

# ALICE IN THE CROSSCURRENTS

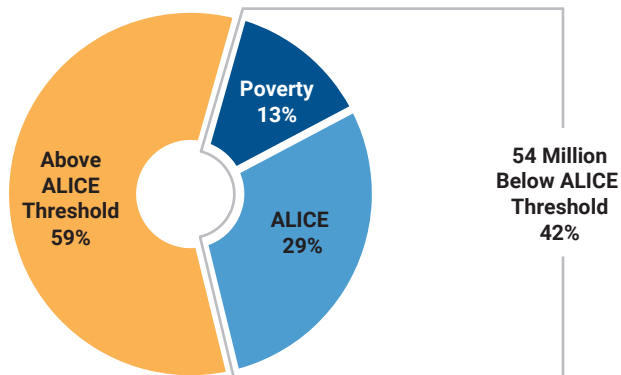
2024  
UPDATE

## AN UPDATE ON FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES

In 2022, financial hardship in the U.S. continued to be shaped by the conflicting economic forces of the pandemic, and remained substantially undercounted by official measures. These powerful crosscurrents — COVID-19, inflation, wage growth, and the expansion and expiration of [pandemic public assistance](#) — impacted how many U.S. households were below the [ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival](#).

Between 2021 and 2022, the number of households in poverty in the U.S. increased by 207,959 (remaining at 13% of all households). The number of ALICE households increased even more substantially, by 1,598,024 (remaining at 29% of all households), continuing a more than decade-long trend in the growth of this population. **In 2022, of the 129 million households in the U.S., 54 million — 42% — were below the ALICE Threshold.**

Total Households in the U.S. = 129 Million



ALICE lives in every U.S. county. And in every state, at least one-third of households were below the ALICE Threshold in 2022. Rates of financial hardship ranged from 33% of households in Alaska to 52% in Mississippi.

With the latest data from the [American Community Survey](#) (2022), the [U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey](#) (2023), and the [Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking \(SHED\)](#) (2022), this Update highlights the conflicting forces that continue to present opportunities for, and barriers to, financial stability in the U.S.

**“Between 2021 and 2022, the number of ALICE households increased, continuing a more than decade-long trend in the growth of this population.”**

### KEY TERMS

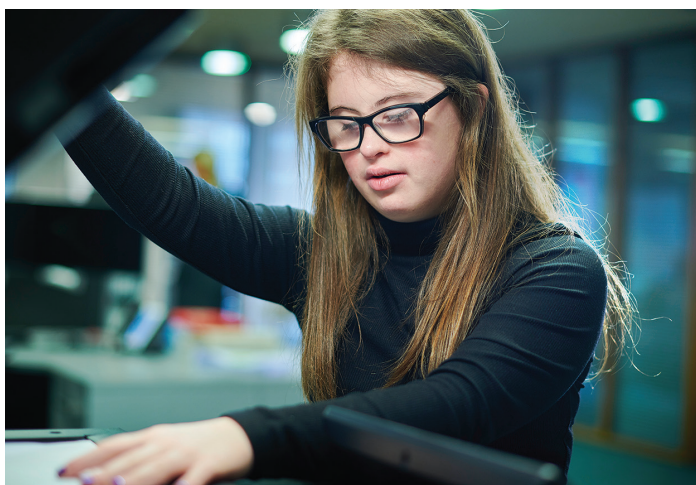
- **ALICE:** Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but cannot afford the basic cost of living in their county. Despite struggling to make ends meet, ALICE households often do not qualify for public assistance.
- **Household Survival Budget:** Reflects the minimum costs of household necessities in each county in the U.S. (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology) plus taxes, adjusted for different household types
- **ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival:** Derived from the Household Survival Budget, the minimum average income that a household needs to afford basic costs, calculated for all U.S. counties
- **Below ALICE Threshold:** Includes households in poverty and ALICE households combined
- **ALICE Essentials Index:** A measure of the average change over time in the costs of essential goods and services



