



Directorate Child Protection
Yearly Statistical Report
January to December 2020

March 2021
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Foundation for Social Welfare Services, Malta
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Introduction

This report provides the statistical information regarding Directorate Child Protection (CP). The data includes, but is 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

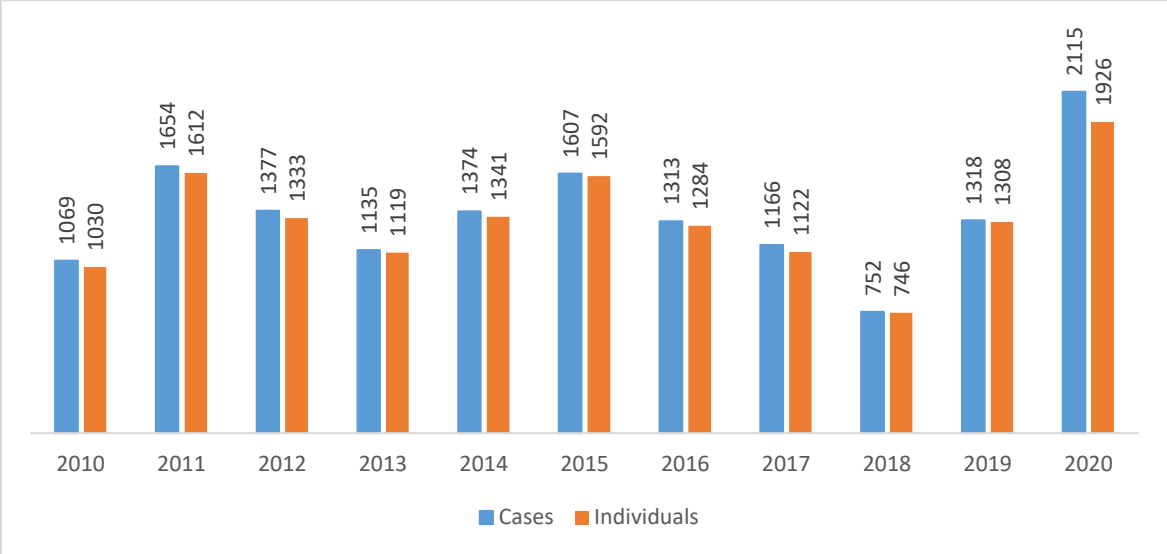
The data contained in this report is based on information submitted by the services to the Research Team of the Foundation for Social Welfare Services in January 2021. Where applicable, the report provides data on an individual level as well as on a family level. It is important to note that the same 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 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 Stephanie Dimech.

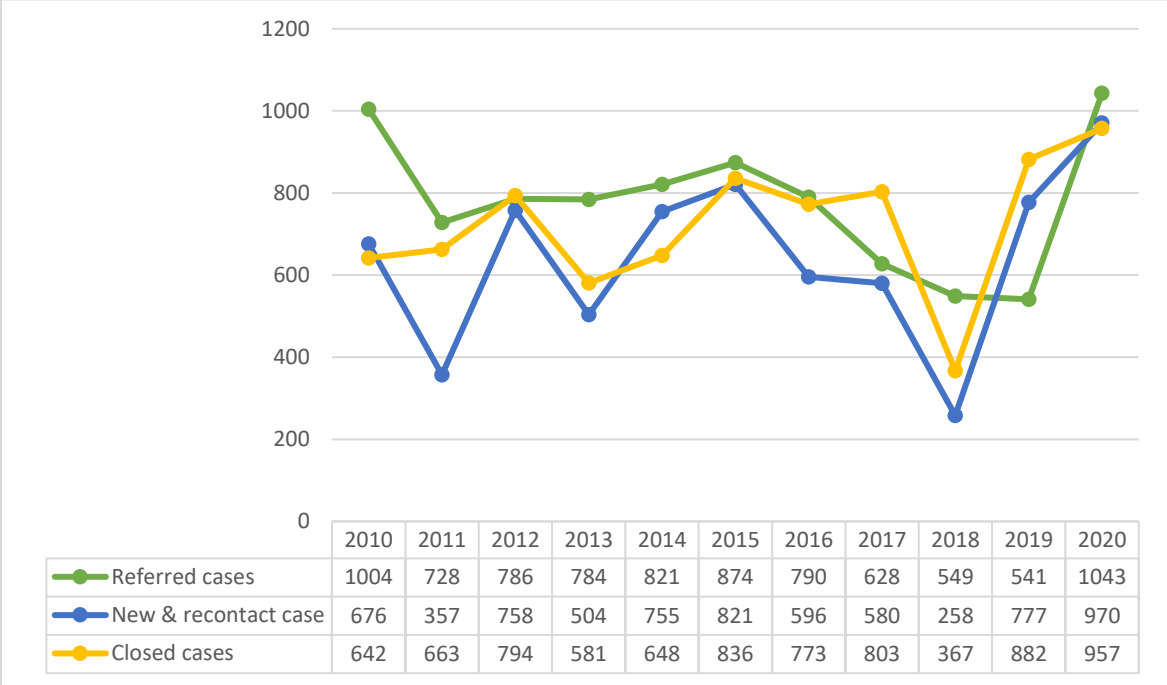
The data contained in this report is subject to revision and modification, as and when the relevant information becomes available.

