



# **Eliminating Fuel Poverty In Britain: Policy, Prospects And Progress**

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# Main Issues for Consideration

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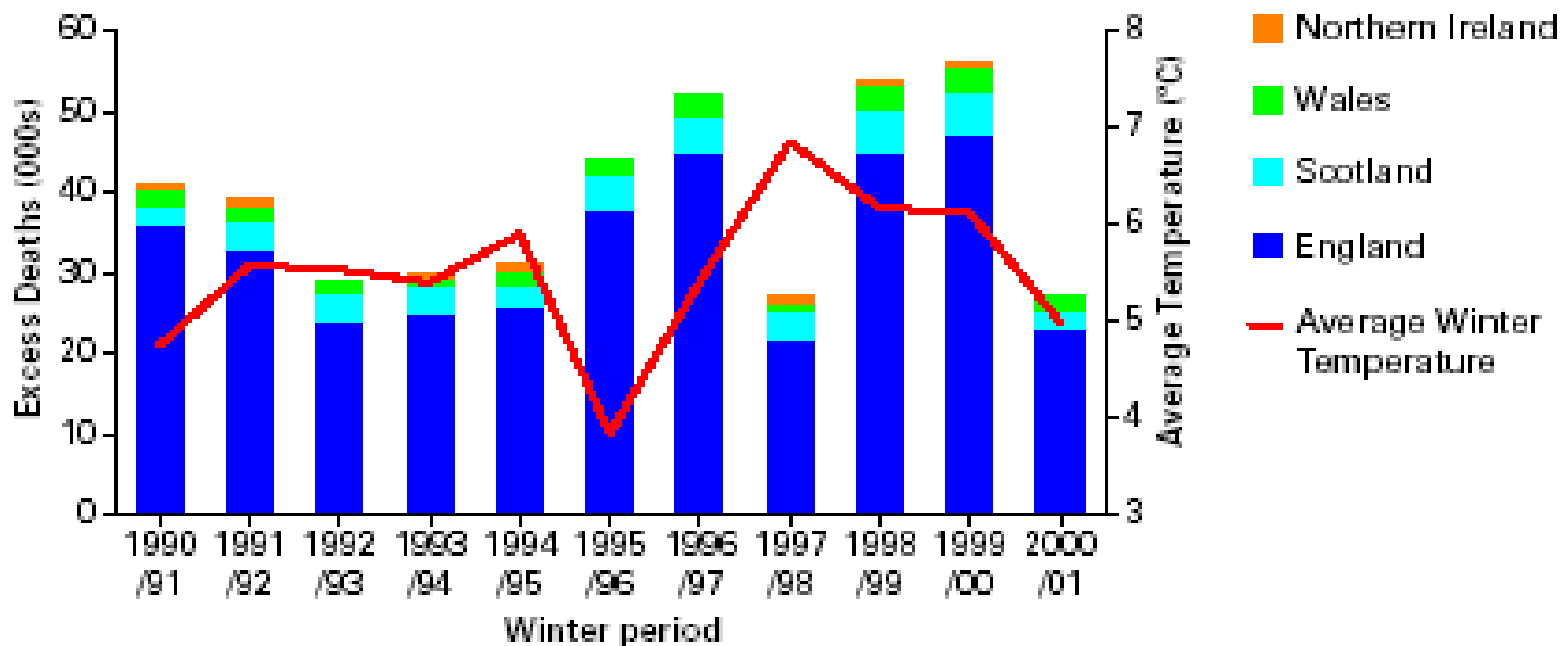


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- Fuel poverty & health
- The Scale of fuel poverty
- Tackling fuel poverty
- Policy
- Prospects
- Conclusions
- The Way Forward

# 1. Fuel Poverty & Health

Chart 6.4 Excess Winter Deaths



Source: Office for National Statistics, Scottish Executive, Northern Ireland Assembly

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- £1 billion in costs to NHS each year

