



The aim of this factsheet is to summarise the headline figures of fuel poverty in England in 2017. For a more comprehensive view, please see the Annual Fuel Poverty Report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-fuel-poverty-statistics-report-2019>

A household is classed as being in fuel poverty if:

- Their fuel costs are above average and
- their disposable income (after housing and fuel costs) is below the poverty line

Average gap is the reduction in 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' gaps.

Approximately 1 in 10 households in England were fuel poor (10.9%)



The average fuel poverty gap was

£321



Down from
£333 in
2016

The aggregate fuel poverty gap was

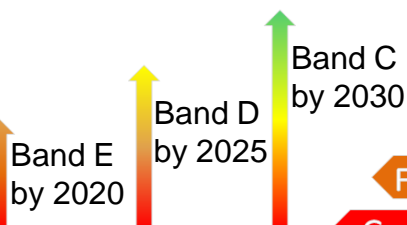
£812m



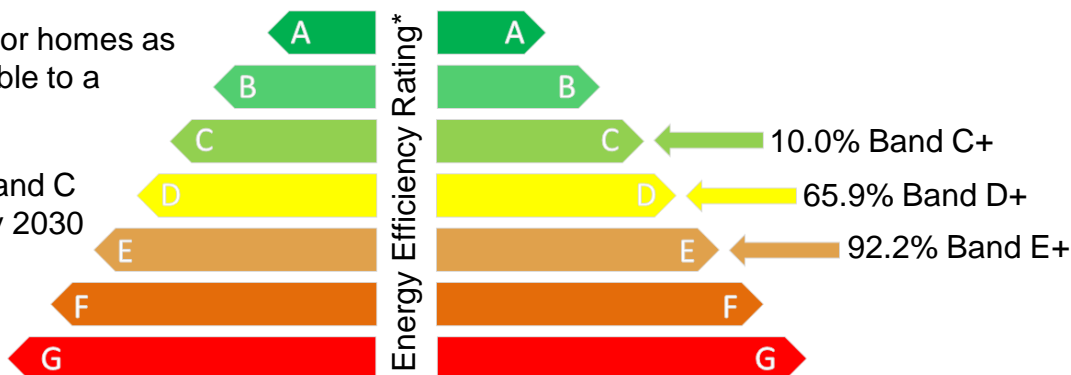
Down from
£848m in
2016

Fuel Poverty Target is to...

Move as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to a minimum of...



Progress in 2017



A household's fuel poverty status depends on the interaction of **three key drivers...**



Improvement in **energy efficiency** has slowed in recent years.

Prepayment price cap has contributed to the reduction of **energy prices** for mainly low income households.



Incomes increased at a faster rate for low income households – partly due to the National Living Wage.

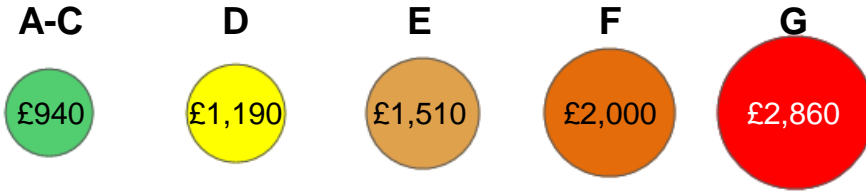


Fuel Poverty

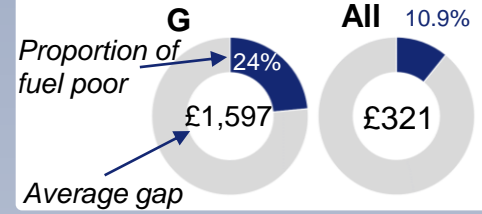


Energy efficiency improvement slowed between 2015 and 2017, due to a reduction in the number of energy efficiency measures installed as reported in the Household Energy Efficiency Statistics.

Required fuel costs for the least efficient properties are 3 times higher than costs for the most efficient properties

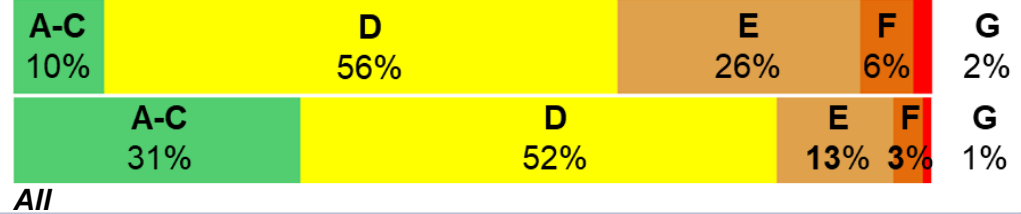


Band G properties **2 times** more likely to be fuel poor and **5 times** larger average gap



- The **majority** of fuel poor households live in a **Band D** property
- 31%** of all households are **Band A-C**

