KnowFife Briefing
Sharing data & information across the Fife Partnership

Fife Fuel Poverty Composite Index 2024

Contact: sian.rennie@fife.gov.uk   **Version: 1**   **Date: 21/01/2025**
research.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty relates to households that must spend a higher proportion of their household income to keep their house warm at a reasonable temperature. It is affected by three factors:

1) household income,
2) an increase in household fuel costs,
3) a household's energy use.

About the Index

The Research Team have developed a Fife Fuel Poverty Composite Index (CI). This is to answer the question:

'Where are neighbourhoods in Fife with increased risk of experiencing fuel poverty?'

Indices provide an interpretable metric for subjects that are difficult to measure, such as social vulnerability or risk. A commonly used composite index is the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) which ranks all datazones (DZ) in Scotland from most to least deprived.

The Fife Fuel Poverty Composite Index provides a more accurate measure of fuel poverty risk to enable services to target fuel poverty need more effectively. It takes account of both demand for fuel, and ability to pay for fuel, to assess the risk of fuel poverty in a neighbourhood.

Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to integrate, weight and visualise indicators to show areas of low to high fuel poverty risk.

The Composite Index is divided into two domains:

1) Demand for fuel
2) Ability to pay for fuel

The Fuel Poverty Composite Index ranks all datazones in Fife from 1 to 494 (where 1 is highest fuel poverty risk and 494 is lowest fuel poverty risk). Please note that like the SIMD, this is a relative index and does not show by how much more or less an area is at risk of fuel poverty.

Each rank corresponds to one of ten deciles (10% bands) which are used in the outputs of the research to show relative fuel poverty risk.

A package of research outputs has been put together to support the use of the Fife Fuel Poverty Composite Index to understand local need and improve the targeting of support.

Explore the Data and Methodology

Format	Overview	Link
KnowFife Hub	Signposting to package of research outputs relating to Fife Fuel Poverty Composite Index	https://know.fife.scot/research-and-knowledge/topics/poverty-and-deprivation
Methodology	A technical paper setting out the methodology used to develop and refine the Fife Fuel Poverty Composite Index	https://know.fife.scot/__data/assets/pdf_file/0034/649843/Fuel-Poverty-Composite-Index-2024-Methodology.pdf
Data	Spreadsheet to explore domain and indicator results from the Fuel Poverty Composite Index analysis	https://know.fife.scot/__data/assets/excel_doc/0037/649873/FPCI_Results_2024.xlsx
Interactive Mapping Application	Further explore the composite index, demand and ability to pay sub-indices - including the indicators which have been used to create the index - through an interactive mapping application	Fife Fuel Poverty Index Mapping Application
Area Briefings	Fuel poverty area briefings, highlighting relative risk within each Committee area	
	City of Dunfermline	Fuel-poverty-Focus-on-Dunfermline.pdf
	Cowdenbeath Area	Fuel-poverty-Focus-on-Cowdenbeath.pdf
	Glenrothes Area	Fuel-poverty-Focus-on-Glenrothes.pdf
	Kirkcaldy Area	Fuel-poverty-Focus-on-Kirkcaldy.pdf
	Levenmouth Area	Fuel-poverty-Focus-on-Levenmouth.pdf
	North East Fife Area	Fuel-poverty-Focus-on-North-East-Fife.pdf
	South and West Fife Area	Fuel-poverty-Focus-on-South-West-Fife.pdf