



Child Protection Directorate

Yearly Statistical Report

January to December 2022

March 2023



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Foundation for Social Welfare Services, Malta
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Introduction

This report provides statistical information regarding Child Protection Directorate (CP), which falls under the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS). The data includes, but is not limited to, the number of: cases worked with, individuals worked with, referrals, new and re-contact cases, and cases closed. Data regarding new and re-contact cases is also stratified by key socio-demographic variables in order to look at trends. All the information provided in this report gives an indication of service users attending the various services and some information about service performance. For this report, the term 'service users' refers to persons using the service from referral until case closure. 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 FSWS's Research Team in mid-January 2023. Where applicable, the report provides data on an individual service user level (i.e., number of individuals) as well as on multiple service users attending multiple times level (i.e., number of cases). It is important to note that the same individuals may stop and start attending a given service multiple times in the reporting period and/or may be attending one or more services concurrently within the reporting period (i.e., have multiple cases recorded). As a result, the summing of data from services provides the number of cases worked with but the summing of the number of individuals may over-state the number of individuals attending the agency or directorate. With the Case Management System, we are now able to report the true number of individual service users across the entire Agency.

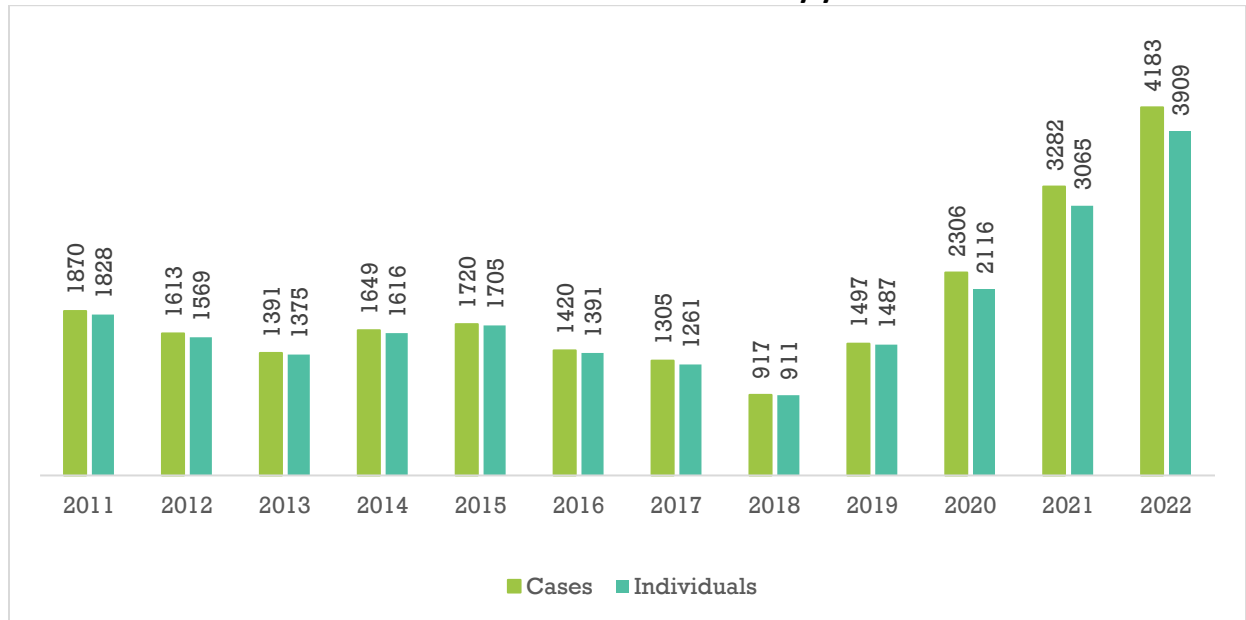
When new data collection systems are introduced, it can change how the data is collected, introduce new variables and thus impact observed trends. Relevant information about aspects which may have impacted the data and influence trends can be found as footnotes throughout the report.

This report would not have been possible without the kind assistance of each worker who provided and keyed the data.

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

Executive Summary

Total¹ number of cases and individuals worked with at CP by year

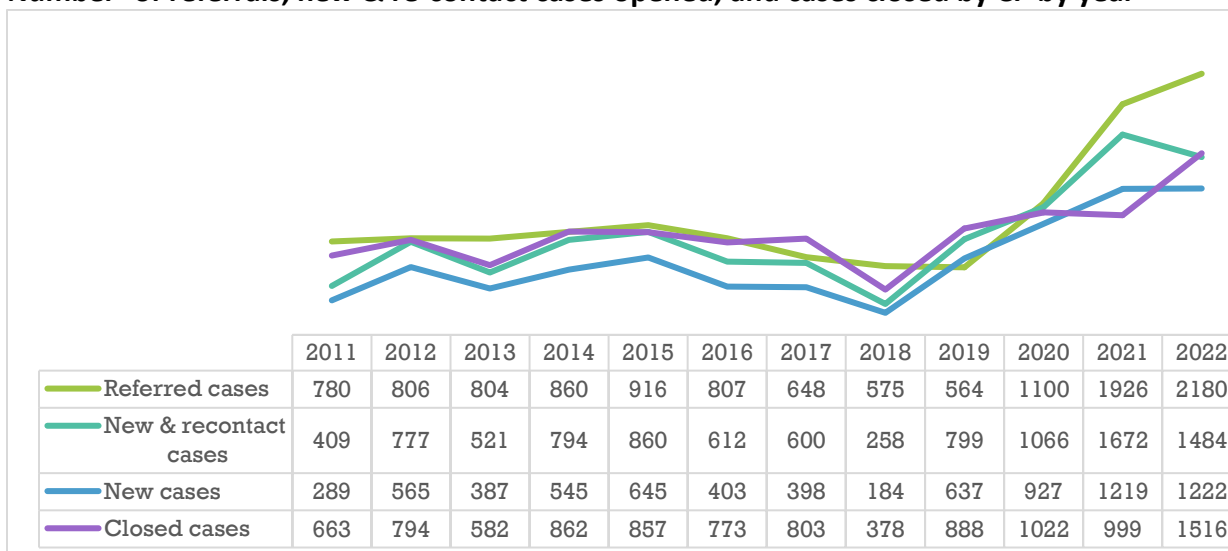


Case activity: Jan-Dec 2022

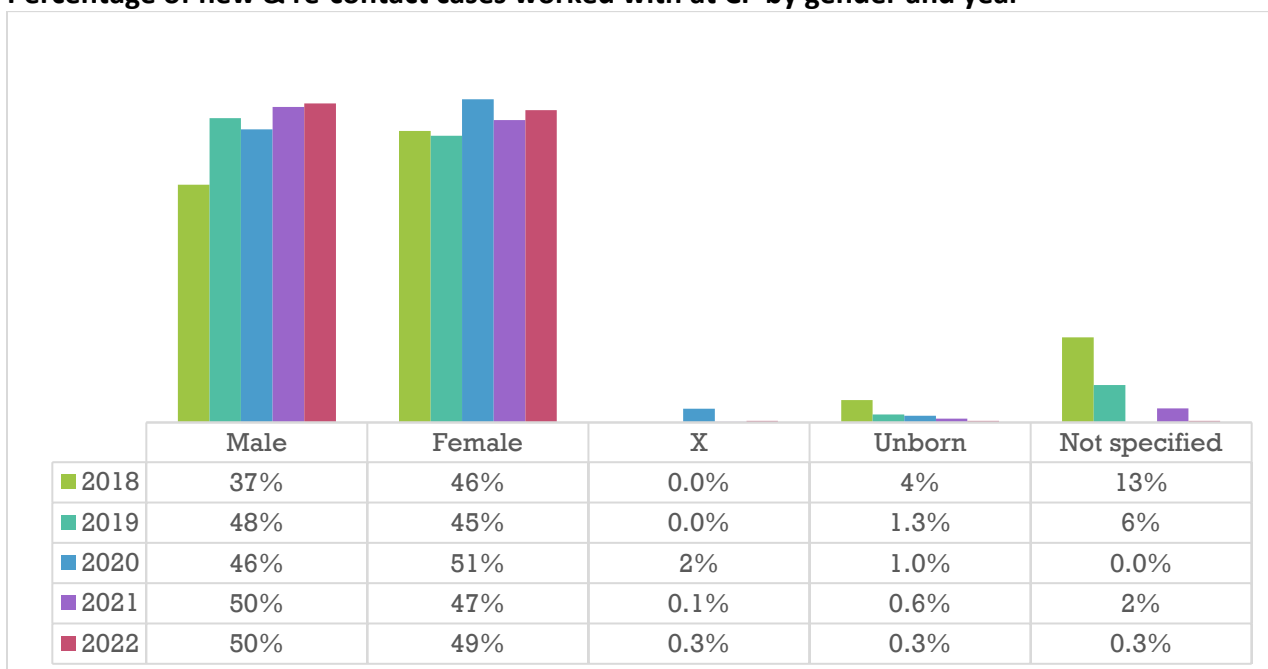
	Total cases worked with	Individuals worked with
Child Protection Service	3790	3538
Court Services	393	376

¹ As of 2022, the number of individuals is the number of individuals across the entire Agency/Directorate. Prior to 2022 the number of individuals on an Agency/Directorate level was a sum of the individuals reported by each service and was thus only an approximation.

