

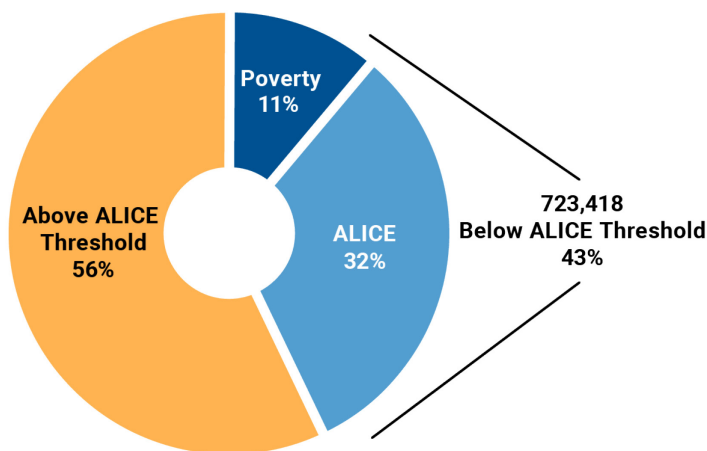
## CHILDREN IN FINANCIAL HARDSHIP: WASHINGTON

The number of children growing up in financial hardship in Washington has been systematically undercounted. For decades, policymakers and community stakeholders have relied on the outdated Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to understand the extent of financial hardship in their communities. According to the FPL, 11% of children in Washington (186,057) lived in poverty in 2019. Yet United For ALICE data shows that another 32% (537,361) – almost three times as many – were also growing up in hardship, in households that earned above the FPL but not enough to afford the basics in the communities where they lived.

The reality is that 723,418 children in Washington – 43% of all children – lived in a household with income below the [ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival](#) in 2019. These households included families in poverty as well as those who were **ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed**. ALICE households don't earn enough to afford the essentials of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, a smartphone plan, and taxes – the basics needed to live and work in the modern economy. There are children below the ALICE Threshold in [communities across the state \(PUMAs\)](#), at rates ranging from less than 15% in northeast King County and northwest Seattle to more than 70% in Clallam County, Jefferson County, and west central King County.

### Children by Household, Washington, 2019

Number of Children in Washington = 1.7 Million



*Note: This research uses the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) and focuses on children, whose ALICE status is determined by their household's income compared to local cost of living. The data does not include children who are unhoused or living in group quarters. In this brief, percentages are rounded to whole numbers for ease of reading, which may result in percentages totaling 99% or 101%. All numbers are presented in the [ALICE Children Data Dashboard](#).*

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2019; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, PUMS, 2019



### KEY FINDINGS

- Forty-three percent of children in Washington lived in households experiencing financial hardship in 2019. While 11% were below the FPL, an additional 32% – almost three times as many – were ALICE.
- While there are children below the ALICE Threshold across all demographic groups, 78% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children, 67% of Hispanic children, 66% of American Indian/Alaska Native children, and 64% of Black children in Washington lived in households with income below the ALICE Threshold in 2019, compared to 35% of White children and 26% of Asian children.
- Having working parents or guardians does not guarantee financial stability: 26% of Washington children in households with two adults in the labor force were still below the ALICE Threshold in 2019.
- Children below the ALICE Threshold often lack access to resources. Nearly 476,000 children below the ALICE Threshold in Washington did not participate in SNAP and nearly 161,000 had no high-speed internet access at home in 2019.

# WHO ARE ALICE CHILDREN?

Children below the ALICE Threshold are those under age 18 living in households with income below the basic cost of living for their communities. In 2019, 18% of children below the ALICE Threshold in Washington were infants (0–2 years), 13% were preschool-age (3–4 years), and 69% were school-age (5–17 years). Children in Washington’s struggling households are from all demographic groups; they include children born in the U.S. and abroad, of all abilities and races/ethnicities, living with parents or guardians who are married or single, working or not working. Children in households below the ALICE Threshold live in rural, urban, and suburban areas across the state.

