

MICHIGAN • 2019 COUNTY PROFILES

Counties are the core geography for ALICE data: They reveal variations often masked by statewide averages, and the data is reported regularly and reliably.

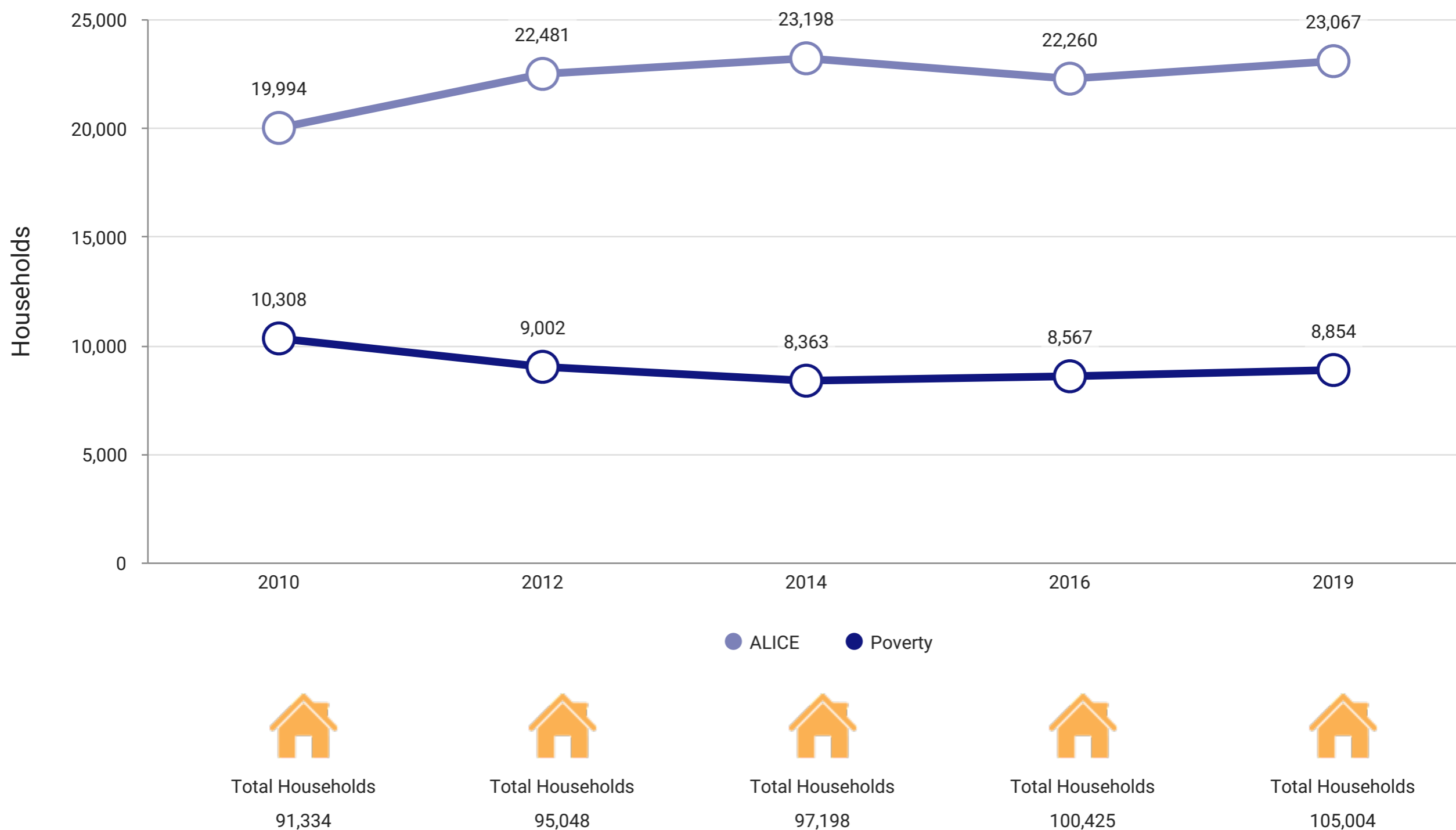
ALICE IN OTTAWA COUNTY

2019 Point-in-Time-Data

Population:	291,830	Number of Households:	105,004
Median Household Income:	\$68,817 (state average: \$59,584)		
Unemployment Rate:	2.8% (state average: 5.0%)		
ALICE Households:	22.0% (state average: 25.0%)		
Households in Poverty:	8.0% (state average: 13.0%)		

How Has the Number of ALICE Households Changed Over Time?

ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mloyed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). While conditions have improved for some households, many continue to struggle, especially as wages fail to keep pace with the cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan).



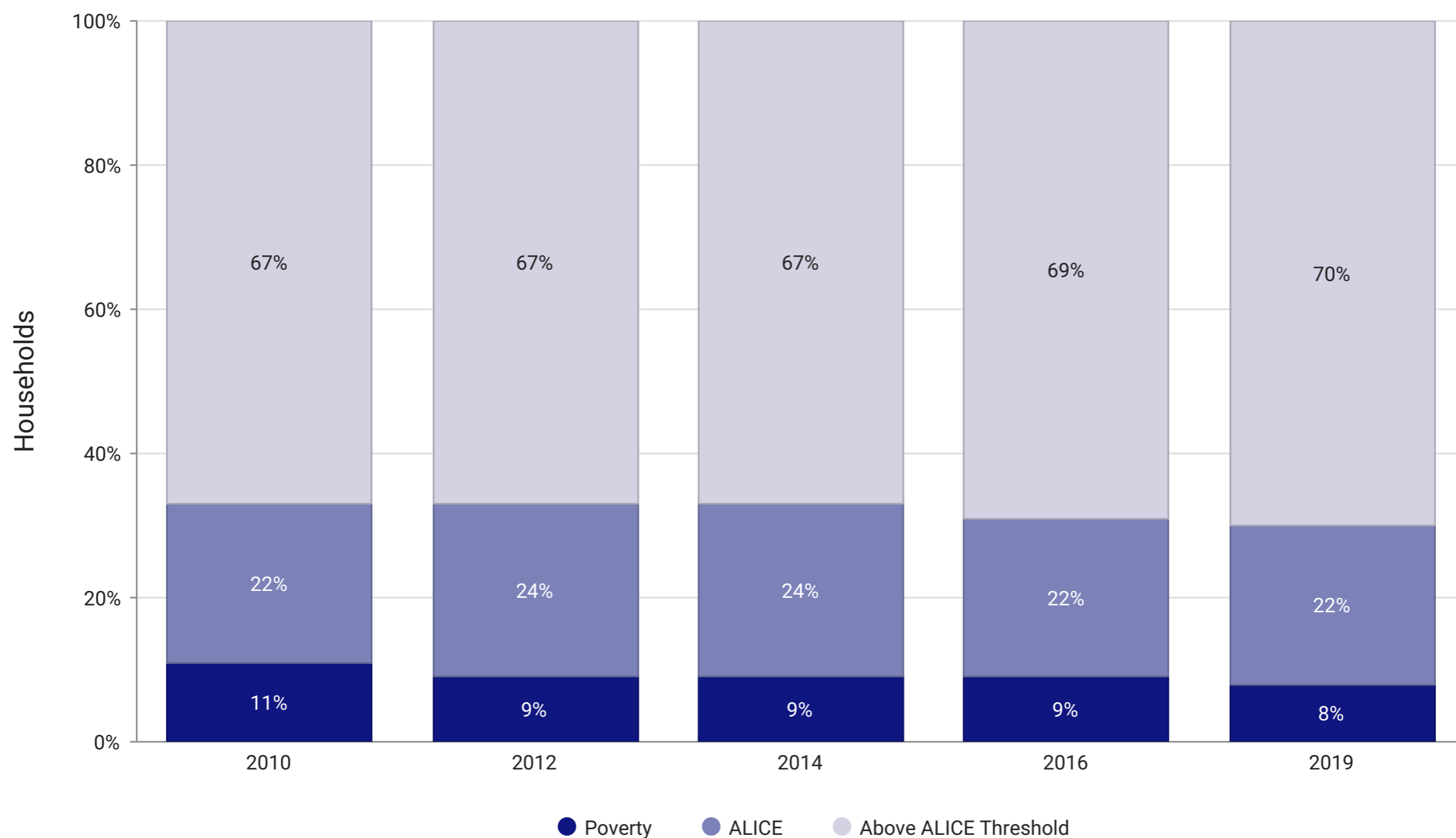
Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2007-2019; American Community Survey, 2007-2019