Number² of referrals, new & re-contact cases opened, and cases closed by CP by year

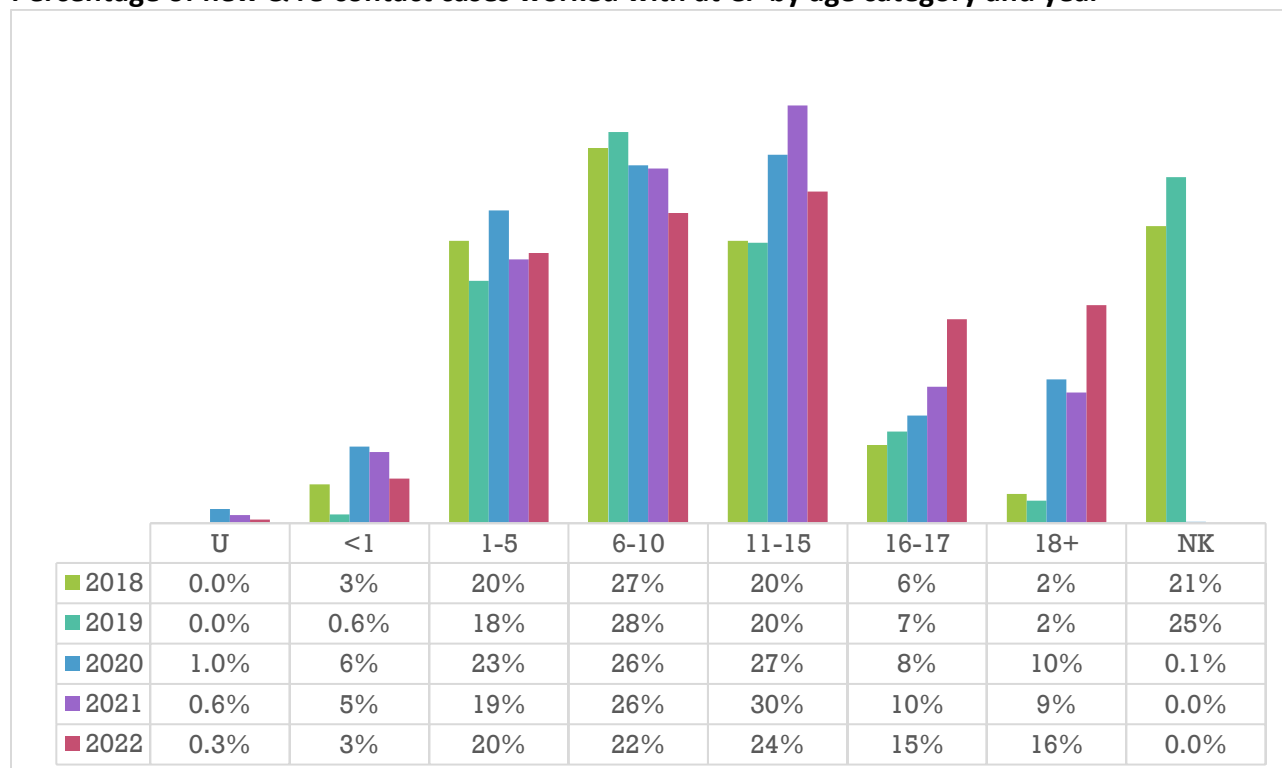


Percentage of new & re-contact cases worked with at CP by gender and year



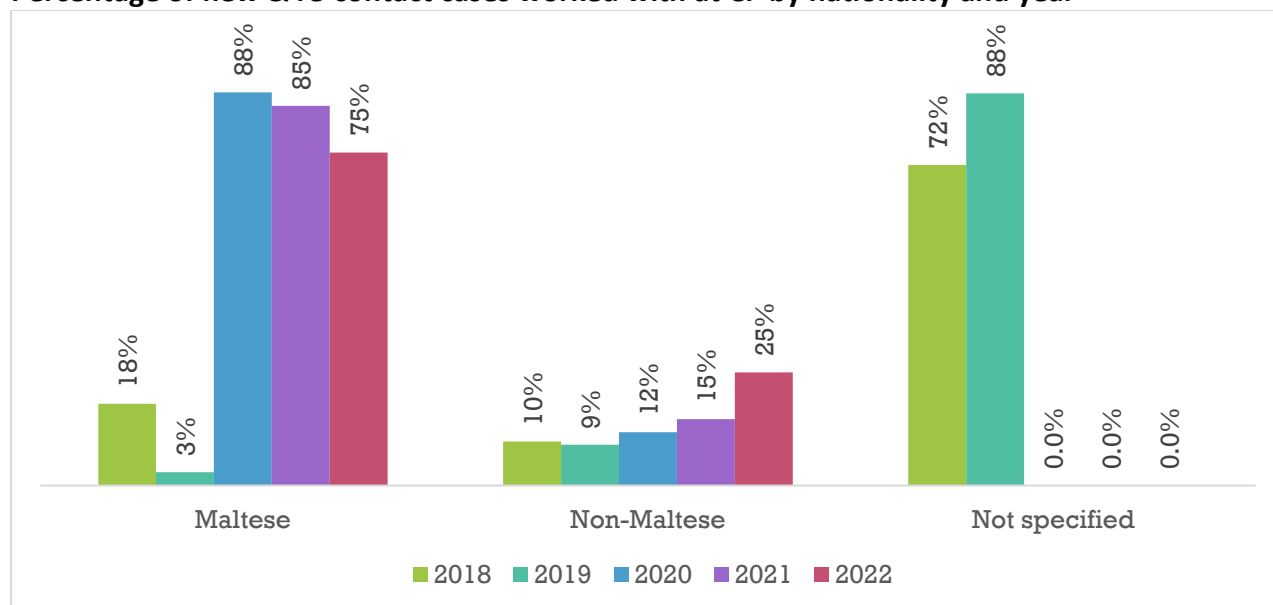
² As of 2022, the number of new cases is the number of new cases across the entire Agency/Directorate. Prior to 2022 the number of new cases on an Agency/Directorate level was a sum of the new cases reported by each service.

Percentage of new & re-contact cases worked with at CP by age category and year



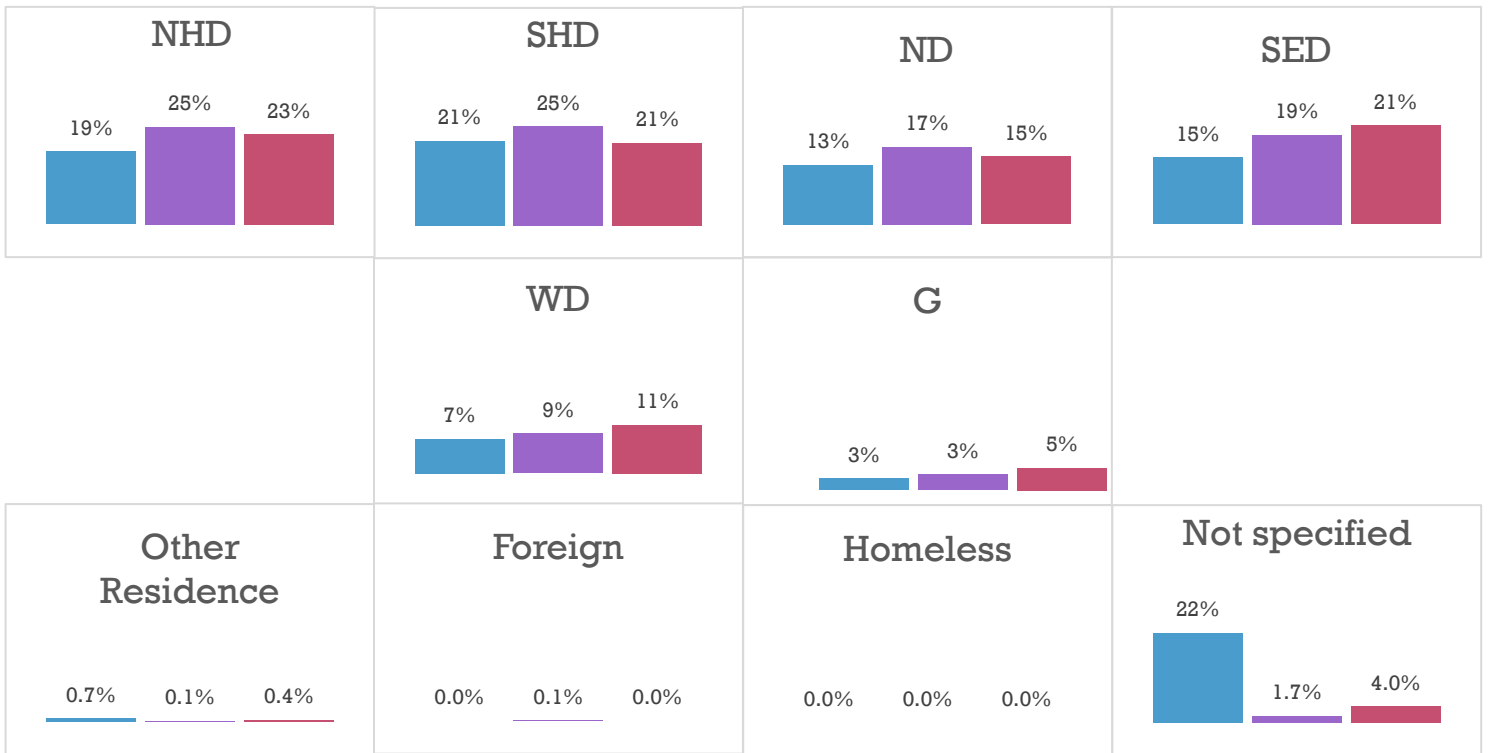
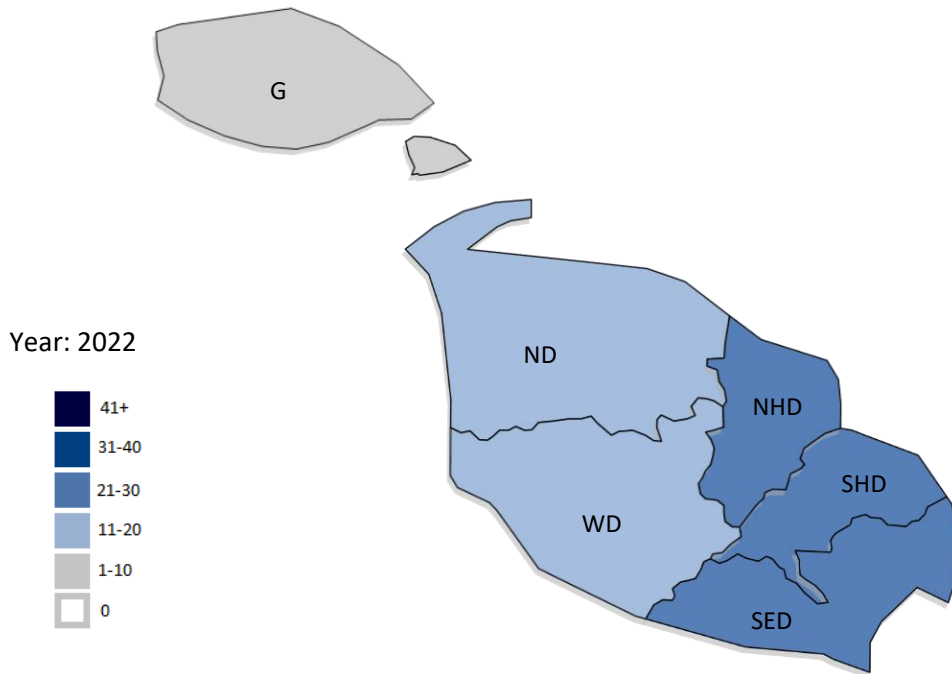
Graph Key³