## Race/Ethnicity and Nativity

In 2019, the largest number of children below the ALICE Threshold in Washington were found in the largest racial/ethnic populations: Children below the Threshold were predominantly White (323,247), Hispanic (238,561) and Black (45,739). Yet children in some racial/ethnic groups are disproportionately represented among ALICE children – a result of [persistent discrimination and systemic barriers](#) that limit their families’ access to resources and opportunities for financial stability. In 2019, 78% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children, 67% of Hispanic children, 66% of American Indian/Alaska Native children, and 64% of Black children in Washington lived in households with income below the Threshold, compared to 35% of White children and 26% of Asian children.

Nativity and English-speaking ability also have an impact. Of the 67,298 children in Washington who were born outside the country (4% of children in the state), 51% were below the ALICE Threshold in 2019, compared to 43% for those born in the U.S. Rates were even higher for Washington children living in a family with limited English-speaking ability, with 78% below the Threshold (compared to 84% nationally).

## Disability Status

In 2019, there were just over 73,000 children with a disability in Washington – 4% of all children in the state. However, this is likely a significant underestimate as the number of [children being served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) in the state is substantially higher. Children with a disability were more likely to live in households below the ALICE Threshold (54%) than those without a disability (43%).

The most common disability, impacting 55,281 children age 5 and older, was a cognitive difficulty due to a physical, mental, or emotional issue – having trouble remembering, concentrating, or making decisions.

Having a household member with a disability affects everyone in the family. In 2019 there were 336,976 children in Washington living in a household where someone had a disability, and 57% were below the ALICE Threshold (62% when a parent or guardian had a disability).

## Key Terms

- **ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed** – households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but cannot afford the basic cost of living in their county. While the FPL for a family of four in 2019 was \$25,750, the average bare-minimum cost of living for a family in Washington according to the ALICE Household Survival Budget was nearly \$73,000.
- **ALICE Threshold:** Derived from the Household Survival Budget, the average income that a household needs to afford housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a smartphone plan, plus taxes. Calculated for various household types for every U.S. state and county.
- **Below ALICE Threshold:** Includes children in both poverty-level and ALICE households combined.

## ALICE Children Data Dashboard

Explore data on children living in hardship by:

- State, regional, and local geographies
- Demographic categories including children’s age, race/ethnicity, disability, and nativity
- Household characteristics like work status and living arrangements
- Children’s access to key resources

Visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Focus-Children](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Focus-Children)

## Living Arrangements

ALICE children live in all kinds of households – with married or unmarried parents, single parents, grandparents, or guardians. Children are more likely to be below the ALICE Threshold when their families have fewer adults and/or adults with lower earning potential due to systemic [racism](#) and [gender](#) and [age discrimination](#).

Most children in Washington (95%) lived with at least one of their parents (biological or adoptive) in 2019: 66% lived in a household with both parents and 29% in a household with one parent. The largest number of children below the ALICE Threshold were in married-couple households (401,825), and this group had the smallest share of children below the Threshold (34%). The next largest group – single-female-headed households (238,658) – had a much higher percentage of children below the Threshold at 72%. Other arrangements had lower but still substantial percentages of children in struggling households: 56% of children in unmarried-couple households and 52% of children in single-male-headed households were below the Threshold. There were also differences by [marital status and partnership type](#):

- For married-couple households, there was a lower rate of children below the ALICE Threshold among those with different-sex couples (34%), compared to those with same-sex couples (40%).
- For unmarried-couple households, there was a higher rate of children below the ALICE Threshold among those with different-sex couples (57%), compared to those with same-sex couples (27%).

In 2019, 11% of Washington’s children (185,491) lived in a home with a grandparent. Children living with grandparents were similarly likely to be in poverty as those living without a grandparent (at 10% and 11%), but more likely to be ALICE (44% vs. 31%).

In addition, there were 73,838 children in Washington living in households without their parents in 2019. Just over 11% of these children in Washington (7,954) were in [foster care](#) (compared to 7% nationwide). But many more children who lived without their parents were in [arrangements outside of the formal system](#), including households headed by a grandparent or other relatives (42,125), or nonrelatives (23,759). Children living without their parents were more likely than those living with their parents to be below the ALICE Threshold (50%), though

this was lower than the national rate (62%). The largest number of children below the ALICE Threshold living without their parents were Hispanic (66% below the ALICE Threshold). Yet a higher percentage of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and Black children living without their parents were below the ALICE Threshold (94% and 86%, respectively) compared to those who were White (34%) or Asian (29%).

