


***Meeting the Challenges to Help
Customers Keep the Heat on This
Winter***



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A decorative graphic consisting of a red shape that tapers from left to right, with a dark red shadow or gradient effect at the bottom edge.

AARP advocates for policies and programs to ensure consumers can afford the energy they need to meet their basic needs

AARP.org

AARP Foundation Benefits QuickLINK

**CREATE
THE GOOD**

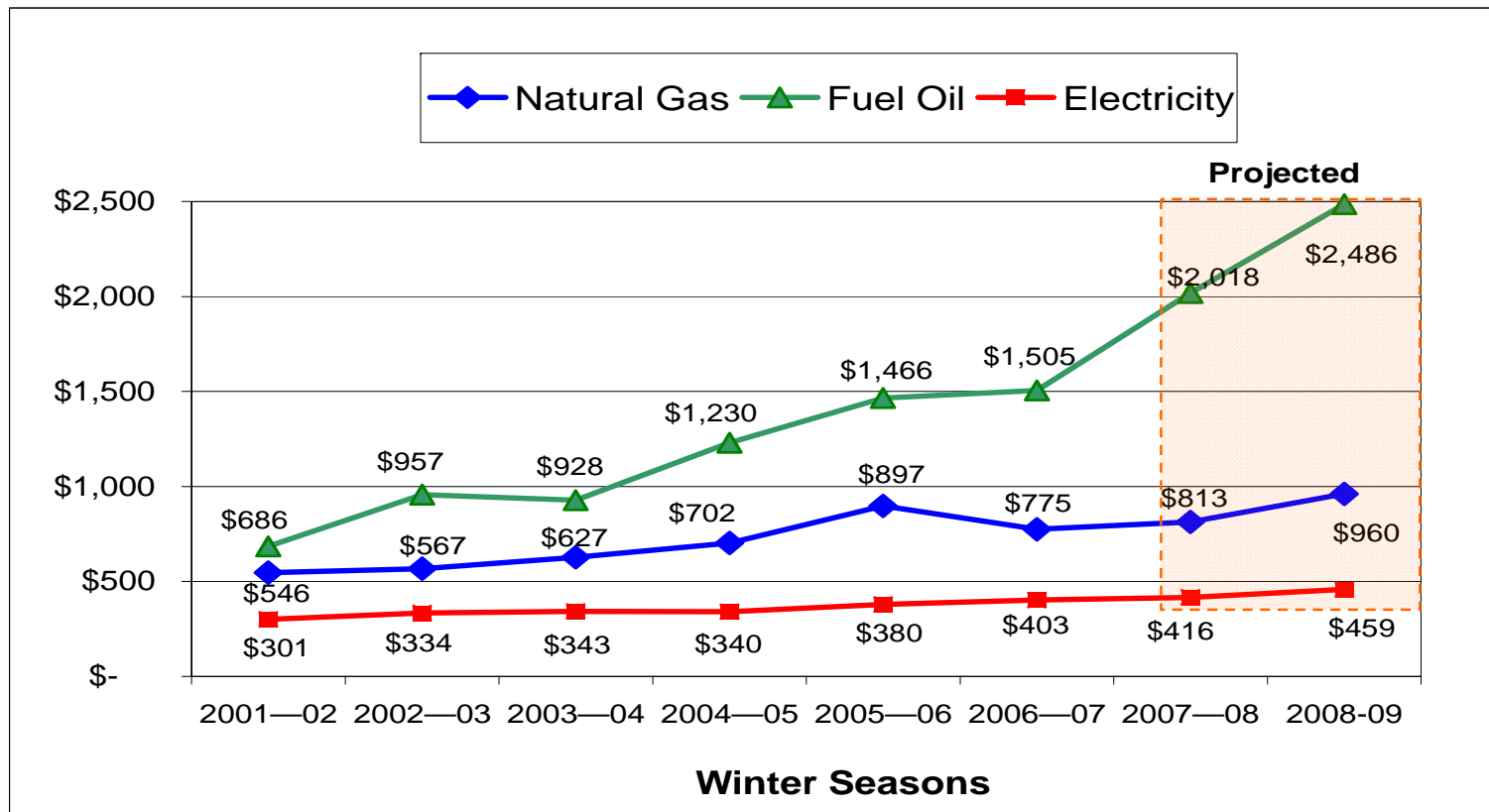


I'M INTERESTED



AARP

Winter Heating Costs by Fuel Type, Age 65+



AARP Survey of the Impact of High Home Energy Costs on Older Americans

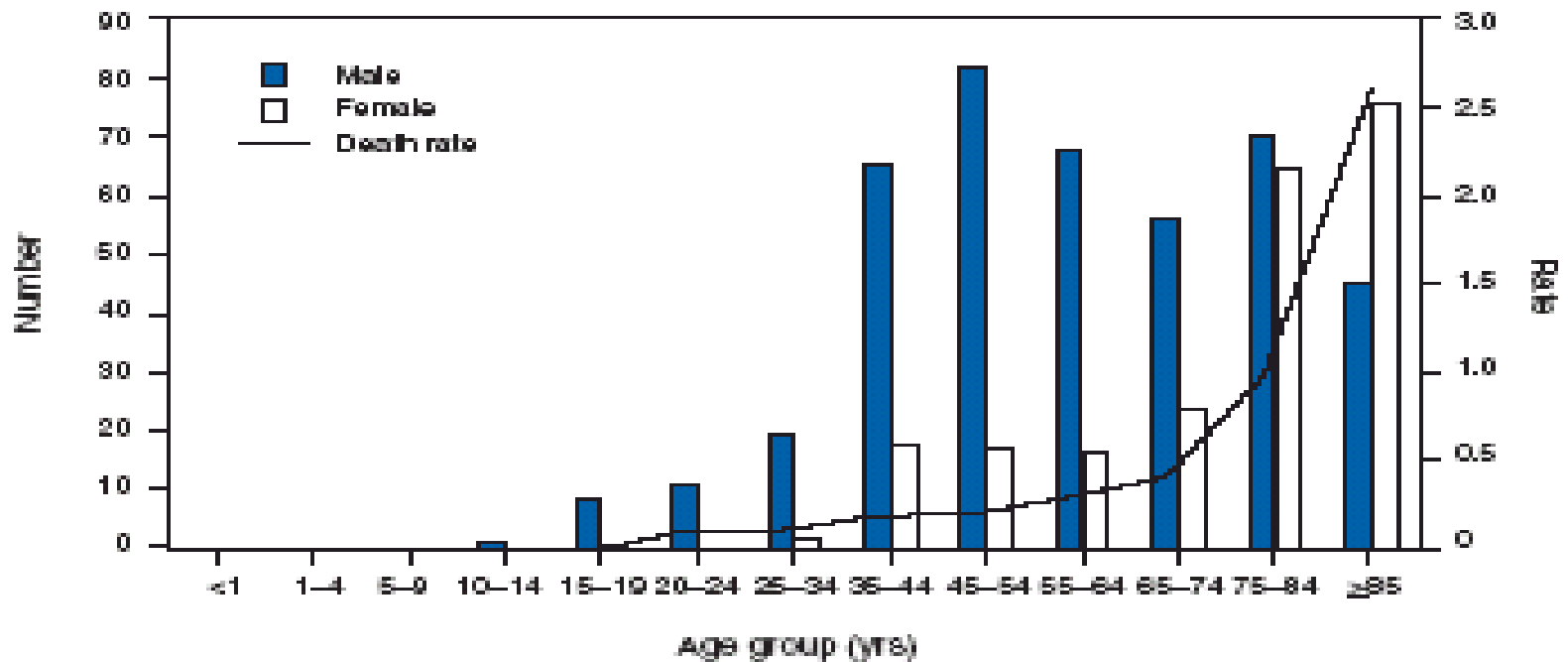
- More than half (57%) anticipate spending less during the holiday season
- 29 percent are spending less on back-to-school shopping
- Nearly half (46%) are heating/cooling only certain parts of their homes
- 81 percent are turning the thermostat up or down;
- 63 percent are modifying their homes to be more energy efficient
- 74 percent of all people felt their elected officials were not doing enough to help people in need

Weather related illness and deaths

- America's deadliest natural disaster
- Death rates under-reported
- Risk factors include:
 - age—very young and 65+
 - disability/underlying medical condition
 - use of medications
 - lower income
 - social isolation
- Heat or Eat

Hypothermia related deaths

FIGURE 2. Number and rate* of hypothermia-related deaths, by age group and sex — United States, 2002



* Per 100,000 population.

LIHEAP and Weatherization

- Sanders Bill/Increased funding in FY 09
- Weatherization—long term benefits
- Increased eligibility—shut offs and delinquencies moving up the income ladder
- Some states are increasing eligibility:
 - CA, NY, NJ, MA, ME, NH, MI, MT, UT, MS, IN
- Some states are increasing benefits:
 - ID, GA, NM, MI, CT, PA, WI, MT, DE, CO, VA, NH, MA, IN, VT, UT, NJ.

State Advocacy



- LIHEAP supplements
- Shut-off protections
- Energy Efficiency
