



**Directorate Child Protection**  
**Yearly Statistical Report**

January to December 2021

**February 2022**

**Christine Marchand-Agius**



**Foundation for Social Welfare Services, Malta**  
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# Introduction

This report provides 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 profile 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](http://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 by January 2022. Where applicable, the report provides data on an individual service user level as well as on a multiple service user 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 data from services may lead to an over-estimation of the number of individuals attending the agency or directorate.

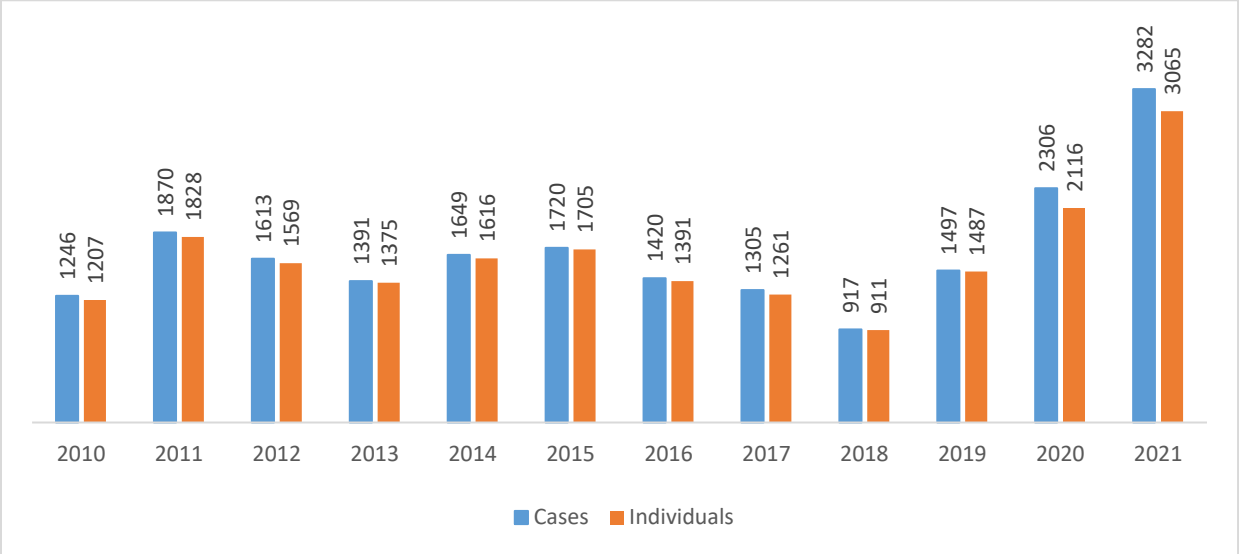
When new data collection systems are introduced, it can change how the data is collected, introduce new variables and thus impact observed trends. For example, the Foundation for Social Welfare Services introduced an online data collection tool which required all known cases to be newly inputted leading to a higher number of new cases and zero new cases for that reporting year. The report provides indications where new data collection systems were introduced.

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 Valentina Galdes.

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

# Executive Summary

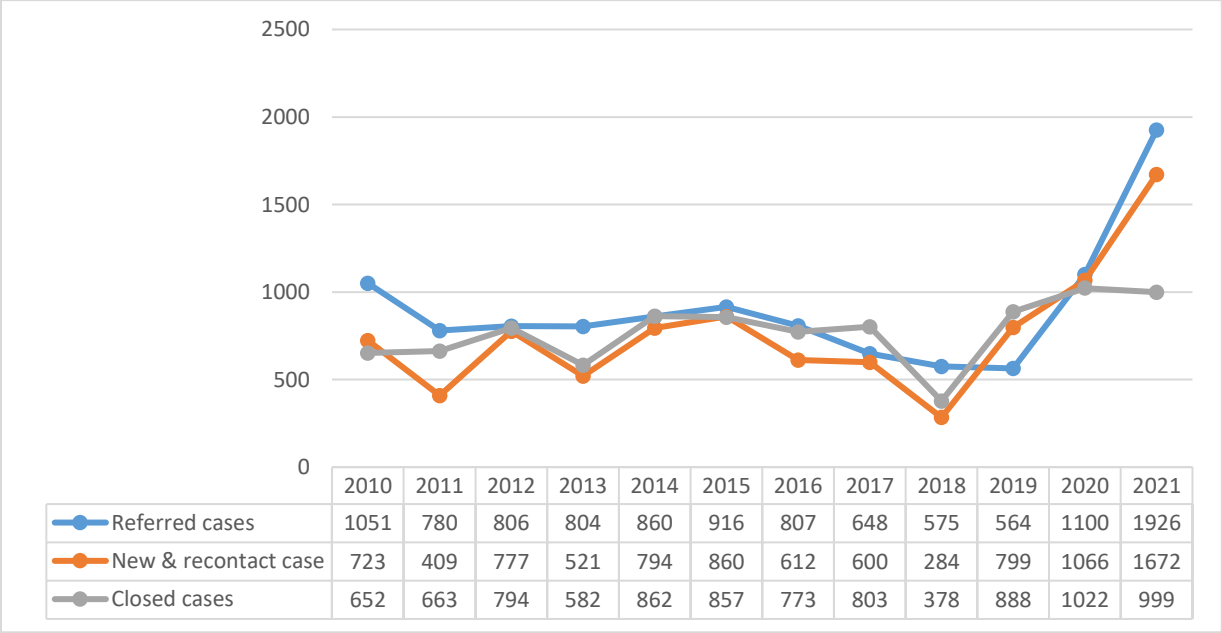
Approximate<sup>1</sup> total number of cases and individuals worked with at CP by year



Case activity<sup>2</sup>: Jan-Dec 2021

	Total cases worked with	Individuals worked with
Child Protection Service	3025	2822
Court Services	257	246

