

# ALICE IN WHATCOM COUNTY



## 2023 Point-in-Time Data

**Population:** 231,919 • **Number of Households:** 93,449

**Median Household Income:** \$74,884 (state: \$94,605)

**Labor Force Participation Rate:** 63.3% (state: 65.1%)

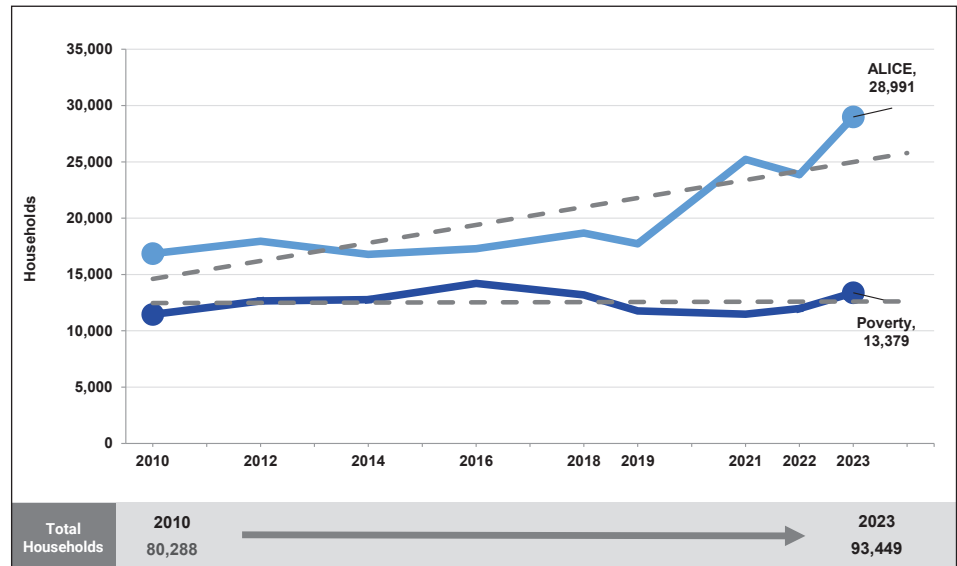
**ALICE Households:** 31% (state: 28%) • **Households in Poverty:** 14% (state: 10%)

## Trends in Financial Hardship

**ALICE** is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed – 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. The line graph to the right shows the number of ALICE and poverty-level households (solid blue lines), as well as the trend over time (dotted gray lines). **By 2023, 42,370 households (45%) were below the ALICE Threshold in Whatcom County.**

## ALICE and Poverty-Level Households, Whatcom County, 2010–2023



*Note: See an interactive version of this data at [UnitedForALICE.org/Washington](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Washington)*

*Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010–2023; American Community Survey, 2010–2023*

## 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 2023, household costs in Whatcom County were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$14,580 for a single adult and \$30,000 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, 2023

	Single Adult	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
<b>Monthly Costs</b>		
Housing	\$1,144	\$1,496
Child Care	–	\$3,168
Food	\$576	\$1,564
Transportation	\$408	\$956
Health Care	\$141	\$806
Technology	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$236	\$811
Taxes	\$352	\$1,006
Monthly Total	\$2,943	\$9,923
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$35,316	\$119,076
Hourly Wage*	\$17.66	\$59.54

*\*Full-time wage required to support this budget*

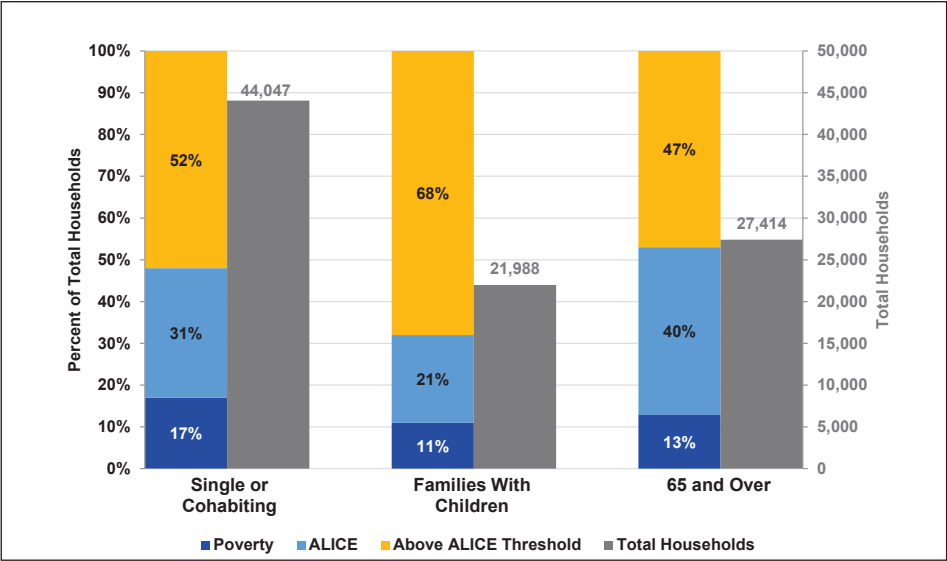
*For ALICE Household Survival Budget sources, visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology)*

