



# COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AT A GLANCE



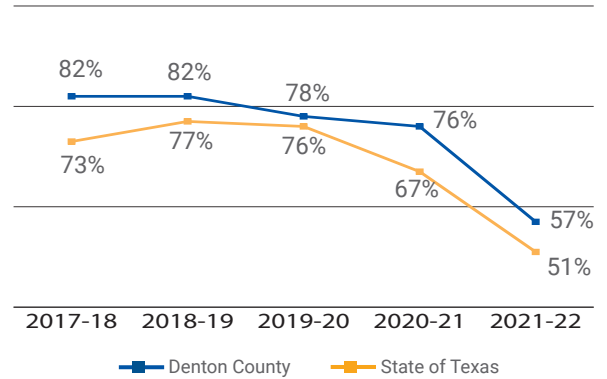
# CHILDREN

IN 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

**ONLY 38%**  
of economically disadvantaged  
Denton County third graders are  
reading at grade level.

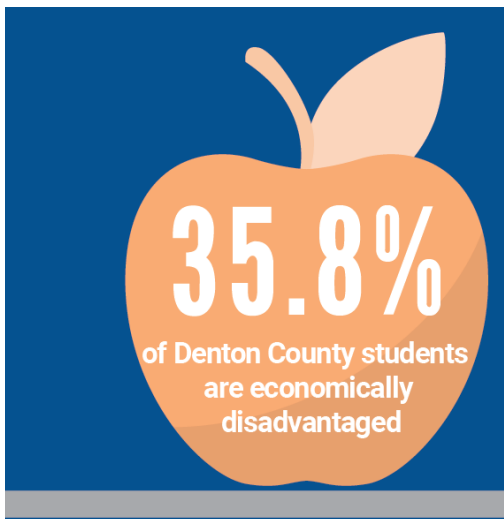


PERCENTAGE OF ALL THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: DENTON COUNTY VS. STATE




Third grade reading scores are predictive of both graduation and incarceration rates. Both locally and statewide, the proportion of third-graders reading at grade-level is falling.

**35.8%**  
of Denton County students  
are economically  
disadvantaged



**14** CONSECUTIVE YEARS THE NUMBER OF  
ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS  
IN DENTON COUNTY HAS INCREASED.

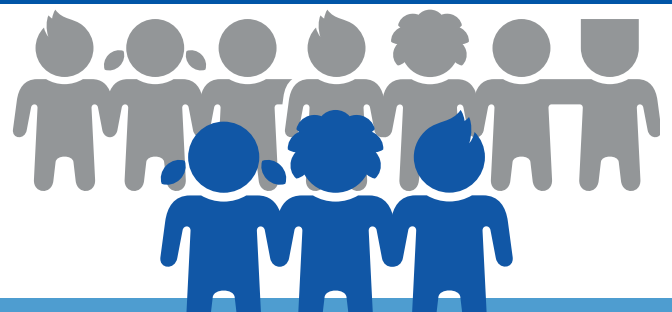



**MORE THAN 1 in 3** DENTON COUNTY STUDENTS  
**ARE AT RISK OF DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL**

From March 2020 to September 2021

**DENTON COUNTY-BASED  
CHILDCARE CAPACITY**

**DROPPED**  
**24.5%**

Nearly 7 of 10 foster care children are placed  
**OUTSIDE** of Denton County due to a lack of  
placement options.

# FAMILIES

## YOU KNOW ALICE



**ASSET LIMITED**



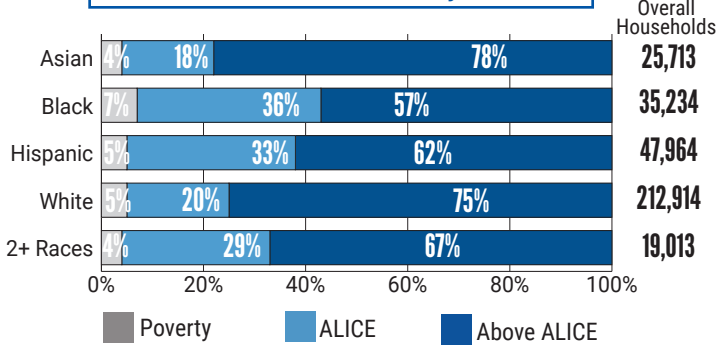
**INCOME CONSTRAINED**



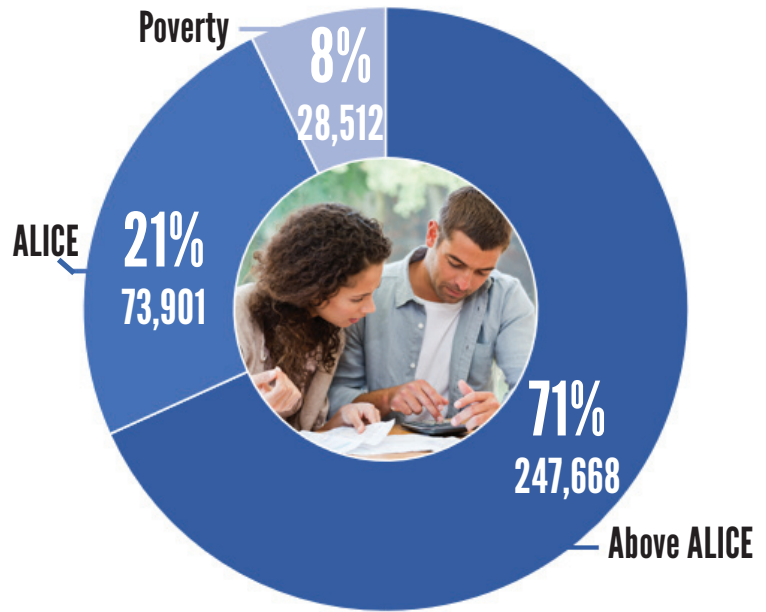
**EMPLOYED**

They are friends, family, and neighbors who go to work daily, but struggle with basic costs of living: housing, childcare, transportation, healthcare, etc.