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

UnitedForALICE.org



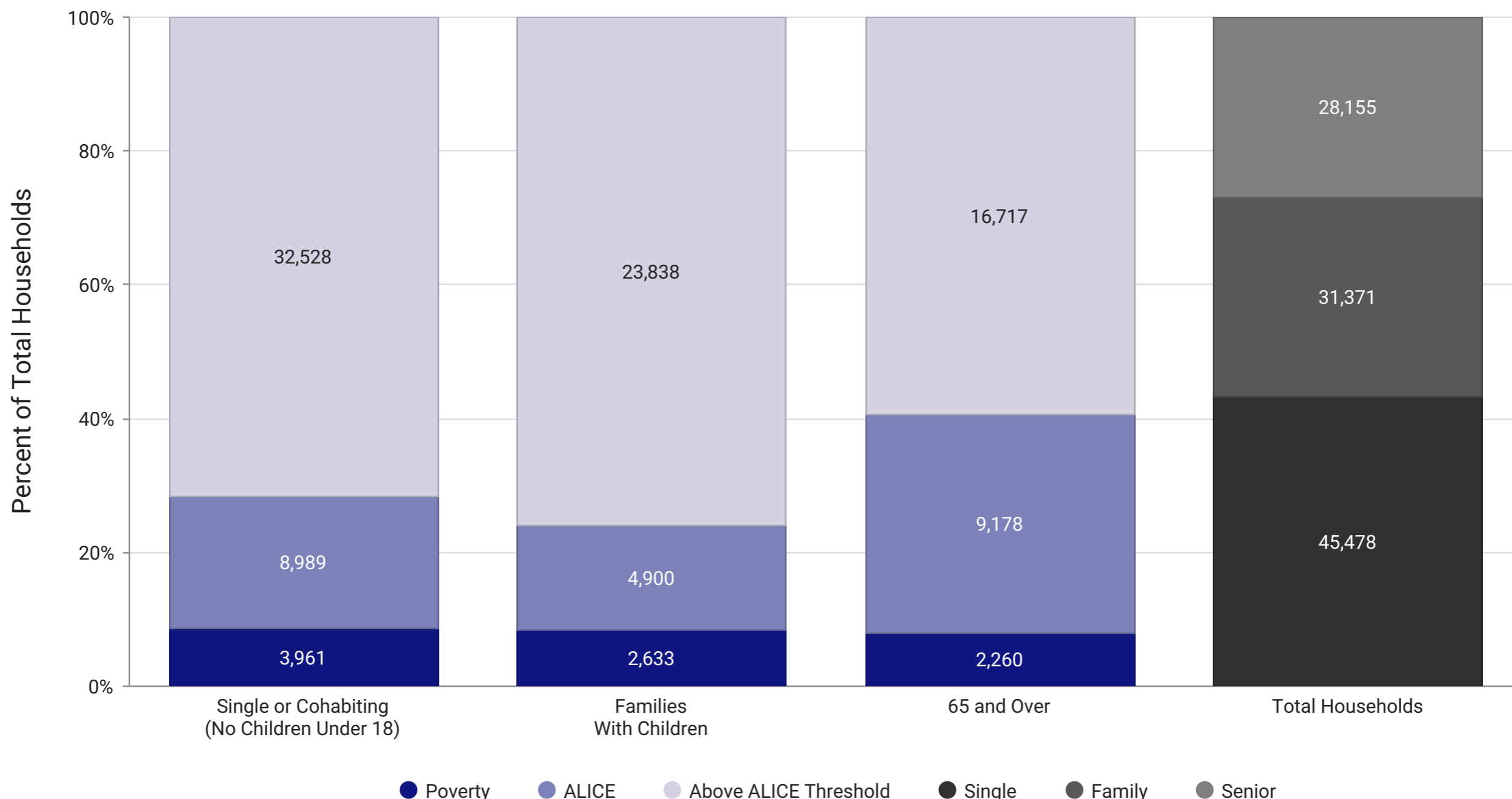
ALICE and Poverty in Ottawa County Over Time...continued



Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2007-2019; American Community Survey, 2007-2019

What Types of Households Are Struggling?

