



**CHANGeworks**

RESOURCES FOR LIFE

# Fuel Poverty

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What is fuel poverty?

...to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, a household would be required to spend more than 10% of its income on all household fuel use.

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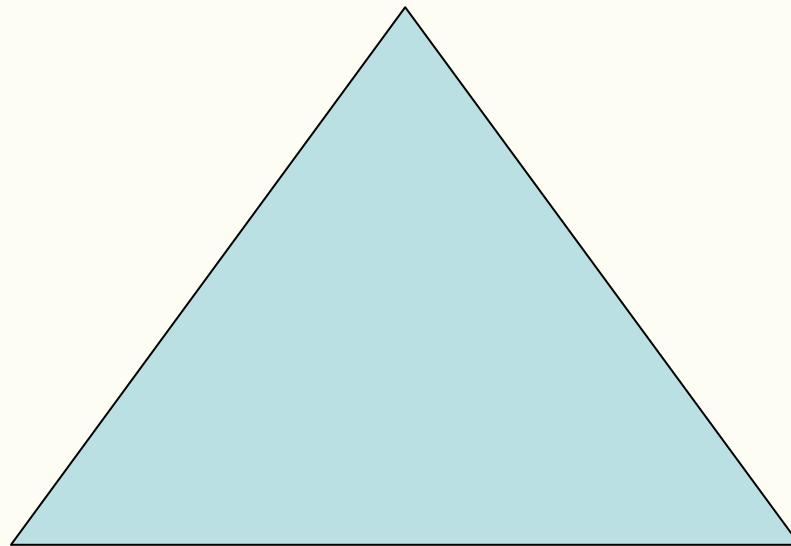
## What does fuel poverty mean?

- Cold home
- Damp home
- Debt
- Disconnection
- Choices: heat or eat
- Worry, depression, anxiety, isolation, poor physical health, challenges in schooling, bullying, low self-esteem...

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## Causes of fuel poverty

Household  
income



Fuel prices

Energy Efficiency  
of housing

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Who is affected by fuel poverty?

- Older, detached houses
- Private sector tenants
- Low / fixed incomes
- Single person / parent / pensioner households
- Poor health / disability
- Life changes - affect us all

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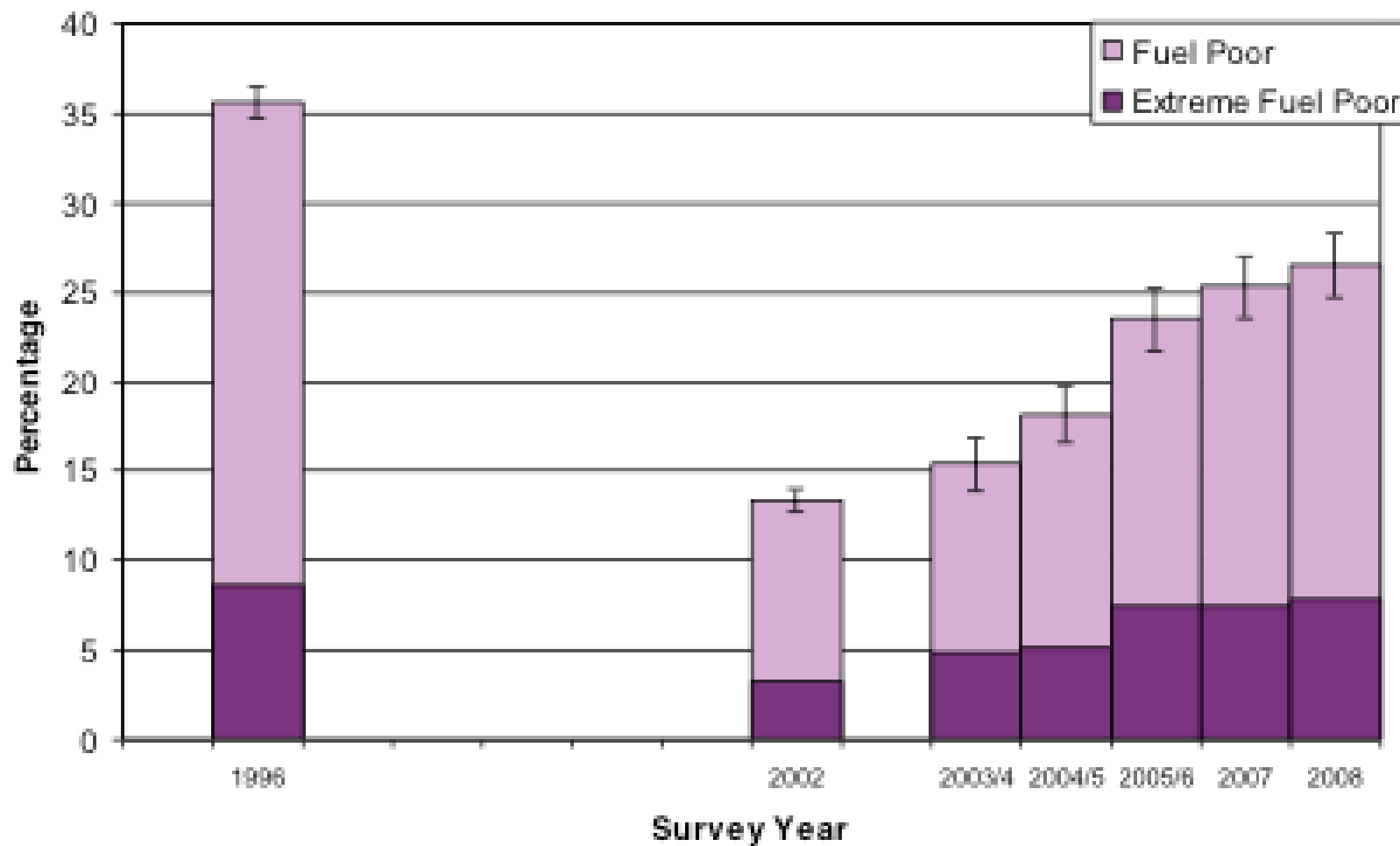
## Fuel Poverty in Scotland

