

THE HOME ENERGY AFFORDABILITY GAP 2020

(2ND SERIES) PUBLISHED APRIL 2021

Finding #1

Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2011 (base year)	\$38,597,642,593	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) indicates the extent to which the Home Energy Affordability Gap has increased between the base year and the current year. In the total United States this Index was 94.5 for 2020.
Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2020 (current year)	\$36,468,887,346	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) uses the year 2011 as its base year. The Index for 2011 is set equal to 100. A current year Index of more than 100 thus indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap for has increased since 2011. A current year Index of less than 100 indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap has decreased since 2011.
Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2011 = 100)	94.5	

Finding #2

	Last Year	This Year	
LIHEAP Allocation (\$000's)	\$3,591,451	\$3,263,976	Existing sources of energy assistance do not adequately address the Home Energy Affordability Gap in the total United States. LIHEAP is the federal fuel assistance program designed to help pay low-income heating and cooling bills. The gross LIHEAP allocation for the total United States was \$3,264.0 million in 2020 and the number of average annual low-income heating and cooling bills "covered" by LIHEAP was 3,486,676.
Number of Households <150% FPL	27,476,807	26,609,910	
Heating/Cooling Bills "Covered" by LIHEAP	3,711,472	3,486,676	In comparison, the gross LIHEAP allocation for the total United States in 2019 reached \$3,591.5 million and covered 3,711,472 average annual bills.

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Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2011 (base year)	\$6,428,502,561	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) indicates the extent to which the Home Energy Affordability Gap has increased between the base year and the current year. In the East North Central region this Index was 89.2 for 2020.
Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2020 (current year)	\$5,735,654,752	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) uses the year 2011 as its base year. The Index for 2011 is set equal to 100. A current year Index of more than 100 thus indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap for has increased since 2011. A current year Index of less than 100 indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap has decreased since 2011.
Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2011 = 100)	89.2	

Finding #2

	Last Year	This Year	
LIHEAP Allocation (\$000's)	\$674,049	\$604,603	Existing sources of energy assistance do not adequately address the Home Energy Affordability Gap in the East North Central region. LIHEAP is the federal fuel assistance program designed to help pay low-income heating and cooling bills. The gross LIHEAP allocation for the East North Central region was \$604.6 million in 2020 and the number of average annual low-income heating and cooling bills "covered" by LIHEAP was 670,916.
Number of Households <150% FPL	4,099,684	3,971,464	
Heating/Cooling Bills "Covered" by LIHEAP	703,579	670,916	In comparison, the gross LIHEAP allocation for the East North Central region in 2019 reached \$674.0 million and covered 703,579 average annual bills.

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Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2011 (base year)	\$2,659,129,715	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) indicates the extent to which the Home Energy Affordability Gap has increased between the base year and the current year. In the East South Central region this Index was 98.1 for 2020.
Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2020 (current year)	\$2,607,666,985	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) uses the year 2011 as its base year. The Index for 2011 is set equal to 100. A current year Index of more than 100 thus indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap for has increased since 2011. A current year Index of less than 100 indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap has decreased since 2011.
Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2011 = 100)	98.1	

Finding #2

	Last Year	This Year	
LIHEAP Allocation (\$000's)	\$206,454	\$201,376	Existing sources of energy assistance do not adequately address the Home Energy Affordability Gap in the East South Central region. LIHEAP is the federal fuel assistance program designed to help pay low-income heating and cooling bills. The gross LIHEAP allocation for the East South Central region was \$201.4 million in 2020 and the number of average annual low-income heating and cooling bills "covered" by LIHEAP was 223,884.
Number of Households <150% FPL	2,041,404	1,979,374	
Heating/Cooling Bills "Covered" by LIHEAP	222,694	223,884	In comparison, the gross LIHEAP allocation for the East South Central region in 2019 reached \$206.5 million and covered 222,694 average annual bills.

