

2021 Point-in-Time Data

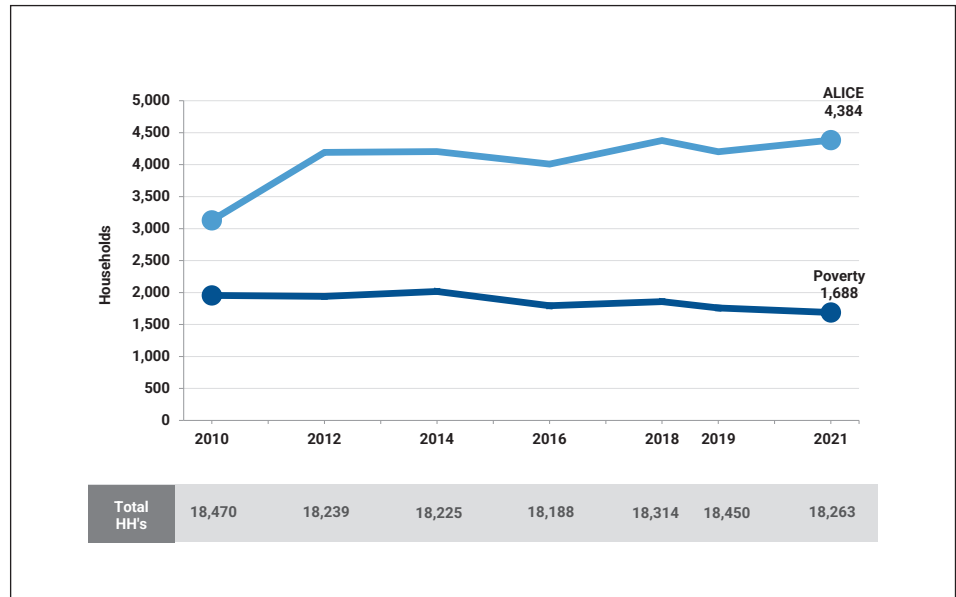
Population: 44,806 • **Number of Households:** 18,263 (-1% change from 2019)
Median Household Income: \$67,878 (state average: \$67,125)
Labor Force Participation Rate: 63% (state average: 65.1%)
ALICE Households: 24% (state average: 23%) • **Households in Poverty:** 9% (state average: 11%)

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, 5,960 households in Polk County were below the ALICE Threshold; in 2021 this number changed to 6,072, (a 2% change).

Households by Income, Polk County, 2010–2021



Note: See an interactive version of this data at UnitedForALICE.org/Wisconsin
 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 Polk 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 Polk County, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Wisconsin

Household Survival Budget, Polk County, 2021

	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs and Credits		
Housing – Rent	\$396	\$542
Housing – Utilities	\$154	\$292
Child Care	–	\$1,199
Food	\$428	\$1,166
Transportation	\$328	\$805
Health Care	\$240	\$759
Technology	\$75	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$162	\$487
Tax Payments	\$246	\$957
Tax Credits	\$0	-\$1,200
Monthly Total	\$2,029	\$5,117
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$24,348	\$61,404
Hourly Wage*	\$12.17	\$30.70

*Wage working full-time required to support this budget

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

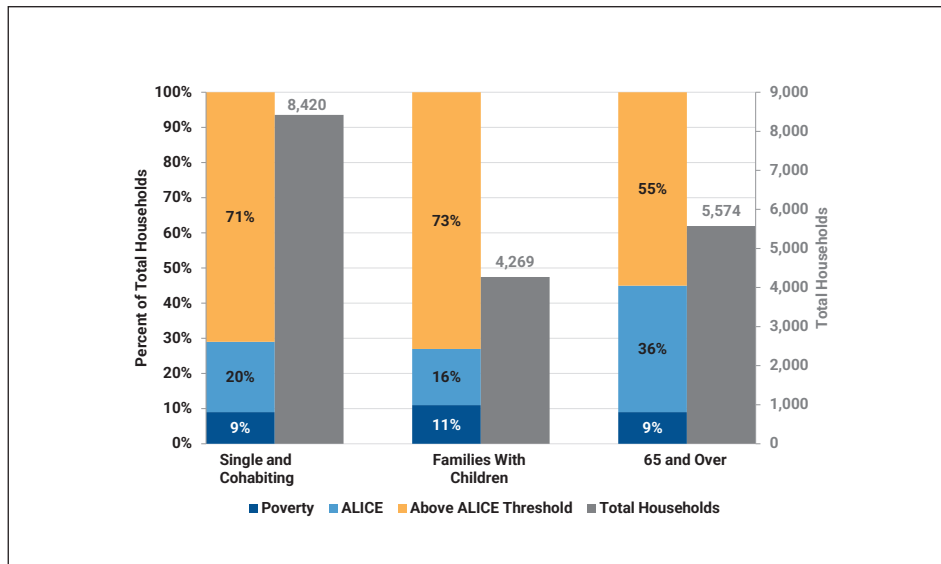
Financial Hardship is Not Evenly Distributed