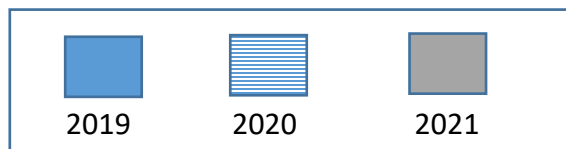
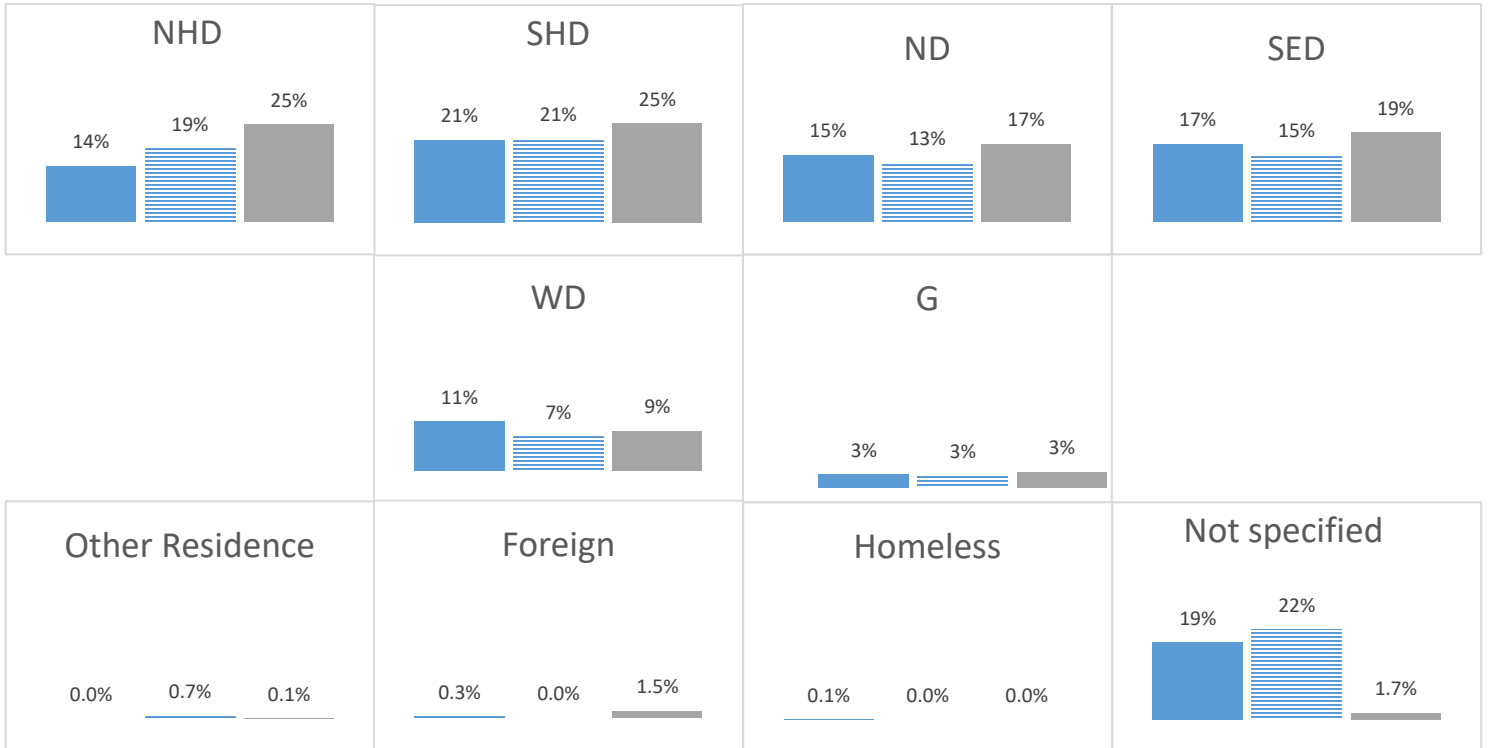
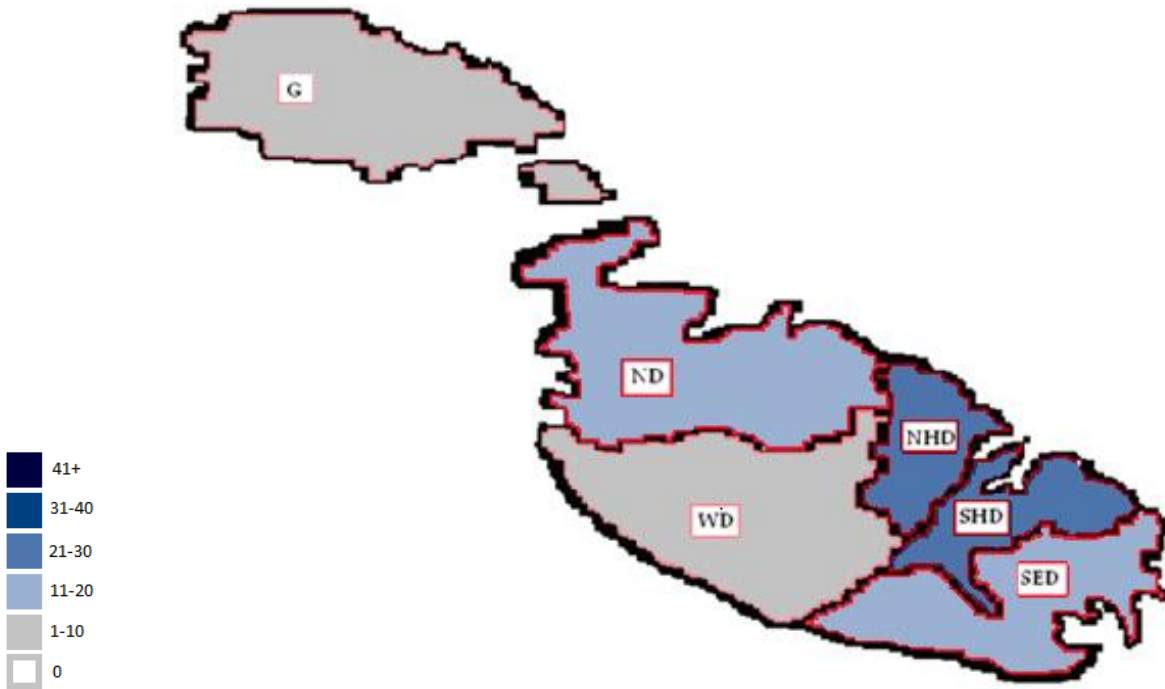
Approximate number of referrals, new & re-contact cases opened, and cases closed by CP by year



<sup>1</sup> 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.

