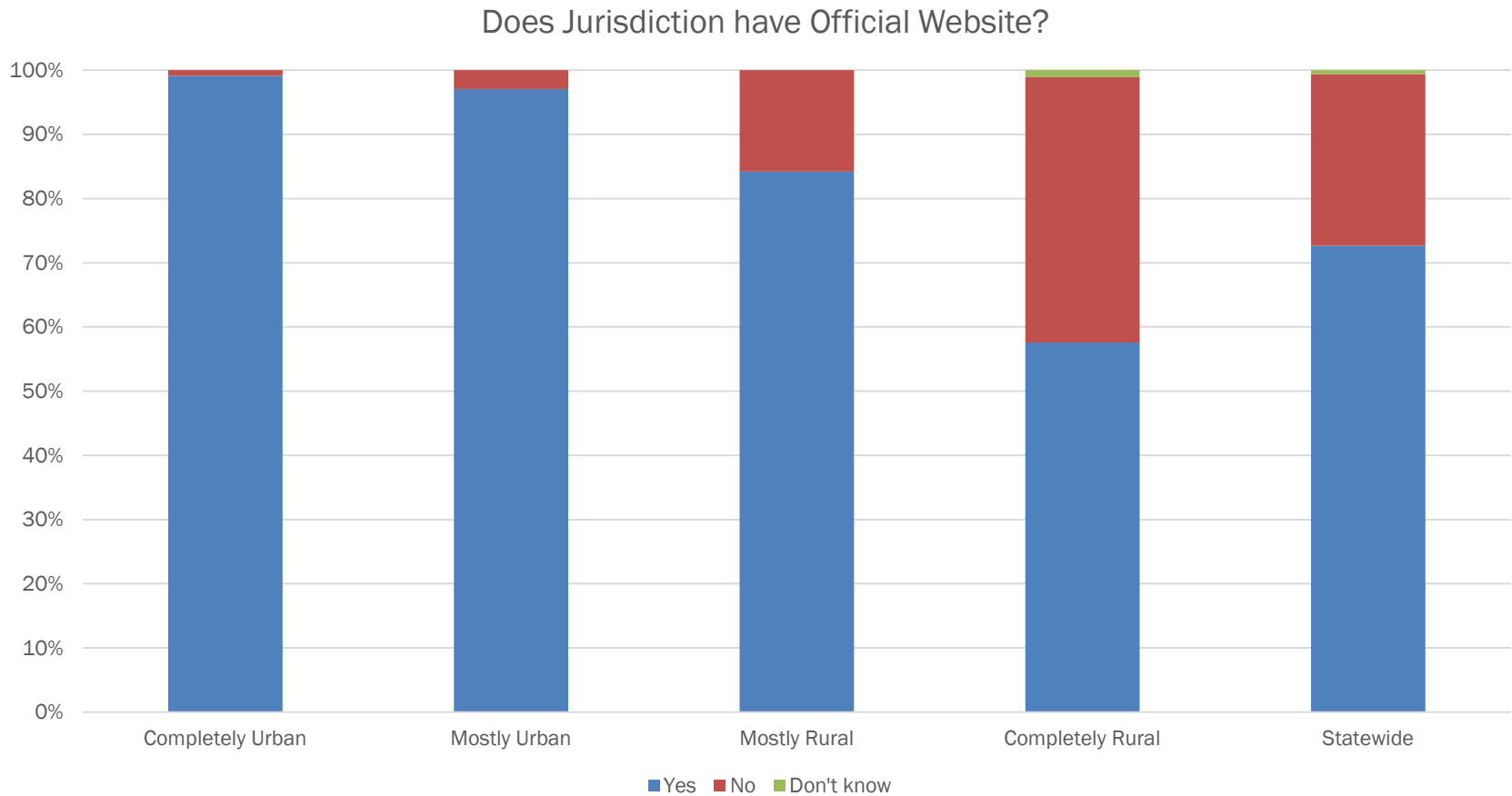
- How do urban and rural areas differ in access to local government services via technology?
- Fall 2012 MPPS Data
 - Questions related to jurisdictions' use of technology to engage citizens and services provided through a jurisdictions' website

