



# Member State Report Poland

## DATA & STATISTICS

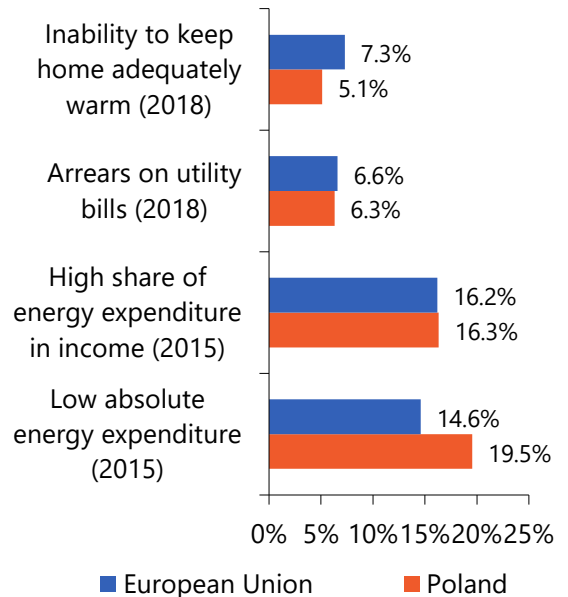
This Member State Report of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) provides an overview of the energy poverty situation in Poland at a glance. With key indicators, policies, and publications, it offers an understanding of the key aspects of energy poverty in Poland.

Poland has a better performance than the EU average on the household-reported indicators. In 2018, 5.1% of the Polish people reported that they were unable to keep the home adequately warm while the corresponding EU average is 7.4%. Similarly for 2018, 6.3% of the population was unable to pay their utility bills on time due to financial difficulties, while the respective EU average is 6.6%.

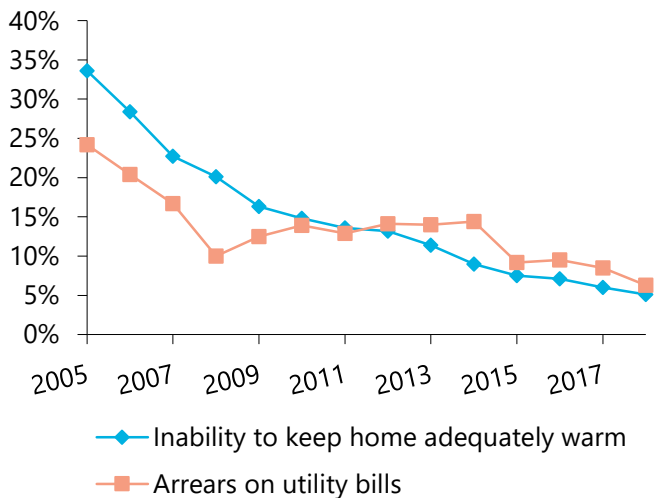
Poland's performance in the expenditure-based indicators is mixed compared to the EU average. The share of households that spend a high share of their income on energy expenditure is 16.2% which is close to the EU average. These households are likely to live in a dwelling with poor thermal and energy efficiency.

At 19.5% Poland has a higher number of households than the EU average that spend a lower share of their income on energy expenditure. These households either live in homes with high efficiency standards or restrict their energy spending below what is necessary to meet their needs.

### Performance relative to EU average\*



### Performance over time\*



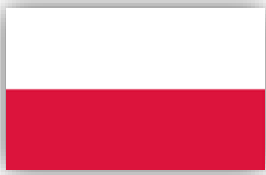
In Poland, the percentage of households that are unable to keep the home adequately warm gradually decreased from 34% in 2005 to 5% in 2018. During this timeframe, the percentage showed a consistent drop. Even the financial crisis or relatively cold winters do not seem to have a large effect on the reported indicators.

Meanwhile, households on arrears on utility bills follow a roughly similar trajectory and decreased notably between 2005 and 2008 from 24% to 10%. By the year 2014, the arrears on utility bills increased to 14%. In the years after that it decreased to 6%. Fluctuations in this percentage display an effect from economic conjunctures.

### About the EU Energy Poverty Observatory

The EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) is an initiative by the European Commission to help Member States in their efforts to combat energy poverty. It exists to improve the measuring, monitoring and sharing of knowledge and best practice on energy poverty. EPOV has been developed by a consortium of 13 organisations. This report was authored by Navigant.