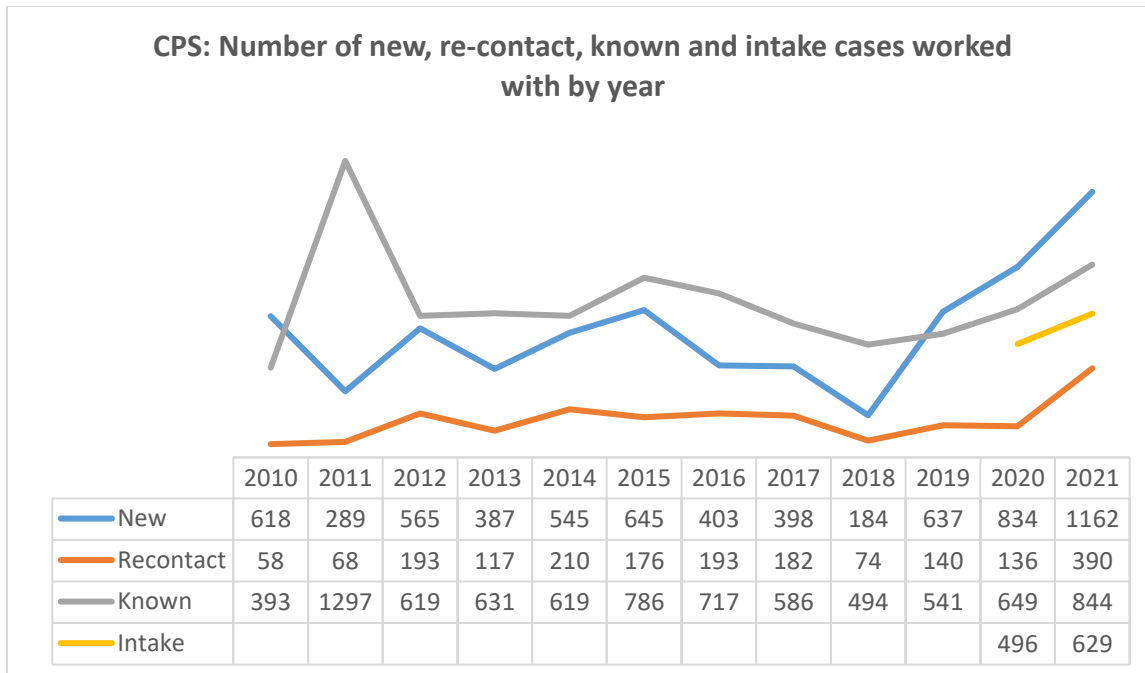
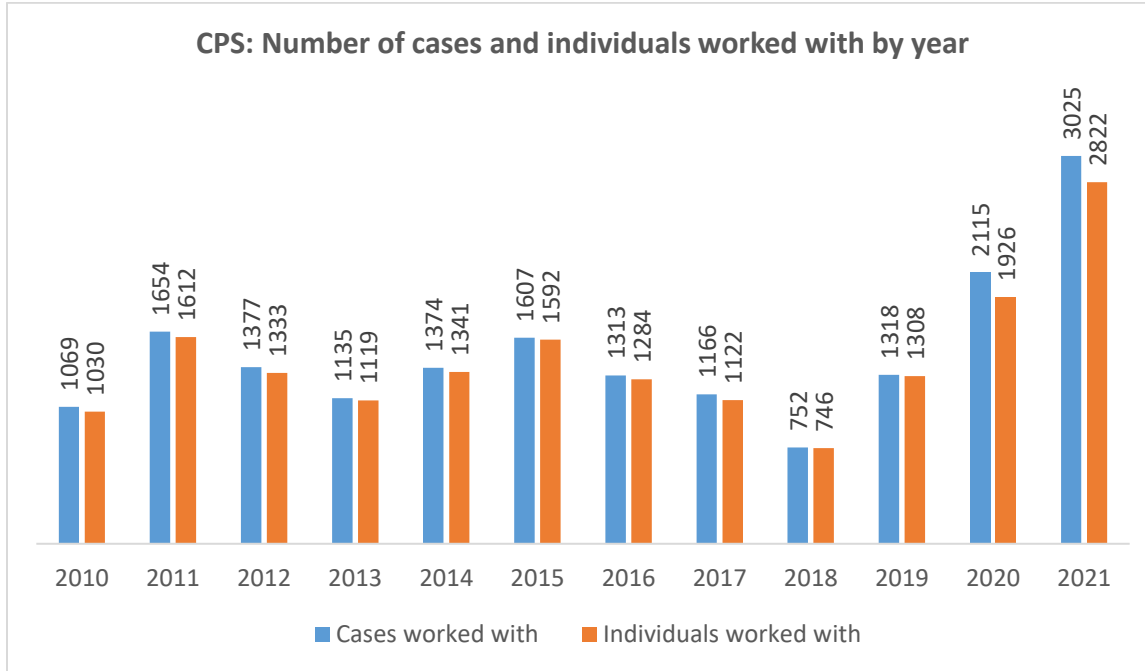
<sup>2</sup> A new data collection system and reporting format was introduced in 2021.

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



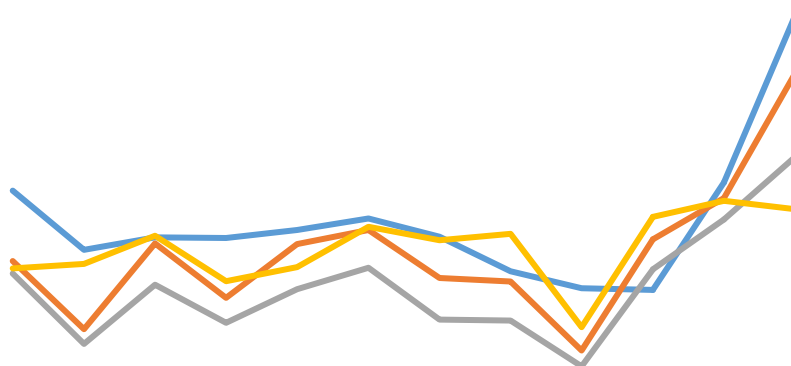
# Child Protection Services (CPS)