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.

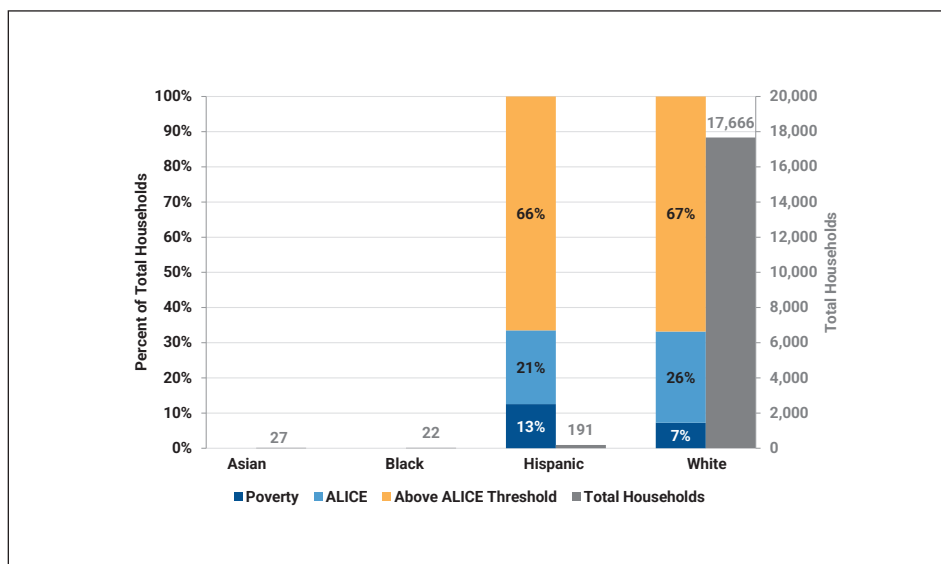
Visit UnitedForALICE.org/Wisconsin to view more national, state, and county data.

Household Financial Status by Household Type, Polk County, 2021



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

Household Financial Status by Race/Ethnicity, Polk 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

Polk County, 2021		
Town	Total Households	% ALICE & Poverty
Alden town	1,208	24%
Amery city	1,096	32%
Apple River town	424	33%
Balsam Lake village	359	54%
Balsam Lake town	604	24%
Beaver town	406	27%
Black Brook town	517	15%
Bone Lake town	327	25%
Centuria village	466	52%
Clam Falls town	237	53%
Clayton village	166	58%
Clayton town	418	36%
Clear Lake village	446	37%
Clear Lake town	312	24%
Dresser village	364	25%
Eureka town	747	25%
Farmington town	735	20%
Frederic village	451	49%
Garfield town	600	26%
Georgetown=	421	38%
Johnstown=	219	39%
Laketown=	438	33%
Lincoln town	876	28%
Lorain town	132	45%
Luck village	511	41%
Luck town	376	30%
McKinley town	123	46%
Milltown village	439	64%
Milltown =	551	28%
Osceola village	1,224	47%
Osceola town	1,125	19%
St. Croix Falls city	880	40%
St. Croix Falls town	451	32%
Sterling town	303	36%
West Sweden town	278	40%

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is 5-year averages for Census County Subdivisions. Totals will not match county-level numbers because data is not available for the smallest County Subdivisions, and county-level data is often 1-year estimates.