\*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



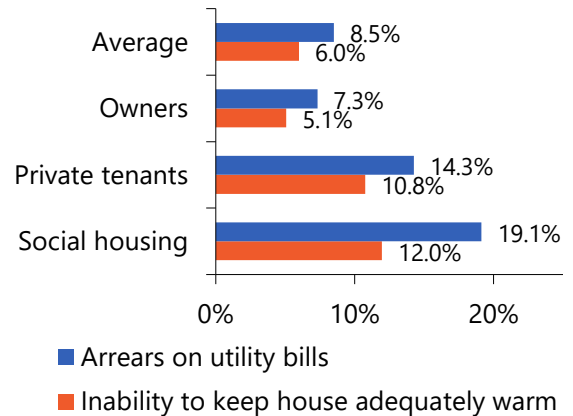
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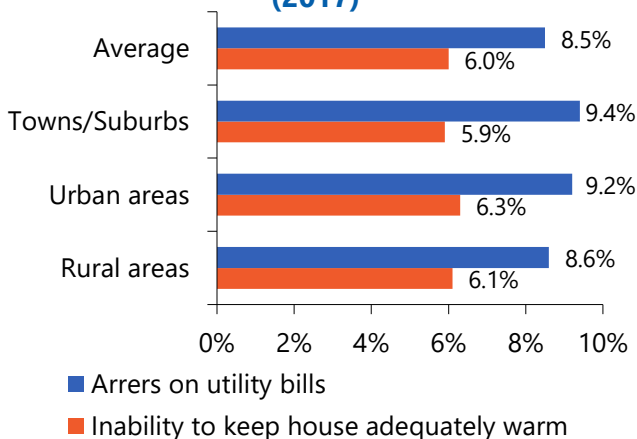
The disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Poland is highest for the social housing sector in 2017, at 12% for inability to keep the house warm and 19.1% for arrears on utility bills. The social housing sector, which is most vulnerable to these indicators, accounts for 12% of the population in Poland.

The data also indicates that apartments and a detached type dwelling are the most vulnerable to these indicators, noting that 94% of the population live in this dwelling type.

### Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by tenure type (2017)\*



### Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by urban density (2017)\*



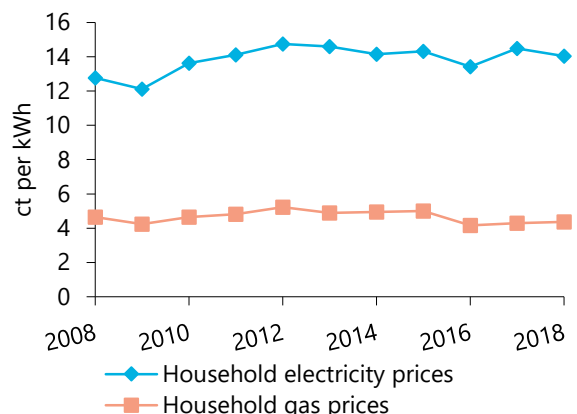
In Poland urban areas and towns/suburbs have the lowest performance for ability to keep the house adequately warm and being in arrears on utility bills. Urban areas are often characterised by a relatively large poor population, while further outside densely populated areas it becomes harder to keep the house adequately warm due to higher heat dissipation.

In Poland urban areas account for 34% of the population and 24% of the population lives in Towns/suburbs. 42% of Polish residents live in the rural areas, which is notably higher than the EU average. These regions often lack adequate infrastructure and therefore sometimes opt for a variety of heating sources.

The household energy cost over time in Poland have been relatively stable over time. A peak was reached in 2012 with electricity at 14.7 €ct/kWh and gas at 5.23 €ct/kWh. There is a slight increase in electricity price between 2009 and 2012.

These price does not seem to have a significant impact on the population reported indicators mentioned above. Over time, electricity prices slightly risen and gas prices have stayed pretty stable. Energy Poverty reported indicators have shown a relatively stable decrease over this timeframe.

### Polish household energy costs over time



\*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.

# Member State Report

## Poland

### POLICIES & MEASURES

In Poland, research on energy poverty has significantly increased in recent years. This research focused on all aspects of energy, including defining and measuring of energy poverty (Owczarek and Miazga 2015), energy efficiency (Stępniaik and Tomaszewska 2014), energy prices (Lis and Miazga 2015) and regional differences (Lis, Sałach, and Miazga 2015). This increased focus on energy poverty is linked to efforts to reduce air pollution, which is partly caused by the use of less efficient, more polluting energy sources such as coal (see for example Pytliński L., Guła A. and A. Dworakowska 2018). The new *Clean Air programme* of the Polish government contains significant funds for energy efficiency.

Energy poverty is addressed mainly on the national level through financial support, including energy bill support and social support. The *energy/housing allowance* provides financial assistance to households to pay their electricity bills, while the *energy lump sum* provides specific financial assistance for energy bills to people in military operations or wars. More generally, the *special purpose allowance* can be given in certain cases to meet basic needs, including fuel and energy expenses.