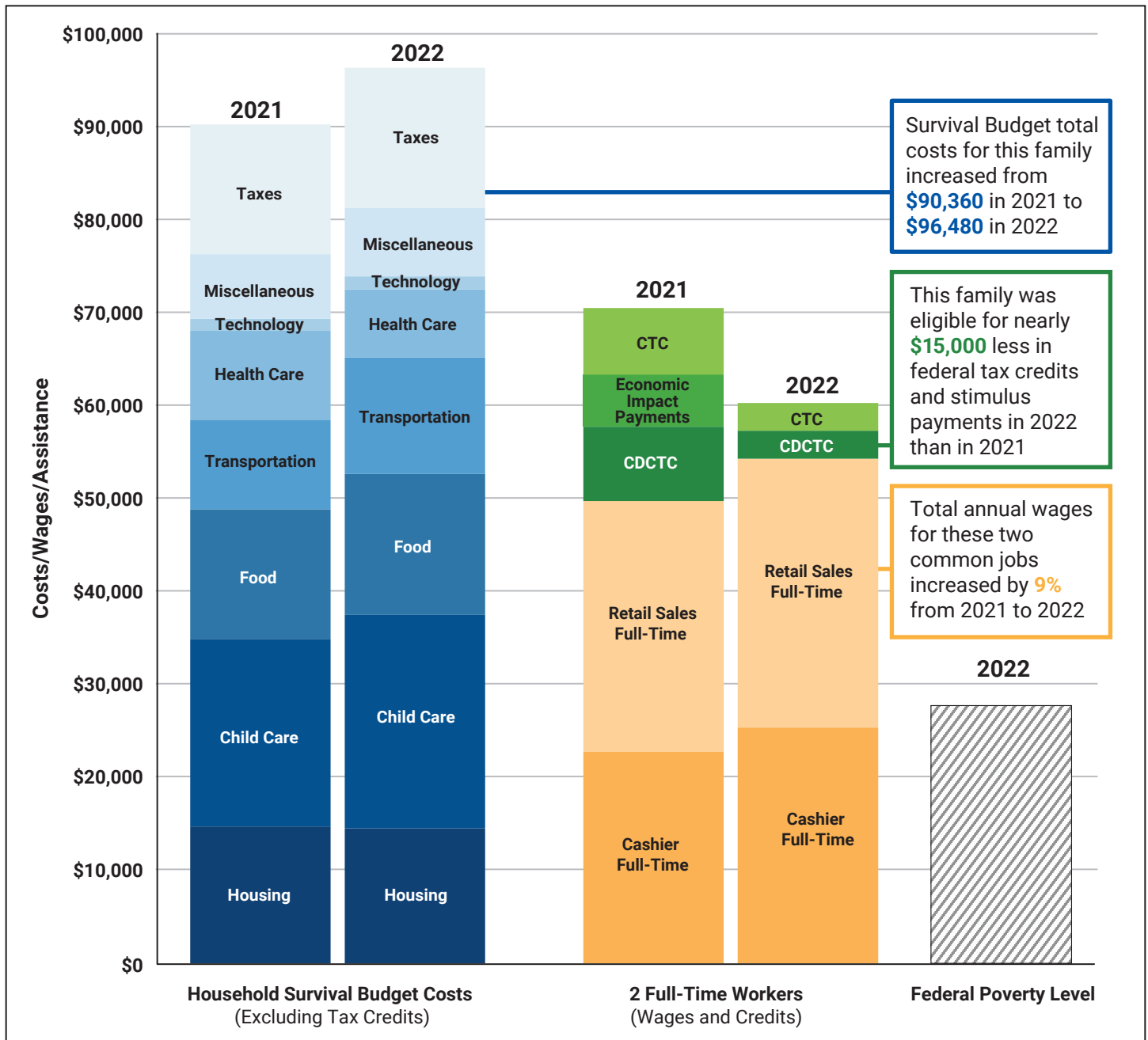
# HOUSEHOLD COSTS, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AND WAGES

Financial hardship among U.S. households shifted from 2021 to 2022 based primarily on changing costs, public assistance, and wages. Franklin County, Ohio (where costs and wages are near the median for all U.S. counties) illustrates the impact of these shifting factors:

- **Costs:** From 2021 to 2022, the ALICE Household Survival Budget for a single adult in Franklin County, Ohio increased from \$29,304 to \$30,084, well above the FPL of \$13,590. For a family of four with an infant and a preschooler, the budget (including tax credits) increased from \$75,156 to \$91,284, more than three times the 2022 FPL of \$27,750. Excluding tax credits, costs for a family of four totaled \$96,480 in 2022, up from \$90,360 in 2021. (More data on inflation is available in the [ALICE Essentials Index](#) June 2024 Update.)
- **Public assistance:** Expanded government assistance during the pandemic had the most pronounced effects on families with children. The Economic Impact Payments and the expansions of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) helped many ALICE families through 2021. But this assistance was substantially reduced when the [2021 American Rescue Plan](#) expired, stimulus payments ended, and tax credits reverted to 2020 levels. In 2022, a family of four with an infant and a preschooler in Franklin County — and all counties across the U.S. — was eligible for approximately \$15,000 less in maximum federal tax credits and stimulus payments than in 2021.
- **Wages:** As the pandemic emergency was winding down and the economy ramped back up, wages increased for most low-wage jobs. For example, the median wage for a retail salesperson in Ohio increased from \$12.99 per hour in 2021 to \$13.93 per hour in 2022.



# Comparison of Costs, Public Assistance, and Wages, Family of Four, Franklin County, Ohio, 2021 and 2022



Note: CTC = Child Tax Credit, CDCTC = Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. Full-time income is calculated based on 40 hours per week.

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2021 and 2022; Bureau of Labor Statistics—Occupational Employment Statistics, 2021 and 2022; Internal Revenue Service, tax credits—CTC, CDCTC, EITC, 2021 and 2022; U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2022 and 2023

To view ALICE Household Survival Budgets for Ohio and other states and for any household composition, start by visiting [UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Ohio](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Ohio) and scroll down to explore budgets for households in your state and county.

Across the country, between 2019 and 2022, [wages for the lowest-paid jobs increased](#) at a faster rate than at any point since 1979. This was in part due to a [tighter labor market](#) in which workers reevaluated their employment situation in the wake of the pandemic and inflation, and employers had to offer more competitive wages to attract and retain them. Minimum wage increases in some states also contributed to this effect. For example, in Ohio in 2022, the [minimum wage increased](#) from \$8.80 per hour to \$9.30 per hour, while the federal minimum wage remained at \$7.25 per hour.

While wage increases for many low-wage jobs helped fill the gap when pandemic assistance ended, they were not enough to make up for years of falling behind. In 2022, of the 20 most common occupations in the U.S. as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 60% still paid less than \$20 per hour. And of the workers in these 20 most common occupations, 33% were below the ALICE Threshold in 2022. Occupations with the largest share of ALICE workers included home health and personal care aides, cashiers, janitors and cleaners, fast food/counter workers, waiters/waitresses, and stockers/order fillers.

