

**Directorate Alternative Care**  
**Yearly Statistical Report**  
January to December 2023

**March 2024**



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# Introduction

This report provides statistical information regarding the services within Directorate Alternative Care (DAC), which falls under the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS). This report provides global data on a directorate level followed by data for each service under the directorate. 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 intake or referral until case closure. Service descriptions along with definitions regarding key terms used within this report (e.g., *cases worked with*) can be found in the appendix. 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 FSWS Research Team in mid-February 2024. 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). To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. Summing the number of individuals worked with across services will over-estimate the actual number of different persons since individuals can attend several units at the same time.

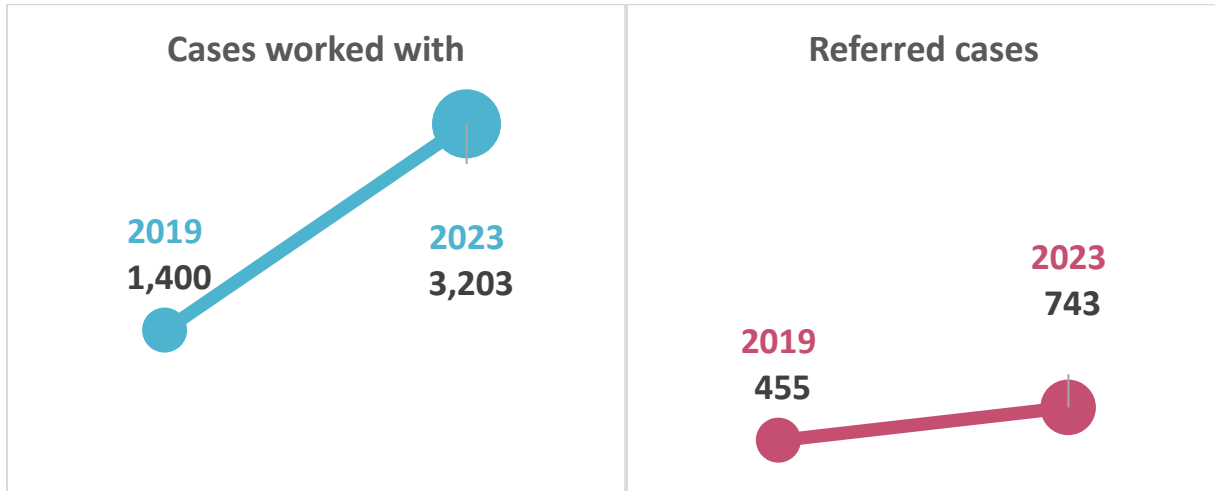
Over time, there can be changes in what, how and when data is collected (e.g., with the introduction of the new data collection system). Relevant information about aspects which may have impacted the data and influence trends can be found as footnotes throughout the report.

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.*

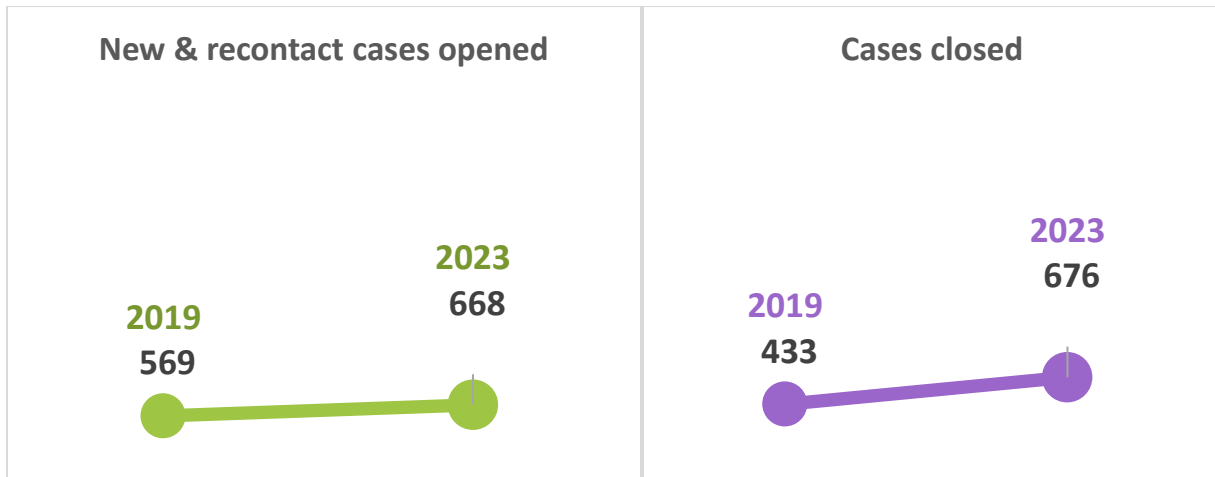
# Executive summary

## 5-year comparison of case activity between 2019 and 2023:



129% increase

63% increase



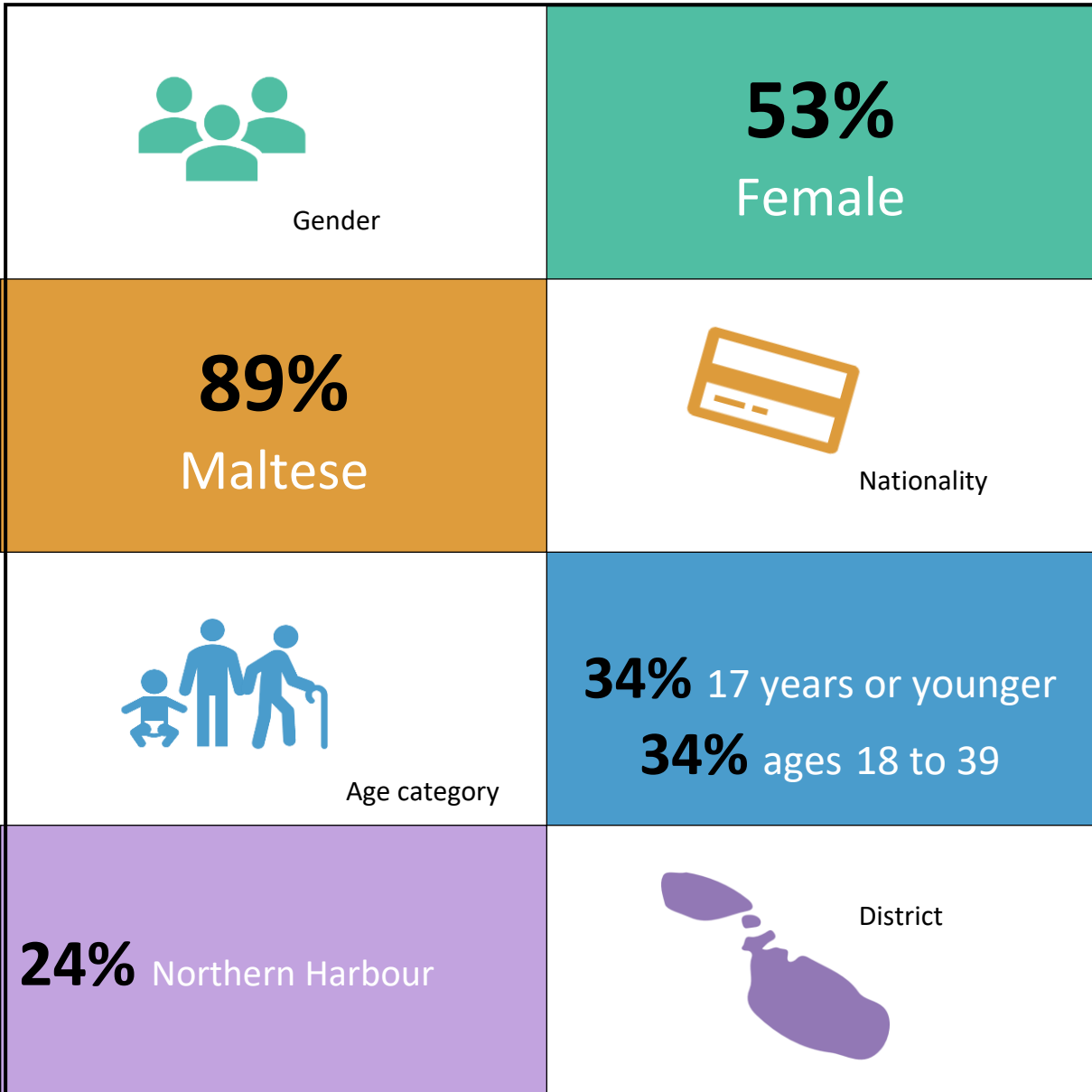
17% increase

56% increase

Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023:

**3,203**

*Out of the 3,203 cases worked with between Jan-Dec 2023:*



# Directorate level data

This section provides information on a Directorate level.

## Case activity

A new online data collection system and reporting format began being introduced in 2020 with further services being added along the years. Information on when the online data collection systems were implemented within the services can be found within the respective service's section.

### Approximate total number of cases and individuals worked with at DAC by year

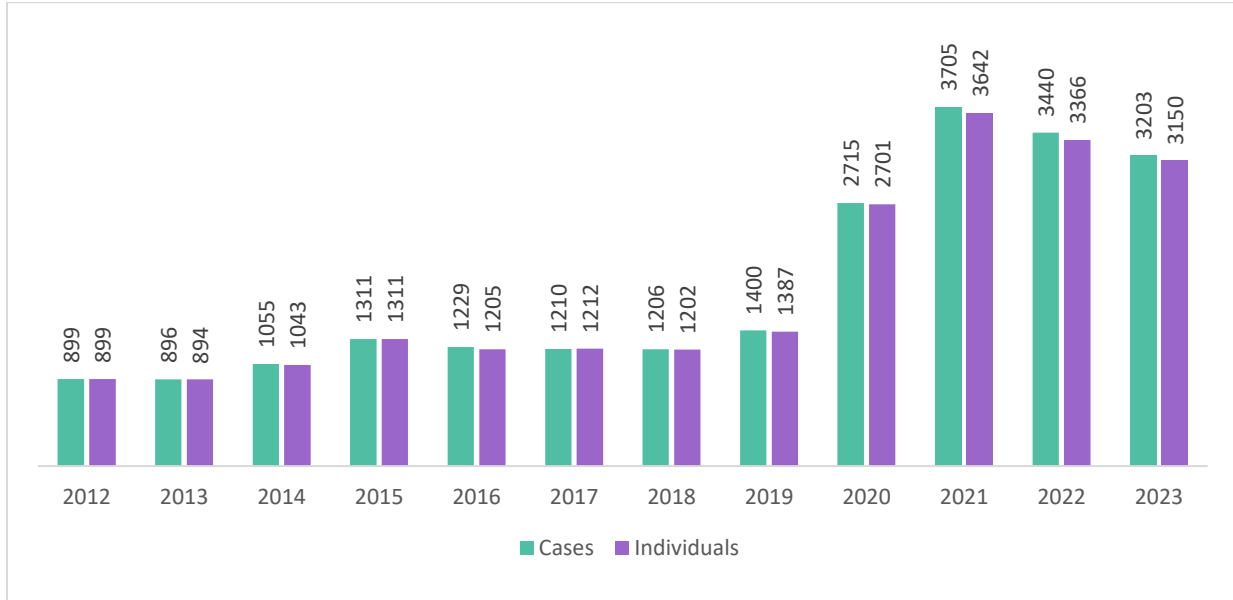


Figure 1: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals worked with. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. Summing the number of individuals worked with across services will over-estimate the actual number of different persons since individuals can attend several units at the same time. Therefore, the number of individuals across multiple units can only provide an approximation of the number of individuals overall and the figures provided are therefore higher than the real figures. In 2023, 3203 cases and 3150 individuals were worked with compared to 3440 and 3366 respectively in 2022.

### Case activity: Jan-Dec 2023

	Total cases worked with	Individuals worked with	Waiting list end of Dec 2023
Looked After Children Service	513	513	13
Aftercare Service	316	316	165
Fostering Service	570	564	2
Adoption Service	717	713	0
High Support Service	16	16	4
Community Homes Service	49	48	73
Homestart – Malta	94	94	0
Youth In Focus Service	264	264	11
Embark for Life	125	124	4
Adolescent Day Programme Service	32	32	0
Supervised Access Visits	507	466	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>3203</b>	<b>3150</b>	<b>297</b>

Service	Additional information
Looked After Children Healthcare Service	<b>784</b> visits carried out with <b>430</b> children.
Additional DAC Services	<b>17</b> cases worked with in the re-integration services; <b>166</b> children benefited from the Children’s Fund; <b>1830</b> children benefited from the Children’s Dreams; <b>319</b> cases discussed within the Socio-Legal Service; and <b>129</b> youths referred for Youth Initiatives.
Alternative Care Placement Records	<b>551</b> children and youth cases & <b>607</b> active placements.

Figure 2: The figures above summarise the number of cases and individuals worked with reported on a service level. The total number of individuals is only provided if the true number of individuals across services cannot be extracted.

### Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with at DAC in the current year compared to the previous year.

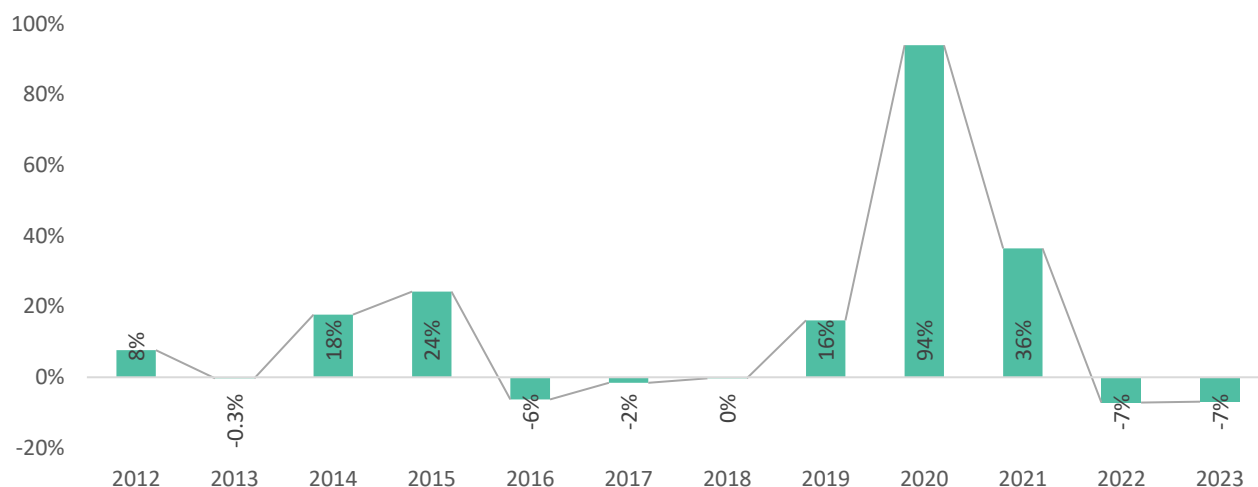


Figure 3: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with decreased by 7% in 2022 over 2021. The introduction of new services, the discontinuation of existing services, the expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

### Number of new, re-contact, known and intake cases worked with by year

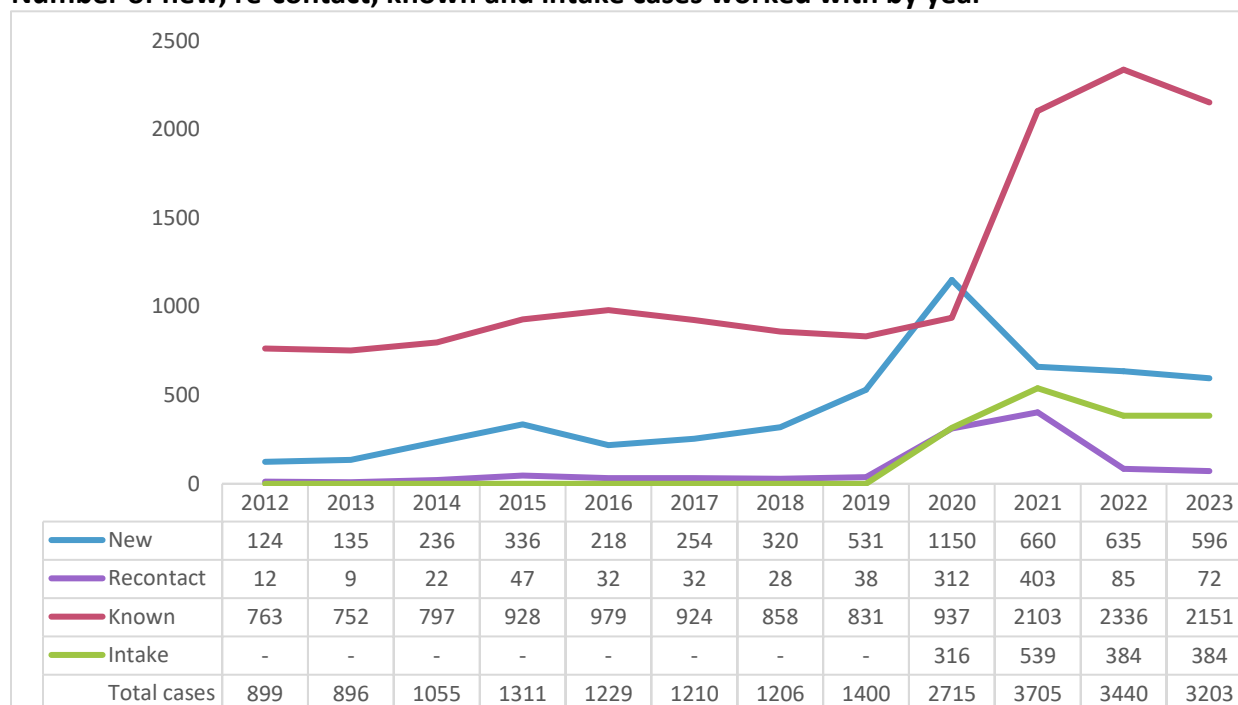


Figure 4: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary. For the above graph, intake began to be reported in 2020 due to the implementation of an online data collection system. A spike in new cases in 2020 was due to the implementation of the online system whereby a number of new services were included on the system and their cases were automatically registered as new cases on the system.

## Number of referred cases, new & re-contact cases opened, and cases closed by DAC by year

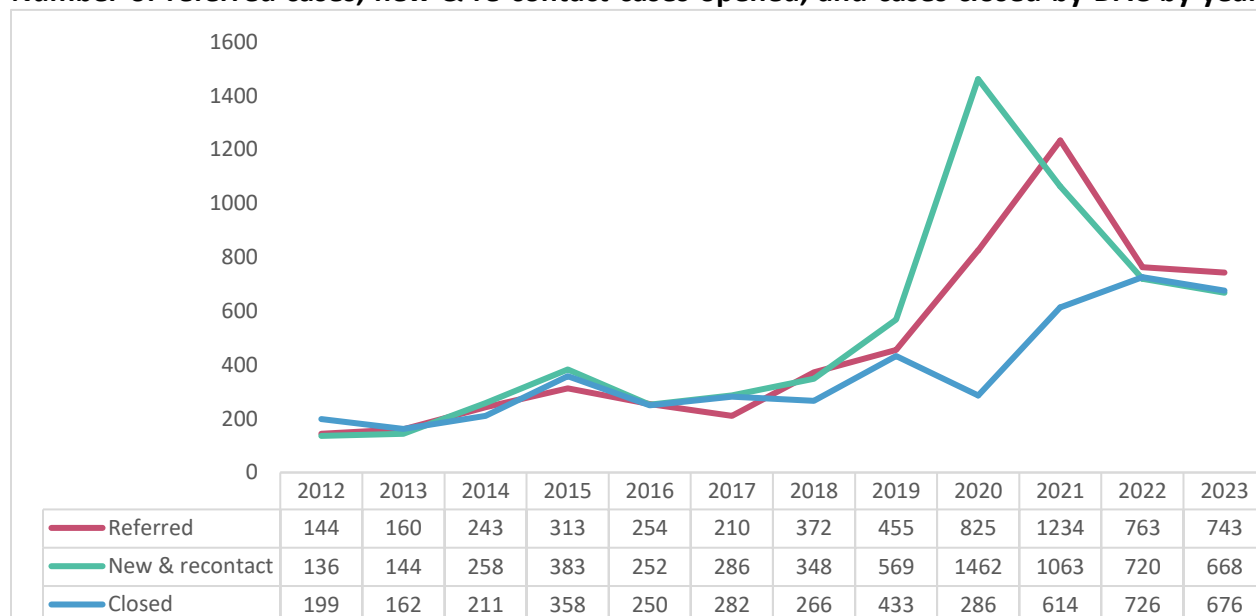


Figure 5: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 4 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, 743 cases were referred, 668 new & recontact cases opened, and 676 cases closed. With the introduction of a new online data collection system in 2020, all known cases had to be re-inputted and these were automatically registered as new.

## Details regarding cases worked with at DAC January - December 2023

A total of **3,203** cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### DAC: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

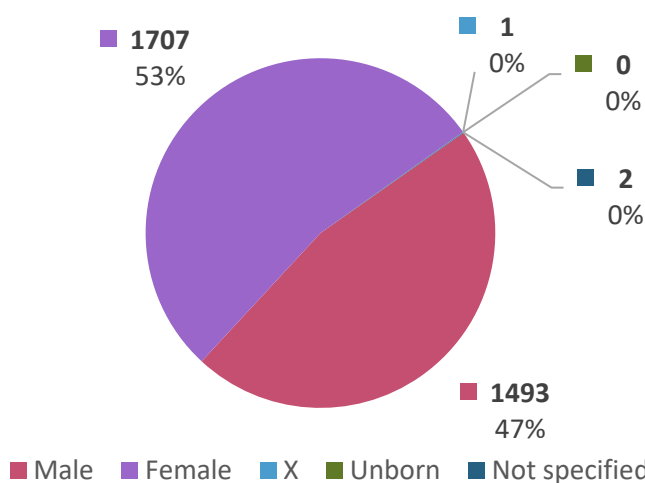


Figure 6: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were female (53%).

**DAC: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)**

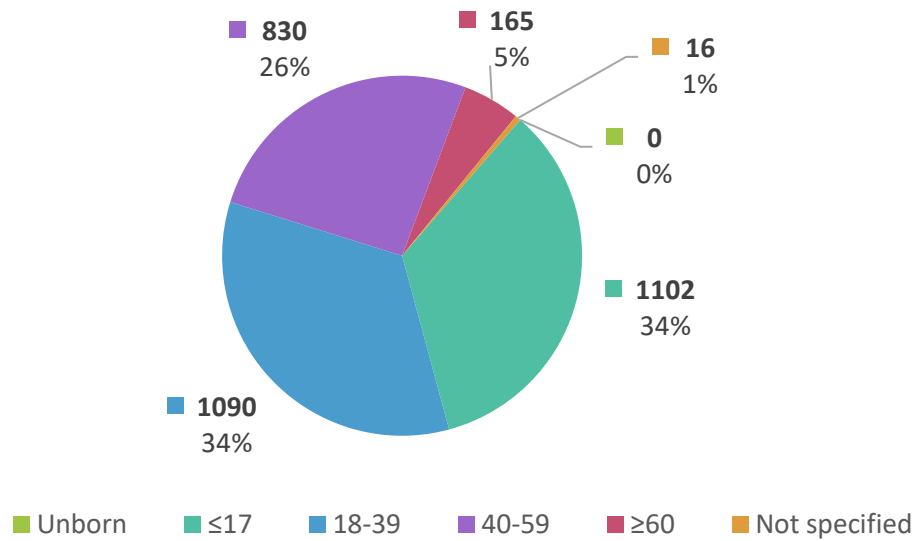


Figure 7: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 17 or younger (34%) or 18 to 39 (34%).

**DAC: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)**

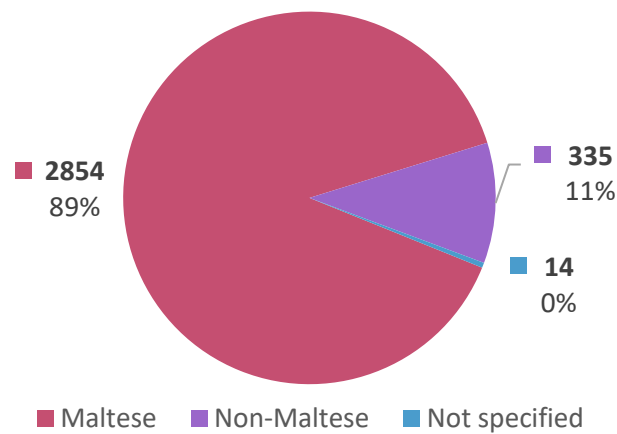


Figure 8: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 89% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 11% of cases.

### DAC: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)

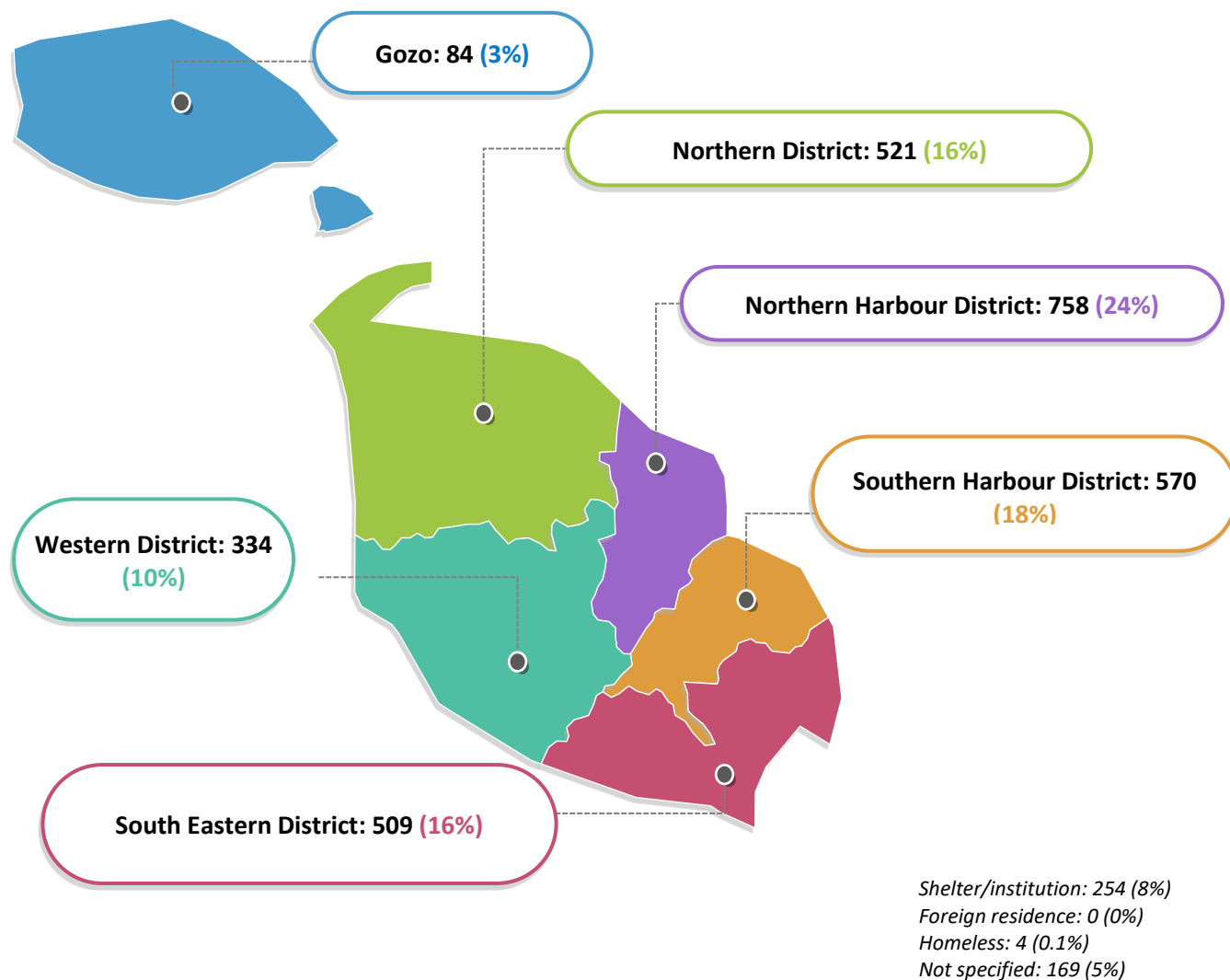


Figure 9: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. The Northern Harbour District (24%) had the highest percentage of cases worked with in 2023.

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **668** cases were opened between January and December 2023.