### ALICE & Race/Ethnicity



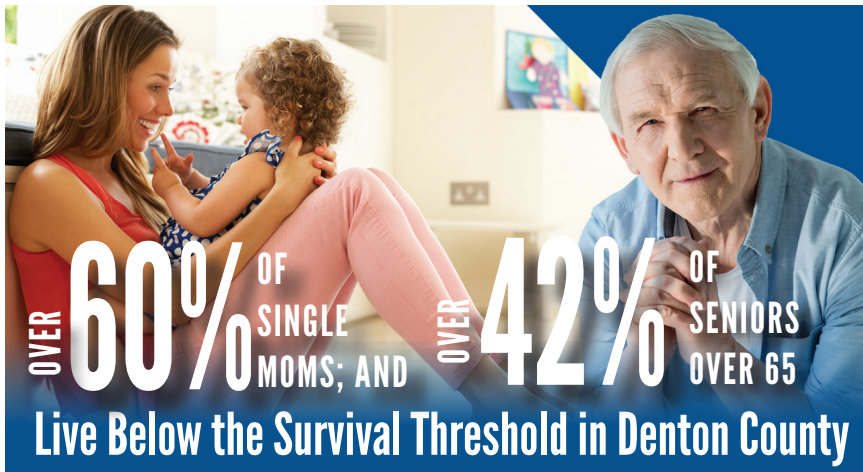
## DENTON COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS



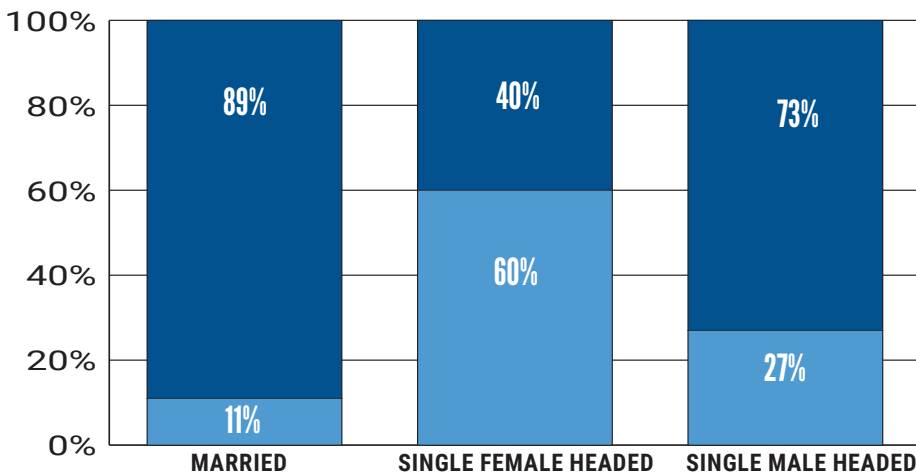
With Poverty & ALICE Households Combined

**OVER 102,000**

Denton County Households  
Earn Less Than Their Household Expenses  
**MONTH AFTER MONTH**



### ALICE Data by Family Type Denton County, 2021



That's **1 in 3**  
**DENTON COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS**



**Above ALICE**

**Below ALICE Threshold**

To view the entire Community Needs Assessment visit [UnitedWayDenton.org/Needs](http://UnitedWayDenton.org/Needs)

# ALICE

## ASSET-LIMITED INCOME-CONSTRAINED EMPLOYED

ALICE, a United Way acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, comprises households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but less than the basic cost of living for the state, defined as the ALICE Household Survival Threshold.

ALICE households earn too much to qualify as “poor” but are still unable to make ends meet because their earned income does not reach the stability, or breakeven, costs for their household. They often work as cashiers, nursing assistants, childcare workers, office clerks, servers, laborers, and security guards but as housing, childcare, and transportation costs continue to rise across Denton County they also are professionals previously not considered financially insecure. These types of jobs are vital to keeping Texas’ economy running smoothly, but they do not provide adequate wages to cover the basics of housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and technology for these ALICE workers and their families.

## KEY FINDINGS

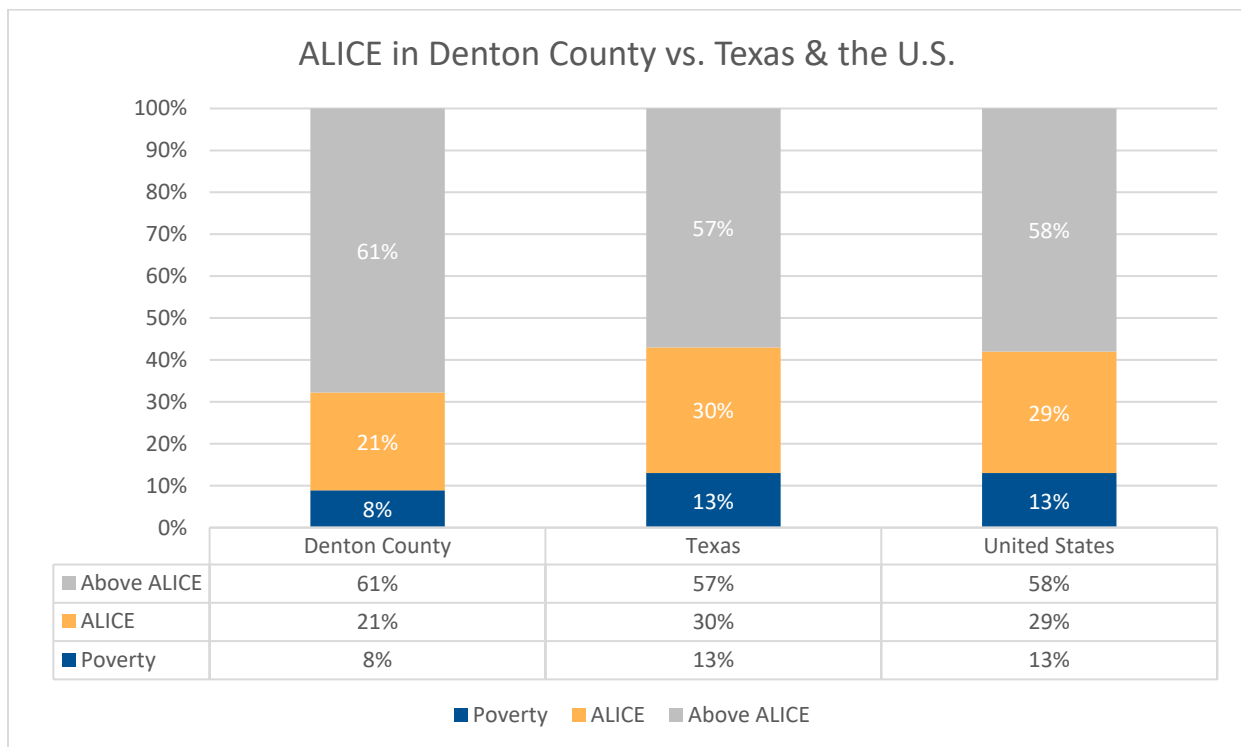
- With Poverty and ALICE households combined, over 102,000 Denton County households live below the Survival Wage, 29% of Denton County households.
- Though the percentage of households in poverty is staying approximately the same, the number of ALICE households is increasing.
- In Denton County, the City of Denton has the most households below the ALICE Threshold (53%), followed by Carrollton and Sanger (35%), and Lewisville (28%).
- 42% of all households over the age of 65 are ALICE.
- Single female-headed households have the highest poverty and ALICE rate in Denton County at 60%.