## Case Activity<sup>3</sup>



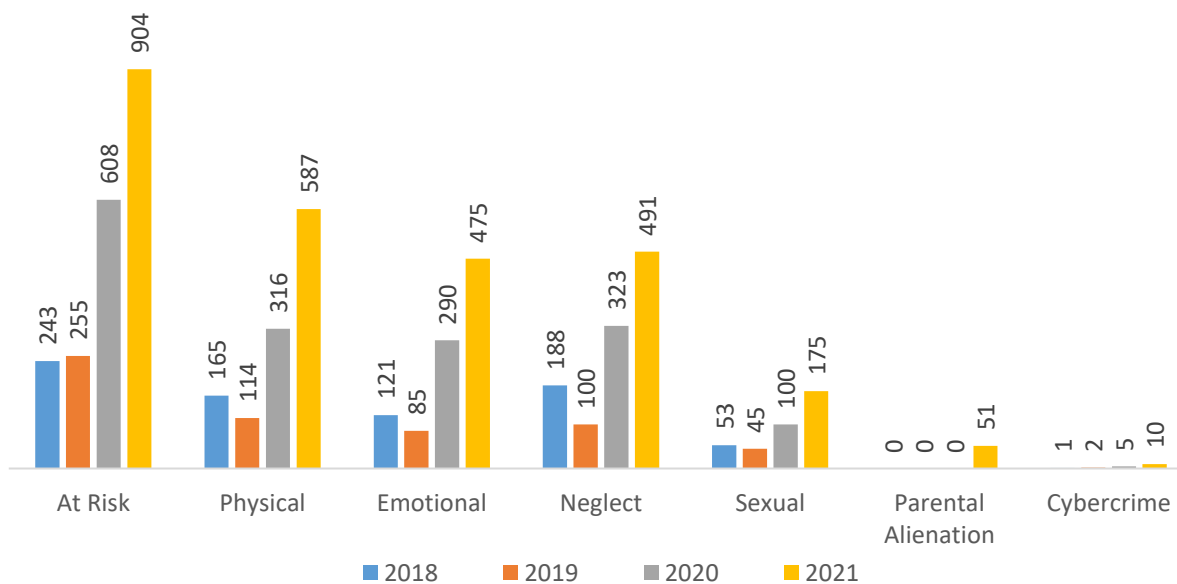
<sup>3</sup> A new data collection system and reporting format were introduced in 2020.

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



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Referred cases	1004	728	786	784	821	874	790	628	549	541	1043	1822
New & recontact cases	676	357	758	504	755	821	596	580	258	777	970	1552
New cases	618	289	565	387	545	645	403	398	184	637	870	1162
Closed cases	642	663	794	581	648	836	773	803	367	882	957	918

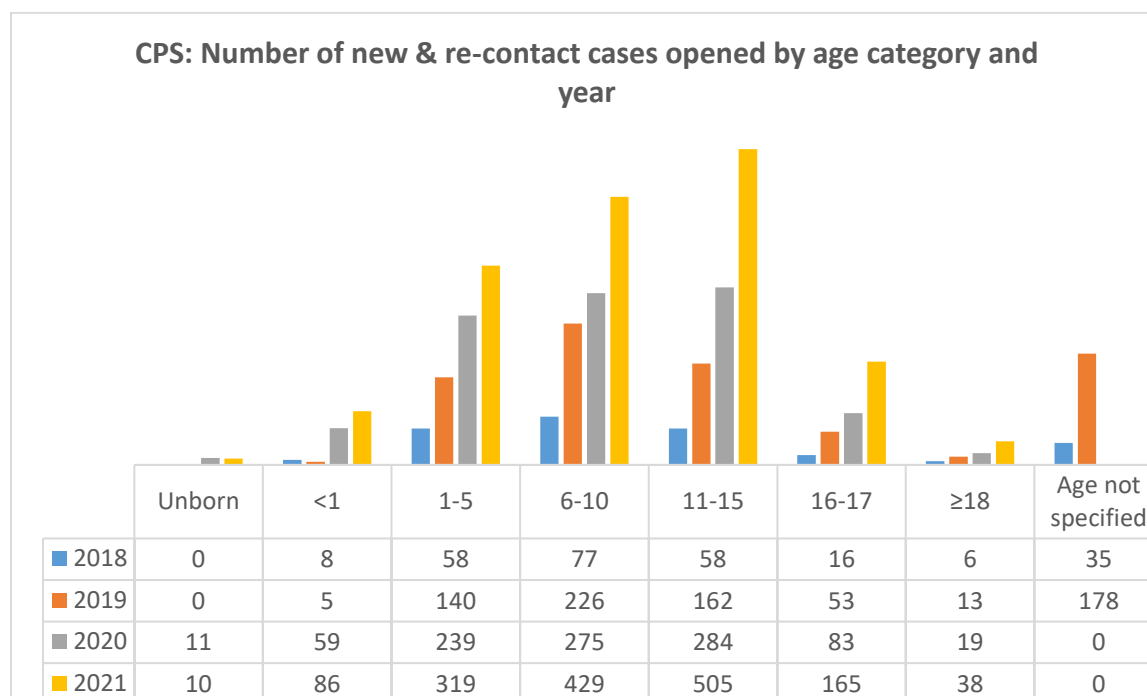
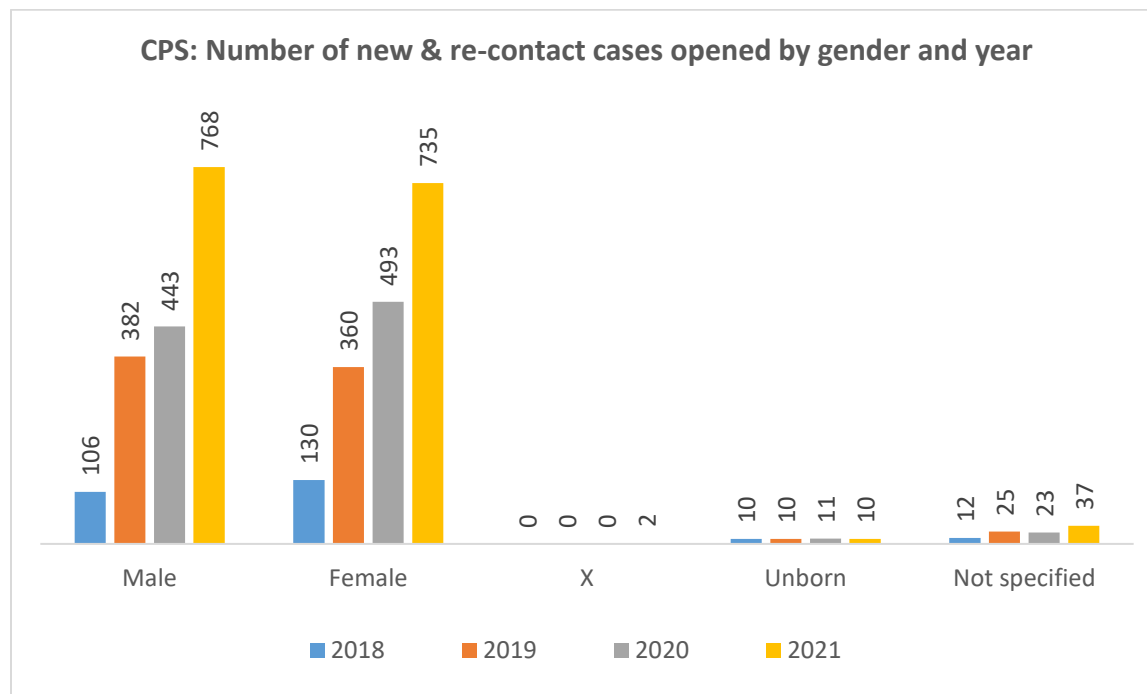
**CPS: Type of alleged abuse at referral by year of referral**



