



This factsheet summarises the headline figures of fuel poverty in England in 2020 using the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) metric.

For a more comprehensive view, please see the Annual [Fuel Poverty Report](#).

### A HOUSEHOLD IS CLASSED AS BEING IN FUEL POVERTY IF:

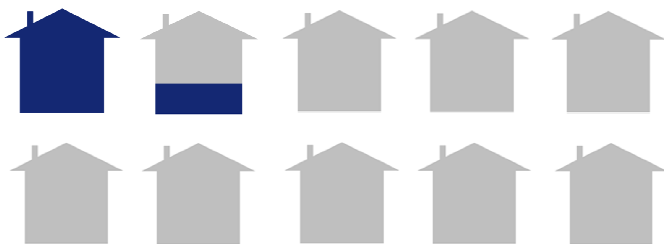
The household's fuel poverty energy efficiency rating\* is Band D or below **and**

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.

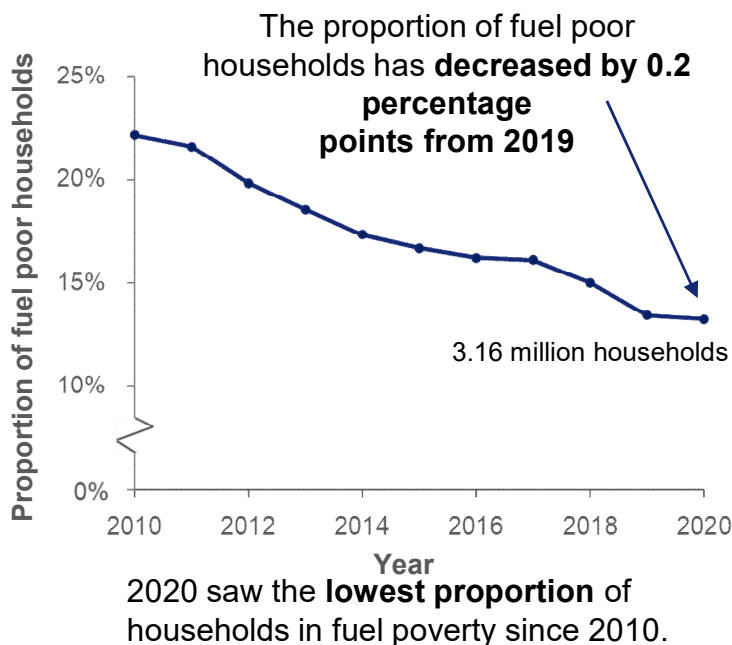
### FUEL POVERTY IN 2020



**13.2%** of households in England were **fuel poor** in 2020

The **average gap** was down from £229 in 2019 **£223**

The **aggregate gap** was down from £728m in 2019 **£705m**



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

Improvement was seen in **ENERGY EFFICIENCY** between 2019 and 2020.

Real term **ENERGY PRICES** fell in 2020 for most households but there was a slight increase for households with prepayment meters.

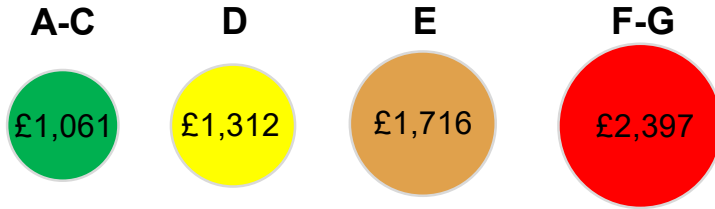
**INCOMES** increased less for low income households than the median income between 2019 and 2020. This distribution change offset much of the change from energy efficiency.



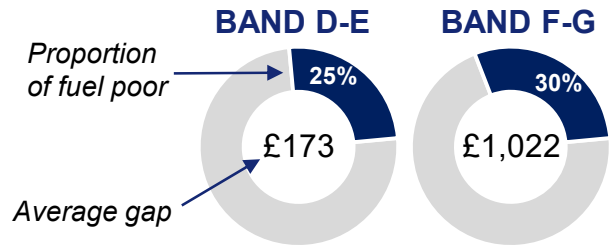


## ENERGY EFFICIENCY\*

Median required fuel costs for the **least efficient properties** are **over 2 times higher** than costs for the **most efficient properties**.



Band D-E properties were slightly less likely to be fuel poor and had an average fuel poverty gap **about 6 times smaller** than band F-G.



## FUEL POVERTY TARGET

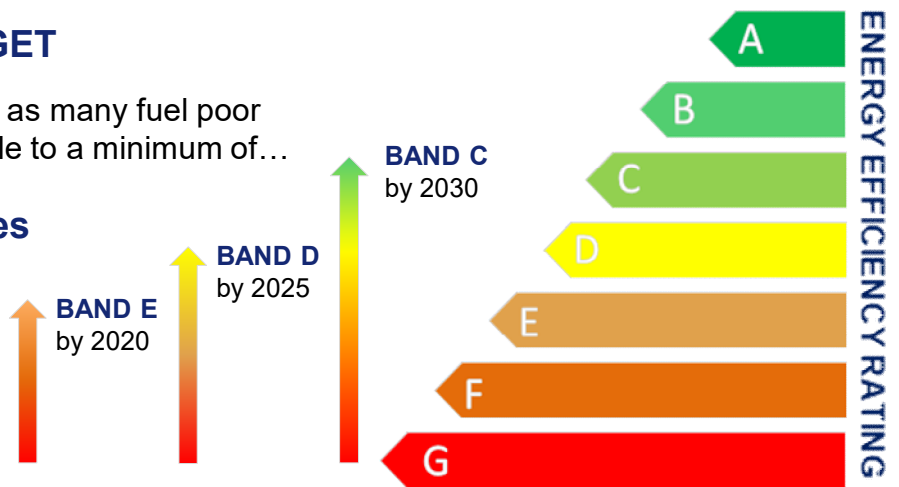
The fuel poverty target is to move as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to a minimum of...

### Share of low income homes

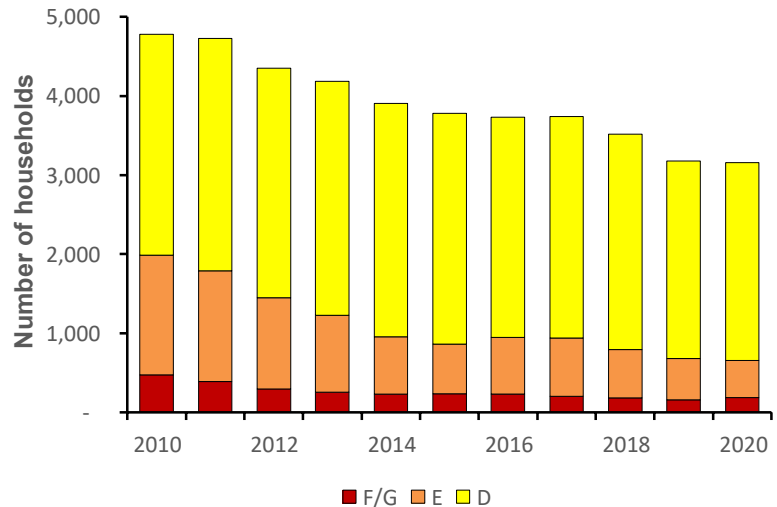
**Band C or above:** 52.1%

**Band D or above:** 90.1%

**Band E or above:** 97.2%



There has been a decrease in the total number of low income households living in **Band D-G** (Low Energy Efficiency) from 2010 to 2020 as more households have moved up to **Band A-C** (High energy efficiency).

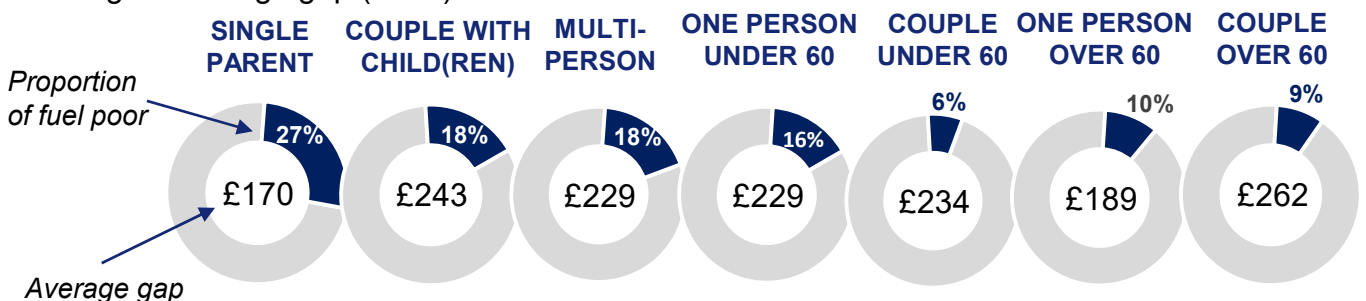


There was a higher net change in **bands F and G** in earlier years, followed by **band E** in the middle years and most recently in **band D**. **Band D** has remained relatively stagnant as households in the lower bands improve to band D while others transition to band C.



## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

**Single parent households** are most likely to be fuel poor (27%) and **couples over 60** have the largest average gap (£262).





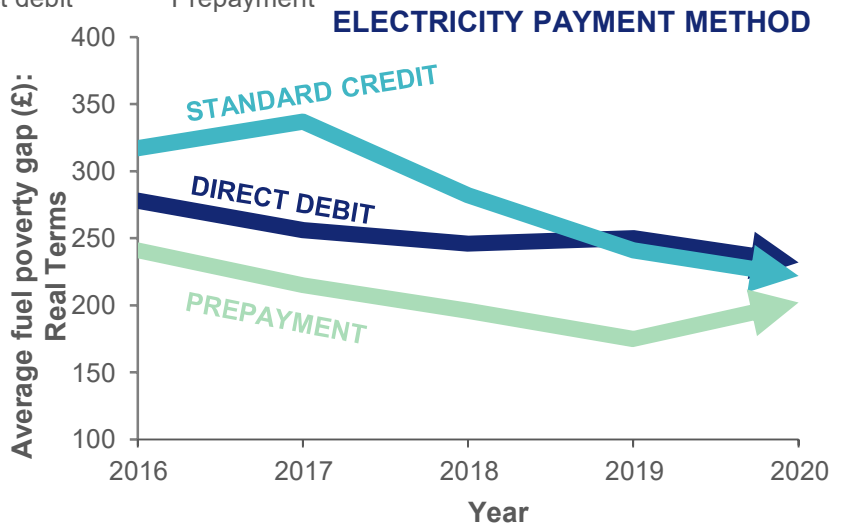
## METHOD OF PAYMENT



The **average annual domestic energy bills** for Standard credit and Direct debit payment types decreased between 2018|19 and 2019|20, whilst Prepayment consumers saw a slight increase.

The average fuel poverty gap for Standard credit and Direct debit payment customers fell between 2019 and 2020, whilst it increased for Prepayment payment customers.

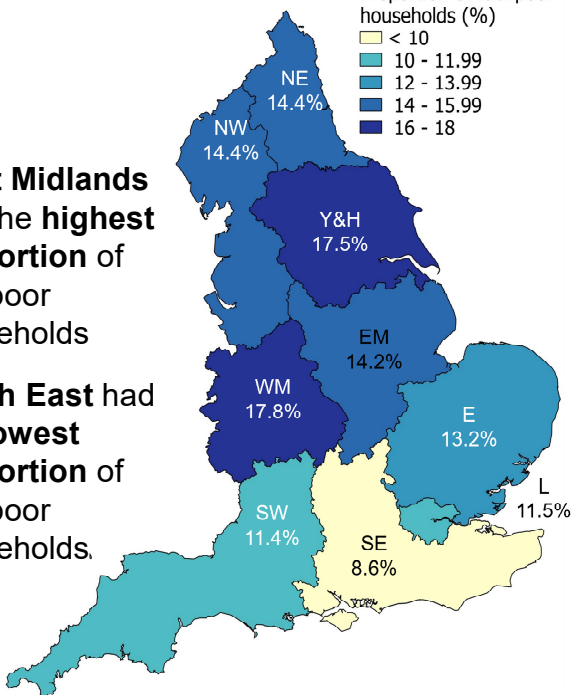
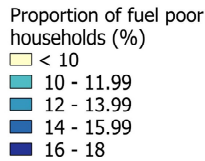
Households that pay for their energy bills by **prepayment** have the **highest rate of fuel poverty (30.6%)** but the **lowest average fuel poverty gap (£202)**.



## PROPORTION OF FUEL POOR HOUSEHOLDS (%)

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

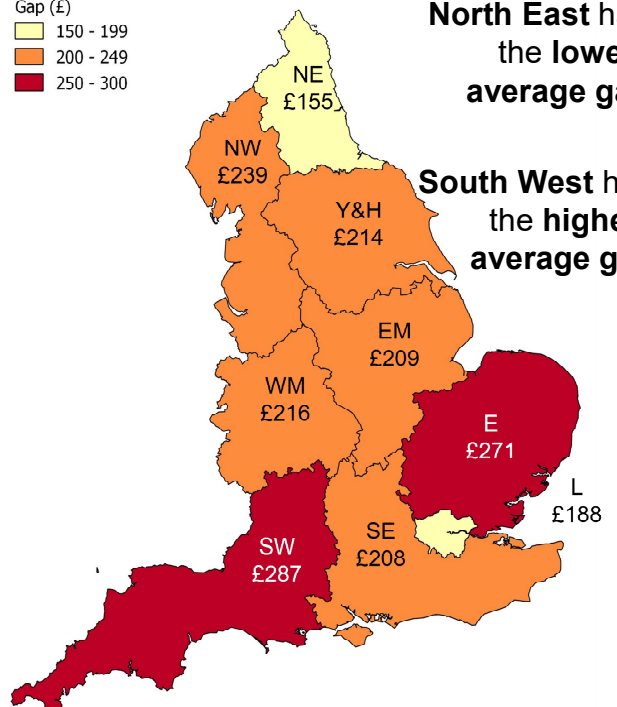
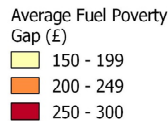
**South East** had the **lowest proportion** of fuel poor households.



## AVERAGE FUEL POVERTY GAP (£)

**North East** had the **lowest average gap**

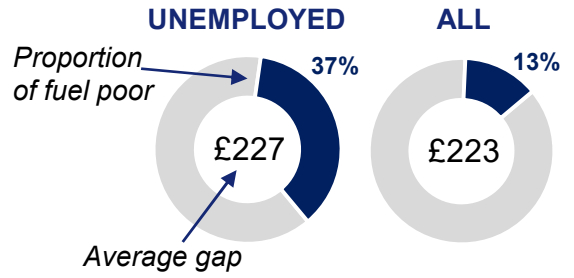
**South West** had the **highest average gap**