### Percentage of new & re-contact cases opened at DAC by sex and year

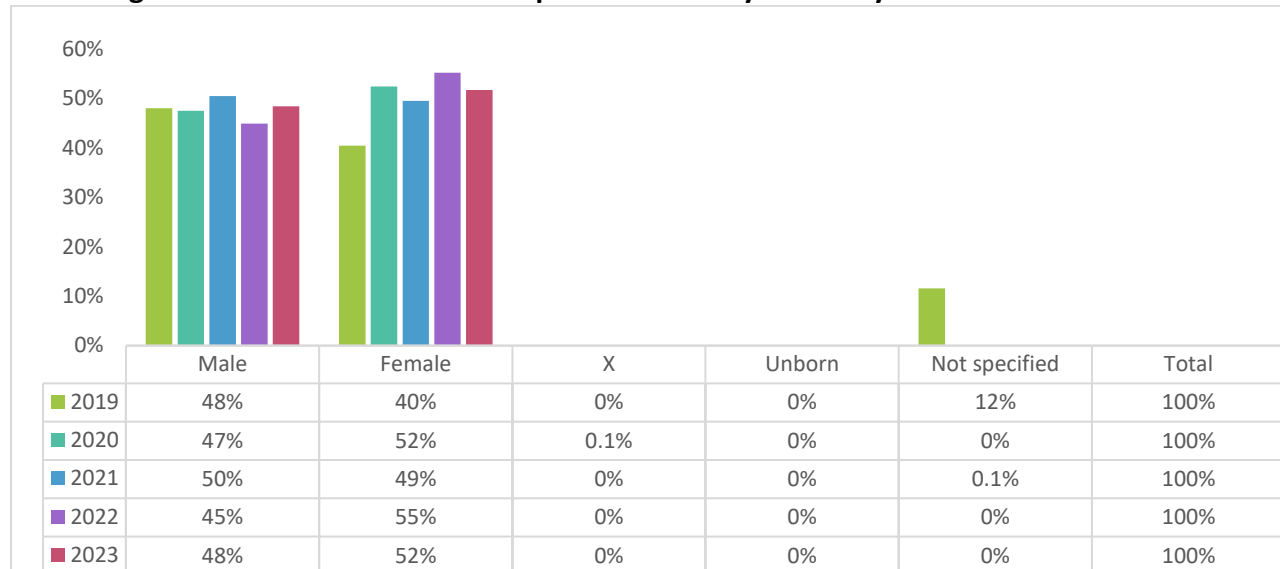


Figure 10: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases opened were female (52%).

### Percentage of new & re-contact cases opened at DAC by age category and year

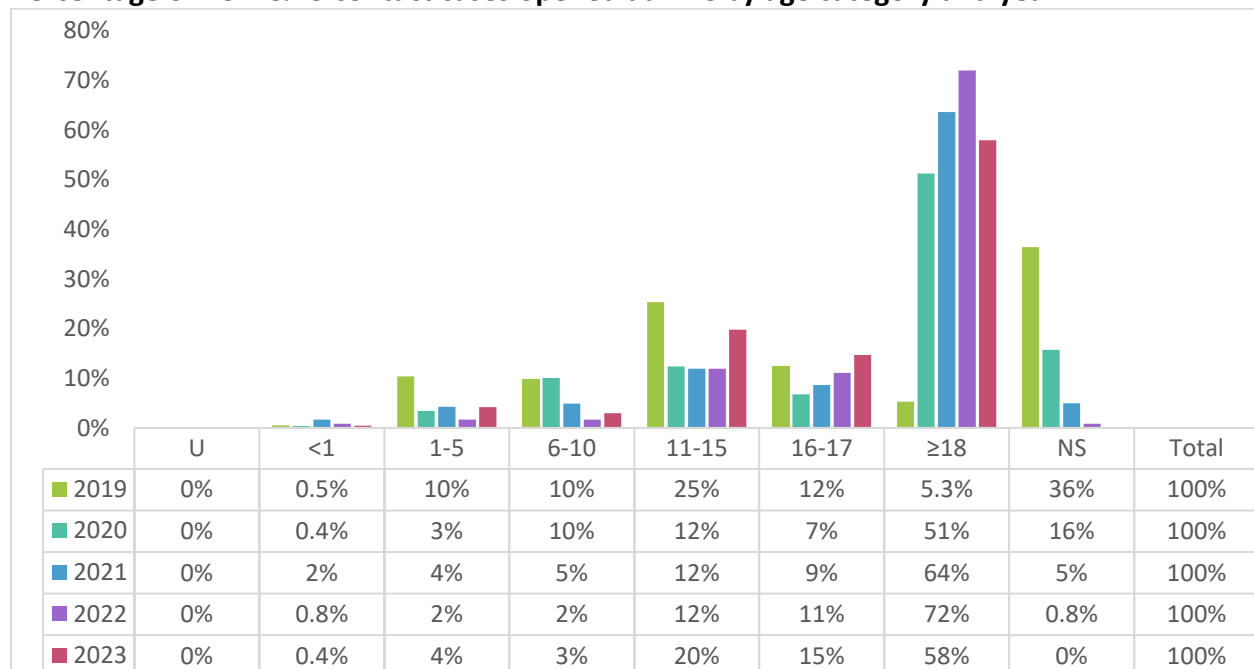


Figure 11: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases opened were ages 18 or over (58%).

Graph Key: U = Unborn; NS = Not Specified.

### Percentage of new & re-contact cases opened at DAC by nationality and year

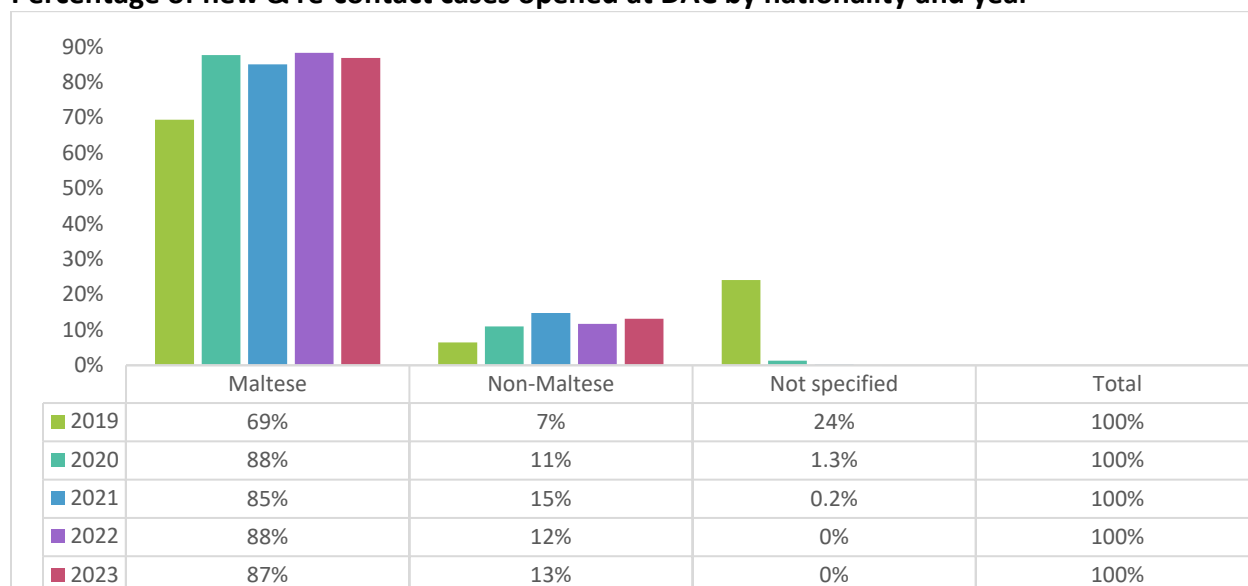


Figure 12: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, 87% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 13% of cases.

### Percentage of new & re-contact cases opened at DAC by district of residence and year

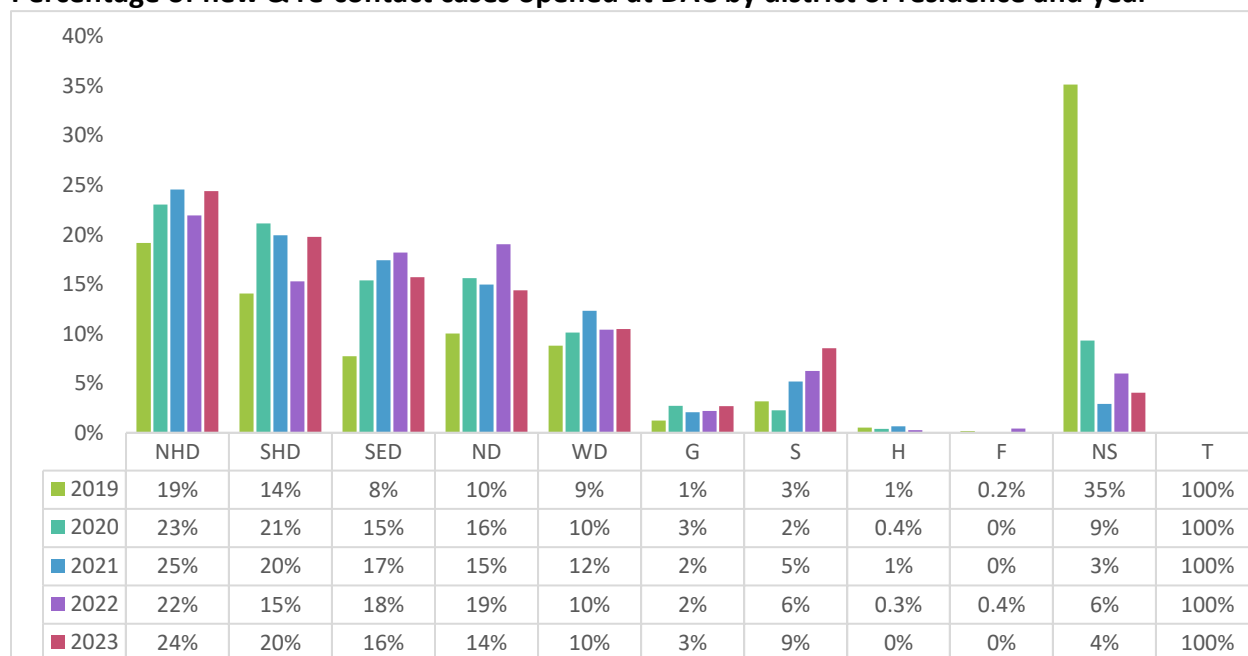


Figure 13: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within "shelter/institution" (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. The Northern Harbour District (24%) had the highest percentage of cases opened in 2023.

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

## Number of interventions conducted by DAC service and year

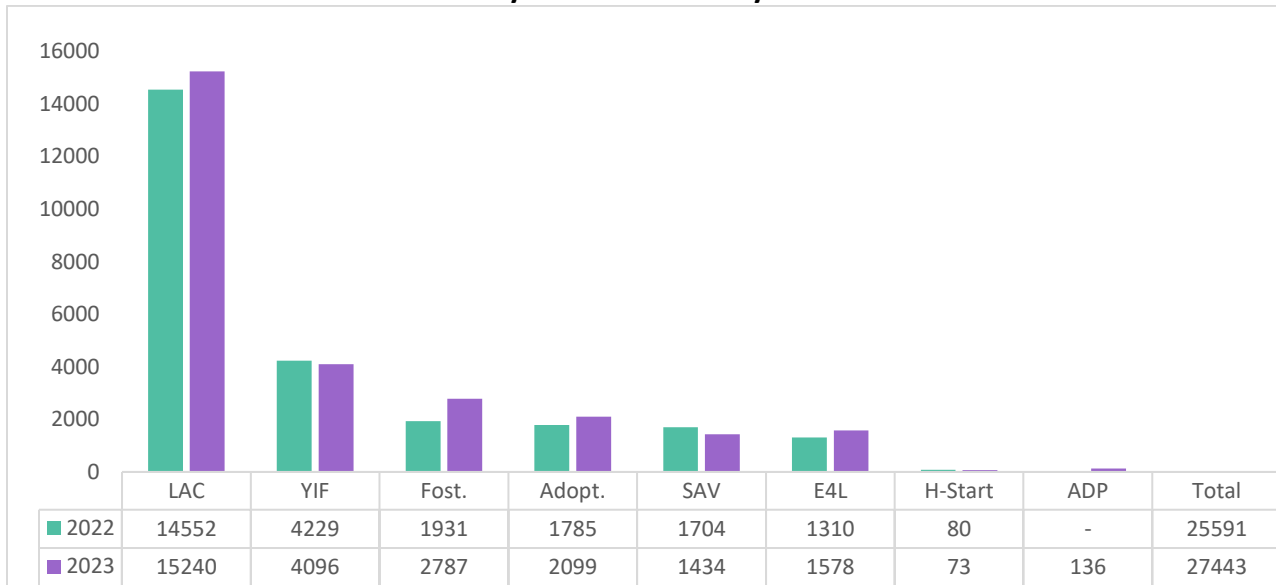


Figure 14: The figure above only provides the number of interventions that have been recorded within the online data collection system as completed or conducted. Interventions are actions taken with, or on behalf of, the service user with the goal to empower and help the person e.g., psychotherapy, assessments, or case conferences.

Graph Key: LAC = Looked After Children Service; YIF = Youth in Focus Service; Fost. = Fostering Service; Adopt. = Adoption Service; SAV = Supervised Access Visits Service; E4L = Embark for Life Service; H-Start = Home-Start Malta; ADP = Adolescent Day Programme Service.

## Service level data

Each service under the Directorate is discussed in the section that follows. Information is provided regarding case activity followed by demographic information for cases worked with and for new & recontact cases opened.

### Looked After Children Service (LAC) Case activity

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

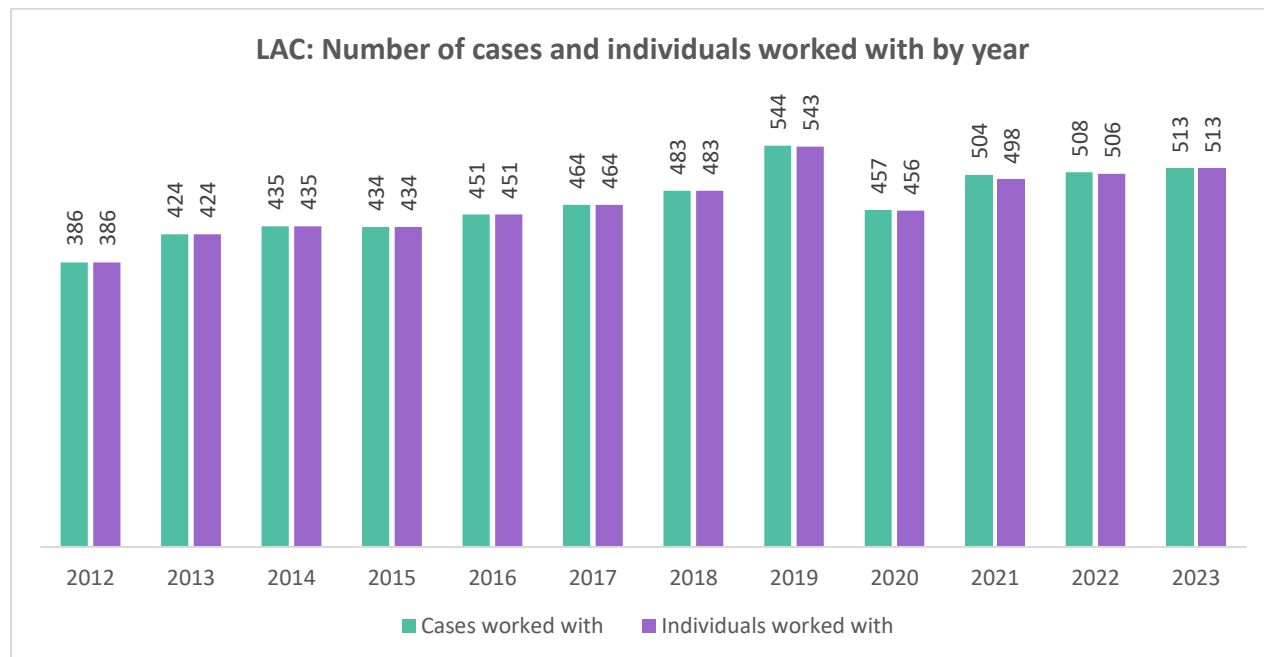


Figure 15: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals worked with. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. In 2023, 513 cases and 513 individuals were worked with compared to 508 and 506 respectively in 2022.

**LAC: Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with in the current year compared to the previous year.**

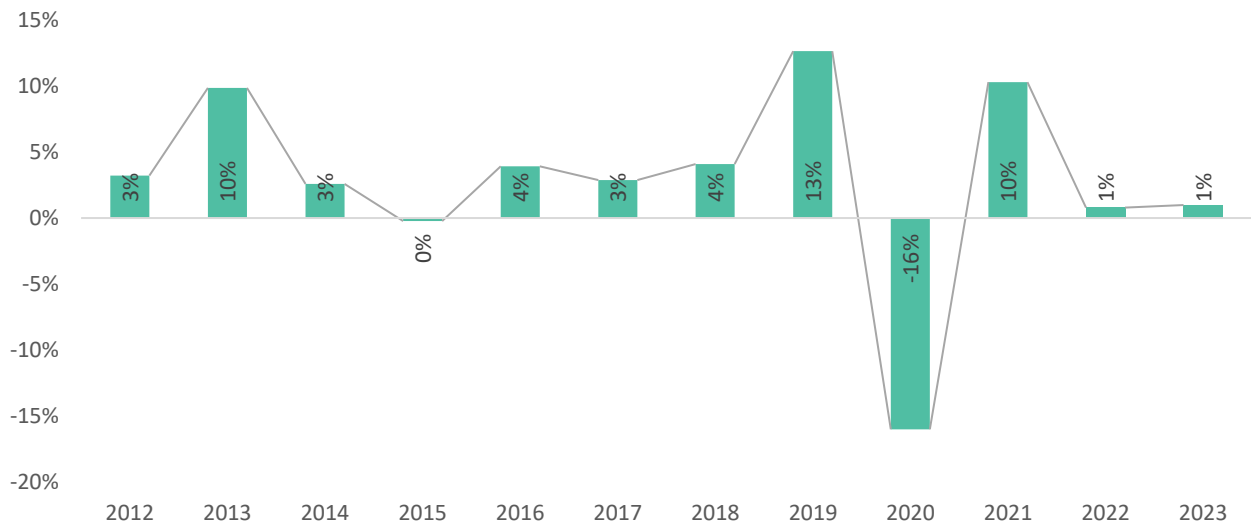


Figure 16: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with increased by 1% in 2022 over 2021. The expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, or changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

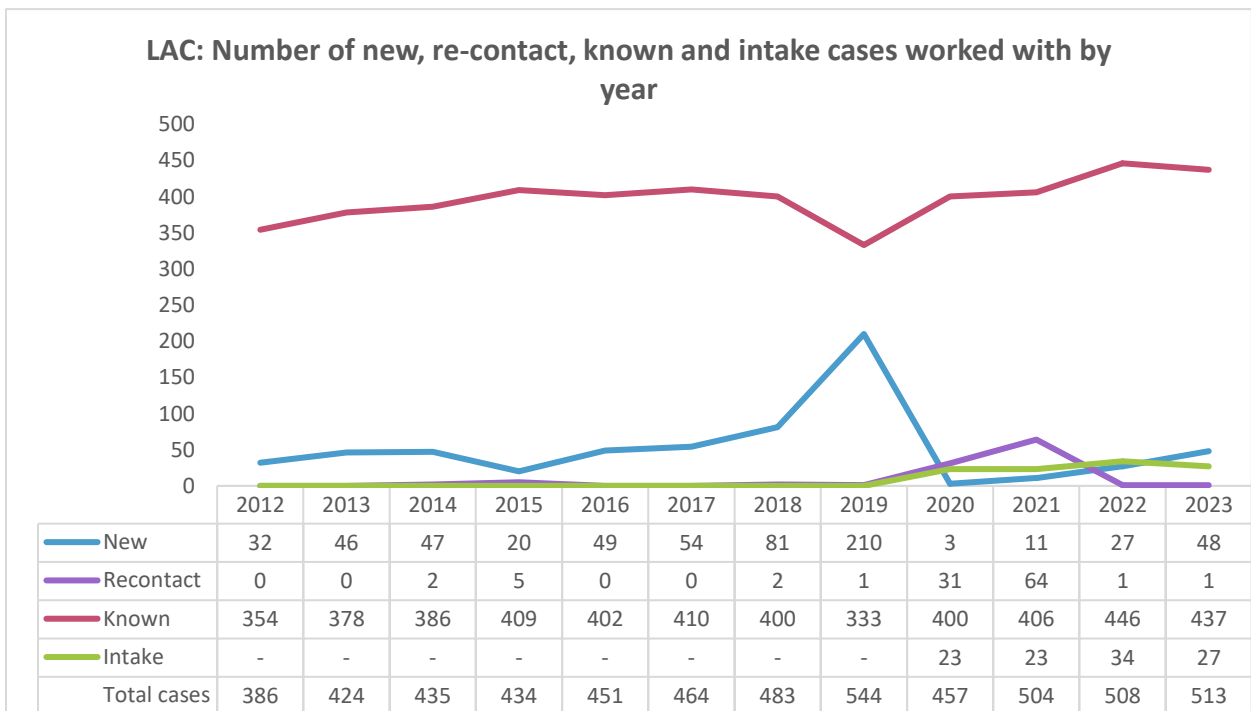


Figure 17: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary. For the above graph, intake began to be reported in 2020 due to the implementation of an online data collection system.

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

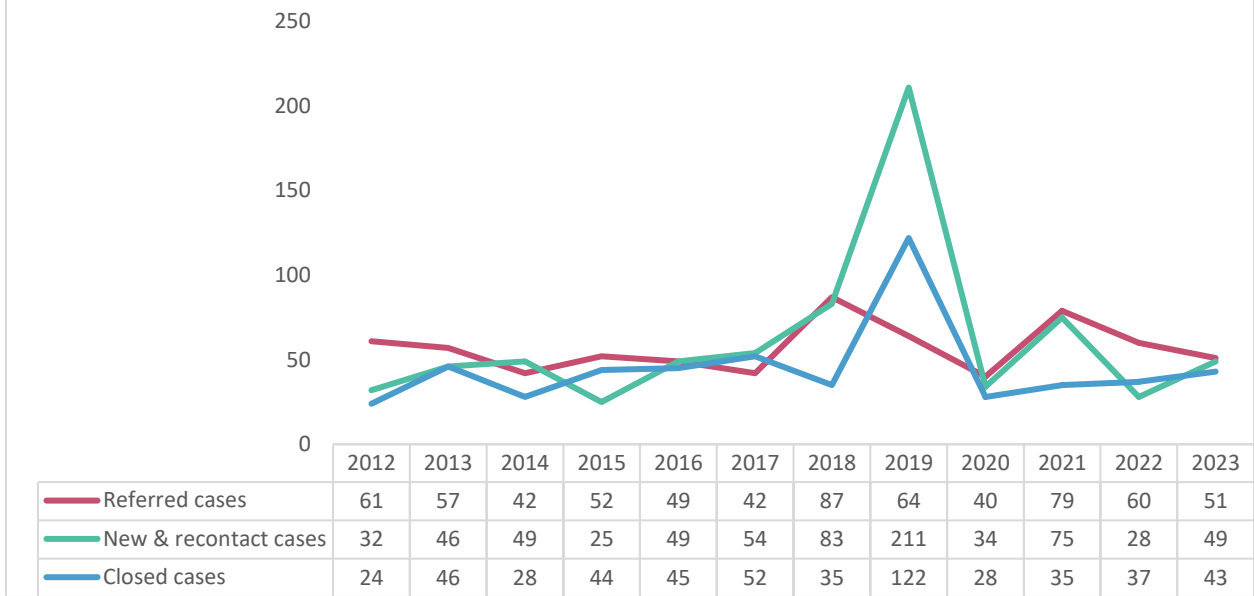


Figure 18: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 17 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, 51 cases were referred, 49 new & recontact cases opened, and 43 cases closed.

### LAC: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

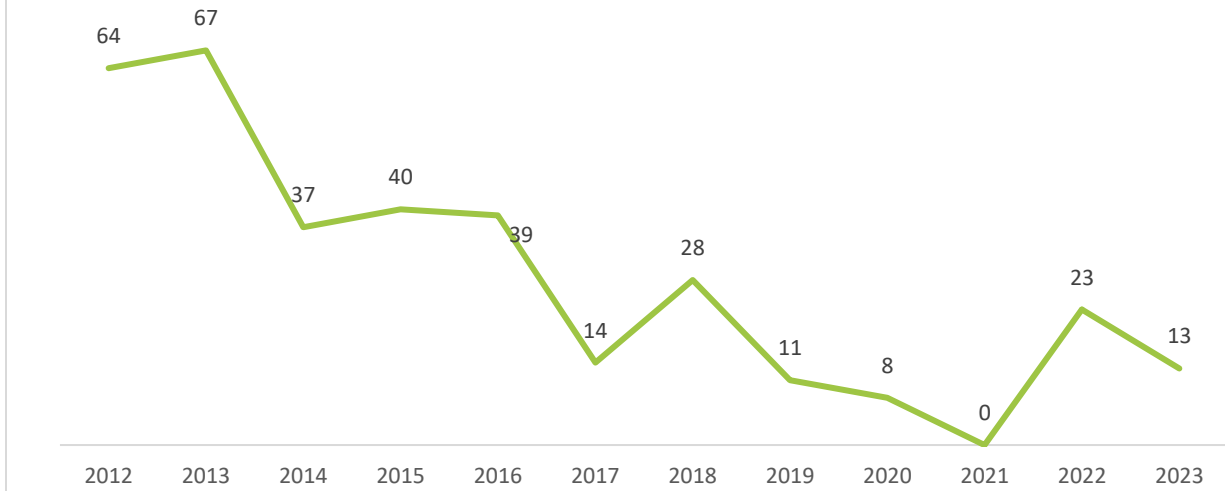


Figure 19: The figure above only reports cases that are still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

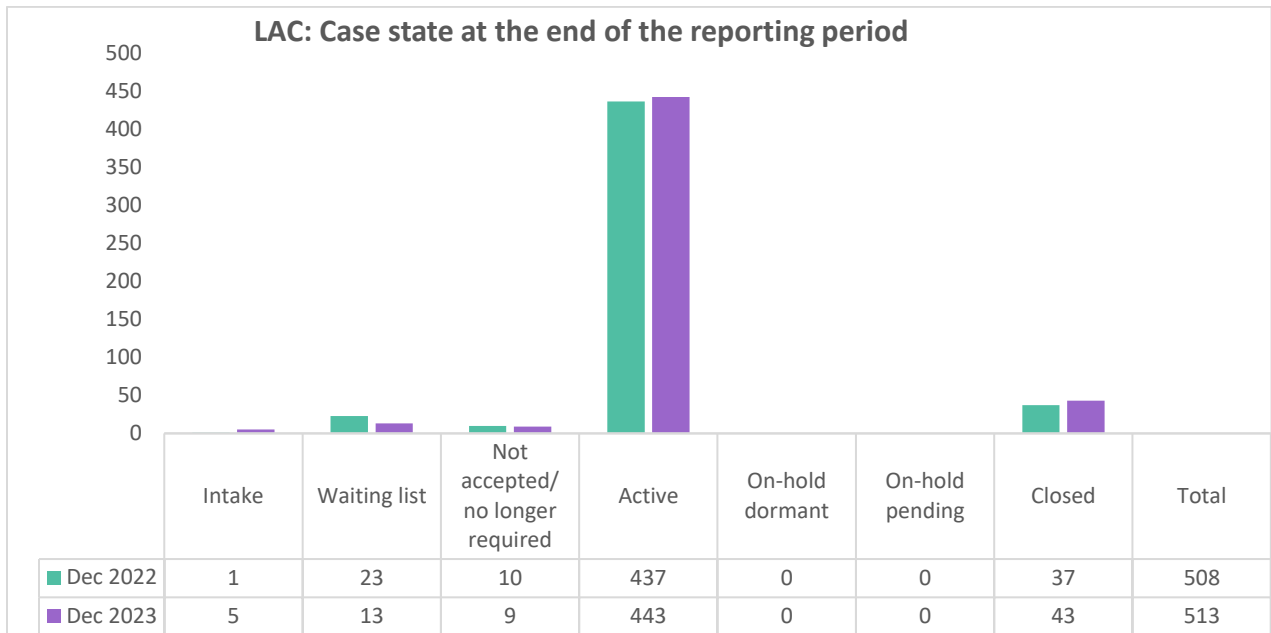


Figure 20: Cases will be handled throughout the year by placing them on intake, adding them to the waiting list, opening them, or closing them (definitions can be found in the glossary). The case state at the end of the reporting year is shown in the figure above. In 2023, 86% (443) of the cases worked with were still active by the end of the year. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case. This service has a high number of active cases and low number of closures because cases are worked with over many years (i.e. long term cases).

## Details regarding cases worked with January - December 2023

A total of 513 cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### LAC: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

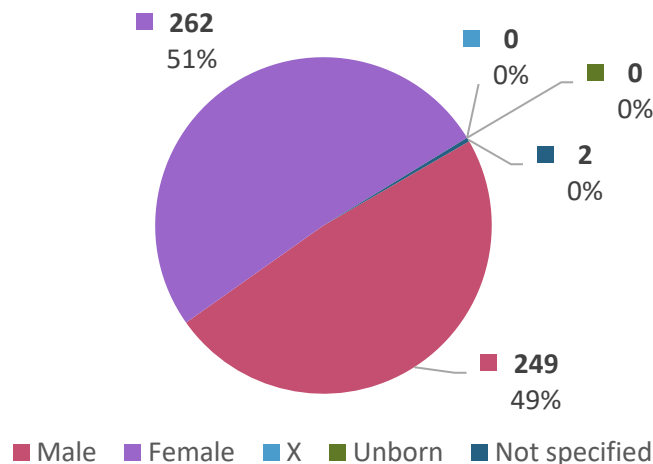


Figure 21: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were female (51%).

