
SAFE Ireland 2015
About SAFE Ireland

SAFE Ireland is the National Social Change Agency working on Domestic Violence in Ireland. We are working innovatively and strategically to transform culture and the response to gender based violence (GBV) in Ireland. Our particular GBV focus is on male violence against women and children in intimate/close relationships.

We have evolved from a network of service providers and we are working in close collaboration with 40 frontline domestic violence services across communities in Ireland. Over the past ten years we have invested in leadership, governance, research and organisational development in order to create a culture in the organisation which allows space for dialogue, creativity and innovation.

We are directly linked to women and children who experience Domestic Violence. We work to bring public voice and understanding to the causes and impact of Domestic Violence.

We respond to thousands of women and children affected by Domestic Violence in Ireland every year.
Annual National Domestic Violence Statistics

SAFE Ireland has been collating the National Domestic Violence Service Statistics annually for the past 7 years. Each year our member services complete a survey which we then collate to produce a national data set. This process involves thorough data cleaning and rigorous data checks which are carried out with services to ensure that all statistics are accurate. Where any data is unreliable we exclude it from the aggregated statistics. We will continue to work with the frontline domestic services to further strengthen frontline collection of data in order to support awareness raising and inform national policy and service development. We are actively seeking resources to develop a state of the art data collection system with newer technology which will bring our current system in line with best practice standards while also protecting the privacy rights of the women and children accessing domestic violence services in Ireland.

Each year we also conduct our National One Day Count of women and children receiving support and/or accommodation due to domestic violence within a 24 hr period. The purpose of this one day snapshot is to get a sense of the daily reality of the number of women and children seeking support because of domestic violence in Ireland.

The administrative data in this report reflects the number of women and children who access domestic violence services across 26 counties in Ireland. It is important to note that this is only the tip of the iceberg when we consider the extent of underreporting in Ireland. Recent research from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights tells us that only 8-12% of women experiencing domestic violence access a domestic violence service in Ireland. What we can extrapolate from this is that the 9,448 women represented here accounts for between 8%-12% of the total number of women suffering abuse at the hands of their partners in communities all around Ireland. A key part of SAFE Ireland’s work in collaboration with state and non-state agencies is to develop responses which better reach out to the 92% of women who have not accessed a frontline domestic violence service in Ireland.
Social Impact of Domestic Violence

Women and Girls experiencing violence utilise health services more frequently

Lasting Physical and Mental Effects of Complex Trauma

Estimated that Domestic Violence is costing Irish Economy €2.2billion annually

Multi Generational – Cycles of Violence

Health and Well Being Destroyed

Workplace – loss of productivity and potential

DV results in Poverty and Homelessness

79% non reporting – what impact on society?
In Just One Day in 2014, 475 women and 301 children sought support from a domestic violence service in Ireland.

In 2014, 9,448 women and 3,068 children received direct specialist support from Domestic Violence support services.

In 2014, 48,888 helpline calls were answered by Domestic Violence support services.

1 in every 3 women experienced severe Psychological violence from a male partner…

1 in 4 women experienced Physical & Sexual violence from a male partner……

79% of women in Ireland never disclosed serious Physical or Sexual violence by a partner to anyone…

= 580,000 women living in Ireland.

= 440,000 women living in Ireland.

= 347,000 women living in Ireland.

48,888 helpline support and information calls from women, their family and friends and/or professionals were answered by domestic violence services across Ireland in 2014.

9,448 individual women received support from a domestic violence service in Ireland.

This figure includes:

1,749 women who stayed in domestic violence specialist accommodation services. Of those, 1,658 women stayed in a refuge, 109 stayed in DV specialist supported housing and 12 of those women were accommodated in a Safe House operated by a domestic violence service. 30 women who stayed in DV specialist supported housing also stayed in refuge in 2014.

In total there were 1,969 women admissions to refuge, 1,444 women had one stay in refuge in 2014, 148 women were admitted on two occasions, 38 women on three occasions and 17 women stayed in the same refuge more than 3 times in 2014.