In the past few decades, there have been major shifts in household composition. The share of American adults who have never been married is at a historic high, as is the number of senior households. There is also a growing number of people who live alone or with roommates, and an increasing share of grown children who live with their parents. Yet all types of households continue to struggle: ALICE and poverty-level households exist across all of these living arrangements.



Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2007-2019; American Community Survey, 2007-2019

Why Do So Many Households Struggle?

The cost of household basics outpaces wages...

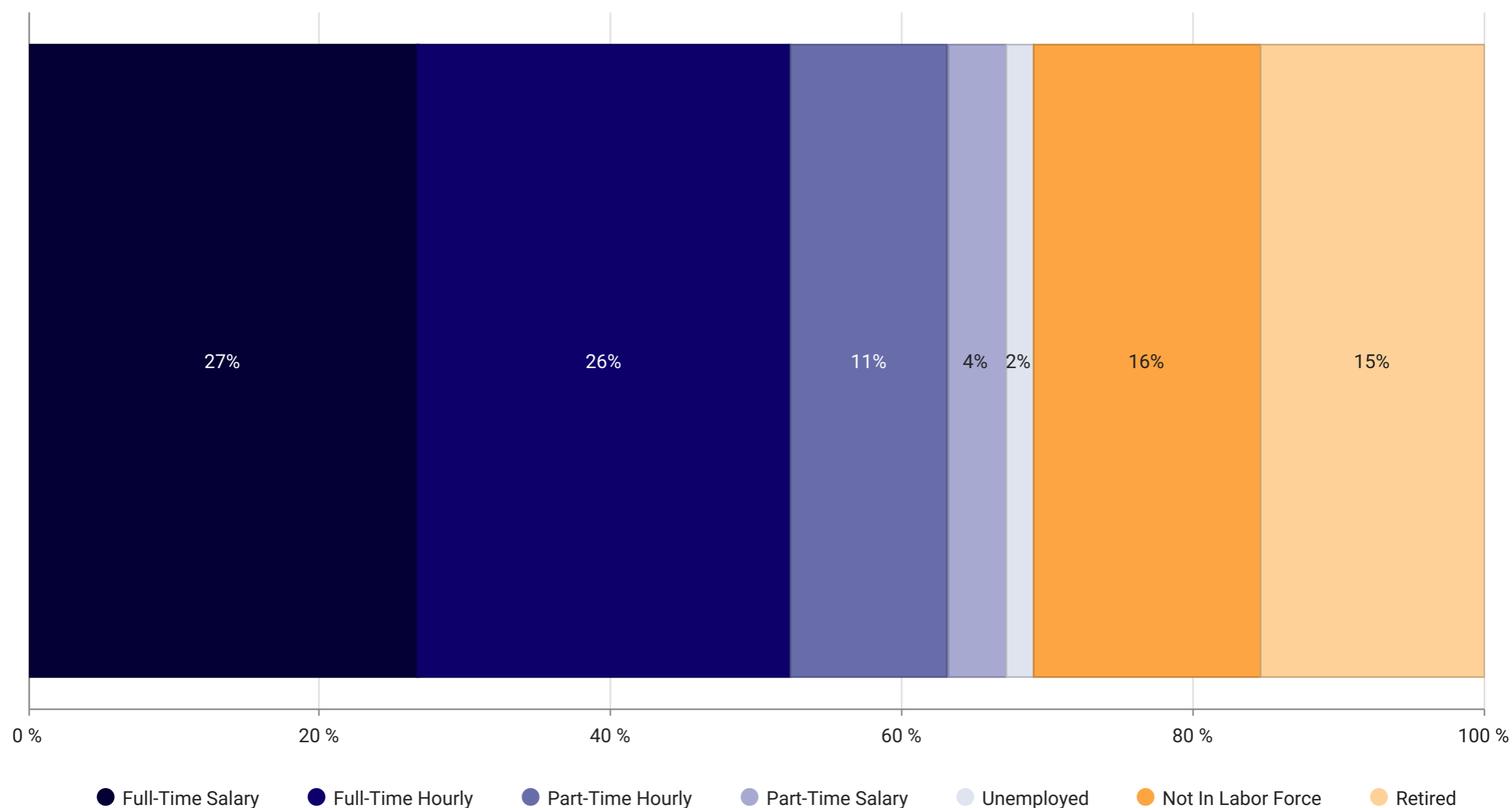
The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, technology (a smartphone plan), and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college or retirement. In 2019, household costs were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,490 for a single adult and \$25,750 for a family of four.