**LAC: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)**

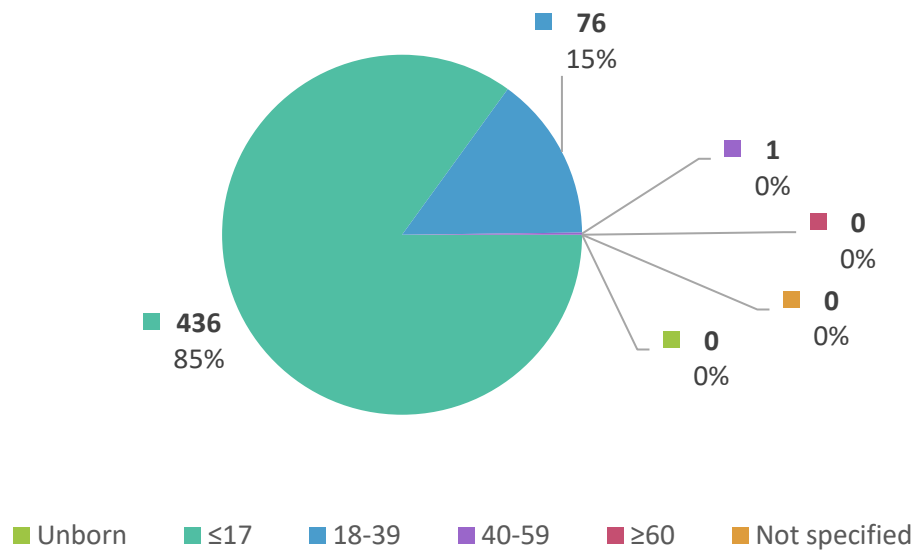


Figure 22: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 17 or younger (85%).

**LAC: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)**

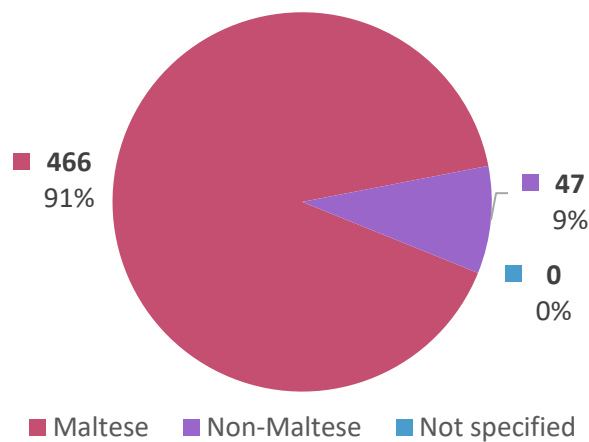


Figure 23: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 91% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 9% of cases.

**LAC: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)**

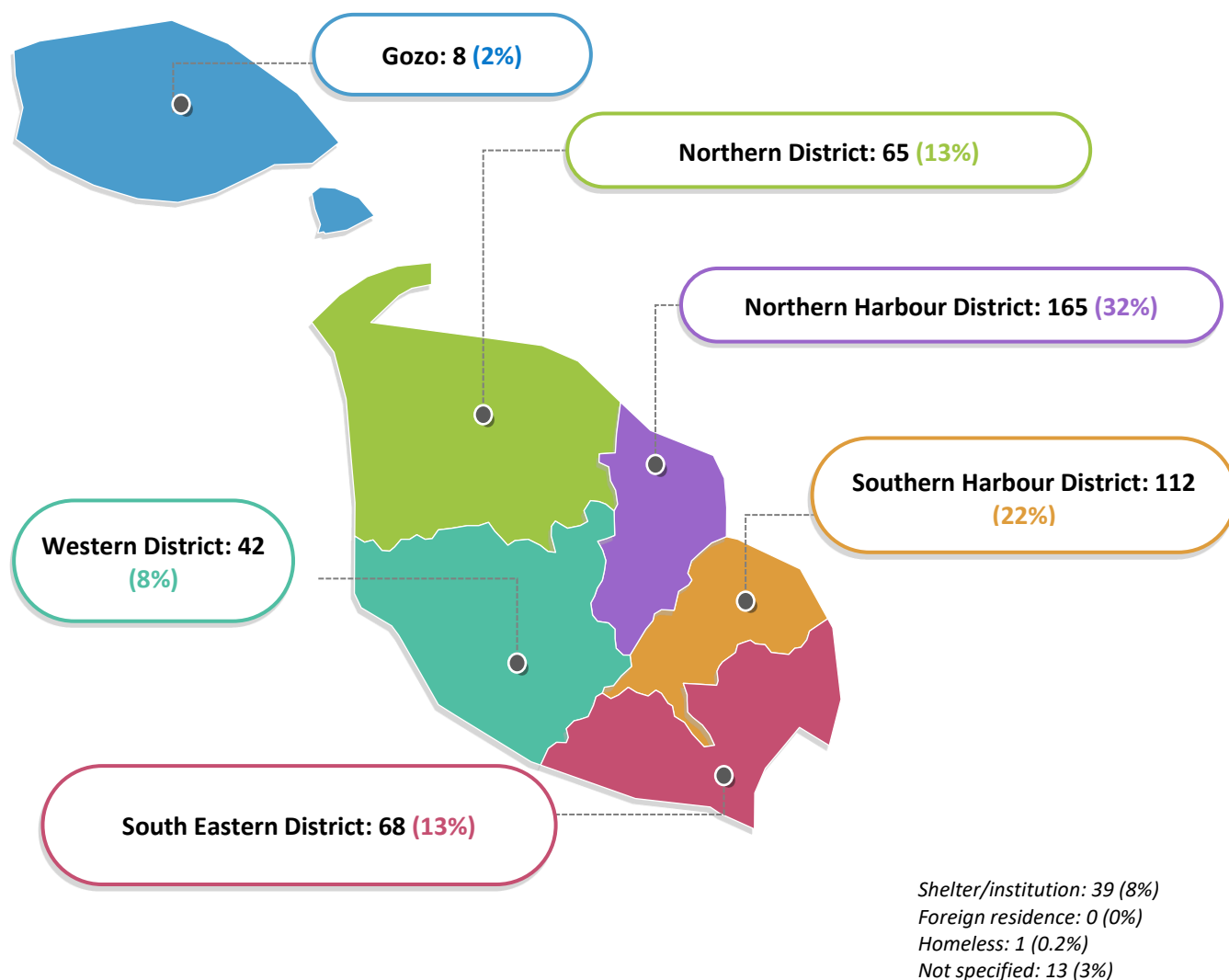


Figure 24: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. The Northern Harbour District (32%) had the highest percentage of cases worked with in 2023.

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **49** cases were opened between January and December 2023.

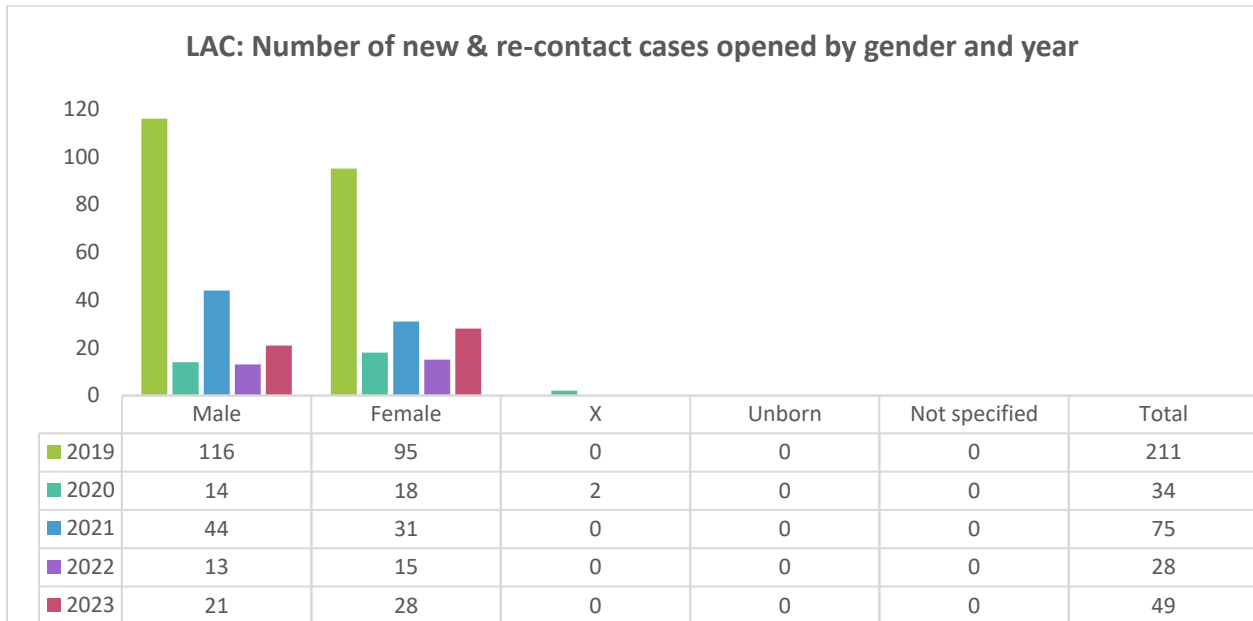


Figure 25: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were female (28).

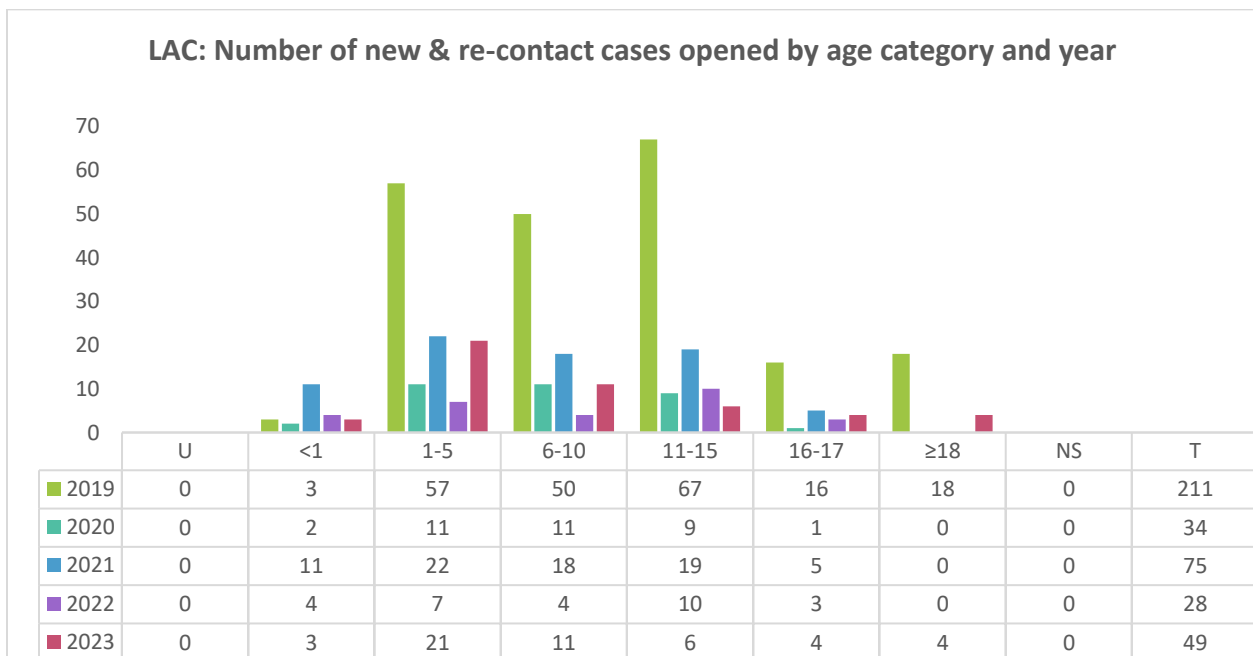


Figure 26: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were ages 1 to 5 (21). In some cases, the service is required to support a youth beyond the age of 18 in order for the youth to gain full independence e.g., young adult is in tertiary education and cannot afford personal housing at this time.

Graph Key: U = Unborn; NS = Not Specified.

LAC: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by age category and gender January – December 2023						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
<1	1	2	0	0	0	3
1-5	10	11	0	0	0	21
6-10	7	4	0	0	0	11
11-15	1	5	0	0	0	6
16-17	1	3	0	0	0	4
≥18	1	3	0	0	0	4
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>

Figure 27: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided.

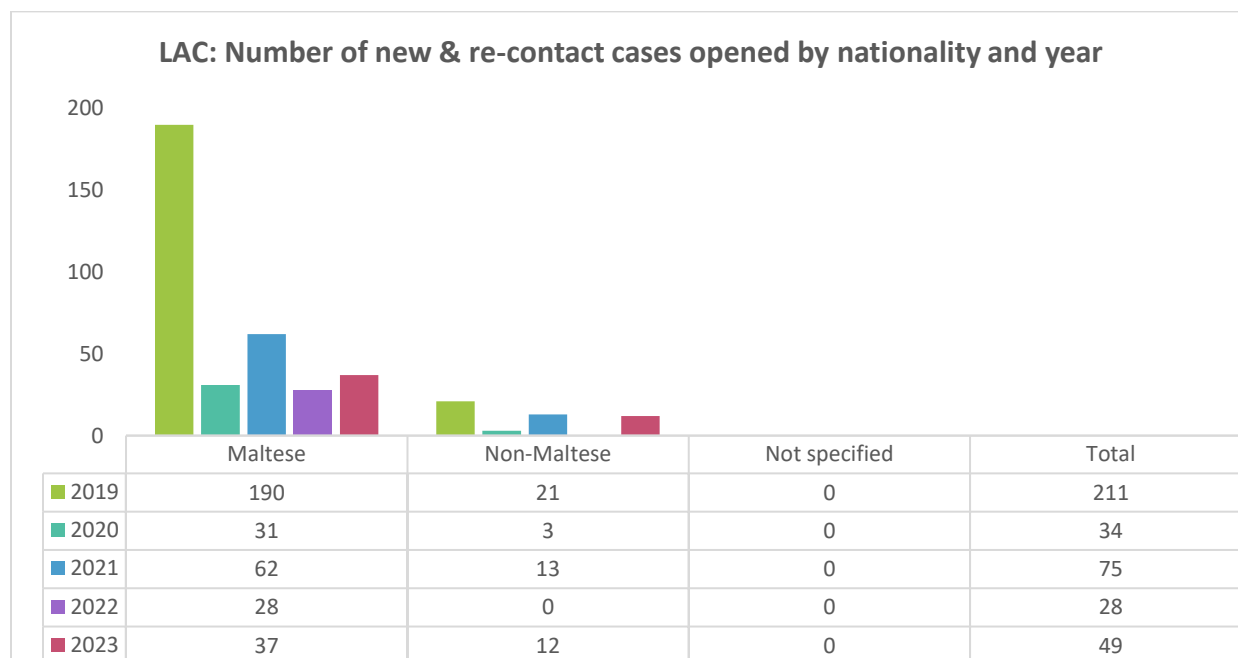


Figure 28: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, 37 cases opened in 2023 were Maltese while 12 cases were non-Maltese.

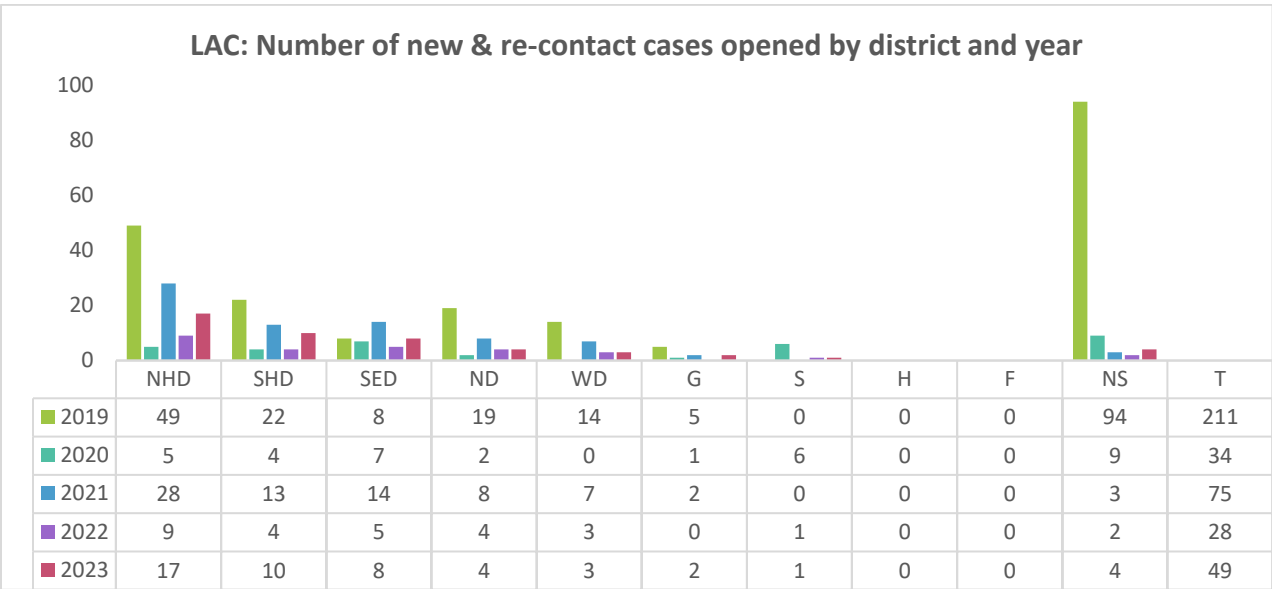


Figure 29: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. The Northern Harbour District (17) had the highest number of cases opened in 2023.

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

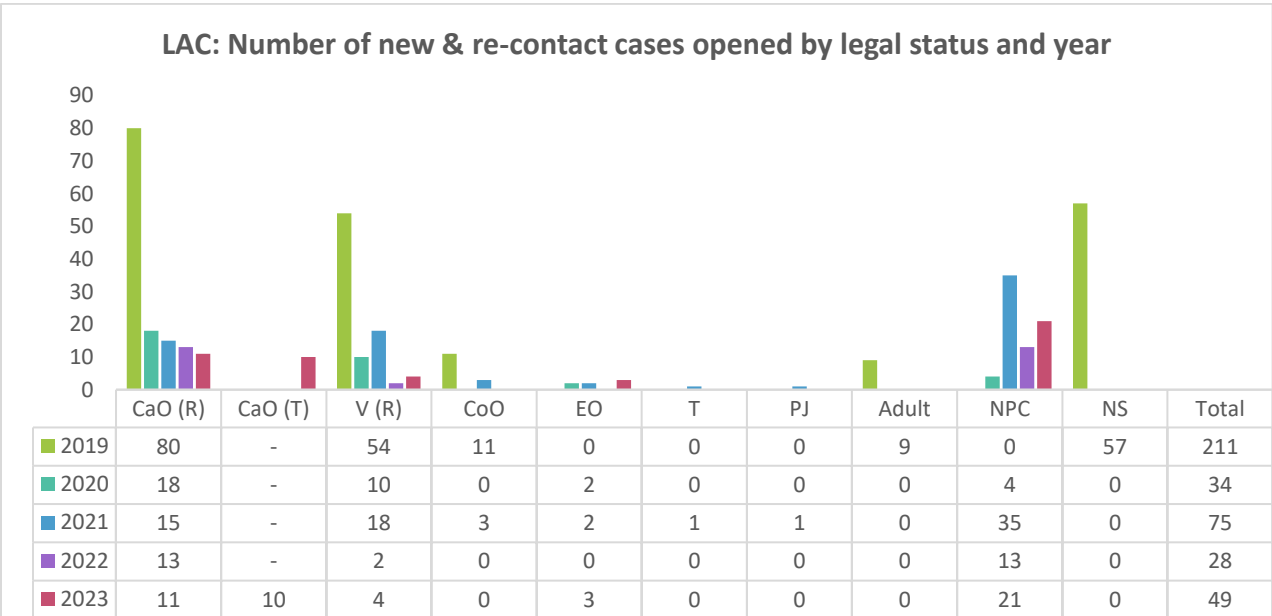


Figure 30: The figure above classifies the legal status, as per legal definitions<sup>1</sup>, within the reporting year. It is the status as reported by the service user, known by the case worker, or based on documentation. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. The variable is reported for children with a special custody status otherwise it is normal parental custody.

Graph Key: CaO (R) = Care order (regular); CaO (T) = Care order (temporary); V (R) = Voluntary (Regular); CoO = Court order; EO = Emergency order; T = Tutorship; PJ = Parental joint; NPC = Normal parental custody; NS = Not specified.

<sup>1</sup> Laws of Malta, chapter 602, Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act

# Looked After Children Healthcare Service (LACHS)

Service was established in 2021 and first reported data within the statistical report in 2022.

LACHS: Number of visits carried out by age category groups and type of assessment January – December 2023							
	IHA new case	RHA	Adhoc review	IHA catch-up	Educational talk	Telephone follow-up assessment	Total
Less than 1 year	10	11	6	0	0	0	27
1 - 5 years	18	98	58	1	0	7	182
6 - 10 years	12	97	42	4	0	45	200
11 - 15 years	5	129	69	2	1	67	273
16 - 17 years	3	39	33	2	0	12	89
18+ years	0	2	11	0	0	0	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>784</b>

Figure 31: Children will be provided with health-related visits consisting of an initial health assessment, a review health assessment, an adhoc review (e.g., if someone is unwell), an educational talk or telephone follow-up assessment. The figure above breaks down the visit types and the age category of the children attending. For example, between January and December 2023, 129 children aged 11 to 15 years were provided a review health assessment (RHA). Please note that each child may have been visited more than once within the reporting period.

Table key. IHA: Initial health assessment; RHA: Review health assessments.

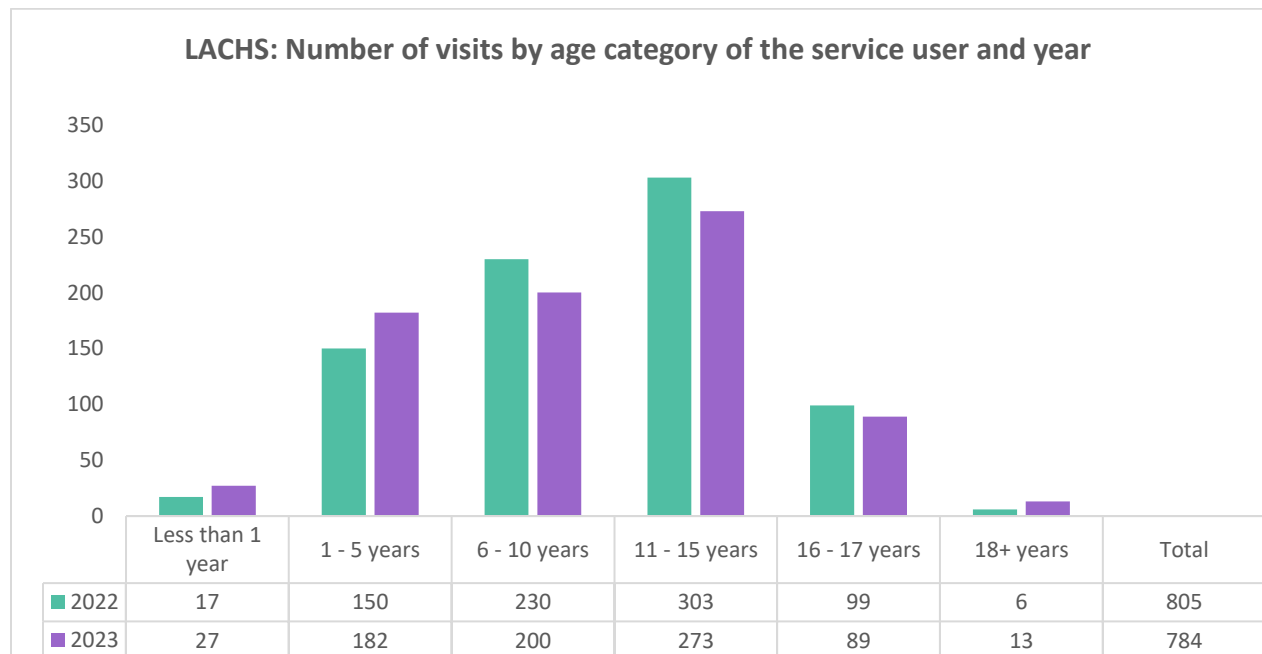


Figure 32: The figure above provides the age category of the children provided with healthcare visits. For example, the majority of children visited in 2022 were ages 11 to 15 (303). Please note that each child may have been visited more than once within the reporting period.

LACHS: Number of children assessed by age category and gender January – December 2023						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Less than 1 years	5	7	0	0	0	12
1 - 5 years	50	41	0	0	0	91
6 - 10 years	51	60	0	0	0	111
11 - 15 years	70	87	0	0	0	157
16 - 17 years	28	24	0	0	0	52
18+ years	6	1	0	0	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>430</b>

Figure 33: The table above provides the ages and gender of the children that attended visits in the reporting year. Therefore, in 2023 a total of 430 children attended 784 healthcare visits and the majority of the 430 children were ages 11 to 15 (157 children assessed).

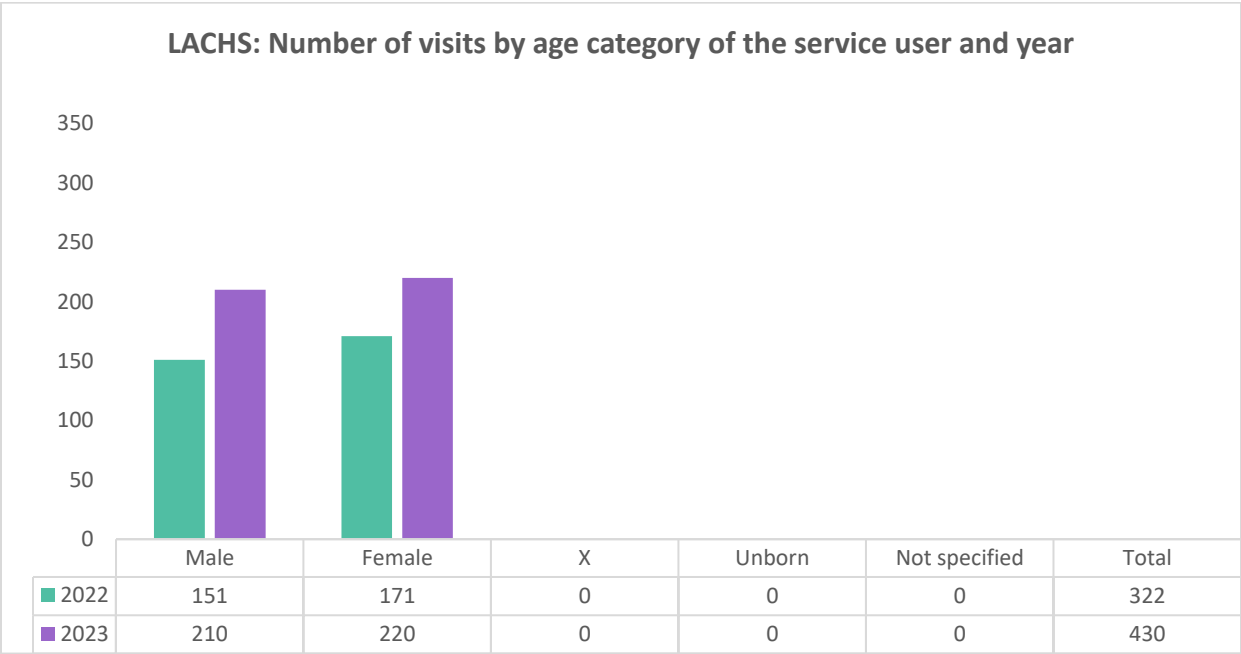


Figure 34: The figure above provides the gender of the children provided with healthcare visits. For example, the majority of children visited in 2022 were female (171). Please note that each child may have been visited more than once within the reporting period.

# Additional DAC Services

## Reintegration Services

Service began reporting data as of 2022.

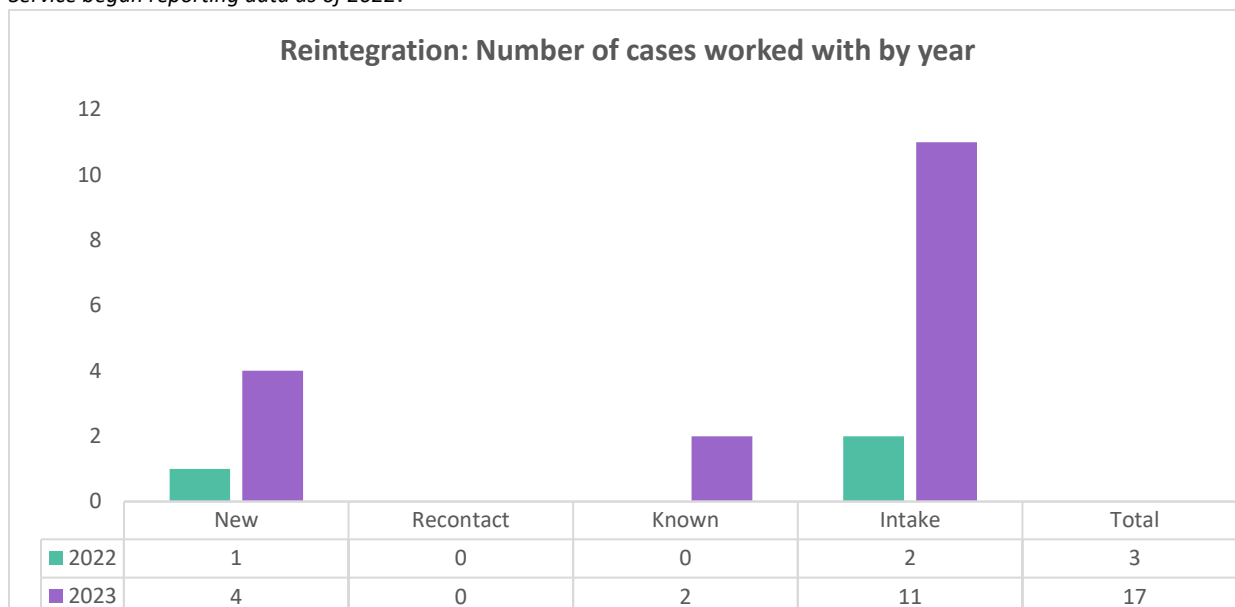


Figure 35: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary.