Note<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Service users may experience more than one form of abuse and thus the data cannot be summed.

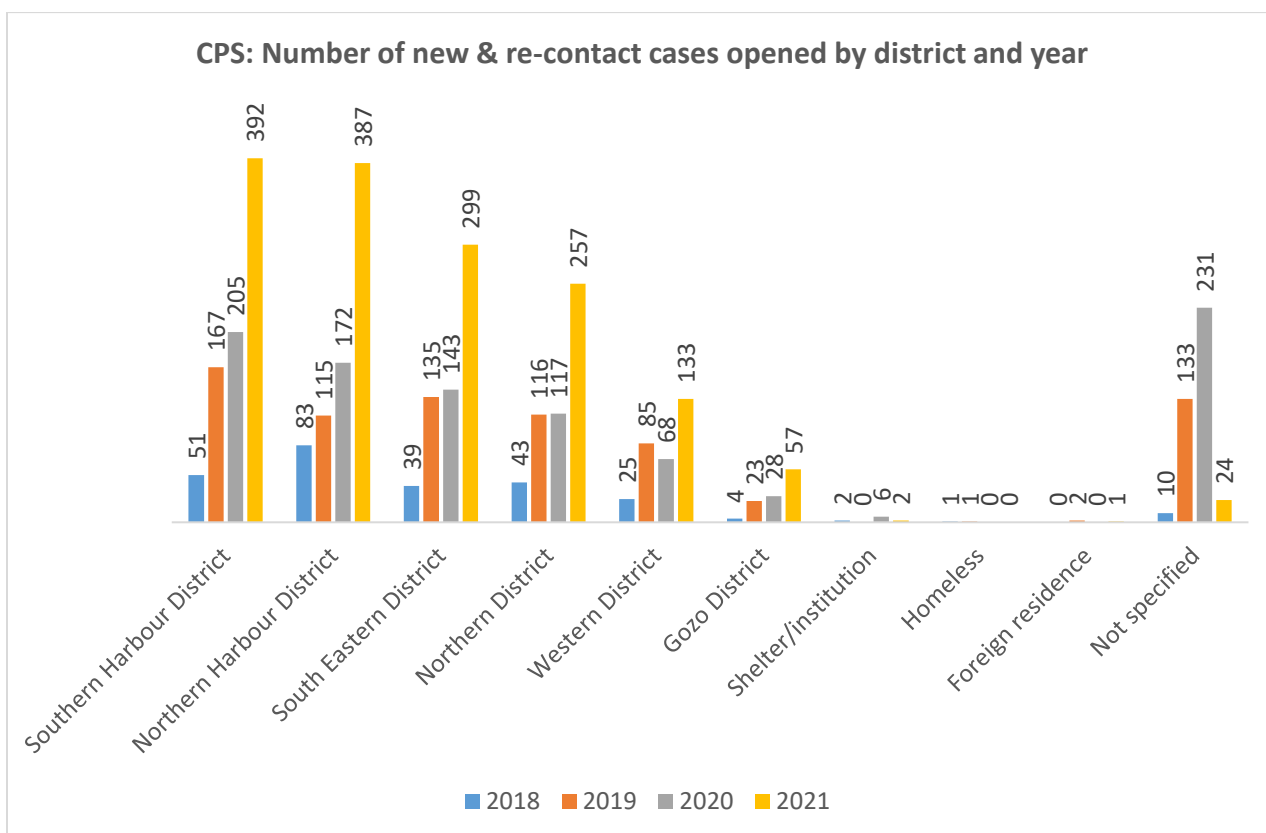
## Details Regarding New and Re-contact Cases Opened

