

County Reports

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 BERKELEY COUNTY

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. While conditions have improved for some households, many continue to struggle, especially as wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan). Households below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can't afford the essentials.

2024 Point-in-Time-Data

Population: 264,276 **Number of Households:** 100,299

Median Household Income: \$86,658 (state average: \$72,350)

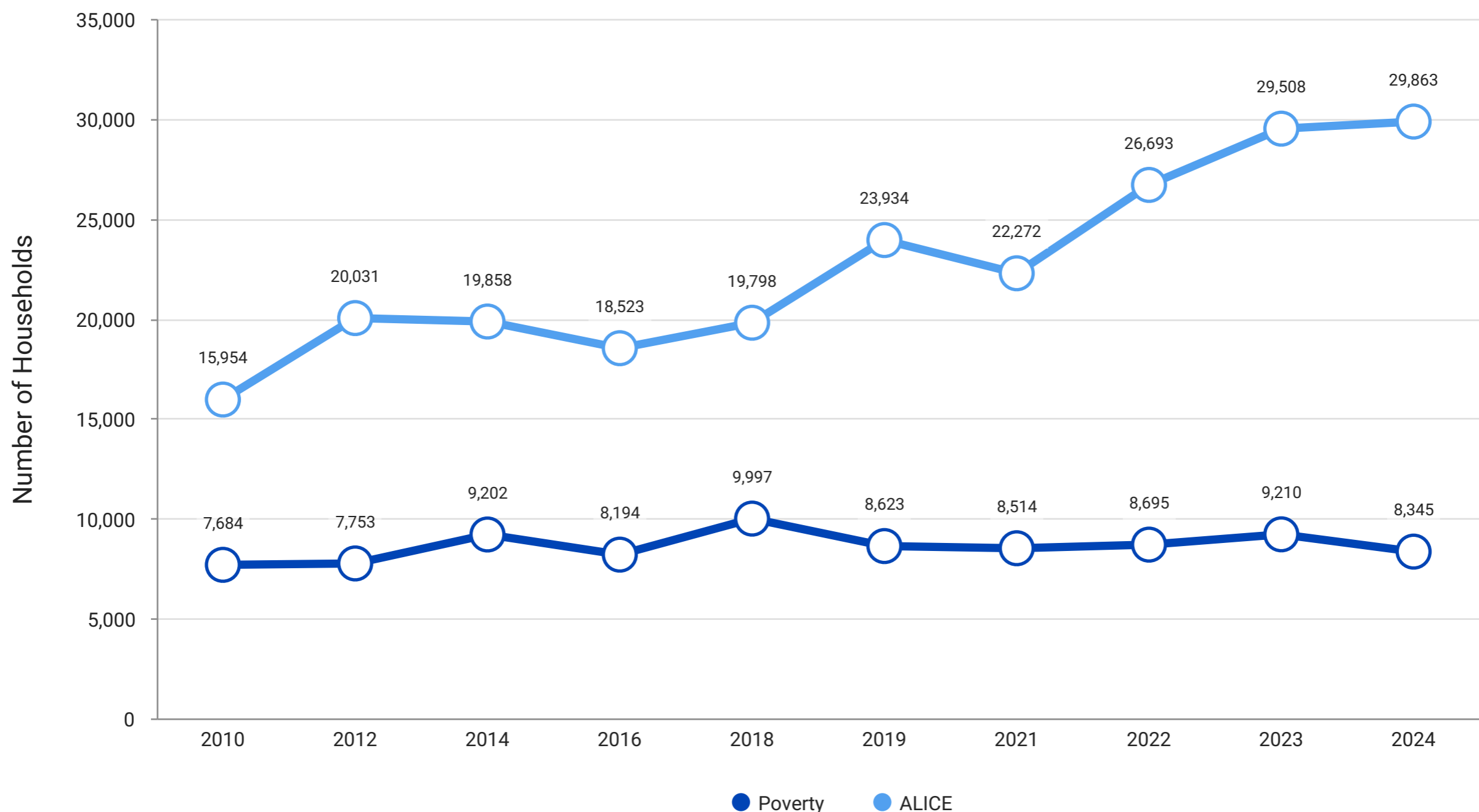
Labor Force Participation Rate:

ALICE Households: 30% (state average 28%) **Households in Poverty:** 8% (state average 14%)

