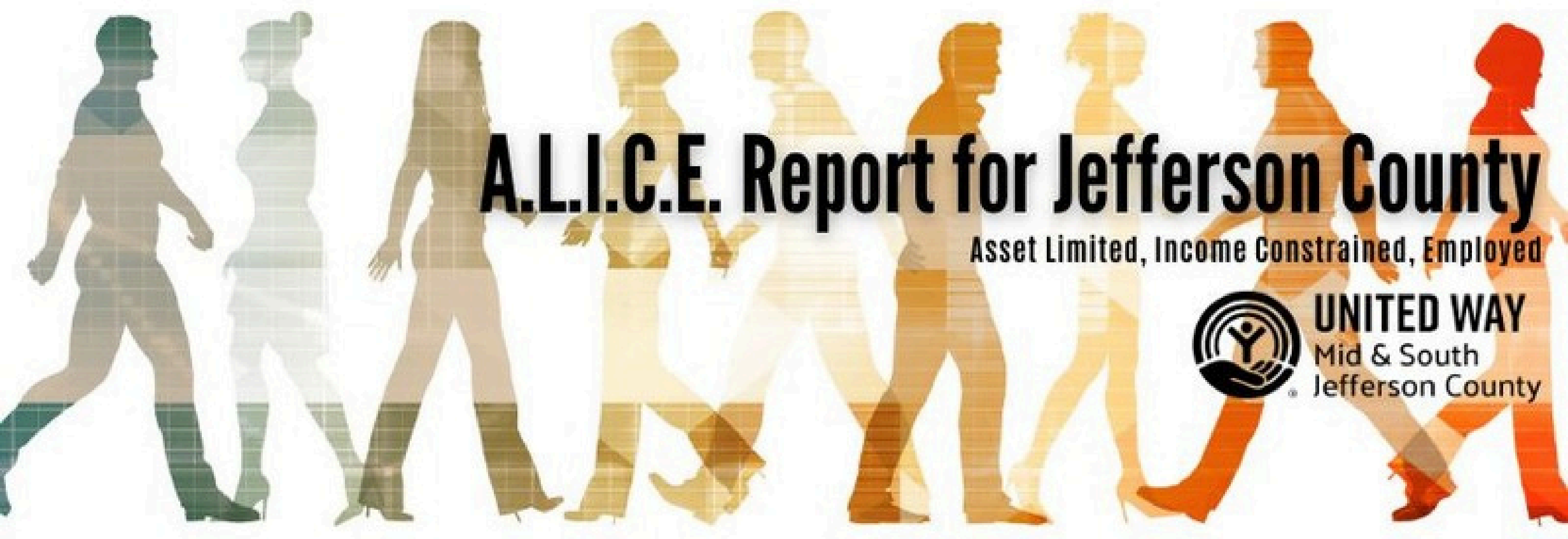


ALICE IN Jefferson County

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. While conditions have improved for some households, many continue to struggle, especially as wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan). Households below the ALICE Threshold – ALICE households plus those in poverty – can't afford the essentials.

