



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.

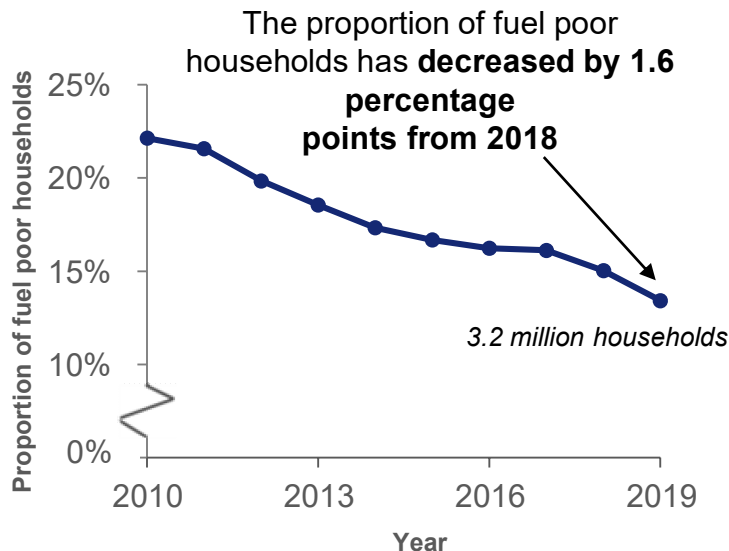
## FUEL POVERTY IN 2019



**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



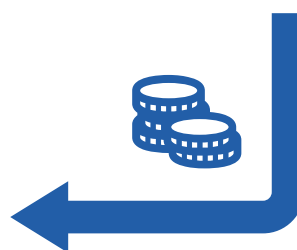
2019 saw the **lowest estimated proportion** of households in fuel poverty since 2010.

## 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.

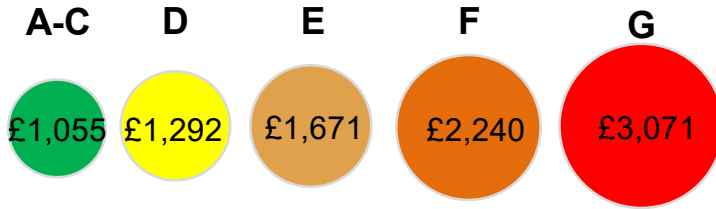
**INCOMES** increased at the median rate of increase for households near the low income threshold.



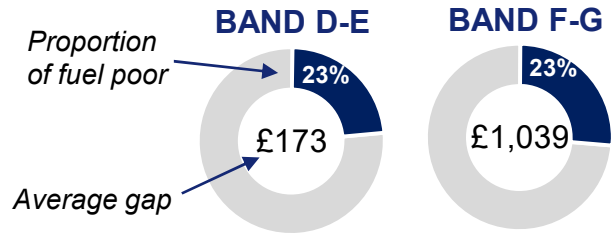


## ENERGY EFFICIENCY\*

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



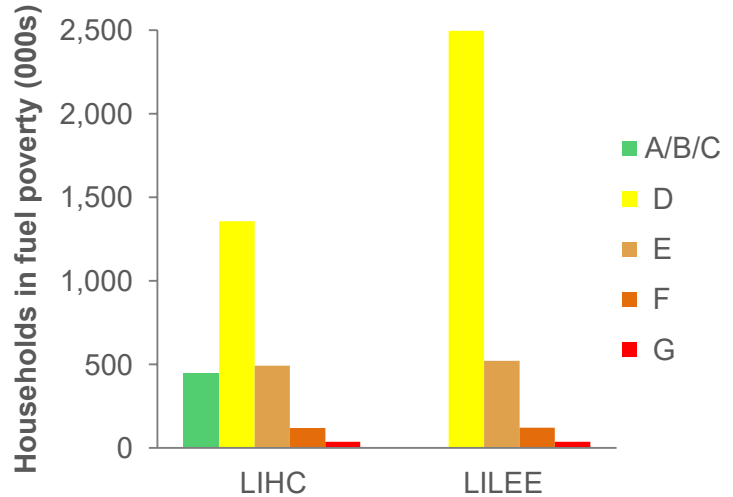
Band D-E properties were equally likely to be fuel poor but had an average fuel poverty gap **6 times larger** in F-G.