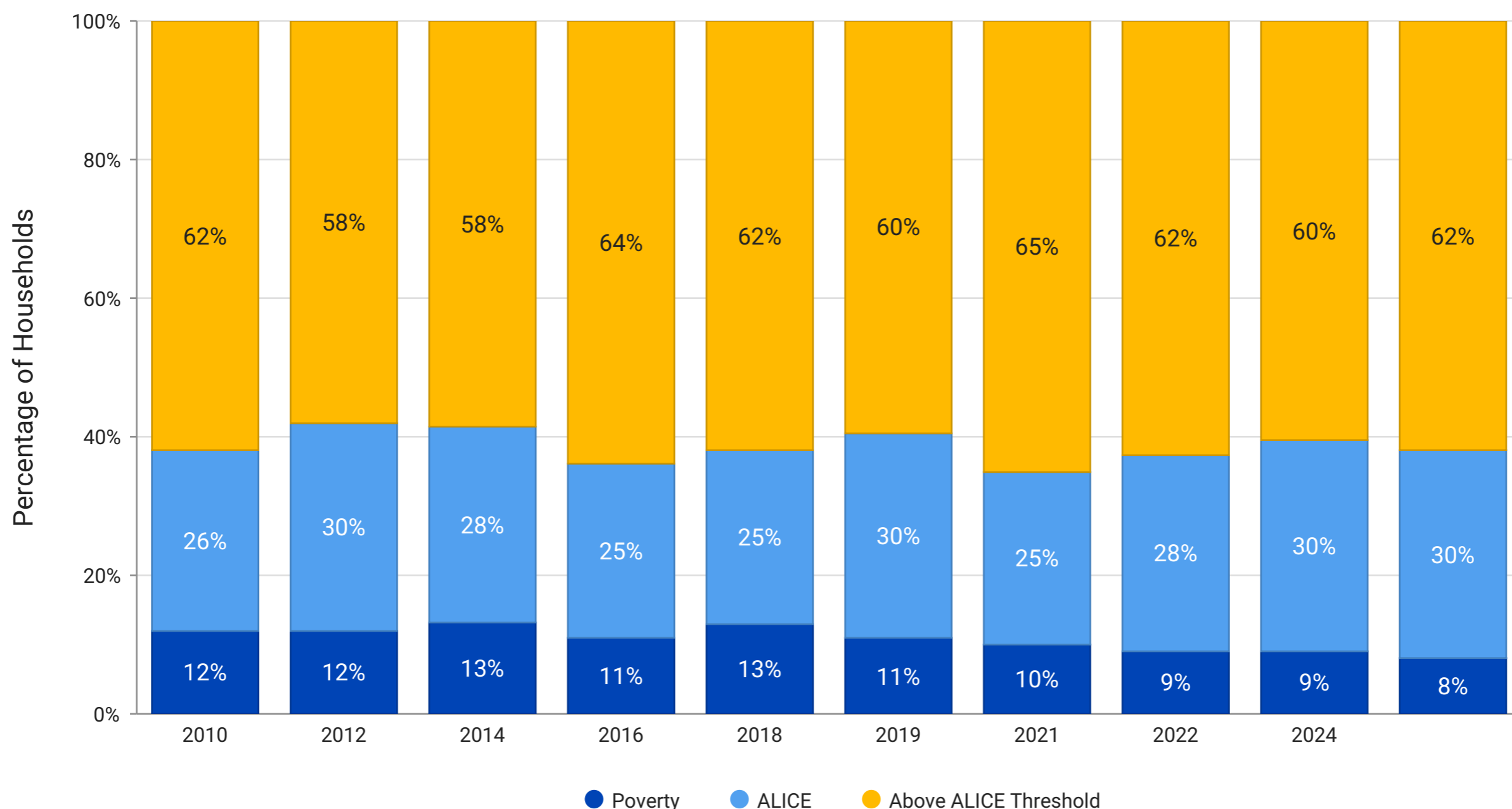
Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in South Carolina

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times.

Number of ALICE and Poverty-Level Households, South Carolina, 2024



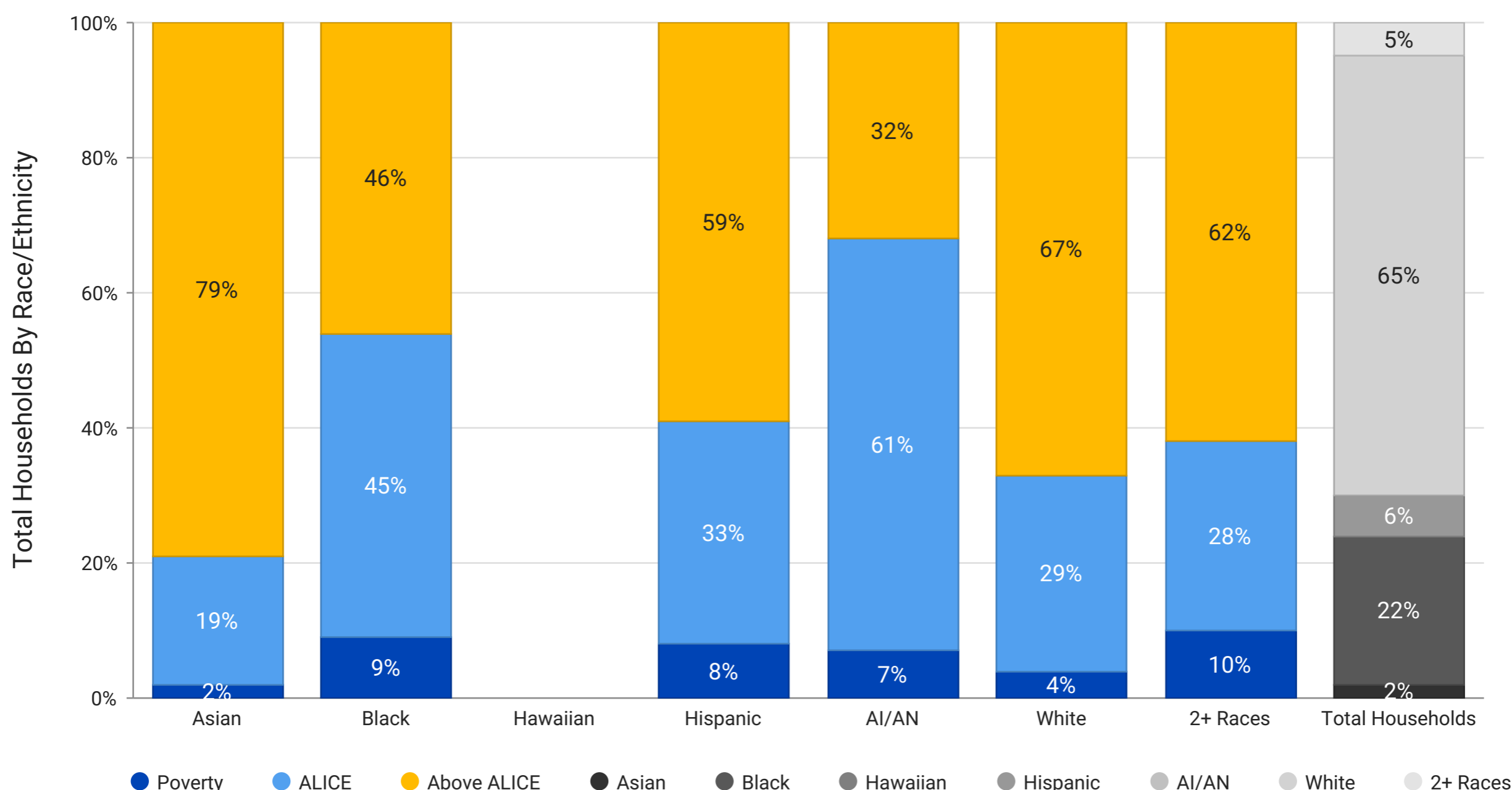
Percentage of Households, South Carolina, 2024



