

# ALICE IN LEHIGH COUNTY



## 2022 Point-in-Time Data

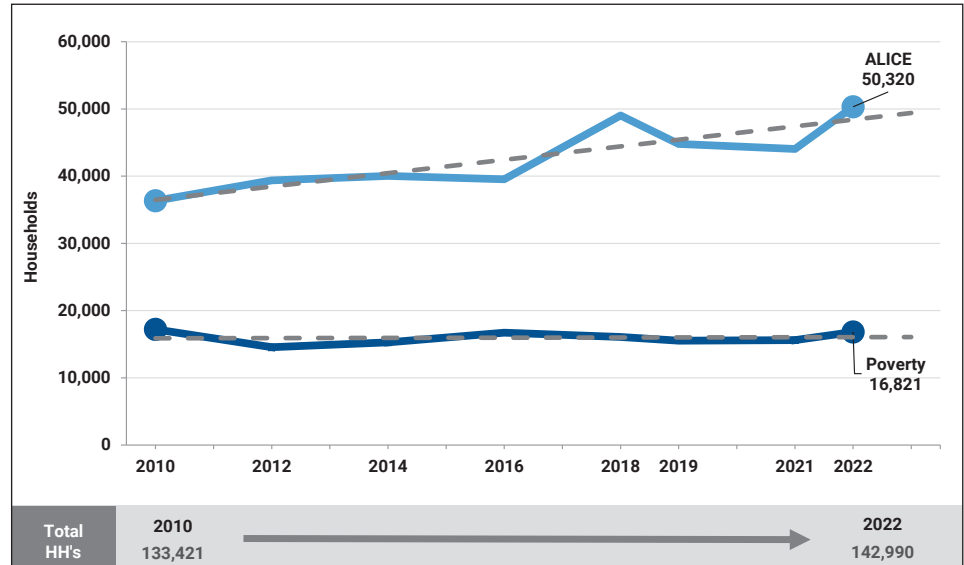
**Population:** 376,317 • **Number of Households:** 142,990  
**Median Household Income:** \$72,530 (state average: \$71,798)  
**Labor Force Participation Rate:** 66.1% (state average: 62.8%)  
**ALICE Households:** 35% (state average: 28%) • **Households in Poverty:** 12% (state average: 12%)

## 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, 67,141 households (47%) were below the ALICE Threshold in Lehigh County.

## Households by Income, Lehigh County, 2010–2022



Note: See an interactive version of this data at [UnitedForALICE.org/Pennsylvania](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Pennsylvania)  
 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 Lehigh 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 Lehigh County, visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Pennsylvania](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Pennsylvania)

## Household Survival Budget, Lehigh County, 2022

	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
<b>Monthly Costs and Credits</b>		
Housing – Rent	\$881	\$1,187
Housing – Utilities	\$163	\$310
Child Care	–	\$1,859
Food	\$493	\$1,342
Transportation	\$396	\$1,047
Health Care	\$191	\$761
Technology	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$221	\$662
Tax Payments	\$410	\$1,371
Tax Credits	\$0	-\$433
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$2,841</b>	<b>\$8,222</b>
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$34,092</b>	<b>\$98,664</b>
<b>Hourly Wage*</b>	<b>\$17.05</b>	<b>\$49.33</b>

\*Wage working full-time required to support this budget  
 For ALICE Survival Budget sources, visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology)