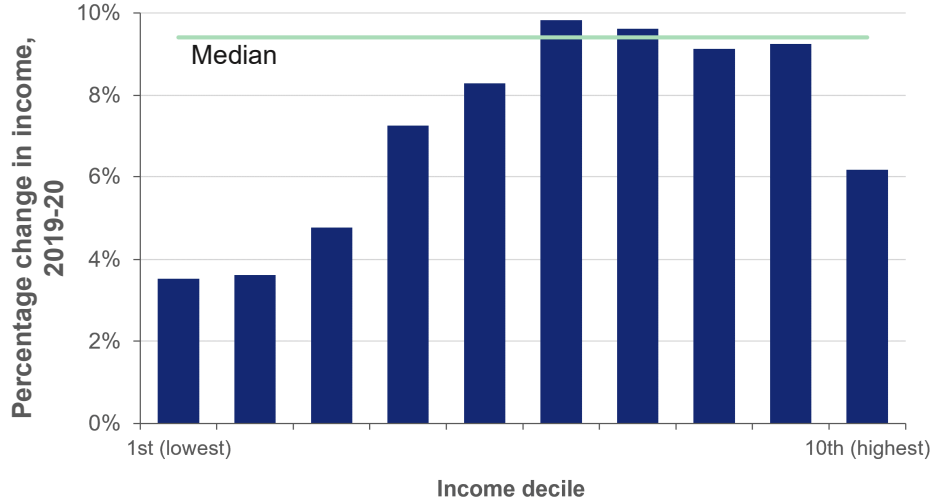
## EMPLOYMENT

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

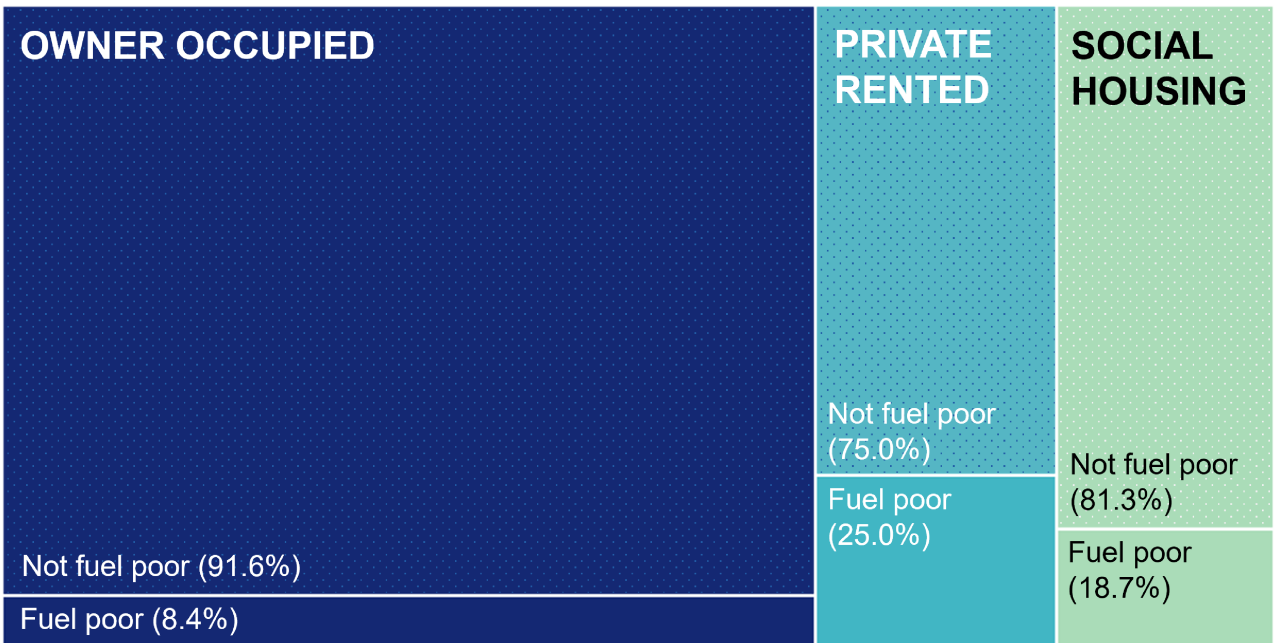


## INCOME

There was a **significant change to the proportion of low income households** (25.7% in 2019 and 27.6% in 2020) because the growth in median income was larger than in the lower income deciles.



## TENURE



**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** (8.4%), however have the **largest average fuel poverty gap** (£252).

Households living in **privately rented accommodation** are **most likely to be fuel poor** (25.0%). Despite only 18.7% of all households privately renting their homes, 35.4% of all fuel poor households live in this type of accommodation.

Those living in **social housing** have the **lowest average fuel poverty gap** (£152).

\*Fuel poverty energy efficiency rating [methodology](#) shows how this is calculated.

All data can be sourced at the Fuel Poverty Statistics [publication page](#).

or Quarterly Energy Prices (QEP) [publication page](#).