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

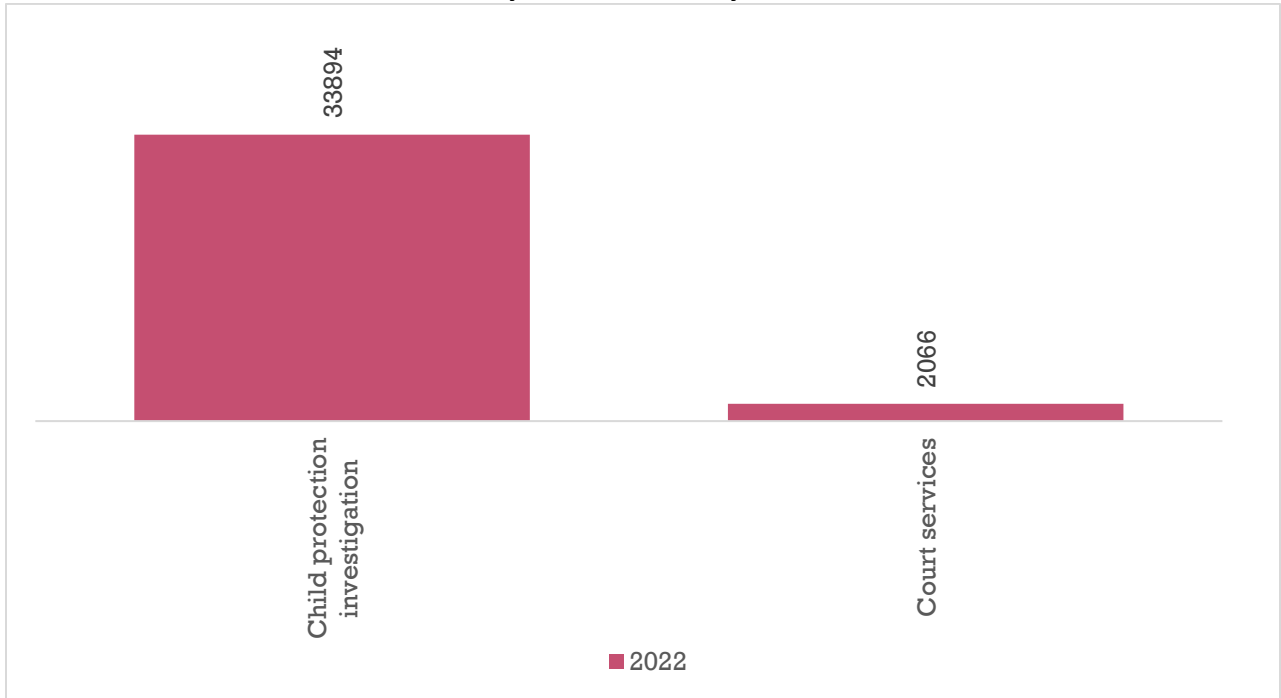


³ U: Unborn; NK: Not Specified.

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



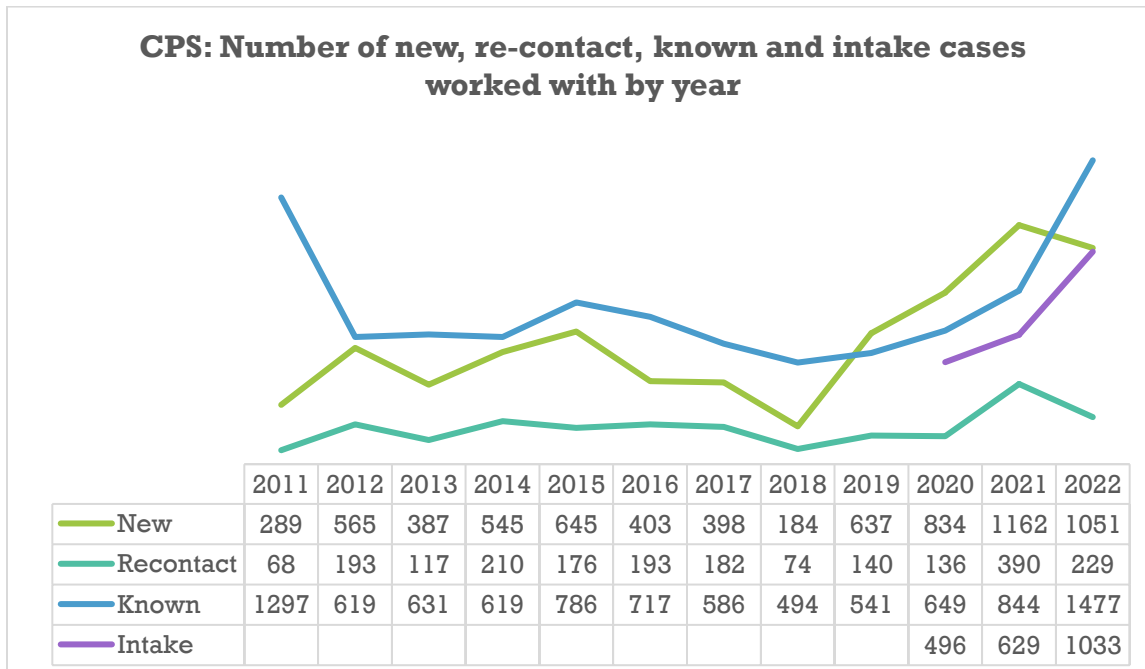
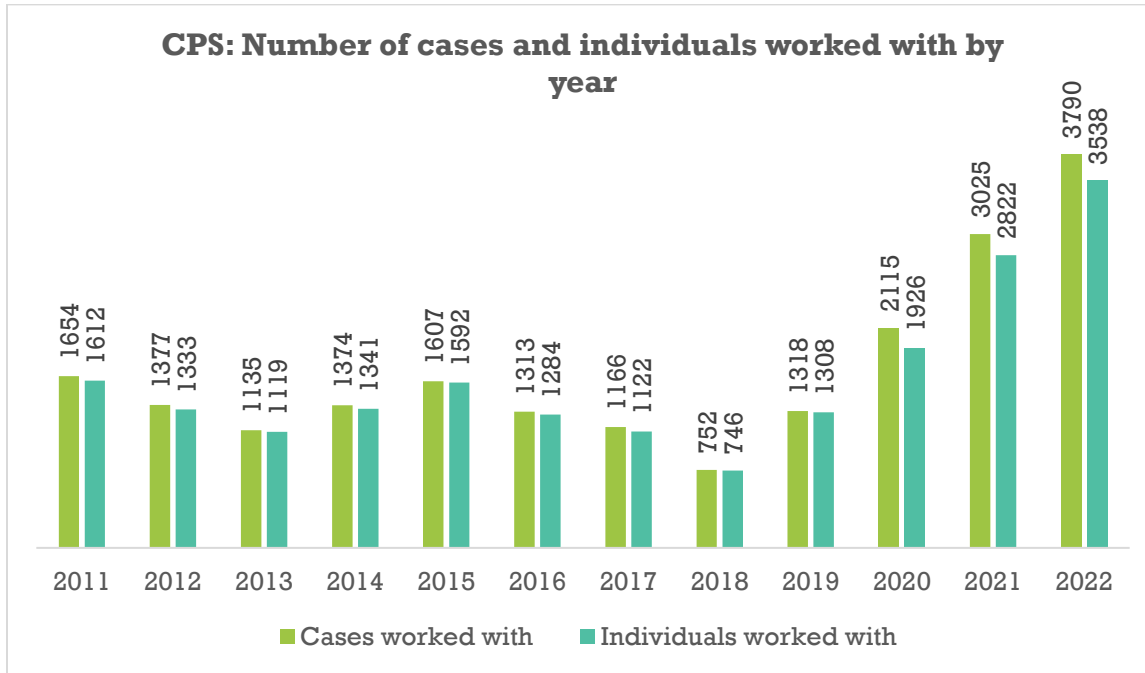
Number of interventions conducted by CP service and year



