

# Women's Aid data on domestic abuse service provision

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## Introduction

Women's Aid collects data on domestic abuse services, the women and children who use them and the level of provision on an on-going basis. We have five key sources of ongoing data collection which allow us to build up a picture of the domestic abuse sector nationally.

These data sources are:

- **Routes to Support**, the UK violence against women and girls database of service and refuge vacancies 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. This includes additional data on vacancies from London refuges
- **On Track**, our case management and outcomes monitoring database used by around 60 local service providers throughout England. Services contribute to a national dataset which provides information on women's experiences of abuse, support offered by services, and outcomes achieved.
- The Women's Aid **Annual Survey** of domestic abuse services which provides insight into the work of domestic abuse services in England
- The **No Woman Turned Away Project** which is a frontline intervention supporting women who were unable to access refuge and provides us with valuable data on barriers women face when trying to flee to refuge.
- **Femicide Census**, which has been developed by Karen Ingala Smith, Chief Executive of nia, in partnership with Women's Aid, with support from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP and Deloitte LLP. The Femicide Census is a database currently containing information on over a thousand women killed by men in England and Wales since 2009.

Below are some of our latest data on the landscape of domestic abuse services, including refuges.

## Women's Aid 2018 Annual Survey

1. Over half of domestic abuse services<sup>1</sup> who responded to Women's Aid 2018 Annual Survey reported that they were running an area of their service without any dedicated funding in 2017/18. 24%<sup>2</sup> of annual survey respondents were running vital therapeutic support without any allocated funding for this service (Women's Aid 2018 Annual Survey)
2. In 2017/18, one in five<sup>3</sup> of respondents Women's Aid 2018 Annual Survey received no local authority funding at all for their community-based services in 2017/18 (Women's Aid 2018 Annual Survey)
3. In May 2018, there were 17 fewer services offering formal counselling than in May 2017, 21.2% (n=77) of services in 2018 compared with 25.8% (n=94) in 2017. (Routes to Support, England)
4. In May 2018, there were 44 fewer services offering support groups than in May 2017, 58.7% (n=213) of services in 2018 compared with 70.4% (n=257) in 2017. (Routes to Support, England)

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<sup>1</sup> 56.7%. From sample of 134 providers (running 208 local services listed on Routes to Support), 76 providers (running 100 local services listed on Routes to Support) answered yes to the question "Were you running an area(s) of your domestic abuse service for women WITHOUT dedicated funding in 2017/18?"

<sup>2</sup> 23.9%. From sample of 134 providers (running 208 local services listed on Routes to Support), 32 (running 48 local services listed on Routes to Support) specified running therapeutic services (counselling, group work) without any dedicated funding

<sup>3</sup> 20.6% (n=21 (running 23 local services listed on Routes to Support)) of the 102 providers (running 170 local services listed on Routes to Support) responding who were running CBS during 2017/18.

## Routes to Support: information on services throughout England and change over time (since 2010)

- Number of services delivering each type of intervention throughout England between 2010 and 2018 including regional breakdown.
- Number of refuge bed spaces available throughout England between 2010 and 2018 including regional breakdown.
- Previous location of women entering refuge in London between 2014 and 2018.
- Vacancy data posted by refuge services in England during the year 2016/17.

### Service types and refuge spaces available in England for women

The following data are from snapshots taken in May each year and do not show fluctuations in number during the year. They show net change only and do not reflect the number of services changing providers as part of the commissioning process.

Graphs 1 and 2 below show us the number of services providing refuge and community-based services in England between 2010 and 2018, with a full breakdown of all service types in Table 1. Table 2 shows us the regional breakdown at May 2018. Services available can vary greatly in terms of size of the service and the numbers and support needs of women they can support.

For refuge services data on the number of spaces can give us an idea of capacity over time. The national picture is shown in Graph 3 with a regional breakdown in Table 3. As already mentioned, availability of spaces for individual women depends on a number of factors including size of family, geographical location of vacancies and the needs of the woman (and any children) seeking refuge. We know that demand for refuge spaces continues to be higher than the availability, an issue explored in detail in “**Nowhere to Turn**” [<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/research-and-publications/nowomanturnedaway/>] which uses findings from Women’s Aid’s **No Woman Turned Away** project.

