



National Traveller

mabs

Money Advice & Budgeting Service

FACTSHEET-

Energy Poverty

Key Facts on Energy Poverty Amongst Travellers Living in Mobile Homes/Trailers



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Findings and recommendations from our report 'Accommodating Ethnicity, an Exploration of Energy Poverty Amongst Travellers Living in Mobile Homes and Trailers'

What is energy poverty?

A household that spends more than 10% of its income is said to be in energy poverty

There are three factors of energy poverty: income, the cost of energy and the energy efficiency of the home.



What are the key facts about energy poverty amongst Travellers living in mobile homes and trailers?



- 12% of Travellers live in mobile homes
- Travellers living in mobile homes or trailers are **nine times more** likely to go without heat than the general population
- Travellers living in mobile homes are **fourteen times** more likely to be unable to keep their household warm than the general population
- 77% of Travellers living in mobile homes are in energy poverty
- Travellers living in mobile homes **spend** on average **26.1% of their income on energy** this is around **five to six times higher** than the corresponding figure of **4.6%** of the population.

Levels of energy poverty are different depending on the accommodation status of the household

Income spent on energy (%)	Main occupant- authorised site (n=21)	Not main occupant, authorised site (n=20)	Living on unauthorised sites (n=10)	Living at the roadside (n=10)
Mean spend (%)	19.9	28.7	33.2	42.5
Median spend (%)	19.2	25.8	30.4	46.6

Spend on Energy	Population average	NTMABS Sample average
Weekly Amount	€38.56	€108.00
Weekly amount as a percentage of weekly income	4.6%	26.1%

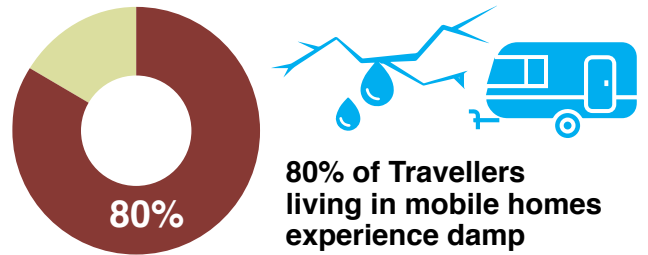
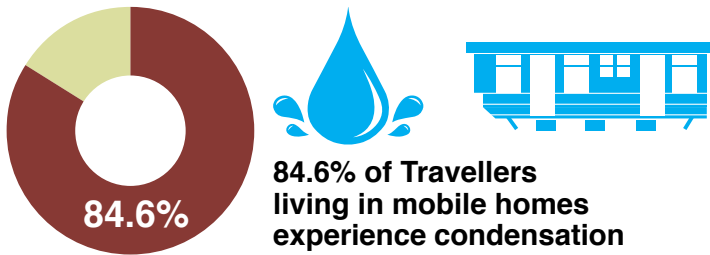


The condition of mobile homes/trailers lived in by Travellers

The average age of mobile homes lived in by Travellers is 15 years

In our study **77% of Traveller** households (living in mobile homes or trailers) said their homes **were in need of repair**

Insulation of mobile homes			
	Yes	No	Don't know
Insulated	9 (13.8%)	45 (69.2%)	11 (17.0%)



Poverty rates amongst Travellers living in mobile homes

The **risk of poverty** of Travellers living in mobile homes is **around five times** that of the population at large.

At risk of poverty comparison: sample v population		
	Sample (%)	Population (%)
Below the poverty line	83.1(n=54)	15.7
Above the poverty line	6.1(n=4)	84.3
Not identifiable	10.8 (n=7)	N/A





What are the consequences of energy poverty for Travellers living in mobile homes?

- Health issues
- Safety issues
- Not having enough money for other essential living expenses



What can be done about Energy Poverty amongst Travellers living in mobile homes?



Accommodation- energy efficient mobile homes/trailers

- A state-financed rental or 'rent-to-buy' caravan/"resting chalet" scheme should be explored with Travellers as a means of making residential-standard mobile accommodation accessible.



Income

- The winter Fuel Allowance payment should be increased for Traveller households living in mobile homes or trailers.
- Fuel allowance coverage should be extended to families who are officially sharing a bay (and thereby liable for rent), and to those in other circumstances who are provided with washing/ electricity facilities by the local authority.
- Representation should be made to the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection regarding entitlement to an Exceptional Supplement for Travellers experiencing energy poverty and health related consequences in particular.



Costs

Increase access to Exceptional Needs Payments (ENP) to provide periodic assistance with fuel costs when needed.