Reintegration: Number of cases worked with by age category and gender January – December 2023						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	1	0	0	0	0	1
6-10	2	3	0	0	0	5
11-15	1	1	0	0	0	2
16-17	0	1	0	0	0	1
≥18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	3	5	0	0	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>

Figure 36: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided.

## Children's Fund

Service began reporting data as of 2022.

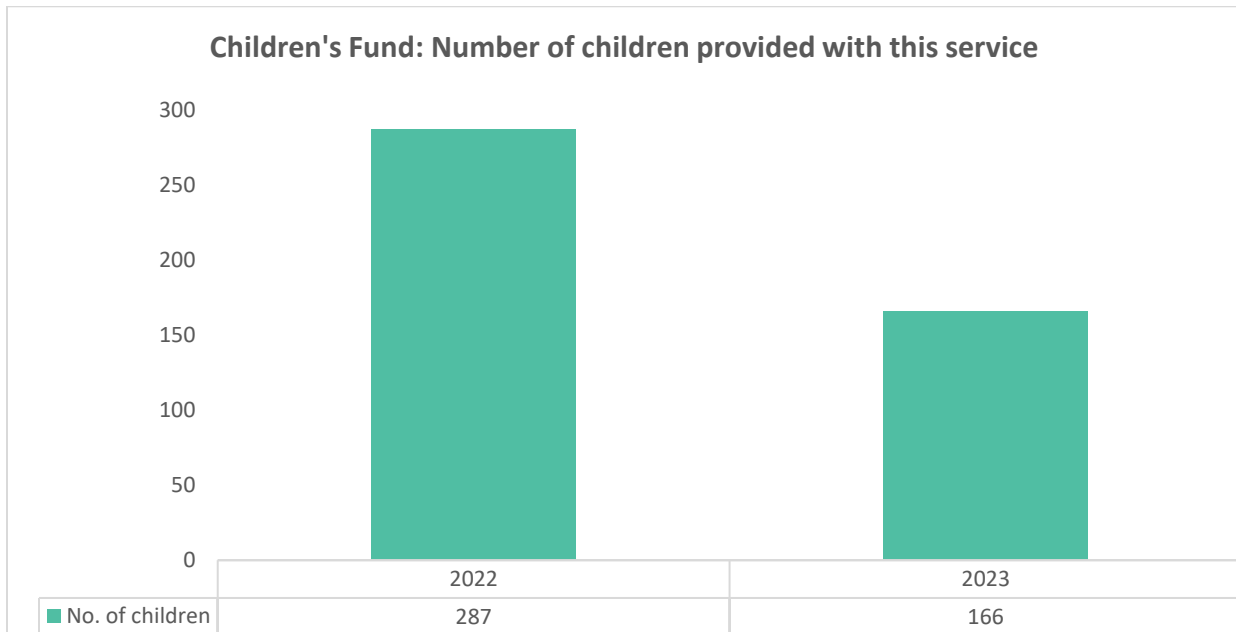


Figure 37: Social workers submit applications for children to be provided basic amenities purchased with funds raised or donated. For example, in 2022 a total of 287 children benefited from this fund.

## Children Dreams

Service began reporting data as of January 2022.

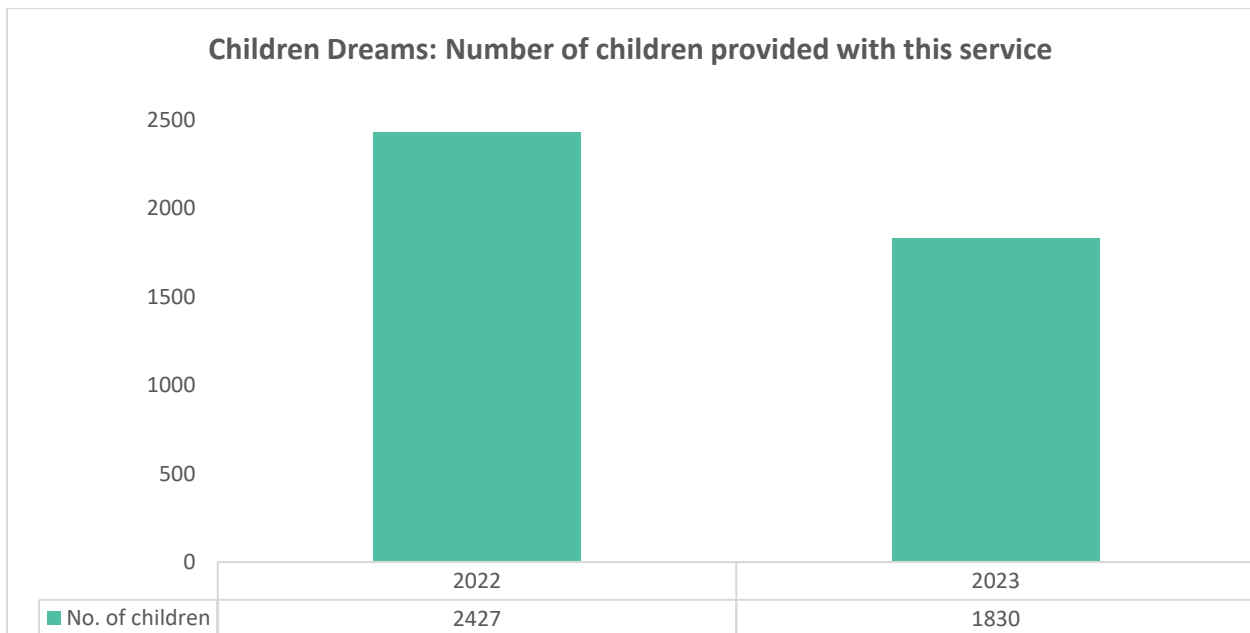


Figure 38: People can help vulnerable children receive the Christmas gift of their dreams (e.g., simple meal, an outing, educational courses etc.) As this is a Christmas related activity, events only occur in the latter half of the year. For example, in 2022, 2427 children were provided with a gift.



# Socio-Legal Service

Service began reporting data as of January 2023.

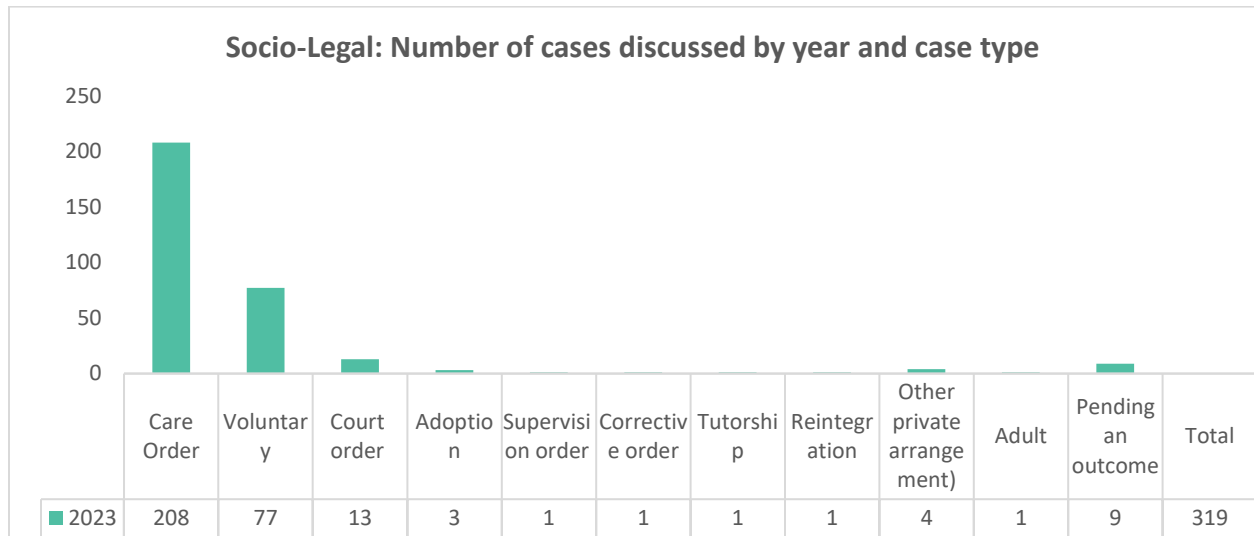


Figure 39: The figure above classifies the legal status of the case, as per legal definitions<sup>2</sup>, within the reporting year. It is the status as reported by the service user, known by the case worker, or based on documentation. In 2023, a total of 319 cases were discussed by this service.

<sup>2</sup> Laws of Malta, chapter 602, Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act



## Youth Initiatives (YI)

Service began reporting data as of January 2023.

Youth Initiatives: Number of youths referred by programme and gender January – December 2023					
	Male	Female	X	Not specified	Total
AFM programme	35	20	0	0	55
Self-Care programme	0	9	0	0	9
Centre of Residential Restorative Services (CoRRs) programme	15	1	0	0	16
One-Off Initiatives	23	26	0	0	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>129</b>

Figure 40: The service provides various programmes through the year and the attendees are stratified by gender. For example, in 2023, 35 males and 20 females attended the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) Programme.

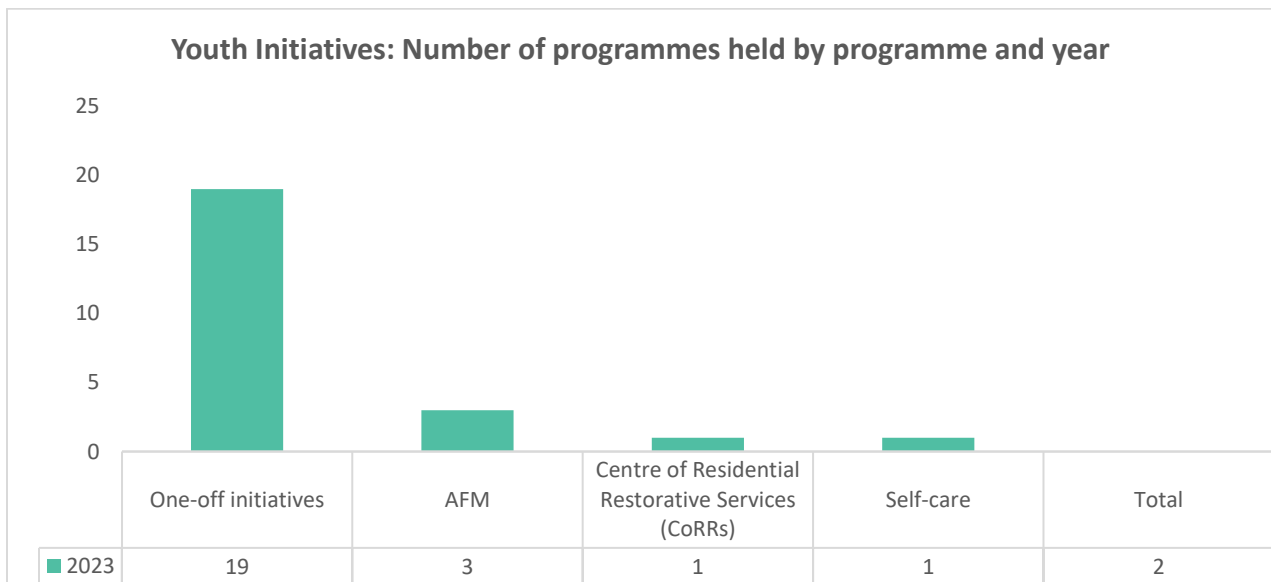


Figure 41: In 2023, a total of 24 programmes were provided with the highest number consisting of one-off initiatives (19).

## Alternative Care Placement Records

The service records children and youth who at some point during the year, lived in an alternative care placement and are followed/monitored by a service within the Directorate for Alternative Care or the Child Protection Service.

Placement: Cases worked with, number of families and number of active placements by year		
	2022	2023
Number of children and youth cases worked with	569	551
Number of different families the children and youth came from	362	355
Number of active placements recorded	589	607

Figure 42: Between January and December 2023, the Directorate for Alternative Care worked with 551 cases of children and youth who at some point during the year, lived in an alternative care placement. These 551 children and youth cases came from 355 different families. In total there were 607 active placements recorded (because some children and youth may have more than one placement during the same year).

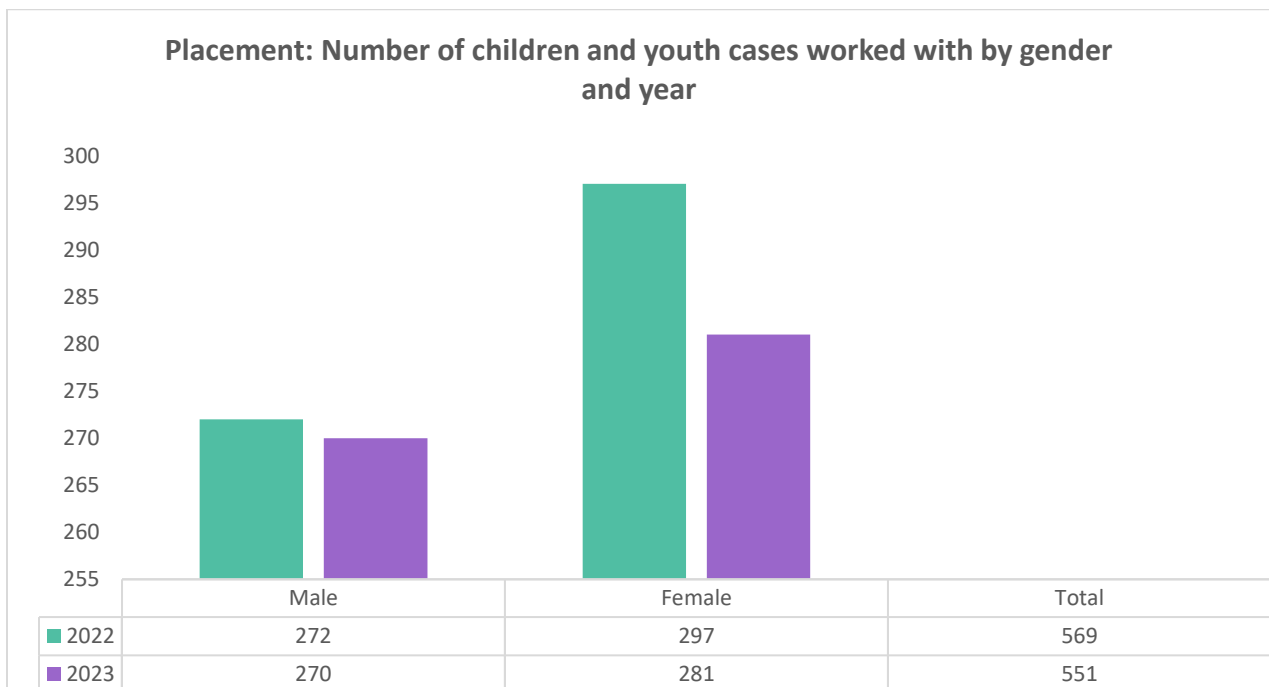


Figure 43: Out of the 551 youth or children cases worked with in 2023, 51% (281) were female and 49% (270) were male.

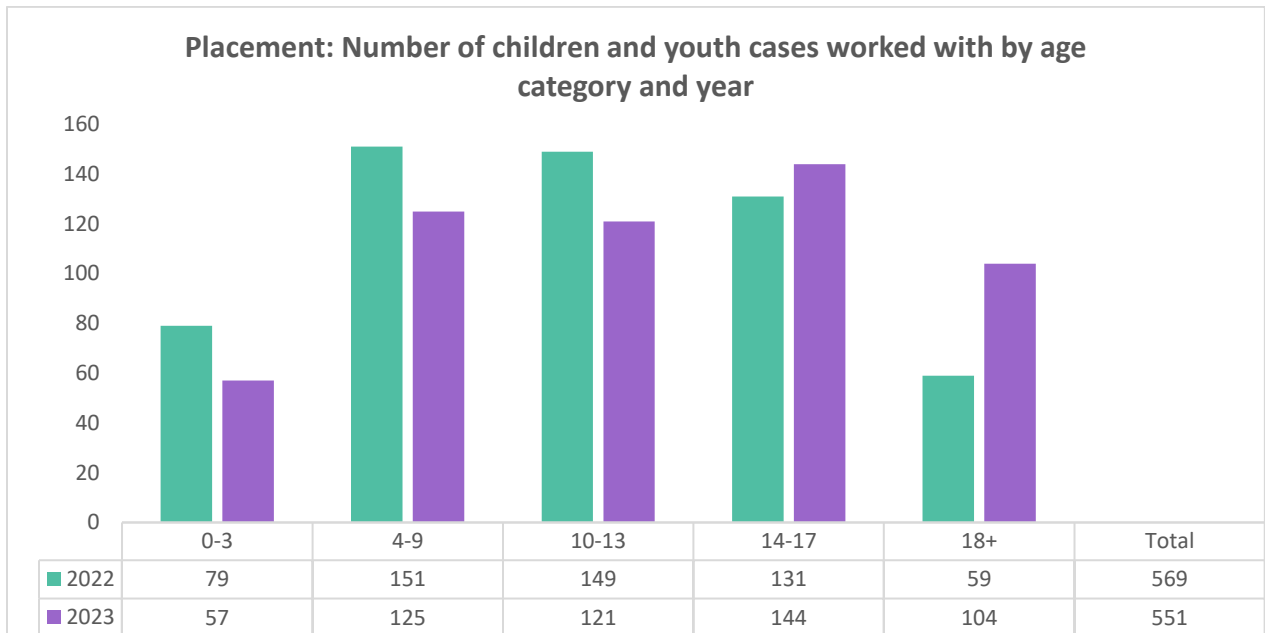


Figure 44: Out of the 551 youth or children cases worked with in 2023, 26% (144) were ages 14 to 17. Although the service targets children up to 17 years of age, they may be required to support a youth beyond the age of 18 in order for the youth to gain full independence e.g., young adult is in tertiary education and cannot afford personal housing at this time.

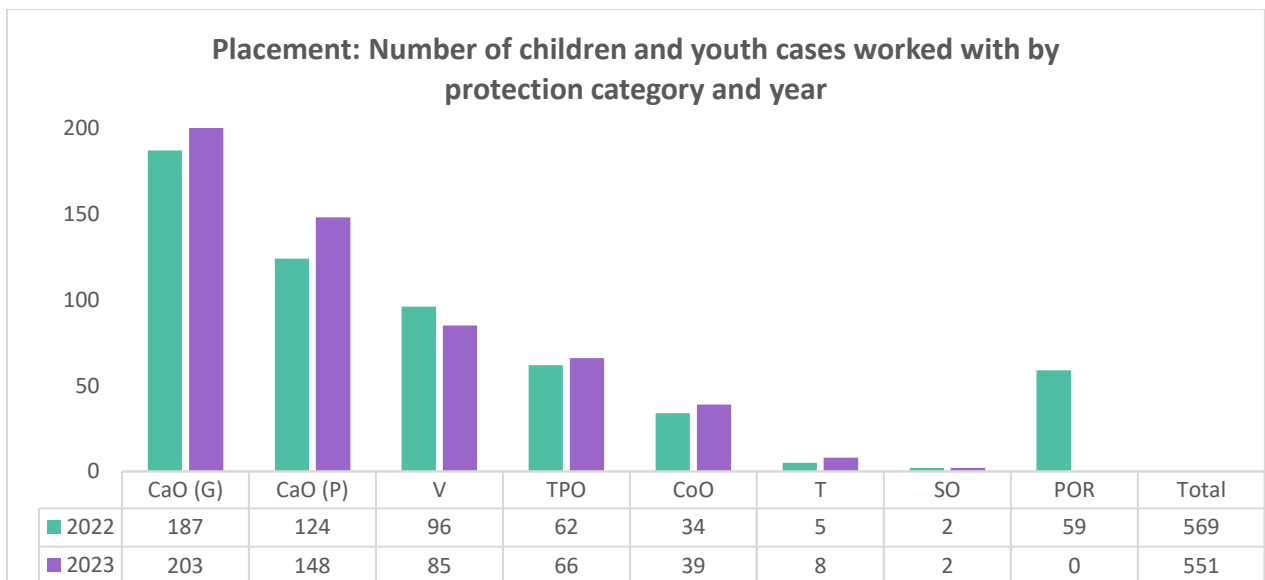


Figure 45: The figure above classifies the protection category of the case, as per legal definitions<sup>3</sup>, within the reporting year. It is the status as reported by the service user, known by the case worker, or based on documentation. Some youth will have their protection order revoked once they turn 18 but they will still be provided a placement because they may still require support in order to gain full independence (e.g., young adult is in tertiary education and cannot afford personal housing at this time).

Graph Key: CaO (G) = Care order (general); CaO (P) = Care order (with permanency); V = Voluntary in care; TPO= Temporary protection order; CoO = Court order; T=Tutorship; SO = Supervision order; POR = Protection order revoked (turned 18 years).

<sup>3</sup> Laws of Malta, chapter 602, Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act

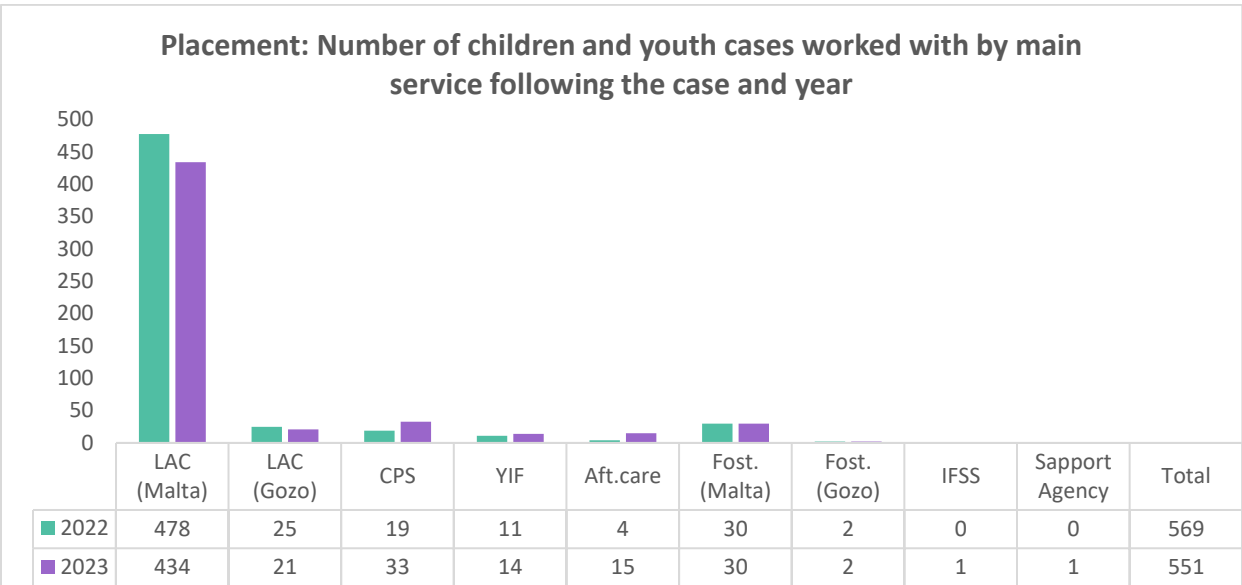


Figure 46: The figure above stratifies the children and youth cases worked with by the main service which is responsible for the person. Although a child or youth would be in a placement, they are still required to have a social worker monitoring their case. For example, of the 551 children and youth cases worked with in 2023, 79% (434) were mainly followed by Looked After Children Service Malta (LAC-Malta).

Graph Key: LAC (Malta) = Looked After Children Service (Malta); LAC (Gozo) = Looked After Children Service (Gozo); CPS = Child Protection Service; YIF = Youth in Focus; Aft.care = Aftercare Service; FST (Malta) = Fostering Service (Malta); Fost. (Gozo) = Fostering Service (Gozo).

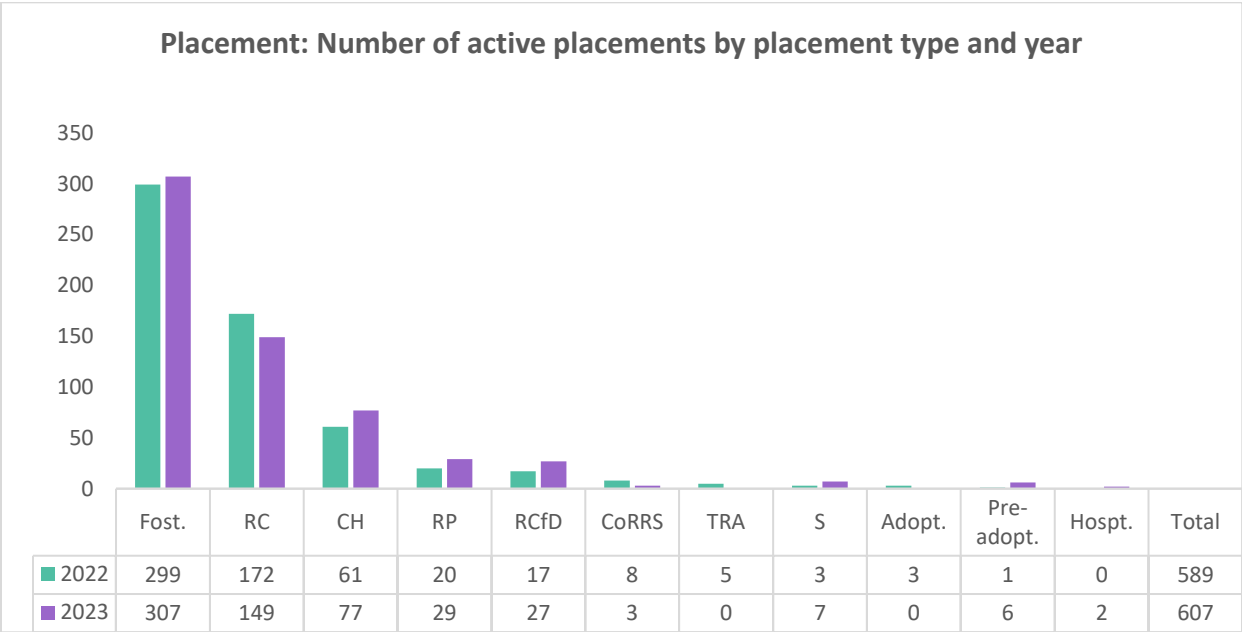


Figure 47: Children and youth may have more than one placement during the same year. Therefore, the figure above provides the total number of active placements stratified by the type of placement. For example, of the 607 active placements registered in 2023, 51% (307) were a fostering placement and 25% (149) were a residential care placement.

Graph Key: Fost. = Fostering; RC = Residential Care; CH = Community Homes; RP = Residential Programmes; RCfD = Residential care for persons with disabilities; CoRRS = Centre of Residential Restorative Services; Aft.C = Aftercare Community Flat; TRA = Temporary respite agreements; S = Shelters; Adopt. = Adoptive families; Pre-adopt. = Pre-adoption.



# Aftercare Service

## Case activity

Service began reporting data as of July 2022 and past data from 2021 re-submitted was reanalysed with the new format.

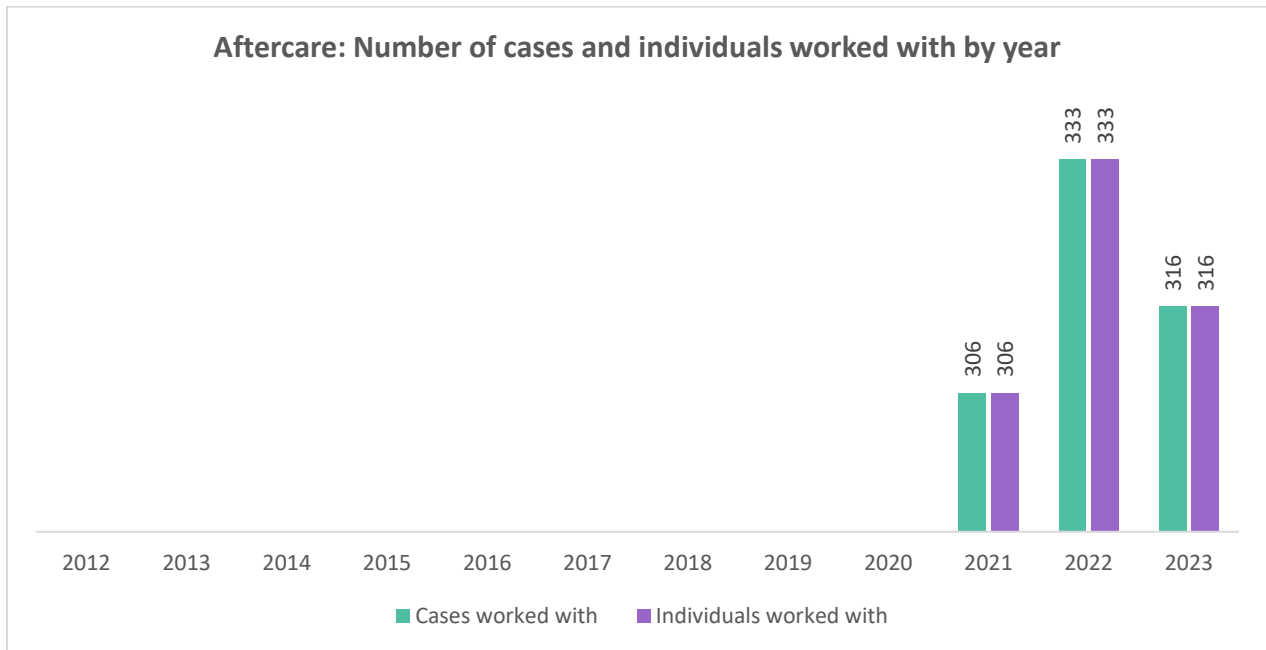


Figure 48: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals worked with. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. In 2023, 316 cases and 316 individuals were worked with compared to 333 and 333 respectively in 2022.

