



Late-season stretch will make or break Lions' playoff chances

SPORTS, 1B

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RISING COSTS

In 2020, 20.1% of households earning between \$60,000 and \$100,000 reported experiencing problems affording their energy. In 2024, 32.1% of those households did – a 12 percentage point increase. GETTY IMAGES

Data: 1 in 3 households struggles to pay energy bills

Diana Hernández
Columbia University
THE CONVERSATION

Americans' concerns about being able to afford electricity and home heating fuel have been elevated since the beginning of the Iran war. But recently released nationwide data shows that even before the war began, these concerns were widespread, long-standing and getting worse faster than the data can reflect.

The information is from preliminary reports based on the Residential Energy Consumption Survey, a representative survey of U.S. households conducted every four to five years by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. These early results show that energy insecurity, a hidden hardship defined as the inability to adequately meet household energy needs, affects millions of American households and is worsening quickly.

As a scholar who has spent years sitting in hundreds of homes around the country, hearing firsthand accounts about energy insecurity, I turn to this survey data to quantify the suffering I have witnessed up close.

The latest tranche of data was collected in 2024 and released in March

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Seniors have historically been among the most protected from high energy bills, partly by programs to assist with energy costs and partly because wealth usually peaks in later life. Even so, the share of older Americans experiencing energy insecurity climbed to 1 in 4 in 2024 from roughly 1 in 5 in 2020.

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A closer look at the data over time reveals that more Americans live with energy insecurity now than in years past. In 2024, 43.6 million American households – 32.9% of all homes – reported experiencing some form of energy insecurity. In 2015, that figure was 31.3%, and in 2020 it was 27.2%.

\$1M winning lottery ticket purchased in Tecumseh by lottery club

Tanya Wildt
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A family-turned-lottery club in Lenawee County is \$1 million richer after playing a Michigan Lottery instant game.

The Michigan Lottery reports the four-member Lucky Leprechauns lottery club won a top prize on a Cash Surge instant ticket.

"A few family members and I started playing the lottery together earlier this year," the club's representative told the Michigan Lottery. "I bought the ticket and gave it to one of the other club members to scratch. When she said we'd won \$1 million, I thought it was a joke. It was shocking and unbelievable!"

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