

Women & children in refuge services

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25th November), we are publishing some new statistics on the experiences of women and children fleeing domestic abuse. These statistics are from **Routes to Support**, the UK violence against women and girls database of service and refuge vacancies¹, and from the **Women's Aid Annual Survey 2017** of domestic abuse services in England. This survey provides insight into the challenges services face throughout the year and information on the women they support from a Day and Week to Count (a census day and week).

It is clear from our research that refuge services are doing an important job in keeping women and their young families safe and supported. There were more children than women resident in refuge services on the census day in 2017. However, there were also many women and children who were unable to access refuge support that day.

- 94 women and 90 children were turned away from refuge services in England on just one day this year.²
- 2182 women with 2336 children were staying in refuge at responding services on the Day to Count 2017.³
- Specialist interventions for children and young people are vital in aiding recovery and addressing the trauma children experience through domestic abuse. Just 66% of refuges in England have children's workers.⁴

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¹ Run in partnership by Scottish Women's Aid, Welsh Women's Aid, Women's Aid Federation of England and Women's Aid Federation of Northern Ireland.

² Women's Aid Annual Survey, 2017: responses received in 2017 from 105 organisations running 168 service entries out of a total of 276 refuge services on Routes to Support. Women and children may be counted more than once in this number if they were turned away by more than one service that day. This figure comes from responses to the annual survey, the actual number is likely to be greater as not all services in England responded to the survey.

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⁴ Routes to Support, 2017: out of 276 refuge services in England and Channel Islands.