Financial Hardship is Not Equally Distributed

By total number, groups with the largest population of households below the ALICE Threshold tend to also be in the largest demographic groups. However, when looking at the proportion of each group that is below the ALICE Threshold, it is clear that some groups are more likely to be ALICE than others.

Households by Race/Ethnicity, South Carolina, 2024



There were also differences in financial hardship by household type and age of householder.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Group	% Below ALICE Threshold
Single or Cohabiting (no children)	36%
Married (with children)	17%
Single-Female-Headed (with children)	75%
Single-Male-Headed (with children)	57%

AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER

Group	% Below ALICE Threshold
Under 25 Years	62%
25 to 44 Years	30%
45 to 64 Years	38%
65 Years and Over	48%

The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

Household Survival Budget, Berkeley County, South Carolina, 2024								
Monthly Costs	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Adult 65+	Two Adults 65+
Housing	\$1,525	\$1,566	\$1,566	\$1,566	\$1,759	\$1,759	\$1,525	\$1,566
Child Care	\$0	\$227	\$604	\$0	\$453	\$1,271	\$0	\$0
Food	\$487	\$823	\$738	\$893	\$1,496	\$1,320	\$448	\$822
Transportation	\$389	\$482	\$482	\$564	\$834	\$834	\$328	\$441
Health Care	\$193	\$531	\$531	\$531	\$817	\$817	\$501	\$1,002
Technology	\$95	\$95	\$95	\$129	\$129	\$129	\$95	\$129
Miscellaneous	\$269	\$372	\$402	\$368	\$549	\$613	\$290	\$396
Taxes	\$470	\$445	\$524	\$518	\$550	\$723	\$529	\$834
Monthly Total	\$3,428	\$4,541	\$4,942	\$4,569	\$6,587	\$7,466	\$3,716	\$5,190
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$41,136	\$54,492	\$59,304	\$54,828	\$79,044	\$89,592	\$44,592	\$62,280
Hourly Wage	\$20.57	\$27.25	\$29.65	\$27.41	\$39.52	\$44.80	\$22.30	\$31.14



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ALICE IN CHARLESTON COUNTY

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2024 Point-in-Time-Data

Population: 431,001 **Number of Households:** 186,235

Median Household Income: \$93,911 (state average: \$72,350)