## 2. The Scale of Fuel Poverty

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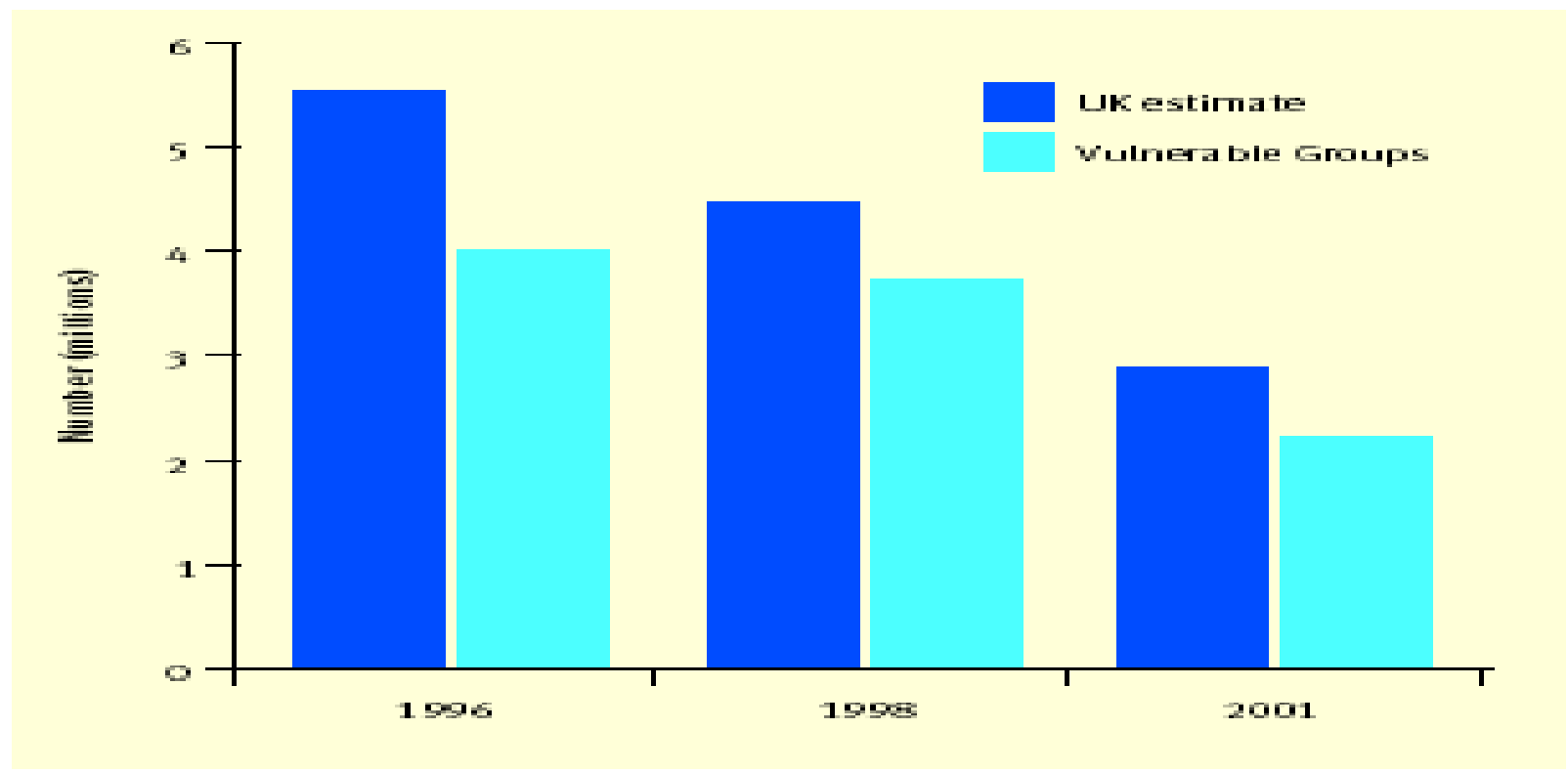


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- Excluding HB & ISMI
  - 2000 – 3.9 million
- True disposable Income
  - 2000 – 7-8 million

# 2. The Scale of Fuel Poverty

Number of households in fuel poverty, United Kingdom





# **3. Factors Affecting Fuel Poverty Levels in Britain**

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- Under-occupancy

# 4. Policy Developments

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- 1995 – Home Energy Conservation Act
  - Local Housing authorities become energy conservation authorities
  - 30% improvement within 10 years

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  - Others later
- **2001 – Fuel Poverty Advisory Group**
  - Monitor & recommend

# Achievement of Targets – Fuel Price

The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient. It features three overlapping target graphics. Each target consists of several concentric circles, with the innermost circle being a dotted line and the outermost being a solid line. The targets are positioned in the upper left, upper right, and lower center areas of the slide.