- Energy Assistance
- Rate Cases
- Rate Design
- Impact of AMI
- Home heating oil

AARP Education and Outreach



- www.aarp.org
- Benefits QuickLink
- AARP Bulletin
- AARP Magazine
- *Staying Warm This Winter* brochures

AARP Bulletin today

Avoiding the
Winter Squeeze

How older Americans can cope with the cost of staying warm

By Dianne Donovan >>

A cartoon illustration of an elderly woman with white hair, wearing a yellow and green patterned dress, sitting in a yellow armchair. She is positioned between two large, white, vertical radiators. The radiators are emitting steam or heat waves. The scene is set against a plain white background.

AARP.org

Serving the Community: Create the Good



- AARP's "Create The Good" promotes community volunteerism
- Launching today through January 09
- Offers a set of easy, online materials that people can use to help friends and neighbors conserve energy and save money this winter
- Checklist of low-cost/no-cost adjustments that a trusted person can make, to help someone they know lower heating bills all winter
- Leave behind reminders on how to save energy on a daily basis.

Summer Bills are also a Challenge

- IPCC: “increased number, intensity and duration of heat waves” (high confidence)
- More illnesses and deaths from hot weather than from cold
- Few states have hot weather protections
- Fewer LIHEAP dollars for hot weather states
- RTP/CPP discourage vulnerable consumers from using sufficient cooling
- Summer bills contributing to record arrearages and shut offs



We can't change the weather, but we can change policy

Policies and programs should ensure consumers can afford the energy they need to meet their basic needs:

- Increase LIHEAP/Summer assistance
- Target weatherization/energy efficiency
- Improve bill payment assistance and shut off policies
- Better tracking of arrearages and shut offs
- Rate design can promote affordability and conservation
- Address the negative consequences of pre-payment meters, dynamic pricing, decoupling, etc