2024 Point-in-Time-Data

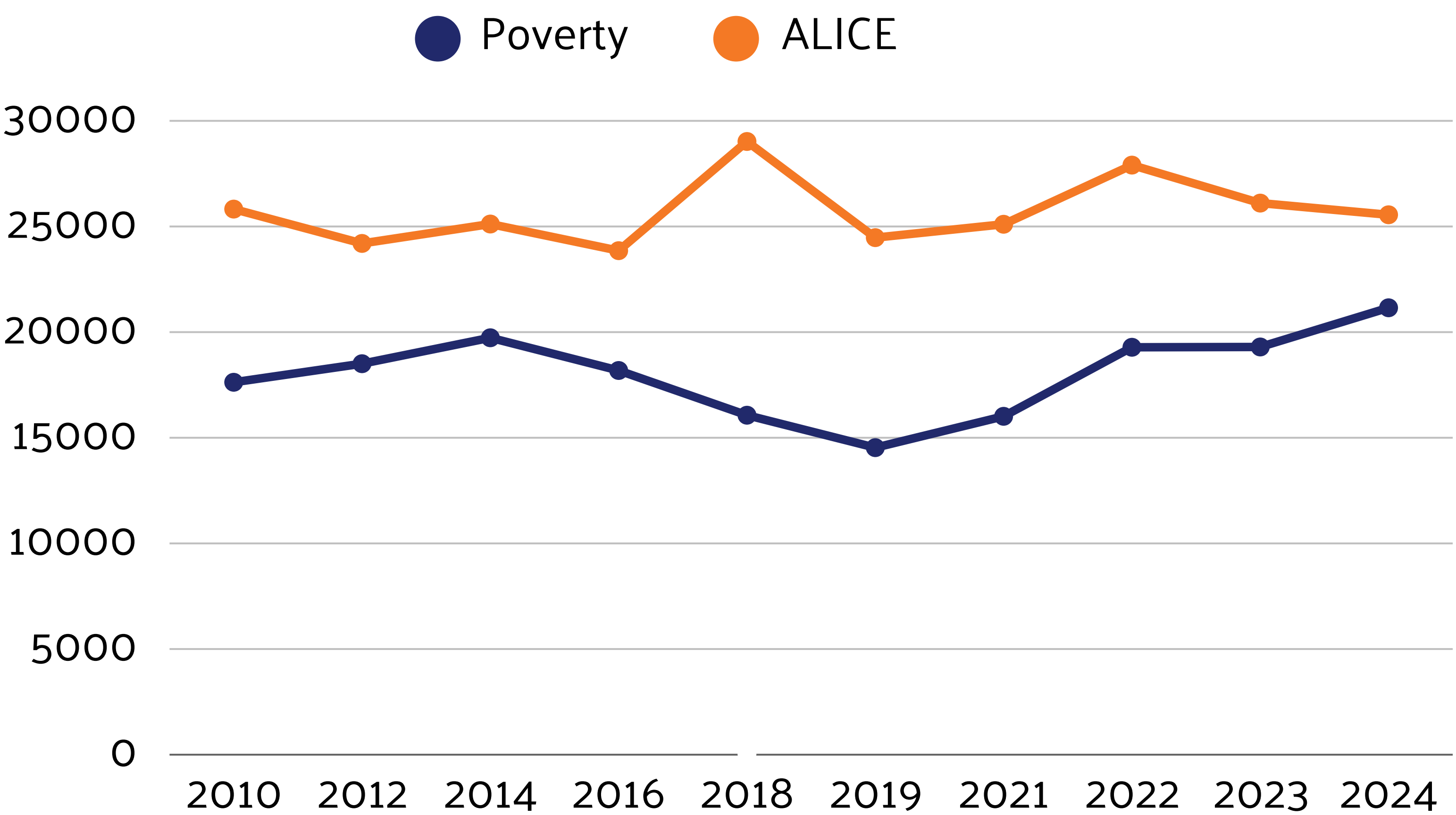
Population: 253,948
Number of Households: 95,688
Median Household Income: $59,086 (state average: $79,721
ALICE Households: 27% (state average 27%)
Households in Poverty: 22% (state average 13%)

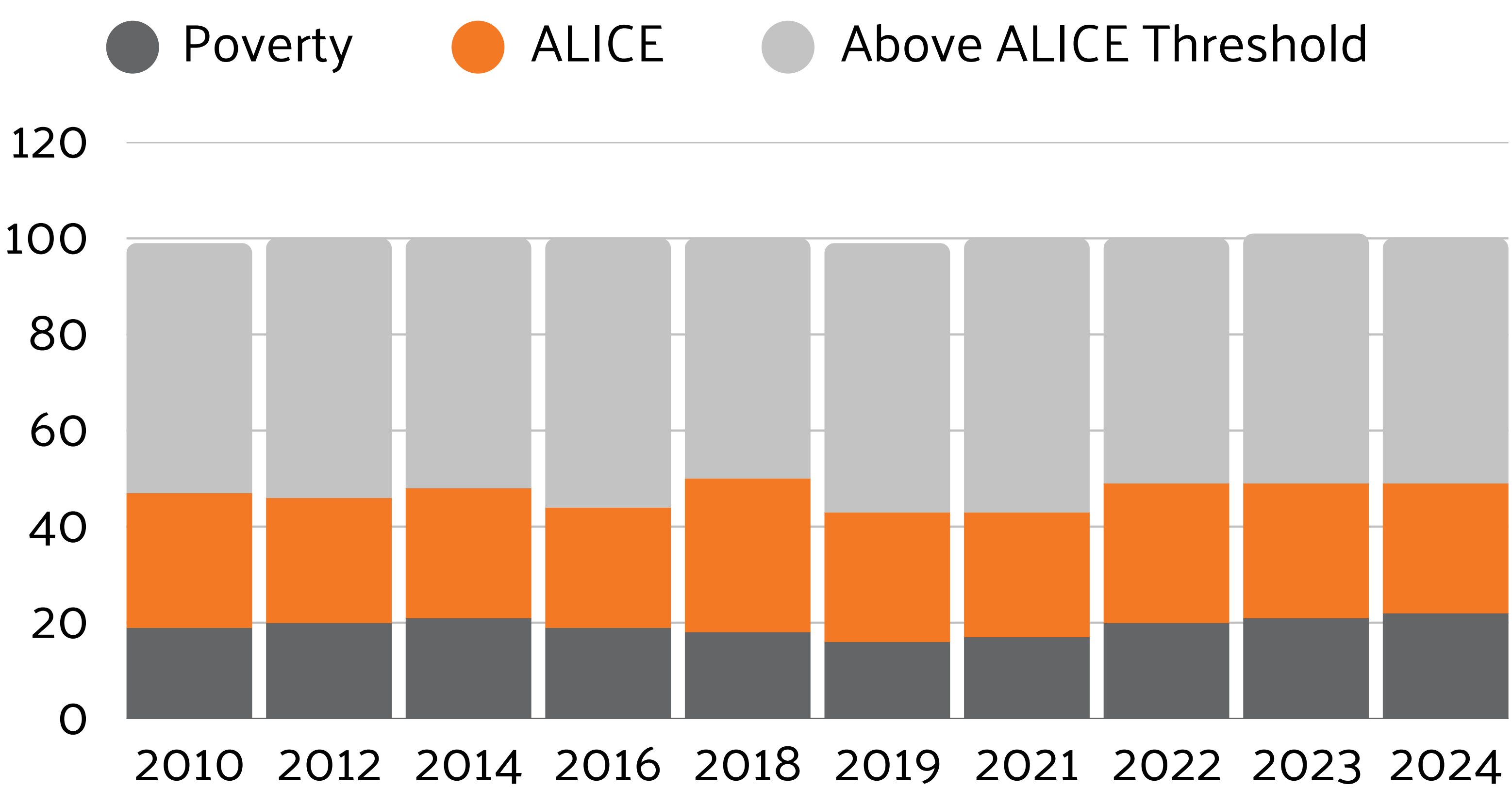
Who is ALICE?