Executive Summary

Approximate¹ total number of cases and individuals worked with at CP by year

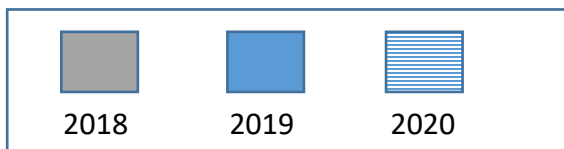
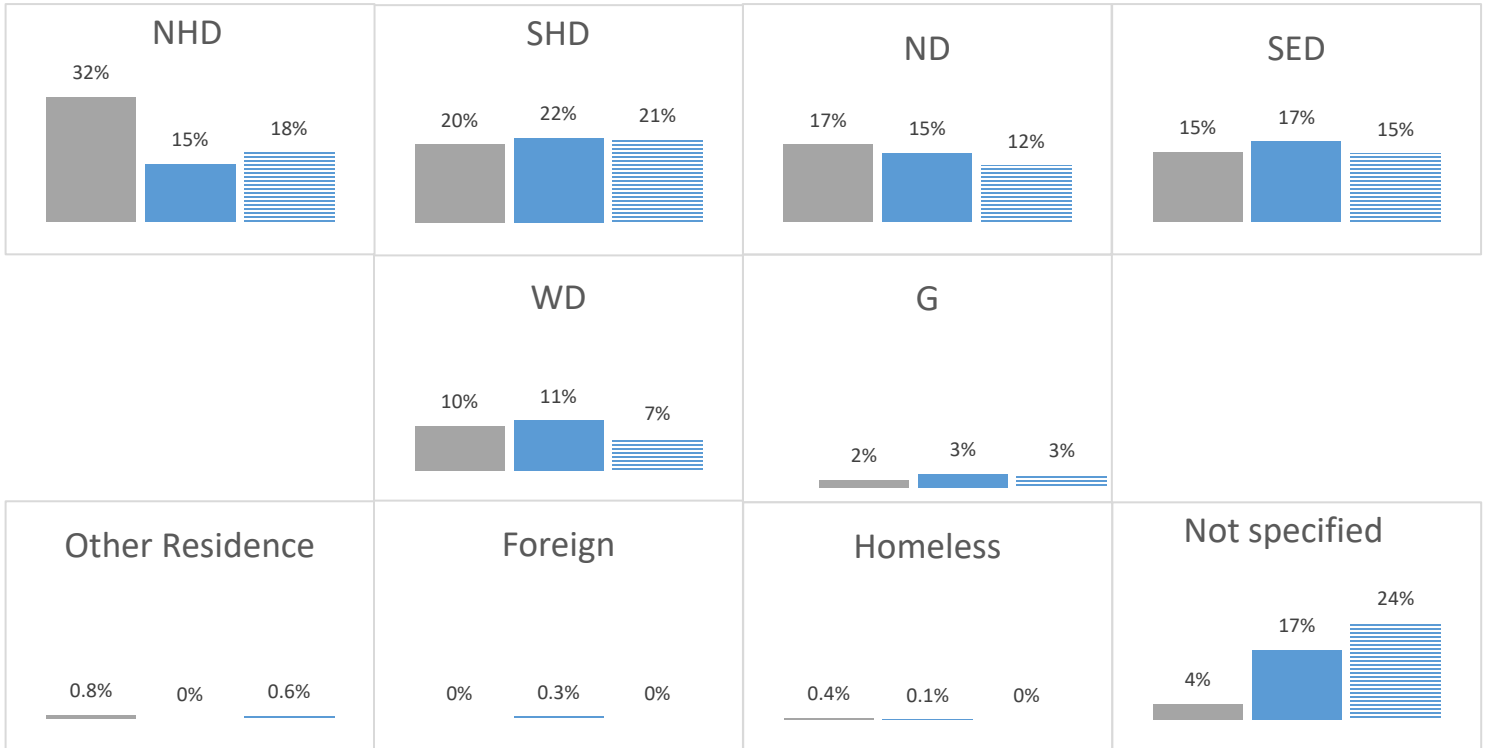