Note⁴

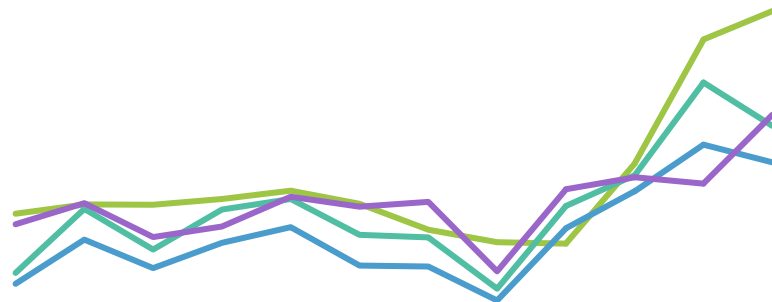
⁴ Only provides the number of interventions that have been recorded within the Case Management System as completed or conducted.

Child Protection Services (CPS) Case Activity⁵



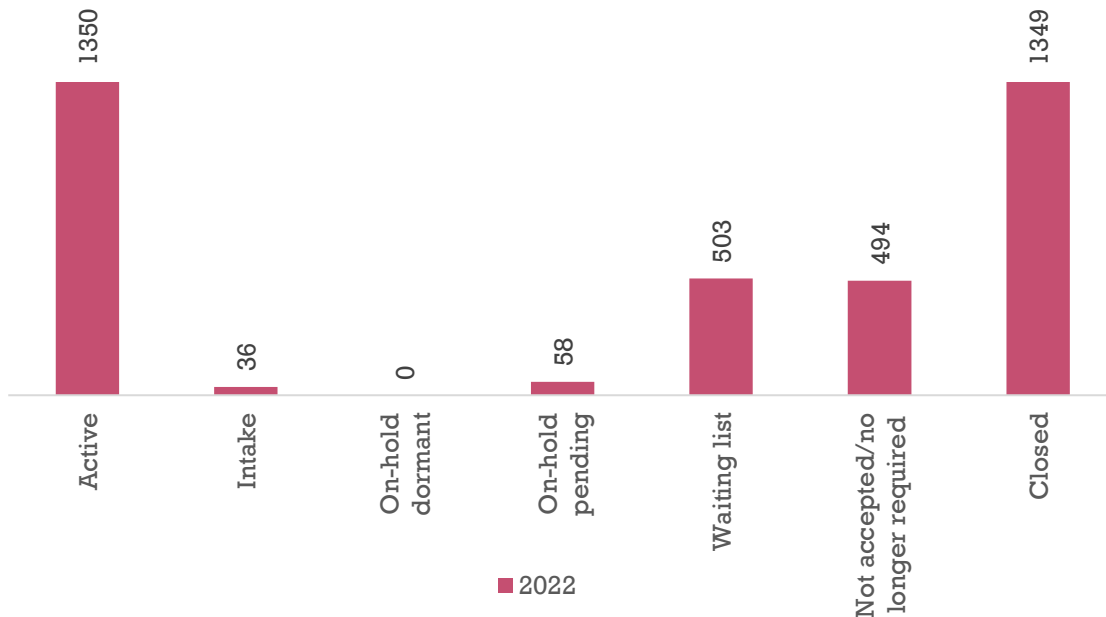
⁵ A new data collection system and reporting format were introduced in 2020.

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



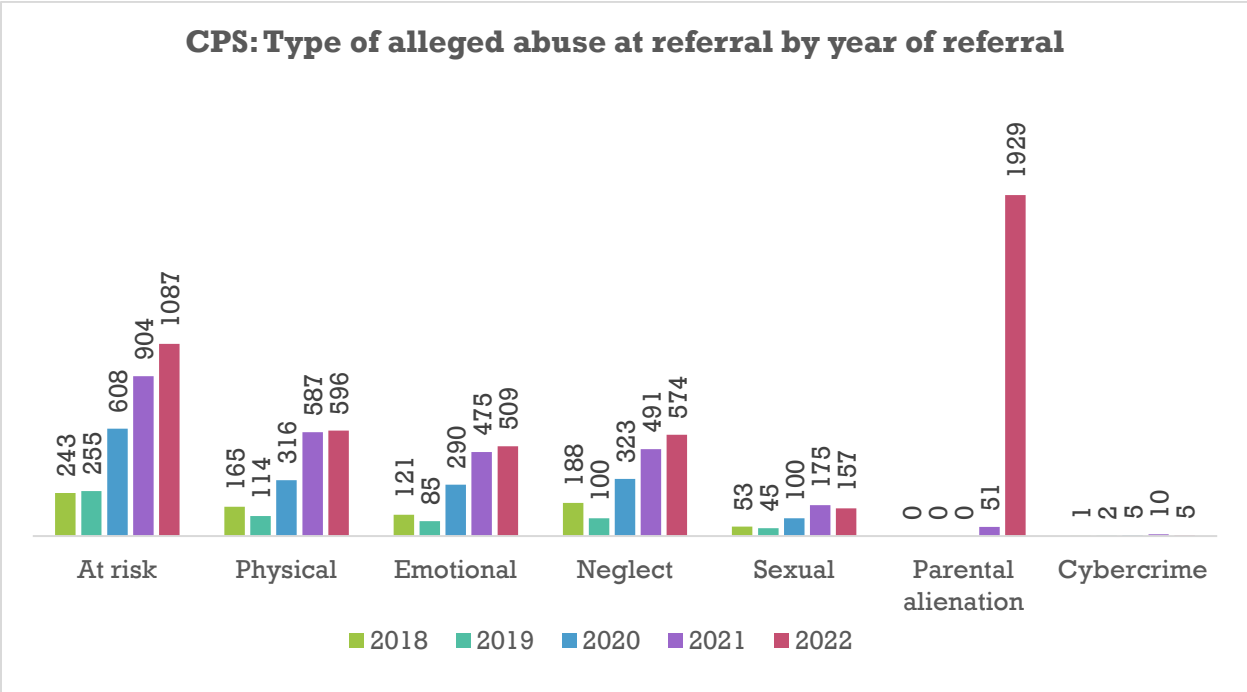
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Referred cases	728	786	784	821	874	790	628	549	541	1043	1822	2000
New & recontact cases	357	758	504	755	821	596	580	258	777	970	1552	1280
New cases	289	565	387	545	645	403	398	184	637	870	1162	1051
Closed cases	663	794	581	648	836	773	803	367	882	957	918	1349

CPS: Case state at the end of the reporting period



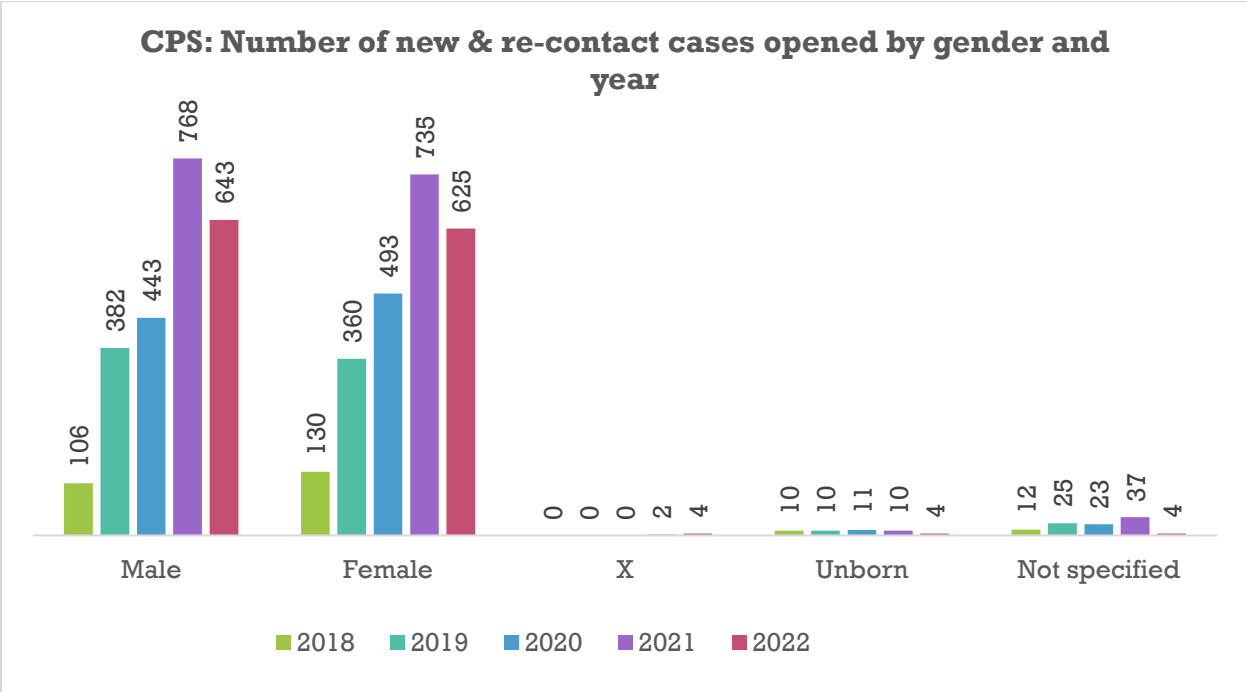
Note⁶

⁶ The waiting list provides the number of service users who were assessed and found to be at a low risk, have no immediate requirements and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. They will still be monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.