- 42% of Black and 38% of Hispanic households are ALICE/poverty combined (nearly double the percentage of White and Asian households).

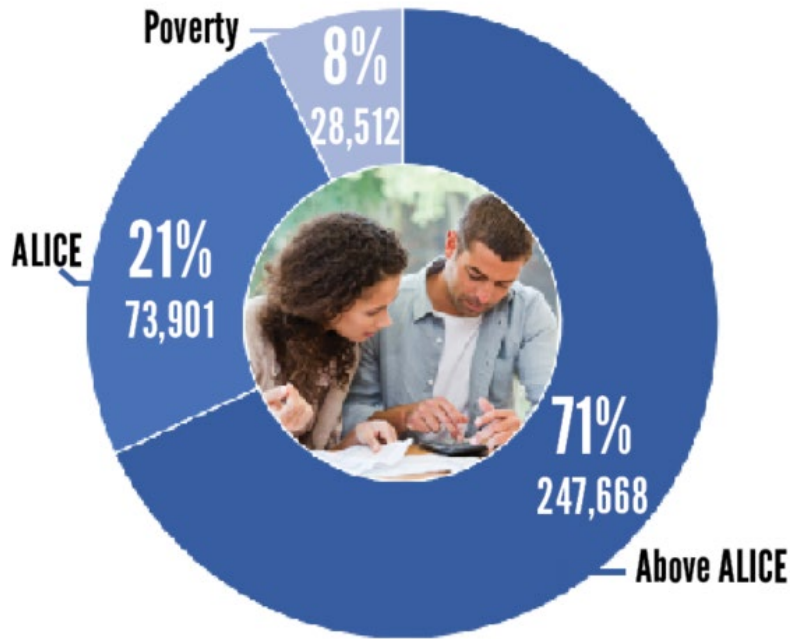
## ALICE SURVIVAL WAGE VS. LIVING WAGE

Both ALICE Survival Wage and Living Wage are methods of determining how much a household must earn to meet basic needs and not fall into poverty. They have slightly different methodologies, but both can provide valuable information in determining income gaps and challenges. ALICE and poverty households combined most accurately reflect Denton County’s most financially vulnerable households.