# Financial Hardship is Not Evenly Distributed

The largest demographic groups in the county also tend to have the largest number of households below the ALICE Threshold. However, when looking at the percentage of each group that is below the Threshold, some groups face higher rates of hardship.

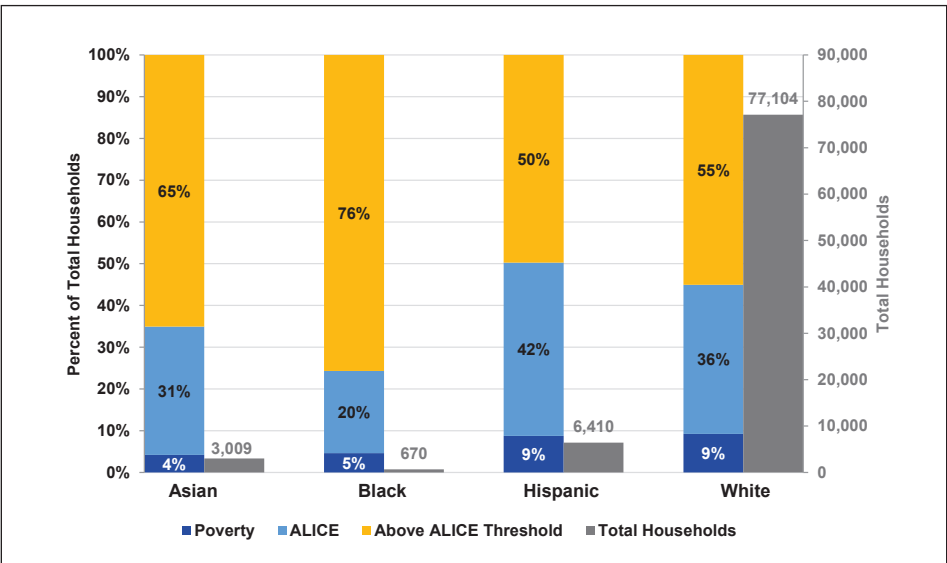
Explore more demographic data at [UnitedForALICE.org/Washington](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Washington) and visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Mapping-Tool](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Mapping-Tool) to see ALICE data for all available geographies.

## Household Financial Status by Household Type, Whatcom County, 2023



Note: Families with children include married-parent, single-female-headed, and single-male-headed households.  
Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2023; American Community Survey, 2023

## Household Financial Status by Race/Ethnicity, Whatcom County, 2023



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, 2023; American Community Survey, 2023

Whatcom County, 2023		
Town	Total Households	% ALICE & Poverty
Acme CDP	105	29%
Bellingham CCD	53,435	47%
Bellingham city	42,207	60%
Birch Bay CDP	4,742	43%
Blaine CCD	9,257	37%
Blaine city	2,425	39%
Custer CDP	113	21%
Deming CDP	224	24%
East Whatcom CCD	3,415	47%
Everson city	981	40%
Ferndale CCD	13,032	31%
Ferndale city	5,518	39%
Geneva CDP	1,005	24%
Glacier CDP	122	71%
Kendall CDP	286	59%
Lummi Island CCD	489	38%
Lummi Reservation CCD	1,839	47%
Lynden CCD	7,075	30%
Lynden city	5,865	30%
Maple Falls CDP	158	78%
Marietta-Alderwood CDP	1,527	50%
Nooksack city	518	39%
Peaceful Valley CDP	957	52%
Point Roberts CCD	677	41%
Point Roberts CDP	677	41%
Sudden Valley CDP	2,838	24%
Sumas CCD	3,192	38%
Sumas city	534	41%

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is 5-year averages for U.S. Census County Subdivisions, which include Census County Divisions (CCDs) and Places, which include Incorporated Places and Census Designated Places (CDPs). Data for counties with populations over 65,000 is 1-year estimates. Geographies with fewer than 100 households are not included. Therefore, totals will not match the county-level numbers.