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Next update: Winter 2020

This data is published by the Sustainable Business and Communities Team of Kent County Council

You can contact us on KES@kent.gov.uk

Living in fuel poverty is defined as being on a lower income and living in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost. With the total UK household expenditure on energy rising by 16% in real terms since 2010 (BEIS, 2018), tackling fuel poverty remains a challenge for both local and national government.

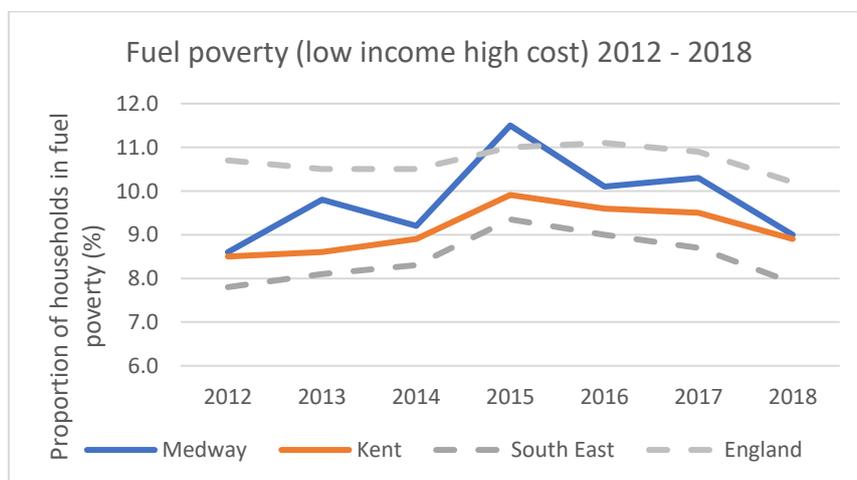
Key facts

Fuel Poverty

In 2018, 67,801 (9%) households in Kent and Medway were estimated to be living in fuel poverty, a reduction of 5,209 on the previous year. Compared to 2012 data, the number of Kent and Medway households in fuel poverty has risen 12%. These values are higher than the average for the South East which has risen only 9% since 2012.

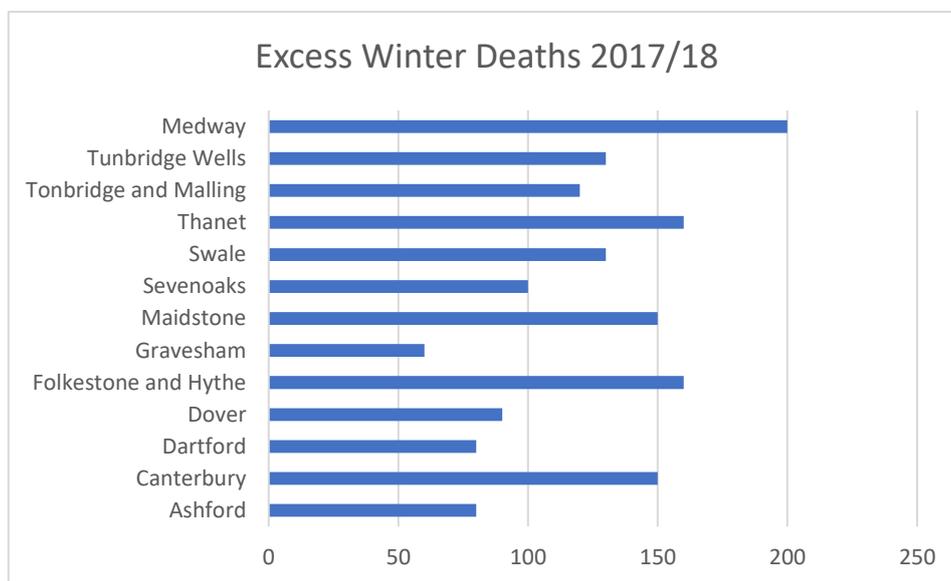
In 2018, the highest levels of fuel poverty were in Thanet (10.7%) and Folkestone and Hythe (10.2%). The lowest levels of fuel poverty were in Dartford (6.8%) and Tonbridge and Malling (7.3%) and Sevenoaks (7.3%).

Most districts saw a reduction in the estimated number of households in fuel poverty between 2017–18. Thanet had the largest reduction of -13%. Only Ashford and Dover saw an increase of 2% and 1%.



Excess Winter Deaths

Excess winter deaths (EWDs) or excess winter mortality (EWM) are measured by an EWM index, and this index varies significantly across Kent and Medway over the 2017/18 winter period. The average for Kent & Medway is 29.6, in line with the average for England. The highest EWM Index is in Tunbridge wells (41.3) followed by Folkestone and Hythe (40.2). The lowest is in Dover (20.8). Overall the total number of EWDs for Kent and Medway was 1,610 in 2017/18.



Further reading

For further information, we recommend the below:

Delivering affordable warmth: A fuel poverty strategy for Kent

<http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/housing/saving-money-on-your-bills/fuel-poverty-strategy-for-kent>

Data sources

Sub-regional fuel poverty data (BEIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics#2016-statistics>

Total household expenditure on energy in the UK (QEP 2.6.1)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/annual-domestic-energy-price-statistics>

Excess Winter Mortality in England and Wales

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/excesswintermortalityinenglandandwalesreferencetables>