## WHO IS ALICE IN DENTON COUNTY?

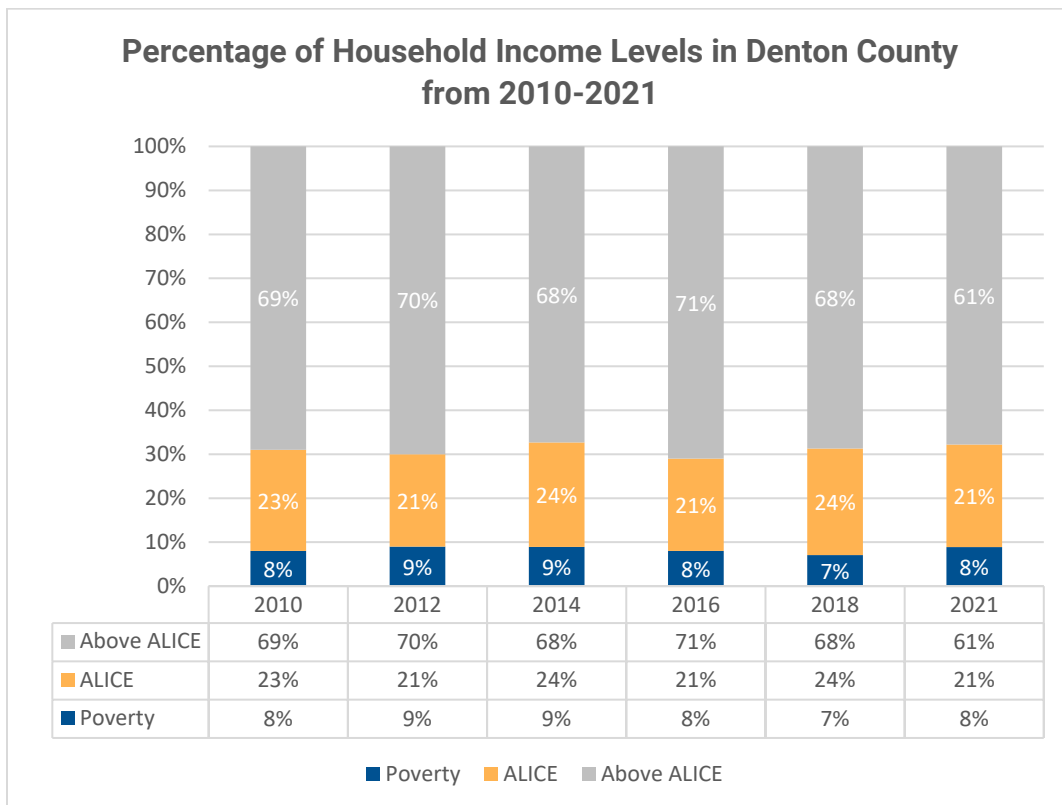


# DENTON COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS

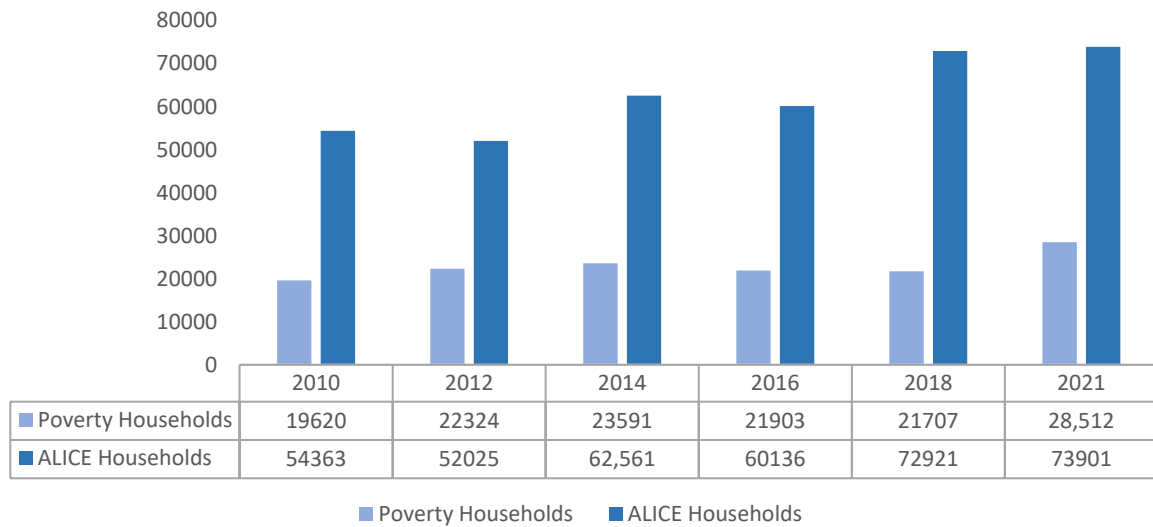


(ALICE Threshold 2021)

- With Poverty and ALICE households combined, 102,000 Denton County households live below the Survival Threshold.



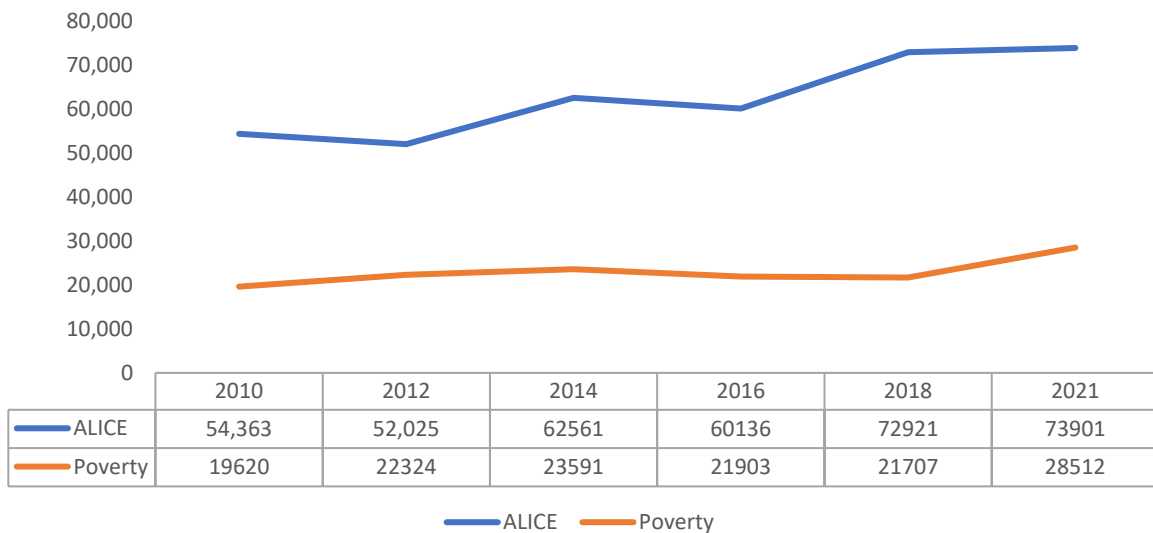
## Poverty and ALICE Households in Denton County from 2010-2021



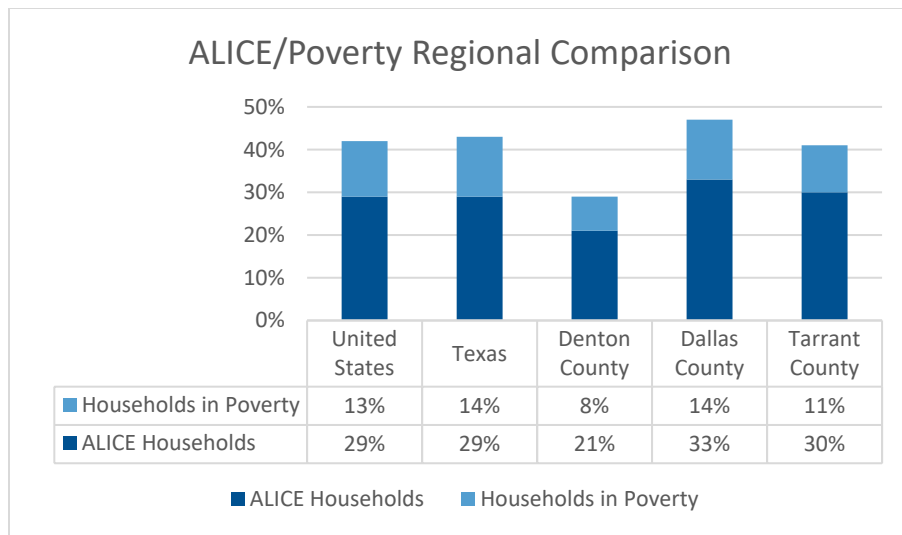
*(ALICE Threshold 2021; American Community Survey, 2021)*