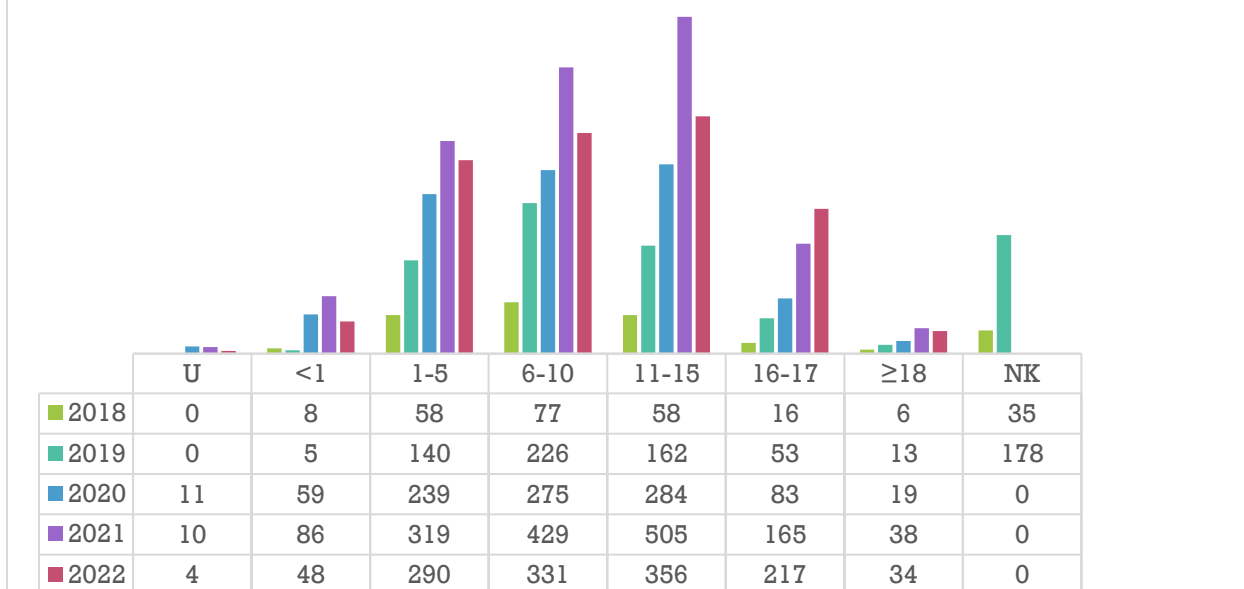
Note⁷

Details Regarding New and Re-contact Cases Opened



⁷ Service users may experience more than one form of abuse and thus the data cannot be summed.

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

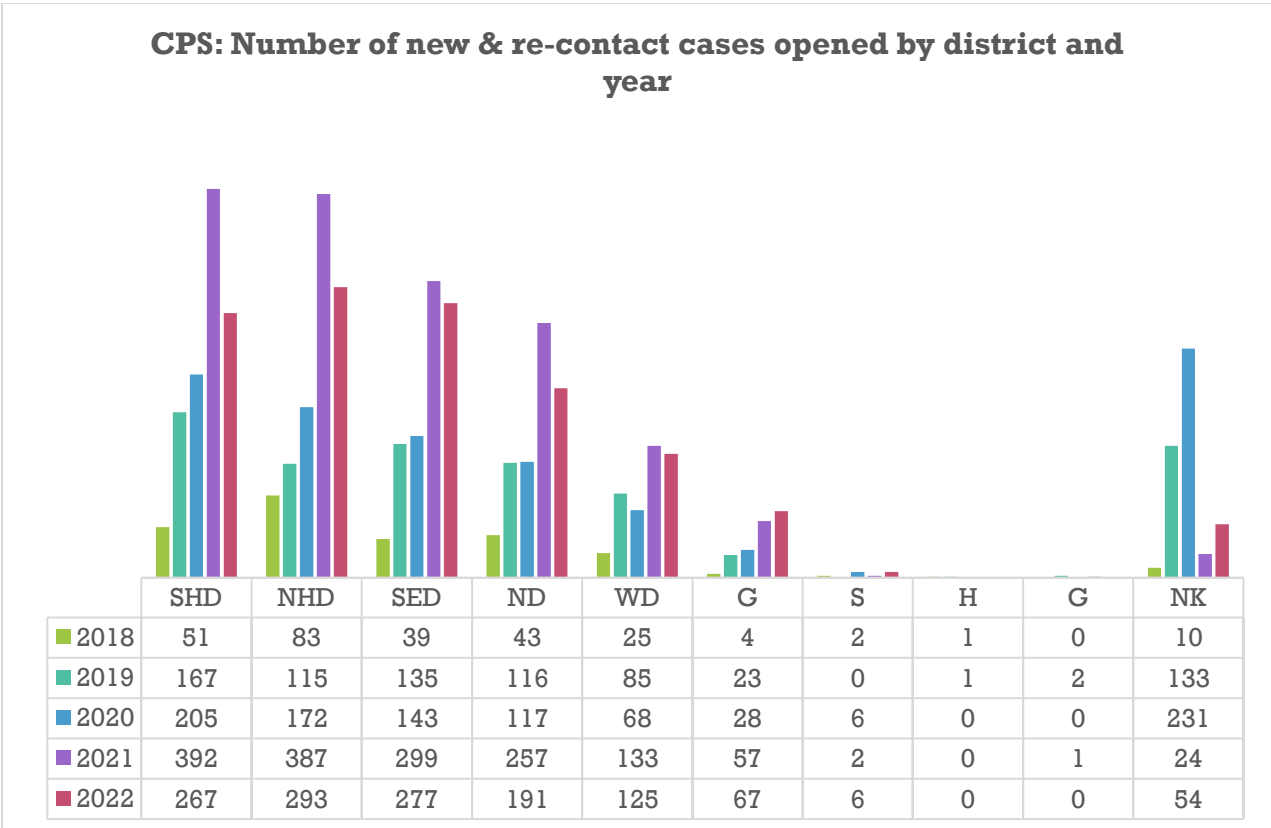
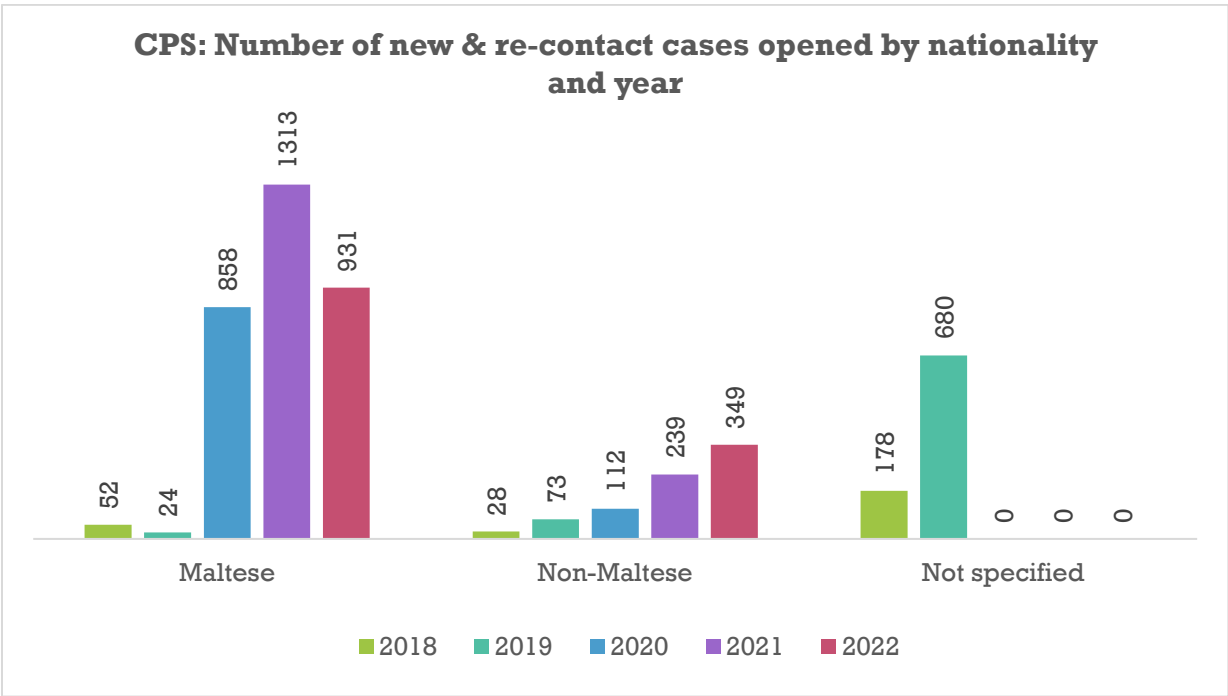


Graph Key⁸

**CPS: New & re-contact cases opened by age category and gender
January – December 2022**

	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	4	0	4
<1	23	21	2	-	2	48
1-5	143	144	1	-	2	290
6-10	182	149	0	-	0	331
11-15	152	203	1	-	0	356
16-17	134	83	0	-	0	217
≥18	9	25	0	-	0	34
Not specified	0	0	0	-	0	0
Total	643	625	4	4	4	1280

