



This factsheet summarises the headline figures of fuel poverty in England in 2019. Following the announcement in the 2021 fuel poverty strategy (*Sustainable Warmth*), fuel poverty statistics are now based on the new Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) metric as opposed to the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) metric.

For a more comprehensive view, please see the Annual Fuel Poverty Report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-fuel-poverty-statistics-report-2021>

A HOUSEHOLD IS CLASSSED AS BEING IN FUEL POVERTY IF:

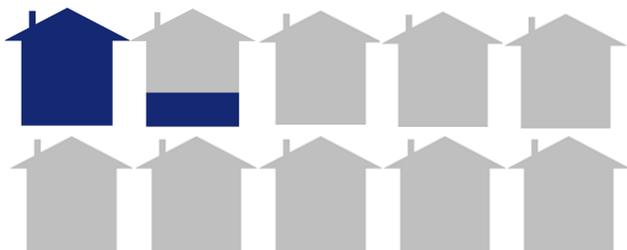
The household's fuel poverty energy efficiency rating* is Band D or below **and**

their disposable income (after housing and fuel costs) is below the poverty line.

AVERAGE GAP is the reduction in required fuel bill that the average fuel poor household needs in order to not be classed as fuel poor.

AGGREGATE GAP is the sum of all fuel poor households' fuel poverty gaps.

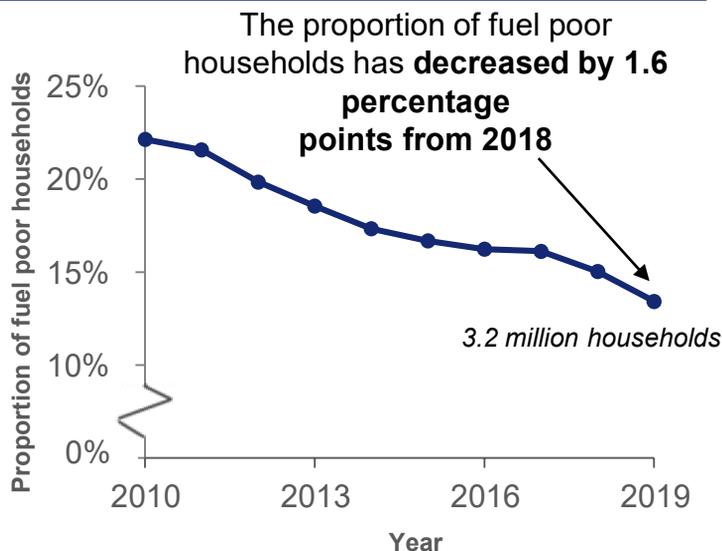
FUEL POVERTY IN 2019



13.4% of households in England were **fuel poor** in 2019

The **average gap** was **£216**
Down from £225 in 2018

The **aggregate gap** was **£687m**
Down from £791m in 2018



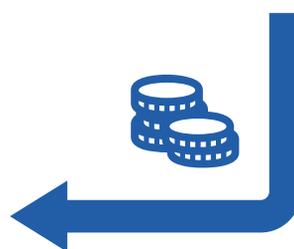
2019 saw the **lowest estimated proportion** of households in fuel poverty since 2010.

A HOUSEHOLD'S FUEL POVERTY STATUS DEPENDS ON THE INTERACTION OF THREE KEY DRIVERS...

Improvement was seen in **ENERGY EFFICIENCY** between 2018 and 2019.

Real term **ENERGY PRICES** rose in 2019, with higher increases for households with prepayment meters.

INCOMES increased at the median rate of increase for households near the low income threshold.



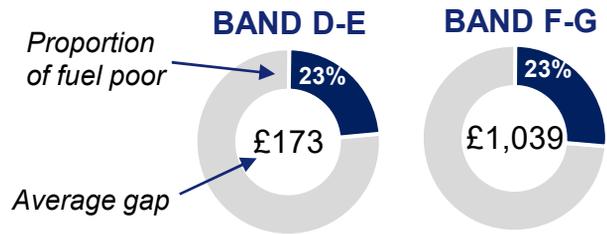


ENERGY EFFICIENCY*

Median required fuel costs for the **least efficient properties** are **3 times higher** than costs for the **most efficient properties**.