# Achievement of Targets – Fuel Price

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- Prices set to rise

# Achievement of Targets – Low Income

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- Winter fuel payments
- £8 billion- pensioners and £250 million –cold weather payments – 5years
- Not necessarily spent on fuel



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# **5. Achievement of Targets – Energy Efficiency Measures**

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- Average SAP = 44.9

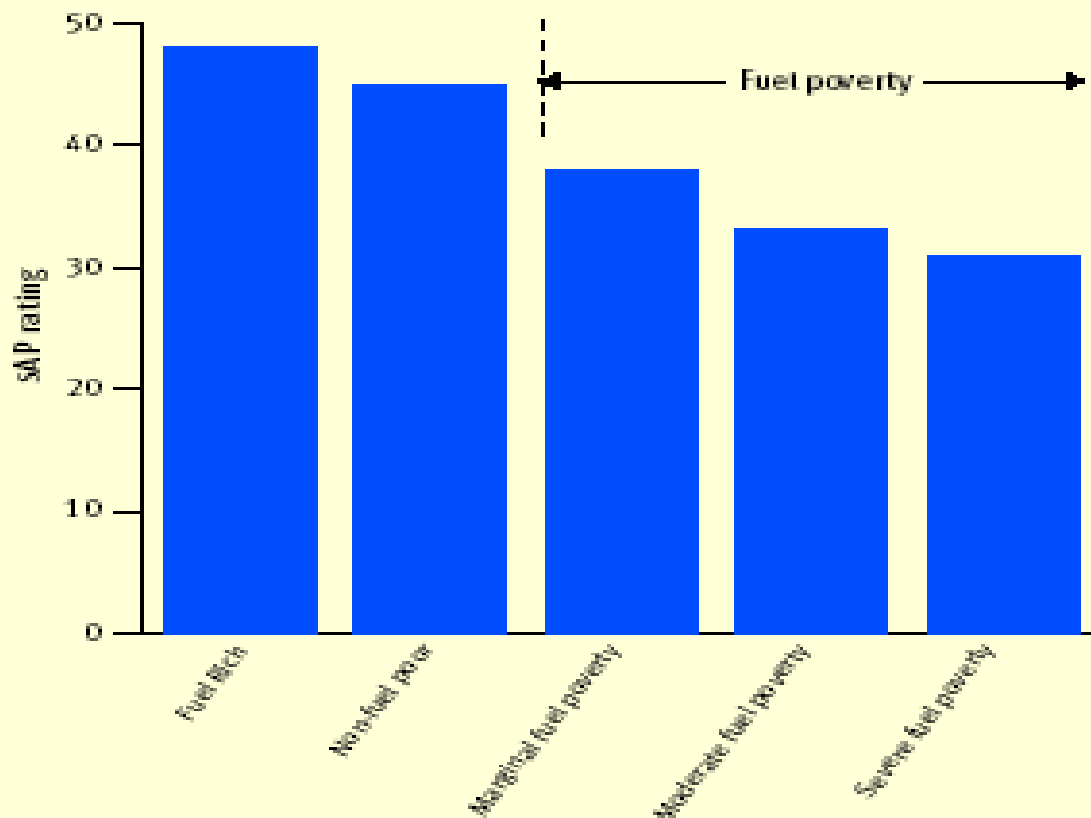
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  - Solid walls
  - Off the gas network
  - 2 million of fuel poor
  - £5000 – total £4.4billion

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- “Hard to Heat” homes
  - Solid walls
  - Off the gas network
  - 2 million of fuel poor
  - £5000 – total £4.4billion
- Low income households occupy least energy efficient housing

## Energy efficiency by fuel poverty group<sup>1</sup>, measured using the SAP<sup>2</sup>, 1998 England



(1) Fuel poverty groups are defined as follows:

Fuel poverty group	Required fuel expenditure as a percentage of total
Fuel rich	<5
Non-fuel poor	5-10
Marginal fuel poverty	10-15
Moderate fuel poverty	15-20
Severe fuel poverty	> 20

(2) The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is an energy efficiency measure.

Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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- 30% target HECA only 10% 2001



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- Current £300 million p.a.



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- Sefton 2002 – WFTGS little impact

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- 50% increase and removal of upper limit on WFTGS
- Better integration at local level
- Decent homes implementation



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- Integration across central government

# Conclusions

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# Conclusions

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- The levels of fuel poverty in Britain are contributing to excess winter mortality.
- Action on income & fuel price alone will not solve the problem.
- A programme for affordable warmth is necessary through improved energy efficiency.
- The government will fail to meet its target without more investment & better targeting of its programmes
- Is the Government giving the fuel poor the “Cold shoulder”?

# The Way Forward

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# The Way Forward

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- The fund to be administered by local housing authorities in their role as energy conservation authorities.