ALICE IN LACKAWANNA COUNTY

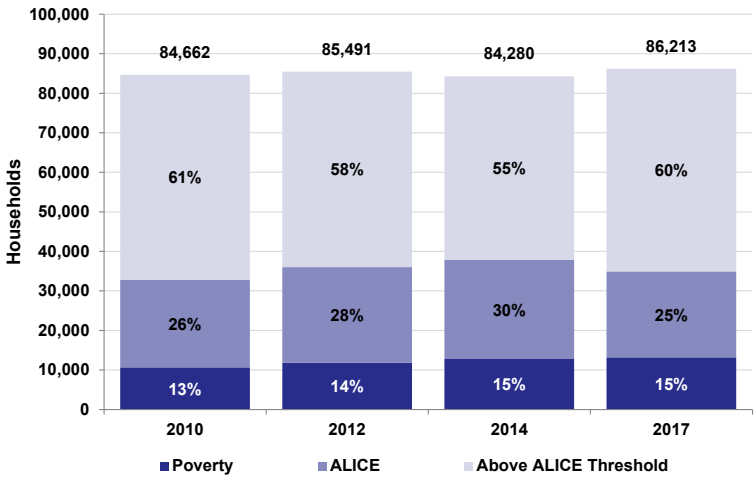
2017 Point-in-Time Data

Population: 210,761 • **Number of Households:** 86,213
Median Household Income: $49,172 (state average: $59,195)
Unemployment Rate: 4% (state average: 5.3%)
ALICE Households: 25% (state average: 24%) • **Households in Poverty:** 15% (state average: 13%)

How has the number of ALICE households changed over time?

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 (the ALICE Threshold). Combined, the number of ALICE and poverty-level households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs. The number of households below the ALICE Threshold changes over time; households move in and out of poverty and ALICE status as their circumstances improve or worsen. The recovery, which started in 2010, has been uneven across the state. Conditions have improved for some families, but with rising costs, many still find themselves struggling.

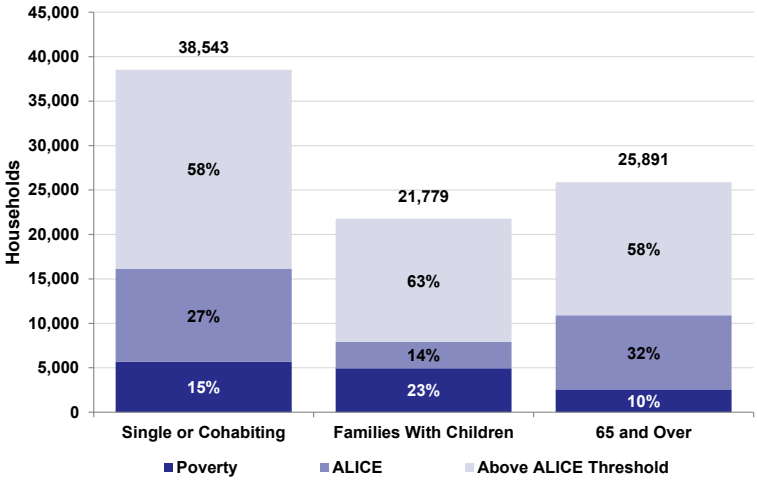
Households by Income, 2010 to 2017



What types of households are struggling?

The way Americans live is changing. There are many different family and living combinations — more than ever before. More adults are living alone, with roommates, or with their parents. Families with children are changing: There are more non-married cohabiting parents, same-sex parents, and blended families with remarried parents. The number of senior households is also increasing. Yet all types of households continue to struggle: ALICE and poverty-level households exist across all of these living arrangements.

Household Types by Income, 2017



Why do so many households struggle?