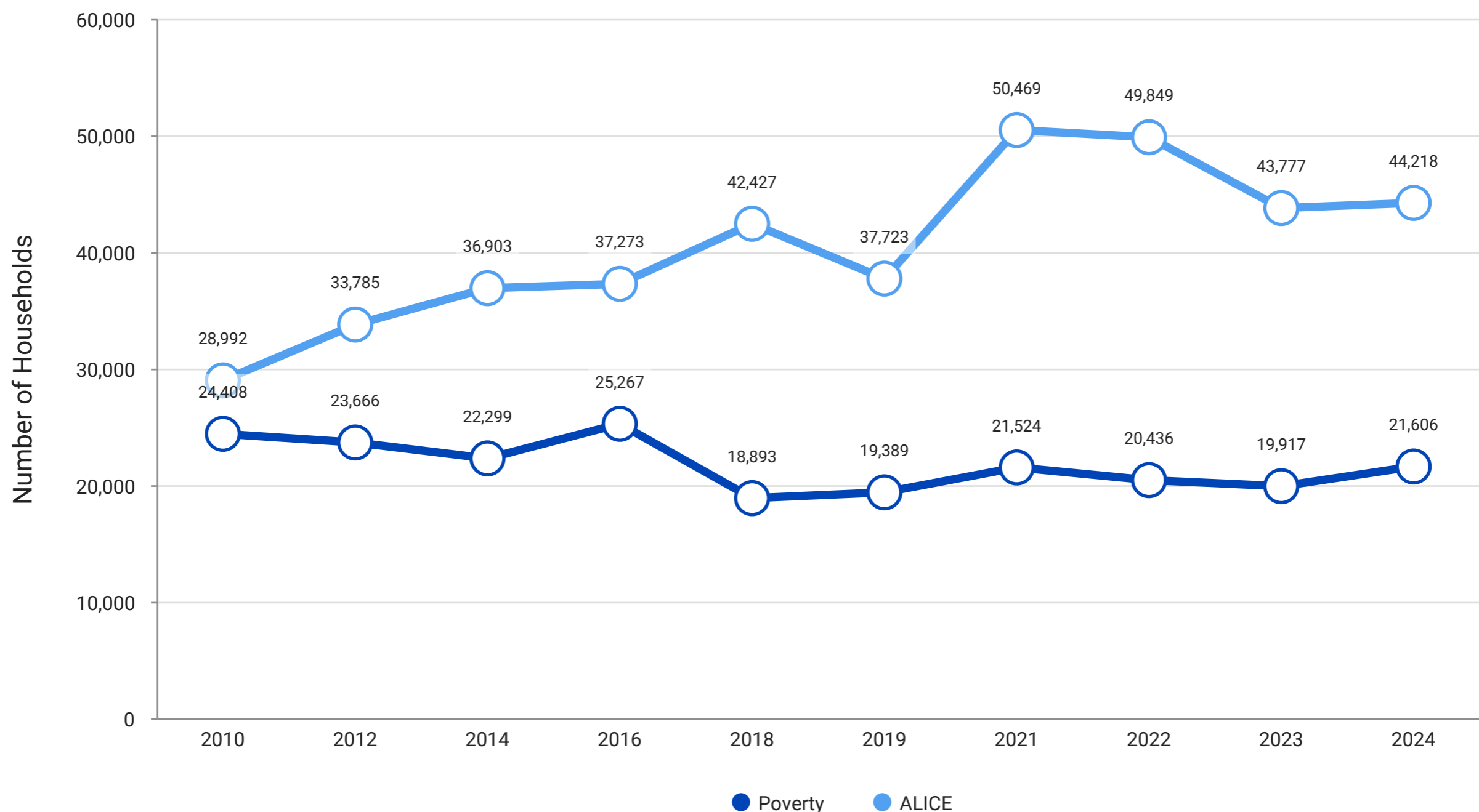
Labor Force Participation Rate:

ALICE Households: 24% (state average 28%) **Households in Poverty:** 12% (state average 14%)

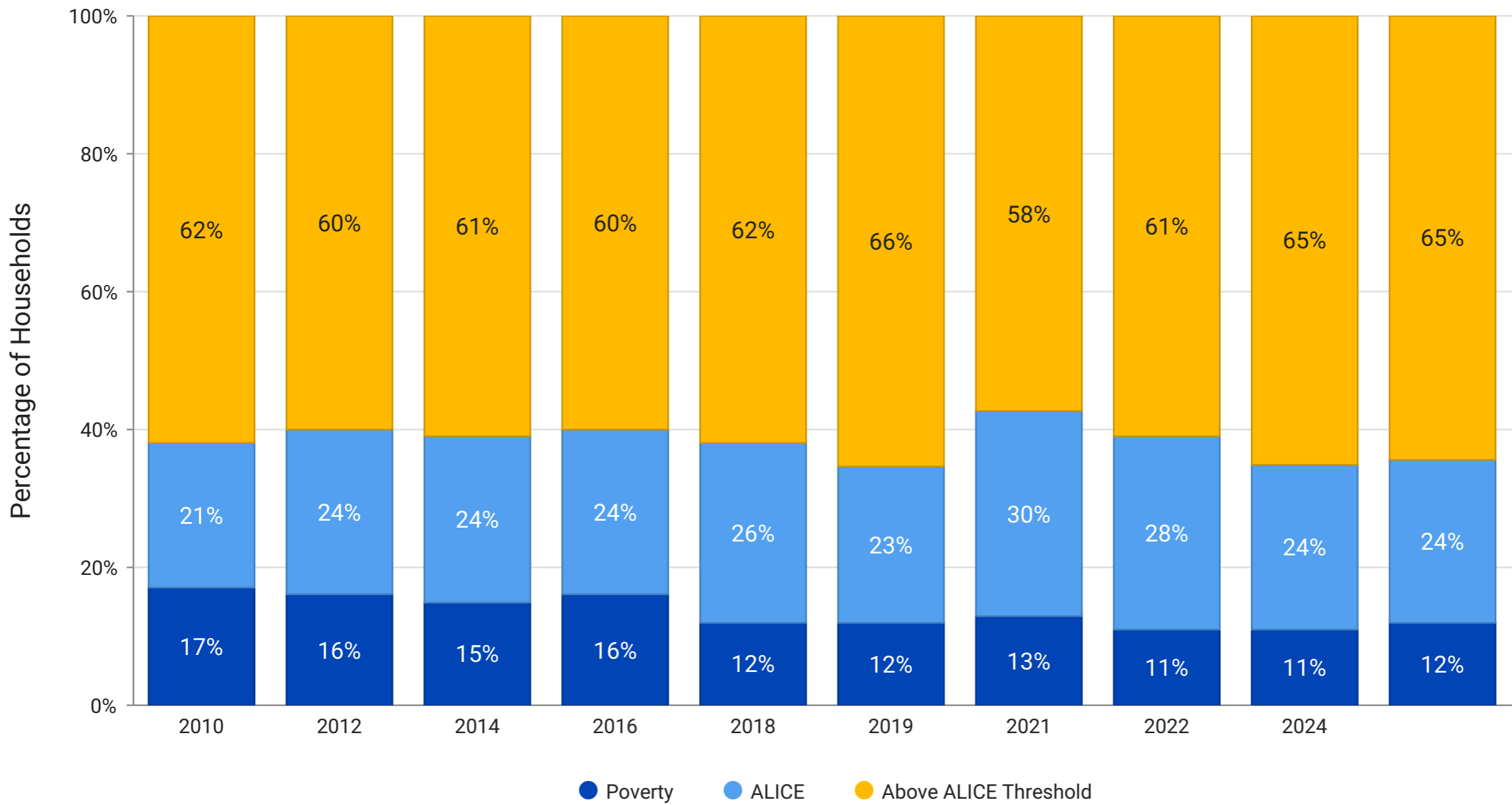
Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in South Carolina

