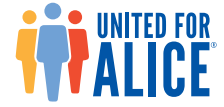


# ALICE IN WHATCOM COUNTY



## 2021 Point-in-Time Data

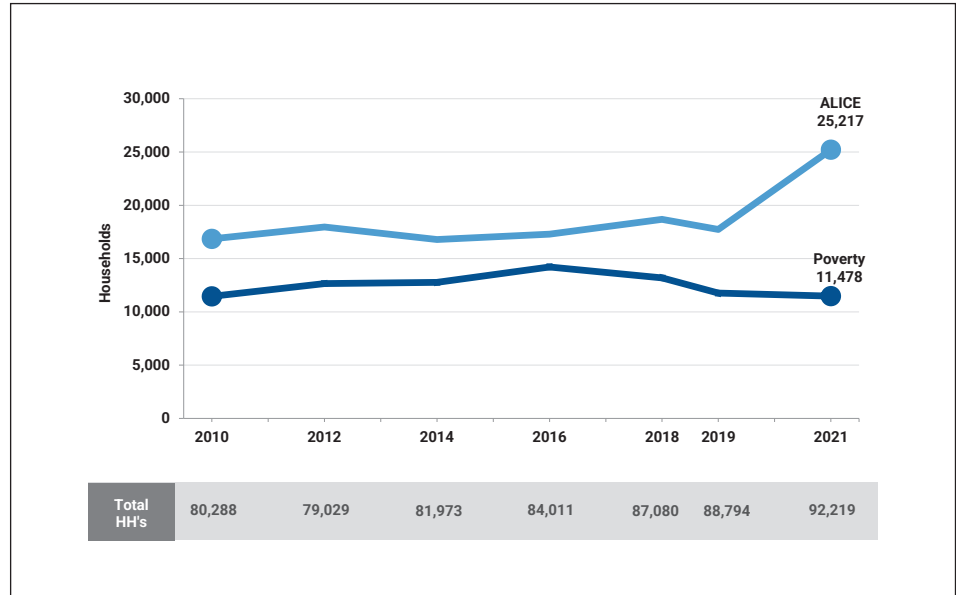
**Population:** 228,831 • **Number of Households:** 92,219 (4% change from 2019)  
**Median Household Income:** \$72,055 (state average: \$84,247)  
**Labor Force Participation Rate:** 62.6% (state average: 63.9%)  
**ALICE Households:** 27% (state average: 24%) • **Households in Poverty:** 12% (state average: 10%)

## Financial Hardship Changes Over Time

**ALICE** is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **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). Households below the ALICE Threshold – ALICE households plus those in poverty – can't afford the essentials.

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. While the COVID-19 pandemic brought employment shifts, health struggles, and school/business closures in 2021, it also spurred unprecedented public assistance through pandemic relief measures. In 2019, 29,495 households in Whatcom County were below the ALICE Threshold; in 2021 this number changed to 36,695, (a 24% change).

## Households by Income, Whatcom County, 2010–2021



Note: See an interactive version of this data at [UnitedForALICE.org/Washington](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Washington)  
 Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010–2021; American Community Survey, 2010–2021

## The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

The Household Survival Budget reflects the minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, a smartphone plan, and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college or retirement. The Household Survival Budget is calculated at the county level and varies by household composition, as costs can vary greatly depending on location and household needs.

In 2021, household costs in Whatcom County were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,880 for a single adult and \$26,500 for a family of four.

To see costs for different household compositions in Whatcom County, visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Washington](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Washington)

## Household Survival Budget, Whatcom County, 2021

	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
<b>Monthly Costs and Credits</b>		
Housing – Rent	\$753	\$953
Housing – Utilities	\$154	\$292
Child Care	–	\$2,261
Food	\$517	\$1,410
Transportation	\$340	\$816
Health Care	\$183	\$839
Technology	\$75	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$202	\$668
Tax Payments	\$297	\$1,163
Tax Credits	\$0	-\$1,267
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$2,521</b>	<b>\$7,245</b>
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,252</b>	<b>\$86,940</b>
<b>Hourly Wage*</b>	<b>\$15.13</b>	<b>\$43.47</b>

\*Wage working full-time required to support this budget

For ALICE Survival Budget sources, visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology)

