

UNITED WAY ALICE REPORT

KEY DATA POINTS



WHO IS ALICE?

ALICE is an acronym that stands for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. ALICE represents the households with income above the Federal Poverty Level but below the basic cost of living. The ALICE Report provides current research-based data on financial stability and the ALICE population in Indiana. Indiana's United Ways plan to use the objective report, which includes state and county level data, to educate communities and shape practices.

CORE STATISTICS

- More than 1 in 3 Hoosier households cannot afford the basics of housing, food, health care, child care, and transportation, despite working hard.
- In Indiana, **37% of households** live below the ALICE threshold – about 14% live below the poverty level and another 23% are above poverty but below the basic cost of living.
- There are over 570,000 ALICE households in Indiana, more than double the official poverty rate. Together, with those in poverty, there are nearly 923,000 households unable to make ends meet in Indiana¹.
- All counties in Indiana have more than 21% of households living below the ALICE threshold.

ALICE IN OUR COMMUNITY

- The entire community is affected by the challenges that ALICE families face and once those challenges improve, the entire community will benefit.
- These families and individuals have jobs, but many do not qualify for social services or support.
- ALICE holds jobs that are critical to the success of our communities – child care workers, laborers and movers, home health aides, heavy truck drivers, store clerks, repair workers and office assistants – yet, they aren't sure if they'll be able to put dinner on the table each night.
- There is a systemic problem that will not be solved with one magic bullet – policymakers, academics, business and social service agencies need to work together to address long-term systemic change.

WHAT IS THE HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL BUDGET?

- The household survival budget quantifies the cost housing, child care, food, health care and transportation in each county. It is a bare-minimum budget. Every line item has been the most conservative estimate based on the cost of living in each county.
- The miscellaneous category, 10% of all costs, covers overflow from basic needs; it is not enough to provide for clothes, cell phone, cable, or automotive or appliance repairs. There is no room in the budget for financial indulgences that many families enjoy.
- This budget does not allow for any savings, leaving an ALICE family more vulnerable to any unexpected expense, such as a costly car repair or health issue.
- United Ways work to help people move their way up on the financial stability continuum from poverty to survival to stability. ALICE families are above poverty, but below financial stability.

For more information visit www.iauw.org/ALICE or contact Maggie Snyder, Maggie.snyder@iauw.org.

¹The population in Indiana is about 6.5 million which consists of about 2.8 million Hoosier households. *US Census Bureau, 2013.*

ALICE IN MARSHALL COUNTY

2014 Point-in-Time Data

Population: 47,032 | **Number of Households:** 17,468

Median Household Income: \$47,219 (state average: \$49,446)

Unemployment Rate: 9.8% (state average: 7.1%)

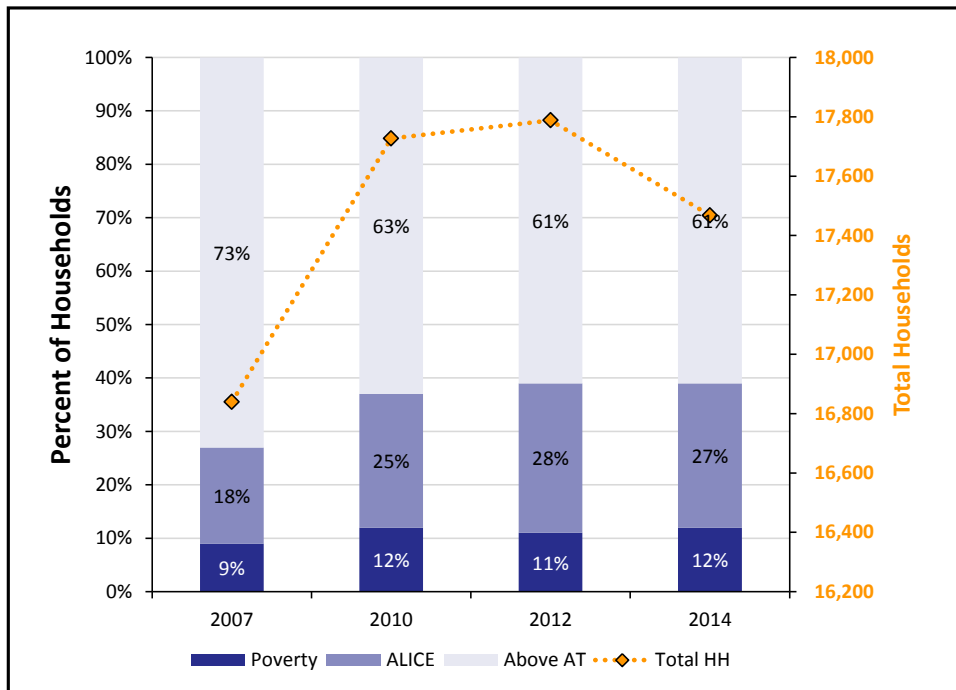
ALICE Households: 27% (state average: 22%); **Poverty Households:** 12% (state average: 14%)

How many households are struggling?

ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset Limited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mloyed – households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). Combined, the number of poverty and ALICE 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 as circumstances improve or worsen. The Great Recession, from 2007 to 2010, caused hardship for many families.

Conditions started to improve in 2010 and 2012 for some, but not for all.

Households by Income, 2007-2014



What does it cost to afford the basic necessities?

The bare-minimum Household Survival Budget does not allow for any savings, leaving a household vulnerable to unexpected expenses. ALICE households typically earn above the U.S. poverty level of \$11,670 for a single adult and \$23,850 for a family of four, but less than the Household Survival Budget.