### Service types available for male victims

At May 2018, 170 out of 363 entries (46.8%) had one or more service for men including 32 out of 271 refuges (11.8%) which can now accommodate men. This is not an exhaustive list of the services available to male victims or perpetrators, rather these numbers are for services primarily offering support to women who also work with male victims or perpetrators. Of the 171 refuge spaces available to men 148 are available to

either men or women dependent on need and these are included in the numbers of spaces for women on the previous page (Graph 3 and Table 3). Table 4 gives a regional breakdown of the number of refuges and refuge spaces available to men and Table 5 gives a regional breakdown of all other service types available for men.

## Women's journeys to find refuge

Women seeking refuge typically look outside of their own local authority area for safety reasons. The 2017 annual survey findings show that about two thirds of women (68.4%) in refuge on the Day to Count had crossed local authority boundaries to access refuge.<sup>4</sup>

Data from London refuges provide us with the local authority of origin for women placed in their refuge services. This gives us an insight into the journeys women make to access refuge showing that the vast majority, 61.5% in 2017-18 in travel to another local authority area. These data do not show the number of women leaving London to find refuge elsewhere which may be higher than the number of women from outside London being placed in refuge there.

## Refuge vacancy data

These data are taken from vacancies posted to Routes to Support during the year 2016/17. They illustrate how not all vacancies are available for all women by showing the proportion available to women with two and three children, those with mobility needs and those with no recourse to public funds.

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<sup>4</sup> If a woman's own local authority area is a large geographical area, she may be able to safely stay in the same local authority area.

## Summary

These numbers considered in isolation do not give a full picture of available domestic abuse provision. Total numbers do not show the challenges services face in a climate of funding instability and cuts which lead to a reduction in staffing, organisations running part of their service without dedicated funding, loss of support such as interpreter services, evening cover or counselling services.

We are pleased to see that the number of refuge bed spaces in England has risen once again, this is likely to be partly due to short term funding made available by Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). We should note that the population has also risen and that availability of spaces will depend on a number of factors. These include the number of children a woman has with her, whether she has any access needs, whether she has any specific support needs around substance use or mental health and whether she has access to benefits due to her age or immigration status.

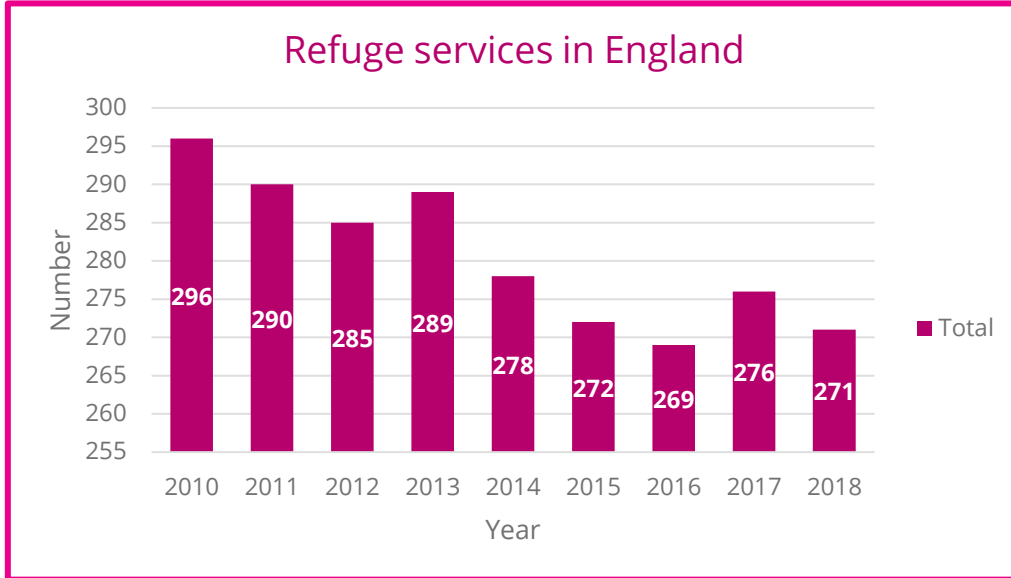
When we look into service provision in more detail we can see that there is still work to be done in order to create a sustainable sector which can deliver the support women and children need when they experience domestic abuse. Women's Aid are pleased to be working with MHCLG as they look to create a sustainable funding solution for accommodation based services. It is important that we also remember the importance of community based services which support women in their own homes and have also seen the impact of funding cuts and uncertainty.