	Single Adult	Two Adults	Two Adults Two School-Age Children	Two Adults Two in Child Care	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Housing	\$744	\$763	\$874	\$874	\$744	\$763
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$437	\$1,175	\$0	\$0
Food	\$265	\$551	\$922	\$805	\$228	\$471
Transportation	\$457	\$647	\$929	\$929	\$406	\$545
Health Care	\$189	\$403	\$569	\$569	\$464	\$927
Technology	\$55	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$204	\$285	\$424	\$507	\$223	\$320
Taxes	\$326	\$412	\$438	\$640	\$335	\$420
Monthly Total	\$2,240	\$3,136	\$4,668	\$5,574	\$2,455	\$3,521
Annual Total	\$26,880	\$37,632	\$56,016	\$66,888	\$29,460	\$42,252
Hourly Wage	\$13.44	\$18.82	\$28.01	\$33.44	\$14.73	\$21.13

Sources: ALICE Household Survival Budget, 2019; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics, 2019

...and the labor landscape is challenging for ALICE workers.

A breakdown of the labor force shows a small portion of adults (16 years and older) who are unemployed and a large number who are working. However, a significant portion of full- and part-time workers are paid by the hour; these workers are more likely to have fluctuations in income and less likely to receive benefits. There is also a high number of workers outside of the labor force (people who are not employed and not looking for work), which has helped keep wages low: When more workers are available, employers have less incentive to raise wages to attract employees.