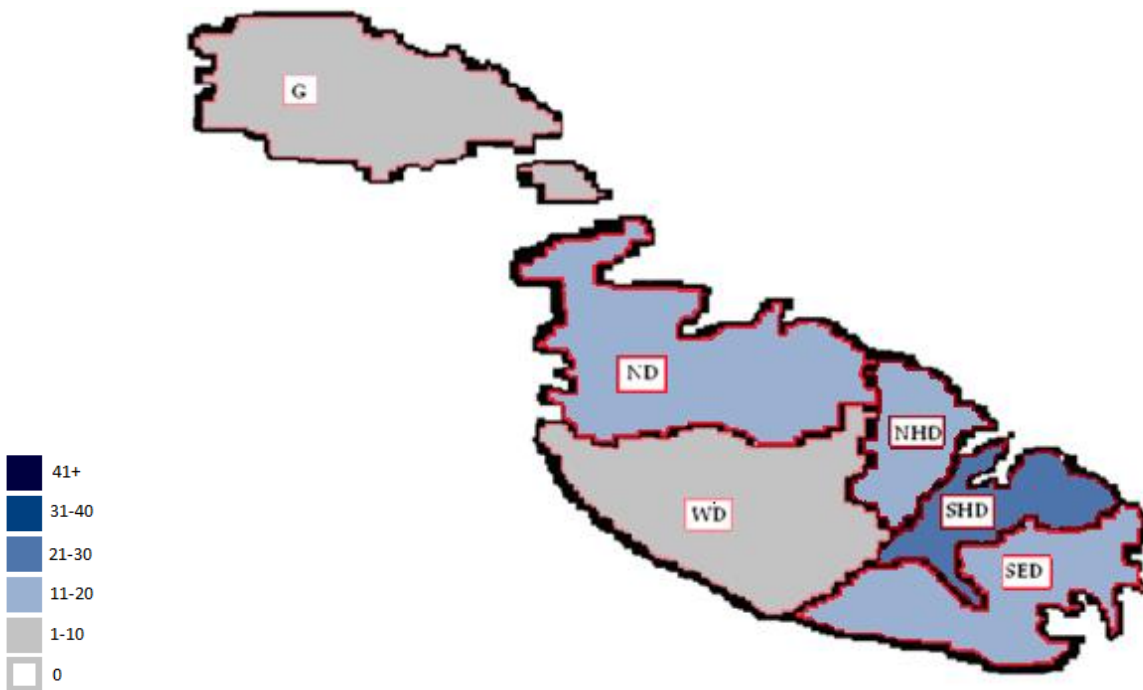


Approximate number of referrals, new and re-contact cases opened, cases closed by CP by year