## Household Work Status

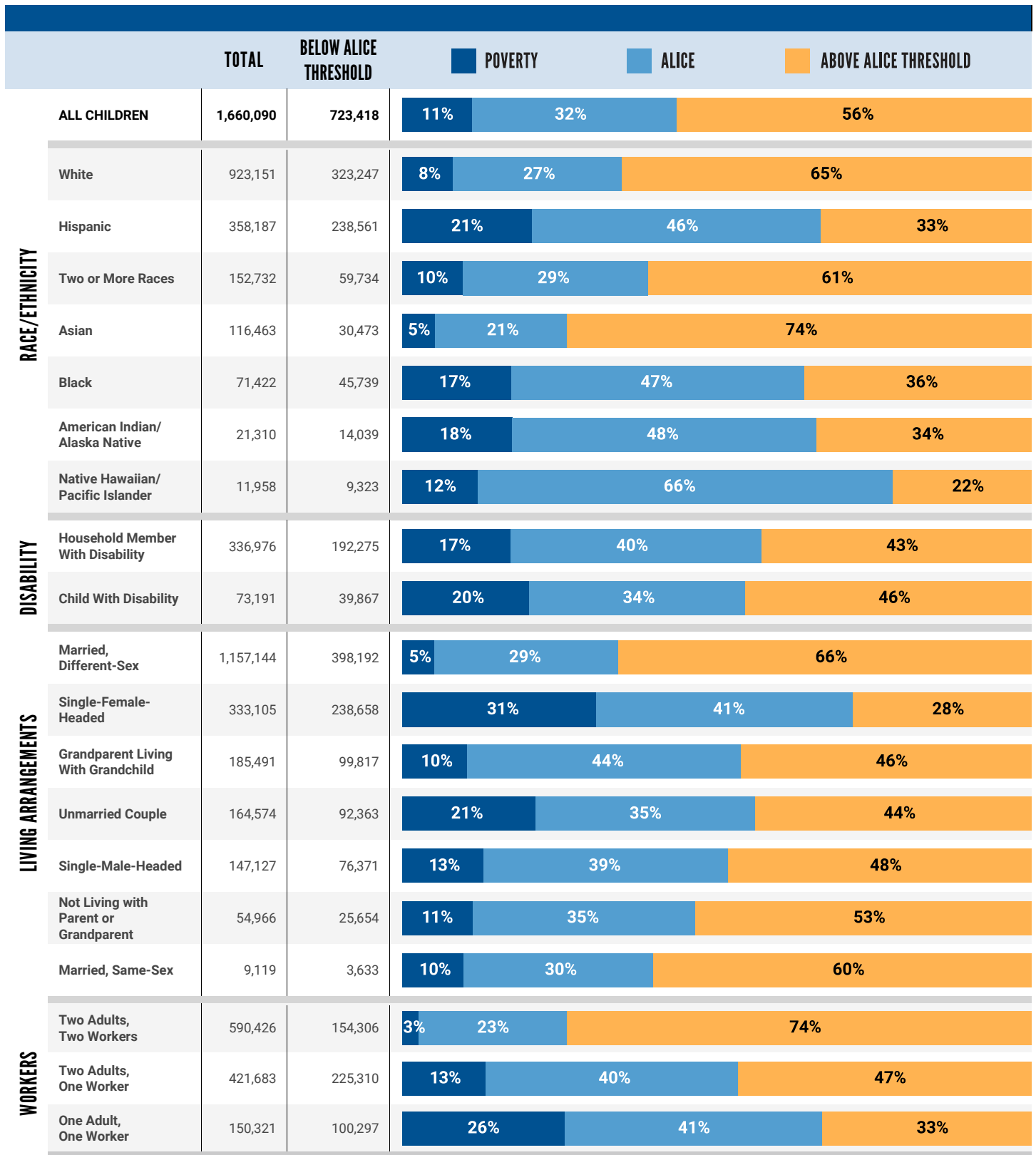
The largest driver of a child’s financial stability is the employment status of household members. But having working parents or guardians does not guarantee financial stability. In 2019, most children in Washington lived in a household with at least one worker (95%). Children living in households with a single parent or guardian were more likely to be struggling: With one adult working, 67% were below the ALICE Threshold.