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<p>Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2011 (base year)</p>	<p>\$6,935,724,277</p>	<p>The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2nd Series) indicates the extent to which the Home Energy Affordability Gap has increased between the base year and the current year. In the Mid-Atlantic region this Index was 76.5 for 2020.</p>
<p>Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2020 (current year)</p>	<p>\$5,305,821,062</p>	<p>The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2nd Series) uses the year 2011 as its base year. The Index for 2011 is set equal to 100. A current year Index of more than 100 thus indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap for has increased since 2011. A current year Index of less than 100 indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap has decreased since 2011.</p>
<p>Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2011 = 100)</p>	<p>76.5</p>	

Finding #2

	Last Year	This Year	
<p>LIHEAP Allocation (\$000's)</p>	<p>\$702,751</p>	<p>\$628,360</p>	<p>Existing sources of energy assistance do not adequately address the Home Energy Affordability Gap in the Mid-Atlantic region. LIHEAP is the federal fuel assistance program designed to help pay low-income heating and cooling bills. The gross LIHEAP allocation for the Mid-Atlantic region was \$628.4 million in 2020 and the number of average annual low-income heating and cooling bills “covered” by LIHEAP was 576,081.</p>
<p>Number of Households <150% FPL</p>	<p>3,277,851</p>	<p>3,177,450</p>	
<p>Heating/Cooling Bills “Covered” by LIHEAP</p>	<p>615,214</p>	<p>576,081</p>	

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Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2011 (base year)	\$1,298,705,415	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) indicates the extent to which the Home Energy Affordability Gap has increased between the base year and the current year. In the Mountain region this Index was 104.6 for 2020.
Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2020 (current year)	\$1,358,829,540	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) uses the year 2011 as its base year. The Index for 2011 is set equal to 100. A current year Index of more than 100 thus indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap for has increased since 2011. A current year Index of less than 100 indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap has decreased since 2011.
Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2011 = 100)	104.6	

Finding #2

	Last Year	This Year	
LIHEAP Allocation (\$000's)	\$192,426	\$181,217	Existing sources of energy assistance do not adequately address the Home Energy Affordability Gap in the Mountain region. LIHEAP is the federal fuel assistance program designed to help pay low-income heating and cooling bills. The gross LIHEAP allocation for the Mountain region was \$181.2 million in 2020 and the number of average annual low-income heating and cooling bills "covered" by LIHEAP was 268,348.
Number of Households <150% FPL	2,004,201	1,940,376	
Heating/Cooling Bills "Covered" by LIHEAP	266,596	268,348	In comparison, the gross LIHEAP allocation for the Mountain region in 2019 reached \$192.4 million and covered 266,596 average annual bills.

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Finding #1

Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2011 (base year)	\$2,940,690,791	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) indicates the extent to which the Home Energy Affordability Gap has increased between the base year and the current year. In the New England region this Index was 101.3 for 2020.
Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2020 (current year)	\$2,977,775,889	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) uses the year 2011 as its base year. The Index for 2011 is set equal to 100. A current year Index of more than 100 thus indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap for has increased since 2011. A current year Index of less than 100 indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap has decreased since 2011.
Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2011 = 100)	101.3	

Finding #2

	Last Year	This Year	
LIHEAP Allocation (\$000's)	\$321,315	\$276,223	Existing sources of energy assistance do not adequately address the Home Energy Affordability Gap in the New England region. LIHEAP is the federal fuel assistance program designed to help pay low-income heating and cooling bills. The gross LIHEAP allocation for the New England region was \$276.2 million in 2020 and the number of average annual low-income heating and cooling bills "covered" by LIHEAP was 167,613.
Number of Households <150% FPL	991,098	961,704	
Heating/Cooling Bills "Covered" by LIHEAP	182,105	167,613	

In comparison, the gross LIHEAP allocation for the New England region in 2019 reached \$321.3 million and covered 182,105 average annual bills.