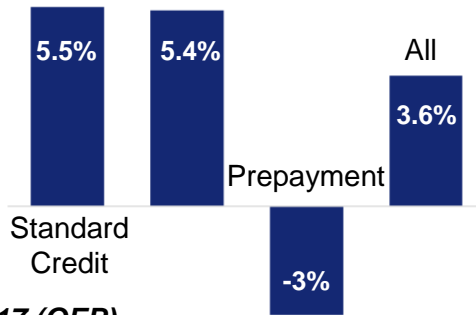
Fuel poor



The prepayment price cap was introduced in April 2017, as a result average annual domestic electricity bills for prepayment customers decreased by 3.0% compared to a 3.6% average increase for all households compared to 2016

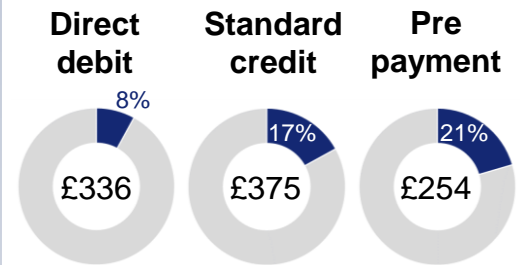
Direct Debit

Gas bills follow a similar trend

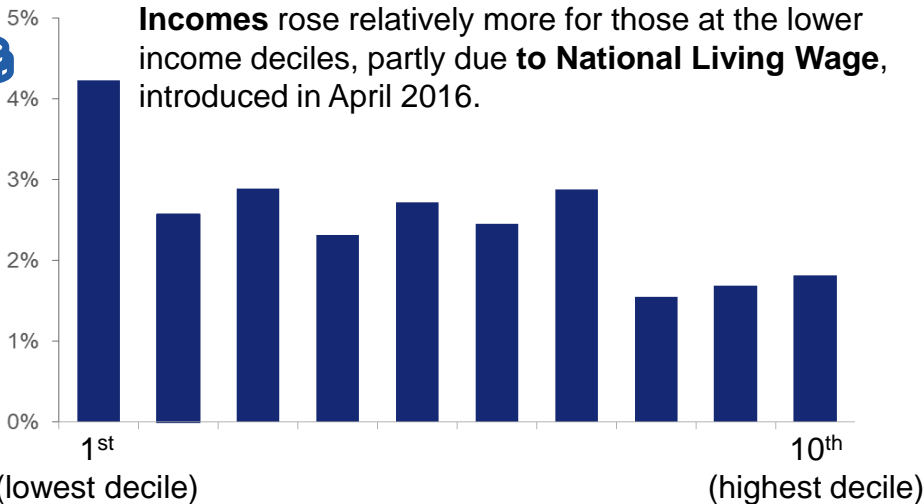


Elec bills change between 2016 and 2017 (QEP)

Households that pay for their electricity by **prepayment meter** remain more likely to be fuel poor than other payment types **but** have the **lowest fuel poverty gap**.



Incomes rose relatively more for those at the lower income deciles, partly due to **National Living Wage**, introduced in April 2016.

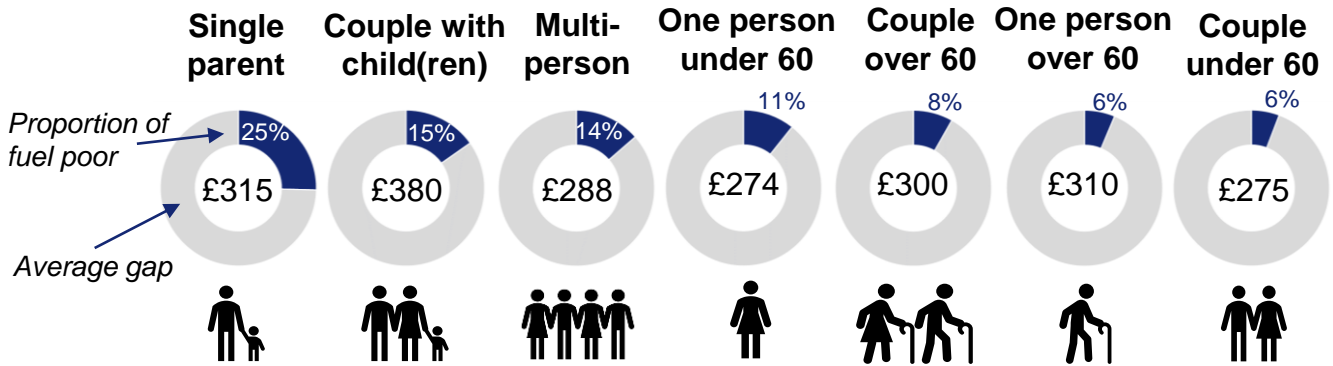


Percentage change in income, 2016-2017

The **types of households** that are fuel poor, and their severity, differ by various **household and dwelling characteristics**, see Chapter 3 of the annual report.