Children living in households with two adults were more likely to be financially stable when both adults worked. If one out of two adults were working, 53% of children were below the ALICE Threshold. But even with two adults working, 26% of children were below the Threshold.

While parents and guardians work in every industry and sector in Washington, children below the ALICE Threshold are concentrated in families where adults work in occupations with low median hourly wages. For example, in 2019, 49% of children with an adult working as a retail salesperson, earning a median wage of \$14.64 per hour, were below the Threshold. More striking, 66% of children with adults working as cashiers (median wage of \$13.77 per hour) were below the Threshold. Even in families with adults working as retail sales supervisors, at a higher median wage of \$22.10 per hour, 47% of children were still below the Threshold, as household expenses vary by household size, composition, and location.

In addition, 21% of 16- and 17-year-olds in Washington (36,085) were in the labor force in 2019. Of teens living in households with income below the ALICE Threshold, 19% were in the labor force, compared to 22% living in households above the Threshold. While these findings may seem counterintuitive, they are in line with existing [research](#) that shows youth in low-income households have fewer opportunities and resources needed to work than teens from families with higher incomes.

# Children by Household Financial Status and Key Demographics, Washington, 2019



Note: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers for ease of reading, which may result in percentages totaling 99% or 101%. The groups shown in this figure overlap across categories (Race/Ethnicity, Disability Status, Living Arrangements, and Workers). All racial categories except Two or More Races are for one race alone. The Hispanic group may include children of any race. "Grandparent Living With Grandchild" includes any arrangement where grandparents live with their grandchild, including where parents or other adults are present. For the Workers category, the number of workers is defined as "workers in the family over the last 12 months" from when the survey was conducted. View more on the [ALICE Children Data Dashboard](#).

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2019; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, PUMS, 2019

# WHAT RESOURCES DO ALICE CHILDREN LACK?

Many ALICE families earn too much to be eligible for public assistance but still struggle to meet basic needs for their children. ALICE households are much more likely to lack stable housing, quality child care/early education, private health insurance, and home internet access, yet they still don't qualify for many public assistance programs. When these necessities are at risk, there are both [short- and long-term consequences](#) for children below the ALICE Threshold.

## Stable Housing

Housing instability has a profound impact on a family and child's overall well-being. Children in families without stable housing face greater risks for [poor physical health](#), [increased family stress](#), [social isolation](#), and [lower academic performance](#). Children living in rented housing units and cost burdened households are more likely to go through the stress of moving – and ALICE children and children in poverty are more likely to live in both of these types of housing.

Among children below the ALICE Threshold in Washington in 2019, 57% were in families who rented and 43% were in families who owned their home (vs. 20% and 80%, respectively, for households above the Threshold). There were also gaps by race and ethnicity both above and below the ALICE Threshold. Below the Threshold, families of Black children had the lowest homeownership rate (21%), while families of Asian children had the highest rate at 68%. Above the Threshold, the homeownership rate for families of Black children was considerably higher (63%), yet still substantially lower than for families of White (83%) and Asian (82%) children.

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# 51%

*of children in renter households below the ALICE Threshold in Washington were rent burdened*

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Because housing is one of the most expensive items in the Household Survival Budget, it is not surprising that 51% of children in renter households below the ALICE Threshold in Washington paid more than 35% of household income on rent (compared to 4% of children in renter households above the Threshold).

The highest rates of children below the ALICE Threshold living in rent burdened households, at more than 77%, were in central King County, central Thurston County, and northeastern Seattle.

For all children – regardless of whether their family rented or owned – the longer they lived at their place of residence, the more likely they were to have higher income. Both above and below the ALICE Threshold, children in renter households were more likely to have moved in the past year compared to those in owner households (28% vs. 10%).