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Finding #1

Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2011 (base year)	\$3,205,835,024	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) indicates the extent to which the Home Energy Affordability Gap has increased between the base year and the current year. In the Pacific region this Index was 147.4 for 2020.
Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2020 (current year)	\$4,724,743,902	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) uses the year 2011 as its base year. The Index for 2011 is set equal to 100. A current year Index of more than 100 thus indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap for has increased since 2011. A current year Index of less than 100 indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap has decreased since 2011.
Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2011 = 100)	147.4	

Finding #2

	Last Year	This Year	
LIHEAP Allocation (\$000's)	\$314,021	\$289,874	Existing sources of energy assistance do not adequately address the Home Energy Affordability Gap in the Pacific region. LIHEAP is the federal fuel assistance program designed to help pay low-income heating and cooling bills. The gross LIHEAP allocation for the Pacific region was \$289.9 million in 2020 and the number of average annual low-income heating and cooling bills "covered" by LIHEAP was 408,047.
Number of Households <150% FPL	4,045,374	3,839,132	
Heating/Cooling Bills "Covered" by LIHEAP	472,185	408,047	

In comparison, the gross LIHEAP allocation for the Pacific region in 2019 reached \$314.0 million and covered 472,185 average annual bills.

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Finding #1

Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2011 (base year)	\$7,992,087,977	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) indicates the extent to which the Home Energy Affordability Gap has increased between the base year and the current year. In the South Atlantic region this Index was 86.3 for 2020.
Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2020 (current year)	\$6,901,096,978	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) uses the year 2011 as its base year. The Index for 2011 is set equal to 100. A current year Index of more than 100 thus indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap for has increased since 2011. A current year Index of less than 100 indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap has decreased since 2011.
Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2011 = 100)	86.3	

Finding #2

	Last Year	This Year	
LIHEAP Allocation (\$000's)	\$540,964	\$493,655	Existing sources of energy assistance do not adequately address the Home Energy Affordability Gap in the South Atlantic region. LIHEAP is the federal fuel assistance program designed to help pay low-income heating and cooling bills. The gross LIHEAP allocation for the South Atlantic region was \$493.7 million in 2020 and the number of average annual low-income heating and cooling bills "covered" by LIHEAP was 515,809.
Number of Households <150% FPL	5,633,065	5,462,622	
Heating/Cooling Bills "Covered" by LIHEAP	557,992	515,809	

In comparison, the gross LIHEAP allocation for the South Atlantic region in 2019 reached \$541.0 million and covered 557,992 average annual bills.

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Finding #1

Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2011 (base year)	\$2,218,897,046	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) indicates the extent to which the Home Energy Affordability Gap has increased between the base year and the current year. In the West North Central region this Index was 100.5 for 2020.
Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2020 (current year)	\$2,230,354,118	
Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2011 = 100)	100.5	

Finding #2

	Last Year	This Year	
LIHEAP Allocation (\$000's)	\$358,829	\$328,179	Existing sources of energy assistance do not adequately address the Home Energy Affordability Gap in the West North Central region. LIHEAP is the federal fuel assistance program designed to help pay low-income heating and cooling bills. The gross LIHEAP allocation for the West North Central region was \$328.2 million in 2020 and the number of average annual low-income heating and cooling bills "covered" by LIHEAP was 366,784.
Number of Households <150% FPL	1,708,953	1,669,156	
Heating/Cooling Bills "Covered" by LIHEAP	383,749	366,784	

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Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2011 (base year)	\$4,918,069,787	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) indicates the extent to which the Home Energy Affordability Gap has increased between the base year and the current year. In the West South Central region this Index was 94.1 for 2020.
Home Energy Affordability Gap: 2020 (current year)	\$4,626,944,120	The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2 nd Series) uses the year 2011 as its base year. The Index for 2011 is set equal to 100. A current year Index of more than 100 thus indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap for has increased since 2011. A current year Index of less than 100 indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap has decreased since 2011.
Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2011 = 100)	94.1	

Finding #2

	Last Year	This Year	
LIHEAP Allocation (\$000's)	\$280,641	\$260,489	Existing sources of energy assistance do not adequately address the Home Energy Affordability Gap in the West South Central region. LIHEAP is the federal fuel assistance program designed to help pay low-income heating and cooling bills. The gross LIHEAP allocation for the West South Central region was \$260.5 million in 2020 and the number of average annual low-income heating and cooling bills "covered" by LIHEAP was 289,194.
Number of Households <150% FPL	3,675,177	3,608,632	
Heating/Cooling Bills "Covered" by LIHEAP	307,358	289,194	In comparison, the gross LIHEAP allocation for the West South Central region in 2019 reached \$280.6 million and covered 307,358 average annual bills.