Household Survival Budget, Marshall County

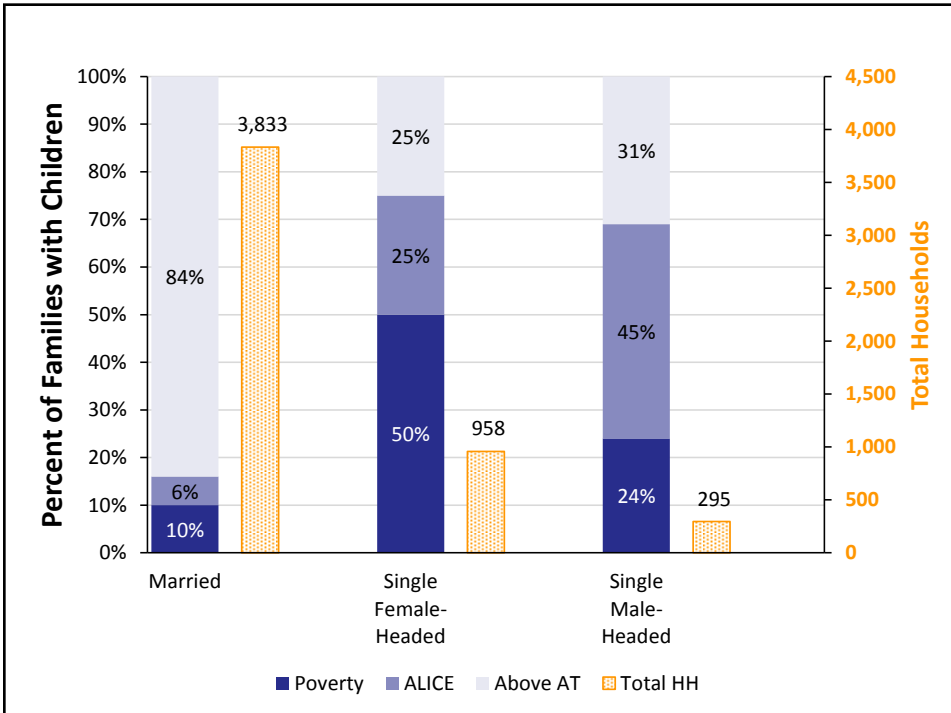
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$439	\$673
Child Care	\$-	\$825
Food	\$176	\$533
Transportation	\$351	\$702
Health Care	\$147	\$587
Miscellaneous	\$131	\$362
Taxes	\$196	\$297
Monthly Total	\$1,440	\$3,979
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$17,280	\$47,748
Hourly Wage	\$8.64	\$23.87

Sources: 2014 Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey. ALICE Demographics: American Community Survey; the ALICE Threshold. Budget: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Indiana Department of Revenue; Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

How many families are struggling?

Children add significant expense to a family budget, so it is not surprising that many Marshall County families with children live below the ALICE Threshold. Though more Marshall County families are headed by married parents, those families with a single parent are more likely to have income below the ALICE Threshold.

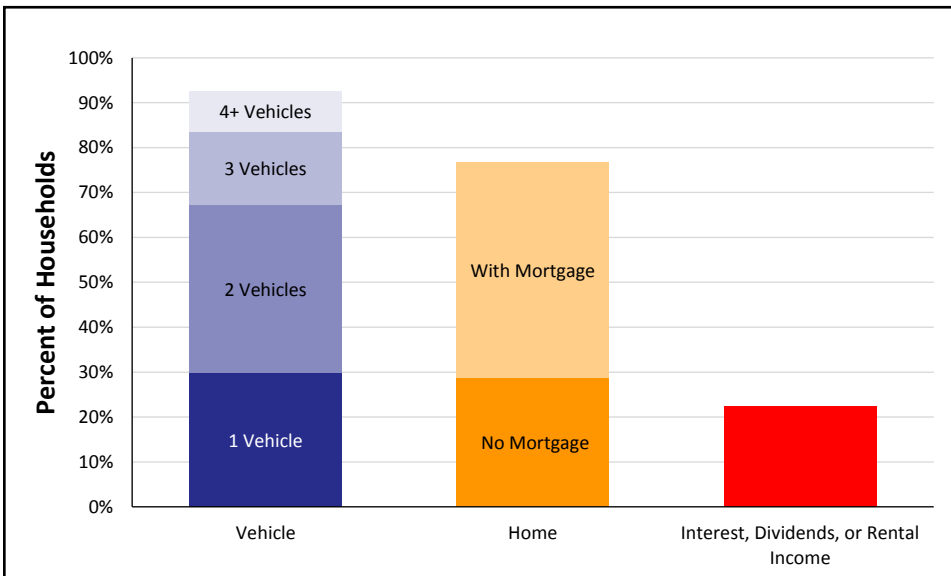
Families with Children by Income, 2014



What assets do households have?

Ownership of assets can contribute to stability of households. Yet, few families in Marshall County own liquid assets, such as a savings account, 401(k) plan, or rental income, that are readily available to cover emergency expenses. Vehicles, the most common asset, depreciate over time. Homeownership, the next most common asset, can build wealth, but is not a liquid asset.

Assets, All Households, 2014



Marshall County, 2014		
Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Argos Town	648	47%
Bourbon Town	725	49%
Bourbon Township	1,266	46%
Bremen Town	1,829	48%
Center Township	5,736	43%
Culver Town	611	39%
German Township	3,063	41%
Green Township	344	13%
La Paz Town	195	43%
North Township	1,599	29%
Plymouth City	3,751	55%
Polk Township	1,224	36%
Tippecanoe Township	479	34%
Union Township	1,258	35%
Walnut Township	1,038	43%
West Township	1,461	27%

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is for Places and County Sub-divisions, which include Census Designated Places (CDP). These are overlapping geographies so totals will not match county-level data. Municipal-level data often relies on 5-year averages and is not available for the smallest towns that do not report income.