## Education

Quality early-childhood programs have proven to be critical to [healthy child development](#), and to acquiring foundational skills required for a [successful transition to school](#) and [future academic achievement](#). Of all preschool-age children in Washington, half were enrolled in preschool in 2019, similar to the national average (49%). Washington had the highest preschool enrollment rate in the Pacific Northwest (rates were 43% in Oregon and 33% in Idaho). Preschool enrollment rates also differed by household financial status: 42% of preschool-age children below the ALICE Threshold in Washington were enrolled in preschool in 2019, compared to 57% of their peers above the Threshold. A smaller difference was seen in kindergarten enrollment (88% of children below the Threshold vs. 92% above).

[Being a high school graduate prepares teens for future academic and career success](#). Yet in 2019, 5,447 Washington children aged 15–17 were not in school. More than half (53%) of these teens lived in households with income below the ALICE Threshold.



# Health Insurance

Access to health insurance is critical to both [wellness](#) and [financial stability](#) for families below the ALICE Threshold and [especially children](#). While most children in Washington had health insurance in 2019 (97%, higher than the national rate of 95%), 4% of children in families with income below the Threshold did not have coverage. Children in families with income below the Threshold were more likely to have public insurance (63%), while those above the Threshold were more likely to have private insurance (84%).

| Children: Washington | Below ALICE Threshold | Above ALICE Threshold |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| No Insurance         | 4%<br>(27,188)        | 2%<br>(23,140)        |
| Public Insurance     | 63%<br>(455,643)      | 13%<br>(125,495)      |
| Private Insurance    | 33%<br>(240,587)      | 84%<br>(788,037)      |

# Home Internet

The availability of internet access and devices for education has become increasingly essential for young people, yet the [digital divide](#) by income and race/ethnicity persists. In Washington, 98% of children overall had home internet access in 2019, higher than the national rate (95%). However, children below the ALICE Threshold were less likely to have home internet access than those above the Threshold (97% vs. 99%) and considerably less likely to have high-speed internet (78% vs. 90%), which is often essential for work and online learning.

Nearly  
**161,000**

*children below the ALICE Threshold in Washington did not have access to high-speed internet at home*

There were also differences in access by race/ethnicity, especially for high-speed internet: 31% of Hispanic children in households below the ALICE Threshold did not have high-speed internet access, compared to 18% of White children and 11% of Black children in households below the Threshold.

Access also varied by location. The percentage of children below the ALICE Threshold without high-speed internet access was highest across Ferry, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, and Stevens counties (at 41%).

# Public Assistance

For a [variety of reasons](#), public assistance does not reach all children in households that are struggling. While most children in poverty are eligible, ALICE children live in households that often earn too much to qualify for assistance. For example, the income eligibility threshold in Washington for one of the most far-reaching public assistance programs, the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP, formerly food stamps), is [200%](#) of the FPL. Even though all children in poverty should be covered by SNAP, in Washington the program was utilized by only 65% of children in poverty (121,294) and a mere 24% of children in ALICE households (126,302) in 2019. This left a gap of nearly 476,000 children whose families were struggling to make ends meet but not participating in SNAP.

Nearly  
**476,000**

*children below the ALICE Threshold in Washington were struggling but did not participate in SNAP*

SNAP coverage of children below the ALICE Threshold varied among Pacific Northwest states: At 34%, Washington had a higher participation rate than Idaho (28%) but a lower participation rate than Oregon (38%).

# HOW HAVE ALICE CHILDREN FARED DURING THE PANDEMIC?

How a child starts in life impacts their long-term health, wellness, education and career. Family financial stability is one of the strongest [predictors of current and future well-being](#). Financial instability not only contributes to current experiences of [stress, trauma and hardship](#), but it impedes a child's opportunity for [future success](#), including higher education, a higher income, and long-term asset building.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, children below the ALICE Threshold experienced the ripple effect of challenges related to their parents' work status, lack of income/savings, and family responsibilities. As shown in our recent report, [The Pandemic Divide](#), households below the Threshold suffered disproportionately during the pandemic, with vulnerabilities caused by longstanding racial inequities ensuring that Black and Hispanic households experienced the greatest hardship.