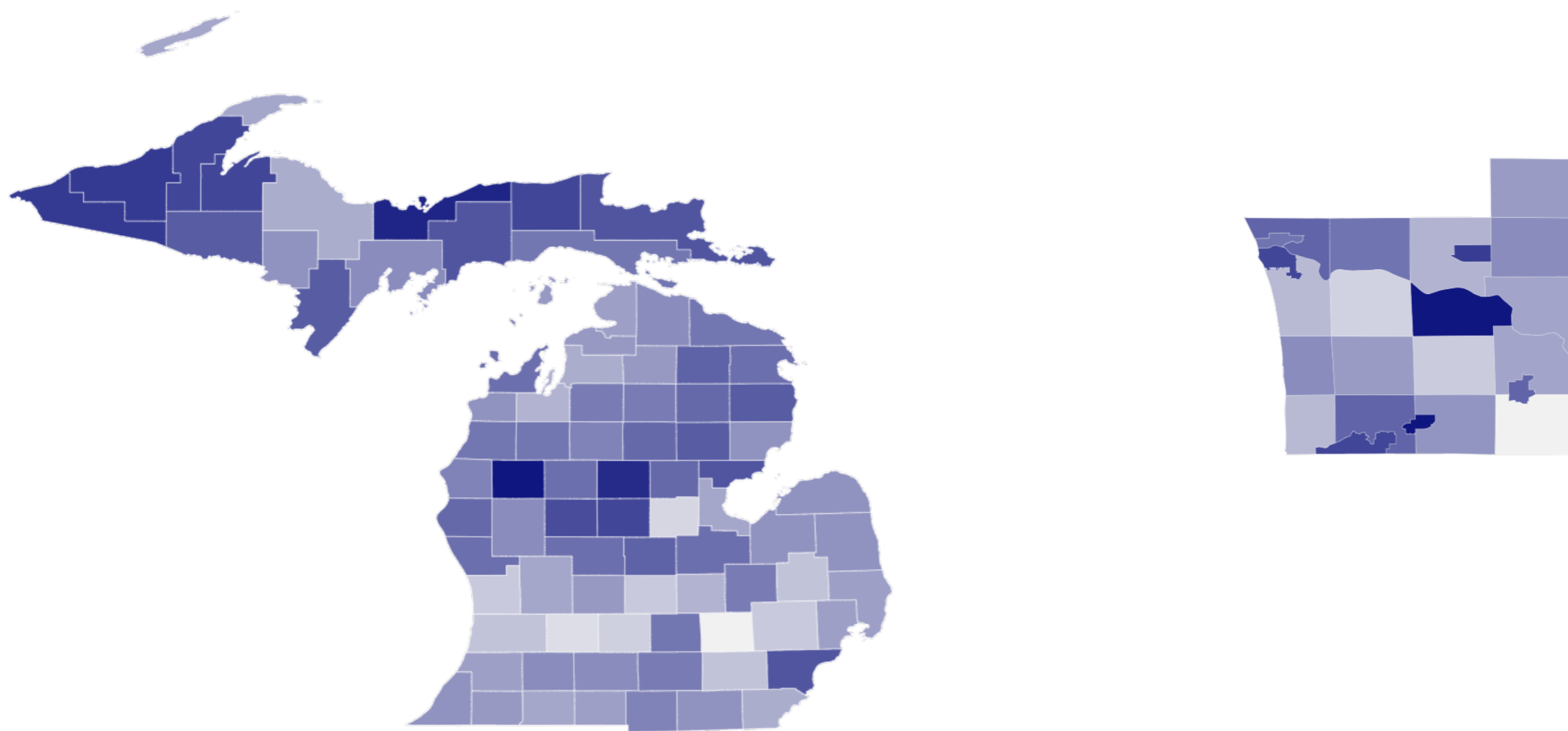


Note: Data for hourly full- and part-time jobs is only available at the national level; these national rates (51% of full-time workers paid hourly and 75% of part-time workers paid hourly) have been applied to the workforce at the county-level to calculate the breakdown shown in this figure. Because this figure sums county-level data (some using 1-year estimates and some using 5-year estimates), the state percentages may differ slightly from those shown in the 2020 Report. Full-time represents 35 hours per week or more at one or more jobs for 48 weeks per year.

Sources: American Community Survey, 2019; Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2019

How Does the Number of ALICE Households Vary Within the County?

There is significant variation in the number of households who live below the ALICE Threshold within the county.



Source: ALICE Threshold, 2019; American Community Survey, 2019

County Subdivision	Total Households	% Below ALICE Threshold
Allendale charter township, Ottawa County, Michigan	7,035	44%
Blendon township, Ottawa County, Michigan	2,214	21%
Chester township, Ottawa County, Michigan	767	27%
Coopersville city, Ottawa County, Michigan	1,568	39%
Crockery township, Ottawa County, Michigan	1,730	32%
Ferrysburg city, Ottawa County, Michigan	1,359	32%
Georgetown charter township, Ottawa County, Michigan	18,488	26%
Grand Haven charter township, Ottawa County, Michigan	6,466	23%
Grand Haven city, Ottawa County, Michigan	4,901	38%
Holland charter township, Ottawa County, Michigan	13,723	34%
Holland city, Ottawa County, Michigan	9,217	38%
Hudsonville city, Ottawa County, Michigan	2,551	34%
Jamestown charter township, Ottawa County, Michigan	2,695	16%
Olive township, Ottawa County, Michigan	1,758	27%
Park township, Ottawa County, Michigan	6,984	23%
Polkton charter township, Ottawa County, Michigan	895	24%
Port Sheldon township, Ottawa County, Michigan	1,762	29%
Robinson township, Ottawa County, Michigan	2,135	20%
Spring Lake township, Ottawa County, Michigan	6,085	34%
Tallmadge charter township, Ottawa County, Michigan	2,986	26%
Wright township, Ottawa County, Michigan	1,167	29%
Zeeland charter township, Ottawa County, Michigan	3,703	28%
Zeeland city, Ottawa County, Michigan	2,421	44%

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2007-2019; American Community Survey, 2007-2019