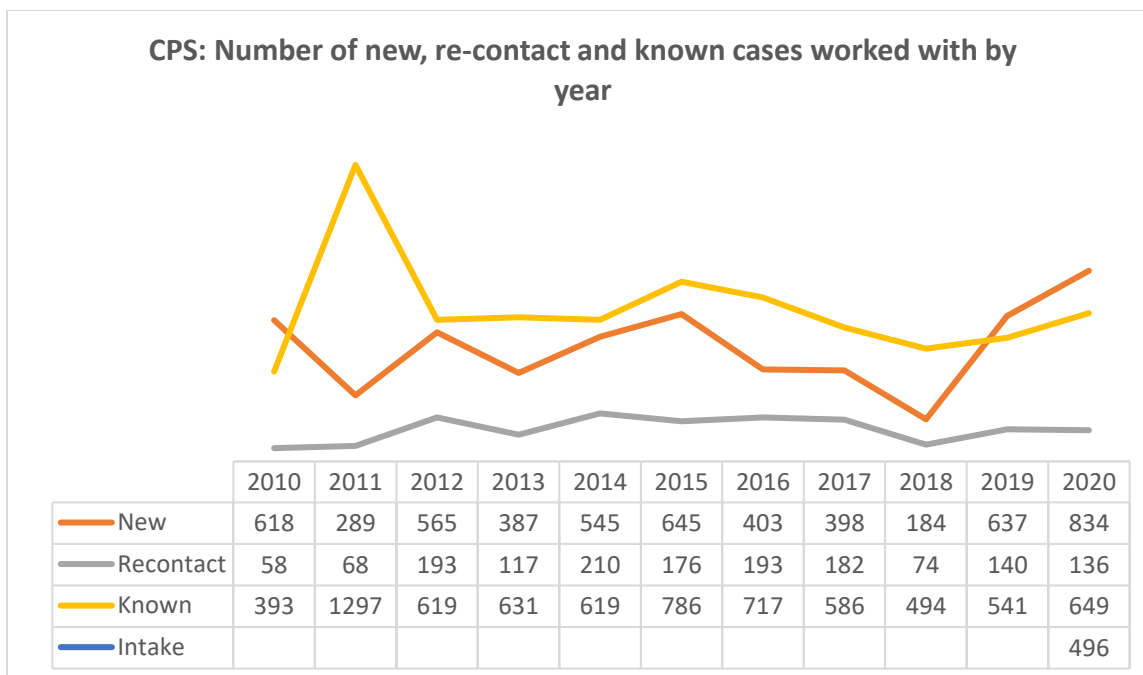
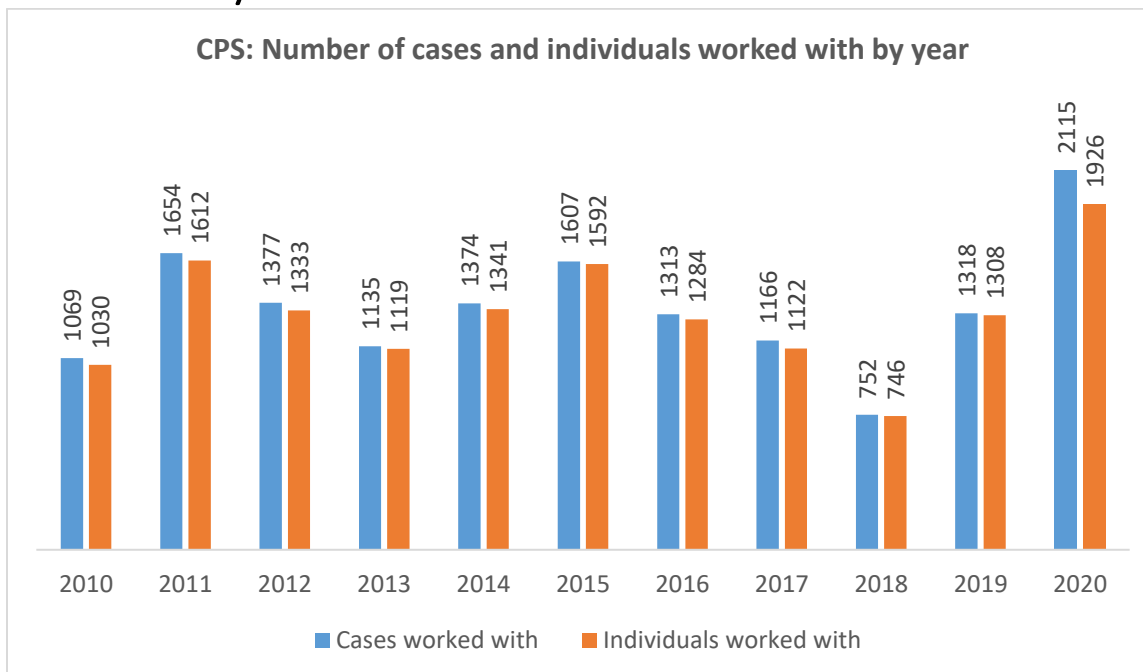
¹ Since individuals can attend more than one unit at the same time, summing the number of cases worked with will over-estimate the actual number of persons worked with. Therefore, the following data reported on multiple unit levels can only provide an approximation of the number of cases and the figures provided are higher than the actual numbers.