8,093 women received a wide range of face-to-face supports, including advocacy, emotional and practical support, information, counselling, court accompaniment and/or support groups. Of these women, 407 (5%) of them also stayed in the refuge at some point during 2014.

In 2014, Domestic Violence services in Ireland were unable to meet 4,831 requests from women for safe accommodation in their refuges because their refuge was full.
3,068 individual children received direct support and or accommodation from a domestic violence service in Ireland in 2014. This figure includes 2,484 children who stayed in domestic violence accommodation services.

Of the 2,484 children who stayed in DV specialist accommodation services, 2,349 were living in a refuge, 147 were living in DV specialist supported housing and 15 children were accommodated in a Safe House. 27 children who stayed in a refuge also stayed in DV specialist supported housing in 2014.

Of the children who lived in a refuge for some period of time be it one night or many months, 899 children were aged under 4 including 217 babies under the age of 1. 422 children were aged between 10 and 14 and 123 teenagers aged between 15 -18.

1,168 children received non-accommodation direct support from services. These services include therapeutic and developmental play, counselling, accompaniment, referral, childcare services, support groups, school placement, afterschool, homework supports and youth groups.
ON JUST ONE TUESDAY IN IRELAND...

475 WOMEN WERE ACCOMMODATED AND/OR RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM A SAFE IRELAND MEMBER ORGANISATION

301 CHILDREN WERE ACCOMMODATED AND/OR RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM A SAFE IRELAND MEMBER ORGANISATION

120 WOMEN AND 166 CHILDREN WERE ACCOMMODATED IN REFUGE

7 WOMEN AND 13 CHILDREN WERE ADMITTED TO REFUGE

18 WOMEN COULD NOT BE ACCOMMODATED IN REFUGE.

18 WOMEN WERE PREGNANT

67 WERE YOUNG WOMEN UNDER THE AGE OF 25
...ON THE 4TH OF NOVEMBER 2014

130 WOMEN WERE RECEIVING SOME FORM OF CHILD RELATED SUPPORT

23 WOMEN WERE OVER THE AGE OF 56
8 WOMEN WERE OVER 65

137 HELPLINE CALLS WERE RECEIVED FROM WOMEN

129 YOUNG CHILDREN WERE IN CHILD-CARE SERVICES OPERATED WITHIN SAFE IRELAND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES, 29 ATTENDED SOME FORM OF PLAY THERAPY OR DEVELOPMENT AND 13 CHILDREN WERE RECEIVING HOMEWORK SUPPORT

43 WOMEN WERE REFERRED TO HOUSING SERVICES OR A HOUSING OFFICER, 22 WOMEN WERE ACCOMPANIED TO COURT, 2 TO THE GARDAÍ AND A FURTHER 50 WERE REFERRED OR ACCOMPANIED TO LEGAL AID, LEGAL SERVICES OR A PRIVATE SOLICITOR

31 WOMEN WERE ACCOMPANIED OR REFERRED TO A MEDICAL PRACTICE, A GP OR A HOSPITAL
Domestic Violence Services in Ireland

SAFE Ireland has 40 member services offering a range of supports to women experiencing domestic violence, 23 of which are providing accommodation for women and children fleeing a violent partner or someone else with whom they are in a close but unsafe relationship.

Domestic violence services work to promote the safety and wellbeing of women and children experiencing domestic violence. They provide a wide range of supports and services to women and children across the country, from 24hr crisis accommodation (refuges), to also tailoring services to meet the individual emotional, practical and safety related needs for which women and children seek support. To address the needs of women and children, domestic violence support services around the country provide:

- Safe, emergency accommodation (Mainly 24 hour Refuges and Safe Houses)
- Outreach
- Information and Advocacy
- Accompaniment to other state agencies such as community welfare, housing officers, Gardaí, social work, courts etc.
- Helplines
- Childcare
- A range of supports for children
- Supported transitional housing
- Support groups
Location of Domestic Violence Services in Ireland

Women’s Aid Federation
Northern Ireland 24 Helpline
0800 917 1414