Expanding on *The Pandemic Divide*, our analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent [Household Pulse Surveys](#) (July–October 2021) reveals that **children and households below the ALICE Threshold bear the brunt of the pandemic's physical and emotional toll:**

- **Financial uncertainties:** Because households below the ALICE Threshold with children continue to suffer from loss of employment income and are unable to save, they remain far less confident in their ability to make their next rent or mortgage payment on time. In Washington, almost one in three families below the Threshold with children were slightly confident, not at all confident, or had deferred their payment, compared to 7% of those above the Threshold.
- **Food insufficiency:** Throughout the pandemic, families below the ALICE Threshold with children consistently struggled to afford food. As recently as the fall of 2021, 37% of Washington families below the Threshold with children reported that sometimes or often "children were not eating enough because we just couldn't afford enough food." While this was less common in higher-income households, a substantial 16% of respondents above the Threshold also struggled to afford food for their children. Public assistance filled in only part of the gap. In the fall of 2021, over half (54%) of students below the ALICE Threshold picked up or ate a free meal at school, received an EBT card to help buy groceries, or had free meals delivered, which means that nearly half (46%) did not.
- **Interrupted learning:** The pandemic has disrupted student learning for two years, and students in households below the ALICE Threshold have been disproportionately affected. In Washington, this was reflected in the way that many high school students [changed their plans to attend college](#): Those below the ALICE Threshold were almost twice as likely as those above to cancel plans to take classes (25% vs. 13%).
- **Delayed or missed health care:** Children below the ALICE Threshold were less likely to have had preventive health care; in the fall of 2021, 45% of Washington households below the Threshold with children had to miss, delay, or skip their child's preventive check-up in the last 12 months, compared to 31% of those above the Threshold. Forgoing or postponing care caused some children to go without routine vaccinations, screenings, and ongoing care for chronic health conditions.
- **The Child Tax Credit:** Forty-three percent of Washington households below the ALICE Threshold with children were still not receiving the advance Child Tax Credit in the fall of 2021, [for numerous reasons](#) such as a parent not having filed a recent tax return or a child not having a Social Security number. The immediate need for the additional income is evident from the ways Washington families who did receive the advance Child Tax Credit used it: Those below the Threshold were more likely to use it to pay off debt than those above the Threshold (45% vs. 26%), and were less likely to save it (22% vs. 38%).

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## 43%

*of Washington households below the ALICE Threshold with children still had not received the advance Child Tax Credit in the fall of 2021*