## Labor Characteristics of Most Common Occupations, United States, 2019–2022

Most Common Occupations	Total Employment, 2022 (BLS)	Percent of Workers Below ALICE Threshold, 2022 (ACS PUMS)	Median Hourly Wage, 2022 (BLS)	Percent Change in Wage, 2019–2022 (BLS)
Retail Salespersons	3,640,040	34%	\$14.71	21%
Personal Care Aides	3,504,230	55%	\$14.51	19%
General and Operations Managers	3,376,680	12%	\$47.16	-3%
Fast Food and Counter Workers	3,325,050	46%	\$13.43	23%
Cashiers	3,296,040	51%	\$13.58	19%
Registered Nurses	3,072,700	11%	\$39.05	11%
Laborers and Movers, Hand	2,934,050	40%	\$17.36	22%
Customer Service Representatives	2,879,840	34%	\$18.16	9%
Stockers and Order Fillers	2,842,060	41%	\$16.45	25%
Office Clerks, General	2,517,350	31%	\$18.29	12%
Janitors and Cleaners	2,148,350	49%	\$15.38	17%
Waiters and Waitresses	2,122,210	45%	\$14.00	27%
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,984,180	33%	\$24.00	10%
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	1,826,710	25%	\$19.71	9%
Bookkeeping and Auditing Clerks	1,550,750	22%	\$22.05	11%
Software Developers	1,534,790	6%	\$61.18	N/A
Office and Admin Support Supervisors	1,495,440	18%	\$29.51	8%
Maintenance and Repair Workers	1,485,990	28%	\$21.62	15%
Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	1,454,130	35%	\$17.93	15%
Accountants and Auditors	1,402,420	10%	\$37.50	9%

Note: ACS PUMS = American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample. Occupation titles and percent of workers below the ALICE Threshold come from ACS PUMS. ALICE Threshold status is determined by comparing workers' household income to the Household Survival Budget for their household composition and location. Employment and wage numbers are from BLS and are matched to the closest ACS PUMS occupation title (which are generally broader than those in BLS). The 2019 median wages for Software Developers are missing/renamed in the Bureau of Labor Statistics—Occupational Employment Statistics dataset, therefore we cannot calculate the percent change in wage, 2019–2022.

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2022; Bureau of Labor Statistics—Occupational Employment Statistics, 2022; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, PUMS, 2019 and 2022

To see the most common occupations for workers below the ALICE Threshold in your community, visit [UnitedForALICE.org/ALICE-EVD](https://UnitedForALICE.org/ALICE-EVD). For more data on jobs by hourly wages and full-time, part-time, and hourly work schedules, select your state from [UnitedForALICE.org/National-Overview](https://UnitedForALICE.org/National-Overview).

# Financial Hardship Over Time

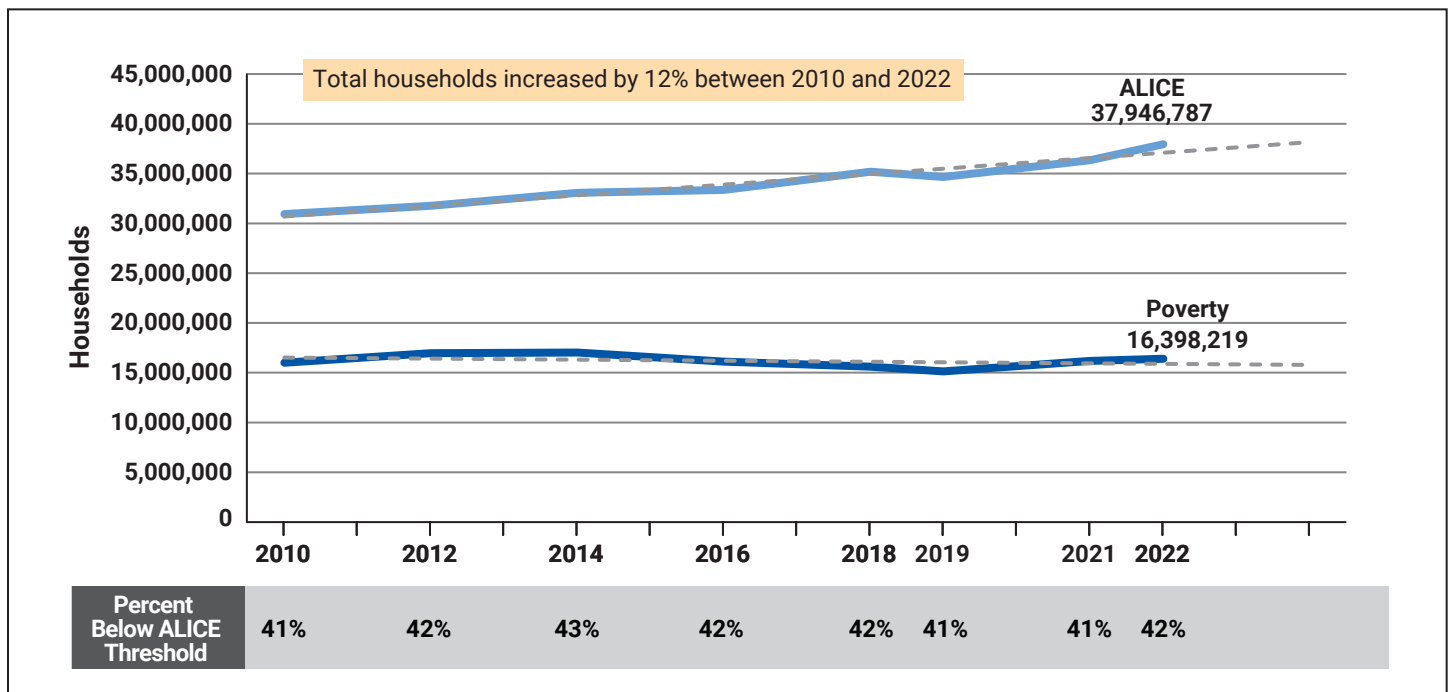
Despite small ups and downs in rates of financial hardship since the end of the Great Recession (2010–2022), the trend is clear: **The number of ALICE households in the U.S. has been steadily growing.** During this period, the total number of households in the U.S. increased by 12%, the number of households in poverty increased by 2%, and the number of ALICE households increased by 23%. By 2022, 13% (16 million) of all households were below the FPL, and 29% (38 million) of all households were ALICE – a combined 42% (54 million) of households struggling to make ends meet.