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS

The 2012 Home Energy Affordability Gap, published in May 2013, introduced the 2nd Series of the annual Affordability Gap analysis. The 2012 Home Energy Affordability Gap going forward cannot be directly compared to the Affordability Gap (1st Series) for 2011 and earlier years. While remaining fundamentally the same, several improvements have been introduced in both data and methodology in the Affordability Gap (2nd Series).

The most fundamental change in the Home Energy Affordability Gap (2nd Series) is the move to a use of the American Community Survey (ACS) (5-year data) as the source of foundational demographic data. The Affordability Gap (1st Series) relied on the 2000 Census as its source of demographic data. The ACS (5-year data) offers several advantages compared to the Decennial Census. While year-to-year changes are smoothed out through use of 5-year averages, the ACS nonetheless is updated on an annual basis. As a result, numerous demographic inputs into the Affordability Gap (2nd Series) will reflect year-to-year changes on a county-by-county basis, including:

- The distribution of heating fuels by tenure;
- The average household size by tenure;
- The number of rooms per housing unit by tenure;
- The distribution of owner/renter status;
- The distribution of household size;
- The distribution of households by ratio of income to Poverty Level;

Data on housing unit size (both heated square feet and cooled square feet) is no longer calculated based on the number of rooms. Instead, Energy Information Administration/Department of Energy (EIA/DOE) data on square feet of heated and cooled living space per household member is used beginning with the Home Energy Affordability Gap (2nd Series). A distinction is now made between heated living space and cooled living space, rather than using total living space.

The change resulting in perhaps the greatest dollar difference in the aggregate and average Affordability Gap for each state is a change in the treatment of income for households with income at or below 50% of the Federal Poverty Level. In recent years, it has become more evident that income for households with income below 50% of Poverty Level is not normally distributed. Rather than using the mid-point of the Poverty range (i.e., 25% of Poverty Level) to determine income for these households, income is set somewhat higher (40% of Poverty). By setting income higher, both the average and aggregate Affordability Gap not only for that Poverty range, but also for the state as a whole, will be lower. The Affordability Gaps for other Poverty ranges remain unaffected by this change.

Another change affecting both the aggregate and average Affordability Gap is a change in the definition of “low-income.” The Home Energy Affordability Gap (2nd Series) has increased the definition of “low-income” to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (up from 185% of Poverty). While this change may increase the aggregate Affordability Gap, it is likely to decrease the average Affordability Gap. Since more households are added to the analysis, the aggregate is likely to increase, but since the contribution of each additional household is less than the contributions of households with lower incomes, the overall average will most likely decrease.

Most of the Home Energy Affordability Gap calculation remains the same. All references to “states” include the District of Columbia as a “state.” Low-income home energy bills are calculated in a two-step process: First, low-income energy consumption is calculated for the following end-uses: (1) space heating; (2) space cooling; (3) domestic hot water; and (4) electric appliances (including lighting and refrigeration). All space cooling and appliance consumption is assumed to involve only electricity. Second, consumption is multiplied by a price per unit of energy by fuel type and end use by time of year. The price of electricity, for example, used for space cooling (cooling months), space heating (heating

months), and appliances (total year) differs to account for the time of year in which the consumption is incurred.

