

**Foundation for Social
Welfare Services**

Child Protection

Yearly

Statistical Report

2019

February

2020

Reporting on:

January to December

2019

Online version



Foundation for Social Welfare Services
Here for you

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Foundation for Social Welfare Services

Child Protection Yearly Statistical Report 2019

Foundation for Social Welfare Services, Malta
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Citation: Marchand-Agius, C. & Borg, P. (2020). Child Protection Yearly Statistical Report 2019. Malta: Foundation for Social Welfare Services.

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Introduction

This report provides, in tabular format, the statistical information regarding Child Protection. The tables include, but are not limited to, the number of cases worked with, individuals worked with, number of referrals, new and re-contact cases, cases closed, and key demographic details. This information provides an indication of service performance and is used to determine the profiles of service users attending the various services. For further information regarding the aims and activities of the services, please refer to the website: fsws.gov.mt

The data contained in this report is based on information submitted by the services to the Research Team in January 2020. Where applicable, the report provides data on an individual level as well as on a family level. It is important to note that the same individuals may stop and start attending a given service multiple times in the reporting year and/or may be attending one or more services concurrently within the reporting period. As a result, the summing up of services may lead to an over-estimation of the number of individuals attending the agency.

This report would not have been possible without the kind assistance of each worker who diligently provided the data and of the people who keyed in all the data. This report was compiled with the assistance of Petra Borg.

The data contained in this report is subject to revision and modification, as and when the relevant information becomes available.

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Description
CPS	Child Protection Service
CP	Child Protection

Child Protection Services

Child Protection Services (CPS) deal with cases of abuse and neglect of children, and are also involved when a child seems to be suffering from, or is at risk of, significant harm.

Note: In previous years, data from this service formed part of Appogg Services reports. For the 2019 data the information was moved to its own Agency for Child Protection.

CPS: Number of cases worked with in the year January – December 2019	
	2019
New	637
Re-contact	140
Known	541
Total cases worked with	1318
Number of individuals worked with	1308

CPS: Number of referrals											
Number of cases referred by month and year of referral											
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	77	81	84	84	52	89	105	76	51	49	84
Feb	80	75	80	68	67	72	93	54	77	86	63
Mar	83	109	61	80	65	51	56	80	77	63	42
Apr	70	105	64	82	100	84	103	79	75	82	41
May	105	105	77	82	117	66	91	73	93	55	57
Jun	116	86	70	78	63	85	83	95	69	36	35
Jul	101	71	41	59	53	31	64	51	16	34	21
Aug	64	87	43	52	45	48	67	76	22	22	30
Sep	47	38	32	60	56	67	51	63	25	10	46
Oct	112	89	53	51	82	63	69	70	31	26	39
Nov	106	81	76	40	37	118	43	46	52	55	42
Dec	92	77	47	50	47	47	49	27	40	31	41
Total	1053	1004	728	786	784	821	874	790	628	549	541

CPS: Number of new and re-contact cases											
Number of cases by month and year of service opened											
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	44	54	86	103	18	77	111	32	60	36	153
Feb	81	63	40	73	19	46	69	98	76	56	62
Mar	28	66	41	99	12	34	78	97	77	20	157
Apr	90	89	34	37	108	81	28	40	49	22	59
May	47	81	31	90	113	17	117	64	56	11	71
Jun	65	27	24	47	14	105	71	25	30	12	23
Jul	62	34	36	89	28	51	34	42	36	6	39
Aug	35	55	20	96	4	142	56	47	100	9	36
Sep	32	61	4	36	95	81	45	26	31	2	56
Oct	103	50	14	33	17	21	94	85	18	5	40
Nov	59	83	19	21	2	87	88	18	29	37	44
Dec	51	13	8	34	74	13	30	22	18	42	37
Total	697	676	357	758	504	755	821	596	580	258	777

