



## Experimental Statistics: Sub-Regional Fuel Poverty in England, 2019 (2017 data)

Experimental Statistics were released on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy on sub-regional fuel poverty in England.

Fuel poverty is defined as the share of households that cannot afford to keep adequately warm at a reasonable cost, given their income. In percentage terms this can be generally equated to over 10% of the income is required to be spent on energy.

### Black Country Summary:

- In 2017, 13.7% (66,124) of Black Country households were living in fuel poverty, above the national average of 10.9%.
- However, compared to 2016 there was a significant decrease in the Black Country, by 7.7% (-5,534 households). Nationally the decrease was only 0.7%.
- In 2016, out of 326 English local authorities Sandwell was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest for the percentage of households in fuel poverty, at 16.9%. This has since improved and Sandwell was ranked 11<sup>th</sup> highest in 2017. Wolverhampton was the 15<sup>th</sup> highest in 2016 and became the 19<sup>th</sup> in 2017, and Walsall was the 22<sup>nd</sup> highest and in 2017 became the 24<sup>th</sup> highest. While Dudley was ranked in at number 36 in 2016 and moved a considerable amount down to 77<sup>th</sup> place in 2017.
- Within the Black Country, Dudley had the lowest percentage of households living in fuel poverty in 2017 at 11.7% (15,942 households), and also experienced the largest decrease from 2016 - a decrease of 11.3% (-2,040).
- Sandwell had the highest percentage of households living in fuel poverty in 2017 at 15.2%; this is equivalent to 19,383 households. Compared to 2016, Sandwell had the second highest decrease within the Black Country, at -9.4% (-2,002 households).
- In Wolverhampton 14.4% (15,395) of households lived in fuel poverty in 2017, while in Walsall the figure was 13.7% (15,404). In comparison to 2016, Wolverhampton and Walsall both decreased by 4.6%, equivalent to -742 households and -750 households respectively.

**Table 1: Fuel Poverty within the Black Country.**

	Estimated number of households 2016	Estimated number of fuel poor households 2016	Proportion of households that are fuel poor in 2016	Estimated number of households 2017	Estimated number of fuel poor households 2017	Proportion of households that are fuel poor in 2017	% change in fuel poor (2016 - 2017)
Dudley	135,408	17,982	13.3%	135,971	15,942	11.7%	-11.3%
Sandwell	126,714	21,385	16.9%	127,205	19,383	15.2%	-9.4%
Walsall	112,372	16,154	14.4%	112,841	15,404	13.7%	-4.6%
Wolverhampton	106,509	16,137	15.2%	106,935	15,395	14.4%	-4.6%
BCLEP	481,001	71,658	14.9%	482,952	66,124	13.7%	-7.7%
All Households	22,996,229	2,550,565	11.1%	23,196,897	2,532,195	10.9%	-0.7%

Source: Department for Business, Energy & industrial Strategy, Sub-Regional Fuel Poverty in England, 2019 (2017 data), 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

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