

ALICE IN WHATCOM COUNTY



2022 Point-in-Time Data

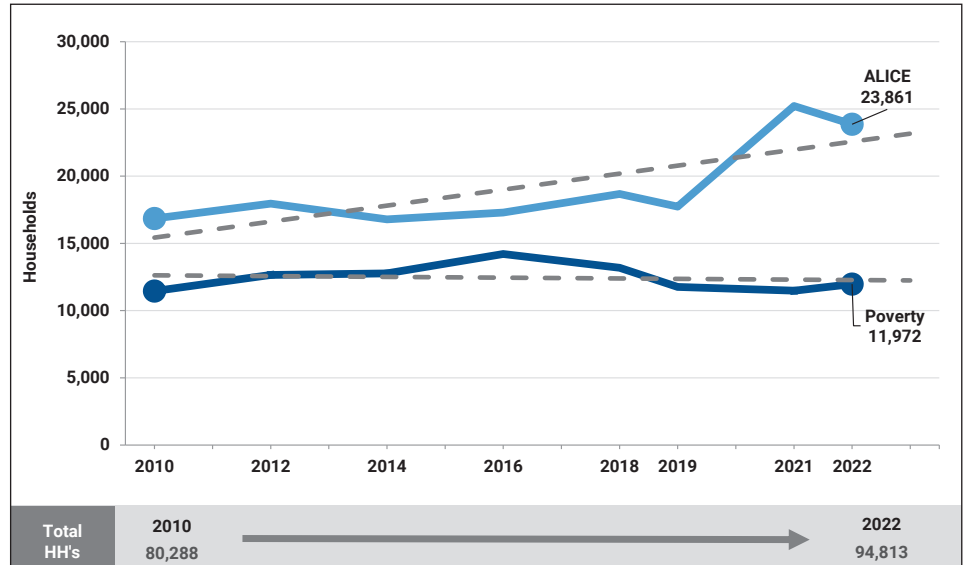
Population: 230,677 • **Number of Households:** 94,813
Median Household Income: \$79,220 (state average: \$91,306)
Labor Force Participation Rate: 63.9% (state average: 64.7%)
ALICE Households: 25% (state average: 24%) • **Households in Poverty:** 13% (state average: 10%)

Financial Hardship 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.

Households move below or above the ALICE Threshold as economic factors and circumstances change. This was especially true amid the economic crosscurrents of the COVID-19 pandemic, with higher wages, inflation, and additional pandemic assistance. By 2022, 35,833 households (38%) were below the ALICE Threshold in Whatcom County.

Households by Income, Whatcom County, 2010–2022



Note: See an interactive version of this data at UnitedForALICE.org/Washington

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010–2022; American Community Survey, 2010–2022

The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

The Household Survival Budget reflects the minimum cost to live and work in the current economy and includes housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, technology, 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 by household composition, as costs can vary greatly depending on location and household needs.

In 2022, household costs in Whatcom County were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$13,590 for a single adult and \$27,750 for a family of four.

To see costs for different household compositions in Whatcom County, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Washington

Household Survival Budget, Whatcom County, 2022		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs and Credits		
Housing – Rent	\$763	\$944
Housing – Utilities	\$163	\$310
Child Care	–	\$2,261
Food	\$555	\$1,512
Transportation	\$406	\$1,057
Health Care	\$148	\$596
Technology	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$212	\$680
Tax Payments	\$316	\$1,185
Tax Credits	\$0	-\$433
Monthly Total	\$2,649	\$8,228
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$31,788	\$98,736
Hourly Wage*	\$15.89	\$49.37

*Wage working full-time required to support this budget

For ALICE Survival Budget sources, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology

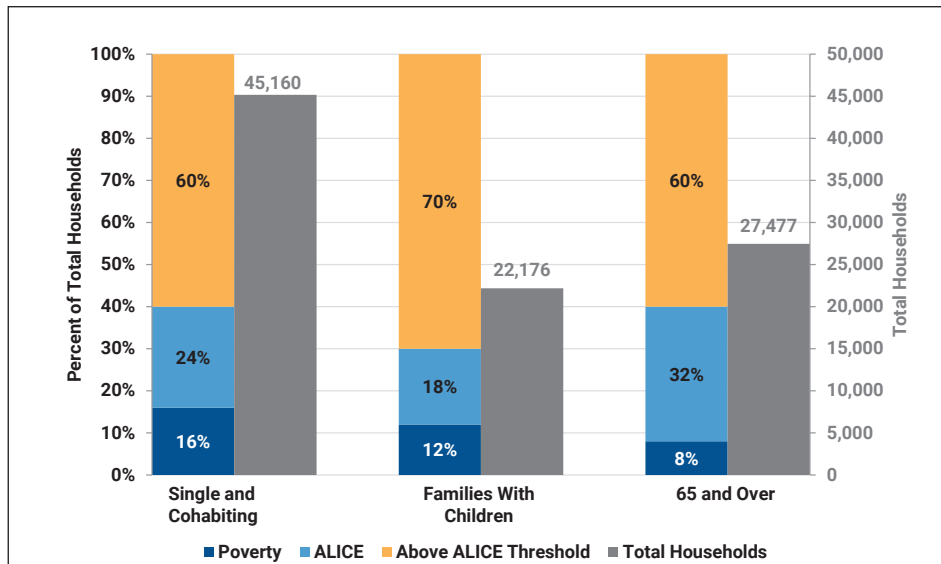
Financial Hardship is Not Evenly Distributed

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.

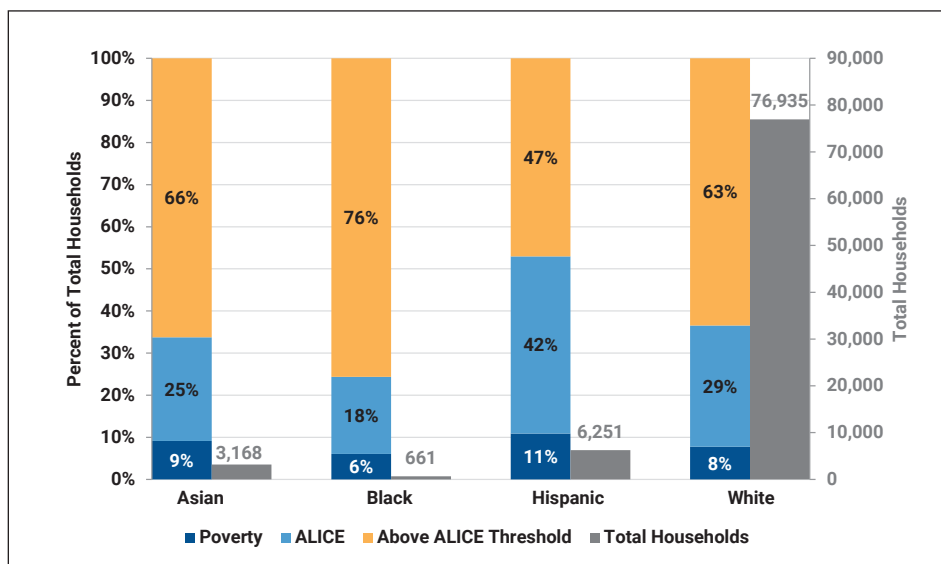
Visit UnitedForALICE.org/Washington to view more national, state, and county data.

Household Financial Status by Household Type, Whatcom County, 2022



Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2022; American Community Survey, 2022

Household Financial Status by Race/Ethnicity, Whatcom County, 2022



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

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2022; American Community Survey, 2022

Whatcom County, 2022		
Town	Total Households	% ALICE & Poverty
Bellingham CCD	52,518	43%
Bellingham city	41,746	46%
Birch Bay CDP	4,846	39%
Blaine CCD	9,230	35%
Blaine city	2,329	37%
Custer CDP	131	30%
Deming CDP	155	29%
East Whatcom CCD	3,310	47%
Everson city	1,045	32%
Ferndale CCD	12,677	29%
Ferndale city	5,179	37%
Geneva CDP	912	29%
Glacier CDP	118	86%
Kendall CDP	286	50%
Lummi Island CCD	492	34%
Lummi Reservation CCD	1,921	42%
Lynden CCD	7,124	30%
Lynden city	5,786	30%
Maple Falls CDP	146	86%
Marietta-Alderwood CDP	1,477	40%
Nooksack city	561	33%
Peaceful Valley CDP	1,036	58%
Point Roberts CCD	668	38%
Point Roberts CDP	668	38%
Sudden Valley CDP	2,914	21%
Sumas CCD	3,231	38%
Sumas city	533	39%

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is 1 or 5-year averages for Incorporated Places and 5-year averages for Census County Subdivisions. Counties and Places with populations over 65,000 use 1-year averages. Geographies with fewer than 100 households are not included. Therefore, totals will not match the county-level numbers.