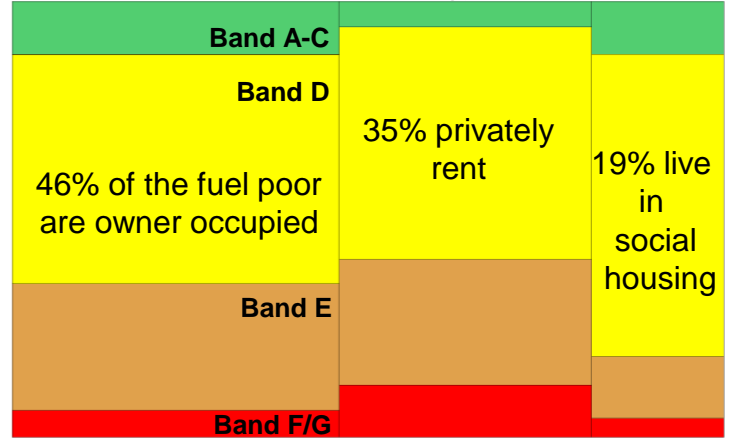
The **likelihood and severity** of fuel poverty depends on the **characteristics of the households** that live in the property: **single parent households** are most likely to be fuel poor (25%) and **couples with child(ren)** have the largest gap (£380)



Fuel poverty also depends on the **characteristics of the property** that households live in.

- **19.4%** of households living in **privately rented** accommodation are fuel poor with an average gap of **£336**.
- **8%** of households who **own their home** are fuel poor with an average gap of **£356**.

100% **Fuel poor by tenure and energy efficiency band**

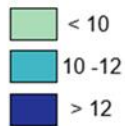


Area is equivalent to the proportion of households in that group.

North West had the highest proportion of fuel poor households

South East had the lowest proportion of fuel poor households

Proportion of fuel poor households (%)

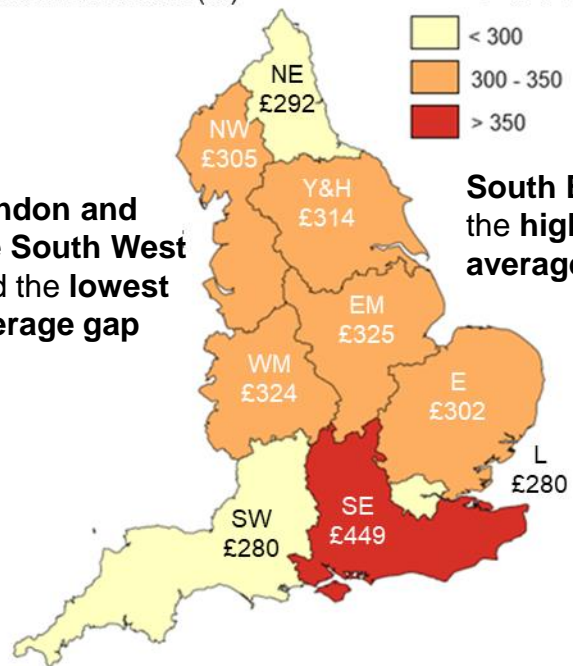
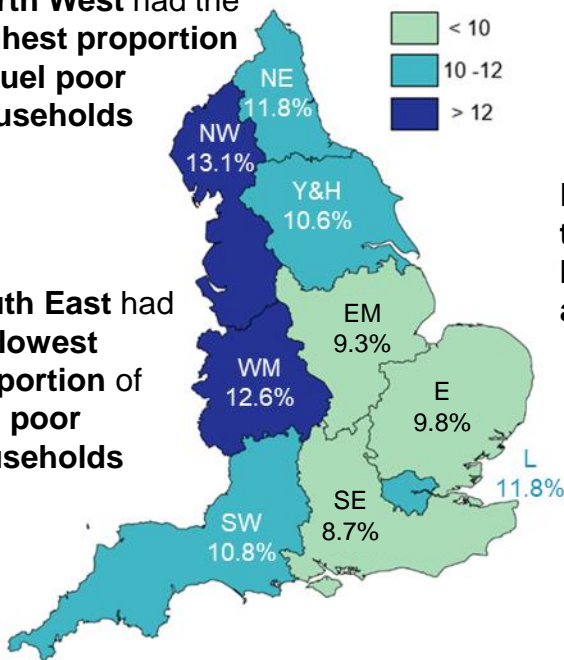


Average gap (£)



London and the South West had the lowest average gap

South East had the highest average gap



Source: Fuel poverty Statistics for England, 2017

Crown copyright 2019. You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. Visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/opengovernment-license/version/r/ or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

*Fuel poverty energy efficiency rating

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>