- Poverty households remained relatively flat from 2010 to 2018; however, households falling below ALICE Survival Threshold increased from 2010 to 2018 even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic era and the 2022 post-pandemic inflation era. Poverty households jumped between 2018 and 2022.

## ALICE vs. Poverty Household Trends



*(ALICE Threshold 2021 American Community Survey, 2021)*



*(ALICE Threshold 2021; American Community Survey, 2021)*

## Cities where ALICE and Poverty Households exceed 25% of the Population

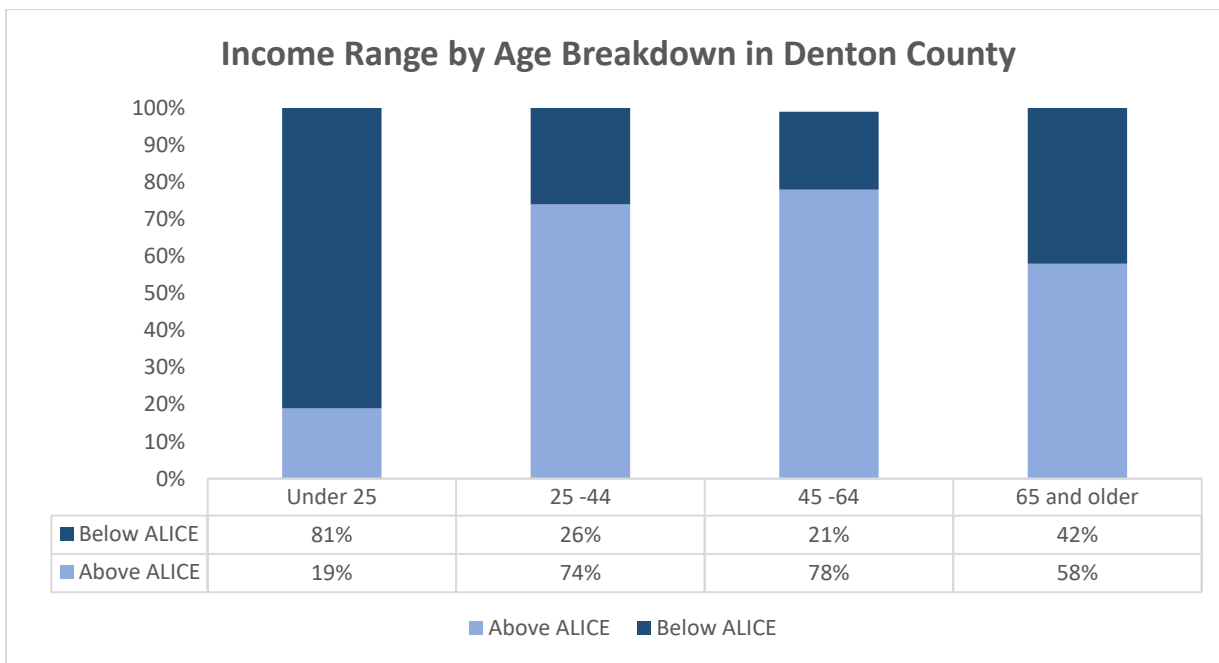
Cities	Total Households	% Below ALICE Threshold (BAT)
Aubrey	1,988	39%
Carrollton	50,308	35%
Denton	57,983	48%
Justin	1,815	31%
Krum	1,882	29%
Lake Dallas	2,923	39%
Lewisville	46,897	38%
Little Elm	15,579	25%
Oak Point	1,698	31%
Paloma Creek	958	30%
Pilot Point	1,571	40%
Ponder	921	34%
Sanger	3,215	37%
The Colony	17,821	28%



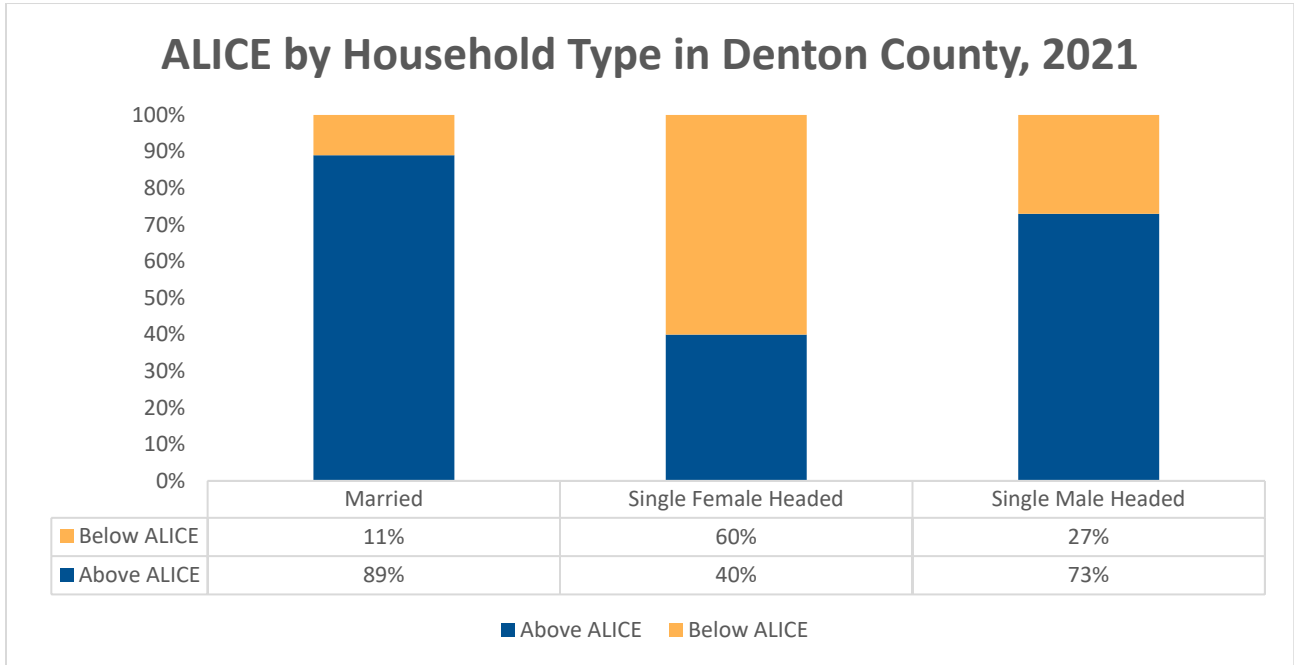
(Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2021; American Community Survey, 2021  
 \*Note: Some cities include portions that are not in Denton County.)