### Aftercare: Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with in the current year compared to the previous year.



Figure 49: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with increased by 9% in 2022 over 2021. The expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, or changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

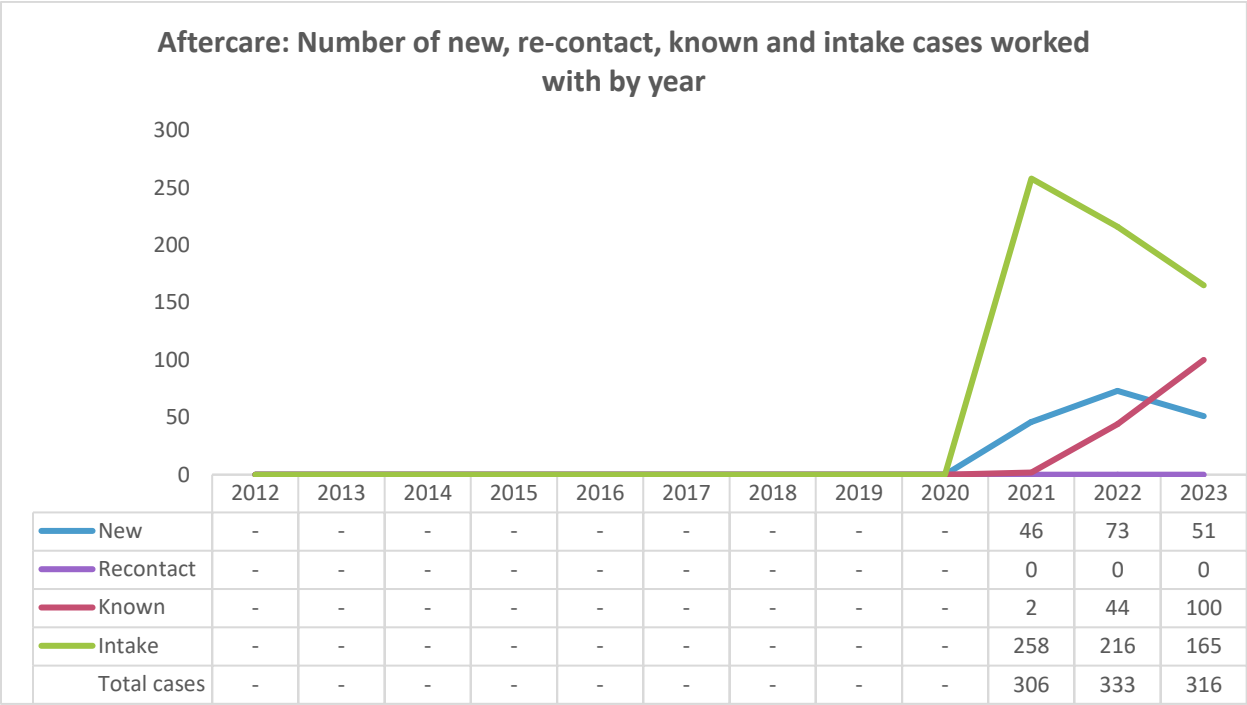


Figure 50: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary.

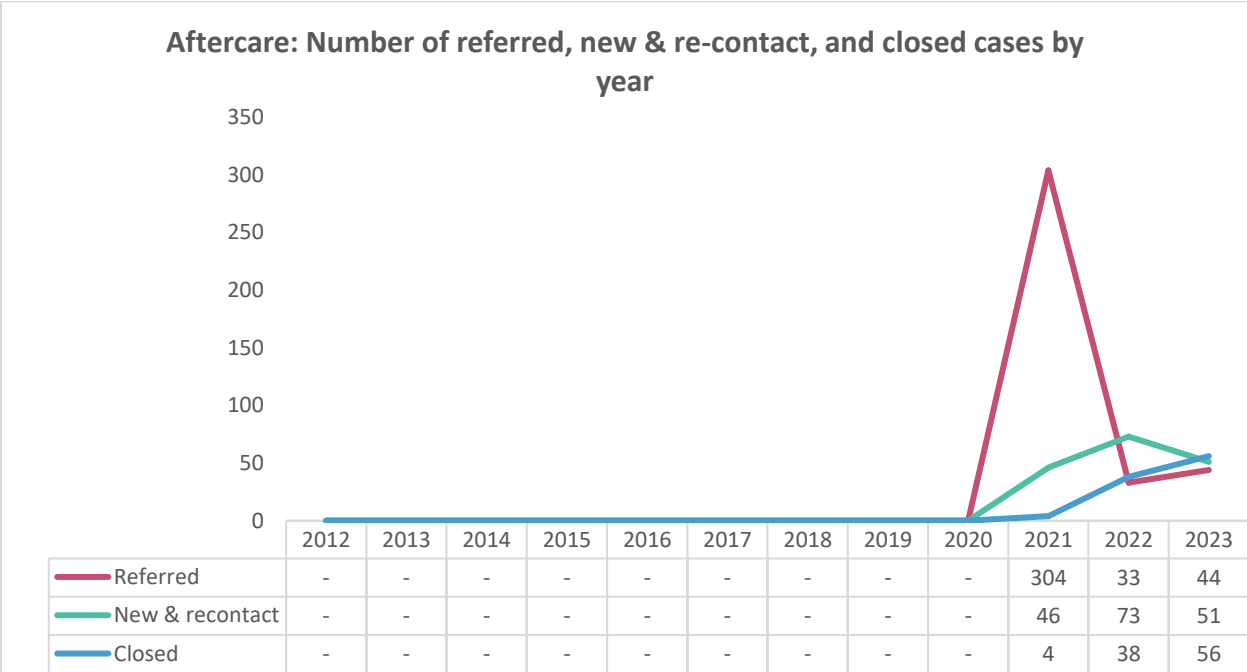


Figure 51: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 50 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, 44 cases were referred, 51 new & recontact cases opened, and 56 cases closed.

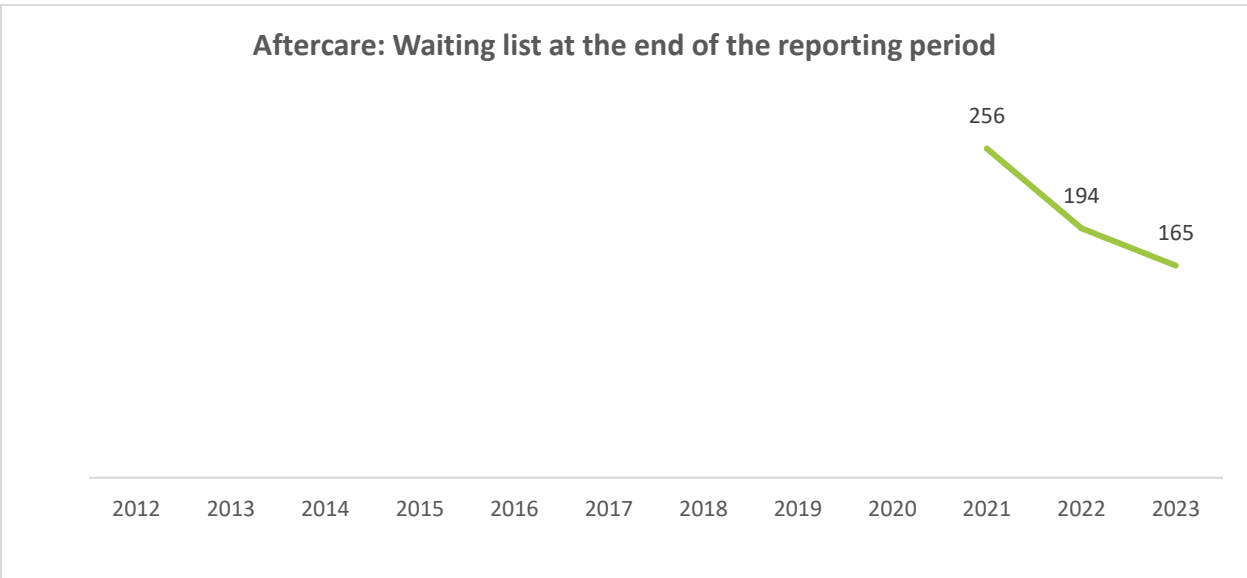


Figure 52: The figure above only reports cases that are still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

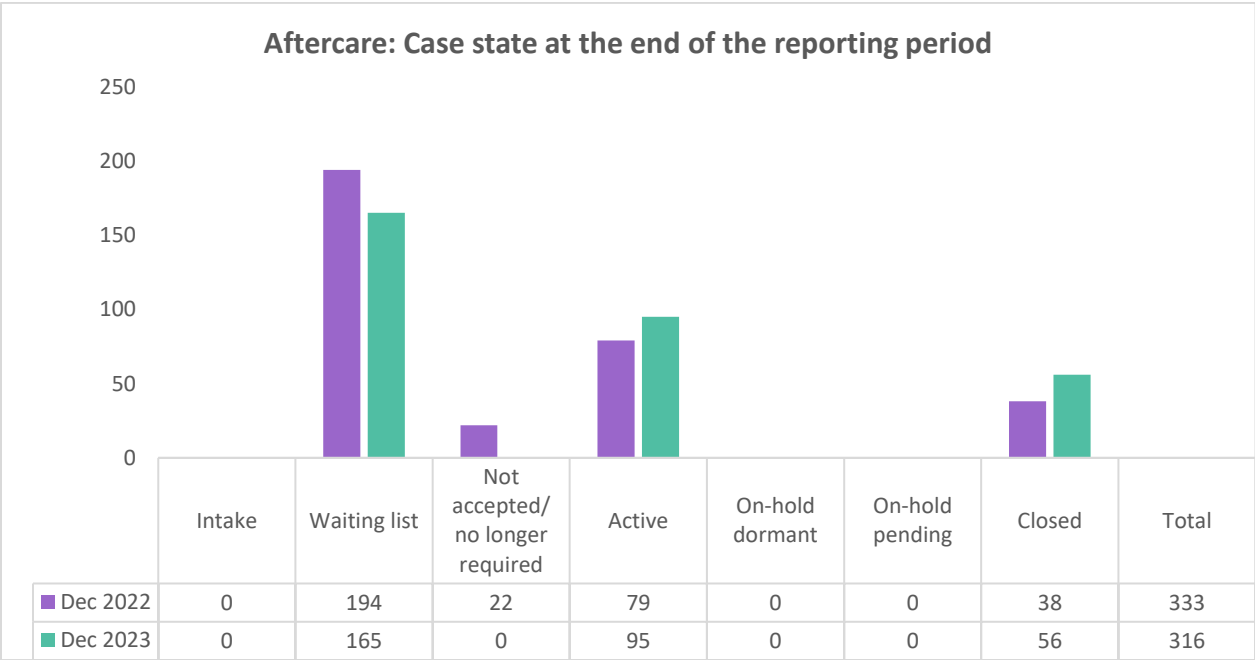


Figure 53: Cases will be handled throughout the year by placing them on intake, adding them to the waiting list, opening them, or closing them (definitions can be found in the glossary). The case state at the end of the reporting year is shown in the figure above. In 2023, 30% (95) of the cases worked with were still active by the end of the year. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

## Details regarding cases worked with January - December 2023

A total of **316** cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### Aftercare: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

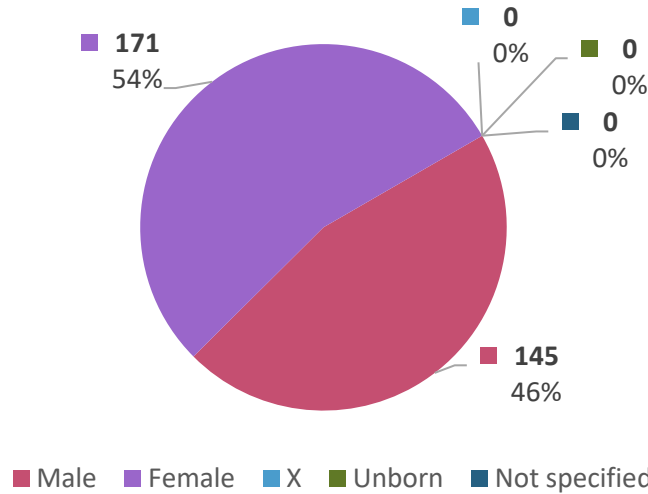


Figure 54: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were female (54%).

### Aftercare: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)

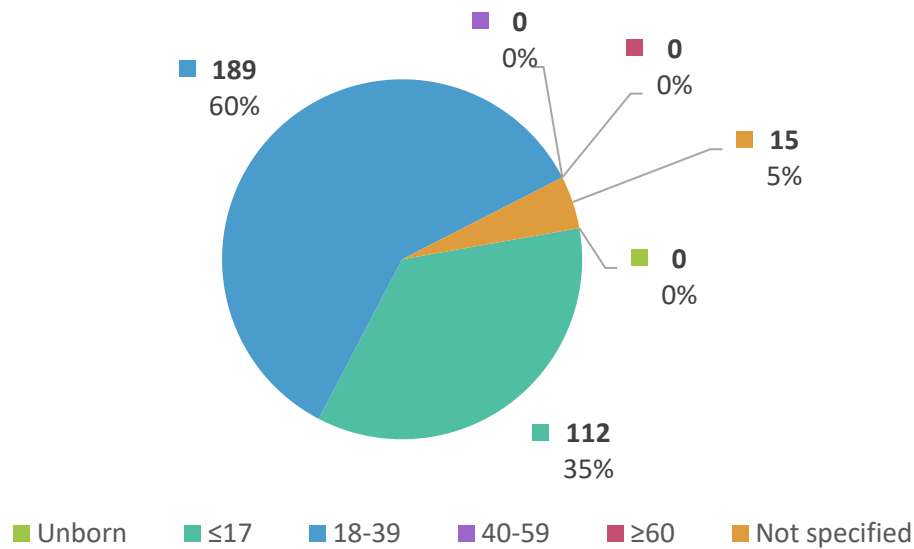
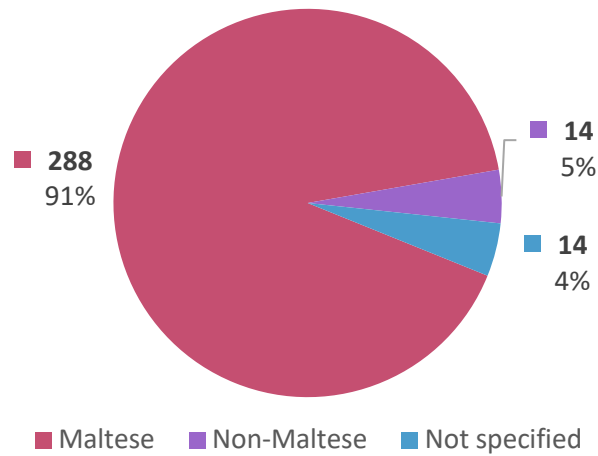


Figure 55: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 18 to 39 years (60%).

**Aftercare: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)**



*Figure 56: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 91% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 5% of cases.*

**Aftercare: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)**

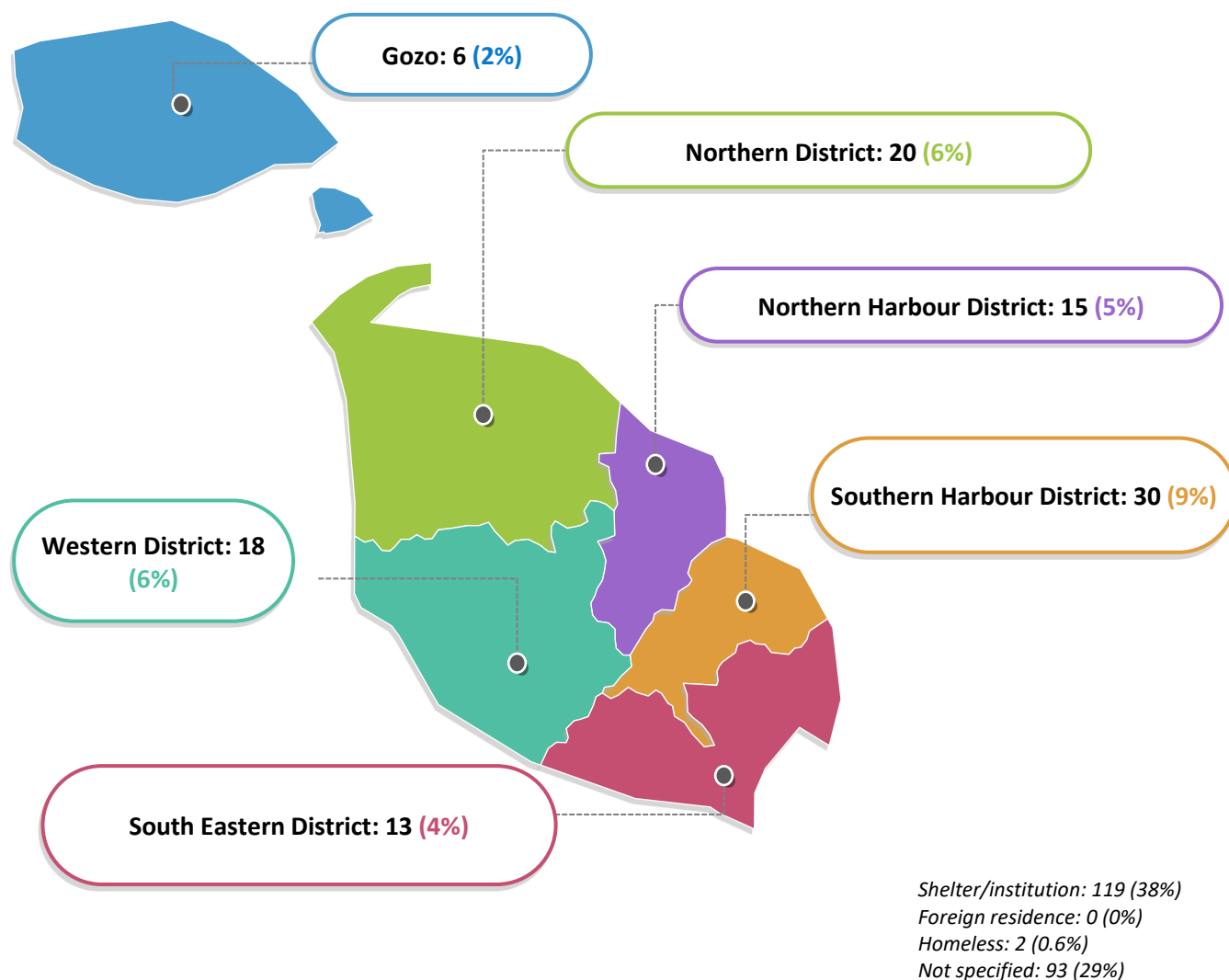


Figure 57: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. The ‘shelter/institution’ (38%) had the highest percentage of cases worked with in 2023.

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **51** cases were opened between January and December 2023.

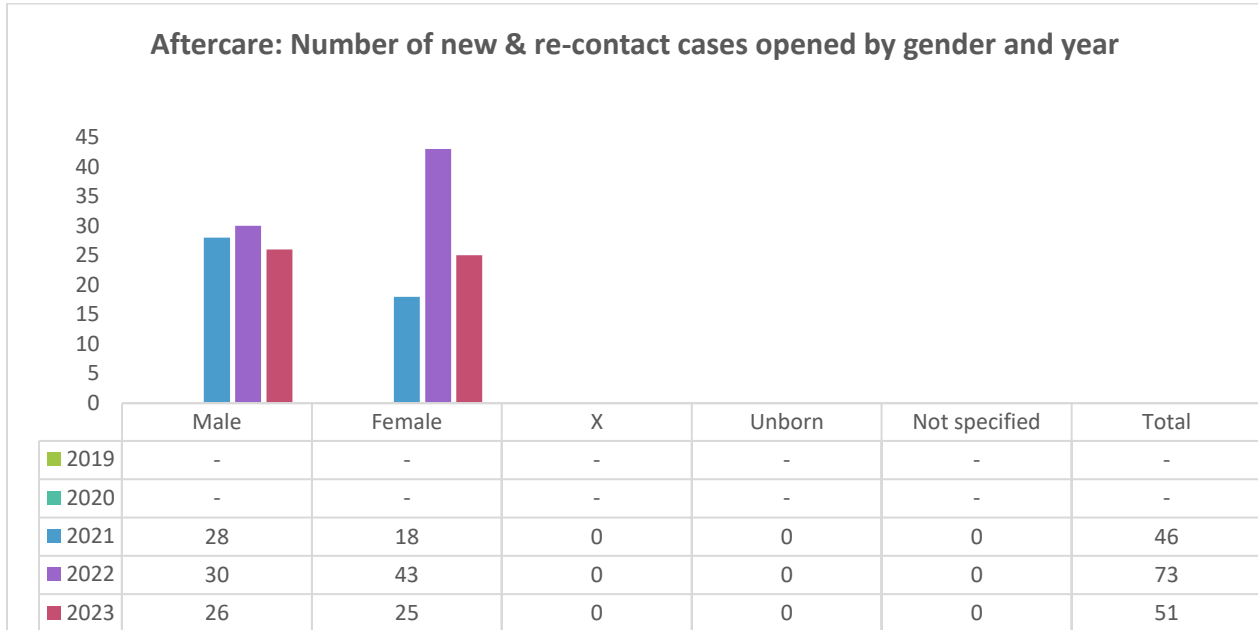


Figure 58: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were male (26).

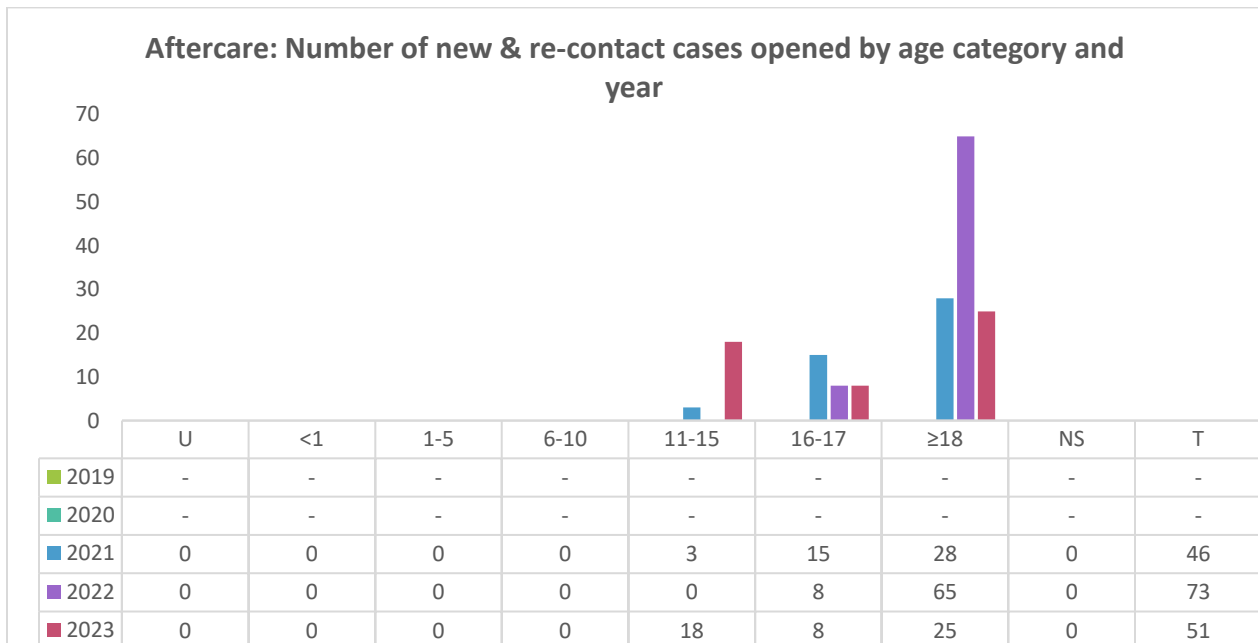


Figure 59: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were ages 18 and over (25).

Graph Key: U = Unborn; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

Aftercare: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by age category and gender January – December 2023						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-10	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-15	10	8	0	0	0	18
16-17	6	2	0	0	0	8
≥18	10	15	0	0	0	25
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51</b>

Figure 60: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided.

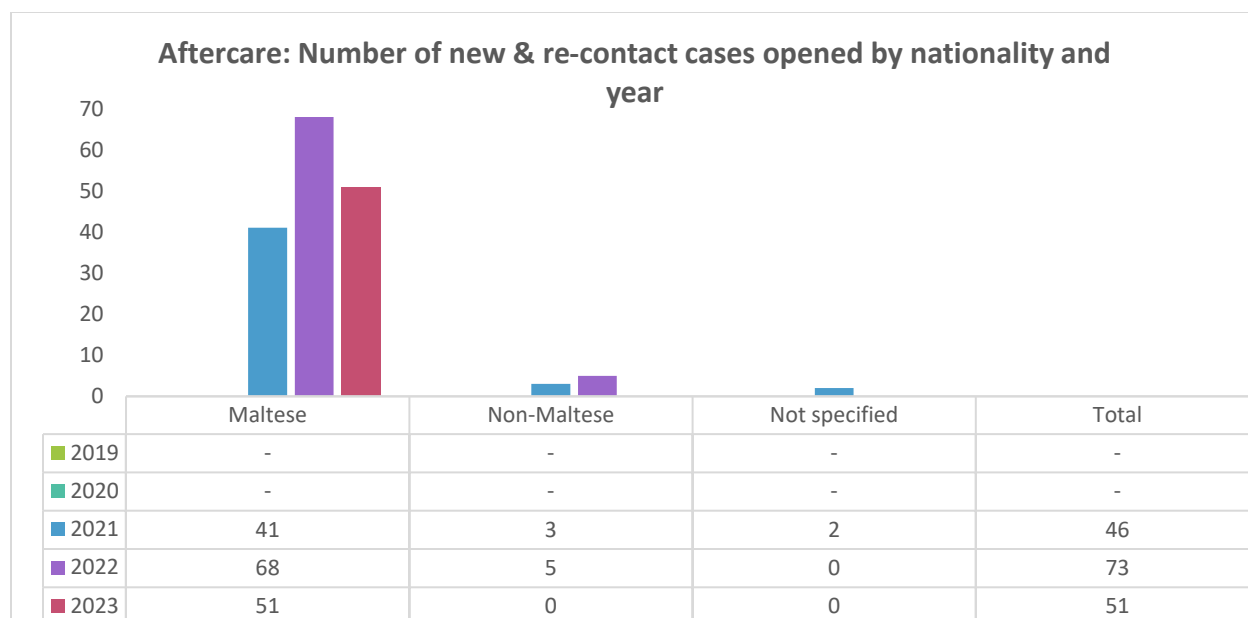


Figure 61: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, all cases opened were Maltese (51).

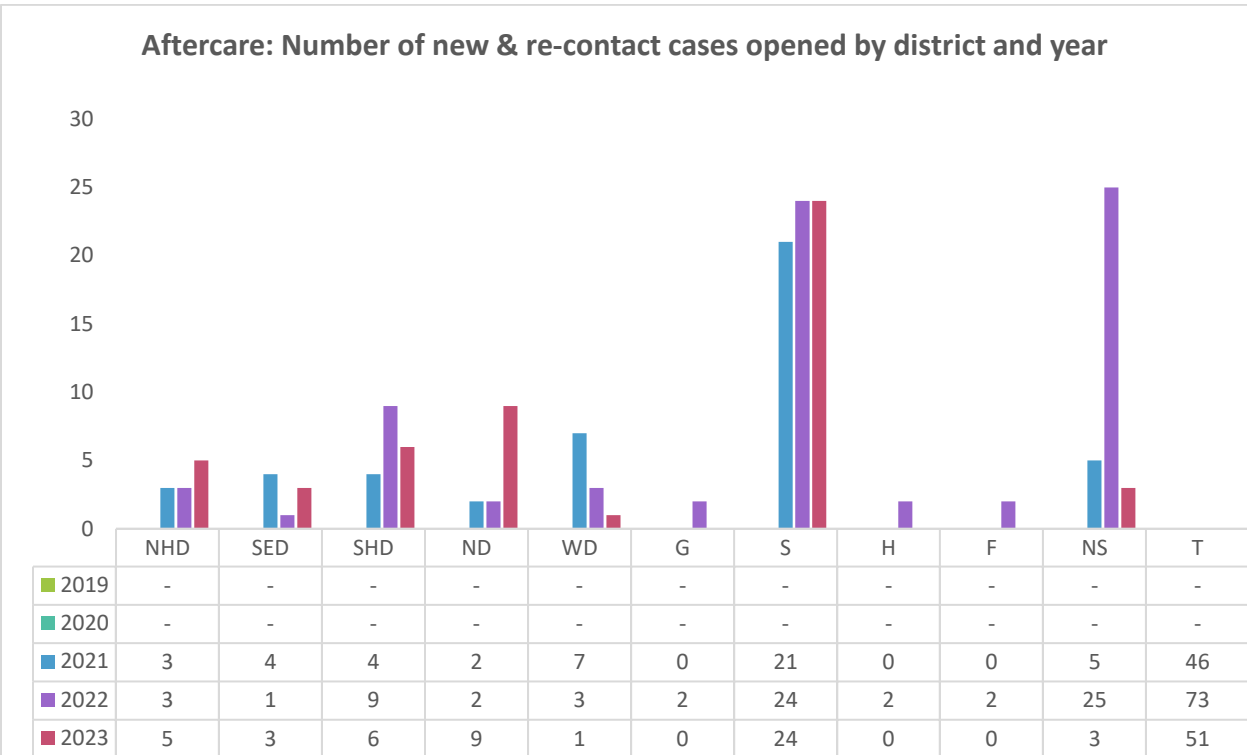


Figure 62: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. The highest number of cases opened in 2023 were residing within a shelter or institution (such as residential care) (24 cases).

