

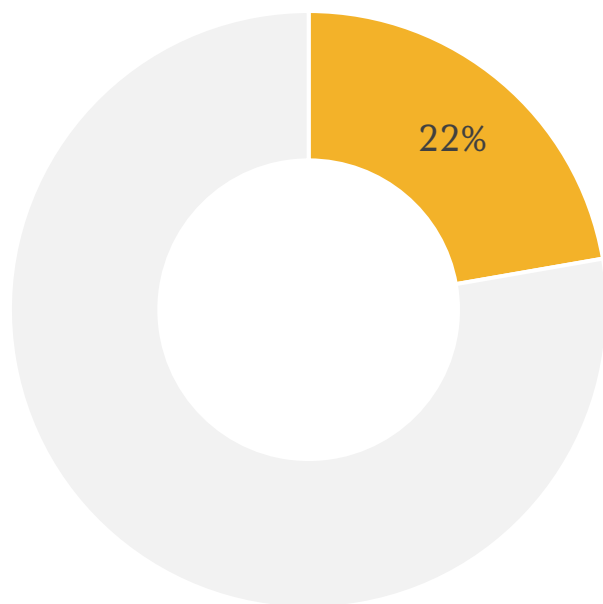


# Girls Experiencing Poverty

Commissioned by the Girl Scout Councils Serving Alabama

**One in five** girls lives in a household experiencing poverty – over 120,000 girls in Alabama.

Girls Living in Households Experiencing Poverty



- Income Below Poverty Level
- Income At or Above Poverty Level

The effects of poverty on children are often significant and long-lasting. When a girl lives in a household experiencing poverty, she is more likely to experience housing and food insecurity, inadequate childcare, and under-resourced schools. The American Psychological Association specifically finds:

- Poverty creates barriers to learning. Research shows that children living in poverty have structural differences in brain development in areas critical for learning and communication.
- Poverty and hunger lead to higher rates of physical and emotional problems, such as inadequate nutrition, higher rates of asthma, and behavioral challenges.

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, B17001, 2022, Alabama

## Transportation = Access

Girls often report challenges accessing out-of-school activities like Girl Scouts by citing a lack of transportation. The Census reported that 17% of families in Alabama have one or fewer vehicles. When a parent's job requires reliable transportation, one in six youth are left without means to access opportunities like appointments or out-of-school activities.

**17%**  
of households  
with 3+ people  
lack reliable  
transportation,  
with 0 or 1  
vehicles.