

Women on the Move: the journeyscapes of domestic violence

Stay Put Remain Local Go Elsewhere

Briefing Paper 6

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Key points:

- Data from services provides evidence on women's help-seeking
- Tens of thousands of women and children seek help
- Three distinctive strategies: Stay Put—Remain Local—Go Elsewhere
- These three strategies involve different agencies
- Women's options depend on a range of issues

Data in this briefing from Supporting People Programme of housing-related support services.

Department for Communities and Local Government and University of St Andrews, Centre for Housing Research (2012) *Supporting People Client Records and Outcomes, 2003/04-2010/11: Special Licence Access [computer file]*. Colchester, Essex, UK Data Archive [distributor]. Available from: <<http://dx.doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-7020-1>>

Women's domestic violence help-seeking strategies

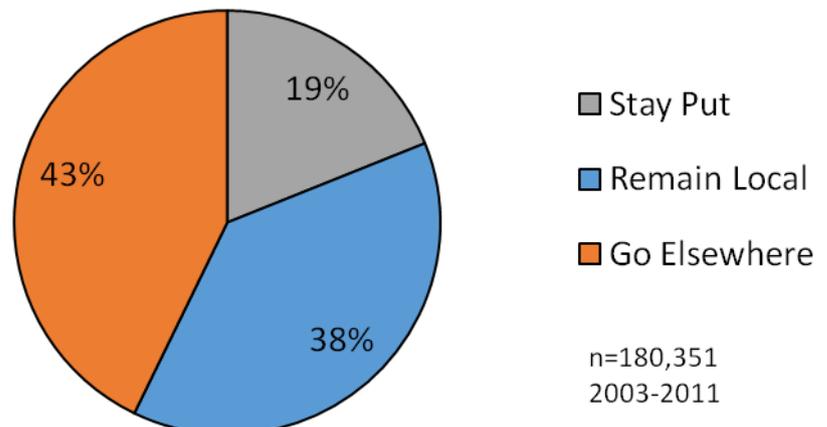
Each woman's journey to escape domestic abuse is unique, but there are shared characteristics that can be identified.

Understanding these shared aspects can help identify the barriers and challenges that face particular women or women in particular places or circumstances. That can highlight the kinds of support needed from different types of services, or policies.

The data from women who did access services show three distinct strategies when women seek help:

- **Stay Put** — and seek help from support services
- **Remain Local** — relocate to access support, but within the same Local Authority
- **Go Elsewhere** — move to another Local Authority to seek help

Women's help-seeking strategies



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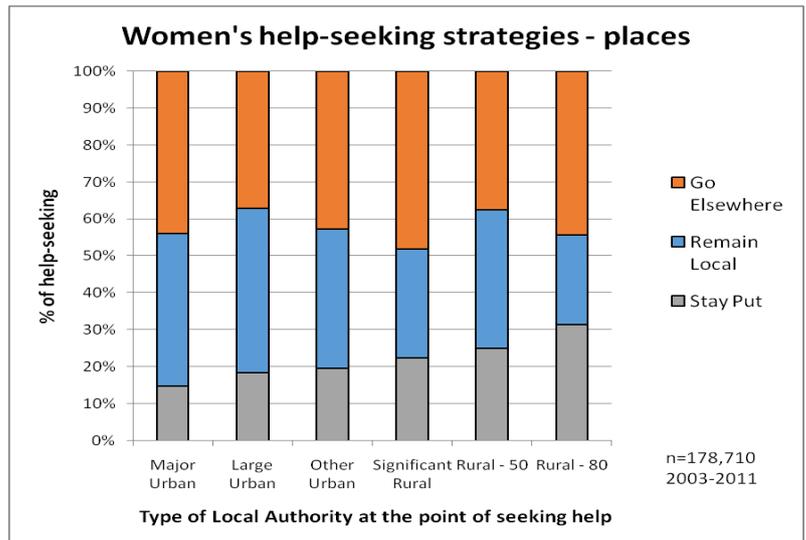
www.womensjourneyscapes.net



Women have different options in different types of places

Women are most likely to be seeking help and trying to Stay Put in more rural areas; but they are also most likely to need to Go Elsewhere from such areas. Rural areas often provide the least opportunity to escape the abuse but Remain Local.

Urban areas can provide more possibilities to relocate but Remain Local — but the options for women depend on a wide range of factors: their different needs, the information they have, and the capacity and location of services — where they can find a space.

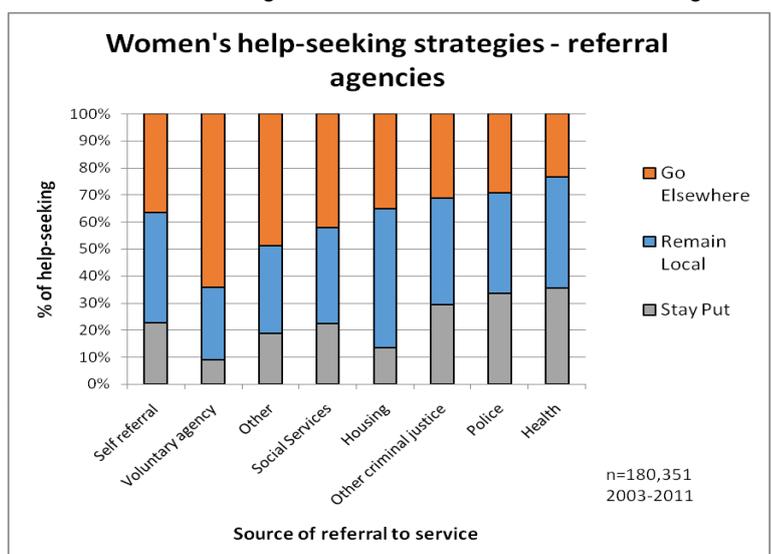


Statutory agencies are only involved for half the women who relocate

The three strategies are not just distinctive in terms of where women and children go; they also involve different types of agencies. And these agencies therefore only know about some women's strategies — which limits their understanding of what other women do.

Statutory agencies such as Police or Health are only involved for some women — and distinctively for women who are trying to Stay Put or Remain Local. Housing is particularly involved when women need to relocate but are Remaining Local.

However, voluntary agencies are much more likely to be contacted by women who need to Go Elsewhere — escaping to another area. And women self-refer for all three help-seeking strategies.



Different types of agencies - in different areas of the country - will only see a fraction of what women are weighing up in their strategies away from abuse