Urban areas engage citizens through technology more than rural areas

Extent Jurisdiction Tries to Engage Citizens Through Technology

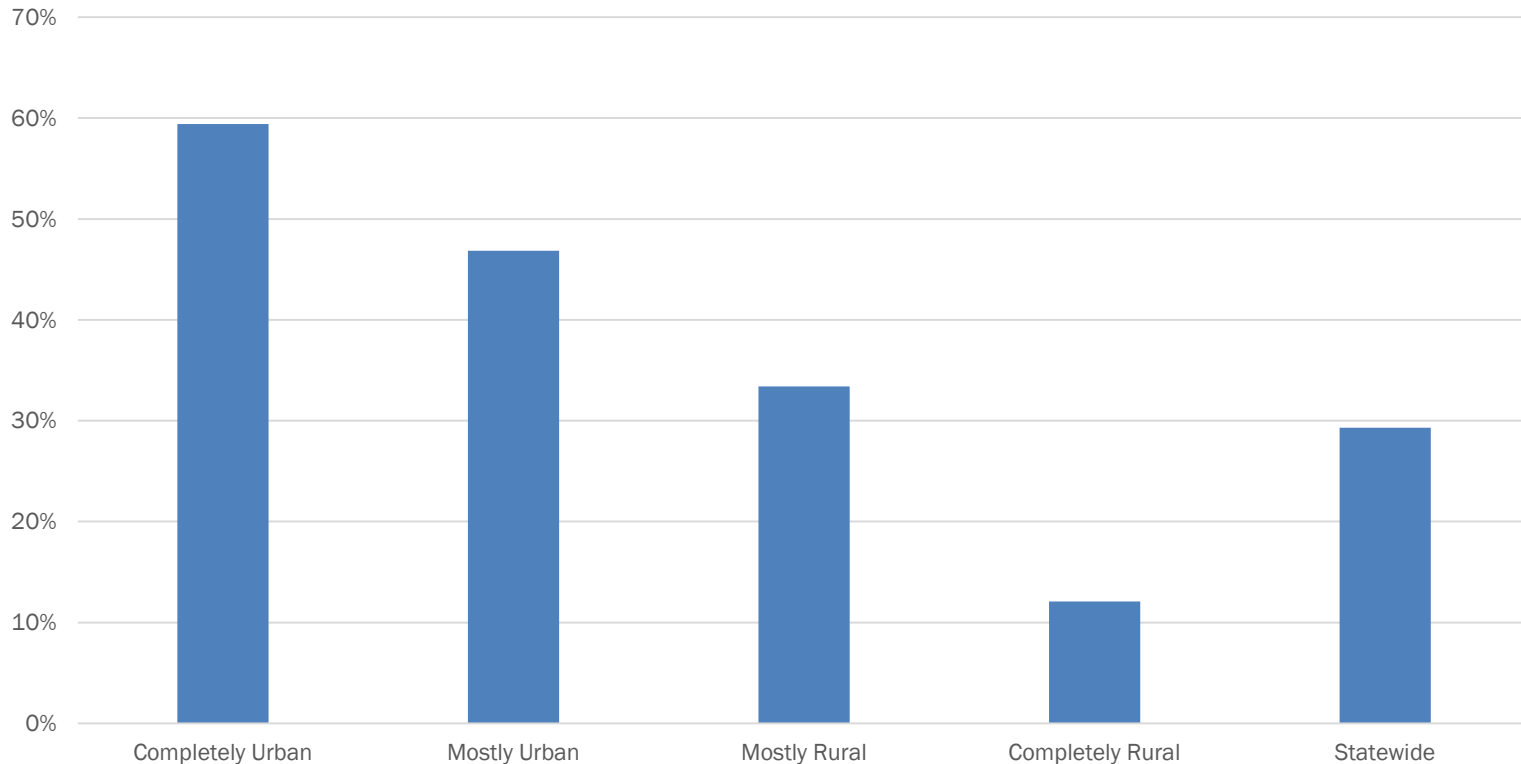


Urban areas are more likely to have an official website than rural areas



Rural areas have less access to online government services

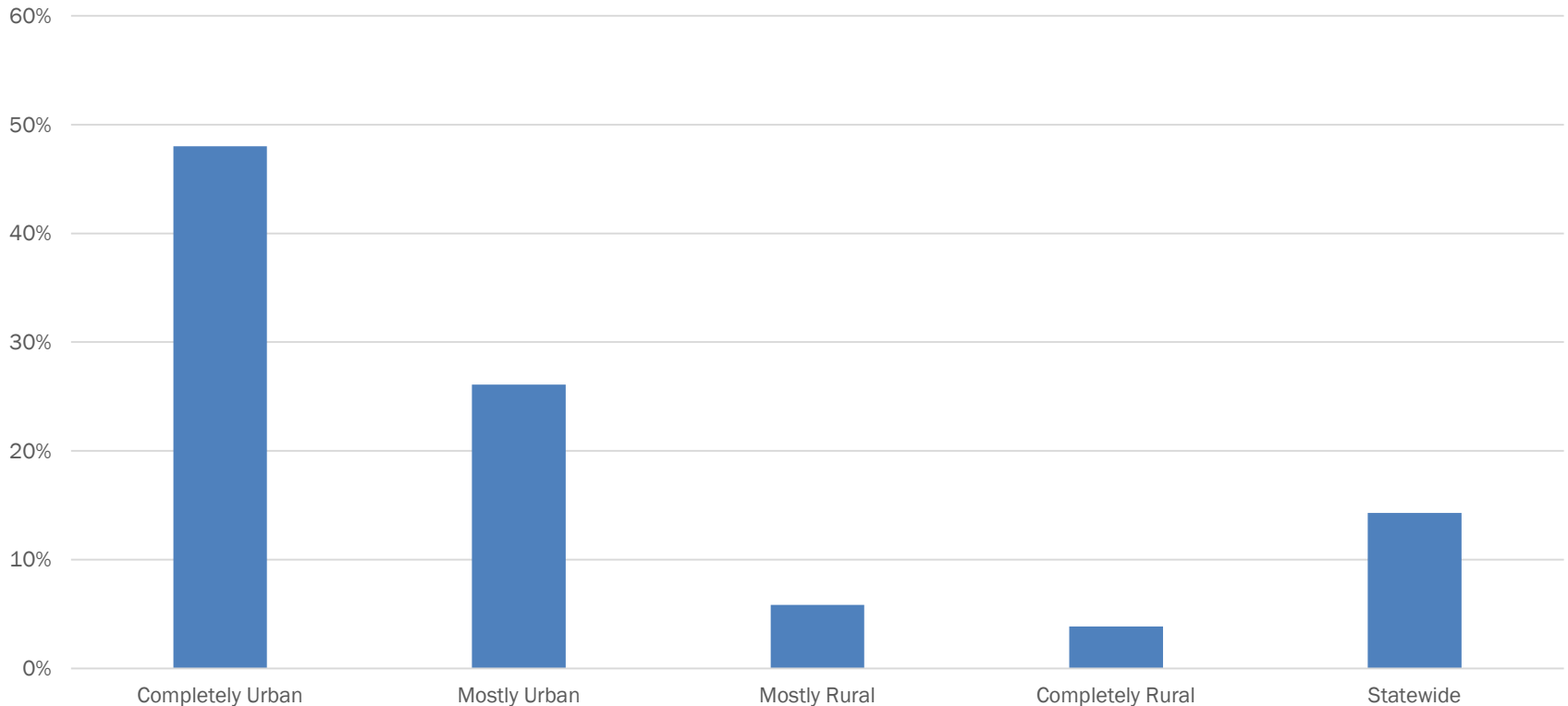
Online Services - Taxes, Services, Fines, Etc.



*Data for jurisdictions who reported having an official website

Rural areas have less access to online government information

Electronically Post Video of Meetings and Hearings



*Data is only for jurisdictions who reported having an official website

Additional Findings

- Rural areas report lack of high-speed internet and infrastructure as barriers to using technology.
- Urban areas report compliance and privacy issues as barriers to using technology.
- Urban and rural areas reported similar satisfaction levels with what's being offered online.