In addition, the NGO Habitat for Humanity launched an advocacy project in 2017 that aims to prevent energy poverty in Poland. The project involves a number of initiatives that seek to provide a better understanding of the issue, as well as active collaboration with other non-profit organisations, business partners, government officials and local authorities.

Furthermore, the national government operates general programmes and policies to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy in households, some of which are specifically targeted to the energy poor citizens.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups	Start year	Result
<a href="#">Clean Air programme</a>	Building insulation, Heating system	National government	No specific target group	2018	The Clean Air Program provides financing to improve heating systems in households
<a href="#">Energy lump sum</a>	Energy bill support	National government	Pensioners	Unknown	This measure provides financial assistance for energy bills to people that were involved in military operations or wars
<a href="#">Energy allowance/Housing allowance</a>	Energy bill support	Local government	Low-income households	2014	This measure provides financial assistance to households to pay their electricity bills
<a href="#">National support system for energy efficiency and RES</a>	Information and awareness	National government	No specific target group	Unknown	This project aims to support different stakeholders in Poland to improve energy efficiency by providing guidance and information. Advisors are available that can give households information on how to improve energy efficiency
<a href="#">Prosument - subsidies for small RES installations</a>	Renewable energy	National government, Local government	No specific target group	Unknown	This measure includes subsidies for small-scale RES generation
<a href="#">Special purpose allowance</a>	Social support	National government	Low-income households	Unknown	This measure can be given in certain cases to meet basic needs, including fuel and energy expenses



# Member State Report Poland

## PUBLICATIONS & ORGANISATIONS

This page gives an overview of publications on energy poverty in Poland and presents organisations working on energy poverty in Poland.

Organisation

**Name:** Habitat for Humanity  
**Organization type:** NGO  
**Description:** The project involves a number of initiatives that should provide a better understanding of the issue, as well as active collaboration with non-profit organisations, business partners, government officials and local authorities. The project includes the following actions: mobilisation and development of Energy Poverty Prevention Group, Study visits, advocacy and participation in public consultations, gathering and systemising information on the topic.

Organisation

**Name:** Solutions to Tackle Energy Poverty (STEP)  
**Organization type:** Research & Consultancy  
**Description:** Solutions to Tackle Energy Poverty (STEP) is a project to develop a simple, innovative and replicable model of measures to address energy poverty. The organisation helps to disperse advice to energy poor consumers, they carry out campaigns on how to save energy and STEP disseminates best practices and policy choices to alleviate energy poverty and promote replication of these solutions.

Publication

**Title:** Heterogeneity of the fuel poor in Poland – quantification and policy implications  
**Authors:** Lis, M., Sałach, K., Swiecicka, K.  
**Year:** 2016  
**Description:** The purpose of the paper is to quantify the heterogeneity of causes and symptoms of energy poverty in order to provide guidance for policies aimed at fuel poverty alleviation. It quantified the diversity of the households in Poland in terms of energy efficiency and income using cluster analysis.

Training Resource

**Title:** It's cold inside – energy poverty in Poland  
**Authors:** Miazga, A. and Owczarek, D.  
**Year:** 2015  
**Description:** The aim of this paper is to present a statistical measure of energy poverty in Poland. This is the first research for Poland which is strictly based on the methodology applied in the United Kingdom – the only country with a statutory definition of energy poverty. The results are compared with a subjective energy situation assessment made by households.

### Other selected publications

- Stępnia, A., and Tomaszewska, A. (2014) [Energy poverty and energy efficiency - an analysis of the problem and recommendations](#) (in Polish)
- Lis, M. and Miazga, A. (2015) [Who will be affected by rising energy prices? Map of energy expenditures of Poles](#)
- Owczarek, D., and Miazga, A. (2015) [Energy poverty. Definition and characteristics](#)
- Swora, M., Buchowska, N., Skoczylas, M. (2015) [Granting vulnerable customers an access to energy](#)
- Lis, M., Sałach, K., Miazga, A. (2016) [Location, location, location. What accounts for regional variation of fuel poverty in Poland?](#)
- Szpor, A., and Lis, M. (2016) [Fuel poverty alleviation in Poland: turning evidence into action](#)
- Lewandowski, P. and Sałach, K. (2018) [Energy poverty in Poland, 2012-2016](#)
- Ziółkowska K., Rutkowski J., Sałach, K. and A. Szpor (2018) [How to reduce energy poverty in Poland?](#)
- Pytliński L., Guła A. and A. Dworakowska (2018) [Poor houses](#) (in Polish)
- Statistics Poland, (2019) [Energy consumption in households in 2018](#)

For definitions of the terms used in this report [click here](#). The EPOV website provides an extensive collection of Knowledge & Resources. [Click here](#) for more information and to contribute additional policies, publications and other resources.

This report was completed in February 2020.