

# Black and ethnic minoritised women's help-seeking

Briefing Paper 8

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## Key points:

- Data from services provides evidence on women's help-seeking
- Women of all ethnic origins seek formal help due to domestic abuse
- Ethnic minority women tend to be less likely to stay put or remain local than White British women
- Ethnic minority women are more likely to be referred by voluntary sector agencies—and to women's refuges

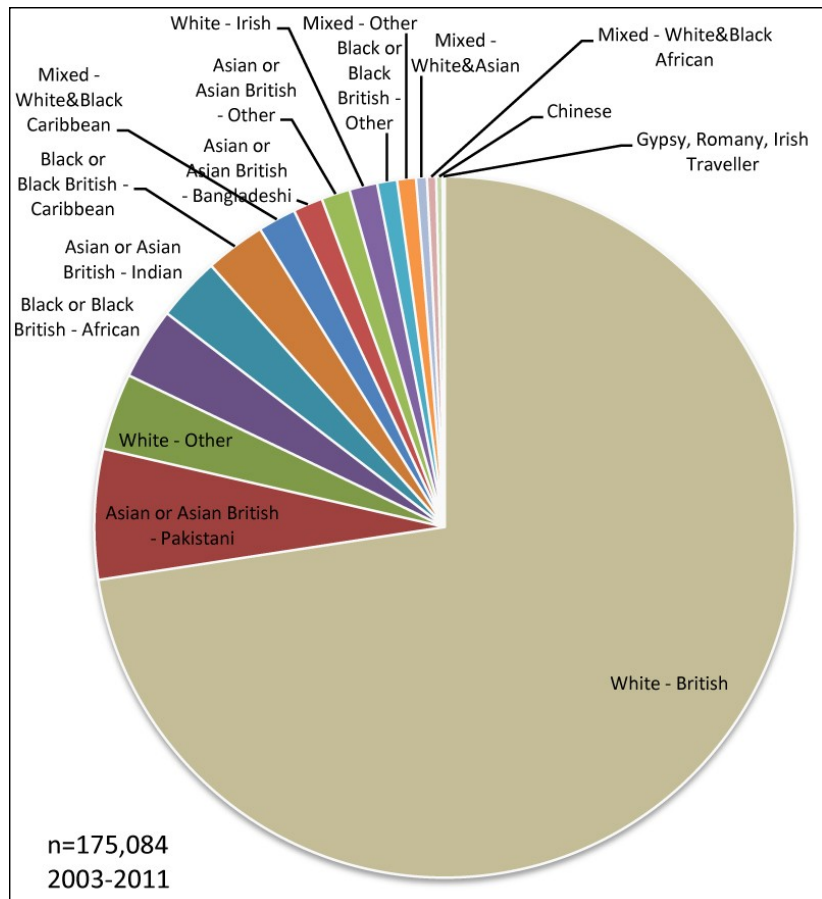
## Data in this briefing from Supporting People Programme of housing-related support services.

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 from all ethnic origins seek formal service help

Administrative records use the census categories, which have limitations, but they show that women from all ethnic origins access services.

The large majority (72%) are recorded as White British; so ethnic minoritised women seek formal help in a higher rate than their proportion in the population. This is likely to reflect the inequalities in society so ethnic minorities tend to have fewer private resources and are more likely to need to access public support.



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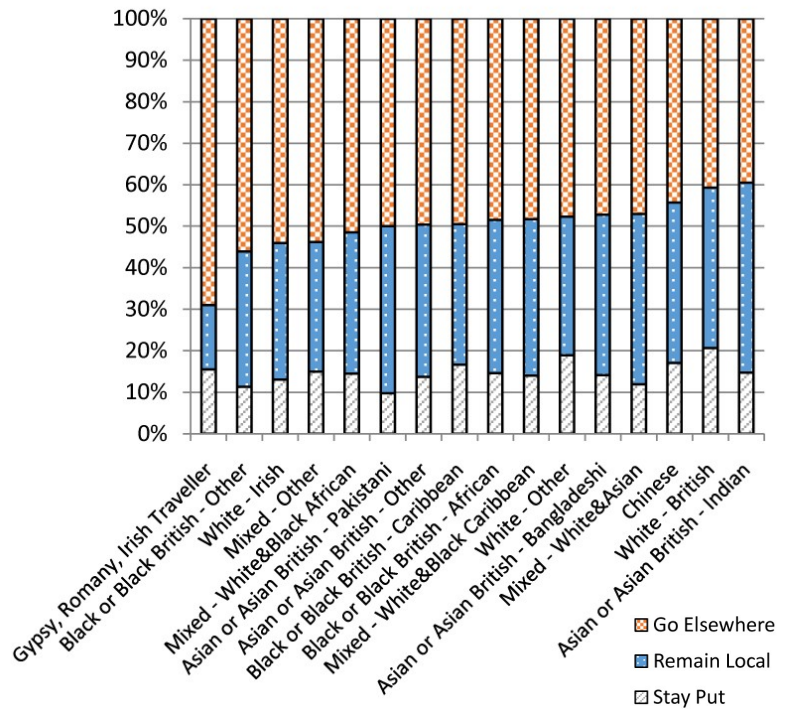
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## FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

[www.womensjourneysapes.net](http://www.womensjourneysapes.net)



## Ethnic minority women tend to be less likely to stay put or remain local than White British women



Gypsy, Romany, Irish Traveller women are most likely to go elsewhere to a different local authority—and White British and Asian Indian women least likely—with White British women most likely to stay put.

## Ethnic minority women are more likely to be referred by voluntary sector agencies, and more likely to access refuges

Many women self-refer to support agencies, but others are referred by statutory and voluntary agencies; and may not know about the support they could get until a referrer gives them information.

Ethnic minority women are less likely to self-refer than White British women and more likely to be referred by voluntary sector agencies—rather than statutory sector agencies— indicating how vital the accessibility and roles of independent non-statutory agencies are.

Ethnic minority women—especially Asian Pakistani and Black Caribbean and Black African women—are significantly more likely to access women’s refuges; and less likely to access non-accommodation services like outreach and floating support than White British women. They also tend to engage longer with support: apart from Gypsy, Romany, Irish Traveller women, ethnic minority women stay on average longer in support services than White British women.

**Each woman’s journey to escape domestic abuse is unique, but women from different ethnic groups may face additional issues or barriers and need the support of independent specialist ‘by and for’ agencies which understand and respect them.**