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

# Fostering Service

## Case activity

Due to the introduction of a new online data collection system and changes in reporting format in 2020, data from 2010 to 2019 is incomparable to data from 2020 onwards. Therefore, data for 2010 up to 2019 is not reported in the current report but can be found within past reports. As of 2020, the data reported on both adults and minor service users accessing the service but as of 2022, the data only reported on adult service users accessing the service.

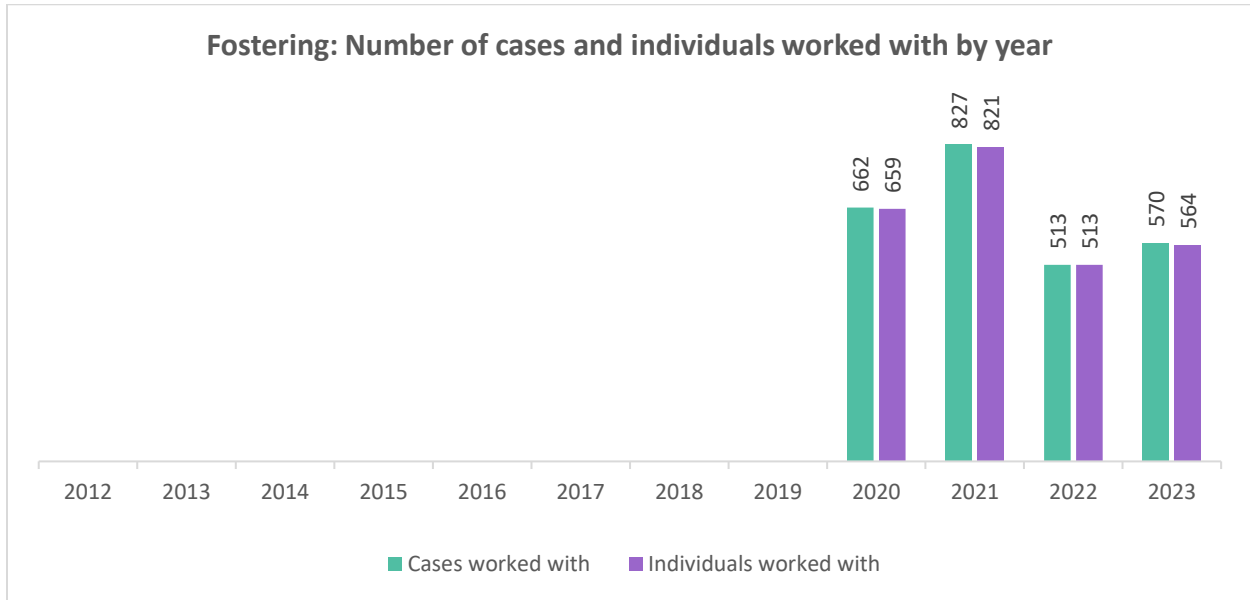


Figure 63: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals worked with. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. In 2023, 570 cases and 564 individuals were worked with compared to 513 and 513 respectively in 2022.

### Fostering: Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with in the current year compared to the previous year.



Figure 64: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with decreased by 38% in 2022 over 2021. The expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, or changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

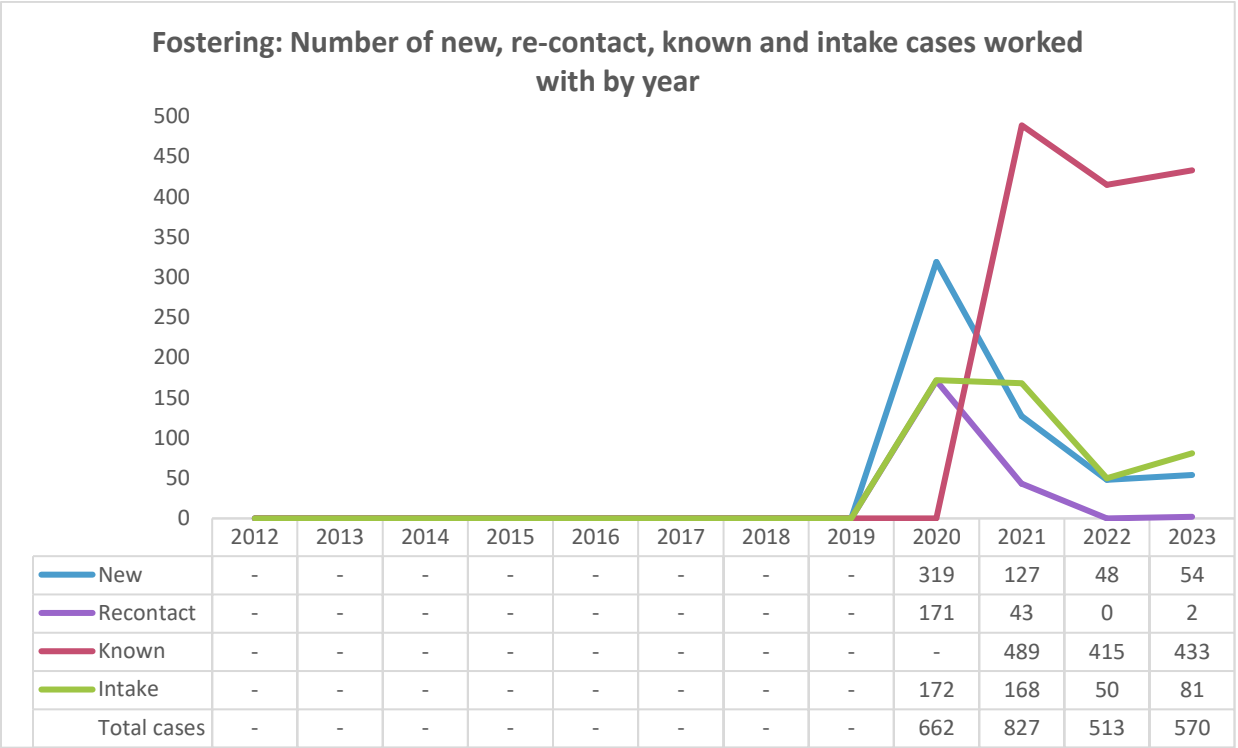


Figure 65: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary. For the above graph, intake began to be reported in 2021 due to the implementation of an online data collection system. With the introduction of a new online system, all known cases had to be re-inputted in 2020 and these were automatically registered as new.

Fostering: Cases worked with by type of service user January – December 2023					
	New	Re-contact	Known	Intake	Total
Foster carer - next of kin	0	1	106	4	111
Foster carer - non-related	14	1	270	2	287
Prospective foster carer	40	0	57	75	172
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>570</b>

Figure 66: The service obtains applications from persons wishing to become foster carers, and these are termed as prospective foster carers. Prospective foster carers go through the service with the aim of becoming a next of kin foster carer (closest living relative by blood or by law) or non-related foster carer. In 2023, 398 foster carers were worked with along with a further 172 prospective foster carers who were in the process of becoming approved carers.

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

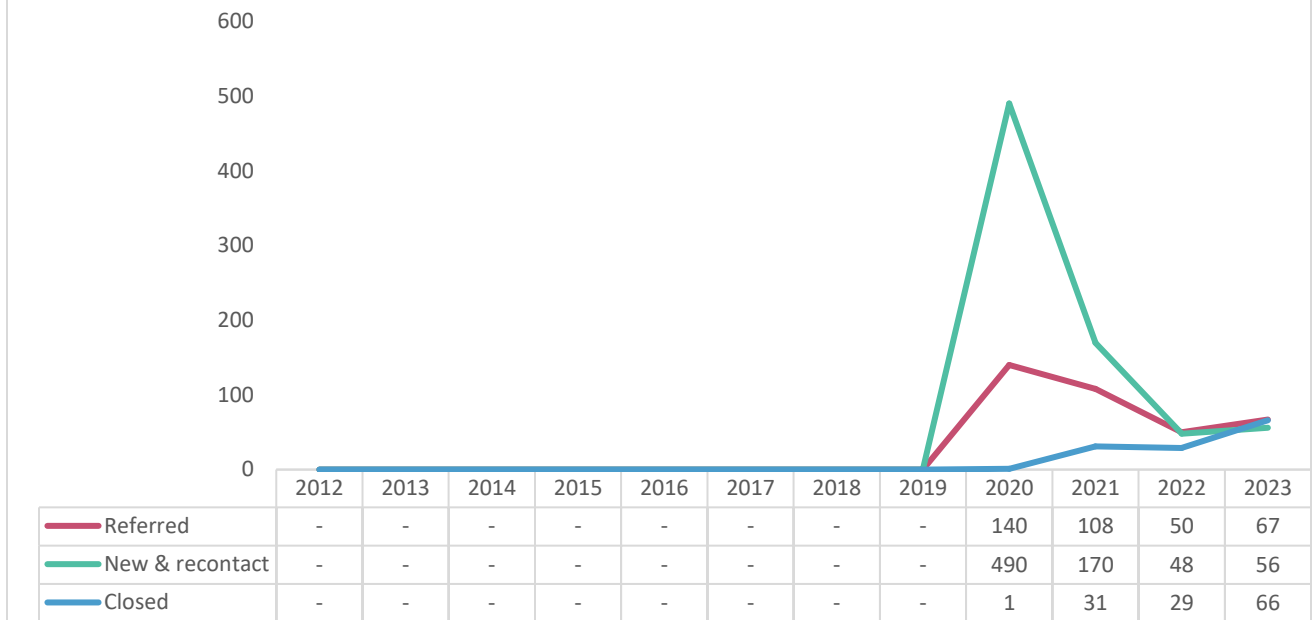


Figure 67: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 65 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, 67 cases were referred, 56 new & recontact cases opened, and 66 cases closed.

### Fostering: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period



Figure 68: The figure above only reports cases that are still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

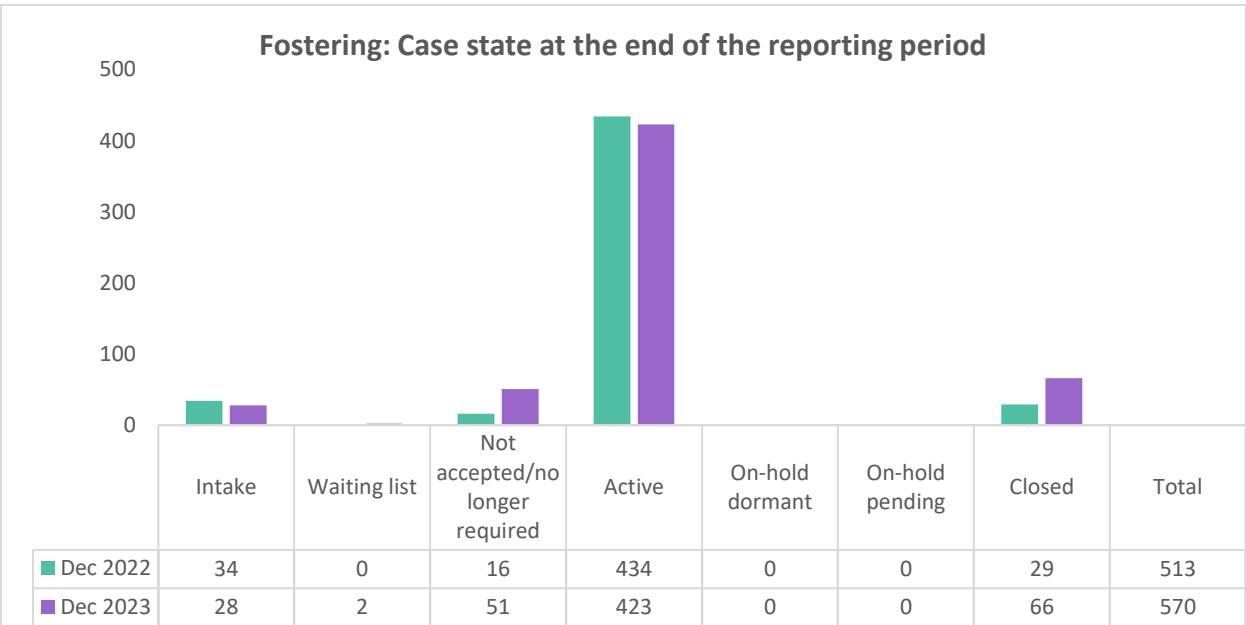


Figure 69: Cases will be handled throughout the year by placing them on intake, adding them to the waiting list, opening them, or closing them (definitions can be found in the glossary). The case state at the end of the reporting year is shown in the figure above. In 2023, 74% (423) of the cases worked with were still active by the end of the year. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

## Details regarding cases worked with January - December 2023

A total of **570** cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### Fostering: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

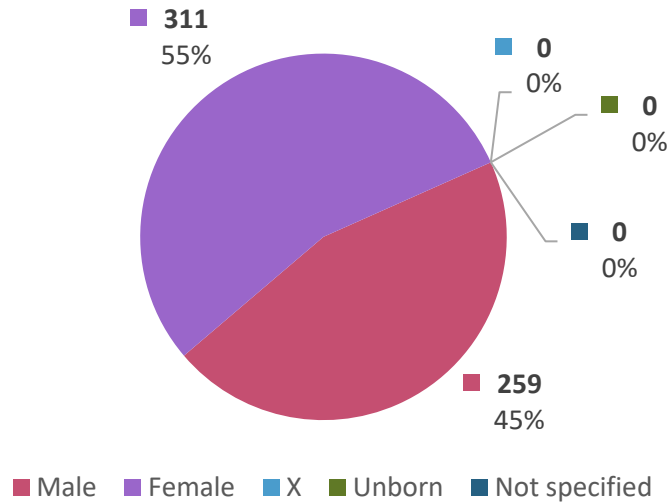


Figure 70: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were female (55%).

**Fostering: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)**

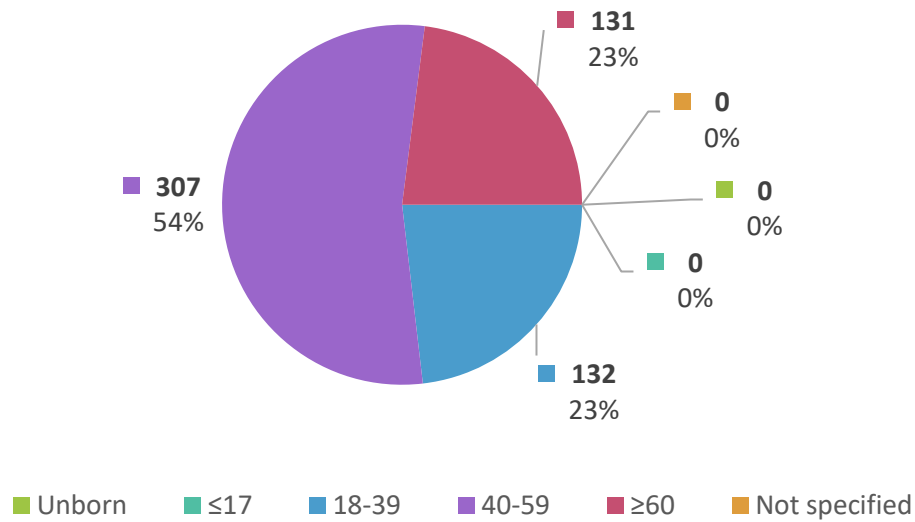


Figure 71: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 40 to 59 (54%).

**Fostering: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)**

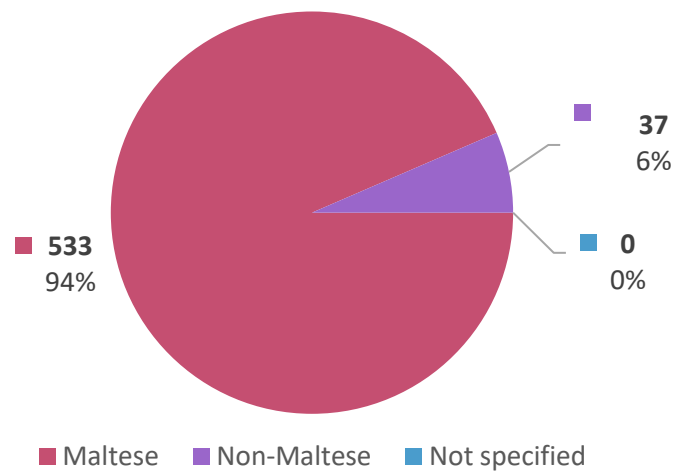


Figure 72: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 94% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 6% of cases.

**Fostering: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)**

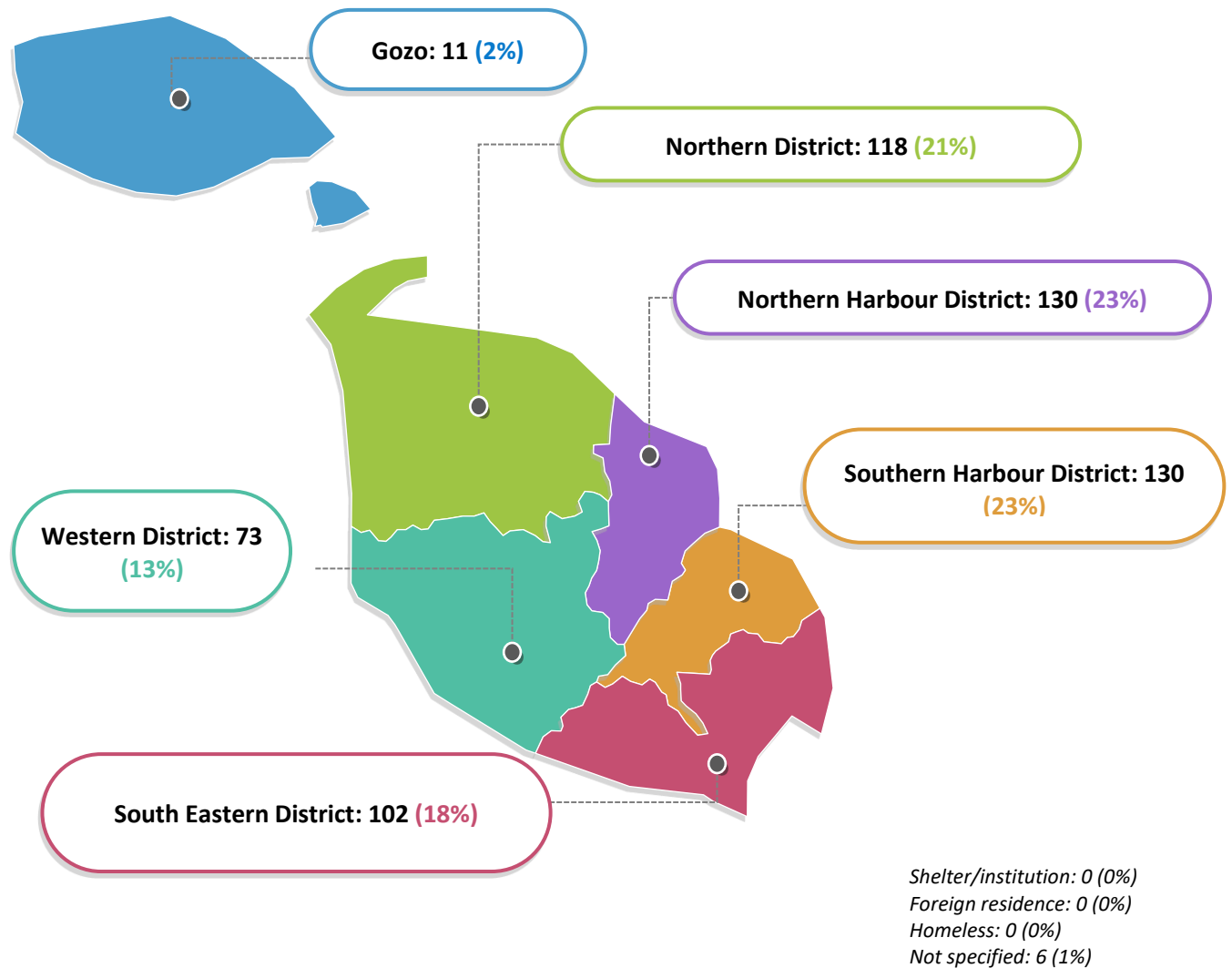


Figure 73: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. The Northern Harbour District (23%) and the Southern Harbour District (23%) had the highest percentage of cases worked with in 2023.

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **56** cases were opened between January and December 2023.

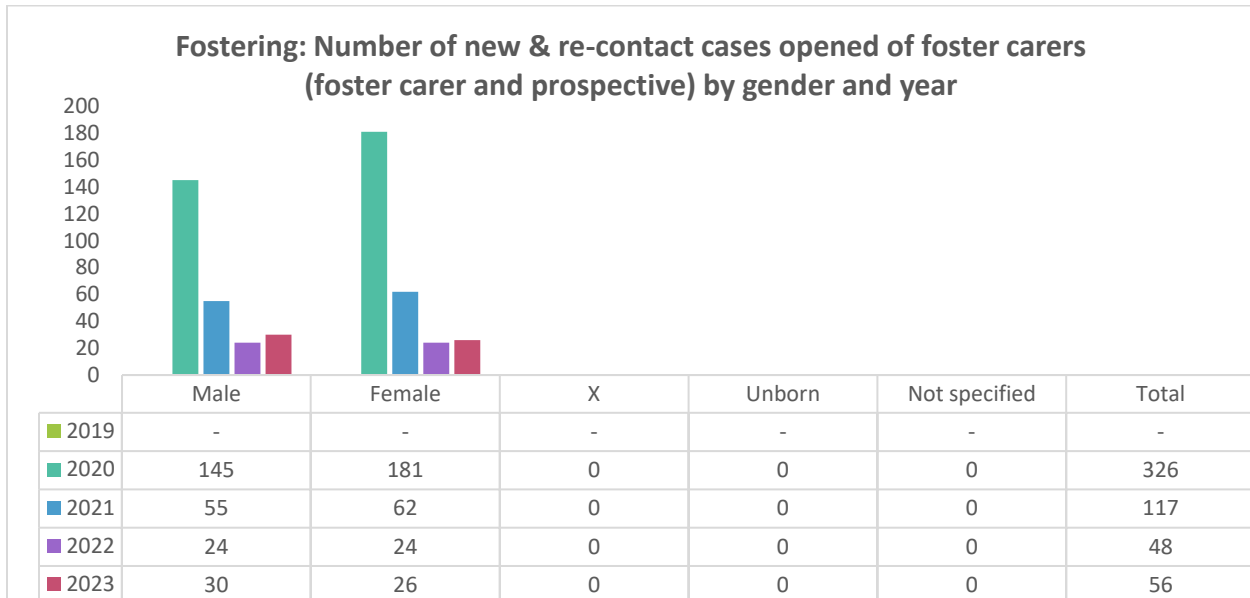


Figure 74: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were male (30).

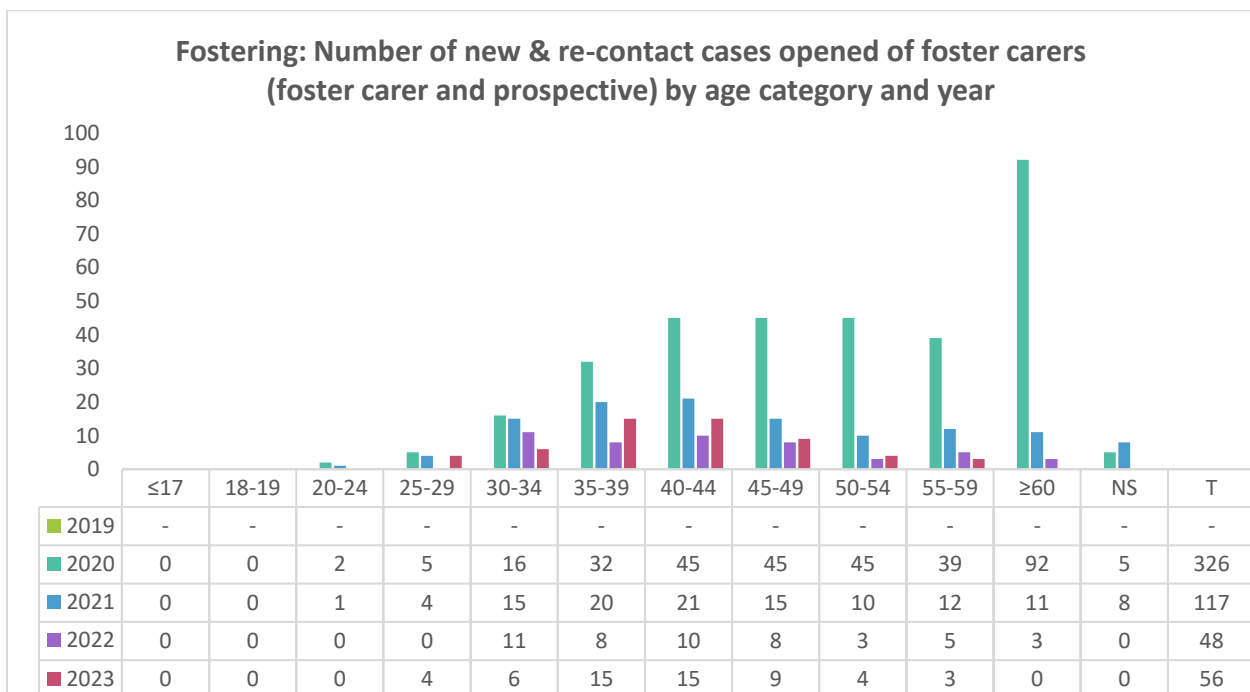


Figure 75: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were ages 35 to 39 (15) and 40 to 44 (15).

Graph Key: NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

Fostering: Number of new & re-contact cases opened of foster carers (foster carer and prospective) by age category and gender January – December 2023						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
≤17	0	0	0	0	0	0
18-19	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-24	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-29	3	1	0	0	0	4
30-34	2	4	0	0	0	6
35-39	7	8	0	0	0	15
40-44	8	7	0	0	0	15
45-49	6	3	0	0	0	9
50-54	2	2	0	0	0	4
55-59	2	1	0	0	0	3
≥60	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>56</b>

Figure 76: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided.

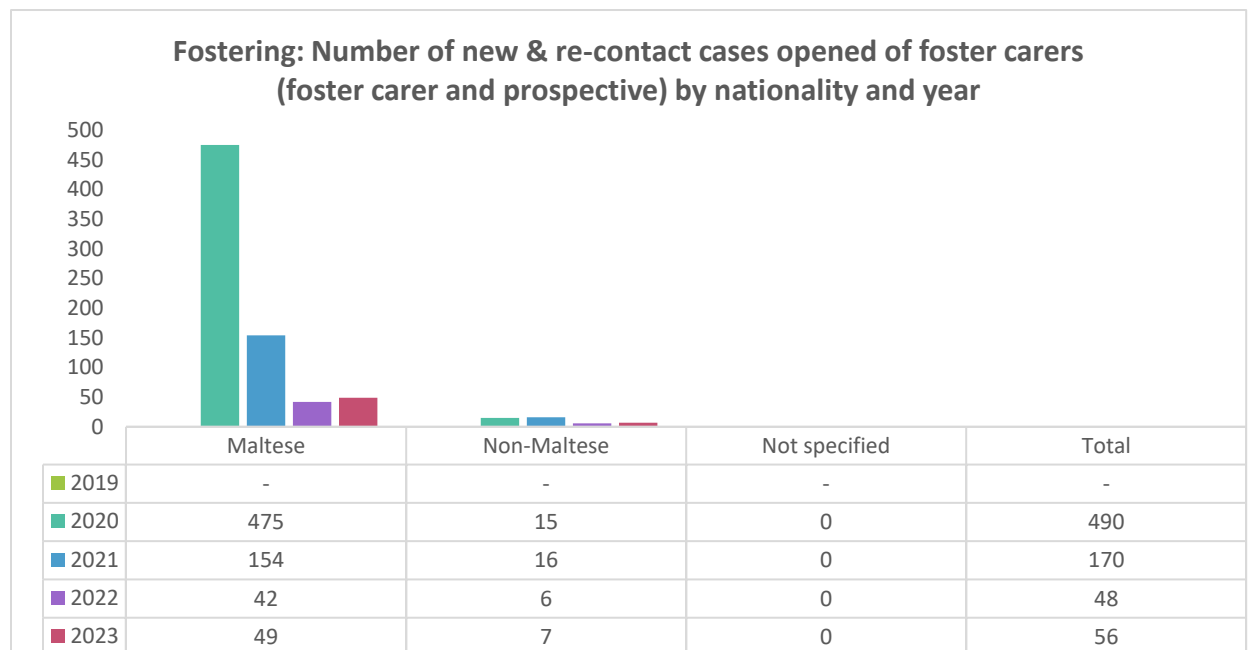


Figure 77: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, 49 cases opened in 2023 were Maltese while 7 cases were non-Maltese.