## ALICE BY AGE

- In 2021, 42% of all Denton County households 65 years and older are ALICE households.
- The highest percentage of ALICE are households under 25 years of age at 81%.

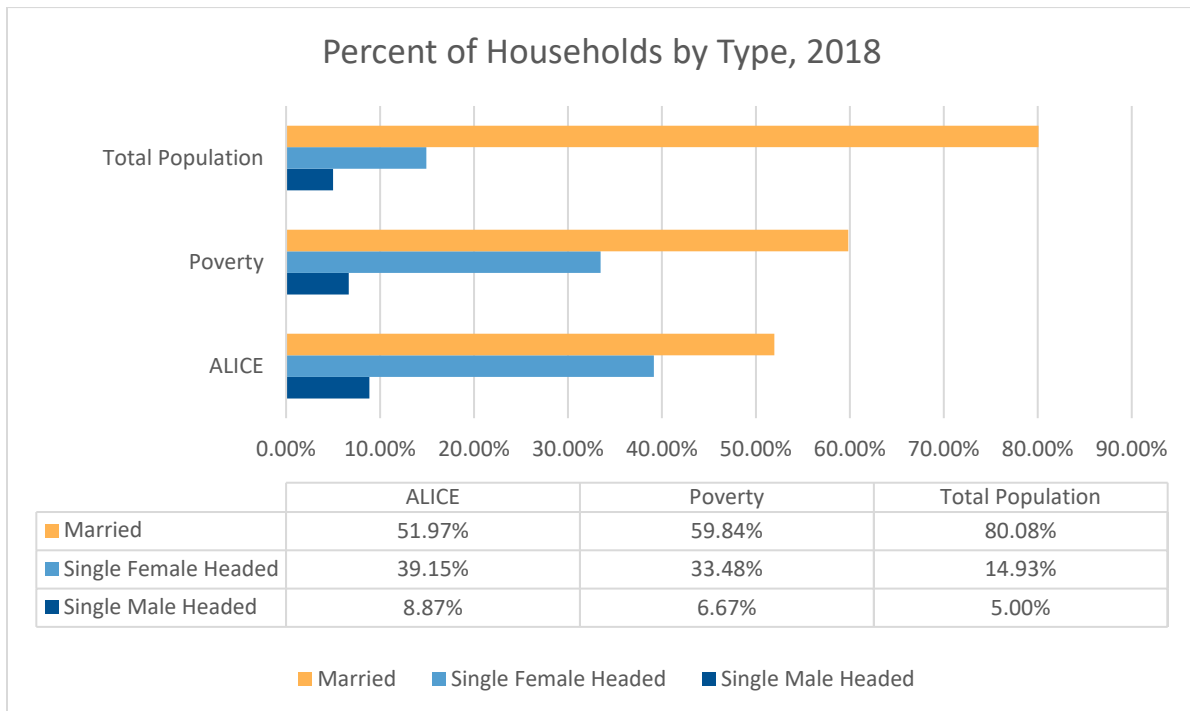


# ALICE BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE



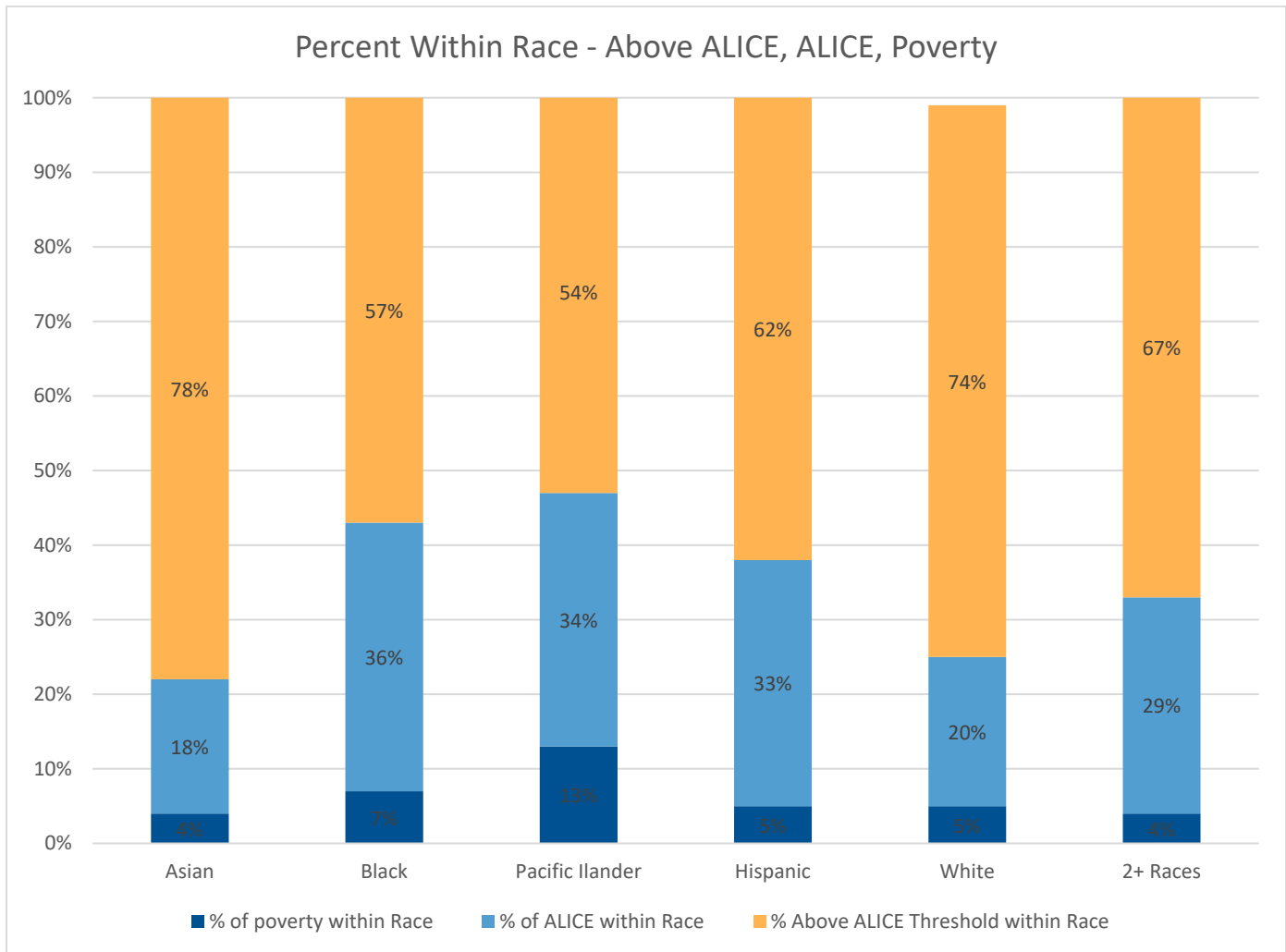
*ALICE Threshold 2021; American Community Survey, 2021*

- Single female-headed households have the highest poverty and ALICE rate in Denton County at 60%.



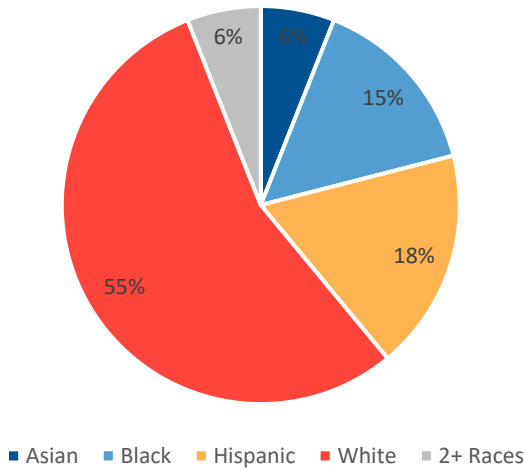
# ALICE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Over 50% of Black and Hispanic households are ALICE households and poverty households combined. While both races have similar poverty-level households, their ALICE