Zooming in to the period around the COVID-19 pandemic (2019–2022), there was surprisingly little change in the rate

of financial hardship in the U.S. (41% of households were below the ALICE Threshold in 2019 and 42% in 2022). Yet the number of ALICE households continued to trend upward, both at the national level and in all but four states.

This consistent trend – a growing number of households that are struggling financially, often ineligible for public assistance, and undercounted by official measures – represents a major vulnerability in our economic system. It also suggests that overall social and economic policies are falling short in addressing the root causes of financial instability.

## Households by Income, United States, 2010–2022



Note: The gray dashed trend lines in this figure highlight the general direction of the point-in-time data for the years shown. These lines indicate whether the numbers of ALICE and Poverty-Level households have been generally increasing, decreasing, or remaining flat. The ALICE trend line is statistically significant at  $p=0.0002$ ; however, the Poverty trend line is not statistically significant, and caution should be used when making predictions. The ALICE trend upward was significant in all states except Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010–2022; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010–2022

To see additional data on financial hardship over time, visit [UnitedForALICE.org/National-Overview](https://www.unitedforalice.org/national-overview)

# SPOTLIGHT ON ALICE DEMOGRAPHICS

## Families With Children

While recent attention has focused on the rising [Supplemental Poverty Rate](#) for children following the expansion and reversal of Child Tax Credits during and after the pandemic, longer-term trends — specifically, the decline in total families with children and the rise in ALICE households with children — tell a different story.

The total number of households with children in the U.S. has declined (down 3% from 2010 to 2022). This trend has been driven by married-parent households, which fell in number from 23.3 million in 2010 to 22.8 million in 2022 (down 2%), and single-female-headed households, which fell from 8.5 million in 2010 to 7.8 million in 2022 (down 9%). At the same time, the number of single-male-headed households

increased, from 2.6 million in 2010 to 2.9 million in 2022 (up 13%).

The number of U.S. households with children in poverty has also been declining over the past decade. In contrast, the number of ALICE households with children has increased, for both married-parent and single-parent families.

By 2022, 37% of families with children in the U.S. were below the ALICE Threshold. And longstanding disparities in financial hardship by household type remained: 76% of single-female-headed families and 58% of single-male-headed families were below the ALICE Threshold in 2022, compared to 21% of married-parent families.

## Households With Children, United States

	Married-Parent	Single-Female-Headed	Single-Male-Headed
<b>Percent Change 2010 to 2022</b>			
Total Households	▼ Decreased 2%	▼ Decreased 9%	▲ Increased 13%
Households in Poverty	▼ Decreased 30%	▼ Decreased 22%	▼ Decreased 16%
ALICE Households	▲ Increased 12%	▲ Increased 14%	▲ Increased 35%
<b>Percent Below ALICE Threshold, 2022</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>58%</b>

*Note: Poverty rates for families with children differ from rates for individual children, in part due to different surveys and in part because there are often multiple children in a single household, which can accentuate swings.*

*Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010–2022; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010–2022*

### THE COST OF CHILD CARE

Child care remains one of the highest Survival Budget costs for households with children, and the [child care system](#) is still feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Provider shortages and lack of affordable care present fewer options for parents. According to the October 2023 Household Pulse Survey, when families in the U.S. were asked what they did when child care was closed, unavailable, or unaffordable, the most common responses for respondents below the ALICE Threshold were to cut work hours (34%), take unpaid leave (31%), or supervise one or more children while working (21%).