The cost of living continues to increase…

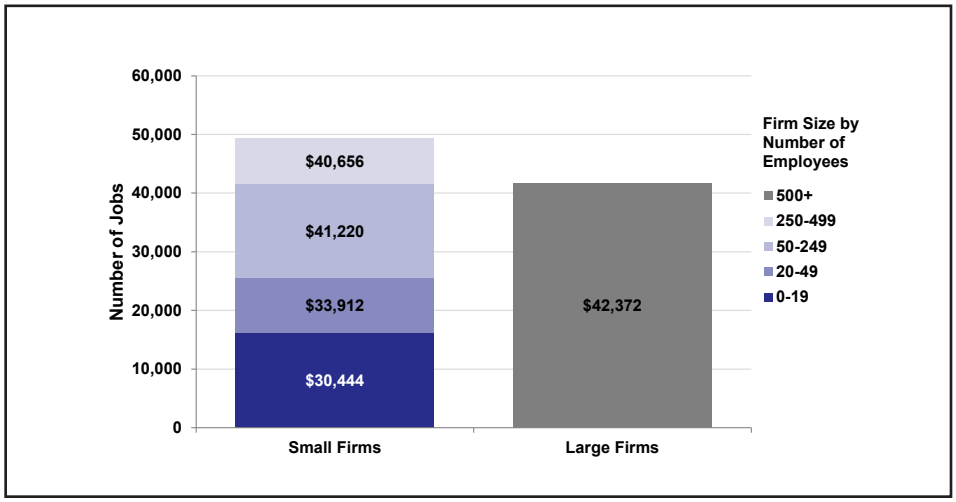
The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum that a household needs to live and work today. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college. In 2017, costs were well above the Federal Poverty Level of $12,060 for a single adult and $24,600 for a family of four. Family costs increased by 22 percent statewide from 2010 to 2017, compared to 12 percent inflation nationally.

Household Survival Budget, Lackawanna County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	$553	$802
Child Care	$–	$1,281
Food	$199	$604
Transportation	$318	$636
Health Care	$158	$635
Technology	$55	$75
Miscellaneous	$153	$458
Taxes	$249	$549
Monthly Total	$1,685	$5,040
ANNUAL TOTAL	$20,220	$60,480
Hourly Wage	*$10.11*	*$30.24*

…and wages lag behind

Employment and wages vary by location; firms generally pay higher wages in areas with a higher cost of living, although those wages still do not always cover basic needs. Employment and wages also vary by firm size: Large firms tend to offer higher wages and more job stability; smaller businesses can account for more jobs overall, especially in rural areas, but may pay less and offer less stability. Medium-size firms pay more but typically employ the fewest workers.

Private-Sector Employment by Firm Size With Average Annual Wages, 2017



Sources: ***2017 Point-in-Time Data:*** *American Community Survey, 2017.* ***ALICE Demographics:*** *American Community Survey and the ALICE Threshold, 2017.* ***Wages:*** *BLS, 2017.* ***Budget:*** *BLS, 2017; Consumer Reports, 2017; HUD, 2017; IRS, 2017; Office of Child Development and Early Learning; Tax Foundation 2017, 2018; USDA, 2017.*

Lackawanna County, 2017		
Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Archbald Borough	3,014	36%
Benton Township	727	27%
Blakely Borough	2,960	49%
Carbondale City	3,761	55%
Carbondale Township	417	26%
Clarks Green Borough	626	20%
Clarks Summit Borough	2,184	31%
Clifton Township	539	34%
Covington Township	778	22%
Dalton Borough	532	19%
Dickson City Borough	2,527	46%
Dunmore Borough	5,577	39%
Elmhurst Township	302	29%
Fell Township	920	42%
Glenburn Township	489	28%
Greenfield Township	908	30%
Jefferson Township	1,412	30%
Jermyn Borough	964	47%
Jessup Borough	1,835	44%
La Plume Township	193	53%
Madison Township	1,037	26%
Mayfield Borough	727	38%
Moosic Borough	2,351	34%
Moscow Borough	776	25%
Newton Township	970	18%
North Abington Township	258	11%
Old Forge Borough	3,759	38%
Olyphant Borough	2,334	42%
Ransom Township	598	27%
Roaring Brook Township	753	13%
Scott Township	1,985	22%
Scranton City	29,528	51%
South Abington Township	3,332	24%
Spring Brook Township	1,029	25%
Taylor Borough	2,505	50%
Thornhurst Township	500	31%
Throop Borough	1,761	43%
Vandling Borough	305	37%
Waverly Township	609	20%
West Abington Township	125	24%