household percentage is nearly double those of White and Asian households. Households with two or more races also have a high percentage increase in ALICE households compared to White and Asian households.

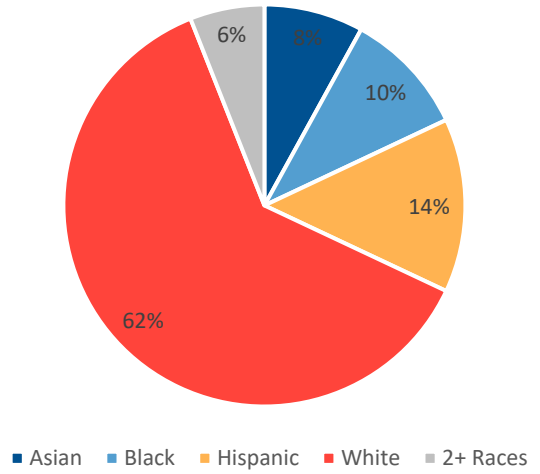


(ALICE Threshold 2021; American Community Survey, 2021)

Percent of Households Below ALICE Wage by Race in Denton County - 2021



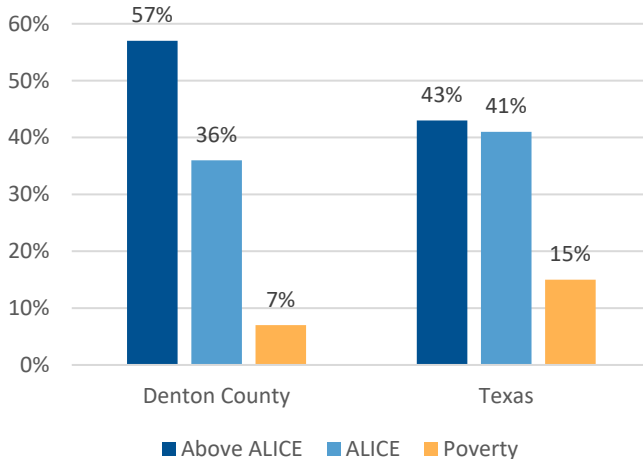
Percent of Households by Race in Denton County - 2021



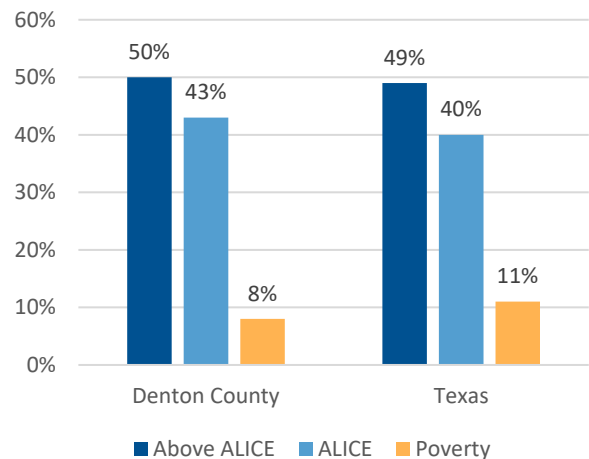
(ALICE Threshold 20121 American Community Survey, 2021)

There are more White ALICE households (53%) than all other races combined in Denton County. To put that statistic in context, over 65% of all households in Denton County are White.