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# ALICE IN FOCUS: CHILDREN – KEY INDICATORS BY STATE, 2019

| State                | Total              | Household Income Status |            |                         | Rent Burden  | Preschool                          | Internet  | SNAP  |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
|                      | Number of Children | % Poverty               | % ALICE    | % Below ALICE Threshold | % Below ALICE Threshold Paying 35% or More on Rent | % Preschool-Age Enrolled in School | % Below ALICE Threshold with High-Speed Internet Access | % Below ALICE Threshold Participating in SNAP |
| <b>United States</b> | <b>72,723,350</b>  | <b>16%</b>              | <b>33%</b> | <b>49%</b>              | <b>53%</b>   | <b>49%</b>                         | <b>69%</b>  | <b>36%</b>                                    |
| Alabama              | 1,084,431          | 21%                     | 32%        | 53%                     | 41%  | 45%                                | 56%   | 40%   |
| Alaska               | 177,930            | 12%                     | 33%        | 45%                     | 50%  | 47%                                | 59%   | 32%   |
| Arizona              | 1,635,592          | 18%                     | 33%        | 51%                     | 46%  | 42%                                | 64%   | 36%   |
| Arkansas             | 696,534            | 23%                     | 32%        | 55%                     | 39%  | 48%                                | 57%   | 31%   |
| California           | 8,857,941          | 15%                     | 41%        | 56%                     | 59%  | 51%                                | 73%   | 29%   |
| Colorado             | 1,250,988          | 10%                     | 40%        | 50%                     | 51%  | 52%                                | 78%   | 22%   |
| Connecticut          | 725,789            | 13%                     | 29%        | 42%                     | 65%  | 67%                                | 77%   | 37%   |
| Delaware             | 203,357            | 15%                     | 33%        | 48%                     | 56%  | 54%                                | 72%   | 34%   |
| D.C.                 | 127,468            | 20%                     | 34%        | 54%                     | 54%  | 84%                                | 75%   | 49%   |
| Florida              | 4,219,941          | 17%                     | 39%        | 56%                     | 61%  | 53%                                | 71%   | 38%   |
| Georgia              | 2,498,618          | 19%                     | 38%        | 57%                     | 50%  | 51%                                | 69%   | 35%   |
| Hawaii               | 299,765            | 12%                     | 35%        | 47%                     | 64%  | 53%                                | 80%   | 32%   |
| Idaho                | 448,452            | 12%                     | 33%        | 45%                     | 47%  | 33%                                | 68%   | 28%   |
| Illinois             | 2,809,314          | 15%                     | 26%        | 41%                     | 56%  | 56%                                | 69%   | 42%   |
| Indiana              | 1,566,776          | 16%                     | 28%        | 44%                     | 48%  | 41%                                | 63%   | 31%   |
| Iowa                 | 719,042            | 14%                     | 25%        | 39%                     | 45%  | 47%                                | 62%   | 39%   |
| Kansas               | 698,097            | 15%                     | 30%        | 45%                     | 48%  | 50%                                | 71%   | 26%   |
| Kentucky             | 996,896            | 21%                     | 28%        | 49%                     | 44%  | 36%                                | 66%   | 38%   |
| Louisiana            | 1,084,053          | 26%                     | 31%        | 57%                     | 53%  | 51%                                | 60%   | 45%   |
| Maine                | 245,182            | 12%                     | 36%        | 48%                     | 37%  | 51%                                | 76%   | 40%   |
| Maryland             | 1,328,582          | 12%                     | 35%        | 47%                     | 57%  | 50%                                | 76%   | 32%   |
| Massachusetts        | 1,345,145          | 11%                     | 34%        | 45%                     | 55%  | 59%                                | 78%   | 35%   |
| Michigan             | 2,134,523          | 17%                     | 27%        | 44%                     | 52%  | 47%                                | 68%   | 41%   |
| Minnesota            | 1,299,381          | 10%                     | 26%        | 36%                     | 52%  | 48%                                | 74%   | 29%   |
| Mississippi          | 696,324            | 27%                     | 27%        | 54%                     | 45%  | 60%                                | 51%   | 42%   |
| Missouri             | 1,363,714          | 16%                     | 32%        | 48%                     | 43%  | 46%                                | 64%   | 36%   |
| Montana              | 225,787            | 17%                     | 27%        | 44%                     | 45%  | 38%                                | 67%   | 37%   |
| Nebraska             | 472,477            | 11%                     | 29%        | 40%                     | 37%  | 47%                                | 77%   | 31%   |
| Nevada               | 689,628            | 18%                     | 34%        | 52%                     | 59%  | 37%                                | 72%   | 30%   |
| New Hampshire        | 256,279            | 7%                      | 32%        | 39%                     | 45%  | 58%                                | 82%   | 27%   |
| New Jersey           | 1,926,659          | 12%                     | 29%        | 41%                     | 59%  | 70%                                | 75%   | 31%   |
| New Mexico           | 472,259            | 24%                     | 32%        | 56%                     | 47%  | 48%                                | 56%   | 48%   |
| New York             | 3,995,206          | 17%                     | 35%        | 52%                     | 58%  | 60%                                | 69%   | 36%   |
| North Carolina       | 2,288,488          | 19%                     | 32%        | 51%                     | 47%  | 46%                                | 67%   | 39%   |
| North Dakota         | 176,687            | 9%                      | 24%        | 33%                     | 27%  | 32%                                | 62%   | 30%   |
| Ohio                 | 2,566,933          | 18%                     | 28%        | 46%                     | 46%  | 47%                                | 71%   | 42%   |
| Oklahoma             | 948,484            | 20%                     | 30%        | 50%                     | 47%  | 45%                                | 57%   | 39%   |
| Oregon               | 859,939            | 13%                     | 35%        | 48%                     | 49%  | 43%                                | 74%   | 38%   |
| Pennsylvania         | 2,615,510          | 17%                     | 27%        | 44%                     | 54%  | 43%                                | 73%   | 47%   |
| Rhode Island         | 202,058            | 12%                     | 31%        | 43%                     | 52%  | 49%                                | 77%   | 44%   |
| South Carolina       | 1,107,123          | 19%                     | 36%        | 55%                     | 45%  | 43%                                | 62%   | 37%   |
| South Dakota         | 213,617            | 13%                     | 29%        | 42%                     | 33%  | 42%                                | 74%   | 38%   |
| Tennessee            | 1,507,924          | 20%                     | 35%        | 55%                     | 46%  | 41%                                | 67%   | 36%   |
| Texas                | 7,380,301          | 19%                     | 34%        | 53%                     | 52%  | 44%                                | 63%   | 37%   |
| Utah                 | 926,458            | 10%                     | 31%        | 41%                     | 53%  | 45%                                | 76%   | 19%   |
| Vermont              | 112,768            | 9%                      | 33%        | 42%                     | 45%  | 69%                                | 78%   | 39%   |
| Virginia             | 1,852,456          | 12%                     | 35%        | 47%                     | 54%  | 50%                                | 72%   | 29%   |
| <b>Washington</b>    | <b>1,660,090</b>   | <b>11%</b>              | <b>32%</b> | <b>43%</b>              | <b>51%</b>   | <b>50%</b>                         | <b>78%</b>  | <b>34%</b>                                    |
| West Virginia        | 357,343            | 19%                     | 29%        | 48%                     | 38%  | 32%                                | 71%   | 53%   |
| Wisconsin            | 1,260,851          | 12%                     | 26%        | 38%                     | 48%  | 45%                                | 72%   | 37%   |
| Wyoming              | 134,190            | 10%                     | 25%        | 35%                     | 40%  | 32%                                | 68%   | 20%   |



