

ENCOMPASS SNAPSHOT BRIEFING 2022



Over a week in October 2022 the seven specialist CSE organisations that make up the Encompass Network supported **101 women** who had been involved in selling or exchanging sex or images.

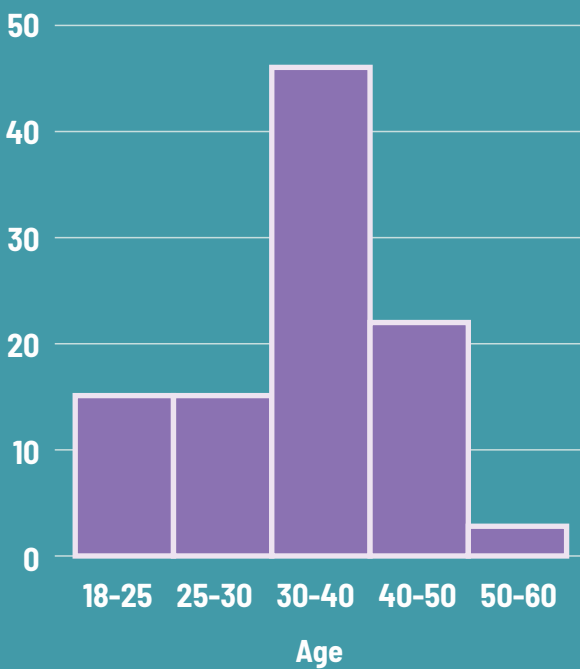
The Encompass organisations are Another Way (Edinburgh), Routes Out (Glasgow), Vice Versa (Dundee), Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (Perth & Kinross), Aberdeen Cyrenians, Alcohol & Drug Action Aberdeen and TARA.

From this snapshot we were able to identify the following characteristics about the women supported.



AGE

The majority of women (**46**) supported were between the ages of 30 and 40, **15** women were between the ages of 25 and 30 and **22** women were between 40 and 50, while **15** women were between ages 18 and 25.



HEALTH NEEDS

Of the 101 women supported the following information was disclosed about their health needs:

19 had a physical disability. This included Fibromyalgia, Brain Injury, Arthritis, Diabetes, Epilepsy and COPD.

92 had disclosed a mental health issue. The majority of women experienced anxiety and/or depression. Some women had been formally diagnosed with PTSD, Bipolar Disorder, Complex PTSD, EUPD, BPD and Schizophrenia, while many others displayed other trauma symptoms.

4 of the women supported had disclosed they were being assessed for a learning disability.

61 of the women supported disclosed they had an addiction issue (**38** of the women used a cocktail of drugs).

Women disclosed using the following substances:

- **13** women disclosed using alcohol
- **34** women disclosed using heroin/opiates
- **40** women disclosed using cocaine/crack
- **31** women disclosed using valium/street valium/benzos/jellies
- **5** women disclosed using cannabis

ETHNICITY

66 of the women supported were born in the UK.

10 of the women supported were from Vietnam.

The remainder were from a variety of countries including Brazil, Jordan, Thailand, Poland, Albania, Romania, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Portugal, Angola, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Namibia and Hungary.



LINKS WITH OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

27 women disclosed experiences of childhood sexual abuse.

59 women disclosed experiences of domestic abuse.

Almost 6 in 10 women had experienced domestic abuse



INVOLVEMENT IN CSE

Again this year we found that women were often involved in multiple areas of the 'sex industry' and that the demarcation between on-street and off street isn't always as straight forward as is sometimes presented.

- **47** of the women supported disclosed they were currently or had been involved in on-street prostitution
- **16** women disclosed they were involved in saunas/indoor prostitution
- **14** women disclosed they were involved in escorting (a mixture of in and out calls)
- **8** women disclosed they were involved mainly online
- **1** woman disclosed involvement in sugar daddying
- **1** women disclosed involvement in lap dancing/stripping
- **3** women disclosed exploitation including 'sex for rent' and having sex to pay off partners debts

OTHER INFO

14 women disclosed that they had been in care as a child.

63 women had been homeless at some point in their life.

34 women had disclosed that they had children removed from their care. This affected 57 children and young people.

41 of the women supported disclosed they had a criminal conviction including shoplifting, drinking alcohol in a public place, assault, breach of the peace, possession, theft, drug dealing and robbery. Only **1** woman had a conviction related to prostitution.

90 women disclosed being affected by rising prices and are struggling to afford food, energy and housing costs. Many of the woman supported were struggling prior to this latest crisis.



37 of the women had been trafficked.

15 (20%) of the 74 women supported (who hadn't been trafficked and supported by TARA) had exited and were no longer actively involved in selling or exchanging sex or images but still required support.

18 of the women disclosed that they were under 18 when they were first involved in selling or exchanging sex or images.

79 of the women had disclosed that they had experience violence and abuse related to their involvement in selling or exchanging sex. This included rape and violent assaults.

29 of the women supported disclosed that their involvement in CSE had links to organised crime.

SUPPORT NEEDS

The organisations identified the following as support needs for women.

SUPPORT AREA	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NO. OF WOMEN IN EVERY 10 WITH THE SUPPORT NEED
Addictions	59	
Benefits	64	
Civil Justice Issues	5	
Criminal Justice Issue	30	
Debt	47	
Digital Access	47	
Exiting	36	
Finances	75	
Homelessness	55	
Housing	71	
Immigration	25	
Interpretation	18	
Mental Health	86	
Practical Assistance	71	
Safety	78	

For more information on the work of the Encompass Network:
www.encompassnetwork.info