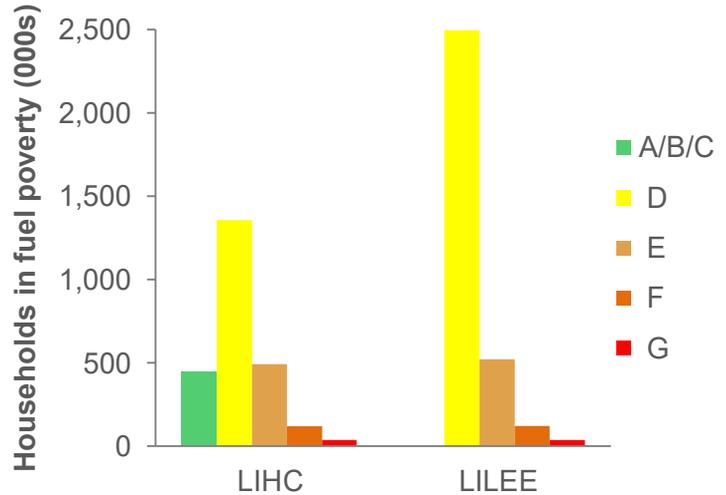
Band D-E properties were equally likely to be fuel poor but had an average fuel poverty gap **6 times larger** in F-G.



LILEE vs LIHC

The LILEE metric identified **723,000 additional fuel poor households** than the LIHC metric. These households are **mostly smaller band D dwelling**, not previously considered fuel poor because their fuel costs were not above average.

Both metrics indicate the same number of fuel poor band F-G houses.



FUEL POVERTY TARGET

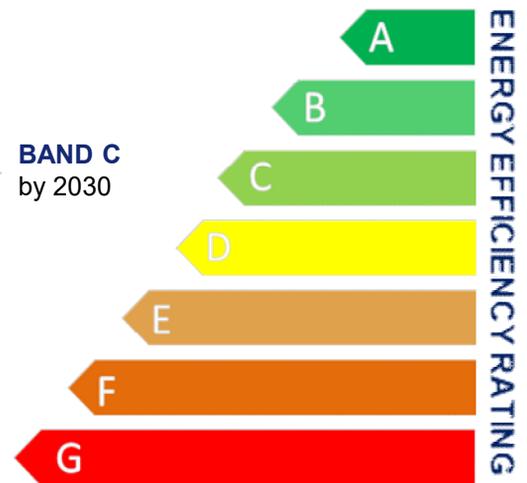
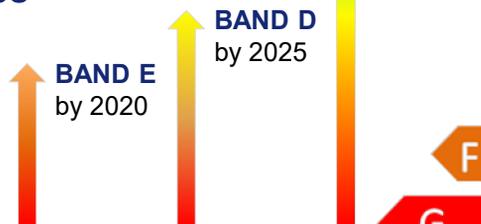
The fuel poverty target is to move as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to a minimum of...

Share of low income homes

Band C or above: 47.8%

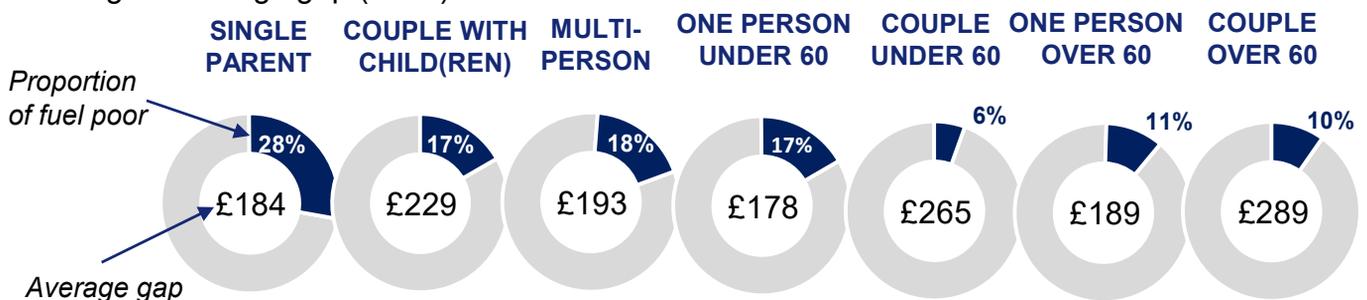
Band D or above: 88.8%

Band E or above: 97.4%



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Single parent households are most likely to be fuel poor (28%) and **couples over 60** have the largest average gap (£289).