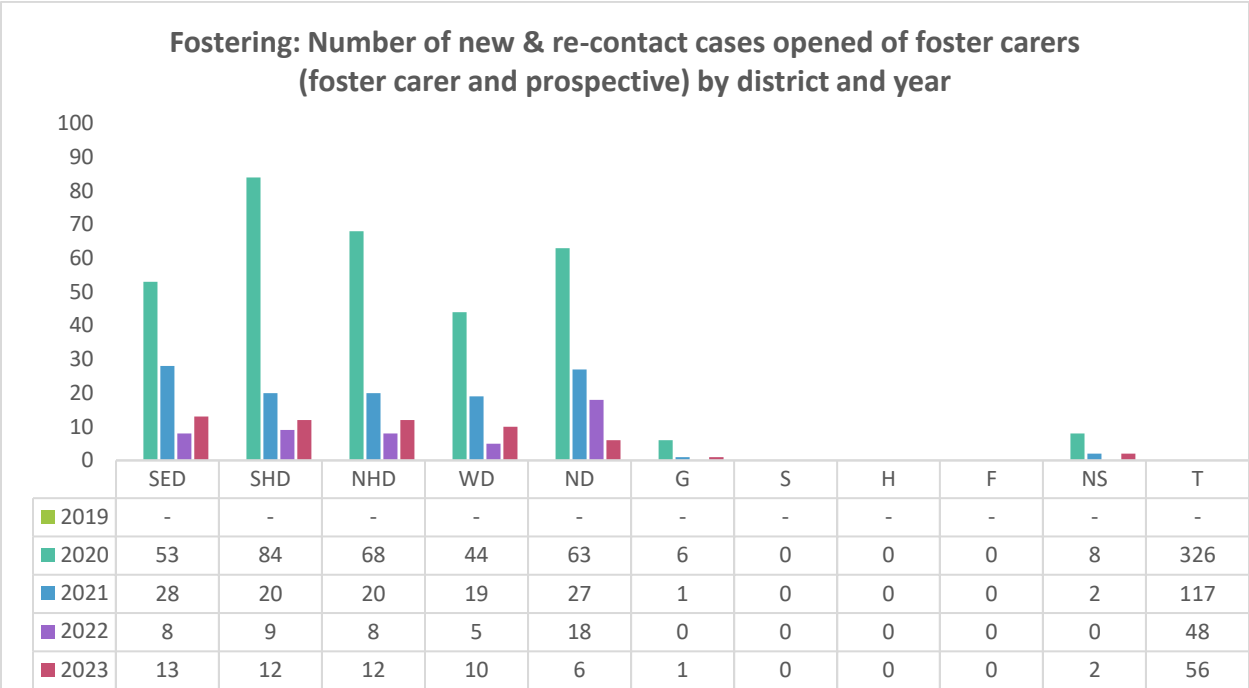


Figure 78: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. The South Eastern District (13) had the highest number of cases opened in 2023.

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

# Adoption Service

## Case activity

Due to the introduction of a new online data collection system and changes in reporting format in 2020, data from 2010 to 2019 is incomparable to data from 2020 onwards. Therefore, data for 2010 up to 2019 is not reported in the current report but can be found within past reports. As of 2020, the data reports on both adults and minor service users accessing the service.

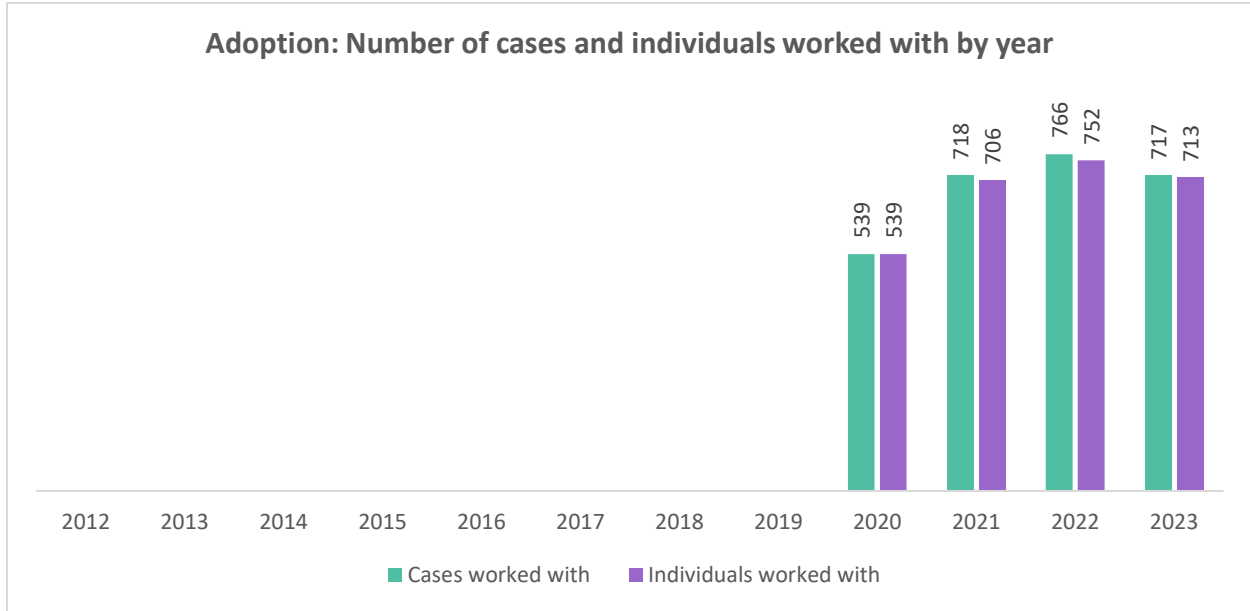


Figure 79: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals worked with. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. In 2023, 717 cases and 713 individuals were worked with compared to 766 and 752 respectively in 2022.

### Adoption: Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with in the current year compared to the previous year.



Figure 80: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with increased by 7% in 2022 over 2021. The expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, or changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

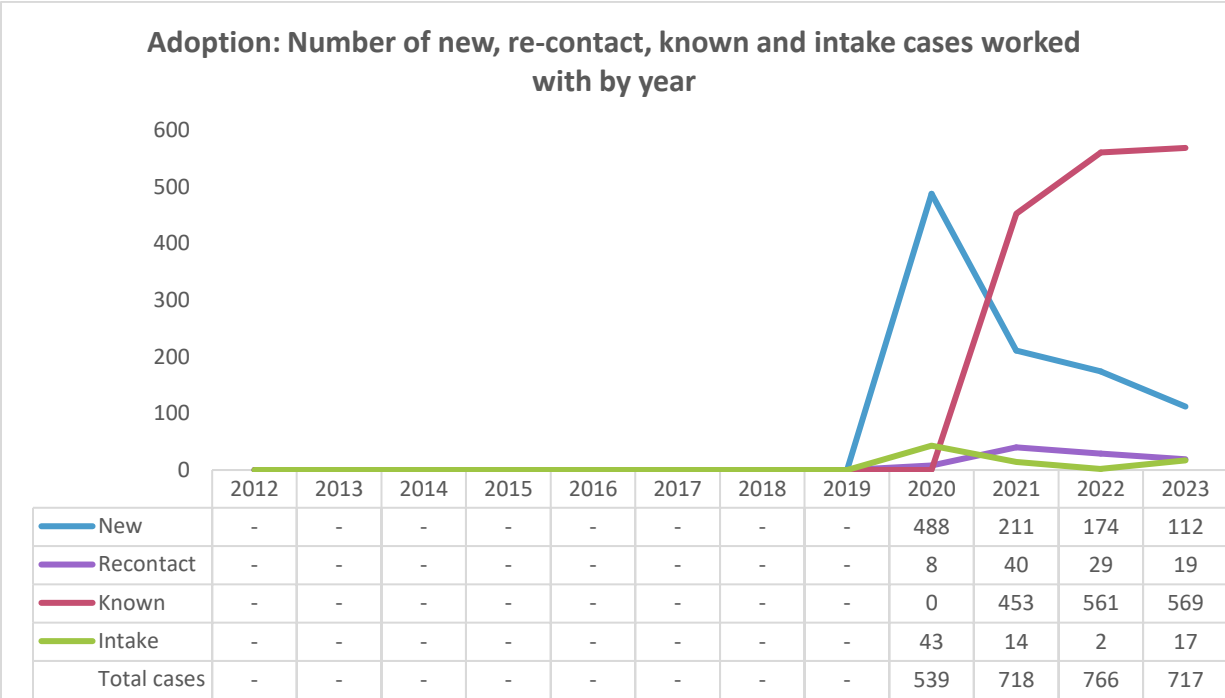


Figure 81: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary. With the introduction of a new online data collection system, all known cases had to be re-inputted in 2020 and these were automatically registered as new.

### Adoption: Case worked with by type of service user January – December 2023

	New	Re-contact	Known	Intake	Total
Adopted child	7	0	173	3	183
Adoptive parent	2	0	18	5	25
Prospective parent	103	19	369	9	500
Referred child	0	0	9	0	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>717</b>

Figure 82: The service’s focus is adults with the aim of being or becoming adoptive parents. Prospective parents go through the service with the aim of becoming an adoptive parent. The service also maintains records on children who are adopted with the service’s adoptive parents. They also record “referred child” that is a term for a child that is referred for adoption and is in the process of being matched with an appropriate adoptive family. In 2023, 25 adoptive parents were worked with along with a further 500 prospective adoptive parents who were in the process of becoming approved adoptive parents.

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

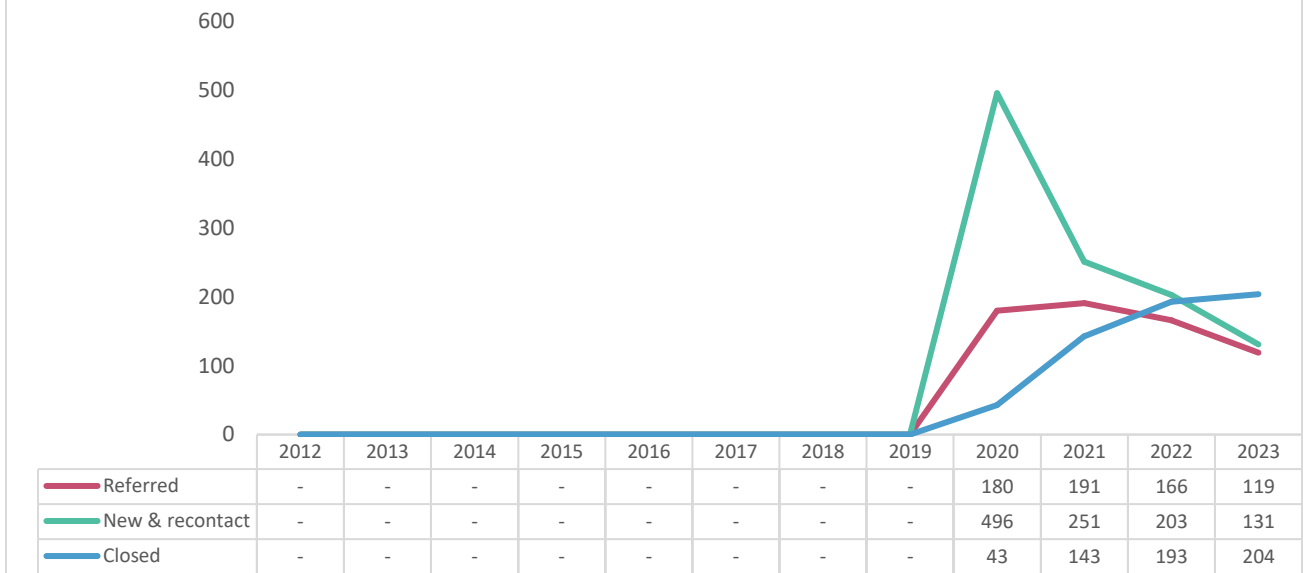


Figure 83: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 81 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, 119 cases were referred, 131 new & recontact cases opened, and 204 cases closed.

### Adoption: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

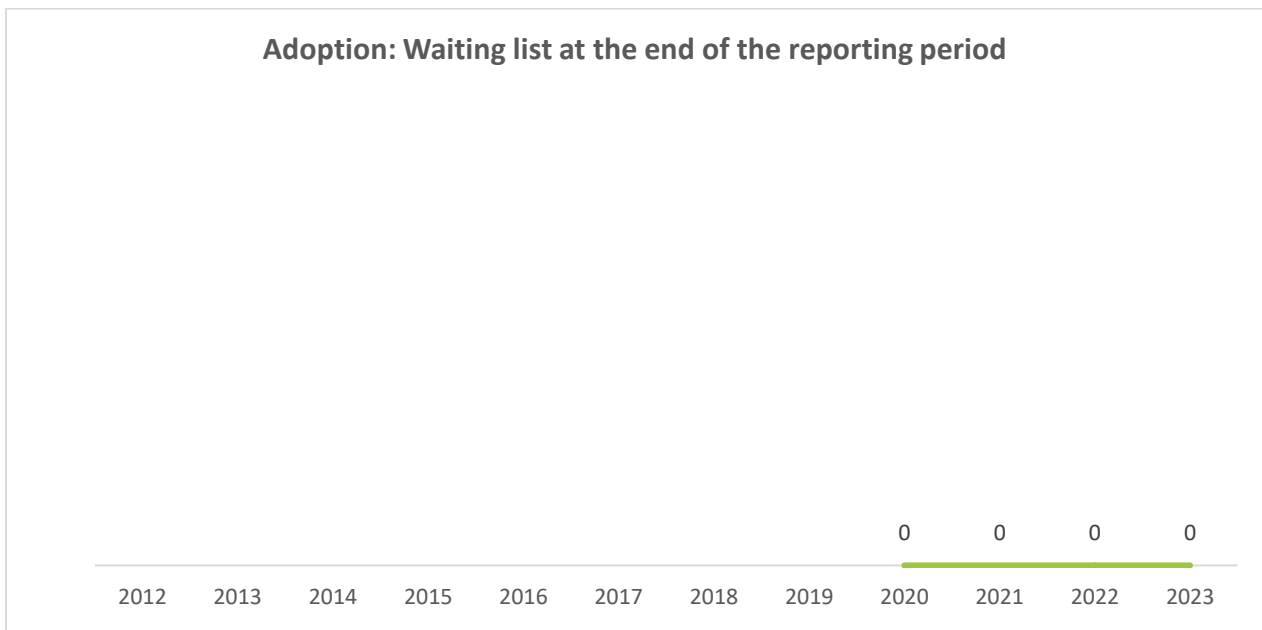


Figure 84: The figure above only reports cases that are still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

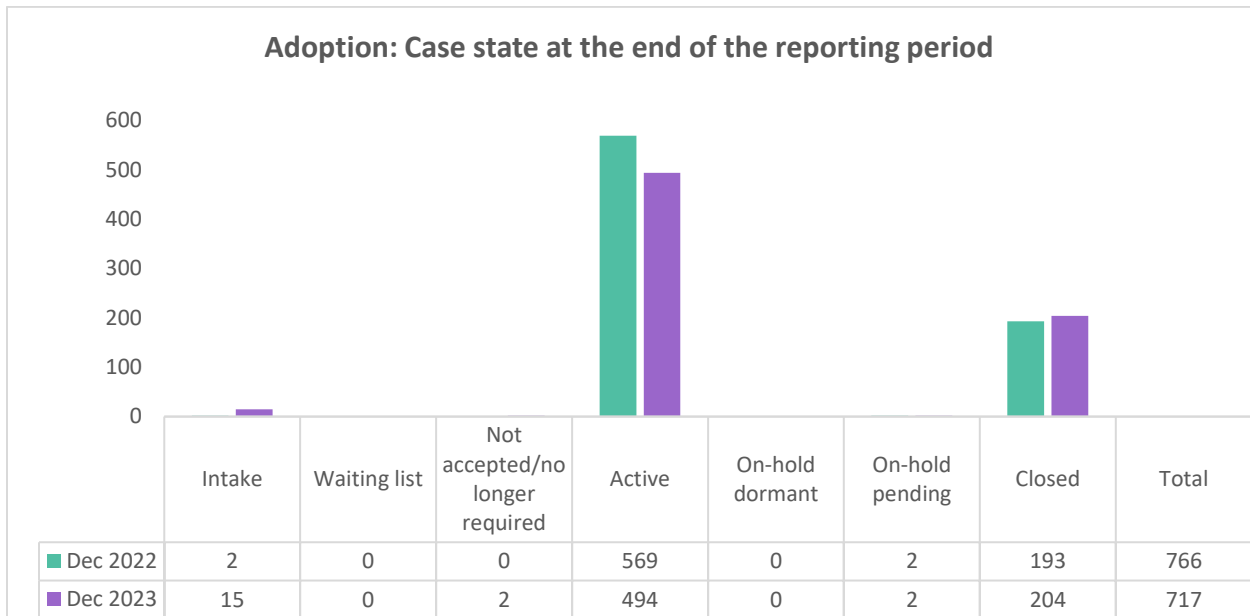


Figure 85: Cases will be handled throughout the year by placing them on intake, adding them to the waiting list, opening them, or closing them (definitions can be found in the glossary). The case state at the end of the reporting year is shown in the figure above. In 2023, 69% (494) of the cases worked with were still active by the end of the year. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

## Details regarding cases worked with January - December 2023

A total of **717** cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### Adoption: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

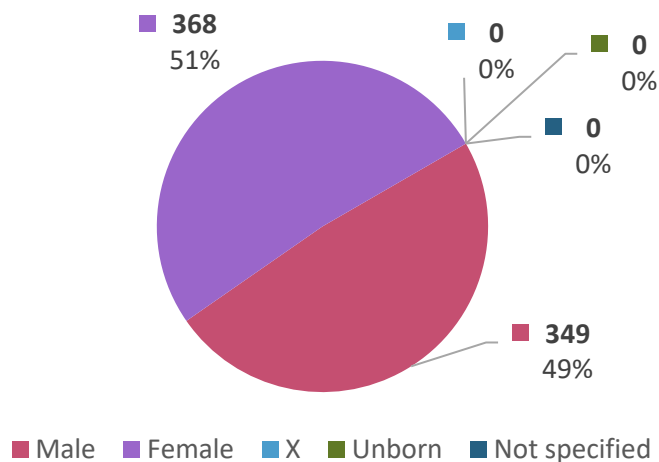


Figure 86: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were female (51%).

**Adoption: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)**

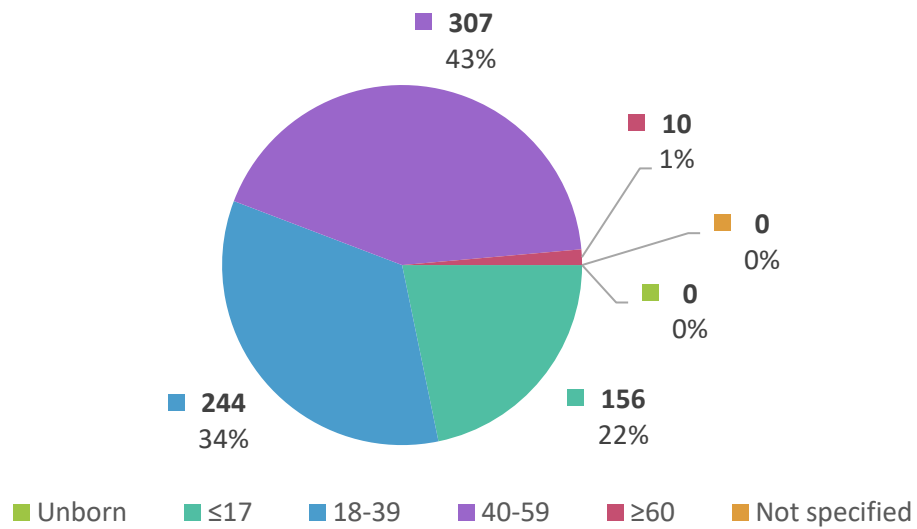


Figure 87: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 40 to 59 (43%).

**Adoption: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)**

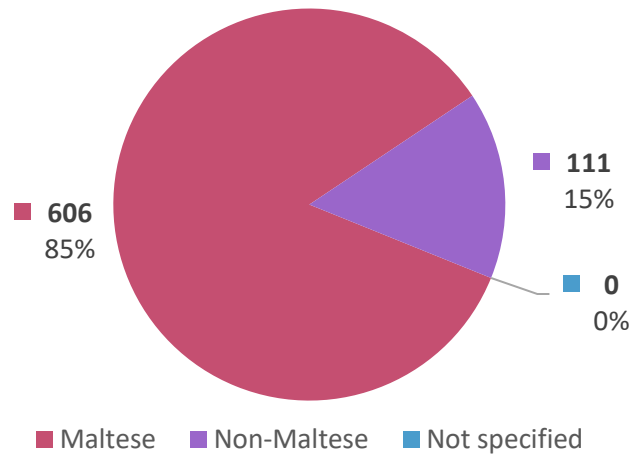


Figure 88: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 85% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 15% of cases.

**Adoption: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)**

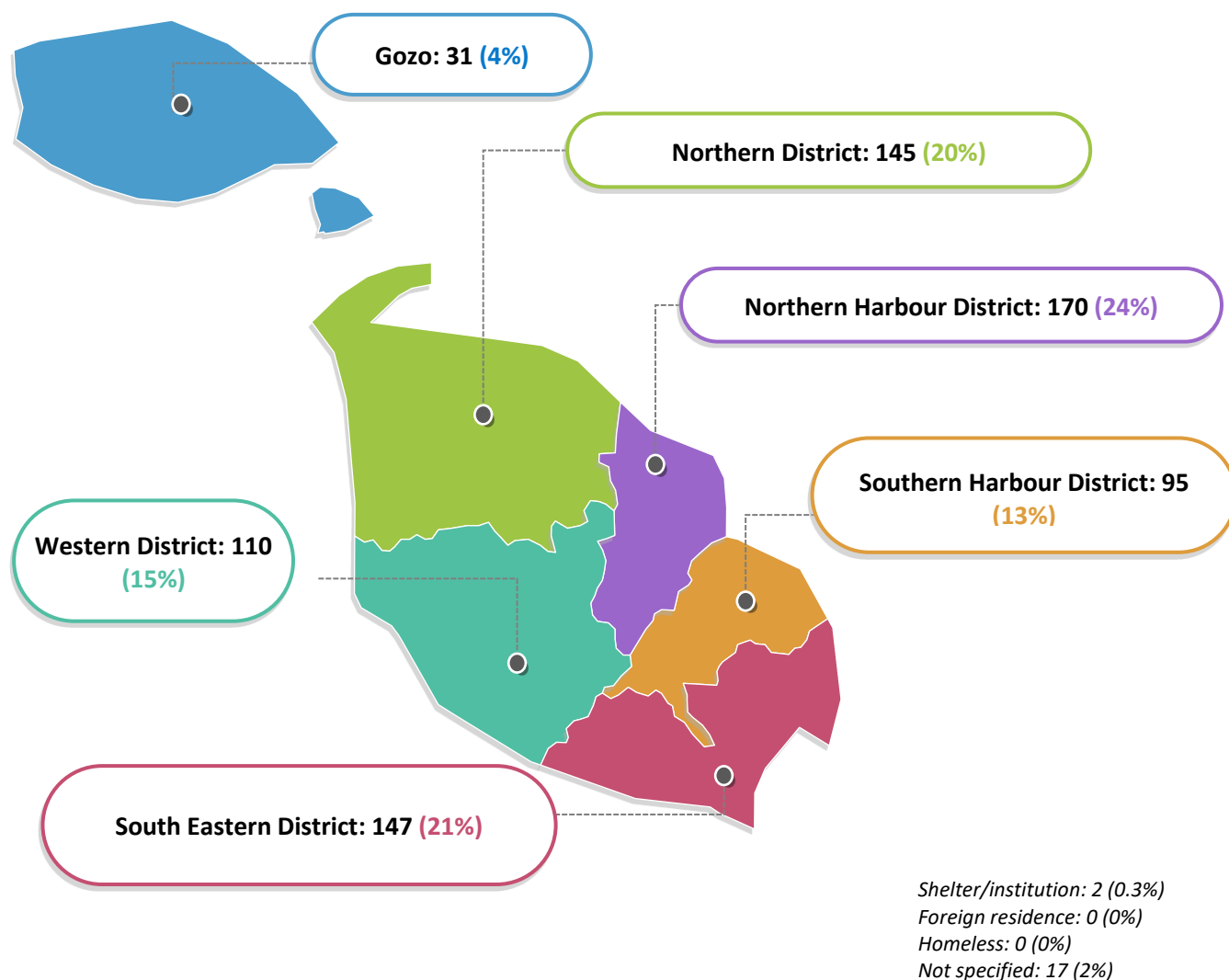


Figure 89: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. The Northern Harbour District (24%) had the highest percentage of cases worked with in 2023.

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **131** cases were opened between January and December 2023 with **7** cases opened for service users who were children and **124** cases opened who were adults.

Adoption: New & re-contact cases by type of service user January – December 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Adopted child	-	186	14	4	7
Referred child	-	2	8	0	0
Adoptive parent	-	6	4	3	2
Prospective parent	-	302	225	196	122
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>496</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>131</b>

Figure 90: The figure above stratifies the new and re-contact cases opened in the reported period by service user type, i.e. prospective parents (i.e., in process to become an adoptive parent), adoptive parent, adopted children (i.e., adopted with the service's adoptive parents) and "referred child" (i.e., child that is referred for adoption and is in the process of being matched with an appropriate adoptive family). In 2023, 7 cases opened consisted of adopted children, 122 cases opened consisted of prospective adoptive parents whilst 2 cases were already adoptive parents.

### Children (adopted and referred to be adopted)

The following section only provides data on the number of new and re-contact cases opened in the reported period which involved adopted children or children referred to be adopted.

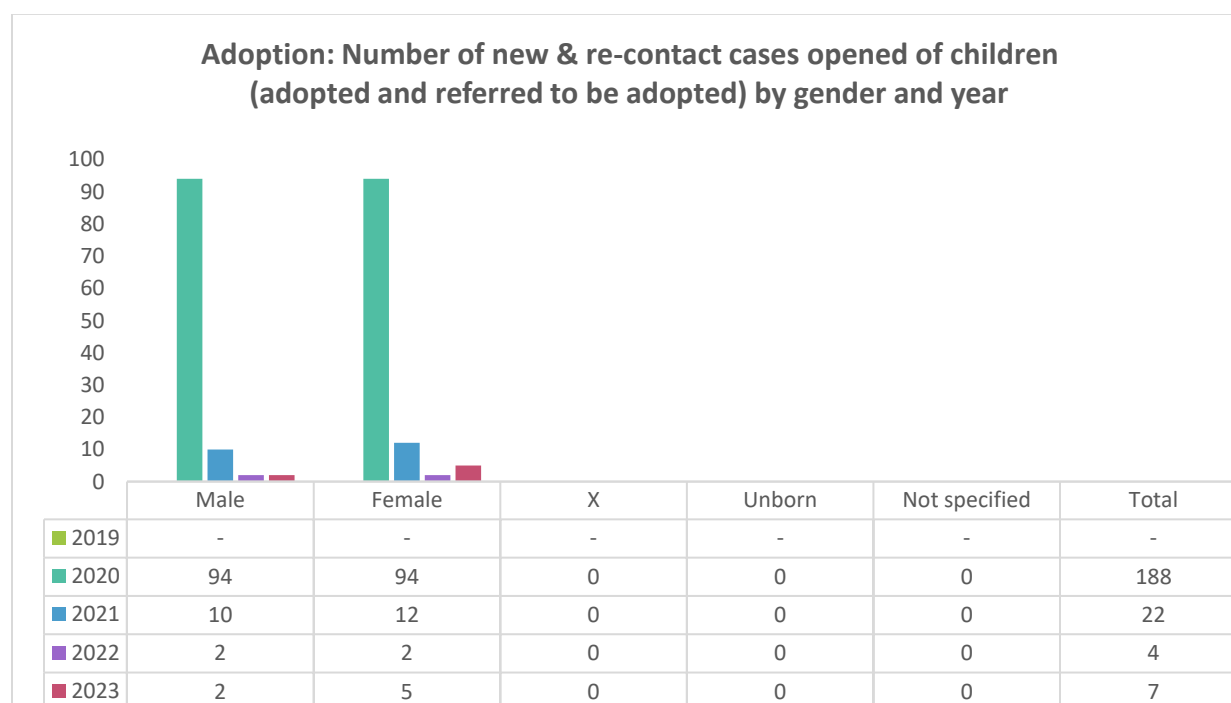


Figure 91: The figure above classifies the gender of the child service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were female (5).

**Adoption: Number of new & re-contact cases opened of children (adopted and referred to be adopted) by age category and year**

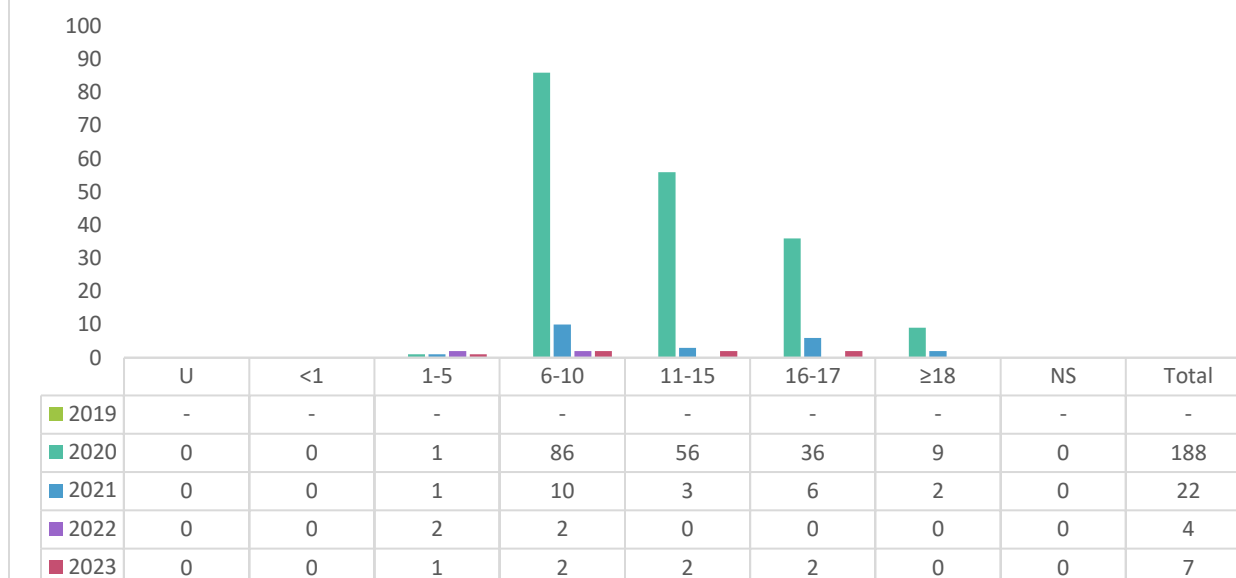


Figure 92: The figure above classifies the age of the child service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were ages 6 to 10 (2) and 11 to 15 (2).