No two women take the same journey to recovery, some may never access specialist services at all. For those who do access services their journey may take them through multiple service types over a different lengths of time.

It is therefore vital that women, wherever they live, are able to access a full range of information, advocacy and support services to meet their needs.

## Data

Graph 1: numbers of refuge services available to women in England (Routes to Support)



Graph 2: Community-based services available to women in England (Routes to Support)

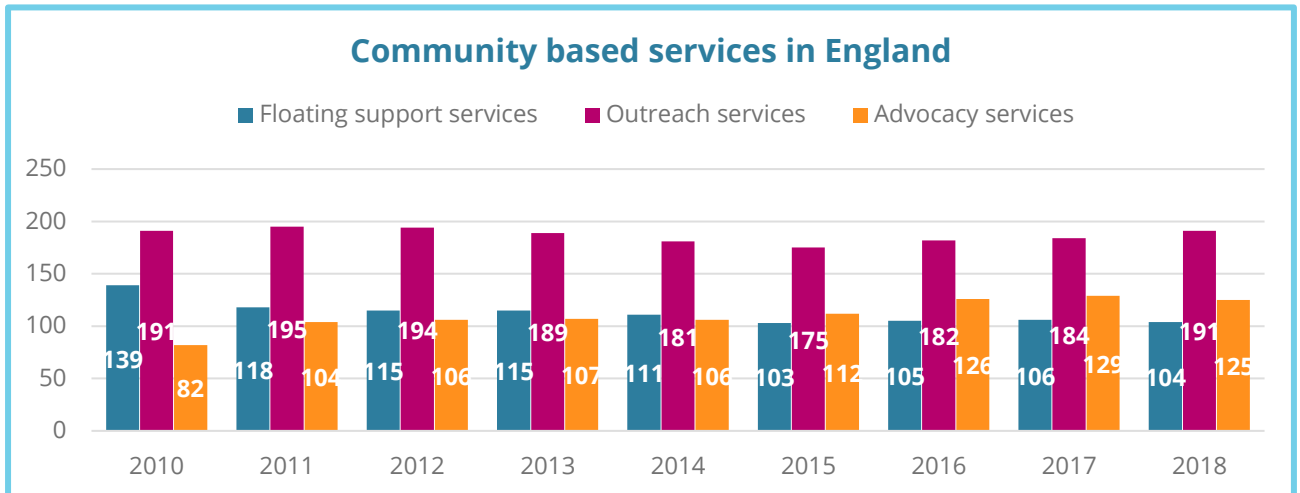


Table 1: All service types available to women in England over time (Routes to Support)

Year	Refuge	floating support	helpline	outreach	DV Advocacy service	Dedicated children/young people's service	Resettlement
2018	271	104	136	191	125	197	213
2017	276	106	115	184	129	190	216
2016	269	105	110	182	126	190	209
2015	272	103	83	175	112	187	212
2014	278	111	77	181	106	189	224
2013	289	115	78	189	107	203	240
2012	285	115	76	194	106	207	246
2011	290	118	78	195	104	209	258
2010	296	139	79	191	82	238	270

Table 2: Regional breakdown of all service types available to women at May 2018 (Routes to Support)

May-18								
	Refuge	floating support	helpline	outreach	IDVA/DAPA	ISVA	CYPS	Resettlement
Channel Islands	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	2
East Midlands	24	9	10	20	10	2	21	15
East of England	22	8	9	14	4	3	13	12
London	59	25	17	30	26	7	42	46
North East	20	3	8	18	8	1	13	16
North West	34	12	22	25	18	3	25	27
South East	42	15	21	24	20	3	32	38
South West	20	6	11	15	10	5	16	16
West Midlands	26	17	15	19	14	6	18	24
Yorkshire & Humber	22	8	18	23	14	7	16	17
UK Wide/ Multiple regions	0	1	4	1	1	0	1	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>213</b>