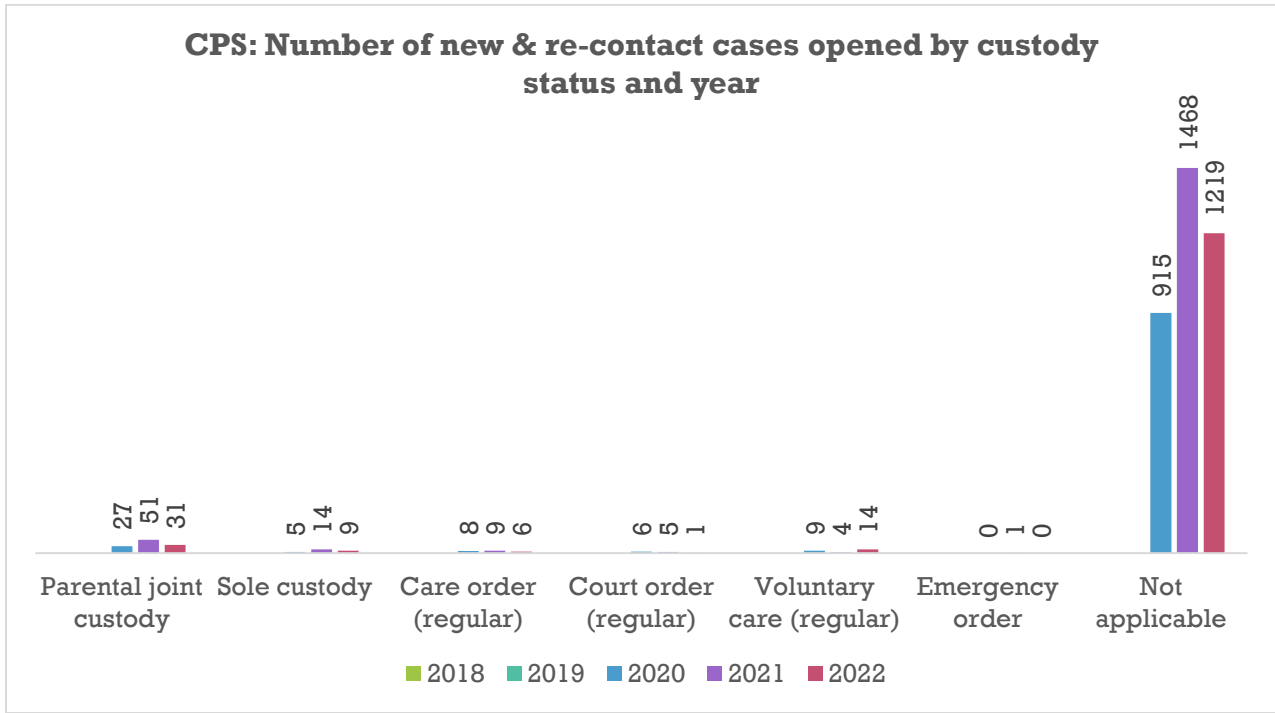
⁸ U: Unborn; NK: Not Specified.



Graph Key⁹

⁹ SHD: Southern Harbour District; NHD: Northern Harbour District; SED: Southern Eastern District; ND: Northern District; WD: Western District; G: Gozo; S: Shelter/Institution; F: Foreign Residence; NK: Not Specified.

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

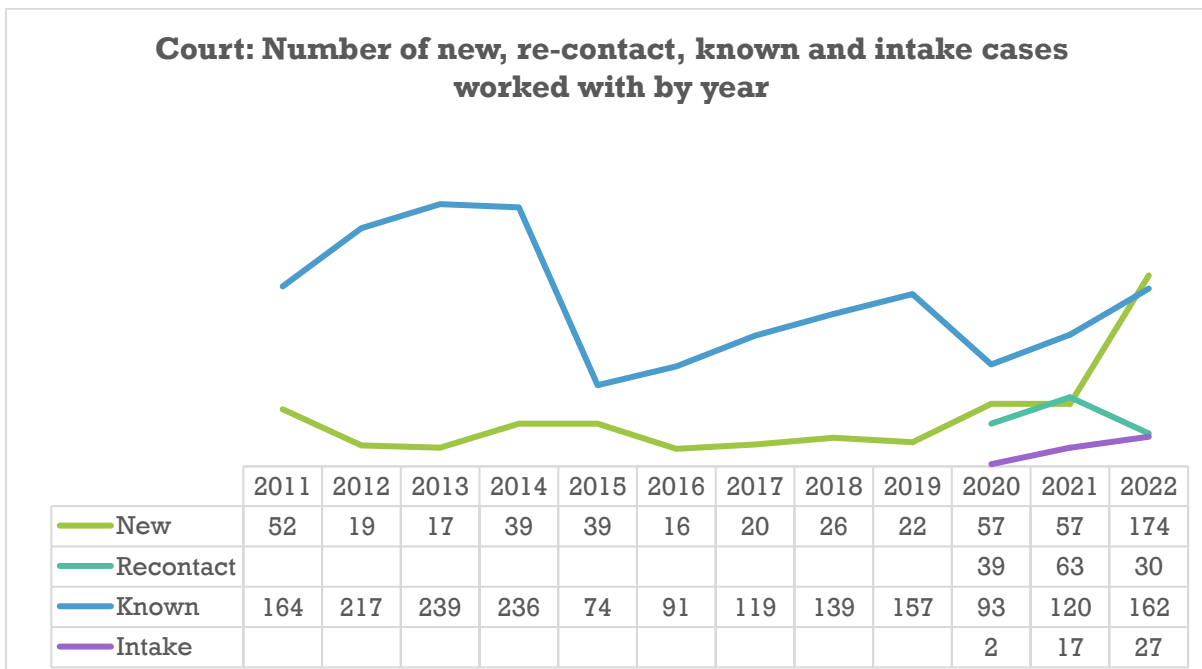
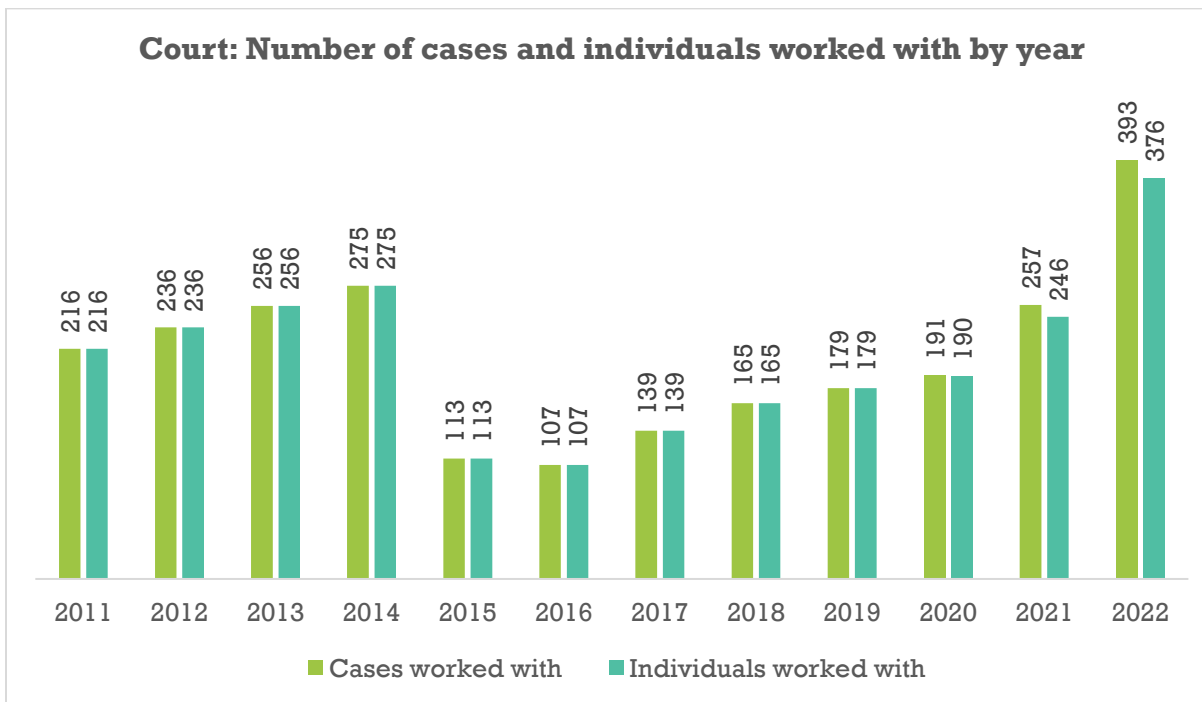


Note¹⁰

¹⁰ The custody status variable was first reported in 2020.