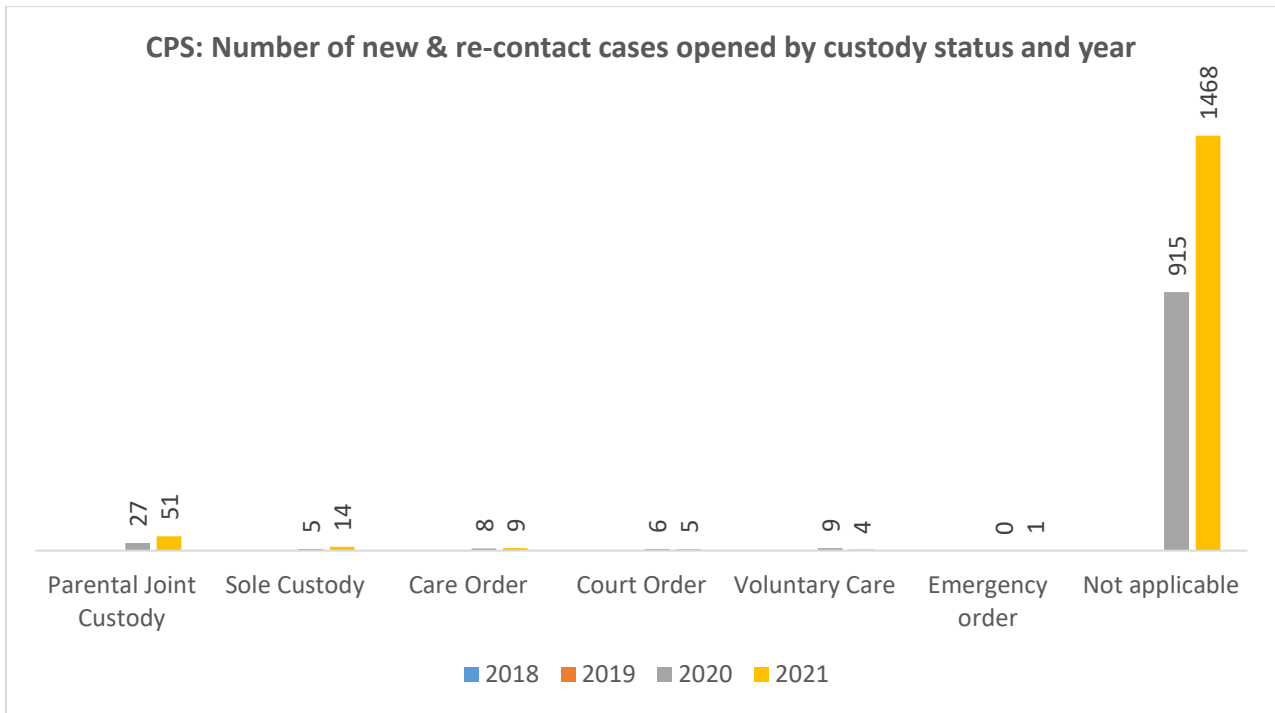


**CPS: New & re-contact cases opened by age and gender  
January – December 2021**

	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	10	0	10
<1	23	25	1	0	37	86
1-5	162	157	0	0	0	319
6-10	228	201	0	0	0	429
11-15	253	252	0	0	0	505
16-17	83	81	1	0	0	165
≥18	19	19	0	0	0	38
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1552</b>

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



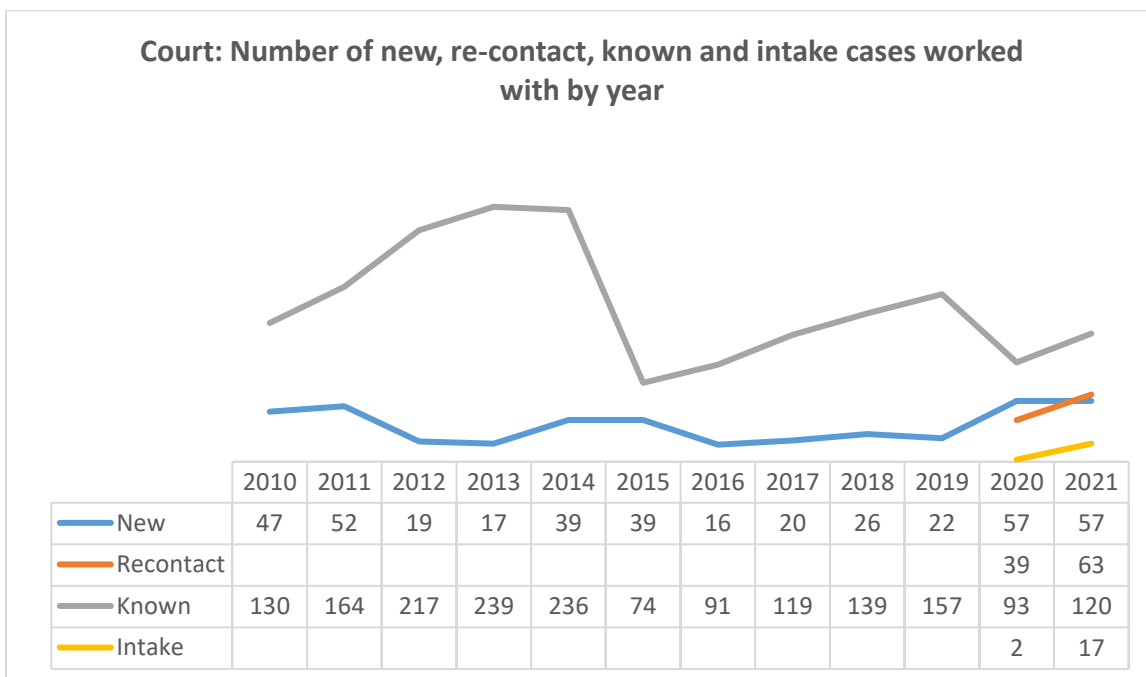
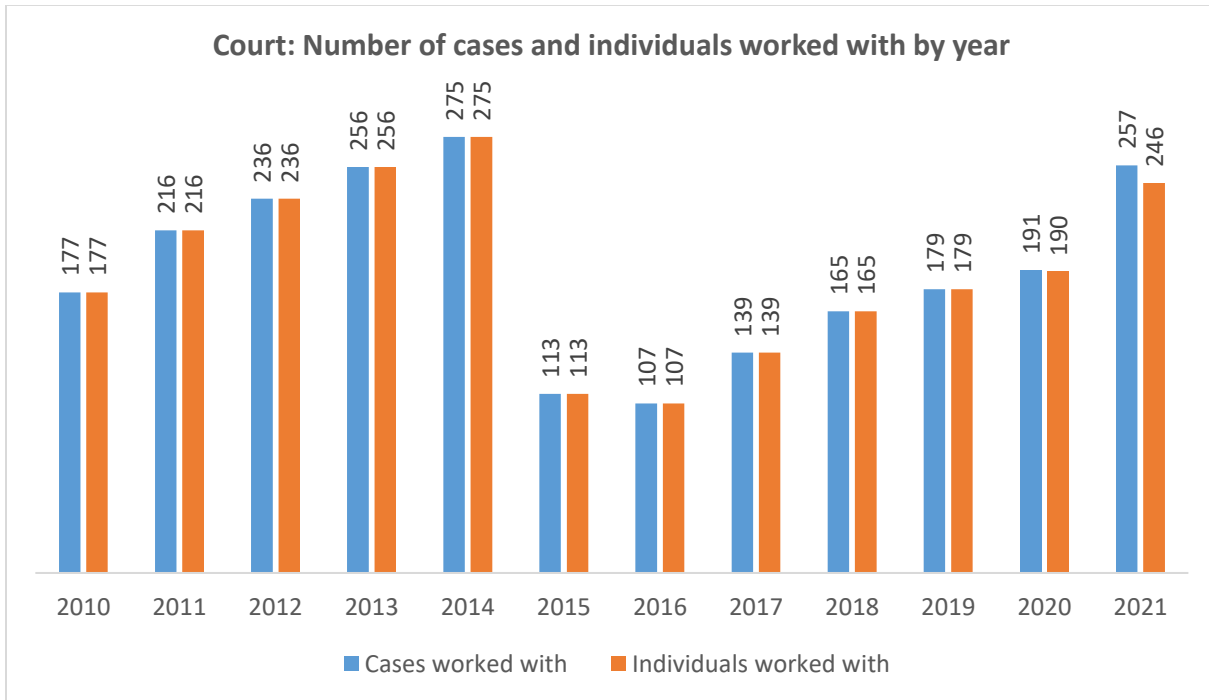


Note<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> This variable was first reported in 2020.