Graph 3: Refugees spaces in England by year<sup>5</sup> (Routes to Support)

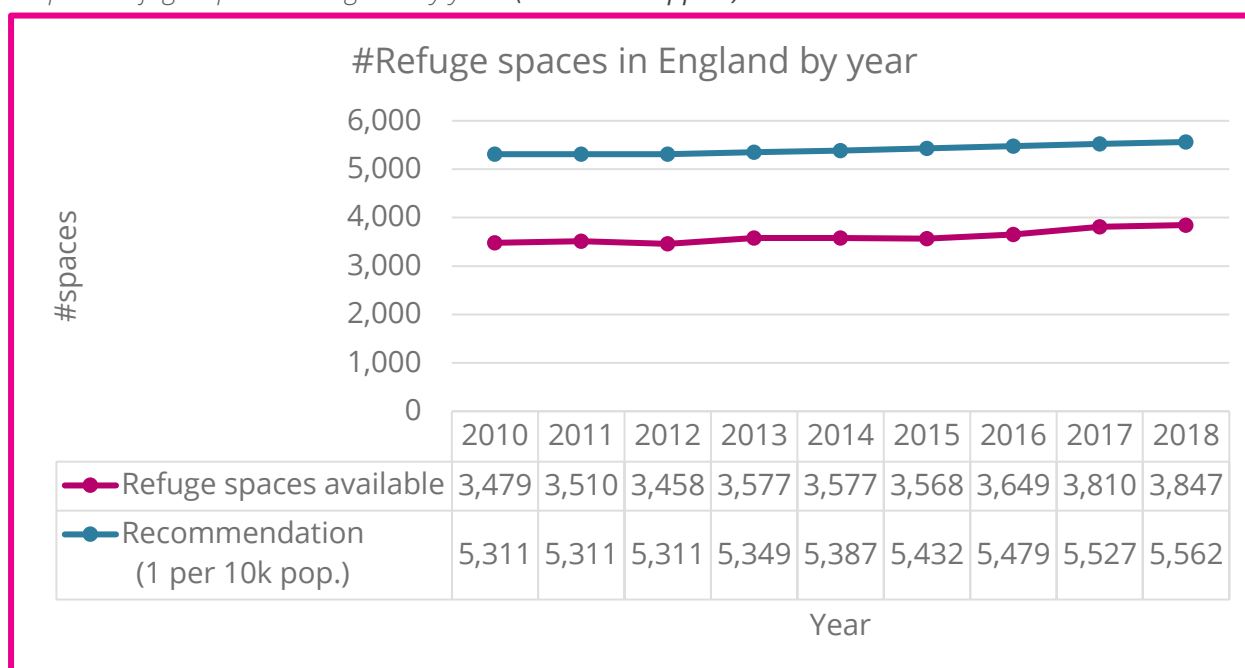


Table 3: regional breakdown of refuge spaces over time (Routes to Support)

Region	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Channel Islands	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
East Midlands	270	277	270	266	283	271	271	297	290
East of England	293	324	325	400	406	414	402	427	402
London	798	756	722	793	799	815	812	854	892
North East	158	159	159	159	168	168	175	183	198
North West	334	403	379	371	406	402	407	413	460
South East	596	562	565	506	509	503	507	538	505
South West	327	323	323	320	240	227	266	275	287
West Midlands	441	443	444	424	423	433	457	477	461
Yorkshire and Humber	250	251	259	326	331	323	340	334	340
<b>Total spaces available</b>	<b>3,479</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>3,458</b>	<b>3,577</b>	<b>3,577</b>	<b>3,568</b>	<b>3,649</b>	<b>3,810</b>	<b>3,847</b>

<sup>5</sup> Council of Europe recommendation (2008): "...safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10 000 head of population;..." (p. 51) These figures do not provide information on which specific access and support needs these services are able to support, e.g. some services will not be able to support women with drug/alcohol dependency support needs.



