

(All data: Department of Energy and Climate Change, Fuel poverty sub-regional statistics (2010-2014))

In 2014, it was estimated by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) that 10,800 households in South Gloucestershire were classed as fuel poor. This note presents a geographical analysis of fuel poverty across South Gloucestershire.

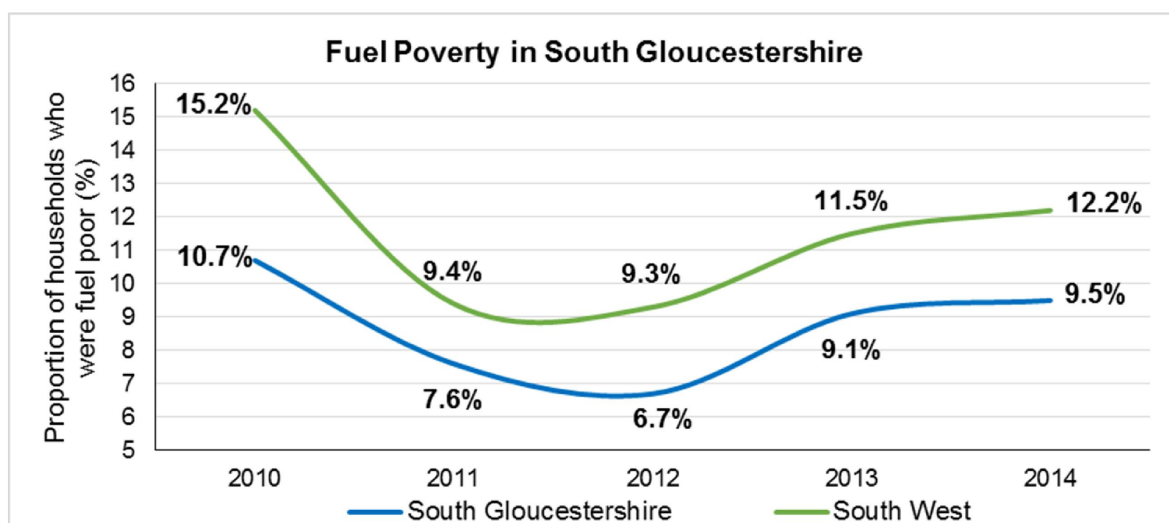
Background

A household is considered to be fuel poor if it has higher than typical energy costs and would be left with a disposable income below the poverty line (60% of the median income for 2013/14) if it spent the required money to meet those costs. It captures the fact that fuel poverty is distinct from general poverty: not all poor households are *fuel* poor, and some households would not normally be considered *poor* but could be pushed into fuel poverty if they have high energy costs. Fuel poverty is therefore an overlapping problem of households having a low income and facing high energy costs.

Fuel poverty statistics are based on data from the English Housing Survey (EHS). Given the sample size of the EHS (11,851 households in the combined datasets for 2013 and 2014 for the whole of England), it is not possible to robustly estimate fuel poverty rates at local authority level. However a logistic regression model is created, matching data from the EHS on whether a household is fuel poor or not with data from other sources available for all Census Output Areas (COAs), e.g. Census 2011 data. The model is used to estimate the levels of fuel poverty for all COAs across England; these are then aggregated to Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs*) and higher level geographies.

Fuel poverty in South Gloucestershire

In 2014 (the latest available data), approximately 10,800 households in South Gloucestershire were considered to be 'fuel poor'. This equates to approximately 9.5% of all households in the district, which is below the South West rate of 12.2%.



Please note: The axis for this graph does not start at zero so the difference over time can be seen more clearly.

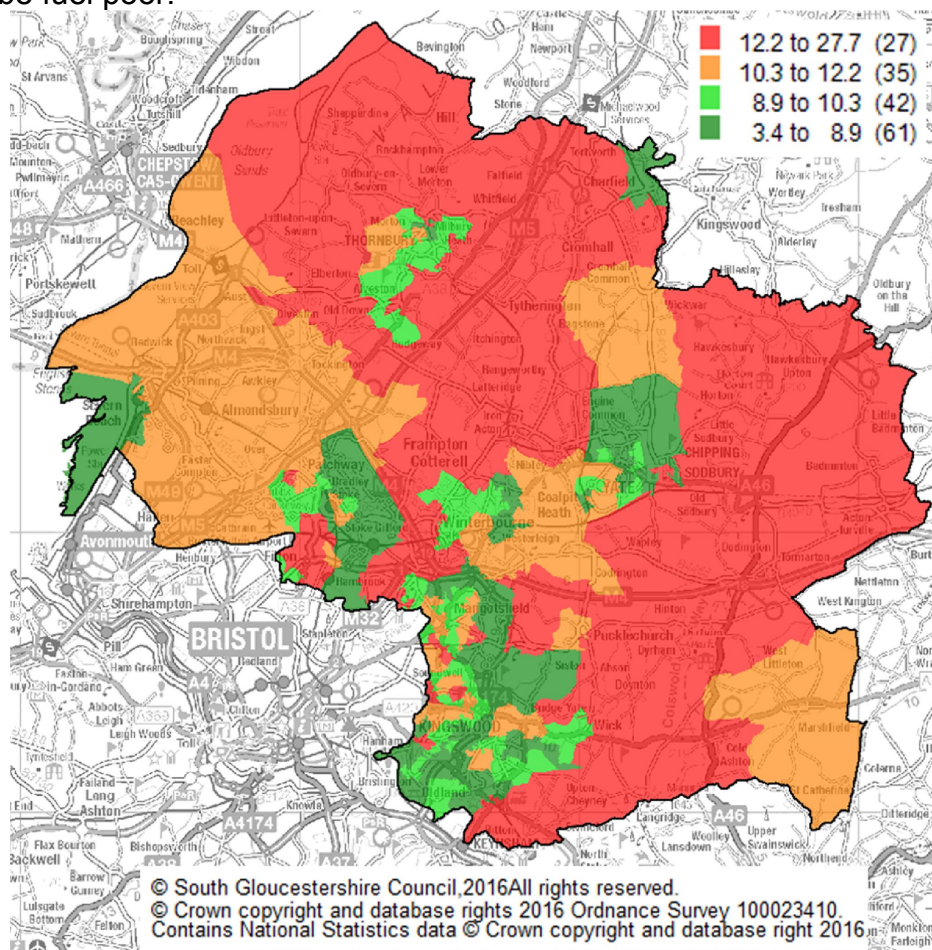
Between 2010 and 2012 there was a steady decline in the proportion of fuel poor households, reaching the lowest point during the time period (6.7% and 9.3% respectively). From 2012 onwards the proportion of fuel poor households increased, remaining fairly consistent between 2013 and 2014.