Court Services

Case Activity¹¹

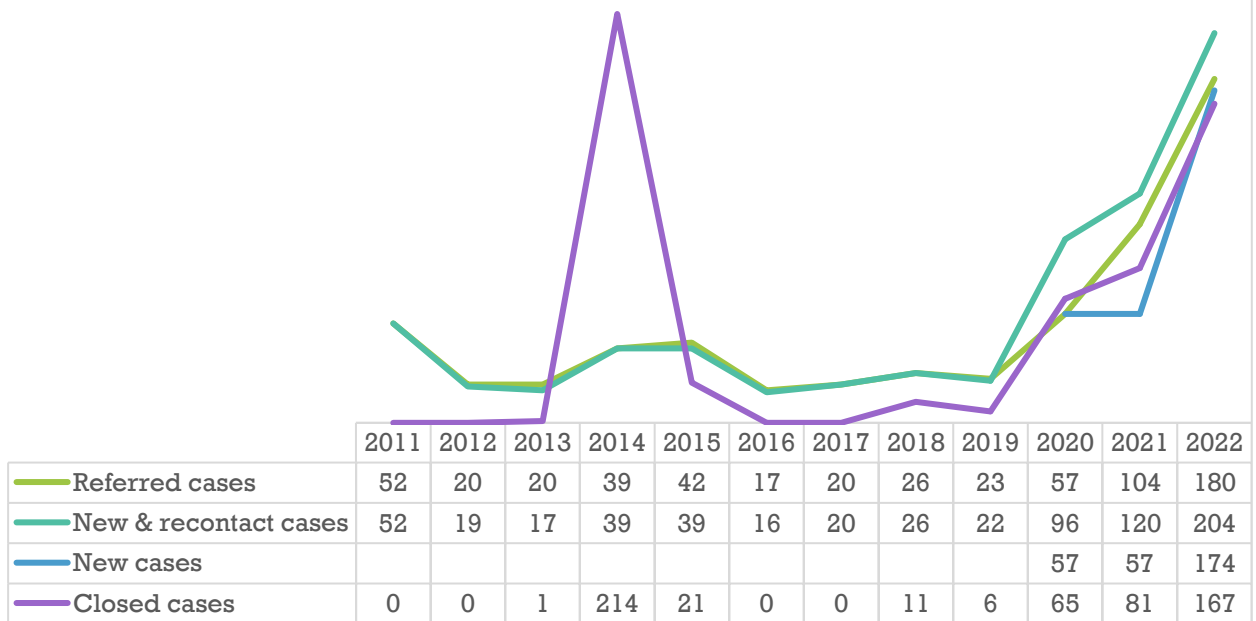


Note¹²

¹¹ A new data collection system and reporting format were introduced in 2020. In 2021, the Service was moved from the Alternative Care Directorate to the Child Protection Directorate.

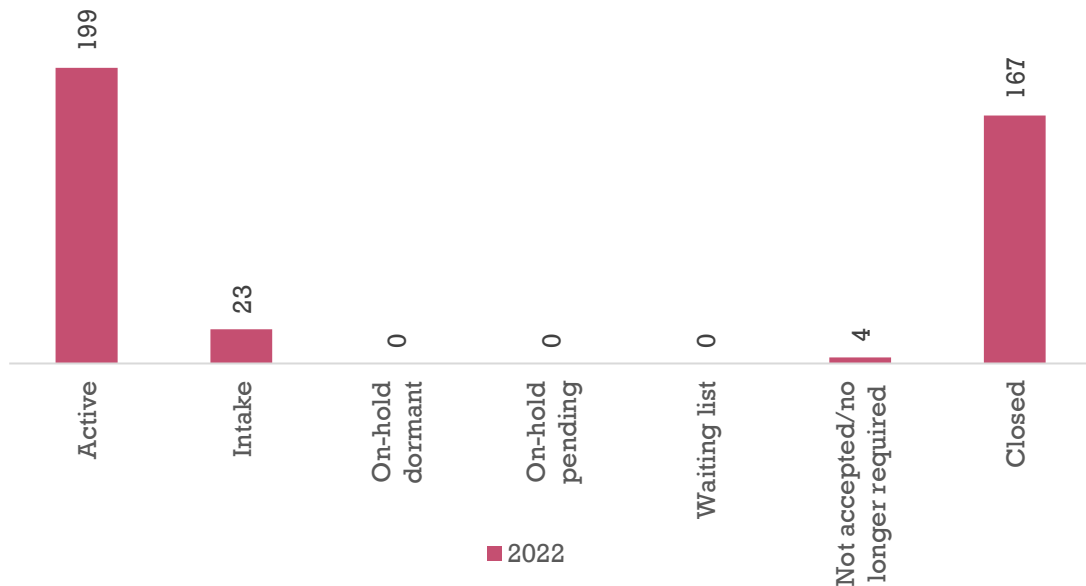
¹² Between 2010 and 2019 new and recontact cases could not be distinguished due to the data system and all cases were recorded as new cases.

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



Note¹³

Court: Case state at the end of the reporting period

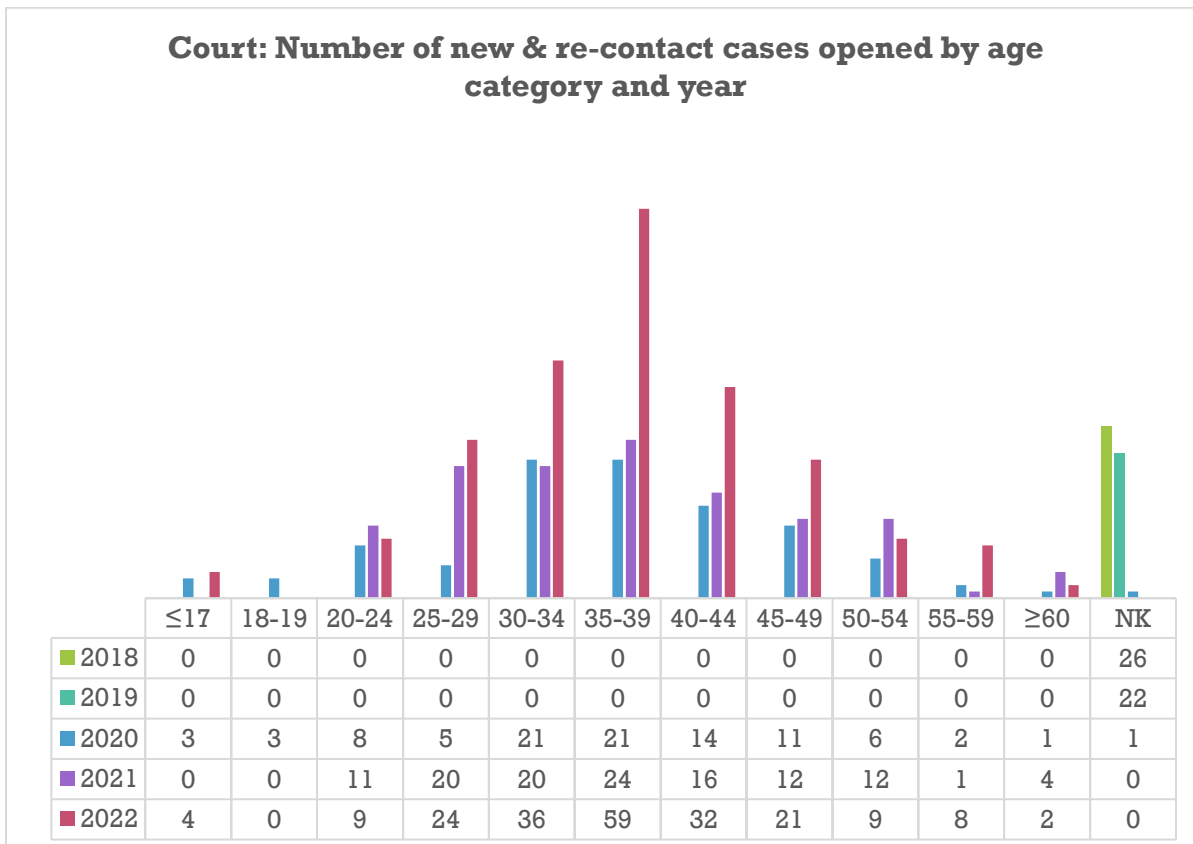
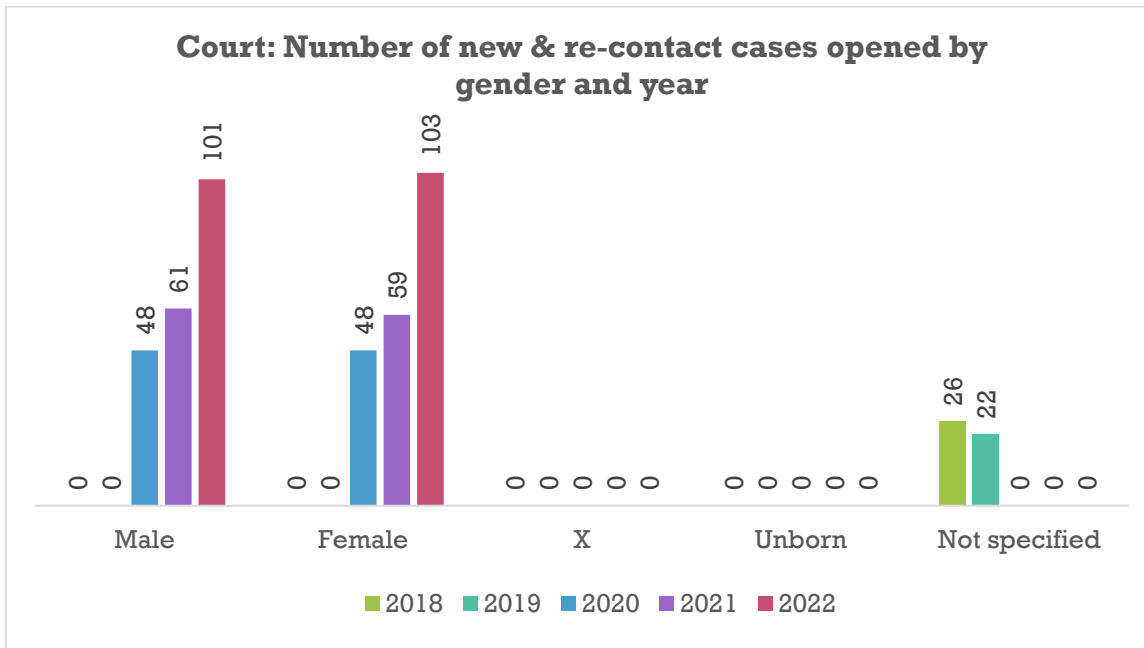


Note¹⁴

¹³ Between 2010 and 2019 new and recontact cases could not be distinguished due to the data system and all cases were recorded as new cases.