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times.

Number of ALICE and Poverty-Level Households, South Carolina, 2024



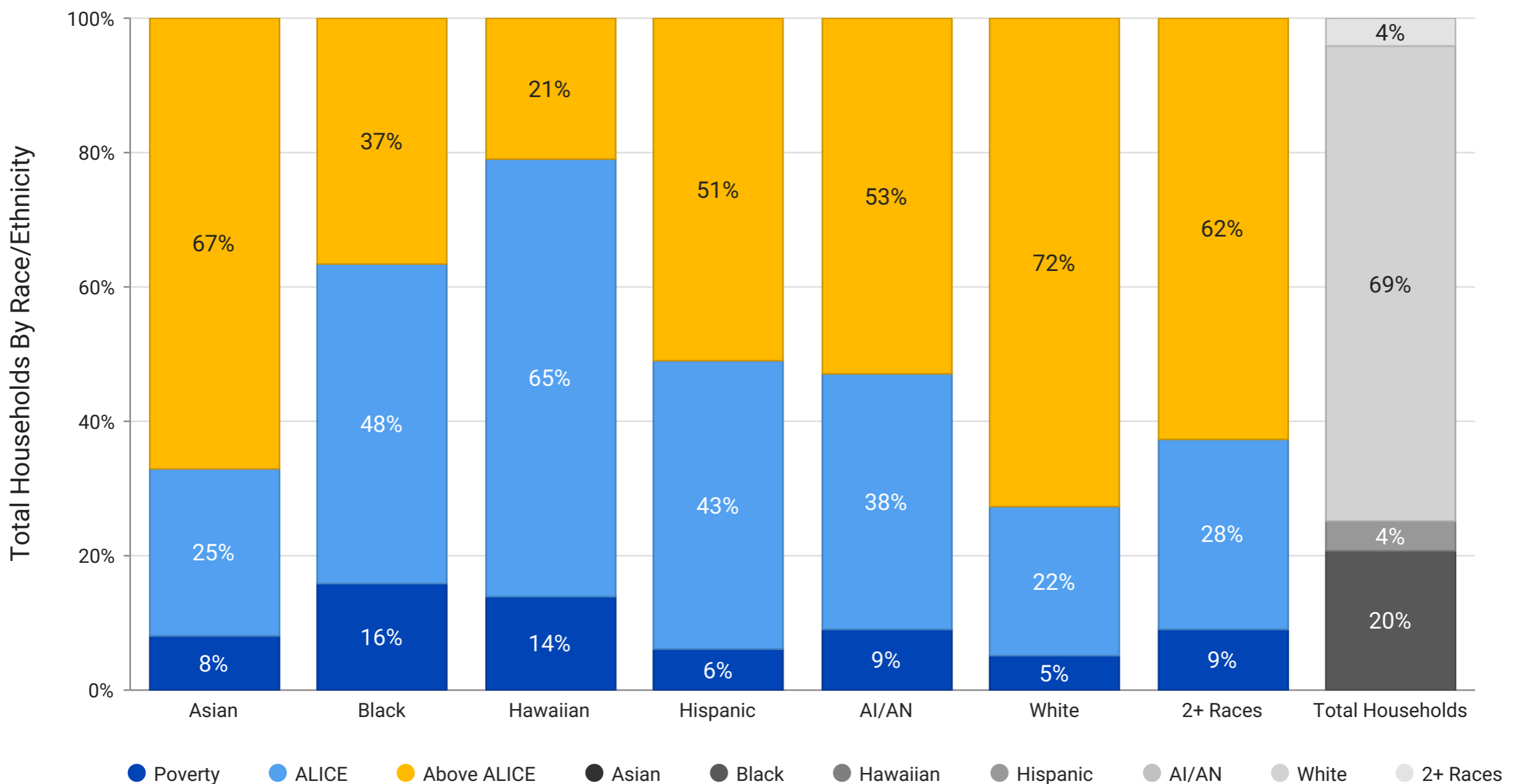
Percentage of Households, South Carolina, 2024



Financial Hardship is Not Equally Distributed

By total number, groups with the largest population of households below the ALICE Threshold tend to also be in the largest demographic groups. However, when looking at the proportion of each group that is below the ALICE Threshold, it is clear that some groups are more likely to be ALICE than others.

