

# ALICE IN WHATCOM COUNTY

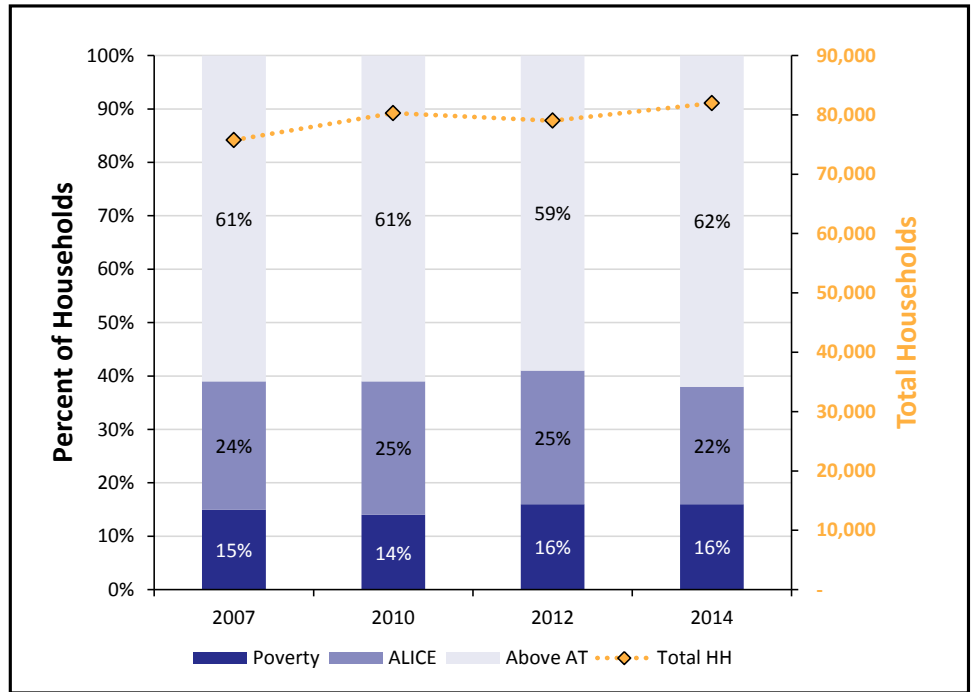
## 2014 Point-in-Time Data

**Population:** 208,351 | **Number of Households:** 81,973  
**Median Household Income:** \$53,665 (state average: \$61,366)  
**Unemployment Rate:** 8.9% (state average: 6.5%)  
**ALICE Households:** 22% (state average: 20%); **Poverty Households:** 16% (state average: 12%)

## How many households are struggling?

**ALICE** is an acronym for **A**sset Limited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mloyed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold, or AT). Combined, the number of poverty and ALICE households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs. The number of households below the ALICE Threshold changes over time; households move in and out of poverty and ALICE as circumstances improve or worsen. The Great Recession, from 2007 to 2010, caused hardship for many families. Conditions started to improve in 2010 and 2012 for some, but not for all.

**Households by Income, 2007 to 2014**



## What does it cost to afford the basic necessities?

The bare-minimum Household Survival Budget does not include any savings, leaving a household vulnerable to unexpected expenses. ALICE households typically earn above the Federal Poverty Level of \$11,670 for a single adult and \$23,850 for a family of four, but less than the Household Survival Budget.

### Household Survival Budget, Whatcom County

	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
<b>Monthly Costs</b>		
Housing	\$572	\$885
Child Care	\$-	\$1,434
Food	\$197	\$595
Transportation	\$346	\$693
Health Care	\$127	\$510
Miscellaneous	\$143	\$442
Taxes	\$184	\$401
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$1,569</b>	<b>\$4,960</b>
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,828</b>	<b>\$59,520</b>
<b>Hourly Wage</b>	<b>\$9.41</b>	<b>\$29.76</b>

Sources: 2014 Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey. ALICE Demographics: American Community Survey; the ALICE Threshold. Budget: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); ; Child Care Aware of Washington.