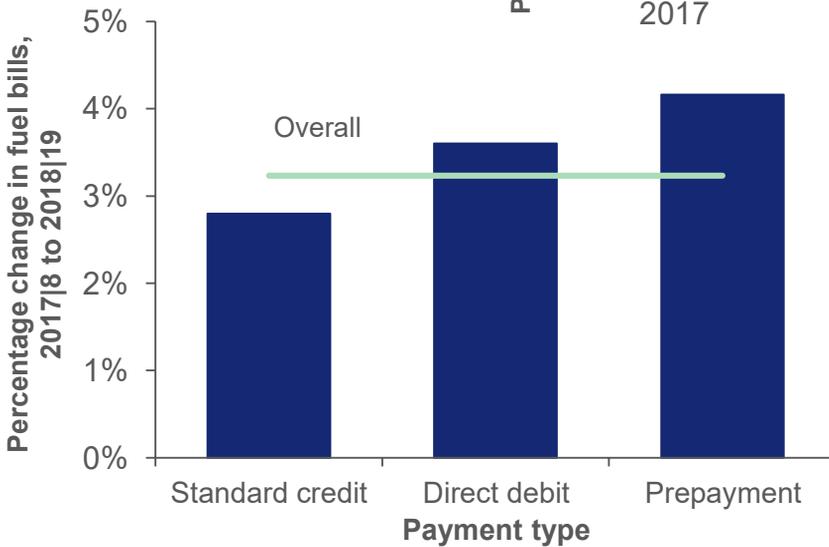




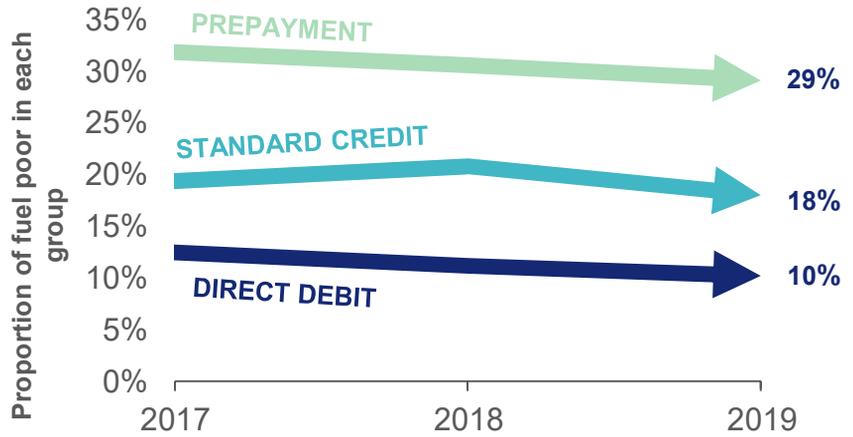
METHOD OF PAYMENT

Households that pay for their energy bills by **prepayment** remain the most likely to be **fuel poor (29%)**.

Fuel poverty fell across all payment types between 2018 and 2019 with the largest decrease among standard credit consumers.



ELECTRICITY PAYMENT METHOD



Gas bills follow a similar trend

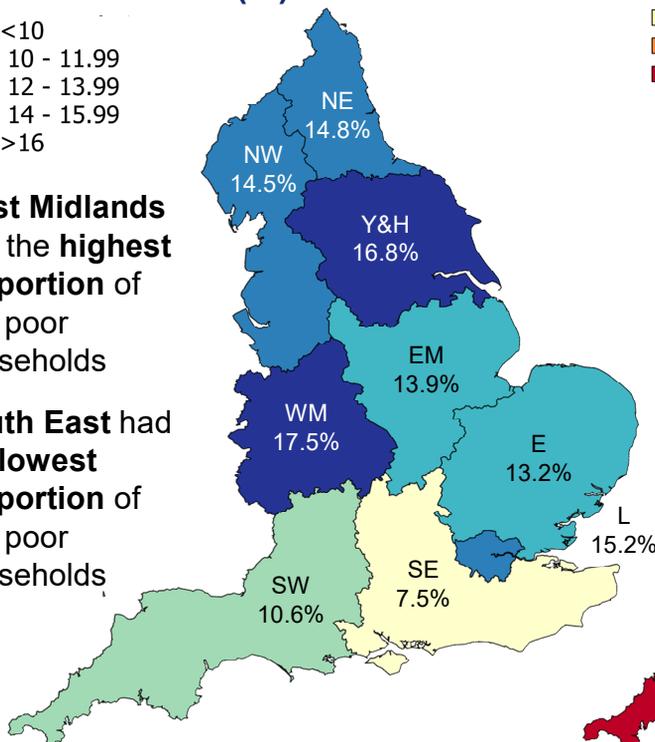
The **average annual domestic energy bills** for all payment types increased between 2017|18 and 2018|19 with the highest increase among prepayment consumers.

