

CENSUS DAY

2020



scottish
women's
aid

Census Day 2020 Key Findings (Includes Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline):

36 Women's Aid (WA) Groups and the SDAFM Helpline supported:

1130 Women and 261 Children and Young People (CYP) received support on Census Day 2020

- 248 (22%) of these women were living in refuge
- 66 (25%) of these children and young people were living in refuge

19 women were pregnant.

Main reasons for contact

Reason for Support	Women	CYP
To find refuge	33	3
To leave refuge	2	0
General domestic abuse information	105	8
General other services	44	3
Safety Planning	137	31
Legal issues	173	368
Find long-term accommodation	138	19
Benefits or finances	96	33
Training or education	30	11
Jobs/work/career	14	6
Health care for self or children	73	28
Emotional support/counselling	584	177
Practical support	271	60
Activities/outings	27	15

***It is important to note that Women's Aid groups offer a range of support. The figures below reflect that most women, children and young people who experience domestic abuse have complex needs and often will need multiple types of support at any given time or within a single contact.

Subcategory of support types (for leaflet)	Women	CYP	Combined
Emotional	584	177	761
Practical	932	645	1577
Information	149	8	157
Activities	27	15	42

45 CYP received support from WA independent of their mothers – most had heard about WA services through their schools, friends or family. Some had previous contact with WA as a result of their mother’s involvement and a few were referred by health services and social work.

New Women and CYP

111 women and 16 CYP had never contacted a WA group before today. They found out about WA through a variety of sources.

Referral Source	No. of Women*
Advert	12
Other Women’s Aid group	0
Friends	22
Other Voluntary Organisation	8
Employer	2
Health	9
Housing	7
Social Services	14
Domestic Abuse Helpline	4
Solicitor	1
Police	16
Other Criminal Justice body	1
School	0
Other	10
• 6 – Website/Internet search (Home Office, Google) • 3 – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) • 1 – Victim Support Scotland	

**We don’t know how 5 women learned about WA*

Refuge:

341 women and **357 CYP** were living in refuge on Census Day. These numbers include women who requested refuge and were admitted during the day. 5 women and their 4 children were given refuge space on Census Day, but didn't move in until several days later as part of a planned process.

	Women	CYP
Requested refuge	37	47
Admitted on Census Day	6	4
Not admitted on Census Day	31	43
- Lack of safe or suitable space	19	37
- Woman declined offer	3	0
• Woman preferred to stay with friends	1	
• No housing benefit eligibility	1	
• Waiting to hear about other housing offers	1	
- Other reasons	9	6
• Communal refuge (COVID restrictions)	2	0
• Too close to perpetrator	1	2
• Inappropriate referral, not domestic abuse	2	4
• Woman seeking planned move, next week	1	0
• Helpline does not provide refuge	3	0

**1 woman and her child were not accommodated due to lack of space, but were admitted into another WA group; to avoid double counting, I removed her (and her child) from figures (request refuge, not admitted, reasons, and where they went if not in refuge). Still, they should be represented elsewhere in the figures – most likely by the group that were able to accommodate them.*

Where they went if not into refuge	Women	CYP
Not admitted	31	43
• Stayed with friends or family	6	4
• Stayed home (not living with abusive partner)	5	9
• Stayed home (living with abusive partner)	1	0
• Local authority temporary accommodation	15	27
• B&B or Hotel	1	0
• Other (private let – 2w,3 cyp; don't know – 1w)	3	3

***It is interesting to note that nearly half of the women (and their children) who did not go into refuge were provided temporary accommodation through their local authorities.

1 Women left refuge – 1 returned to her home where she was living with her partner.

Training, awareness-raising, multi-agency partnership working

Training (14 members of the community):

- 9 NHS staff (Domestic Abuse Awareness)
- 5 Staff members (Health & Safety – Fire Marshall)

Awareness-raising activities (36 members of the community):

- 24 Housing Association workers (Domestic abuse overview of impact on women & coercive control)
- 10 support workers and service users (social distancing restrictions)
- 2 Trainee School Nurses (Role of WA group in community)

Multi-agency partnership working (26 meetings with 109 individuals working on behalf of other agencies):

- 2 Meetings with Social Work teams (adult protection case conference planning and to raise child protection concerns)
- 1 Court Advocacy meeting (WA and Health and Social Care Partnership)
- 4 Multi-agency meeting involving Police, NHS, Public Protection, Housing, SCRA, Care Inspectorate, Child services, Adult services, Fire and Rescue, Education and Justice
- 2 joint agency training meeting with NHS
- 16 MARAC meetings involving DACS, Police Scotland, CJSW, C&FSW, Safer Families, Education, Adult Services, Housing, Family and Household support, NHS (primarily involving Edinburgh WA)
- Individual meetings with schools, social work, and criminal justice representatives

It is important to note that COVID-19 and related government restrictions had a significant impact on groups' ability to deliver community-based training and awareness-raising activities on Census Day this year. Some groups were able to attend MARACs and other multi-agency meetings using virtual technology such as zoom and Microsoft teams, but COVID restrictions reduced most groups' multi-agency working substantially.

Because of Pandemic situation, as for all groups, this year has had and is continuing to have a huge impact on the service we provide. It has altered how we give support, resulted in severe limitations on all training/awareness activities as well as the curtailment of our group work programmes.

- WA group Census Day coordinator