

# ALICE IN MUSKEGON COUNTY

## 2017 Point-in-Time Data

**Population:** 173,693 • **Number of Households:** 64,581

**Median Household Income:** \$49,229 (state average: \$54,909)

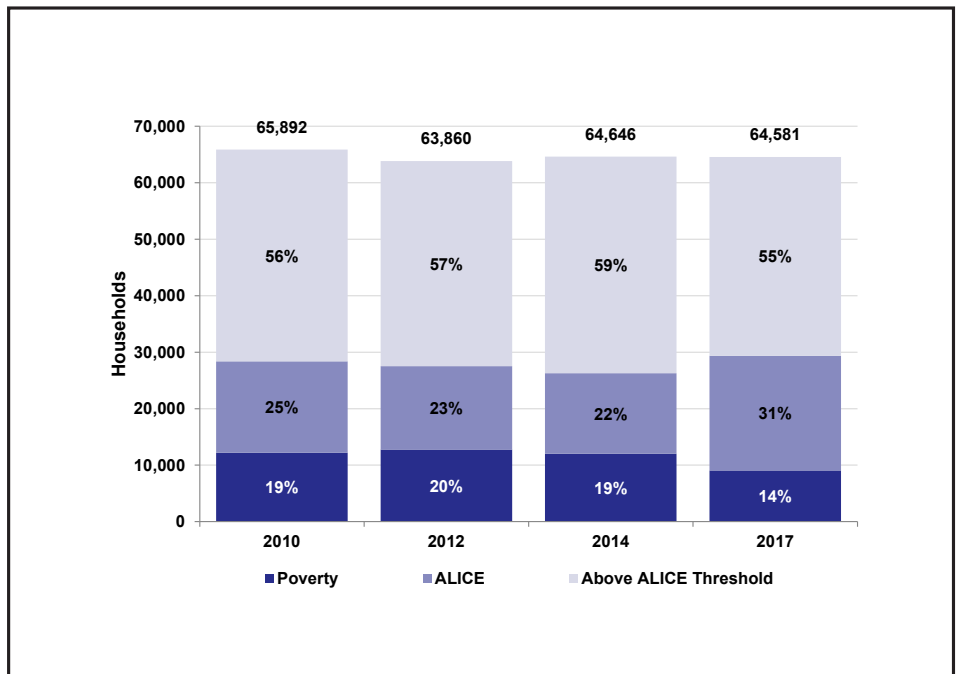
**Unemployment Rate:** 6.9% (state average: 5.9%)

**ALICE Households:** 31% (state average: 29%) • **Households in Poverty:** 14% (state average: 14%)

## How has the number of ALICE households changed over time?

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – 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.

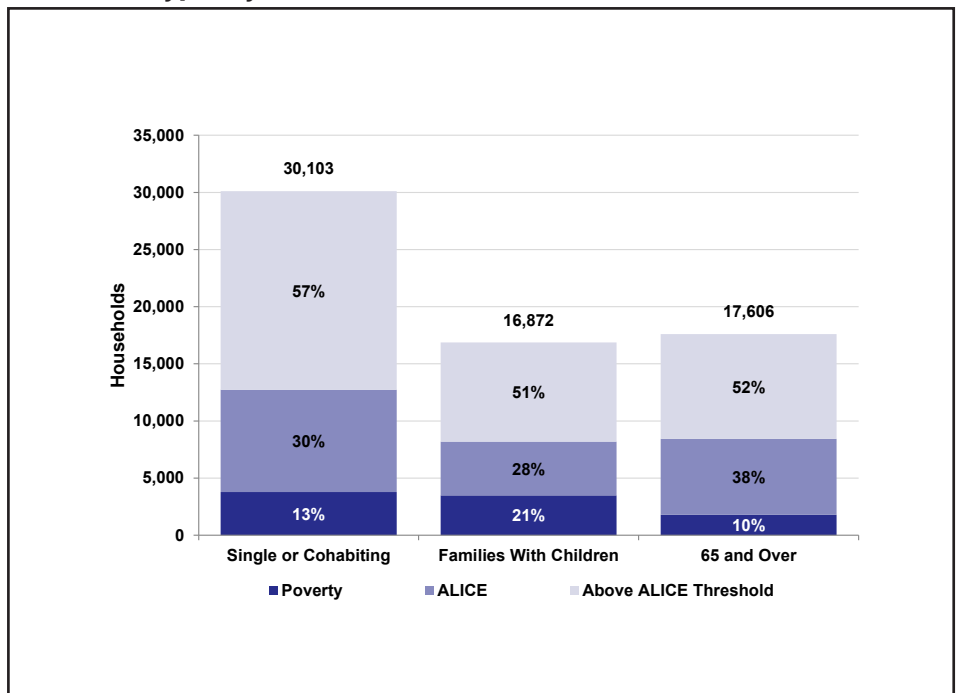
### Households by Income, 2010 to 2017



## What types of households are struggling?

The way Americans live is changing. There are more different family and living combinations than ever before, including more adults 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 26 percent statewide from 2010 to 2017, compared to 12 percent inflation nationally.

Household Survival Budget, Muskegon County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
<b>Monthly Costs</b>		
Housing	\$503	\$723
Child Care	\$-	\$1,024
Food	\$199	\$604
Transportation	\$340	\$679
Health Care	\$236	\$888
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$158	\$447
Taxes	\$242	\$474
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$1,733</b>	<b>\$4,914</b>
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,796</b>	<b>\$58,968</b>
<b>Hourly Wage</b>	<b>\$10.40</b>	<b>\$29.48</b>

### ...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, 2016, 2017; Michigan Department of Education Office of Great Start, 2018; Tax Foundation 2017, 2018; USDA, 2017.

Muskegon County, 2017		
Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Blue Lake Township	745	45%
Casnovia Township	940	44%
Cedar Creek Township	1,215	44%
Dalton Township	3,356	33%
Egelston Township	3,349	50%
Fruitland Township	2,094	38%
Fruitport Charter Township	5,296	37%
Holton Township	888	50%
Laketon Township	2,945	32%
Montague City	1,059	46%
Montague Township	571	36%
Moorland Township	538	41%
Muskegon Charter Township	6,844	46%
Muskegon City	13,794	68%
Muskegon Heights City	3,994	75%
North Muskegon City	1,577	37%
Norton Shores City	10,045	39%
Ravenna Township	1,065	45%
Roosevelt Park City	1,620	54%
Sullivan Township	950	33%
White River Township	490	28%
Whitehall City	1,160	50%
Whitehall Township	681	34%

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.