## 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

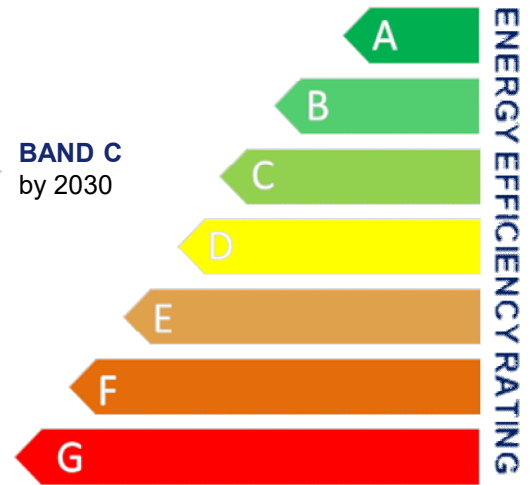
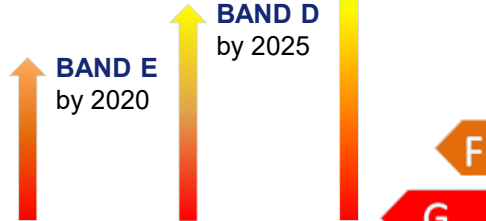
The fuel poverty target is to move as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to a minimum of...

### Share of low income homes

Band C or above: 47.8%

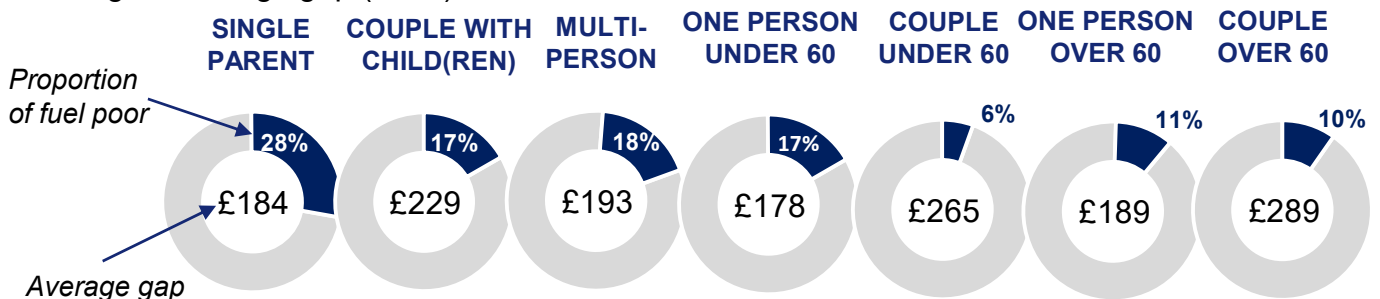
Band D or above: 88.8%

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).



