



# Member State Report Sweden

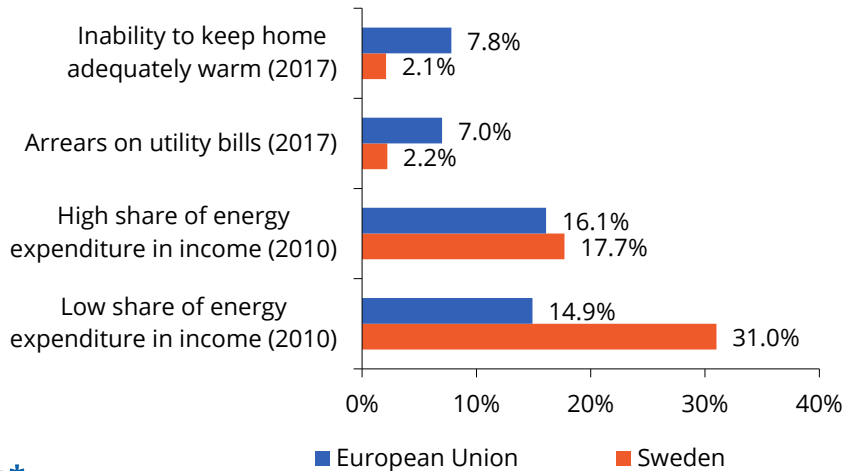
## DATA & STATISTICS

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

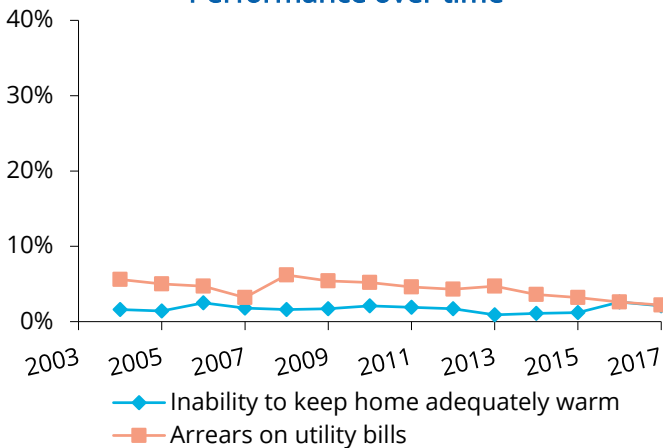
Sweden performs better than the EU average on the household-reported indicators. 2.1% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2017, and 2.2% were in arrears on utility bills.

Sweden is worse than the EU average for the expenditure-based indicators. 17.7% of households spend more than twice the median on energy. 31.0% spend less than half the median, but this might be because energy costs are usually included in rent.

### Performance relative to EU average\*

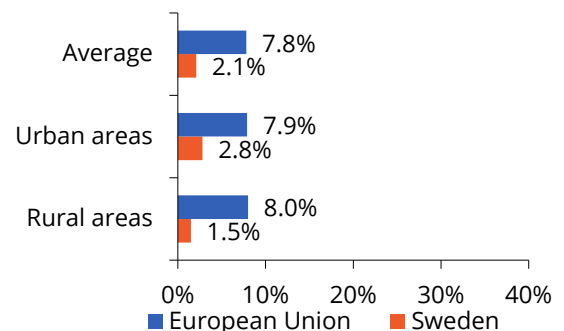


### Performance over time\*



In Sweden, the percentage of households unable to keep the home adequately warm has been low at 1–3%. The number of households with arrears on utility bills increased slightly in the midst of the financial crisis in 2008 to 6% but decreased to 2% in 2017.

### Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)\*



Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Sweden is more a problem for households in urban areas. In addition, data points to households living in apartments and rented dwellings as being more vulnerable. These statistics suggest that energy poverty is concentrated in Sweden's urban areas.

### 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.

Contact us:  
[www.energypoverty.eu](http://www.energypoverty.eu)  
[contact@energypoverty.eu](mailto:contact@energypoverty.eu)  
Twitter at @EPOV\_EU



# Member State Report Sweden

## KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCES

In Sweden, the focus has not been specifically on energy poverty, although studies do analyse closely related topics such as energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The main method to address energy poverty in Sweden is implicitly through social policies. A strong social support system is available that helps low-income households cover their living expenses, including costs for accommodation and electricity. The *housing allowance* provides financial assistance to households to cover housing costs, which incorporate costs for heating based on the temperature zone and floor area of the house. There are also *disconnection safeguards* that prohibit disconnection if it would result in personal injuries.

Information and awareness measures can also benefit vulnerable households. Through *energy and climate advisors*, municipalities provide free advice on energy efficiency and renewable energy to households. Regulation also ensures that energy suppliers provide residents with clear and transparent energy bills free of charge, which helps households to assess their energy consumption and the need to change suppliers.

*Support for energy efficiency improvements in specific residential areas* aims to overcome the landlord-tenant dilemma by providing landlords with financial support to improve the energy efficiency of rental housing. A portion of this is allocated to a rent reduction for the tenants. Other subsidies for energy efficiency and renewable energy are available but do not target vulnerable households specifically.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
<a href="#">Support for energy efficiency improvements in specific residential areas</a>	Building insulation, Heating system	National government	Landlords
<a href="#">Disconnection safeguards</a>	Disconnection protection	National government	Indebted households
<a href="#">Transparent billing free of charge</a>	Information and awareness	Energy suppliers	No specific target group
<a href="#">Energy and climate advisors</a>	Information and awareness	Local government	No specific target group
<a href="#">Subsidies for solar systems</a>	Renewable energy	National government, Local government	No specific target group
<a href="#">Housing allowance</a>	Social support	National government, Local government	Chronically/severely diseased, Disabled, Low-income households, Households with children
<a href="#">Social support</a>	Social support	National government, Local government	Low-income households

### Selected Publications

- Nässén, J. and Holmberg, J. (2009) [Quantifying the rebound effects of energy efficiency improvements and energy conserving behaviour in Sweden](#)
- Clancy, J.S., Daskalova, V., Feenstra, M.H. (2017) [Gender perspective on access to energy in the EU](#)

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.