Black Households in Denton County vs. Texas



Hispanic Households in Denton County vs. Texas



(ALICE Threshold 2021; American Community Survey, 2021)

# ALICE SURVIVAL BUDGET

Why Do So Many Households Struggle? Simply put, the cost of household basics outpaces wages.

The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, technology (a smartphone plan), and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college or retirement. In 2018, household costs were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,140 for a single adult and \$25,100 for a family of four.

## ALICE SURVIVAL BUDGET BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Monthly Costs and Credits	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Housing - Rent	\$1,126	\$1,172	\$1,172	\$1,172	\$1,390	\$1,390	\$1,126	\$1,172
Housing - Utilities	\$154	\$239	\$239	\$239	\$292	\$292	\$154	\$239
Child Care	\$0	\$275	\$733	\$0	\$550	\$1,575	\$0	\$0
Food	\$430	\$730	\$655	\$789	\$1,287	\$1,174	\$397	\$728
Transportation	\$342	\$440	\$440	\$518	\$819	\$819	\$295	\$424
Health Care	\$211	\$565	\$565	\$565	\$882	\$882	\$539	\$1,078
Technology	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$110	\$110	\$110	\$75	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$234	\$350	\$388	\$339	\$533	\$624	\$259	\$375
Tax Payments	\$365	\$546	\$629	\$453	\$871	\$1,068	\$418	\$670
Tax Credits	\$0	(\$388)	(\$633)	\$0	(\$775)	(\$1,267)	\$0	\$0
Monthly Total	\$2,937	\$4,004	\$4,263	\$4,185	\$5,959	\$6,667	\$3,263	\$4,796
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$35,244	\$48,048	\$51,156	\$50,220	\$71,508	\$80,004	\$39,156	\$57,552
Hourly Wage	\$17.62	\$24.02	\$25.58	\$25.11	\$35.75	\$40.00	\$19.58	\$28.78

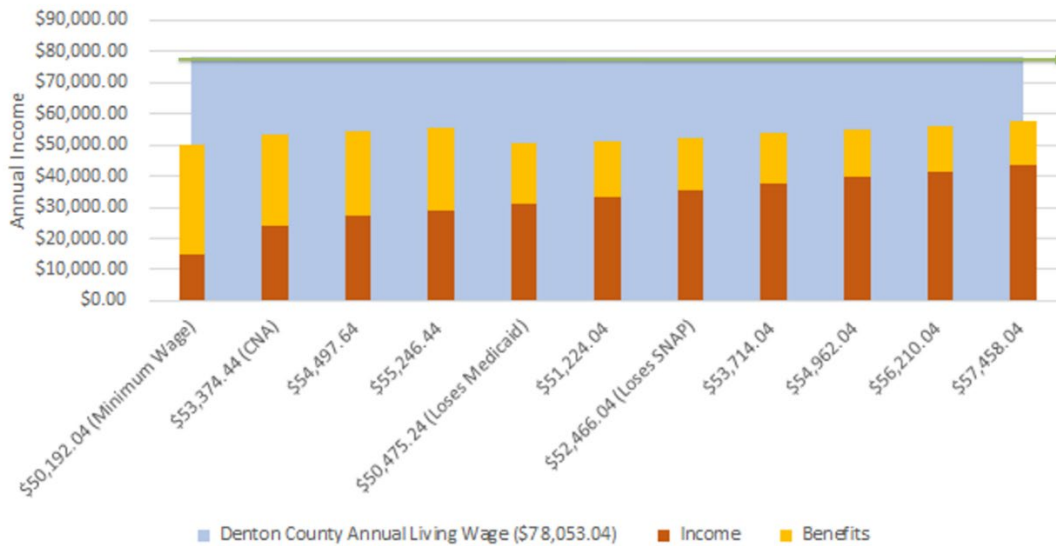
***For more information on the availability of affordable housing, please refer to the Housing & Income Report.***

## ALICE & POVERTY INCOME – EARNED AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The chart below shows wage income and eligible public assistance that ALICE and poverty households may secure for areas such as health insurance, Medicaid for Children/CHIP, housing vouchers, Earned Income Tax Credits, SNAP, WIC, free PreK, and other local supports).

As ALICE and poverty household wage income increases, certain public assistance decreases at a rate that tethers them at the same approximate total household income level for years. This creates a benefits plateau or cliff and results in additional challenges for households striving to achieve a higher level of financial stability.

**Income plus Subsidized Assistance vs. Denton County Livable Wage  
1 Adult + 2 Children**



(<https://unitedforalicetx.org/cliff-dashboard>)

For more information on ALICE, please visit: [www.UnitedForALICETX.org](http://www.UnitedForALICETX.org).

# WE EMPOWER DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, BUSINESSES, GOVERNMENTS, NONPROFITS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS TO INVEST IN NEIGHBORS FOR A BETTER DENTON COUNTY COMMUNITY.

We LIVE UNITED to strengthen education, financial stability, and health and mental health across our community. Working together, we identify the community's most critical needs and implement collaborative, innovative solutions to provide greater opportunity for every person in Denton County.

**When we LIVE UNITED, we create opportunities to:**



**UnitedWayDentonCounty.org**

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**Denton County**