# Court Services

## Case Activity<sup>6</sup>

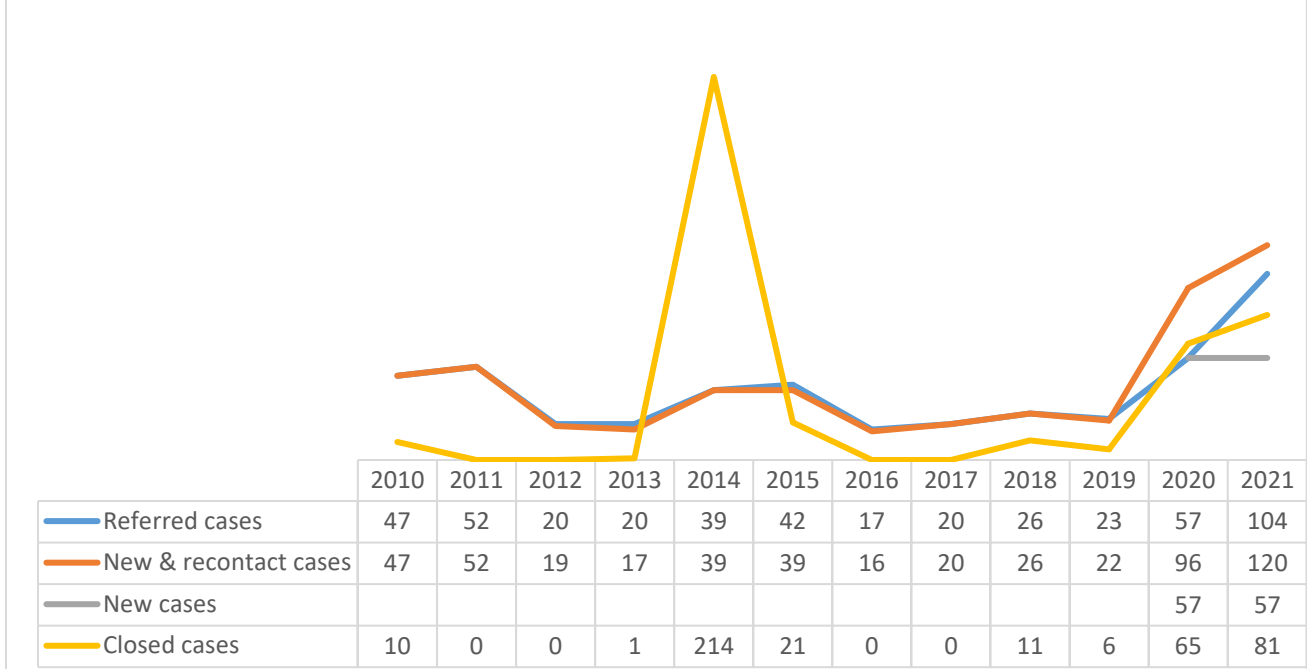


Note<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> A new data collection system and reporting format were introduced in 2020. The Service was moved from the Alternative Care Directorate to the Child Protection Directorate.

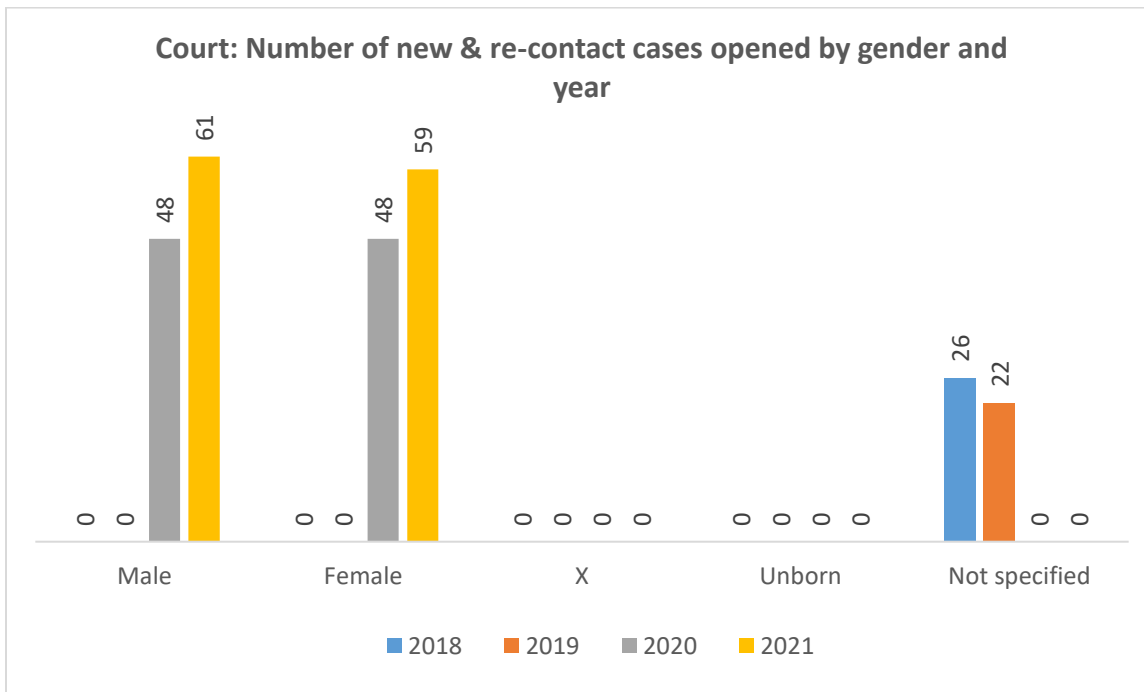
<sup>7</sup> Between 2010 and 2019 the data system was unable to tell the difference between a new case or a re-contact case and thus all cases were recorded as new case.