**CPS: Year of referral by type of alleged abuse reported
January – December 2019**

	2019
Cybercrime	2
Cybercrime, emotional & sexual	0
Cybercrime & sexual	0
Emotional	33
Emotional & neglect	11
Emotional, neglect & sexual	0
Emotional & physical	17
Emotional, physical & neglect	3
Emotional, physical, neglect & sexual	0
Emotional, physical & sexual	0
Emotional & sexual	1
Neglect	54
Neglect & sexual	0
Physical	72
Physical & neglect	7
Physical , neglect & sexual	1
Physical , neglect & cybercrime	0
Physical & sexual	0
At risk	201
At risk & cybercrime	0
At risk & emotional	10
At risk, emotional & neglect	5
At risk, emotional & physical	4
At risk, emotional, physical & neglect	0
At risk, emotional, physical & sexual	0
At risk, emotional, physical, neglect & sexual	0
At risk, emotional & sexual	1
At risk & neglect	18
At risk, neglect & sexual	0
At risk & physical	9
At risk, physical & neglect	1
At risk, physical, neglect & sexual	0
At risk & sexual	6
At risk, physical & sexual	0
Sexual	36
No issues of abuse	49
Not specified	0
Total	541

CPS: Number of new cases											
Number of cases by month and year opened											
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	28	46	77	83	16	57	89	25	36	26	121
Feb	30	60	33	56	13	33	57	71	56	38	53
Mar	22	64	32	77	9	18	59	66	51	14	132
Apr	12	82	27	25	76	55	23	32	36	15	51
May	17	72	25	75	94	11	82	36	41	10	61
Jun	9	25	16	39	12	84	63	16	26	8	20
Jul	43	28	32	62	25	37	30	27	27	5	35
Aug	34	49	15	73	1	103	40	33	59	5	28
Sep	22	59	4	23	74	63	40	16	23	2	34
Oct	79	45	10	15	14	15	71	58	13	2	35
Nov	61	78	14	15	1	60	70	11	24	24	37
Dec	53	10	4	22	52	9	21	12	6	35	30
Total	410	618	289	565	387	545	645	403	398	184	637

CPS: Case opened by age and sex					
January – December 2019					
	Male	Female	Unborn	Not specified	Total
<1	3	2	0	0	5
1-5	59	62	0	1	122
6-10	101	79	0	3	183
11-15	54	57	0	1	112
16-17	13	28	0	0	41
≥18	4	6	0	0	10
Not specified	76	59	9	20	164
Total	310	293	9	25	637

**CPS: Case opened by district
January – December 2019**

	2019
Southern Harbour District	123
South Eastern District	113
Northern District	100
Northern Harbour District	90
Western District	64
Gozo and Comino	18
Shelter or institution	0
Foreign residence	2
Homeless	1
Not specified	126
Total	637

**CPS: Number of cases closed
Number of cases closed by month and year of closure**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	104	82	84	76	30	87	70	114	77	30	58
Feb	96	58	38	101	34	30	98	52	75	21	75
Mar	50	46	67	81	43	36	28	131	63	54	169
Apr	55	65	65	75	30	89	51	60	86	40	83
May	36	55	56	116	46	29	114	99	52	32	93
Jun	45	69	23	43	57	82	97	43	46	13	35
Jul	33	37	41	74	47	82	24	52	73	35	94
Aug	24	37	114	78	48	18	54	67	116	38	63
Sep	26	23	59	52	79	61	22	28	56	24	38
Oct	34	67	50	62	47	40	74	32	56	27	67
Nov	48	68	30	9	60	54	103	44	63	30	71
Dec	16	35	36	27	60	40	101	51	40	23	36
Total	567	642	663	794	581	648	836	773	803	367	882

