Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

October 2026

Support in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Management Information

2025-2026

Purpose

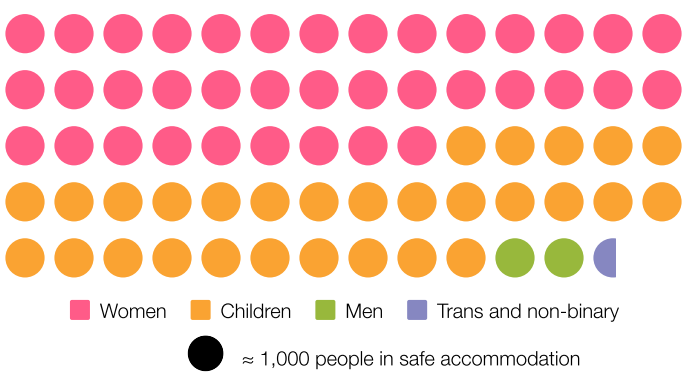
To monitor the implementation of local authorities' duties to support victims of domestic abuse within safe accommodation, under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, across England.

People supported

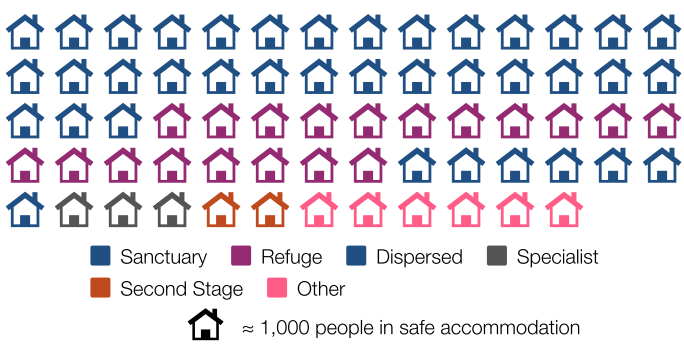
67,750 people were supported in safe accommodation

Women represent 54% of those supported in domestic abuse safe accommodation.

57% of those supported in safe accommodation are adults, 43% are children.



The majority of people were supported in sanctuary and refuge accommodation.



...and a further 38,590 people were supported outside of safe accommodation settings

Support services

The most common types of support offered in domestic abuse safe accommodation were...

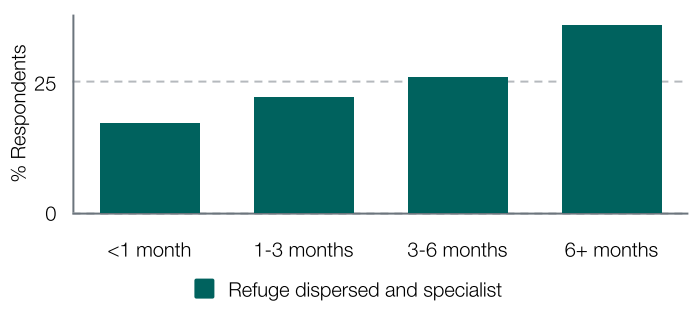
- General support (79% of people supported)
- Advocacy support (52% of people supported)
- Domestic abuse prevention support (49% of people supported)
- Housing support (49% of people supported)

Nearly half of people supported in safe accommodation had specialist characteristics. The most common were...

- Ethnic minority backgrounds (23% of people supported)
- Mental health history (21% of people supported)
- Disabled (14% of people supported)

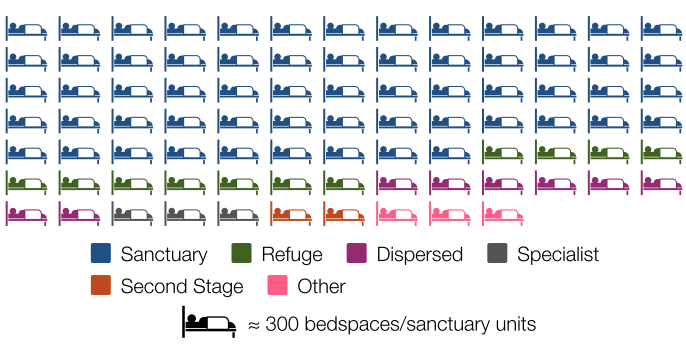
Length of stay

The majority of respondents indicated that they had stayed more than 3 months in refuge, dispersed or specialist accommodations.



Bedspaces and sanctuary units

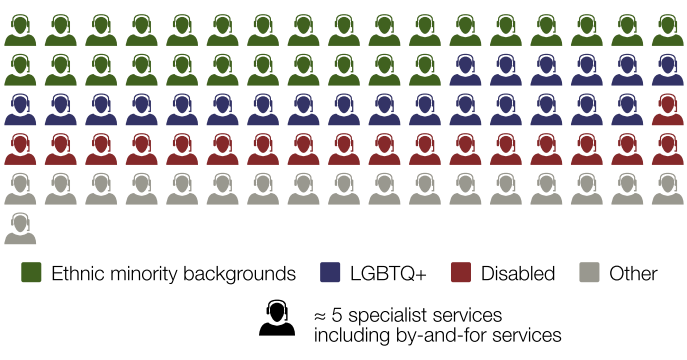
In total 25,990 bedspaces and sanctuary units were provided in England. Sanctuary units accounted for the largest share of capacity.



Specialist services

430 specialist services were commissioned, of which 80 were specialist by-and-for services.

By-and-for services are designed and delivered by the communities they serve.



Households unable to be supported

27,260 households were unable to be supported, down 3% from 2024-25

The main factors for households unable to be supported were...

- Capacity constraints (28% of households unable to be supported)
- Unable to meet needs (16% of households unable to be supported)
- Did not accept referral (16% of households unable to be supported)

Of the households whose needs could not be met, the most common reasons were...

- Mental health
- No Recourse to Public Funds
- Drugs and alcohol support needs

Households stopped receiving support

The leading causes for households stopped receiving support in domestic abuse safe accommodation were...

- Moved on as planned (39% of households stopped receiving support)
- No longer need support in sanctuary (27% of households stopped receiving support)
- Moved onto other domestic abuse safe accommodation (11% of households stopped receiving support)