## NEXT STEPS

There's a lot more to be done to change the trajectory for ALICE children. Visit [UnitedForALICE.org](https://UnitedForALICE.org) to learn more, then share this data with stakeholders in your community.

### Learn more with:

- The [ALICE Children Data Dashboard](#), to dig deeper into related topics, demographics, and sub-state geographies
- [Resources related to children and financial hardship](#), including the references linked in this Research Brief, as well as additional resources that offer important context and even deeper analysis
- [The Pandemic Divide: An ALICE Analysis of National COVID Surveys](#) (2021) and other resources on the ALICE and COVID-19 webpage, to see the impacts of the pandemic on ALICE
- [On Uneven Ground: ALICE and Financial Hardship in the U.S.](#) (2020), to learn about the trends that contributed to a growing number of ALICE households even before the pandemic
- The [ALICE Wage Tool](#), to explore wage levels by geography and occupation

### Connect with stakeholders:

- [Contact your local United Way](#) for support and volunteer opportunities
- [See members of the committees that support this work](#), including the ALICE in Focus National Research Advisory Committee for Children, and the ALICE in Focus National Leadership Committee for Children
- Find your state and federal representatives and see ALICE household data by legislative district with our [ALICE Legislative District Tool](#)
- Advocate for more accurate data collection by the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) for children who have been [historically undercounted](#), including (but not limited to) young children, children of color, children with disabilities, and children in low-income households

**United For ALICE** is a driver of innovative research and action around financial hardship. The data and analysis are shared with United Ways, corporations, foundations, government, and nonprofits, to inform policy and promote positive change.

United For ALICE partners with [United Ways of the Pacific Northwest](#) to bring the ALICE research to Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and this work is sponsored by:



United Ways of the  
Pacific Northwest



The **ALICE in Focus Series** utilizes ALICE measures – the Household Survival Budget and the ALICE Threshold – to analyze the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS). Each "Focus" in the series highlights a different demographic group. For more details about the methodology for the ALICE in Focus Series, go to [UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology).