

IOWA • 2018 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.

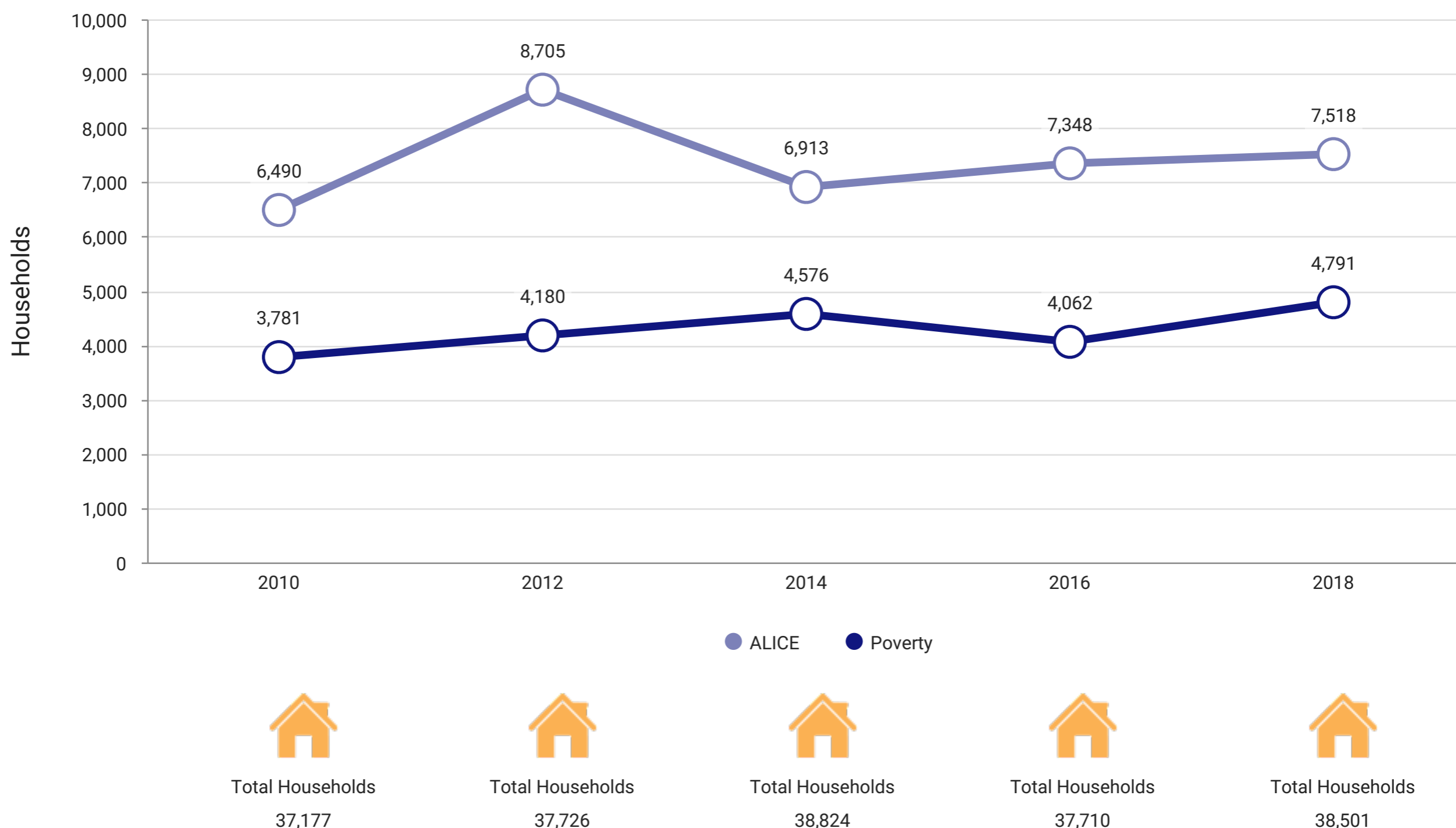
ALICE IN DUBUQUE COUNTY

2018 Point-in-Time-Data

Population:	96,854	Number of Households:	38,501
Median Household Income:	\$60,225 (state average: \$59,955)		
Unemployment Rate:	3.3% (state average: 3.6%)		
ALICE Households:	20% (state average: 23%)		
Households in Poverty:	12% (state average: 11%)		

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).



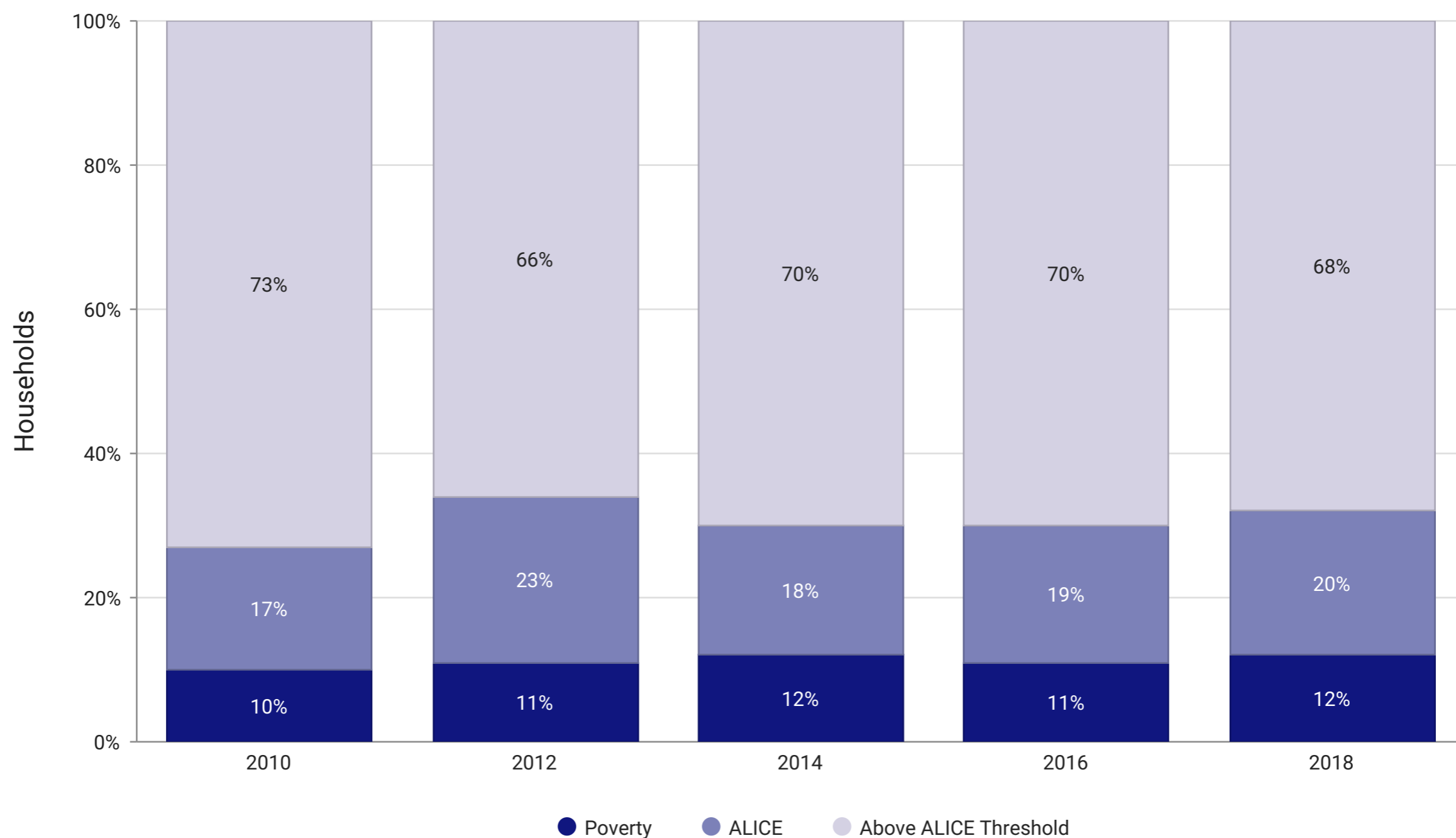
Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2007-2018; American Community Survey, 2007-2018

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

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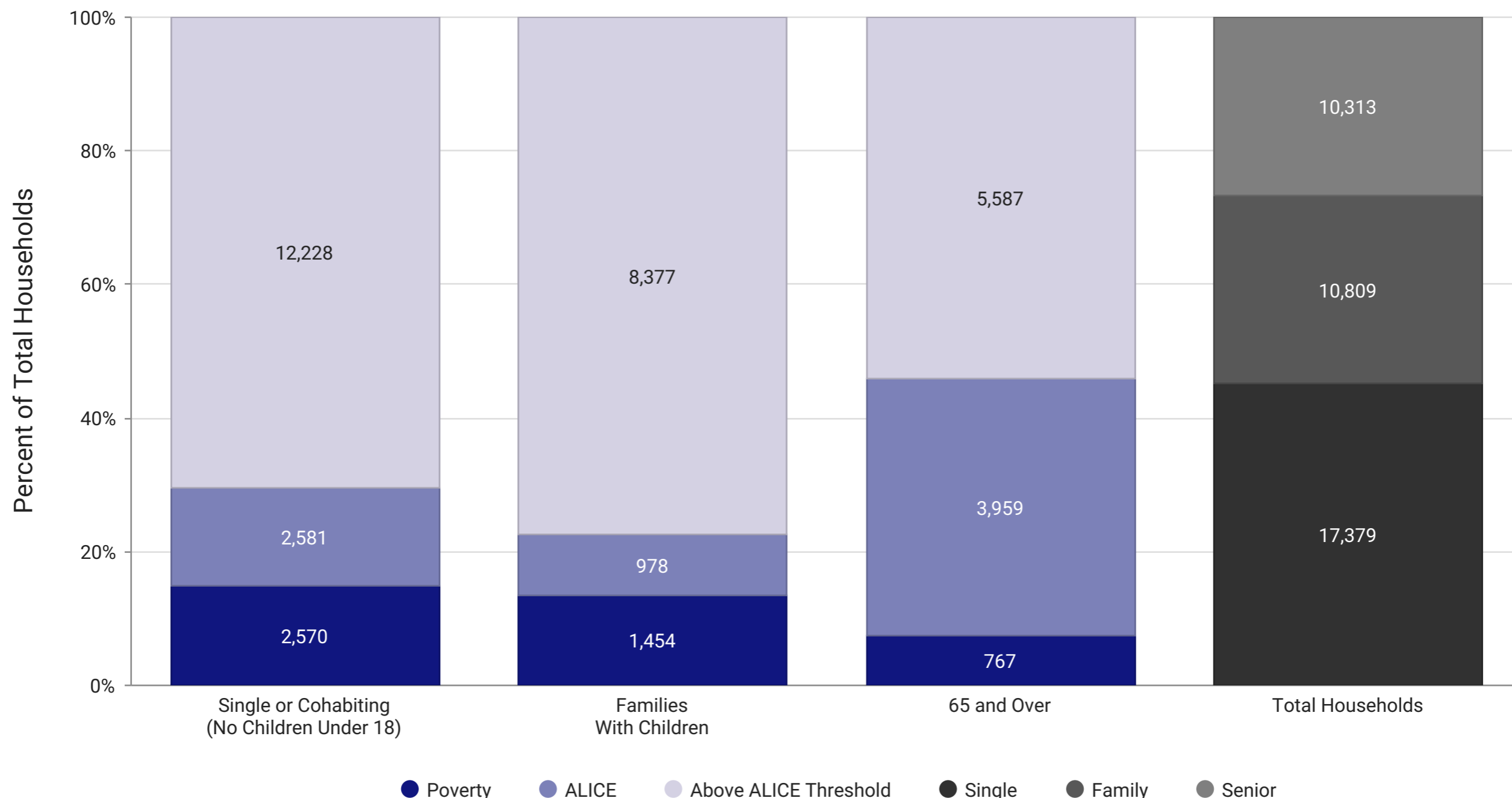
ALICE and Poverty in Dubuque County Over Time...continued



Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2007-2018; American Community Survey, 2007-2018

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, 2007-2018; American Community Survey, 2007-2018

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 2018, 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	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Single Senior
Housing	\$500	\$556	\$556	\$500
Child Care	\$0	\$195	\$544	\$0
Food	\$252	\$435	\$364	\$215
Transportation	\$318	\$476	\$476	\$272
Health Care	\$213	\$481	\$481	\$467
Technology	\$55	\$55	\$55	\$55
Miscellaneous	\$160	\$250	\$286	\$178
Taxes	\$265	\$297	\$386	\$274
Monthly Total	\$1,763	\$2,745	\$3,148	\$1,961
Annual Total	\$21,156	\$32,940	\$37,776	\$23,532
Hourly Wage	\$10.58	\$16.47	\$18.89	\$11.77

	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Two Seniors
Housing	\$556	\$716	\$716	\$556
Child Care	\$0	\$391	\$1,065	\$0
Food	\$523	\$874	\$763	\$446
Transportation	\$490	\$787	\$787	\$398
Health Care	\$481	\$720	\$720	\$933
Technology	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$254	\$404	\$479	\$283
Taxes	\$416	\$477	\$662	\$421
Monthly Total	\$2,795	\$4,444	\$5,267	\$3,112
Annual Total	\$33,540	\$53,328	\$63,204	\$37,344
Hourly Wage	\$16.77	\$26.66	\$31.60	\$18.67

Sources: ALICE Household Survival Budget, 2018; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics, 2018

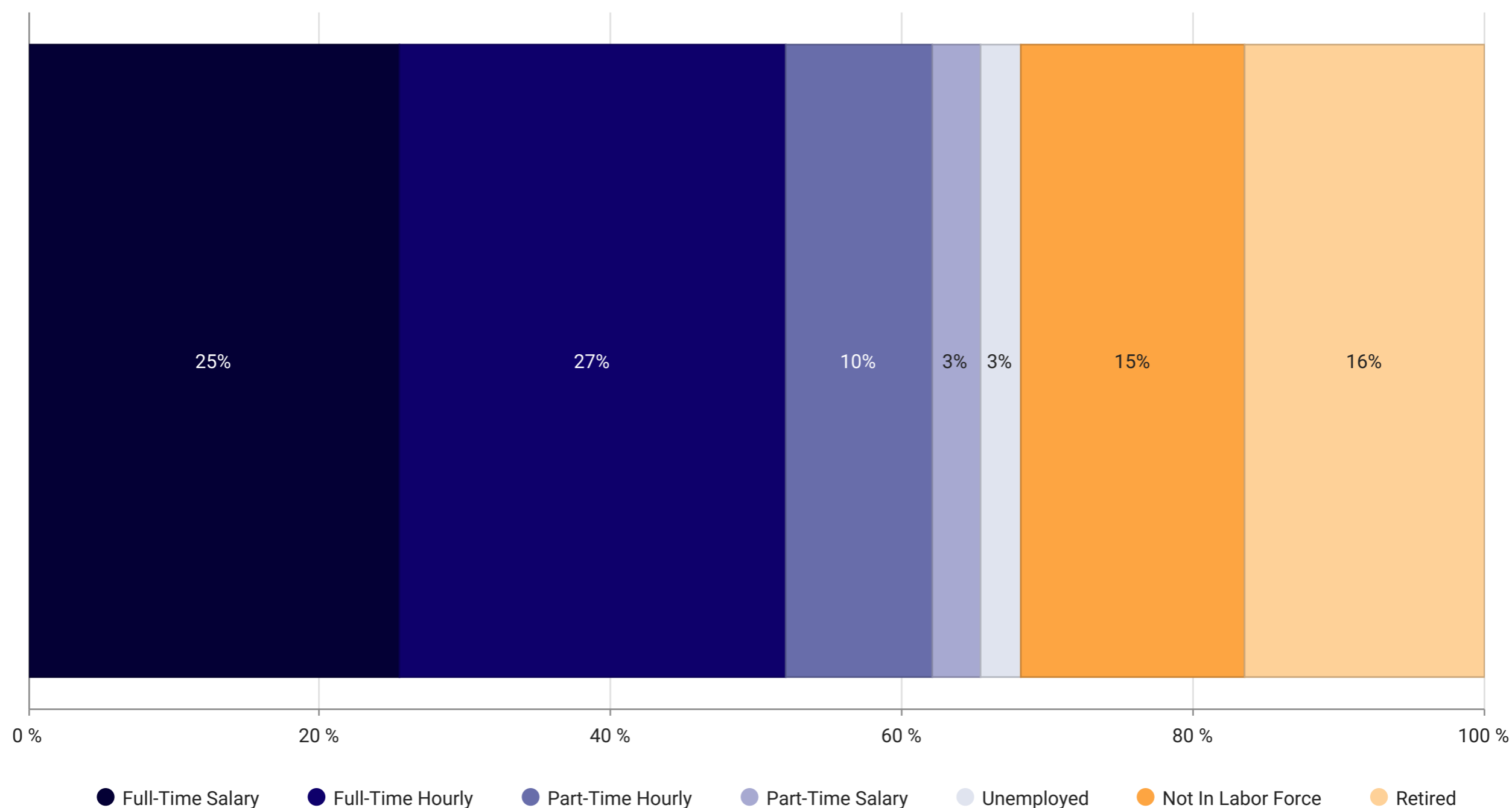
Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

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...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.

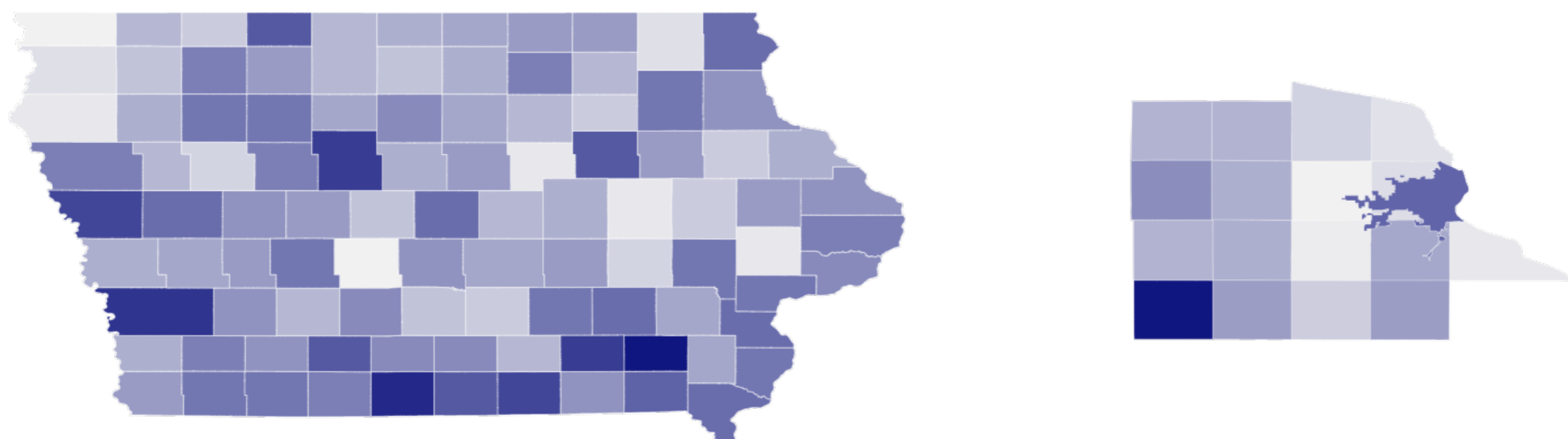


Note: Data for hourly full- and part-time jobs is only available at the national level; these national rates (51% of full-time workers paid hourly and 75% of part-time workers paid hourly) have been applied to the workforce at the county-level to calculate the breakdown shown in this figure. Because 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, 2018; Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2018

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, 2018; American Community Survey, 2018

County Subdivision	Total Households	% Below ALICE Threshold
Cascade township, Dubuque County, Iowa	461	53%
Center township, Dubuque County, Iowa	999	11%
Concord township, Dubuque County, Iowa	303	23%
Dodge township, Dubuque County, Iowa	616	23%
Dubuque city, Dubuque County, Iowa	23,926	38%
Dubuque township, Dubuque County, Iowa	2,680	15%
Iowa township, Dubuque County, Iowa	141	24%
Jefferson township, Dubuque County, Iowa	453	17%
Liberty township, Dubuque County, Iowa	207	23%
Mosalem township, Dubuque County, Iowa	658	13%
New Wine township, Dubuque County, Iowa	2,076	30%
Peru township, Dubuque County, Iowa	562	14%
Prairie Creek township, Dubuque County, Iowa	309	18%
Table Mound township, Dubuque County, Iowa	1,524	25%
Taylor township, Dubuque County, Iowa	1,526	24%
Vernon township, Dubuque County, Iowa	1,180	12%
Washington township, Dubuque County, Iowa	207	27%
Whitewater township, Dubuque County, Iowa	502	27%

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2007-2018; American Community Survey, 2007-2018