

ALICE IN WORCESTER COUNTY



2021 Point-in-Time Data

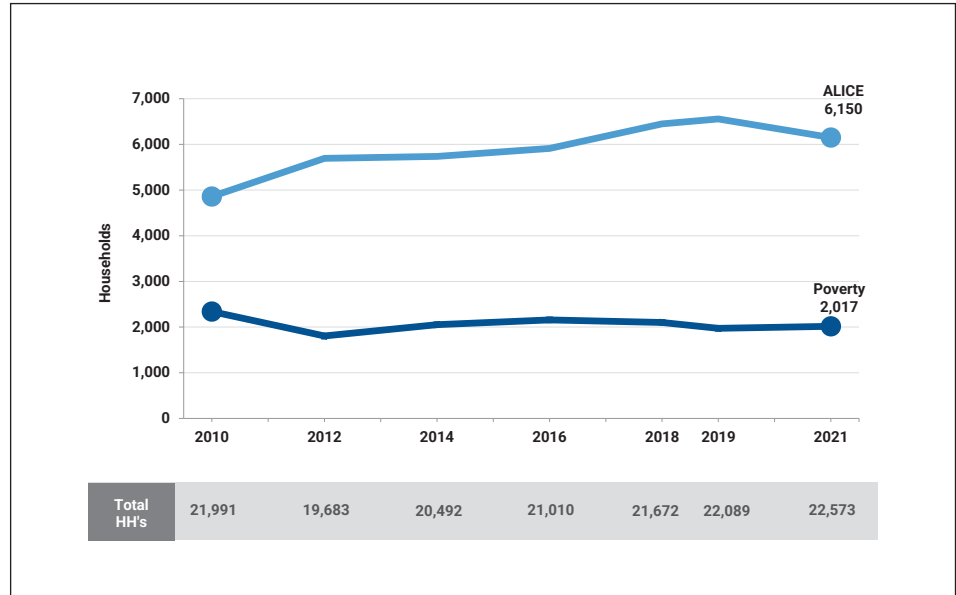
Population: 52,322 • **Number of Households:** 22,573 (2% change from 2019)
Median Household Income: \$71,262 (state average: \$90,203)
Labor Force Participation Rate: 59% (state average: 66.6%)
ALICE Households: 27% (state average: 28%) • **Households in Poverty:** 9% (state average: 10%)

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, 8,530 households in Worcester County were below the ALICE Threshold; in 2021 this number changed to 8,167, (a -4% change).

Households by Income, Worcester County, 2010–2021



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

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 Worcester 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 Worcester County, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Maryland

Household Survival Budget, Worcester County, 2021

	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs and Credits		
Housing – Rent	\$594	\$666
Housing – Utilities	\$154	\$292
Child Care	–	\$1,293
Food	\$456	\$1,242
Transportation	\$351	\$828
Health Care	\$221	\$853
Technology	\$75	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$185	\$528
Tax Payments	\$388	\$1,246
Tax Credits	\$0	-\$1,268
Monthly Total	\$2,424	\$5,790
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$29,088	\$69,480
Hourly Wage*	\$14.54	\$34.74

*Wage working full-time required to support this budget

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

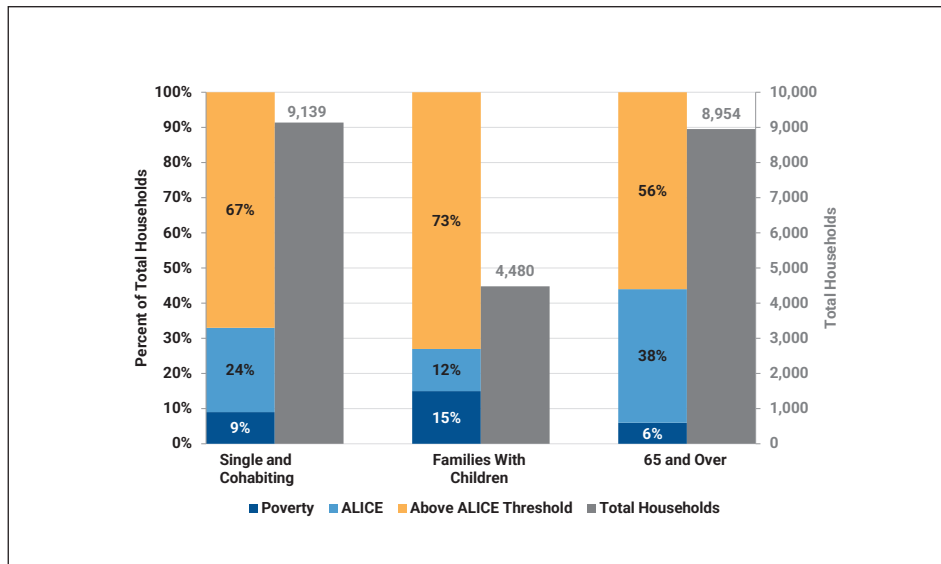
Financial Hardship is Not Evenly Distributed

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.

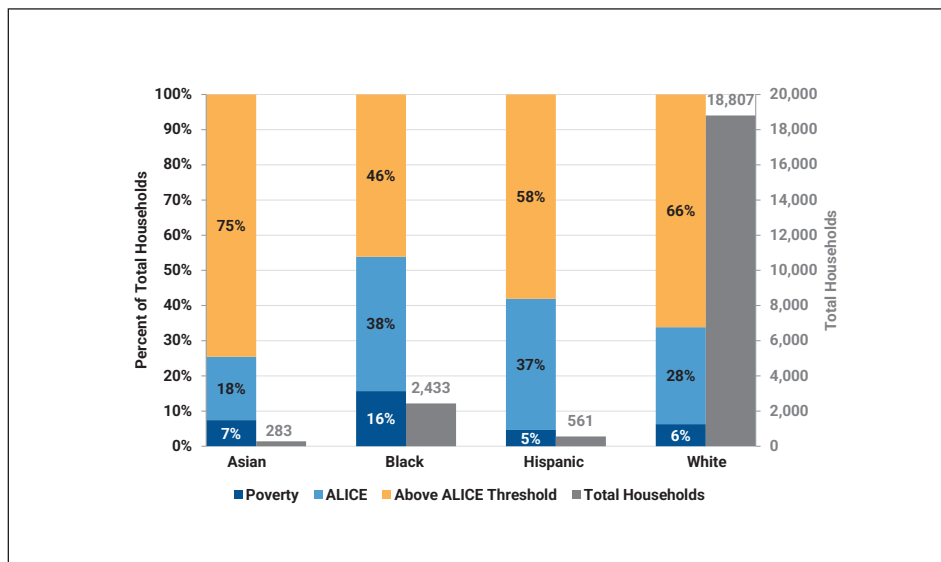
Visit UnitedForALICE.org/Maryland to view more national, state, and county data.

Household Financial Status by Household Type, Worcester County, 2021



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

Household Financial Status by Race/Ethnicity, Worcester 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

Worcester County, 2021		
Town	Total Households	% ALICE & Poverty
Berlin town	1,770	40%
Bishopville CDP	182	27%
Newark CDP	159	23%
Ocean City town	3,723	43%
Ocean Pines CDP	5,553	29%
Pocomoke City city	1,817	51%
Snow Hill town	882	50%
West Ocean City CDP	2,143	31%

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.