Each state’s Home Energy Affordability Gap is calculated on a county-by-county basis. Once total energy bills are determined for each county, each county is weighted by the percentage of persons at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level to the total statewide population at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level to derive a statewide result. Bills are calculated by end-use and summed before county weighting. State data are aggregated into regional totals as follows:

East North Central	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin
East South Central	Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee
Mid-Atlantic	New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
Mountain	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming
New England	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
Pacific	Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington
South Atlantic	Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia
West North Central	Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
West South Central	Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

LIHEAP comparisons use gross allotments from annual baseline LIHEAP appropriations as reported by the federal LIHEAP office. They do not reflect supplemental appropriations or the release of LIHEAP “emergency” funds. The number of average heating/cooling bills covered by each state’s LIHEAP allocation is determined by dividing the total base LIHEAP allocation for each state by the average heating/cooling bill in that state, the calculation of which is explained below. No dollars are set aside for administration; nor are Tribal set-asides considered.

State financial resources and utility-specific rate discounts are not considered in the calculation of the Affordability Gap. Rather, such funding should be considered available to fill the Affordability Gap. While the effect in any given state may perhaps seem to be the same, experience shows there to be an insufficiently authoritative source of state-by-state data, comprehensively updated on an annual basis, to be used as an input into the annual Affordability Gap calculation.

Energy bills are a function of the following primary factors:

- Tenure of household (owner/renter)
- Housing unit size (by tenure)
- Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and Cooling Degree Days (CDDs)
- Housing size (by tenure)
- Heating fuel mix (by tenure)
- Energy use intensities (by fuel and end use)

Bills are estimated using the U.S. Department of Energy’s “energy intensities” published in the DOE’s Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS). The energy intensities used for each state are those published for the Census Division in which the state is located. Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and Cooling Degree Days (CDDs) are obtained from the National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center on a county-by-county basis for the entire country.

End-use consumption by fuel is multiplied by fuel-specific price data to derive annual bills. State price data for each end-use is obtained from the Energy Information Administration’s (EIA) fuel-specific price reports (e.g., Natural Gas Monthly, Electric Power Monthly). State-specific data on fuel oil and kerosene is not available for all states. For those states in which these bulk fuels have insufficient penetration for

state-specific prices to be published, prices from the Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts (PADD) of which the state is a part are used.

The Home Energy Affordability Gap Index (2nd Series) uses 2011 as its base year. The base year (2011) Index has been set equal to 100. A current year Index of more than 100 thus indicates that the Home Energy Affordability Gap has increased since 2011. A current year Index of less than 100 indicates that the Affordability Gap has decreased since 2011. The Affordability Gap Index was, in other words, re-set in 2011. The Affordability Gap Index (2nd Series) for 2012 and beyond cannot be compared to the Affordability Gap Index (1st Series) for 2011 and before.

The Home Energy Affordability Gap is a function of many variables, annual changes in which are now tracked for nearly all of them. For example, all other things equal: increases in income would result in decreases in the Affordability Gap; increases in relative penetrations of high-cost fuels would result in an increase in the Gap; increases in amount of heated or cooled square feet of living space would result in an increase in the Gap. Not all variables will result in a change in the Affordability Gap in the same direction. The annual Affordability Gap Index allows the reader to determine the net cumulative impact of these variables, but not the impact of individual variables.

Since the Affordability Gap is calculated assuming normal Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and Cooling Degree Days (CDDs), annual changes in weather do not have an impact on the Affordability Gap or on the Affordability Gap Index.

Price data for the various fuels underlying the calculation of the Home Energy Affordability Gap (2nd Series) was used from the following time periods:

<i>Heating prices</i>	
Natural gas	February 2020
Fuel oil ***	Week of 02/10/2020
Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) ***	Week of 02/10/2020
Electricity	February 2020
<i>Cooling prices</i>	
August 2020	
<i>Non-heating prices</i>	
Natural gas	May 2020
Fuel oil ***	Week of 10/05/2020
Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) ***	Week of 10/05/2020
Electricity	May 2020

***Monthly bulk fuel prices are no longer published. Weekly bulk fuel prices are published during the heating months (October through March). The prices used are taken from the weeks most reflective of the end-uses to which they are to be applied. Prices from the middle of February best reflect heating season prices. Bulk fuel prices from October best reflect non-heating season prices.