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



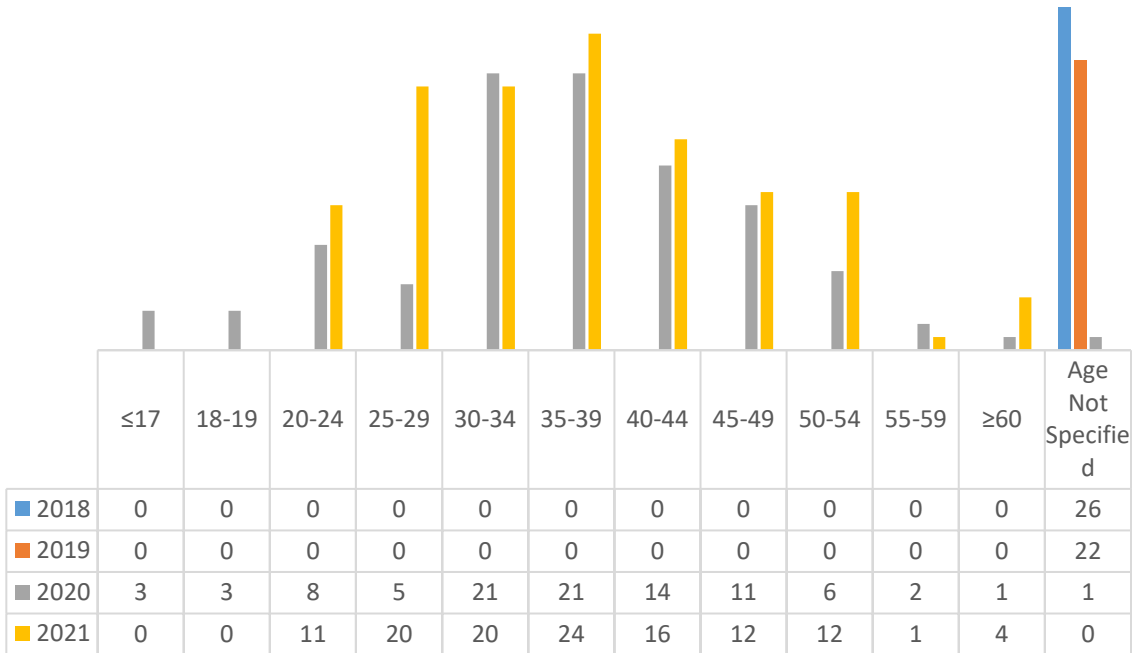
Note<sup>8</sup>

## Details Regarding New and Re-contact Cases Opened



<sup>8</sup> Between 2010 and 2019 the data system was unable to tell the difference between a new case or a re-contact case and thus could report all cases opened but not identify if they were specifically new cases opened.

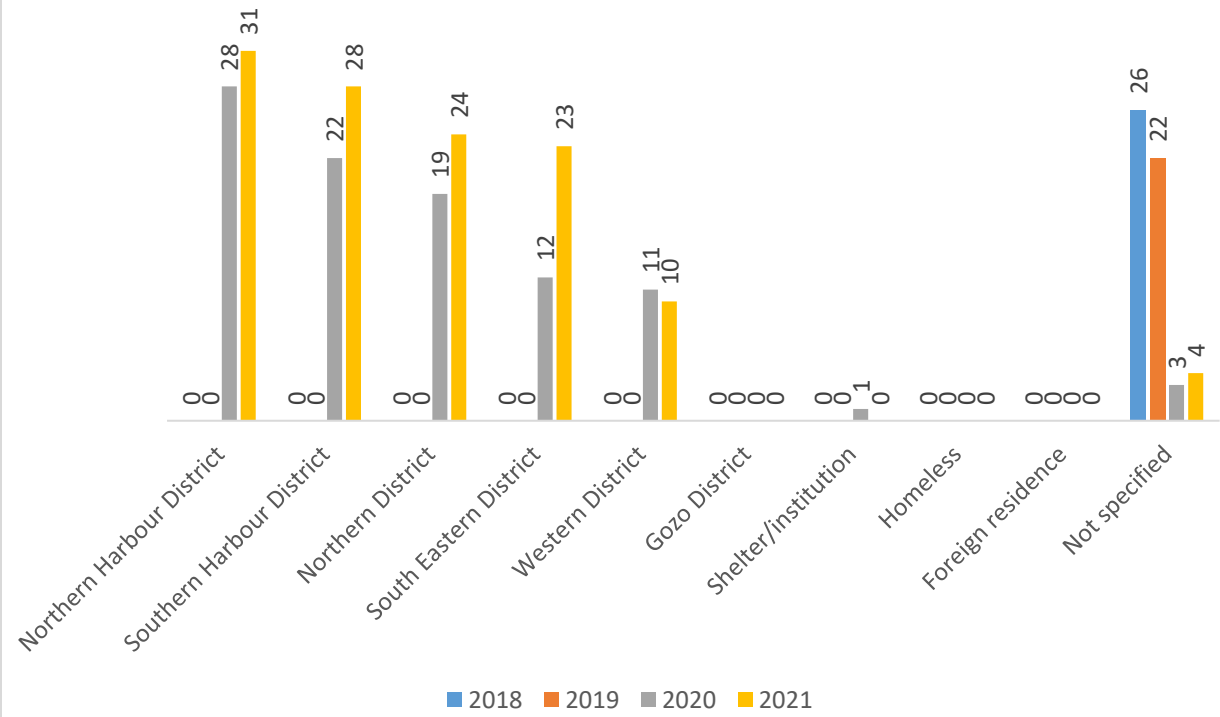
**Court: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by age category and year**



**Court: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by age and gender  
January – December 2021**

	Male	Female	Total
≤17	0	0	0
18-19	0	0	0
20-24	2	9	11
25-29	13	7	20
30-34	7	13	20
35-39	12	12	24
40-44	9	7	16
45-49	7	5	12
50-54	7	5	12
55-59	1	0	1
≥60	3	1	4
Not specified	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>120</b>

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



# Appendix

## Glossary of Terms

Variable	Definition
Cases worked with	The total number of cases that 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 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 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.
Waiting list	Intake cases are placed on the waiting list when it is determined that the person would benefit from accessing the service, but 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 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.
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.
Family cases	The service works with families. A family case may consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 service user: One individual who attends in the year on their own without any other family member, or</li> <li>- 2 or more service users: A number of individuals identified as part of the same family attending in the year.</li> </ul>
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

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

## Service Descriptions

<b>Child Protection Service (CPS)</b>	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.
<b>Court Service</b>	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.



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*Report designed by Christine Marchand-Agius*