Percentage of new & re-contact cases worked with at CP by district of residence and year



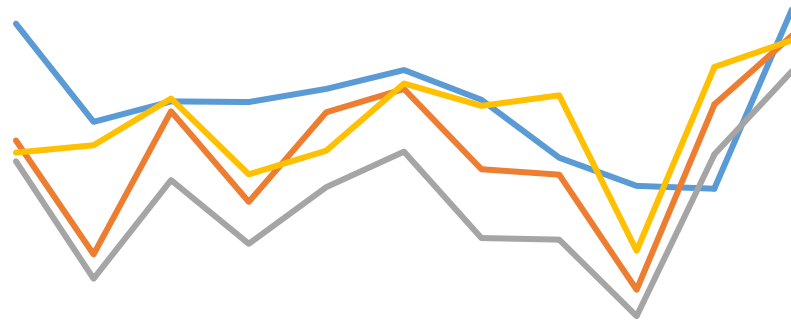
Child Protection Services (CPS)

Case Activity²



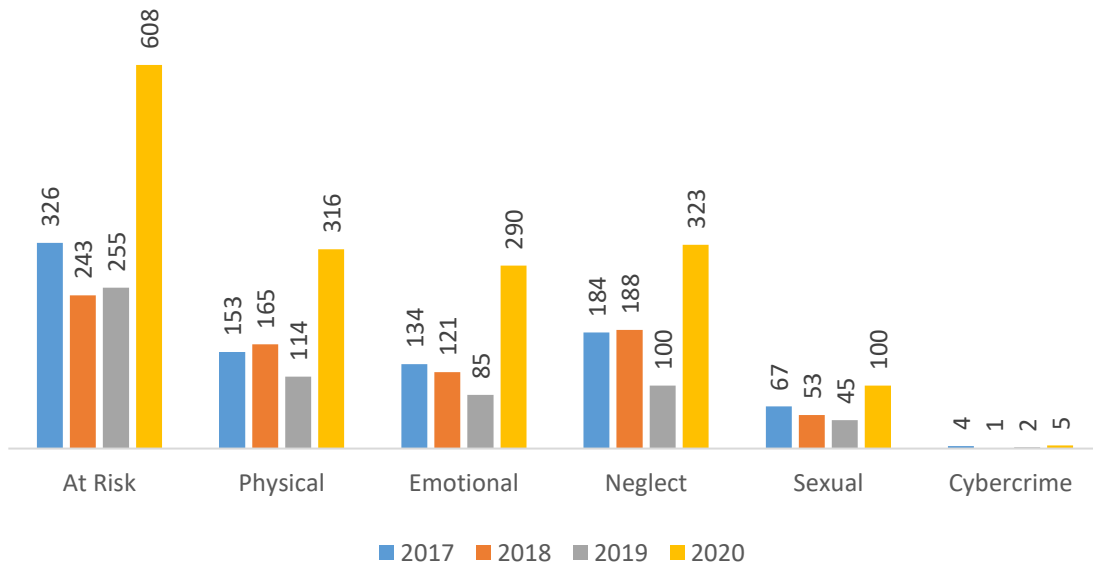
² A new data collection system and reporting format was introduced in 2020.

CPS: Number of referred, new & re-contact, new and closed cases by year



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Referred cases	1004	728	786	784	821	874	790	628	549	541	1043
New & recontact cases	676	357	758	504	755	821	596	580	258	777	970
New cases	618	289	565	387	545	645	403	398	184	637	870
Closed cases	642	663	794	581	648	836	773	803	367	882	957

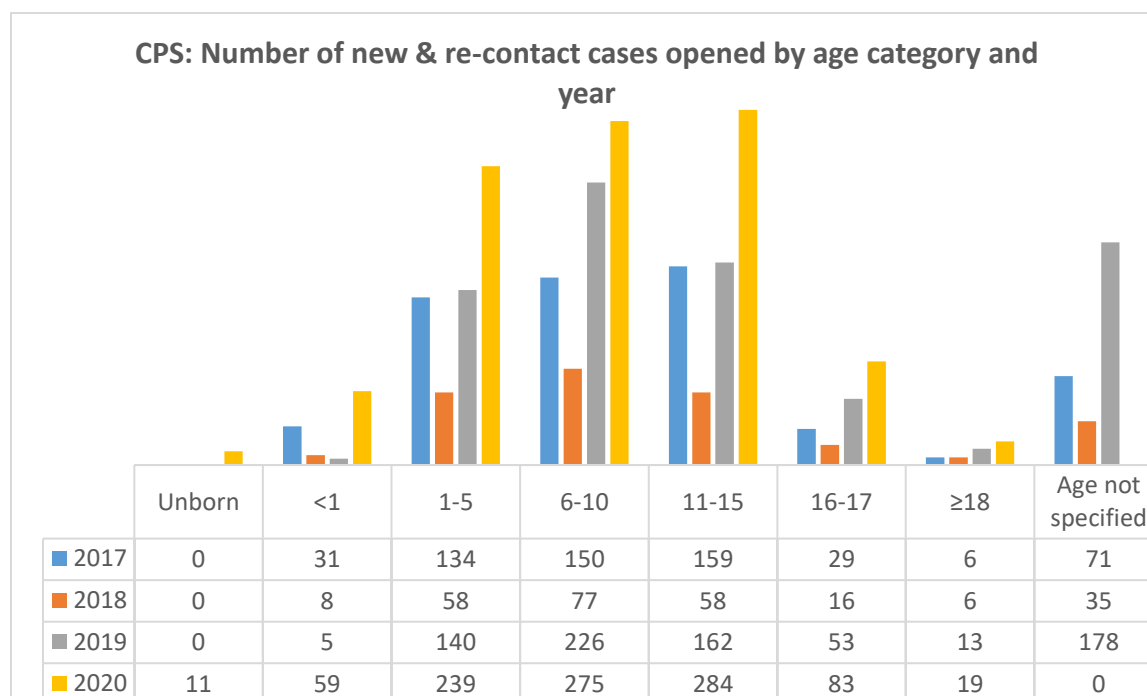
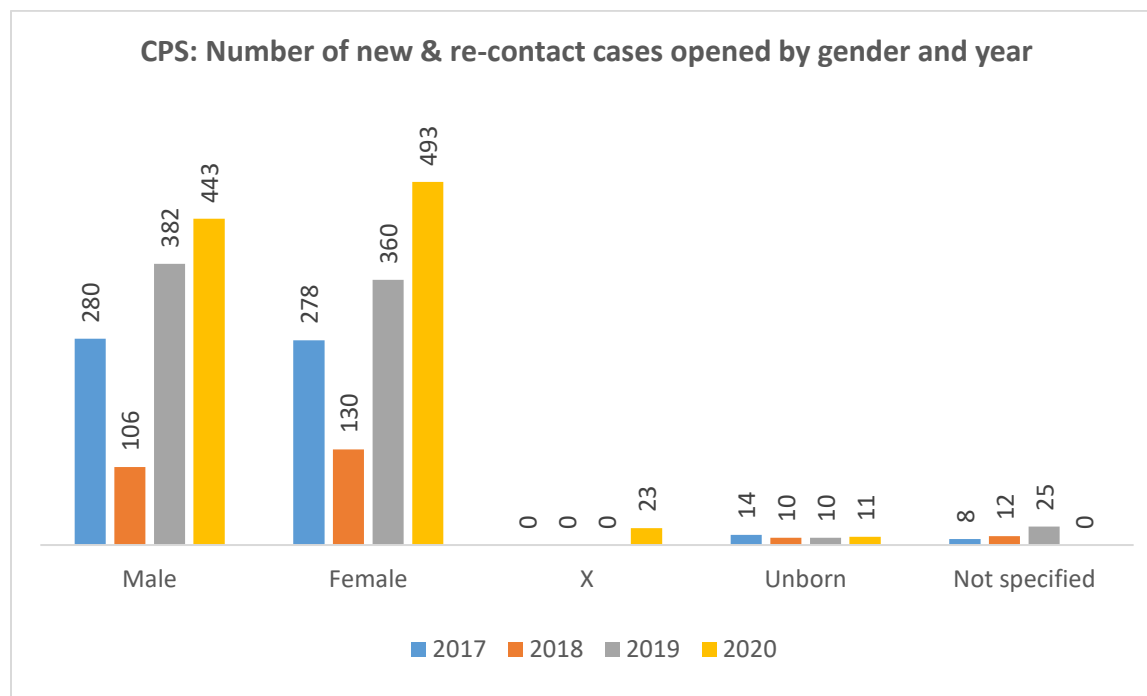
CPS: Type of alleged abuse at referral by year of referral



Note³

³ Service users may experience more than one form of abuse and thus the data cannot be summed.

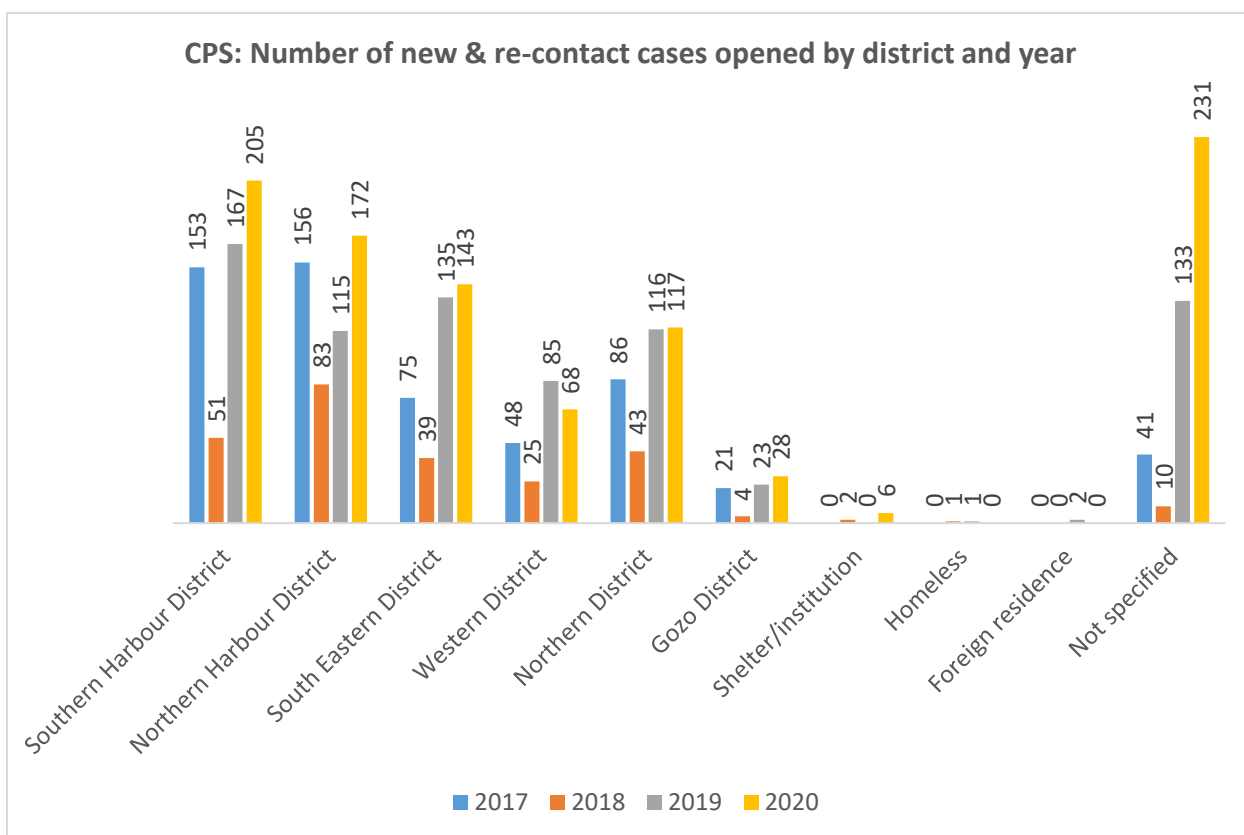
Details Regarding New and Re-contact Cases Opened