PROPORTION OF FUEL POOR HOUSEHOLDS (%)

- <10
- 10 - 11.99
- 12 - 13.99
- 14 - 15.99
- >16

West Midlands had the **highest proportion** of fuel poor households

South East had the **lowest proportion** of fuel poor households

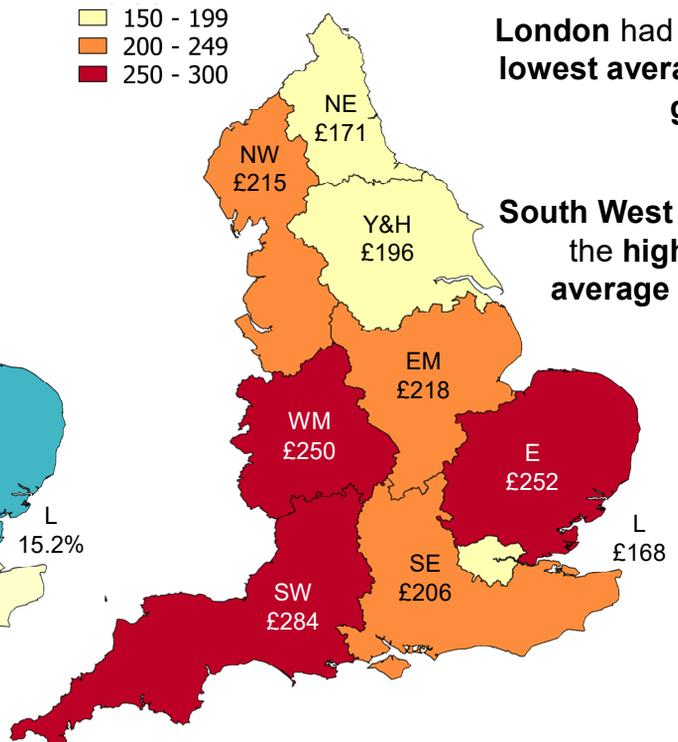


AVERAGE FUEL POVERTY GAP (£)

- 150 - 199
- 200 - 249
- 250 - 300

London had the **lowest average gap**

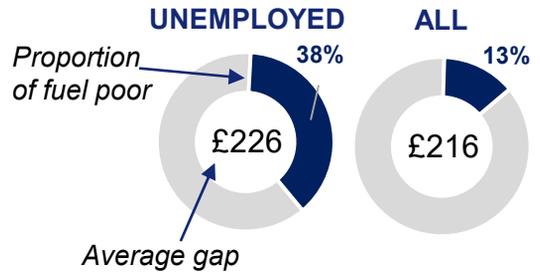
South West had the **highest average gap**





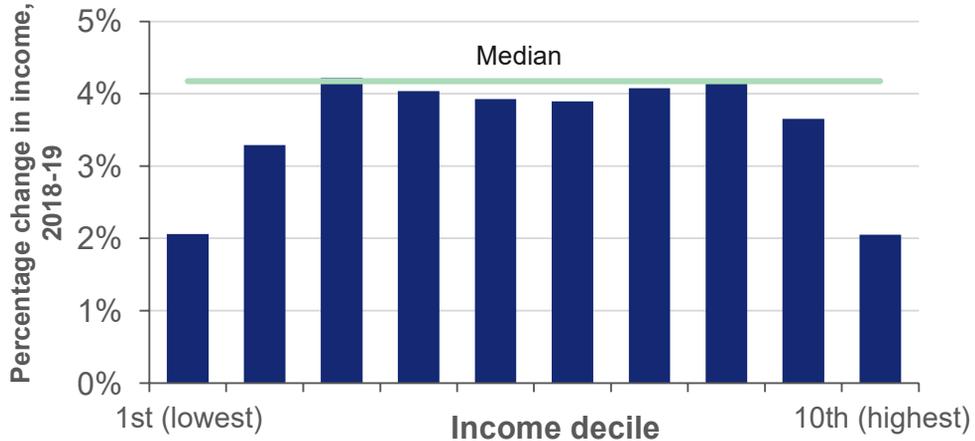
EMPLOYMENT

Households where the household reference person is **unemployed** are **three times more likely** to be in fuel poverty than the national average



INCOME

There was **minimal change to the proportion of low income households** (25.6% in 2018 and 25.7% in 2019) because the growth in income is similar across the central income deciles.



TENURE

OWNER OCCUPIED

Not fuel poor (91.8%)

Fuel poor (8.2%)

PRIVATE RENTED

Not fuel poor (73.2%)

Fuel poor (26.8%)

SOCIAL HOUSING

Not fuel poor (81.6%)

Fuel poor (18.4%)

Owner occupied (64% of households) **Private rented (19%)** **Social housing (17%)**

Households who **live in a property they own** have the **least likelihood of being fuel poor** (8.2%), however have the **largest average fuel poverty gap** (£255).

Households living in **privately rented accommodation** are **most likely to be fuel poor** (26.8%). Despite only 18.8% of all households privately renting their homes, 37.6% of all fuel poor households live in this type of accommodation.

Those living in **social housing** have the **lowest average fuel poverty gap** (£138).

*Fuel poverty energy efficiency rating: www.gov.uk/government/publications/fuel-poverty-england-regulations-2014-and-methodology

All data can be sourced at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics>

or Quarterly Energy Prices (QEP):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/quarterly-energy-prices>

