

Energy poverty in Belgium: context and associated vulnerabilities (first results)

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Outline

- Brief presentation of the 2GENDERS project
- Estimation of the proportion living in energy poverty in Belgium (GGP data)
- Energy poverty and associated vulnerabilities

Brief presentation of the 2GENDERS project

2GENDERS research project

- **2GENDERS** : **G**eneration and **G**ender **E**nergy **D**eprivation: **R**ealities and **S**ocial policies
- Funded in 2013-2017 by BELSPO
- 4 Partners:
 - UCL: F. Bartiaux, C. Vandeschrick, A. Baudaux, C. Luyckx, N. Frogneux, O. Servais
 - U of Antwerp: S. Oosterlynck, B. Delbeke
 - U of Mons: W. Lahaye, P. Jamouille, A. Siben
 - U of Birmingham: R. Day

2GENDERS project: 5 WPs

1. Coordination with stakeholders, **policy** recommendations
2. Identification of the **population** in energy poverty in Belgium (Quantitative analyses)
3. Energy poverty and **other vulnerabilities**: practices and meanings (Quantitative and qualitative analyses)
4. **Energy justice** for a + cohesive society
5. **Dissemination activities** (policy briefs, training for social workers)

Estimation of the proportion living in energy poverty in Belgium (GGP data)

Results before possible weighting!

The Generation and Gender Programme (GGP)

[Home](#)[Data](#)[Materials](#)[About](#)

Online Data Analysis



Contextual Database



Welcome to the GGP

The **GGP** is a Longitudinal Survey of 18-79 year olds in **19 countries** that aims to improve our understanding of the various factors -including public policy and programme interventions - which affect the relationships between parents and children (generations) and between partners (gender). A broad array of topics including fertility, partnership, the transition to adulthood, economic activity, care duties and attitudes are covered by the **survey**. The accompanying **contextual database (CDB)** holds data on: legal norms and regulations, social norms, measures of welfare state policies and institutions as well as general economic and cultural indicators. You can also access the data via our **Online Analysis** tool



- <http://www.ggp-i.org/bhbbh>

Participating countries

- **Currently Wave 1 data are available for 16 countries:**
Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation
- **Currently Wave 2 data are available for 6 countries:**
Bulgaria, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary and the Netherlands

2 variables to build an EP variable

Can afford keeping your home adequately warm?	Unable to pay utility bills (electricity, water, gas, ...)?	
	Yes	No
Yes	7,1% (493)	85,1% (5939)
No	1,4% (96)	6,5% (452)

$$\chi^2 = 63,456 \text{ (p=0,000)}$$

IN5c: Has your household been in arrears at any time during the past 12 months, that is unable to pay as scheduled utility bills, such as for electricity, water, gas...?

IN6c: There are some things many people cannot afford even if they would like them. Can I just check whether your household can afford keeping your home adequately warm, supposing you wanted them?

A 3rd variable to build an EP variable

Thinking of your household's total income, is your household able to make ends meet (IN4)	Arrears : yes	Adequat. warm: no	Both	None
Very difficult	95	48	53	133
Difficult	105	74	25	470
Rather difficult	113	105	15	961
Rather easy	88	115	1	2066
Easy	74	92	2	1830
Very easy	19	27	0	460



9.1% in energy poverty

Comparison GGP / SILC



GGP: 9.1% in
'energy poverty'
(2009)

SILC: 14,7% in
'energy difficulty'
(2011)

**Estimated proportion
in 'energy poverty'
(GGP) and in 'energy
difficulty' (SILC)**

	GGP	SILC
Belgium	9.1	14.7
Brussels	21.1	17.7
Flanders	3.9	10.7
Wallonia	13.7	21.0

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
GGP/SILC:
Different
variables,
different
definitions
(+sampling
error)
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Energy poverty and associated vulnerabilities

Housing

Among those in EP (not in EP)

- 38.6% problem with its structure (14.2%)
- 25.0% too small a dwelling (10.2%)
- 16.0% problem with its light (too dark)(8.7%)
- 27.3% noise (neighbours/street) (17.0%)

HH49: Do you have any problems with the following aspects of your accommodation and its neighbourhood??