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is for County Subdivisions. Municipal-level data relies on 5-year averages and is not available for the smallest Towns. Since there are missing geographies, totals will not match county-level numbers.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PA, 2017

ALICE HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL BUDGET

	Single Adult	Married Couple	1 Adult, 1 School-Age Child	1 Adult, 1 Infant	2 Adult, 2 School-Age Children	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	$553	$657	$657	$657	$802	$802
Child Care	$–	$–	$231	$667	$461	$1,281
Food	$199	$414	$345	$288	$692	$604
Transportation	$318	$382	$382	$382	$636	$636
Health Care	$158	$316	$316	$320	$641	$635
Miscellaneous	$153	$220	$219	$270	$361	$458
Technology	$55	$75	$55	$55	$75	$75
Taxes	$249	$354	$210	$332	$299	$549
Monthly Total	$1,685	$2,418	$2,415	$2,971	$3,967	$5,040
Annual Total	$20,220	$29,016	$28,980	$35,652	$47,604	$60,480
Hourly Wage	*$10.11*	*$14.51*	*$14.49*	*$17.83*	*$23.80*	*$30.24*

Note: The budgets reflect different costs based on the age of children in the household; full-day care for infants and preschoolers (4-year-old) and after school care for school-age children. To create budgets for additional family types: For an additional infant, increase the total budget by 16 percent; for an additional 4-year-old, by 15 percent; and for a school-age child, by 7 percent.

Sources: BLS, 2017—Consumer Expenditure Surveys; Consumer Reports, 2017—Best Low-Cost Cell-Phone; HUD, 2017—Fair Market Rents; IRS, 2017—SOI Tax Stats; Office of Child Development and Early Learning, 2018; Tax Foundation, 2017, 2018; USDA, 2017—Official USDA Food Plans.

ALICE HOUSEHOLD STABILITY BUDGET

	Single Adult	Married Couple	1 Adult, 1 School-Age Child	1 Adult, 1 Infant	2 Adult, 2 School-Age Children	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	$821	$1,003	$1,003	$1,003	$1,065	$1,065
Child Care	$–	$–	$264	$840	$527	$1,543
Food	$379	$770	$675	$524	$1,358	$1,174
Transportation	$523	$628	$628	$628	$1,046	$1,046
Health Care	$158	$320	$298	$298	$635	$801
Miscellaneous	$199	$285	$298	$340	$476	$576
Savings	$199	$285	$298	$340	$476	$576
Technology	$109	$129	$109	$109	$129	$129
Taxes	$561	$683	$568	$673	$1,227	$1,601
Monthly Total	$2,949	$4,103	$4,141	$4,755	$6,939	$8,511
Annual Total	$35,388	$49,236	$49,692	$57,060	$83,268	$102,132
Hourly Wage	*$17.69*	*$24.62*	*$24.85*	*$28.53*	*$41.63*	*$51.07*

Note: The budgets reflect different costs based on the age of children in the household; full-day care for infants and preschoolers (4-year-old) and after school care for school-age children. To create budgets for additional family types: For an additional infant, increase the total budget by 14 percent; for an additional 4-year-old, by 12 percent; and for a school-age child, by 6 percent.

Sources: BLS, 2017—Consumer Expenditure Surveys; Consumer Reports, 2017—Best Low-Cost Cell-Phone; HUD, 2017—Fair Market Rents; IRS, 2016 – Individual Income; IRS, 2017—SOI Tax Stats; Office of Child Development and Early Learning, 2018; Tax Foundation, 2017, 2018; Telogical Systems, 2016; USDA, 2017—Official USDA Food Plans. Reference: UnitedForALICE.org