The graph below shows that while both areas have experienced similar trends, the proportion of households who are considered as fuel poor in South Gloucestershire has remained considerably below the South West rate over the past four years.

Fuel Poverty by LSOA

Fuel poverty data has been published at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA*) level. Of the 162 LSOAs in South Gloucestershire 17% (27) have a fuel poverty level above the South West rate of 12.2%. The 27 LSOAs with rates above the South West fuel poverty rate are listed overleaf.

In South Gloucestershire the LSOA with the highest level of fuel poverty was Tormarton and surrounding rural area (E01014891) in Cotswold Edge where 27.7% of households were estimated to be fuel poor.



Please note: Estimates of fuel poverty at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) should be treated with caution. Due to very small sample sizes, estimates should only be used to look at general trends and identify areas of particularly high or low fuel poverty.

*Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) are small areas designed to be of a similar population size with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households. There are 32,844 LSOAs in England and 162 in South Gloucestershire (2004 boundary definition).

LSOAs with highest rates of fuel poverty in South Gloucestershire (27 LSOAs with fuel poverty level above South West rate)

Rank	LSOA (2011)	Landmark	Ward	Priority Neighbourhood	Number of fuel poor households	Proportion of households who are fuel poor (%)
1	E01014891	Tormarton and surrounding rural area	Cotswold Edge (82%) / Westerleigh (18%)		199	27.7
2	E01014890	Area surrounding Horton / Hawkesbury Upton	Cotswold Edge		195	22.6
3	E01014929	Rangeworthy and Iron Acton rural area	Ladden Brook (59%) / Frampton Cotterell (41%)		180	21.5
4	E01014870	Doynton / Dyrham rural area	Boyd Valley		136	20.3
5	E01014989	Falfield / Whitfield / Morton area	Thornbury North (53%) / Charfield (47%)		94	20.1
6	E01014884	Cromhall / Leyhill / Tortworth area	Charfield		115	18.1
7	E01014868	Parkfield and surrounding rural area	Boyd Valley		115	17.3
8	E01014962	Oldbury on Severn rural area	Severn		122	17.3
9	E01033333	UWE east / Hambrook area	Frenchay and Stoke Park / Winterbourne		89	15.2
10	E01014906	Filton Roundabout area	Filton	Filton	117	14.9
11	E01014977	Pendennis Road area	Staple Hill	Staple Hill	108	14.8
12	E01014915	Lower Hanham Road area	Hanham		99	14.5
13	E01014909	Northville Road area	Filton	Filton	90	14.5
14	E01014993	Rural area surrounding Tytherington	Thornbury South and Alveston (54%) / Ladden Brook (46%)		84	14.4
15	E01014905	Wades Road / Mackie Road area	Filton		97	13.9
16	E01014960	St James Street / Elmleigh Road area	Rodway		97	13.5
17	E01014865	Rural area around Bitton and Upton Cheyney	Bitton		110	13.3
18	E01014886	Woodmans Close / Kingrove Crescent area	Chipping Sodbury		116	13.1
19	E01015000	Flaxpits Lane and surrounding rural area	Winterbourne		89	12.9
20	E01014907	Mid Filton Avenue / Mortimer Road area	Filton	Filton	93	12.9
21	E01014864	Alveston / Rudgey / Earthcott Green area	Thornbury South and Alveston		85	12.8

22	E01014946	Coniston Bradley Road area	Patchway	Patchway	85	12.7
23	E01014973	Narrow Lane / Teewell Avenue area	Staple Hill	Staple Hill	83	12.4
24	E01014926	New Cheltenham Road area	Kings Chase	Kingswood	89	12.4
25	E01014911	Junction of Bristol Road /Perrinpit Road area	Frampton Cotterell		71	12.3
26	E01014924	Downend Road / Worcester Road area	Kings Chase	Kingswood	102	12.3
27	E01014910	Filton College area	Filton		80	12.3

For further information contact the Corporate Research and Consultation Team:

Tel: 01454 863990 / 01454 868408

Email: research@southglos.gov.uk