# Households Headed by People Age 65 and Over

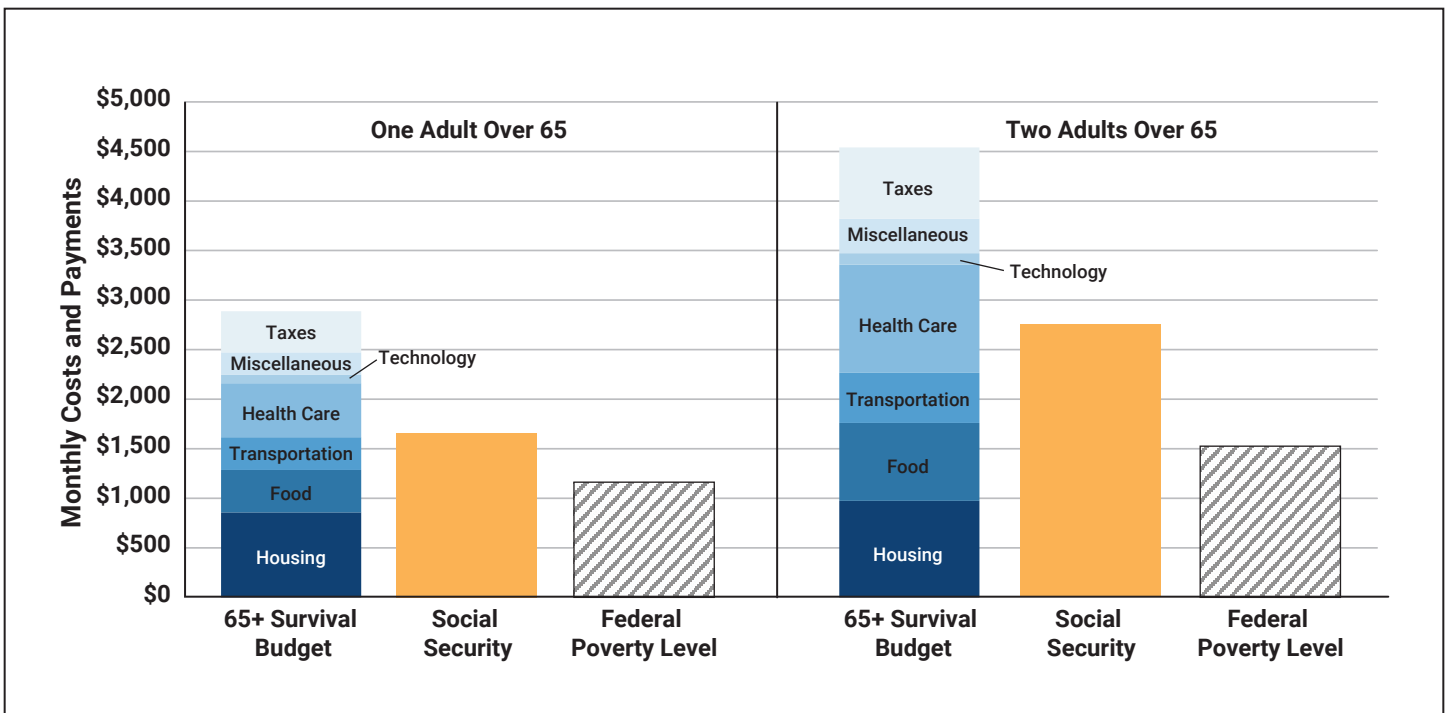
With the [aging of the Baby Boomer generation](#), households headed by people age 65 and over are the fastest-growing age group in the U.S. (up 42% between 2010 and 2022). They are also the age group with the most substantial increase in the number of households below the ALICE Threshold (up 39% during the same period).

In 2022, half (51%) of the nation's 65+ households were below the ALICE Threshold (18 million). While Social Security helps [reduce the poverty rate for households headed by older adults](#) (13% in the U.S. in 2022), benefits have not been enough to [cover the costs](#) in the ALICE 65+ Survival Budget and help bring older adults to financial stability. As a result, for more than a decade, a substantial number of these households have been ALICE (39% in 2022). In 2022, monthly

costs for the ALICE 65+ Survival Budget for one adult in the U.S. ranged from \$767 more than the [average Social Security payment](#) in Arkansas to \$2,780 more in Washington, D.C. And in Franklin County, Ohio, where household expenses are close to the national median, the monthly costs for the 65+ Survival Budget for one adult were \$827 more than the [average Social Security payment](#) and \$1,321 more than the FPL.

With increasing costs and insufficient retirement savings, many older adults have needed to continue working. In 2022, nearly 16.7 million people age 65 and over living below the ALICE Threshold in the U.S. did not have retirement savings beyond Social Security, and nearly 2.4 million were working.

## Monthly ALICE 65+ Survival Budget Total, Average Monthly Social Security Payments, and the Federal Poverty Level, Franklin County, Ohio, 2022



Sources: ALICE 65+ Survival Budget, 2022 (see the ALICE [Methodology](#) for details); Social Security Administration, 2022

To view ALICE Household Survival Budgets for Ohio and other states and for 65+ and other household compositions, start by visiting [UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Ohio](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Ohio) and scroll down to explore budgets for households in your state and county.

# Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous Households

Rates of financial hardship differ substantially by race/ethnicity in the U.S. due to [persistent systemic racism](#), [discrimination](#), and [geographic barriers](#) that limit many families' access to resources and opportunities for financial stability. In 2022, 59% of Black, 55% of American Indian/Alaska Native, 52% of Hispanic, and 48% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander households, as well as 48% of households headed by someone of Two or More Races, were below the ALICE Threshold in the U.S., compared to 37% of White and 35% of Asian households. The challenges of the pandemic also disproportionately impacted Black and Hispanic households, especially with regard to health and employment.

- **Health:** According to the Federal Reserve SHED (October 2022), across the U.S., 32% of Black and 37% of Hispanic respondents reported that during the previous year they went without health care (prescription medicine, seeing a doctor, mental health care, or dental care) because they couldn't afford it, compared to 24% of White respondents. Rates were higher for those below the ALICE Threshold, yet with smaller racial/ethnic gaps (45% for Hispanic respondents below the Threshold and 38% for both Black and White respondents below the Threshold). With these lapses in care and [greater exposure to risk in on-site essential jobs](#), [rates of infection and death due to COVID-19](#) were higher among American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, and Hispanic people than among White people throughout most of the pandemic.
- **Employment:** Black and Hispanic workers were more likely than White workers to experience [disruption in employment](#) during the pandemic. And gaps in employment persisted: As recently as the fourth quarter of 2023, the [unemployment rate](#) among people age 16+ in the U.S. was markedly higher for Black workers (5.8%) and Hispanic workers (4.8%) than for White workers (3.0%). Illinois had the highest Black unemployment rate (10.7%), New York had the highest Hispanic unemployment rate (6.5%), and Nevada and California had the highest White unemployment rate (4.5% each).