Table 4: regional breakdown of refuge services and spaces available to men over time (Routes to Support)

	Refuges with space for men	Bed spaces available to men	%all refuges with space for men	%all spaces available to men
Channel Islands	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
East Midlands	8	43	33.3%	14.8%
East of England	3	12	13.6%	3.0%
London	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
North East	1	2	5.0%	1.0%
North West	3	34	8.8%	7.4%
South East	1	1	2.4%	0.2%
South West	7	32	35.0%	11.1%
West Midlands	6	34	23.1%	7.4%
Yorkshire & Humber	3	13	13.6%	3.8%
Grand Total	32	171	11.8%	4.4%
Change from 2017	+10	New data	+8.0%	New data

Table 5: regional breakdown of all service types available to men e (Routes to Support)

	refuge	floating support	helpline	outreach	project based	DV Advocacy Project	SV Advocacy Project	Info and advice	Total entries with one or more service for men	Total services for men
Channel Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Midlands	8	6	7	11	2	3	1	13	19	51
East of England	3	1	5	6	1	5	1	5	8	27
London	0	2	6	7	4	11	2	10	20	42
North East	1	0	4	13	1	5	1	12	16	37
North West	3	7	10	10	4	14	2	12	26	62
South East	1	6	11	21	4	12	1	14	27	70
South West	7	5	6	9	1	9	2	9	14	48
West Midlands	6	8	9	7	3	6	2	6	13	47
Yorkshire & Humber	3	3	6	17	1	5	1	15	23	51
Multiple/UK wide	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	4	7
Grand Total	32	39	66	102	22	71	13	97	170	442
Change from 2017	+10	+5	+23	+11	+4	+5	+1	+24	+16	+83

Graph 4: Previous location of women in London refuges (Routes to Support)



Table 6: Vacancy data in England by family size 2016-17 (Routes to Support)

	All	Woman plus two children		Woman plus three children	
	#vacancies	#vacancies	% all vacancies	#vacancies	% all vacancies
<b>East Midlands</b>	986	512	51.9%	258	26.2%
<b>East of England</b>	1,354	616	45.5%	195	14.4%
<b>London</b>	1,868	584	31.3%	122	6.5%
<b>North East</b>	556	371	66.7%	187	33.6%
<b>South East</b>	1,243	638	51.3%	297	23.9%
<b>South West</b>	2,144	876	40.9%	208	9.7%
<b>West Midlands</b>	740	349	47.2%	141	19.1%
<b>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside</b>	1,435	639	44.5%	306	21.3%
<b>North West</b>	861	490	56.9%	287	33.3%
<b>All England</b>	<b>11,187</b>	<b>5,075</b>	<b>45.4%</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>17.9%</b>

Table 7: Vacancy data in England by mobility access 2016-17 (Routes to Support)

	All	Full wheelchair access		Limited mobility	
	#vacancies	#vacancies	% all vacancies	#vacancies	% all vacancies
<b>East Midlands</b>	986	11	1.1%	7	0.7%
<b>East of England</b>	1,354	4	0.3%	15	1.1%
<b>London</b>	1,868	21	1.1%	31	1.7%
<b>North East</b>	556	33	5.9%	7	1.3%
<b>South East</b>	1,243	7	0.6%	7	0.6%
<b>South West</b>	2,144	43	2.0%	36	1.7%
<b>West Midlands</b>	740	1	0.1%	19	2.6%
<b>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside</b>	1,435	50	3.5%	17	1.2%
<b>North West</b>	861	25	2.9%	11	1.3%
<b>All England</b>	<b>11,187</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

Table 8: Vacancy data in England by accessibility for women with no recourse to public funds 2016-17 (Routes to Support)

	All	Women with NRPF	
	#vacancies	#vacancies	% all vacancies
<b>East Midlands</b>	986	131	13.3%
<b>East of England</b>	1,354	27	2.0%
<b>London</b>	1,868	60	3.2%
<b>North East</b>	556	43	7.7%
<b>South East</b>	1,243	78	6.3%
<b>South West</b>	2,144	96	4.5%
<b>West Midlands</b>	740	29	3.9%
<b>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside</b>	1,435	60	4.2%
<b>North West</b>	861	161	18.7%
<b>All England</b>	<b>11,187</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>6.1%</b>