



Member State Report Poland

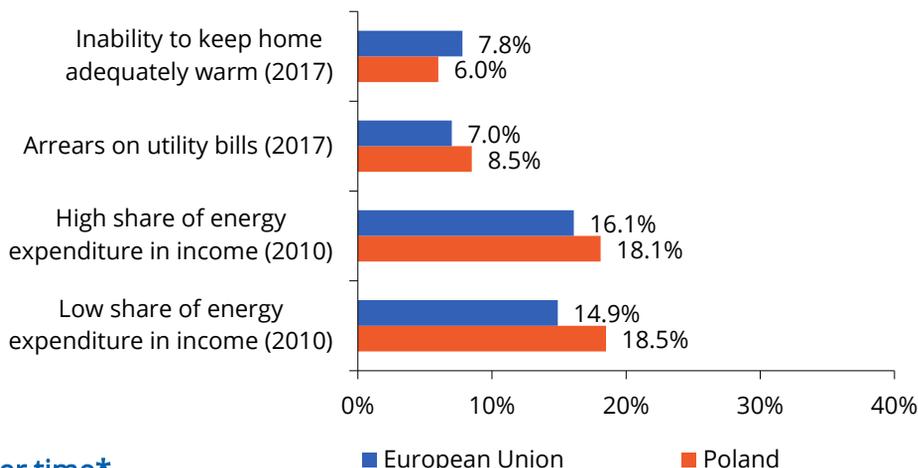
DATA & STATISTICS

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.

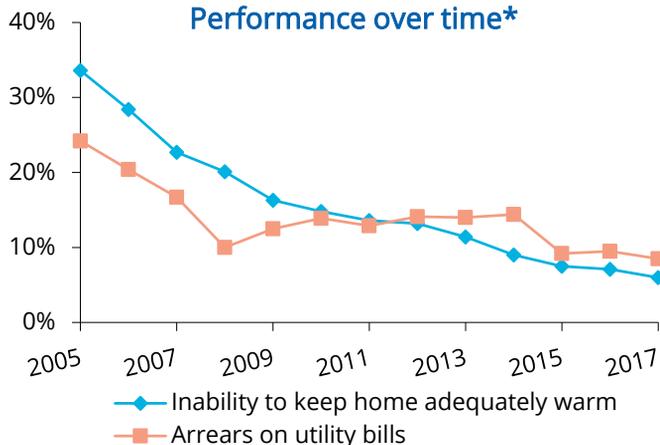
Poland performs near the EU average on the household-reported indicators. 6.0% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2017, and 8.5% were in arrears on utility bills.

Poland is slightly above the EU average for the expenditure-based indicators. 18.1% of households spend more than twice the median on energy, and 18.5% spend less than half the median.

Performance relative to EU average*

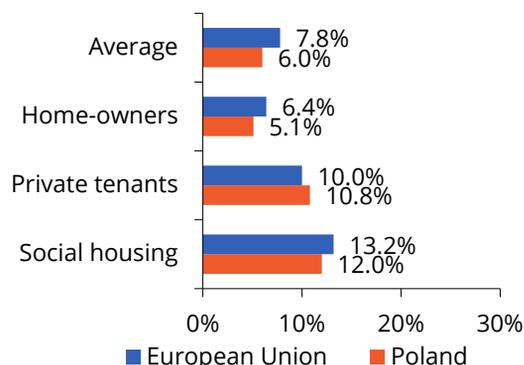


Performance over time*



In Poland, the percentage of households unable to keep the home adequately warm has steadily decreased in recent years, from 34% in 2005 to 6% in 2017. This is in part a result of a special benefit '500+' for families with children. The number of households in arrears on utility bills has also decreased, from 24% in 2005 to 9% in 2017.

Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)*



Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Poland is a larger problem for households that rent their housing. This is especially true for social housing. However, it should be noted that home ownership rate is relatively high in Poland, so the group of tenants is comparatively small.

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.

*Household-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on April 16, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of household-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



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KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCES

In Poland, research on energy poverty has significantly increased in recent years. This research has focussed on all aspects of energy, including the defining and measuring of energy poverty (Owczarek and Miazga 2015), energy efficiency (Stępniaak 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, but dirtier 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 programs and policies to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy in households, but these are not specifically targeted to energy poor.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
Clean Air programme	Building insulation, Heating system	National government	No specific target group
Energy lump sum	Energy bill support	National government	Pensioners
Energy allowance/Housing allowance	Energy bill support	Local government	Low-income households
National support system for energy efficiency and RES	Information and awareness	National government	No specific target group
Prosument - subsidies for small RES installations	Renewable energy	National government, Local government	No specific target group
Special purpose allowance	Social support	National government	Low-income households

Selected Publications

- Freund, C. and Wallich, C. (1995) [Raising Household Energy Prices in Poland: Who Gains? Who Loses?](#)
- Stępniaak, 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)

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.