# Household Financial Status and Key Demographics, United States, 2022

	Total	Below ALICE Threshold	<span style="color: #0056b3;">■</span> Poverty <span style="color: #4f81bd;">■</span> ALICE <span style="color: #ffc000;">■</span> Above ALICE Threshold		
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	128,946,680	54,345,006	13%	29%	58%
<b>AGE</b>					
Under 25 Years	5,223,647	3,585,456	32%	37%	31%
25 to 44 Years	42,320,341	16,021,949	12%	26%	62%
45 to 64 Years	46,300,163	16,753,387	11%	25%	64%
65 Years and Over	35,102,529	17,984,214	13%	39%	49%
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>					
American Indian/ Alaska Native	897,531	496,971	14%	41%	45%
Asian	6,596,689	2,307,628	8%	27%	65%
Black	15,550,514	9,140,886	17%	42%	41%
Hispanic	18,348,441	9,536,177	10%	42%	48%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	174,365	83,541	10%	38%	52%
Two or More Races	10,404,539	5,006,024	10%	38%	52%
White	82,683,877	30,873,846	7%	30%	63%
<b>HOUSEHOLD TYPE</b>					
Married With Children	22,813,384	4,682,106	6%	14%	79%
Single-Female- Headed With Children	7,783,078	5,888,644	39%	36%	24%
Single-Male-Headed With Children	2,920,821	1,682,418	19%	38%	42%
Single or Cohabiting, Under 65, no Children	60,327,003	24,107,759	12%	28%	60%
<b>RURAL/URBAN</b>					
Rural	18,934,676	8,544,662	15%	30%	55%
Urban	110,012,004	45,800,344	12%	29%	58%

Note: The groups shown in this figure are based on head of household and overlap across categories. Within the race/ethnicity category, all racial categories except Two or More Races are for one race alone. Race and ethnicity are overlapping categories; in this Update, the American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian (includes other Pacific Islanders), and Two or More Races groups may include Hispanic households. The White group includes only White, non-Hispanic households. The Hispanic group may include households of any race. Because household poverty data is not available for the American Community Survey's race/ethnicity categories, annual income below \$15,000 is used as a proxy. Counties are defined as rural or urban based on the USDA's designation of metropolitan or non-metropolitan at the census tract level. Counties with 50% or more of the population in metropolitan tracts are designated as urban; those with 50% or more of the population in non-metropolitan tracts are designated as rural.

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

# ALICE REMAINS IN THE CROSSCURRENTS

Many ALICE households face [ongoing distress](#) because they have not recovered from the Great Recession, debt accumulation, a job loss, or other major challenges. Many are working hard and still struggling to find safe housing, quality child care, nutritious food, accessible health care, and reliable transportation that they can afford. Rising wages and pandemic assistance mitigated some of the financial impact of business disruptions, a health crisis, and rising inflation that characterized the past few years. Yet 42% of households in the U.S. were still struggling in 2022. Insights from the Federal Reserve SHED and the Household Pulse Survey help explain why:



## Inflation is Hitting ALICE Harder

- **The cost of basics** is increasing faster than the overall rate of inflation, as reported by the [ALICE Essentials Index](#). And it has gotten harder for households below the ALICE Threshold to keep up with bills than at the height of the pandemic. According to the Household Pulse Survey, 54% of households below the ALICE Threshold in the U.S. reported that it was somewhat or very difficult to pay for usual items such as food, rent or mortgage, car payments, and medical expenses in October 2023, even higher than in August 2020 (50%).
- **Housing costs** are on the rise in many parts of the country, and the impact is greater for those who were already struggling financially. According to the SHED, in 2022, 39% of households below the ALICE Threshold in the U.S. reported that their rent or mortgage had increased in the prior 12 months (compared to 27% of households above the Threshold).

## Changes in Public Assistance Impact ALICE

- **Food assistance:** Increased need for food assistance was a hallmark of the pandemic. Food pantries experienced a substantial increase in [demand for services](#), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) [eligibility criteria broadened and monthly payments increased](#) (through February 2023). In 2022, the need remained high, with one in six Americans (49 million) [receiving private charitable food assistance](#) — down from the height of the pandemic, but still up markedly from 40 million in 2019. In part due to the SNAP income eligibility level in the U.S. (138% of the FPL in most states), public food assistance was not accessible to all households that were struggling financially: Only 41% of U.S. households in poverty and 18% of ALICE households participated in SNAP in 2022. Among all eligible people, estimated [SNAP participation rates were higher](#).
- **Rent:** With rising costs, the expiration of [pandemic rental assistance](#), and the end of [state](#) and [federal eviction bans](#), many families in the U.S. continued to struggle to pay their rent. According to the Household Pulse Survey, 16% of renter households below the ALICE Threshold in the U.S. were behind on rent payments in October 2023, down from 20% in August 2020. In the U.S. in 2022, 69% of households below the ALICE Threshold were rent burdened (paying more than 30% of their income on rent) and 42% were severely rent burdened (paying more than 50% of their income on rent).

# ALICE is Less Prepared for Crises and Retirement













- **ALICE struggles to save:** According to the SHED, the emergency savings rate for all households in the U.S. increased slightly during the pandemic, rising from 55% in 2019 to 57% in 2022. While the rate for households below the ALICE Threshold rose from just 34% in 2019 to 40% in 2022, that rate was still considerably lower than for those above the Threshold (40% vs. 57%, respectively). Emergency savings (or rainy day funds) are those that would cover a household's expenses for three months in the event of sickness, job loss, economic downturn, or another emergency.
- **ALICE faces unexpected medical expenses:** According to the SHED, 22% of respondents below the ALICE Threshold in the U.S. incurred an unexpected major medical expense that they had to pay for out of pocket because it was not completely paid for by insurance in 2022, up from 20% in 2021. Medical debt generally reflects [poorer health](#) and lower rates of health care coverage, and can lead to [lower credit scores](#) and [additional financial hardship](#). Additionally, the [consequences of medical debt](#) are not experienced equally; those with lower incomes and people of color, particularly Black adults, are more likely than their counterparts to be contacted by collection agencies, denied future care, and forced to make tough decisions like changing their housing situation to pay down debt.
- **Financial hardship impedes retirement savings:** According to the SHED, in 2022, 24% of all non-retired adults and 34% of non-retired adults above the ALICE Threshold in the U.S. reported that their retirement savings plan was currently on track. Yet only 12% of those below the Threshold reported the same.
- **Financial hardship takes a toll on mental health:** The negative impact of financial stress on mental health has been [well established](#). According to the Household Pulse Survey, 19% of respondents below the ALICE Threshold in the U.S. reported feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge nearly every day over the prior two weeks in October 2023 — down from 22% in August 2020, but still far higher than the rate for those above the Threshold (11% in 2023).