- 850,000 households in Scotland were fuel poor in 2009
- In excess of 37% of the population
- 25% in 2006/07

Scottish House Condition Survey

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## Fuel Poverty in Scotland



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## Tackling Fuel Poverty - Government Commitments

- UK - Eradicate fuel poverty by 2018
- Scottish Government - Eliminate fuel poverty *as far as is reasonably practicable* by November 2016

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## Housing (Scotland) Act 2001

Section 88 of compels Scottish ministers to:

- State which measures will be taken to eradicate fuel poverty
- State a target date and interim objectives
- Report every four years on the measures taken
- Local Authorities - Housing Strategy

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## Tackling Fuel Poverty - Low Incomes

- Weekly income < £100 = high risk
- Top 3 income bands
- Job Seeker's Allowance, State Retirement Pension, Widow's Pension

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## Tackling Fuel Poverty - Fuel Price Rises

<b>Gas and electricity prices in Scotland 2002 - 2008</b>				
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Increase (£)</b>	<b>Increase (%)</b>
<b>Gas*</b>	£311	£575	£264	85%
<b>Electricity*</b>	£267	£419	£152	57%
<b>Combined bill</b>	£578	£994	£416	72%

Energy Action Scotland, Price of Domestic Energy

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## Tackling Fuel Poverty - Price Rises

For every 1% increase in fuel prices, roughly 8,000 more households become fuel poor.

SHCS update 2008

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## Tackling Fuel Poverty - Energy Efficiency

- Scottish Housing Quality Standard 2015
- Minimum insulation standards
- NHER 5 or above for gas heated homes
- NHER 6 or above for electrically heated.

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Impact of measures (2005/06)

	<b>Number of fuel poor households (2005/06)</b>	<b>% fuel poor</b>
<b>Current energy efficiency levels</b>	<b>543,000</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
<b>All stock attains NHER 7</b>	<b>422,000</b>	<b>18.2%</b>

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## Energy Efficiency - Scottish Challenges

- Climate
- Many Scottish dwellings - hard to treat and hard to heat
- Focus of grant schemes

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Eradicating fuel poverty - simple!

1. Increase household incomes
2. Improve the energy efficiency of housing / switch to no carbon housing
3. Tackle rising fuel prices