ALICE refers to households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but cannot afford the basic cost of living in their county. Despite struggling to make ends meet, ALICE households often do not qualify for public assistance.

Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in Jefferson County

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times.





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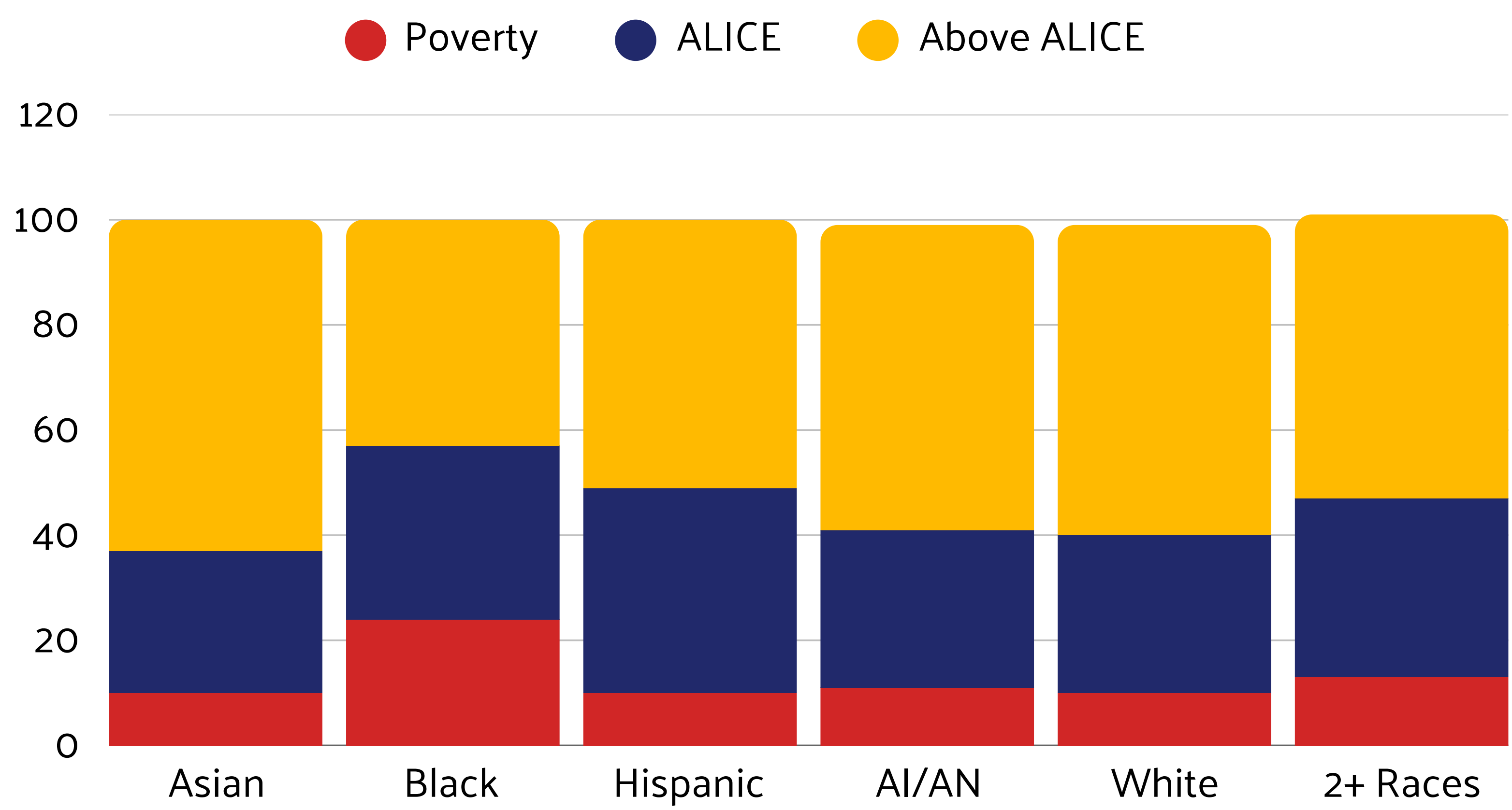
Financial Hardship is Not Equally Distributed By total number, groups with the largest population of households below the ALICE Threshold tend to also be in the largest demographic groups. However, when looking at the proportion of each group that is below the ALICE Threshold, it is clear that some groups are more likely to be ALICE than others.