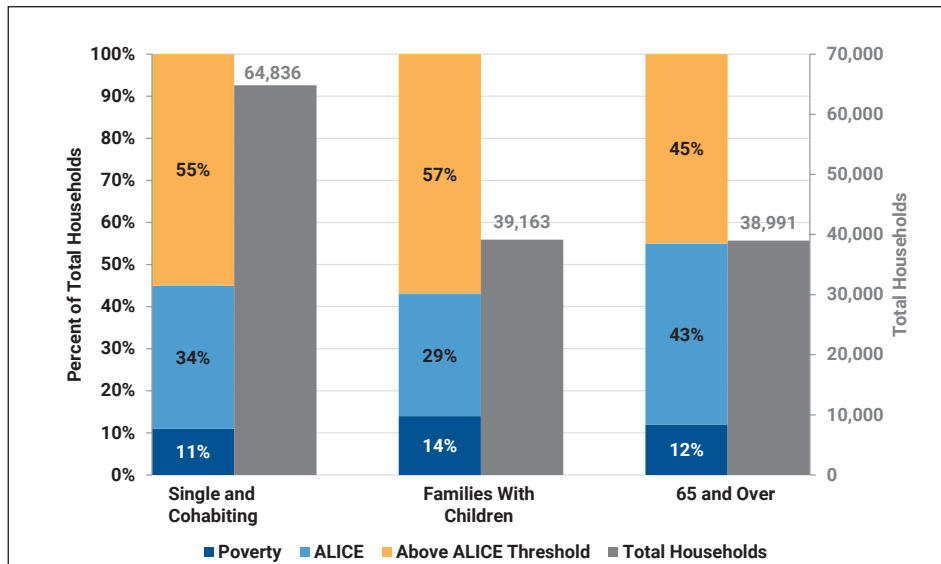
# Financial Hardship is Not Evenly Distributed

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.

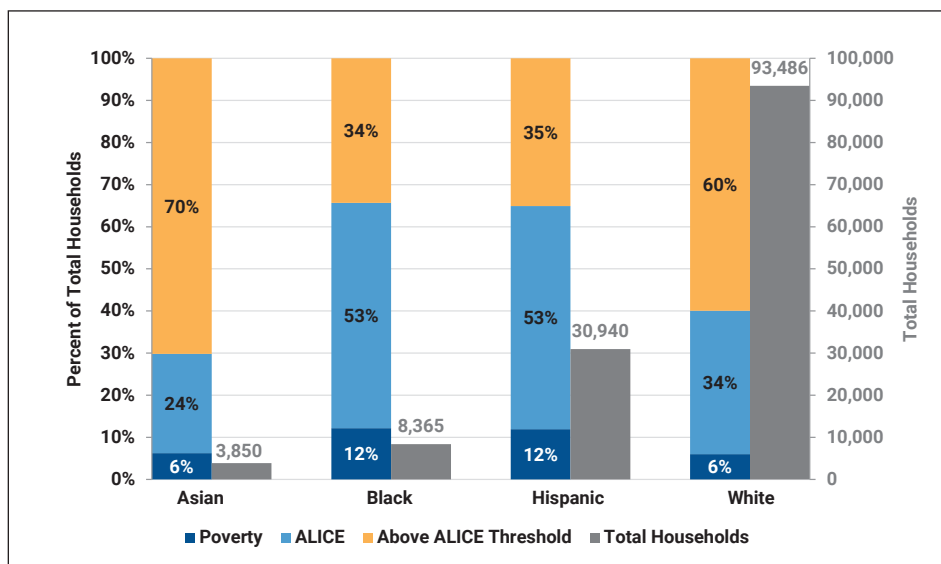
Visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Pennsylvania](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Pennsylvania) to view more national, state, and county data.

## Household Financial Status by Household Type, Lehigh County, 2022



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

## Household Financial Status by Race/Ethnicity, Lehigh 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

Lehigh County, 2022		
Town	Total Households	% ALICE & Poverty
Alburtis borough	870	28%
Allentown city	45,553	64%
Bethlehem city	8,560	49%
Catasauqua borough	2,757	51%
Coopersburg borough	1,050	50%
Coplay borough	1,437	53%
Emmaus borough	4,797	44%
Fountain Hill borough	1,942	64%
Hanover township	873	67%
Heidelberg township	1,302	35%
Lower Macungie township	12,274	25%
Lower Milford township	1,498	28%
Lowhill township	816	17%
Lynn township	1,610	44%
Macungie borough	1,448	54%
North Whitehall township	6,005	34%
Salisbury township	5,061	37%
Slatington borough	1,681	66%
South Whitehall township	8,200	34%
Upper Macungie township	9,473	24%
Upper Milford township	2,937	29%
Upper Saucon township	5,941	20%
Washington township	2,662	34%
Weisenberg township	1,832	19%
Whitehall township	11,581	49%

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is 5-year averages for Census County Subdivisions. 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.