Households by Race/Ethnicity, South Carolina, 2024



There were also differences in financial hardship by household type and age of householder.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Group	% Below ALICE Threshold
Single or Cohabiting (no children)	32%
Married (with children)	14%
Single-Female-Headed (with children)	72%
Single-Male-Headed (with children)	49%

AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER

Group	% Below ALICE Threshold
Under 25 Years	66%
25 to 44 Years	29%
45 to 64 Years	28%
65 Years and Over	47%

The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

Household Survival Budget, Charleston County, South Carolina, 2024								
Monthly Costs	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Adult 65+	Two Adults 65+
Housing	\$1,595	\$1,639	\$1,639	\$1,639	\$1,842	\$1,842	\$1,595	\$1,639
Child Care	\$0	\$227	\$604	\$0	\$453	\$1,271	\$0	\$0
Food	\$555	\$938	\$841	\$1,017	\$1,705	\$1,504	\$511	\$936
Transportation	\$389	\$482	\$482	\$564	\$834	\$834	\$328	\$441
Health Care	\$193	\$531	\$531	\$531	\$817	\$817	\$499	\$999
Technology	\$95	\$95	\$95	\$129	\$129	\$129	\$95	\$129
Miscellaneous	\$283	\$391	\$419	\$388	\$578	\$640	\$303	\$414
Taxes	\$509	\$499	\$575	\$570	\$633	\$800	\$567	\$887
Monthly Total	\$3,619	\$4,802	\$5,186	\$4,838	\$6,991	\$7,837	\$3,898	\$5,445
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$43,428	\$57,624	\$62,232	\$58,056	\$83,892	\$94,044	\$46,776	\$65,340
Hourly Wage	\$21.71	\$28.81	\$31.12	\$29.03	\$41.95	\$47.02	\$23.39	\$32.67



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ALICE IN DORCHESTER COUNTY

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2024 Point-in-Time-Data

Population: 174,663 **Number of Households:** 67,113

Median Household Income: \$83,907 (state average: \$72,350)

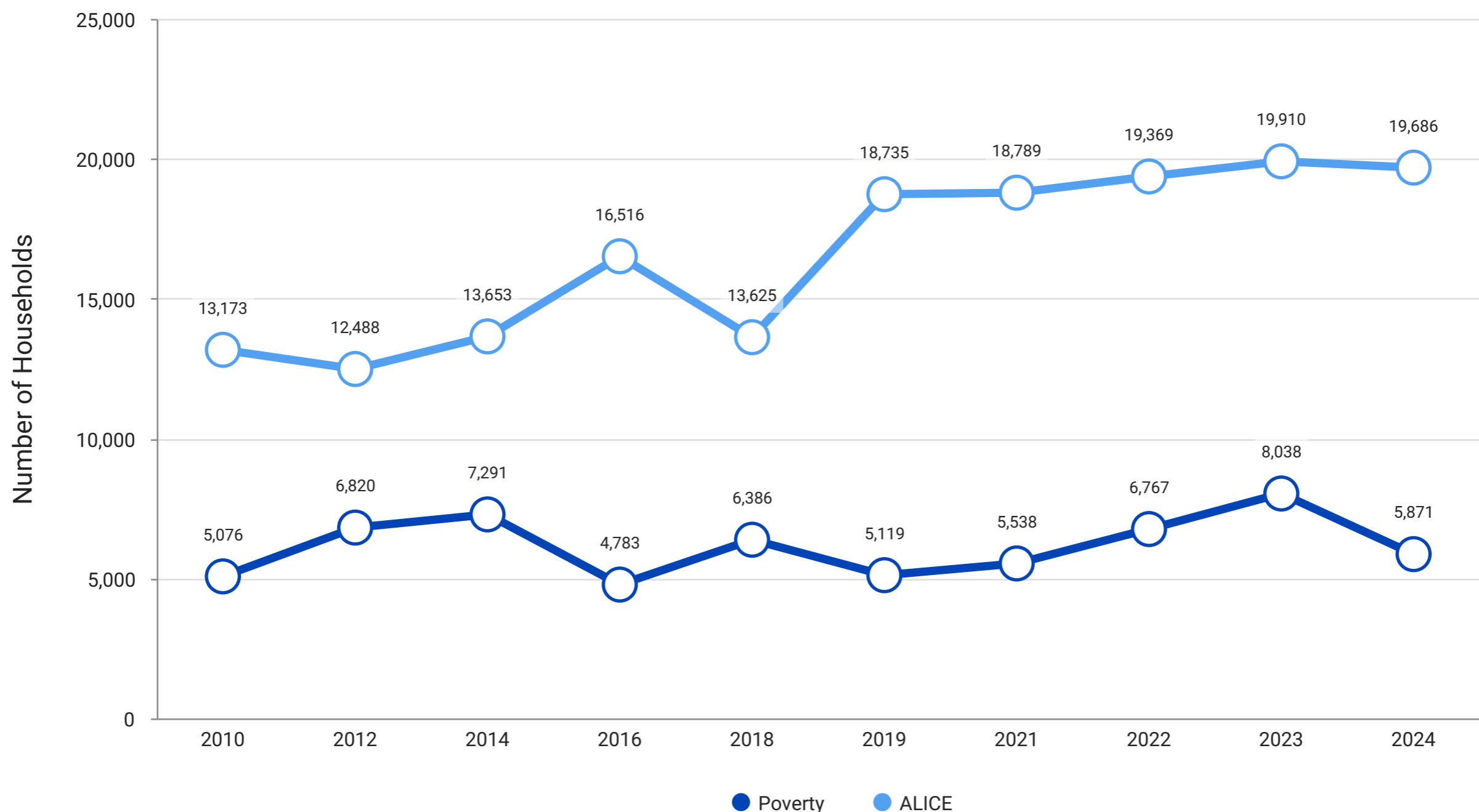
Labor Force Participation Rate:

ALICE Households: 29% (state average 28%) **Households in Poverty:** 9% (state average 14%)

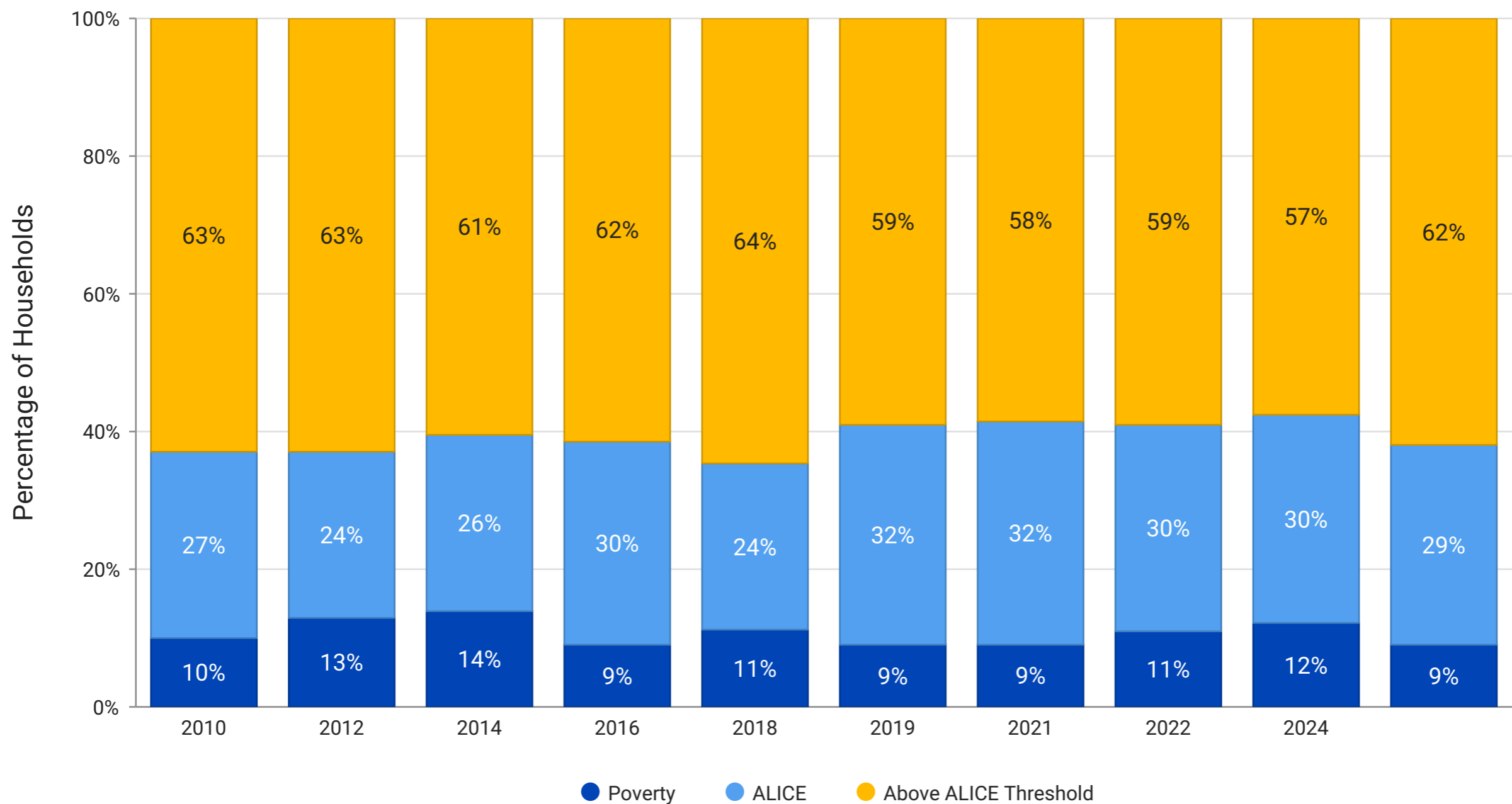
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Number of ALICE and Poverty-Level Households, South Carolina, 2024