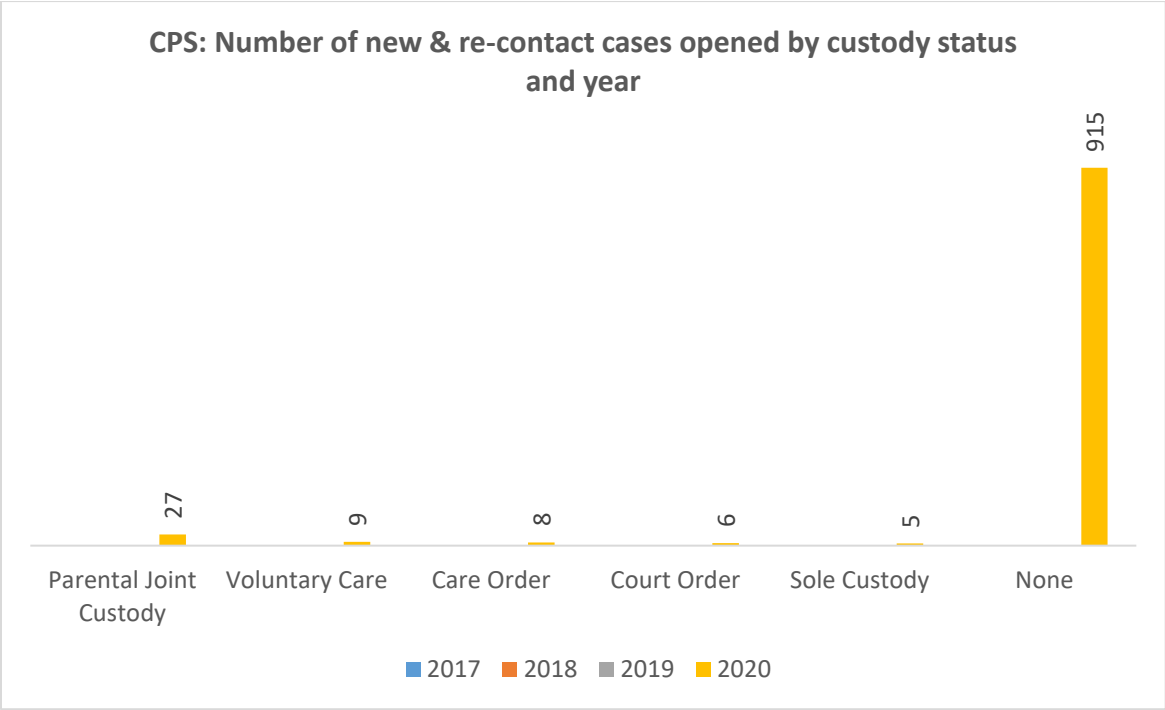


CPS: New & re-contact cases opened by age and gender January – December 2020

	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	11	0	11
<1	17	21	21	0	0	59
1-5	126	113	0	0	0	239
6-10	142	133	0	0	0	275
11-15	128	154	2	0	0	284
16-17	25	58	0	0	0	83
≥18	5	14	0	0	0	19
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	443	493	23	11	0	970

CPS: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by district and year





Note: started to be reported in 2020.

Appendix

Glossary of Terms

Variable	Definition
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.
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.
New case	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 case	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 case	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.
Intake	When a case is referred to the service it is placed on intake (intake is the initial status for every case). At this stage information is gathered to address any immediate needs and to determine whether a case will be assigned to a professional, placed on the waiting list, opened, or closed from intake. If a case is not a known case or opened case within the reporting period it remains an intake case.
Referred cases	The period when a case was referred to the unit. A referral is when an individual's details have been given to the services by another person or the service users 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.
New & re-contact case	The period when a case was opened or allocated. This includes new cases (first ever contact with the service) and re-opened cases (cases worked with in the past) and so the same individual may be seen more than once in a year.
Closed case	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.
Family cases	The service works with families. A family case may consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individuals: One individual who attends in the year on their own without any other family member, or - Family: A number of individuals identified as part of the same family attending in the year.
Primary problem	Service users often present a complexity of issues. The primary issue is the only, main, or first issue recorded as identified by the service user or the professional.
Not specified	A variable that cannot be specified because of a lack of information or the service user was unwilling to provide the 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 (e.g. elderly home), shelter (e.g. Ghabex or YMCA), correctional facility or medical facility (e.g. Mount Carmel Hospital).
Foreign residence	Resides in a foreign country and is in Malta for a short stay.

Service Descriptions

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