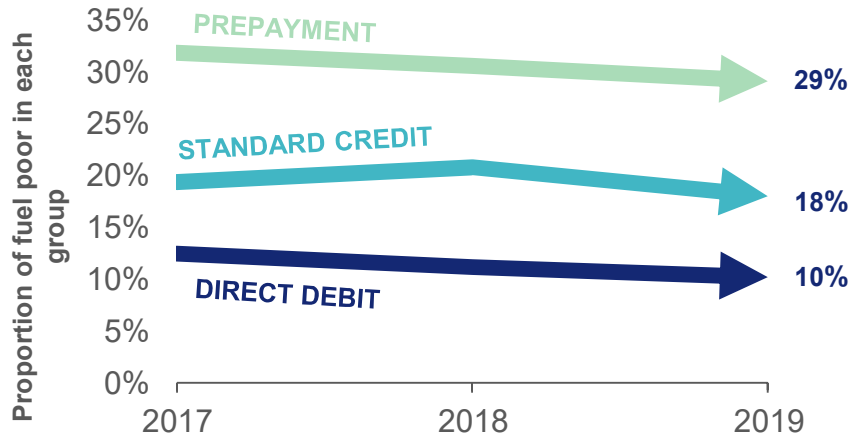


# METHOD OF PAYMENT

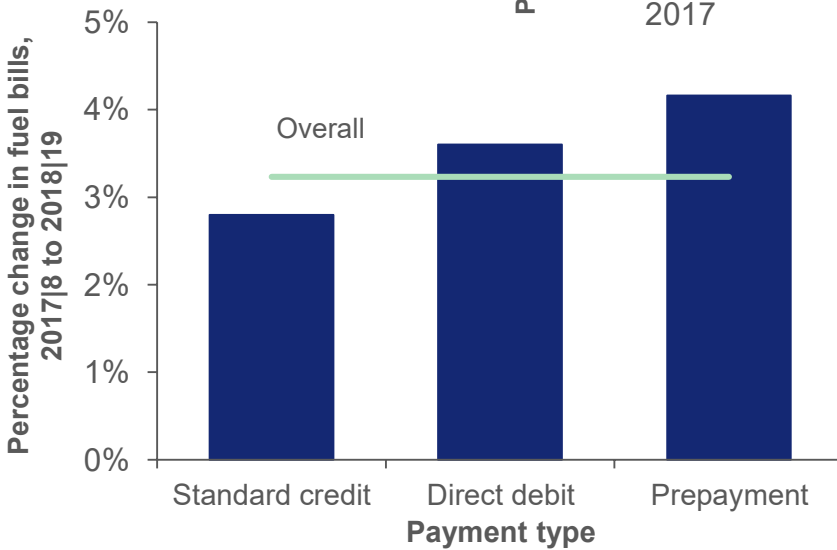
Households that pay for their energy bills by **prepayment** remain the most likely to be **fuel poor (29%)**.

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*



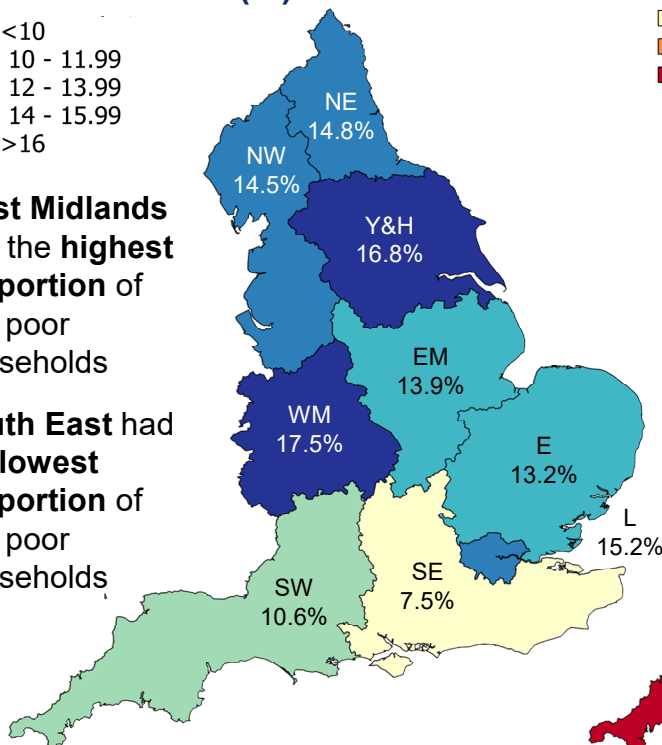
The **average annual domestic energy bills** for all payment types increased between 2017|18 and 2018|19 with the highest increase among prepayment consumers.