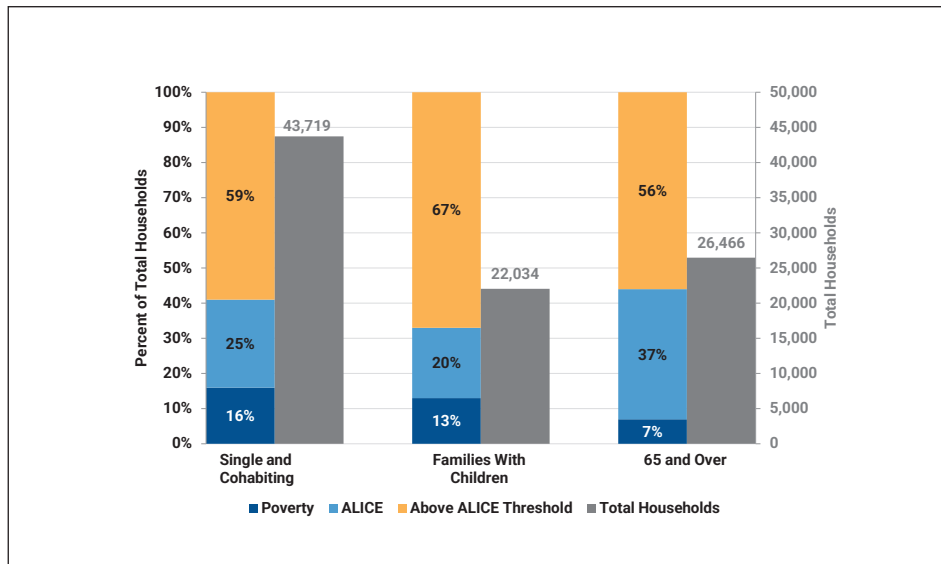
# Financial Hardship is Not Evenly Distributed

Groups with the largest number of households below the ALICE Threshold tend to also be the largest demographic groups. However, when looking at the percentage of each group that is below the ALICE Threshold, some groups are more likely to be ALICE than others.

By addressing the disparities in financial hardship by county demographics, community members can move toward more equitable solutions.

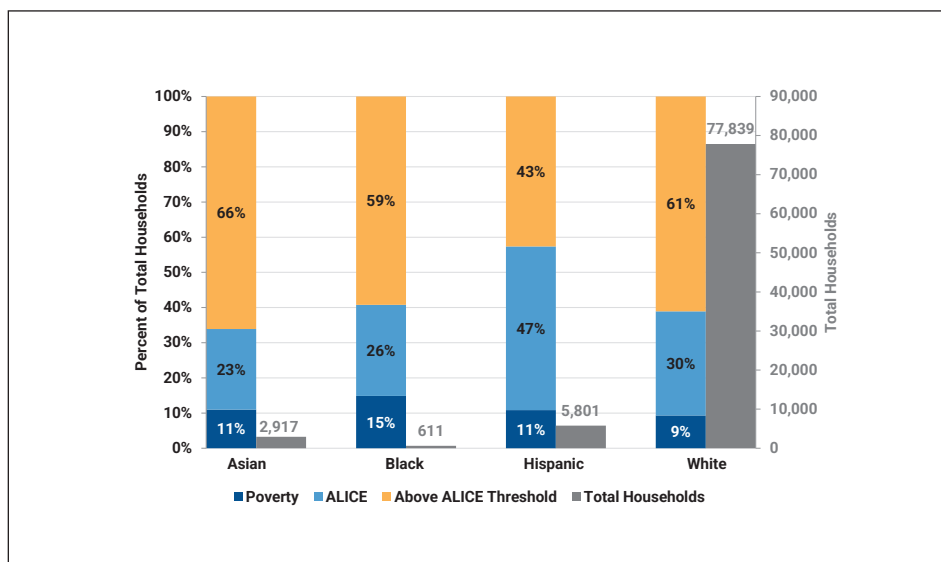
Visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Washington](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Washington) to view more national, state, and county data.

## Household Financial Status by Household Type, Whatcom County, 2021



Source: ALICE Threshold, 2021; American Community Survey, 2021

## Household Financial Status by Race/Ethnicity, Whatcom County, 2021



Note: All racial categories are for one race alone. Race and ethnicity are overlapping categories; the Asian and Black groups may include Hispanic households. The White group includes only White, non-Hispanic households. The Hispanic group may include households of any race.

Source: ALICE Threshold, 2021; American Community Survey, 2021

Whatcom County, 2021		
Town	Total Households	% ALICE & Poverty
Bellingham city	40,653	48%
Birch Bay CDP	4,570	44%
Blaine city	2,459	35%
Custer CDP	157	54%
Deming CDP	116	38%
Everson city	1,026	42%
Ferndale city	4,936	36%
Geneva CDP	997	28%
Kendall CDP	316	66%
Lynden city	5,760	34%
Maple Falls CDP	150	83%
Marietta-Alderwood CDP	1,637	44%
Nooksack city	517	39%
Peaceful Valley CDP	1,066	63%
Point Roberts CDP	636	43%
Sudden Valley CDP	2,822	22%
Sumas city	507	43%

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is 1 or 5-year averages for Incorporated Places. Totals will not match county-level numbers because some places cross county borders, data is not available for the smallest places, and county-level data is often 1-year estimates.