This research shows a clear trend in our communities and our economy: Financial hardship is widespread, and it is not going away. The current system is not working for ALICE. The narrative in this Update helps make the case for innovative, cross-sector change across the U.S. The data, tools, and resources on the [United For ALICE](#) website can equip business, government, education, and nonprofit leaders to make data-informed decisions that address the root causes of financial hardship. Collaborative effort at all levels — local, state, and federal — will be needed to change the trajectory for ALICE households.



# ALICE ONLINE

Visit [UnitedForALICE.org](https://UnitedForALICE.org) to explore interactive data and resources. Click the icons below to get started.

 <p><b>National Overview</b> National ALICE data and a comparison of financial hardship across U.S. states</p>	 <p><b>ALICE Essentials Index</b> Key data on the increase in the cost of household basics over time</p>	 <p><b>Economic Viability Dashboard</b> Key data on the local economic conditions that matter most to ALICE households: Work, Housing, and Community Resources</p>
 <p><b>Legislative District Tool</b> ALICE data by legislative district, including state upper and lower chambers and congressional districts</p>	 <p><b>Wage Tool</b> Data showing how wage levels impact an ALICE household's ability to afford basic expenses</p>	 <p><b>ALICE Methodology</b> Overview of the sources and calculations used in the ALICE research</p>
 <p><b>ALICE in Action</b> Programs, practices, and policy changes implemented by partners across the United For ALICE network</p>	 <p><b>ALICE Movement</b> Listings of ALICE partner states, local contacts, and state sponsors</p>	 <p><b>Research Advisory Committees</b> Information about the members and role of these critical groups</p>
 <p><b>ALICE Voices</b> Are you ALICE? Use this tool to share your story</p>	 <p><b>ALICE Videos</b> Videos that highlight the ALICE research and partner network</p>	 <p><b>Equity for ALICE</b> Creating equity for ALICE by illustrating how structural racism and systemic barriers limit life outcomes, and working to remove those barriers so that all people can participate fully in all aspects of our social and economic systems</p>

## Additional Data for ALICE Partner States

Including interactive County Reports, Household Budgets, Maps, Demographics, Data Sheets, and more

To access, select a partner state at [UnitedForALICE.org](https://UnitedForALICE.org). Is your state not yet an ALICE partner? [Contact us](#) for more information on how to join the movement.

# ALICE RESEARCH & METHODOLOGY

The Household Survival Budget calculates the cost of household essentials for each county in the U.S. and relies on a wide range of public data sources, listed below the figure on this page. For household income, the ALICE measures rely on the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) – both household tabulated data and individual data from the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) records. Household costs are compared to household income to determine if households are below the ALICE Threshold.

The figure below compares the FPL for a single adult and a family of four with the Household Survival Budget in three counties. These counties were chosen to illustrate the cost of basics below the national average (El Paso County, TX), near the average (Franklin County, OH, which includes Columbus), and above the average (Arlington County, VA). In all three locations, the Household Survival Budget was considerably higher than the FPL. **Visit [UnitedForALICE.org](https://www.unitedforalice.org) and select a partner state to see itemized budgets.**

## ALICE Household Survival Budget and Federal Poverty Level, El Paso County (TX), Franklin County (OH), and Arlington County (VA), 2022

	Federal Poverty Level	ALICE Household Survival Budget		
	Census income thresholds that vary by household size but not geography to determine who is in poverty	The cost of the essentials needed to live and work in the current economy, by household type and location		
	Same in all counties	El Paso County, TX	Franklin County, OH	Arlington County, VA
<b>Family of Four</b>				
Monthly Total	\$2,313	\$5,732	\$7,607	\$11,115
Annual Total	\$27,750	\$68,784	\$91,284	\$133,380
<b>Single Adult</b>				
Monthly Total	\$1,133	\$2,029	\$2,507	\$4,536
Annual Total	\$13,590	\$24,348	\$30,084	\$54,432

Note: Budget totals for the family of four in this table include federal, state, and local taxes owed on the amount of income to cover the Survival Budget, as well as tax credits including the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC).

Sources: AAA, 2022; Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2022; American Community Survey, 2022; Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), HHS poverty guidelines for 2022, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022—Consumer Expenditure Surveys; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022—Occupational Employment Statistics; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2023—Medicare - Chronic Conditions; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020—Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2023; Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta—Policy Rules Database; Federal Highway Administration, 2017; Feeding America, 2023; Frank, 2022; Internal Revenue Service, 2022; Medicare.gov; Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, 2022; Texas Workforce Commission, 2022; The Zebra, 2022; U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2022—Official USDA Food Plans; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2022—Fair Market Rents; USTelecom, 2022; Virginia Department of Education, 2023.