## 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

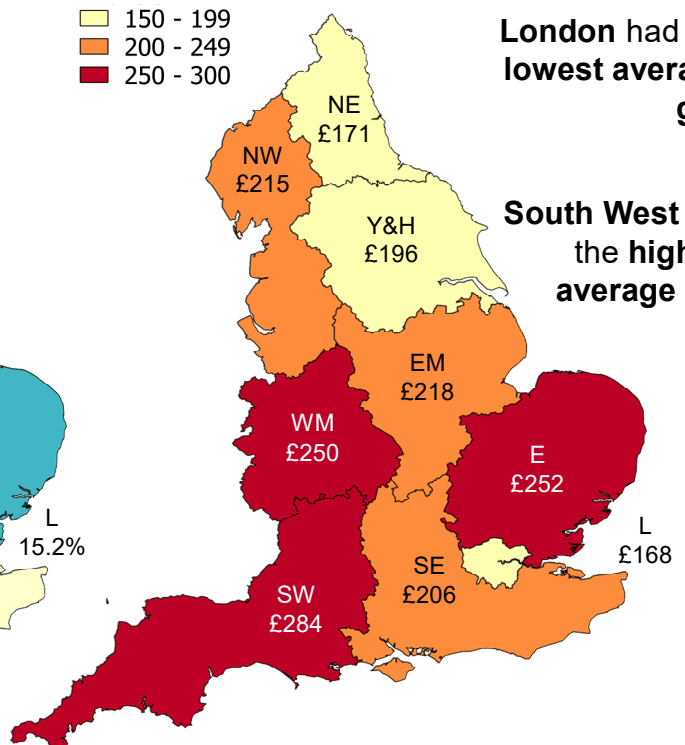


## AVERAGE FUEL POVERTY GAP (£)

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

**London** had the **lowest average gap**

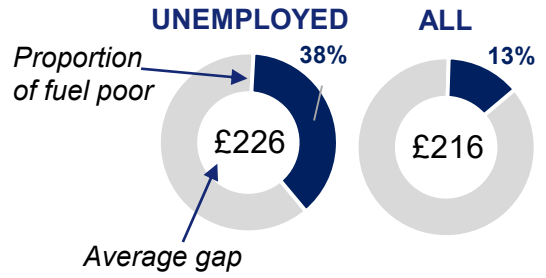
**South West** had the **highest average gap**





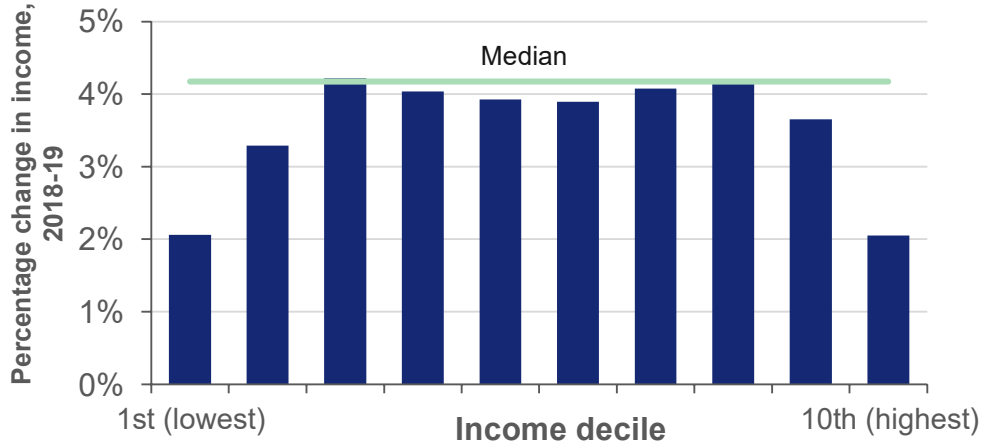
## EMPLOYMENT

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](http://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>