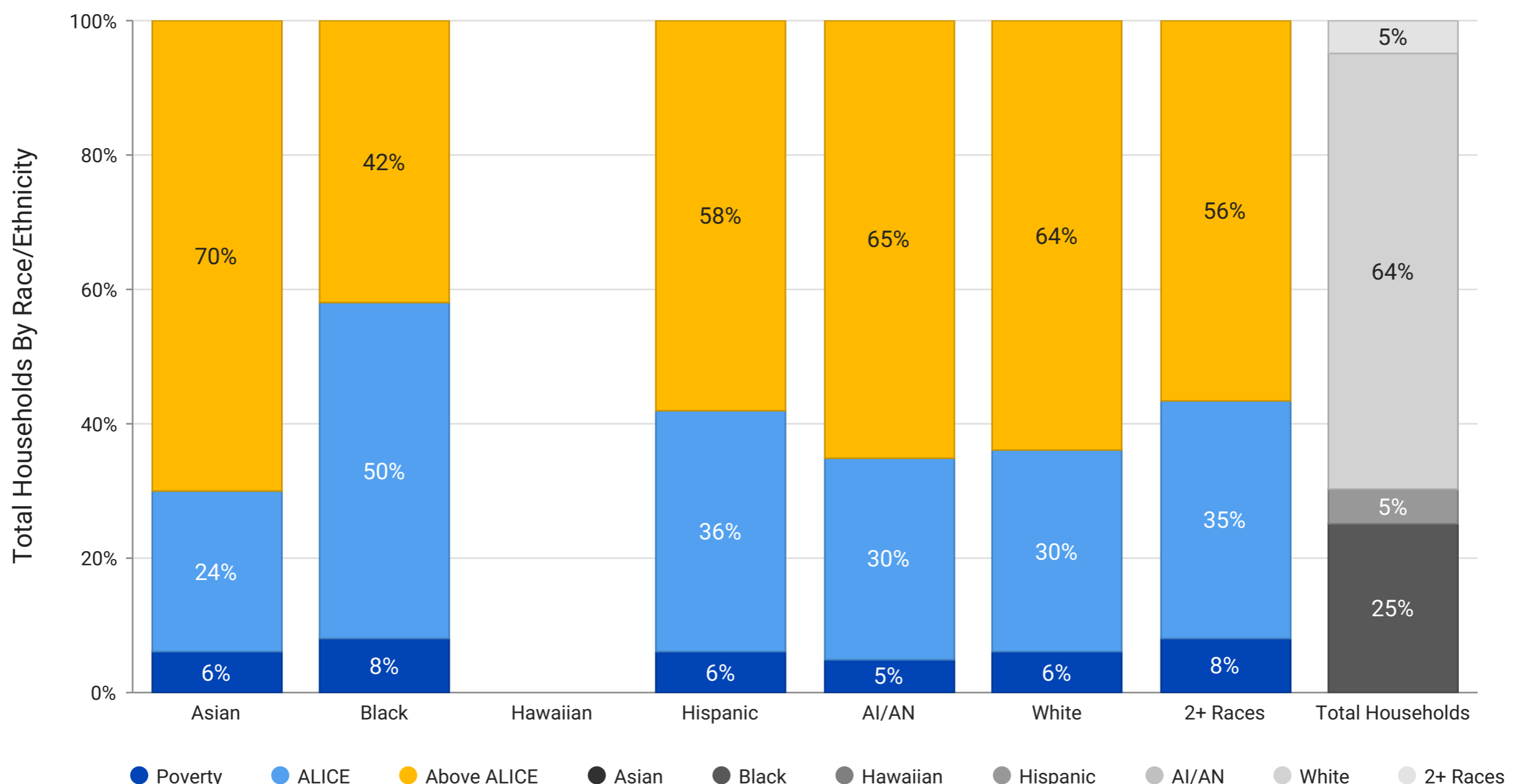
Percentage of Households, South Carolina, 2024



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Households by Race/Ethnicity, South Carolina, 2024



There were also differences in financial hardship by household type and age of householder.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Group	% Below ALICE Threshold
Single or Cohabiting (no children)	30%
Married (with children)	22%
Single-Female-Headed (with children)	78%
Single-Male-Headed (with children)	56%

AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER

Group	% Below ALICE Threshold
Under 25 Years	76%
25 to 44 Years	35%
45 to 64 Years	28%
65 Years and Over	50%

The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

Household Survival Budget, Dorchester County, South Carolina, 2024								
Monthly Costs	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Adult 65+	Two Adults 65+
Housing	\$1,525	\$1,566	\$1,566	\$1,566	\$1,759	\$1,759	\$1,525	\$1,566
Child Care	\$0	\$227	\$604	\$0	\$453	\$1,271	\$0	\$0
Food	\$504	\$853	\$765	\$925	\$1,551	\$1,368	\$465	\$852
Transportation	\$389	\$482	\$482	\$564	\$834	\$834	\$328	\$441
Health Care	\$193	\$531	\$531	\$531	\$817	\$817	\$498	\$996
Technology	\$95	\$95	\$95	\$129	\$129	\$129	\$95	\$129
Miscellaneous	\$271	\$375	\$404	\$372	\$554	\$618	\$291	\$398
Taxes	\$475	\$454	\$532	\$526	\$565	\$737	\$533	\$840
Monthly Total	\$3,452	\$4,583	\$4,979	\$4,613	\$6,662	\$7,533	\$3,735	\$5,222
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$41,424	\$54,996	\$59,748	\$55,356	\$79,944	\$90,396	\$44,820	\$62,664
Hourly Wage	\$20.71	\$27.50	\$29.87	\$27.68	\$39.97	\$45.20	\$22.41	\$31.33