Social isolation

Among those in EP (not in EP)

- 22.3% dwelling too far from family (11.4%)
- 18% have not enough support if problem (7%)
- 20.9% have a a general sense of emptiness (8.5%)
- 28.5% have not a lot of people that I can count on completely (13,8%)
- 13.3% often feel rejected (3.9%)
- 13.6% have not enough people that I feel close to (6.4%)

HH49I, HE25a, HE25b, HE25d, HE25e, HE25f

Social isolation (cont'd)

Among those in EP (not in EP)

- 45.8% cannot afford **having friends or family for a drink or meal** at least once a month (8.2%)

IN6e: There are some things many people cannot afford even if they would like them. Can I just check whether your household can afford having friends or family for a drink or meal at least once a month, supposing you wanted them?

Social isolation (cont'd)

Among those in EP (not in EP)

- 40.2% haven't spoken to anyone about their experiences and feelings (39.6%, *non sig.*)
- 40.6% haven't listened to someone about his/her experiences and feelings (36.2%, *sig. at 5%*)

HE18: Over the last 12 months, have you told to anyone about your personal experiences and feelings?

HE21: Over the last 12 months, has anyone talked to you about his/her personal experiences and feelings?

Mobility

Among those in EP (not in EP)

- 18.2% lack of services and shops (13.5%)
- 21.8% lack of leisure spaces like parks or playgrounds (12.9%)
- 15.8% lack of public transport (15.0%; *not sig.*)

HH49: Do you have any problems with the following aspects of your accommodation and its neighbourhood?

Mobility (cont'd)

Among those in EP (not in EP)

- 15.7% would like to have a car or a van available for private use but cannot afford it (2.6%)
- 14.1% would like to have an internet connection but cannot afford it (2.6%)

IN3: If you do not have an item, please indicate whether you would like to have it but cannot afford it, or do not have it for other reasons.

Health (general)

Among those in EP (not in EP)

- 14.4% are in a (very) bad health in general (3.7%)
- 38.3% have any long-standing illness or chronic condition (22.8%)
- 22.9% are limited in their ability to carry out normal everyday activities because of a physical or mental health problem or a disability (12.8%)

Health (psycho-social)

Among those in EP (not in EP)

- 19,1% often or (almost) always felt depressed (4,7%)
- 16,1% often or (almost) always felt lonely (4,7%)
- 18,4% often or (almost) always felt sad (5,7%)

HE25: I am going to read out some statements about your current experiences. Please indicate for each of them to what extent they have applied to you in the last few weeks?

A gender effect?

1-person household

In energy poverty?	Yes	No
Male	14.8%	85.2%
Female	15.8%	84.2%
Total	15.3%	84.7%
$\chi^2 = 0.199$ (p=0.655)		

Lone-parent family

In energy poverty?	Yes	No
Male	22.5%	77.5%
Female	25.7%	74.3%
Total	24.9%	75.1%
$\chi^2 = 0.379$ (p=0.538)		

Very first conclusions

Main results

- From the GGP data (2009):
definition of energy poverty, made of
3 variables → 9.1% in Belgium
- + in EP if living alone (15.3%), or
heading a 1-parent family (24.9%)
 - ❖ Small gender effect (+F) but not
statistically significant

Main results (cont'd)

- People living in energy poverty have associated vulnerabilities:
 - Housing
 - Health
 - Social isolation and psycho-social health
 - Mobility

Next steps

- Further analyses of the GGP data
- Comparison of results obtained with GGP data and SILC data
- Exploration of the similarities & complementarities between quantitative results & qualitative data
- Framing the results within the energy justice paradigm

**Thank you
for your attention!**