The latest [ALICE Methodology](#) review was completed in the summer of 2023. Methodology enhancements include:

- **Child care costs:** Some states (Arkansas, Washington, D.C., Louisiana, and Virginia) have shifted from market rate surveys to using a [cost estimation model](#) to estimate child care costs.
- **Health care costs:** A “poor health multiplier” is used to capture the additional costs lower-income households incur for being in poor or fair health. Based on the latest research, out-of-pocket costs in the health care line item are increased by 19% (a more conservative estimate than the 30% used in prior years).
- **Broadband added:** To reflect the finding that the majority of Americans now [have home broadband](#), basic broadband internet has been added to technology costs. The smartphone plan has been updated to include an unlimited (albeit less expensive than the previous 10GB version) smartphone plan for each adult in the household.
- **Determining ALICE status:** For 2021 data and years prior, the ALICE Threshold was rounded to the nearest ACS income bracket (e.g., Threshold of \$32,500 corresponded to bracket \$30,000–\$34,999; **all** households in that bracket were below the ALICE Threshold). Starting this year (2022 data), the Threshold is calculated in proportion to where it falls within the bracket (e.g., if Threshold is \$32,500, **half** of households in the bracket are below the Threshold).

## DATA NOTES

The income data used in this Update rely on ACS estimates. The ACS is based on a representative sample, rather than all housing units and people; therefore, these estimates have a [degree of uncertainty](#). Some data points are geographic averages, others are one- or five-year averages depending on population size (reported in each state’s Data Sheet). Percentages are rounded to whole numbers, sometimes resulting in percentages totaling 99% or 101%. ALICE analysis includes households regardless of work status, as employment is fluid and most households have members who are working, have worked, are out on disability, or are looking for work. ALICE analysis does not include people who are unhoused or living in group quarters.



# NATIONAL COMPARISON: INCOME STATUS, 2022

STATE	RANK (1 = lowest % Below ALICE Threshold)	TOTAL Number of Households	HOUSEHOLD INCOME STATUS		
			% Households in Poverty	% ALICE Households	% Households Below ALICE Threshold
<b>United States</b>	—	<b>128,946,680</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>42%</b>
Alabama	46	1,987,602	16%	30%	47%
Alaska	1	269,282	10%	23%	33%
Arizona	26	2,848,273	12%	29%	41%
Arkansas	47	1,201,499	16%	31%	47%
California	42	13,543,043	12%	33%	45%
Colorado	13	2,357,045	9%	28%	37%
Connecticut	20	1,430,904	11%	29%	39%
Delaware	16	402,334	9%	29%	38%
District of Columbia	8	326,970	12%	24%	36%
Florida	44	8,800,279	13%	33%	46%
Georgia	48	4,021,382	13%	35%	48%
Hawaii	35	493,567	11%	33%	44%
Idaho	33	701,293	11%	32%	43%
Illinois	12	5,040,533	12%	24%	37%
Indiana	23	2,701,433	13%	27%	40%
Iowa	14	1,307,751	11%	26%	37%
Kansas	18	1,162,920	12%	27%	39%
Kentucky	41	1,795,489	16%	28%	45%
Louisiana	50	1,799,695	19%	32%	50%
Maine	29	594,358	12%	30%	42%
Maryland	19	2,367,020	10%	29%	39%
Massachusetts	30	2,795,534	12%	30%	42%
Michigan	28	4,056,442	13%	28%	41%
Minnesota	10	2,303,607	10%	26%	36%
Mississippi	51	1,128,883	19%	33%	52%
Missouri	31	2,497,872	14%	29%	42%
Montana	22	458,390	12%	28%	40%
Nebraska	15	790,858	11%	26%	38%
Nevada	36	1,194,930	12%	31%	44%
New Hampshire	7	554,084	8%	28%	36%
New Jersey	9	3,512,465	10%	26%	36%
New Mexico	45	833,912	17%	30%	47%
New York	43	7,758,644	15%	31%	46%
North Carolina	34	4,252,548	13%	31%	43%
North Dakota	2	324,612	12%	23%	34%
Ohio	17	4,857,452	14%	25%	39%
Oklahoma	40	1,552,422	15%	29%	45%
Oregon	39	1,712,073	12%	33%	45%
Pennsylvania	25	5,279,632	12%	28%	41%
Rhode Island	21	444,870	12%	27%	39%
South Carolina	38	2,122,865	14%	30%	44%
South Dakota	11	359,412	11%	25%	36%
Tennessee	37	2,805,838	13%	30%	44%
Texas	32	10,985,596	14%	29%	43%
Utah	6	1,117,344	9%	27%	35%
Vermont	27	268,646	11%	30%	41%
Virginia	24	3,338,674	11%	29%	40%
Washington	3	3,064,367	10%	24%	35%
West Virginia	49	720,668	17%	31%	48%
Wisconsin	5	2,466,060	11%	24%	35%
Wyoming	4	235,308	11%	24%	35%



# ABOUT UNITED FOR ALICE AND OUR PARTNERS

*ALICE in the Crosscurrents: An Update on Financial Hardship in the United States* is brought to you by [United For ALICE](#), a driver of innovative research and action around financial hardship for ALICE households. With a commitment to [racial and economic justice](#), United For ALICE and United Ways across the U.S. share in this work with foundations, government, corporations, and other nonprofits to inform policy and promote positive change for ALICE households. The grassroots ALICE movement, developed by United Way of Northern New Jersey, has spread to 31 states and the District of Columbia. Learn more about the ALICE movement [here](#).

To create the ALICE Reports, our [team of researchers](#) works with [Research Advisory Committees](#) composed of experts from our partner states. This work is guided by our rigorous [methodology](#), which is updated biennially with experts from across our Research Advisory Committees.

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To learn more about how you can get involved in advocating and creating change for ALICE, contact: [Molly Debevoise Rennie](#), M.P.A., Director, Strategic Partnerships at United For ALICE.

To access interactive ALICE data and resources for all states, go to [UnitedForALICE.org](#).

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