Group	**% Below ALICE Threshold**
Single/Cohabiting no children	45%
Married & Children	23%
Single Female/Children	77%
Single Male/Children	60%

Group	% Below ALICE Threshold
Under 25	78%
25-44 Years	42%
45-64 Years	45%
65 and Over	54%



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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. In 2022, household costs in every County in Texas were well above the Federal Poverty Level of $14,580 for a single adult and $30,000 for a family of four.

Monthly Costs & Credits	Single Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 1 Child Child Care	2 Adults	2 Adults 2 Children	2 Adults, 2 Kids, Child Care	Single Adult 65+	2 Adults 65+
Housing	1,012	1,056	1,056	1,056	1,276	1,276	1,012	1,056
Child Care	0	192	512	0	384	1,038	0	0
Food	410	694	622	752	1,261	1,112	378	692
Transportation	382	475	475	557	828	828	321	434
Health Care	167	478	478	478	735	735	558	1,116
Technology	113	113	113	147	147	147	113	147
Misc.	208	301	326	299	463	514	238	345
Taxes	285	199	240	337	260	346	350	579
Monthly Total	2,577	3,508	3,822	3,626	5,354	5,996	2,970	4,369
Annual Total	30,924	42,096	45,864	43,512	64,248	71,952	35,640	52,428
Hourly Wage	15.46	21.05	22.93	21.76	32.12	35.19	17.82	26.21

Jefferson County Subdivision Breakout

Subdivision	Total Households	Poverty	ALICE	Above ALICE	Below ALICE
Beaumont Area	45,052	20%	30%	50%	50%
LaBelle Area	2,367	8%	27%	65%	35%
Port Arthur, Nederland, Groves, and Port Neches Areas	42,696	20%	29%	51%	49%
Sabine Pass Area	882	6%	32%	62%	38%

"ALICE can be found in every household size, age group, ethnic group, religion, every town, and neighborhood. Struggling does not discriminate."

How do Senior Citizens Relate to ALICE?

Households Headed by People Age 65 and Over

With the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, households headed by people age 65 and over are the fastest-growing age group in Texas.

In 2024, 49% of Jefferson County 65+ households were below the ALICE Threshold. While Social Security helps reduce the poverty rate for households headed by older adults, benefits have not been enough to help bring older adults to financial stability. As a result, for more than a decade, a substantial number of these households have been ALICE. In 2024, monthly costs for the ALICE age 65+ Survival Budget for one adult in Texas was $2.970; more than the average Social Security payment, and more than the monthly FPL. (Federal Poverty Level). of $1,330. With increasing costs and insufficient retirement savings, many older adults have needed to continue working.

Why Does it Matter For ALICE?

Older adults who live alone are more likely to experience feelings of loneliness and isolation, which in turn are associated with poor health outcomes, cognitive decline, and an increased risk of mortality. These adults age 65 and over – especially those who are in poor health – may also have difficulty caring for themselves and their home, contributing to added health risks over time. In addition, adults age 65 and over who are working earn less than adults younger than 65 on average and may have trouble keeping up with household expenses.

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