Glossary of Terms

Variable	Definition
Referral	The period when a case was referred to the unit. A referral is when an individual's details has been given to the services by another person or the person themselves to request assistance. A case may be referred more than once in a year. Some cases may be referred but placed on a waiting list or not taken up because the service was not appropriate for the person's needs. Contact is then made either by phone or through a visit.
Case Service Opened	The period when a case was opened or allocated. This includes new cases and re-opened cases and so the same individual may be seen more than once in a year.
Case opening	The period when a case was new to the unit. Cases can only be termed a new case once. If the case is re-opened then it will not be recorded here but it is recorded under Service Opening.
Case Closed	The period in which the case was closed or terminated. The same case may be closed more than once in a year if the case was re-opened in the year.
New	A new case which was opened or activated for the first time ever within the reporting year and which was never previously worked with
Re-contact	A case which was worked with and closed in the past and it has been re-activated or re-opened within the current reporting year
Known	Cases which were activated or opened in the previous reporting years and they are still active in the current reporting year. This may also be referred to as cases carried over from previous years.
Individuals worked with	The total number of individuals whose case was new, re-contact or known at least once in the year. This excludes cases re-opened in the same year for the same person and excludes persons who were referred but their case was never opened.
Cases worked with	The total number of cases which were new, re-contact or known in the reporting year. This does not indicate the number of individuals as some individuals could attend the service more than once in the same reporting year. For example 1 individual may have re-contacted the service 3 times in the same year and would account

	for 3 cases worked with in the same year. This excludes persons who were referred but their case was never opened.
Primary Problem	Clients often present with a complexity of issues. The primary issue is the only, main, or first issue recorded as identified by the client or the professional.
At Risk	Situations where there is risk of any form of abuse. This is most commonly found in re-contact situations where the family is monitored so that abuse does not re-occur. It can be found in combination with another form of abuse e.g. "At risk & Emotional" which means that there is the indicated abuse, in this case emotional abuse, and risk of another form of abuse.
Emotional Abuse	This is also referred to as psychological abuse/ violence and involves insults, put-downs, injuring or harming the victim's pets, harming the victim's objects, ignoring the victim, refraining from communicating with the victim, verbal threats, humiliation, etc.
Physical Abuse	Any unwanted physical abuse e.g. pushing, punching, burns and bruises, fractures, throwing of objects, stabbing, use of weapons, etc.
Neglect	Refers to neglecting basic needs of the victim e.g. financial neglect, neglecting to feed the person, neglecting basic hygiene requirements etc.
Sexual abuse	Refers to unwanted sexual activity ranging from forcing the individual to watch pornography to rape. Example, forcing the victim to participate in sexual activities against their will, forcing them to watch the perpetrator engage in sexual activity with another person, etc.
Cybercrime	Cybercrime is defined as criminal activities carried out by means of computers or the Internet.
Nationality:	An individual is classified as Maltese if they either: (1) were born in Malta; (2) possess a Maltese passport; or (3) have resided in Malta more than 6 months. An individual is classified as Non-Maltese if they do not fulfil any of the above criteria.
Not Specified (NS)	A variable that cannot be specified because of a lack of information.
Other	Treatment, issue or location not elsewhere specified.

Maltese Districts

Northern Harbour District	Birkirkara, Gzira, Hamrun, Msida, Pembroke, Pieta, Qormi, San Giljan, San Gwann, Santa Venera, Sliema, Swieqi, Ta Xbiex.
Southern Harbour District	Birgu, Bormla, Fgura, Floriana, Isla, Kalkara, Luqa, Marsa, Paola, Santa Lucija, Tarxien, Valletta, Xaghjra, Zabbar.
South Eastern District	Birzebbugia, Ghaxaq, Gudja, Kirkop, Marsaskala, Marsaxlokk, Mqabba, Qrendi, Safi, Zejtun, Zurrieq.
Western District	Attard, Balzan, Dingli, Iklin, Lija, Mdina, Mtarfa, Rabat, Siggiewi, Zebbug.
Northern District	Gharghur, Mellieha, Mgarr, Mosta, Naxxar, San Pawl il Bahar.
Gozo and Comino	Rabat, Fontana, Ghajnsielem, Gharb, Ghasri, Kercem, Munxar, Nadur, Qala, San Lawrenz, Sannat, Xaghra, Xewkija, Zebbug, Comino
Homeless	Not residing within any residence
Shelter /institution	Resides in a residential home, shelter e.g. Ghabex or YMCA, in prison or Hospital e.g. Mount Carmel Hospital.
Not residing in Malta/ foreign residence	Resides in a foreign country and is in Malta for a short stay.

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