¹⁴ The waiting list provides the number of service users who were assessed and found to be at a low risk, have no immediate requirements and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. They will still be monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

Details Regarding New and Re-contact Cases Opened



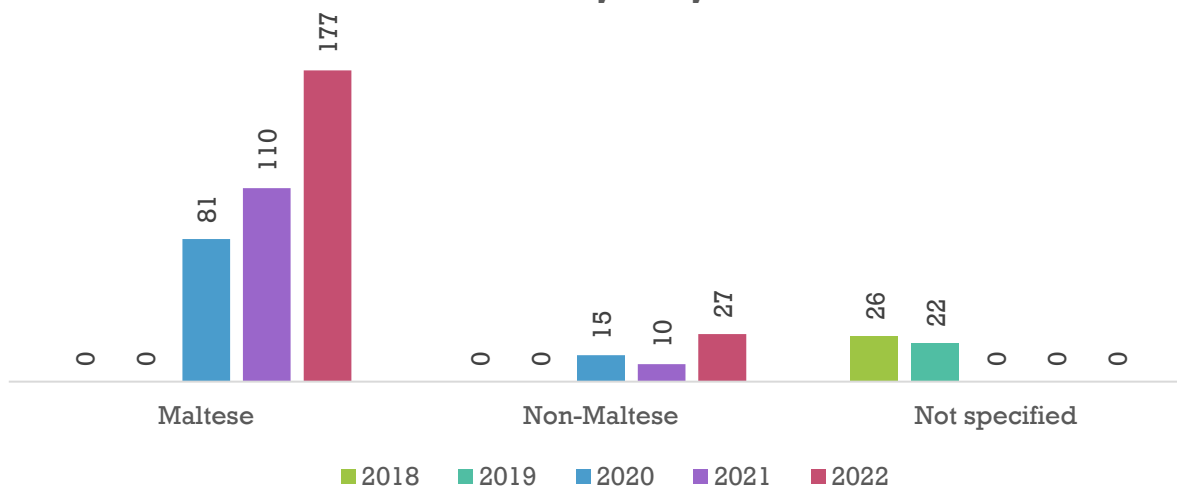
Graph Key¹⁵

¹⁵ NK: Not Specified.

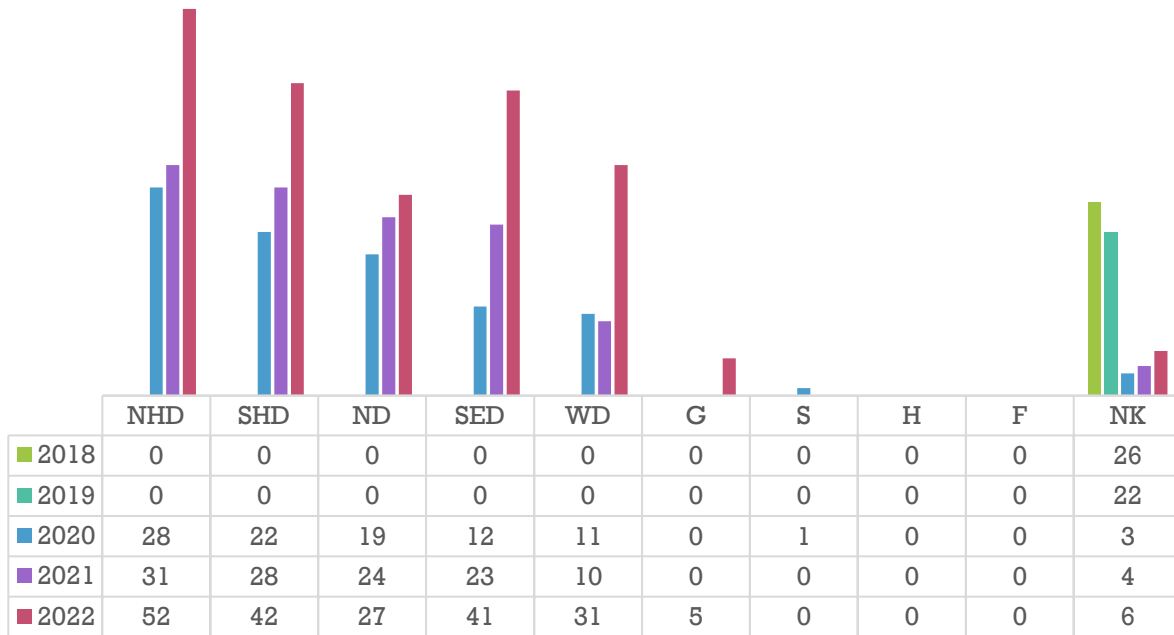
**Court: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by age category and gender
January – December 2022**

	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
≤17	1	3	0	-	0	4
18-19	0	0	0	-	0	0
20-24	2	7	0	-	0	9
25-29	11	13	0	-	0	24
30-34	16	20	0	-	0	36
35-39	25	34	0	-	0	59
40-44	17	15	0	-	0	32
45-49	14	7	0	-	0	21
50-54	7	2	0	-	0	9
55-59	6	2	0	-	0	8
≥60	2	0	0	-	0	2
Not specified	0	0	0	-	0	0
Total	101	103	0	-	0	204

Court: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by nationality and year



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



Graph Key¹⁶

¹⁶ SHD: Southern Harbour District; NHD: Northern Harbour District; SED: Southern Eastern District; ND: Northern District; WD: Western District; G: Gozo; S: Shelter/Institution; F: Foreign Residence; NK: Not Specified.

Appendix

Glossary of Terms

Variable	Definition
Cases worked with	The total number of service user cases that were new, re-contact or known in the reporting year and intake cases still on intake at the end of the reporting period. 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.
Individuals worked with	The total number of individual service users whose case was new, re-contact or known at least once in the year and intake cases still on intake at the end of the reporting period. This excludes cases re-opened in the same year for the same person.
New case	A case that was opened or activated for the first time ever within the reporting year and that was never previously worked with.
Re-contact case	A case that was worked with and closed in the past and has been re-activated or re-opened within the current reporting year.
Known case	Cases that were activated or opened in the previous reporting years and that are still active in the current reporting year. This may also be referred to as cases carried over from previous years.
Intake case	When a case is referred to the service it is placed on intake (intake is the initial state 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.
Waiting list	Intake cases are placed on the waiting list when it is determined that the person would benefit from accessing the service, but the service cannot be provided immediately. This can be due to various factors such as, but not limited to, space limitations, further assessments required or further feedback from the service user is required.
Referred case	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 and placed on a waiting list or not taken up because the service was not appropriate for the person's needs.
New & re-contact case	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	When a 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 same year.
Case state	The state of the case at the end of the reporting period. Cases can be active, closed, intake, on-hold, waiting list or not accepted/no longer required. For example, a case may start the reporting period as a known active case but by the end of the reporting period, the case was closed so the case state is now reported as closed.
Active state	A case state where the case was opened in the year and still open by the end of the reporting period.
Closed state	A case state where the case was opened in the year but closed by the end of the reporting period.
Intake state	A case state where the case was on intake in the year and still on intake by the end of the reporting period.

On-hold state	A case state where the case was opened in the year but put on hold by the end of the reporting period. The reason it is placed on hold can be: - Pending: cases where all activity stops pending the action of another service. E.g., the case is pending outcomes from the child protection investigations. - Dormant: cases which must remain active but very little to no work is required. This generally occurs when a case is awaiting uptake by another service.
Waiting list state	A case state where the case was on the waiting list in the year and still on the waiting list by the end of the reporting period.
Not accepted/no longer required state	A case state where the case was on intake or the waiting list in the year but closed by the end of the reporting period. Such cases are usually closed because an assessment during intake resulted in the service not being appropriate, the alleged issues were not confirmed, the service user no longer requests the service, or the service user refused to attend.
Global/family cases	Service users' cases may be grouped under a global/family case, particularly when the service works with families. A global/family case may consist of: - 1 service user case: One individual who attends in the year on their own without any other family member, or - 2 or more service users' cases: Several individuals identified as part of the same family attending in the year.
Gender	Gender is reported as male, female, X, unborn or not specified. "X" means a gender that is not exclusively male nor female. Unborn refers to service users still existing in the mother's womb.
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 since the information is not available or the service user was unwilling to provide the information.
Other	Treatment, issue or location not elsewhere specified.

Maltese Districts

District	Towns
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	Birzebuggia, 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

Service	Description
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.
Court Service	The Court Service focuses mostly on presenting social work court reports as requested by the Courts of Malta.



FSWS Research Team

Vision Statement

Research that educates, inspires, and informs quality responses to improve the wellbeing of children, families, and communities.

Mission Statement

To contribute to a knowledge base that informs responses to social needs through high quality research.



Foundation for Social Welfare Services
Here for you

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