Graph Key: U = Unborn; NS = Not Specified.

**Adoption: Number of new & re-contact cases opened of children (adopted and referred to be adopted) by age category and gender  
January – December 2023**

	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	1	0	0	0	1
6-10	1	1	0	0	0	2
11-15	0	2	0	0	0	2
16-17	1	1	0	0	0	2
≥18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

Figure 93: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, nil 7 cases were opened.

## Parents (prospective and adoptive)

The following section only provides data on the number of new and re-contact cases opened in the reported period which involved prospective or adoptive parents.

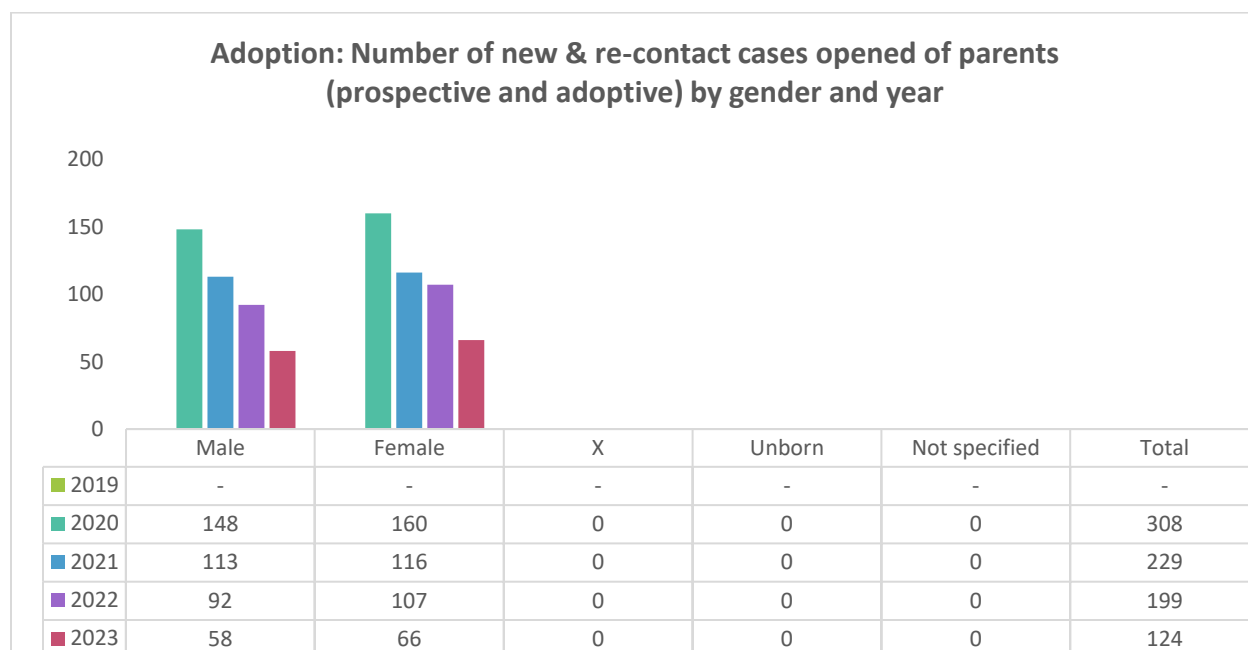


Figure 94: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were female (66).

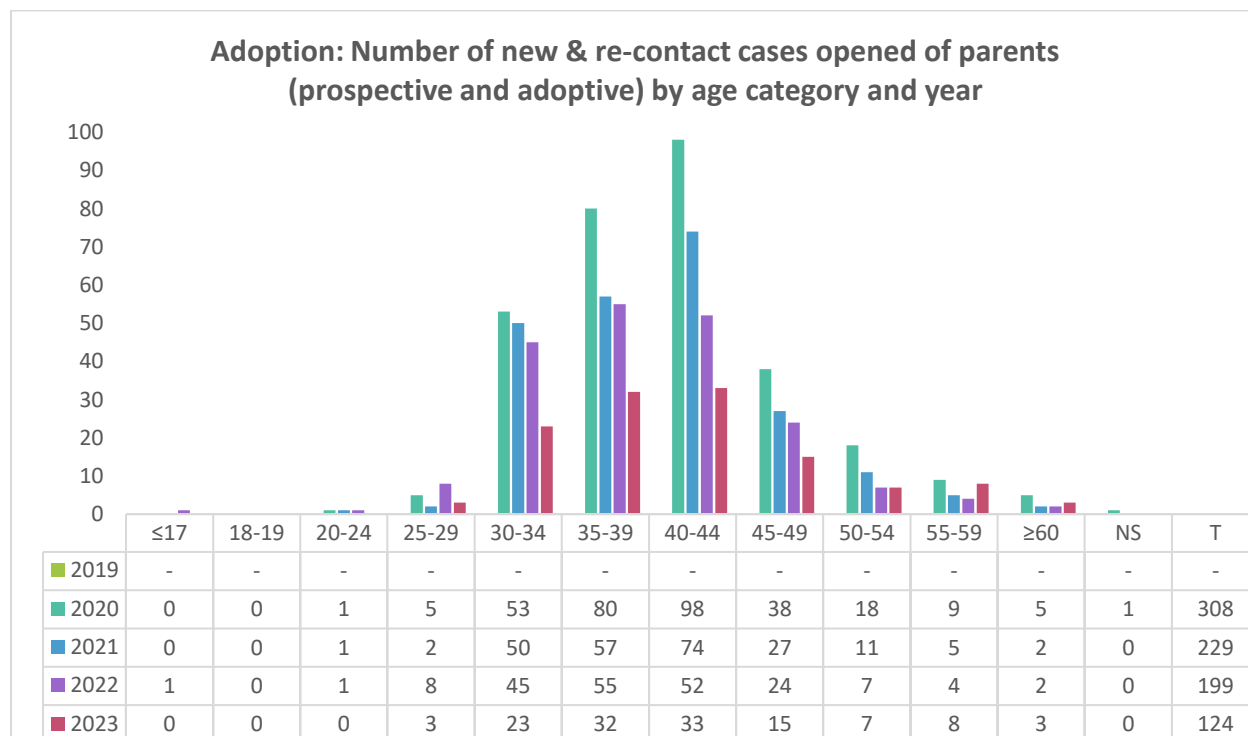


Figure 95: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were ages 40 to 44 (33).

Graph Key: NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

**Adoption: Number of new & re-contact cases opened of parents (prospective and adoptive) by age category and gender  
January – December 2023**

	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
≤17	0	0	0	0	0	0
18-19	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-24	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-29	0	3	0	0	0	3
30-34	9	14	0	0	0	23
35-39	15	17	0	0	0	32
40-44	17	16	0	0	0	33
45-49	6	9	0	0	0	15
50-54	5	2	0	0	0	7
55-59	5	3	0	0	0	8
≥60	1	2	0	0	0	3
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>124</b>

Figure 96: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided.

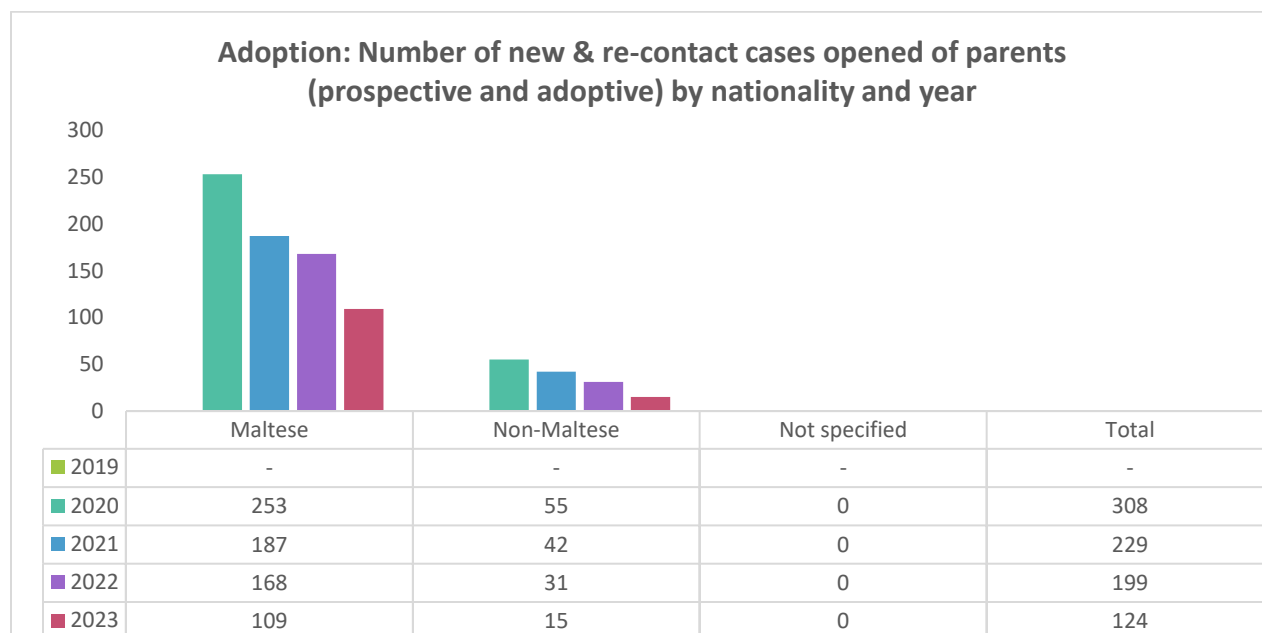


Figure 97: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, 109 cases opened in 2023 were Maltese while 15 cases were non-Maltese.

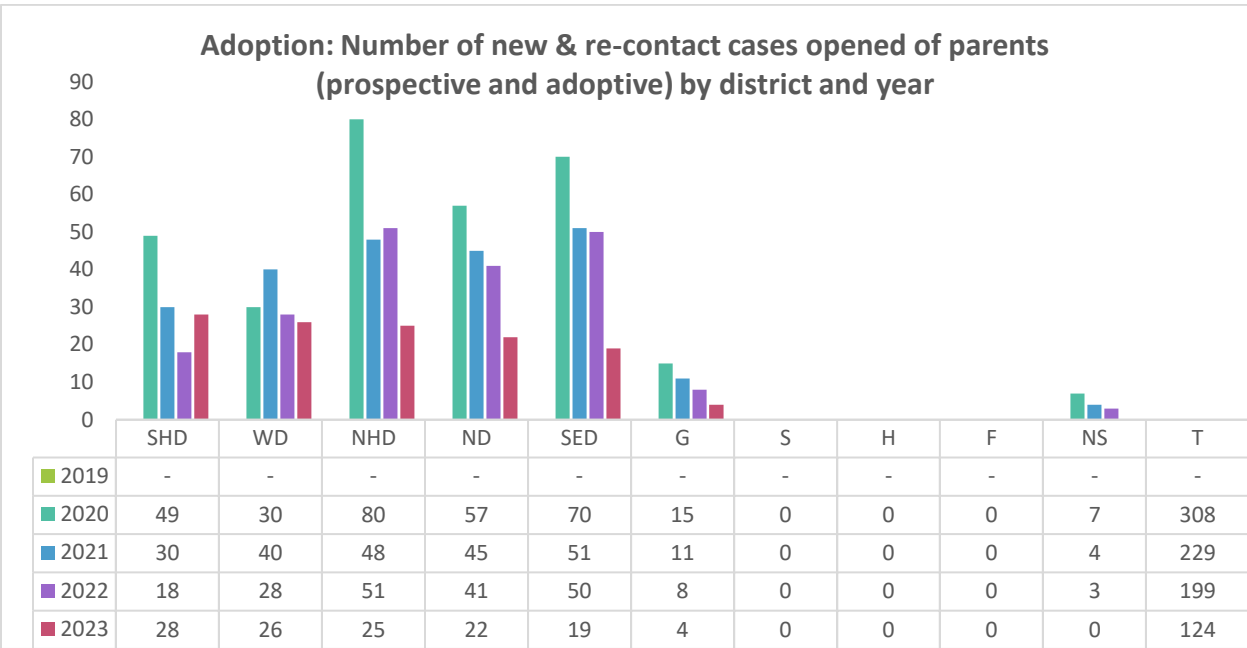


Figure 98: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. The Southern Harbour District (28) had the highest number of cases opened in 2023.

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

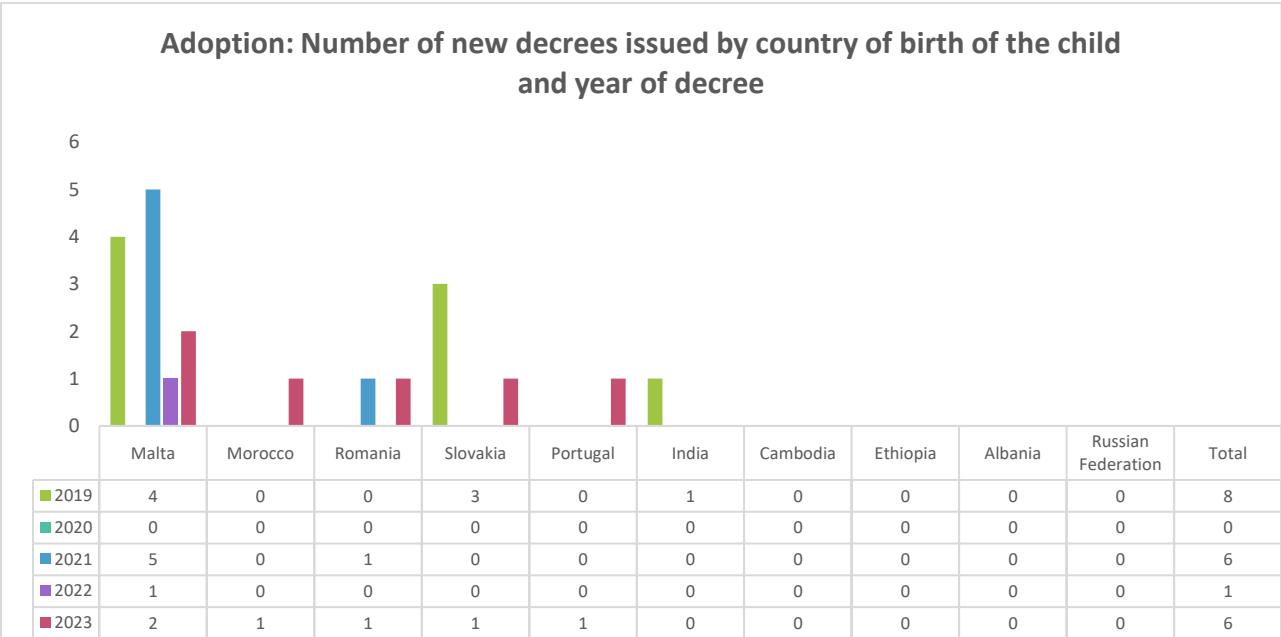


Figure 99: The figure above provides the number of new decrees issued in the year by the countries of birth of the children. The decree date is based on the original country decree date recorded in the database. The data is according to decree dates forwarded to the Adoption Service and inputted at the time of data analysis. In some cases, decree dates may have been forwarded or updated after publication of this report, leading to some discrepancy between later figures and the data in the reports. Furthermore, some of the decrees may not have been issued with the assistance of the FSWS Adoption Service since some service users adopt through private agencies and then they are followed by the Adoption Service for post adoption reports. If being provided post-adoption services the person becomes a service user within the Appogg Adoption Service.

# High Support Service (HSS)

## Case activity

Data started to be reported in 2015.

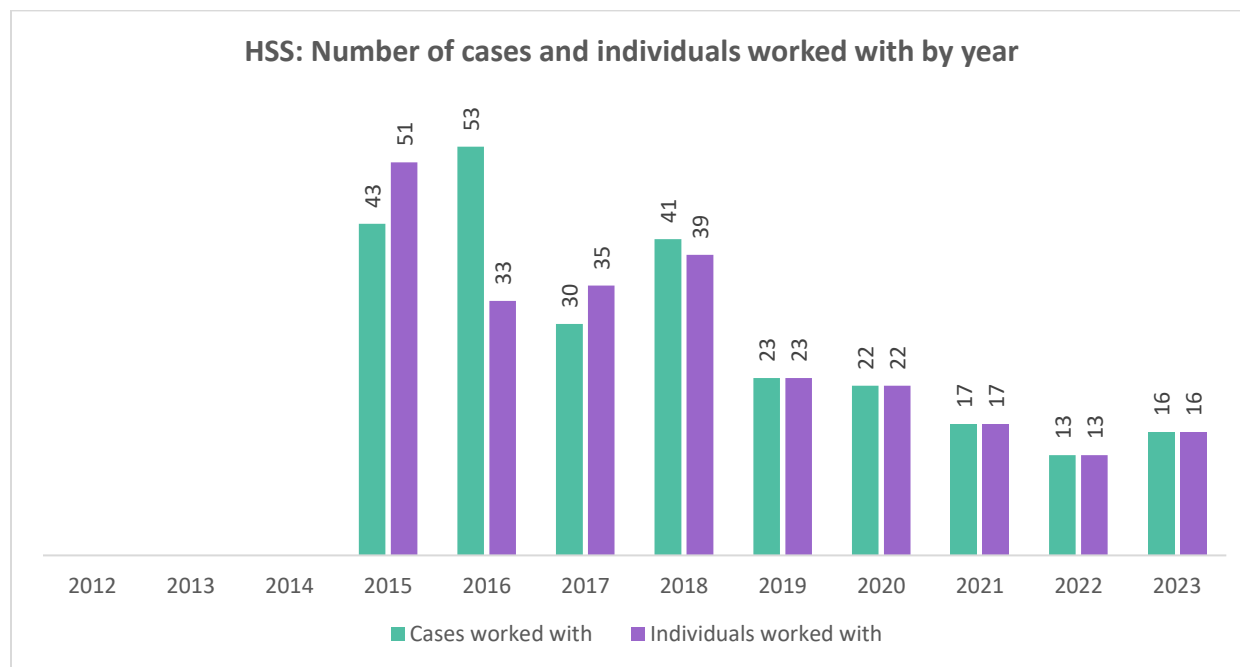


Figure 100: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals worked with. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. In 2023, 16 cases and 16 individuals were worked with compared to 13 and 13 respectively in 2022.

### HSS: Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with in the current year compared to the previous year.

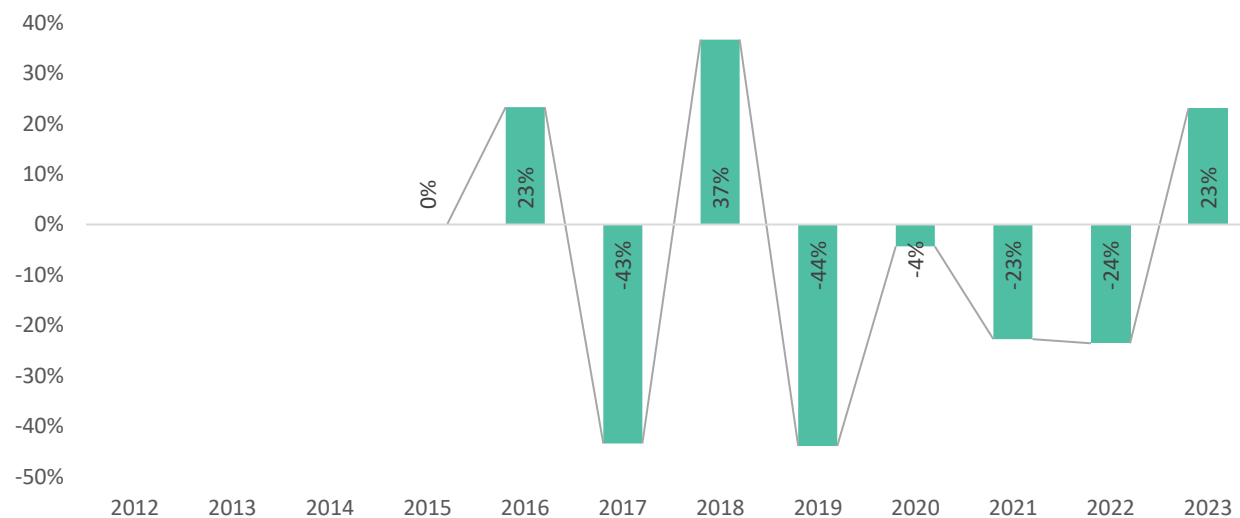


Figure 101: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with decreased by 24% in 2022 over 2021. The expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, or changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

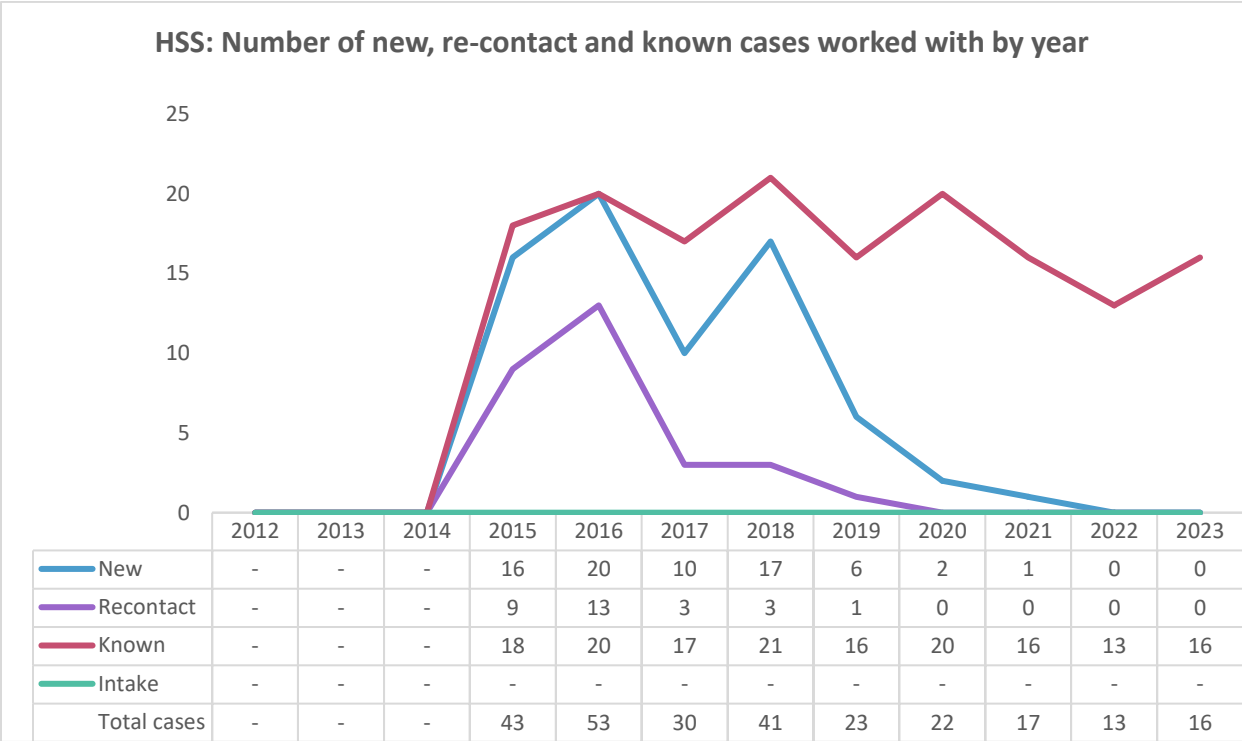


Figure 102: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary.

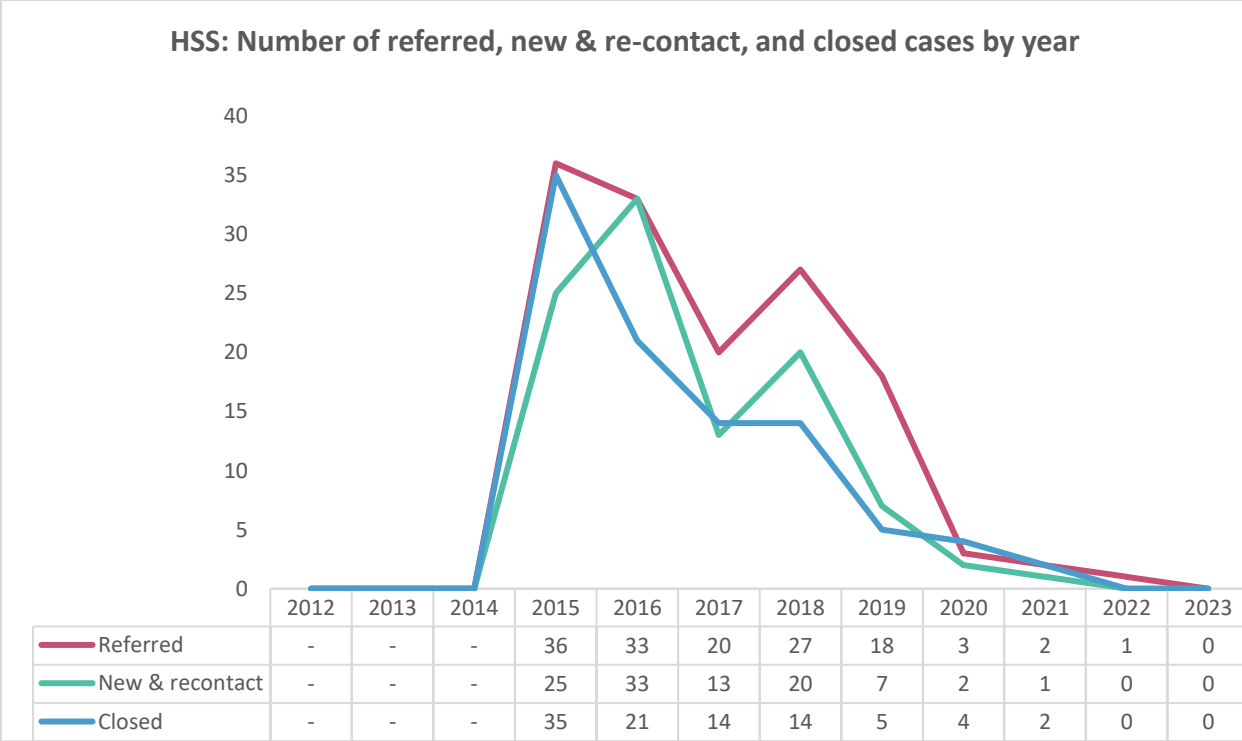


Figure 103: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 102 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, nil (0) cases were referred, nil (0) new & recontact cases opened, and nil (0) cases closed.

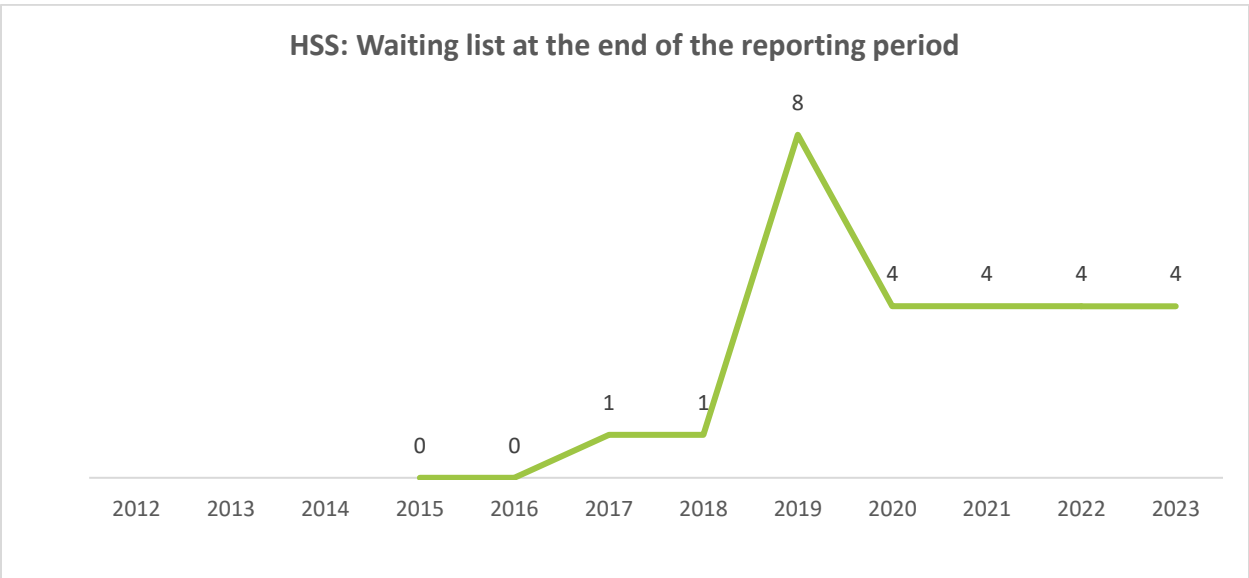


Figure 104: The figure above only reports cases that are still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

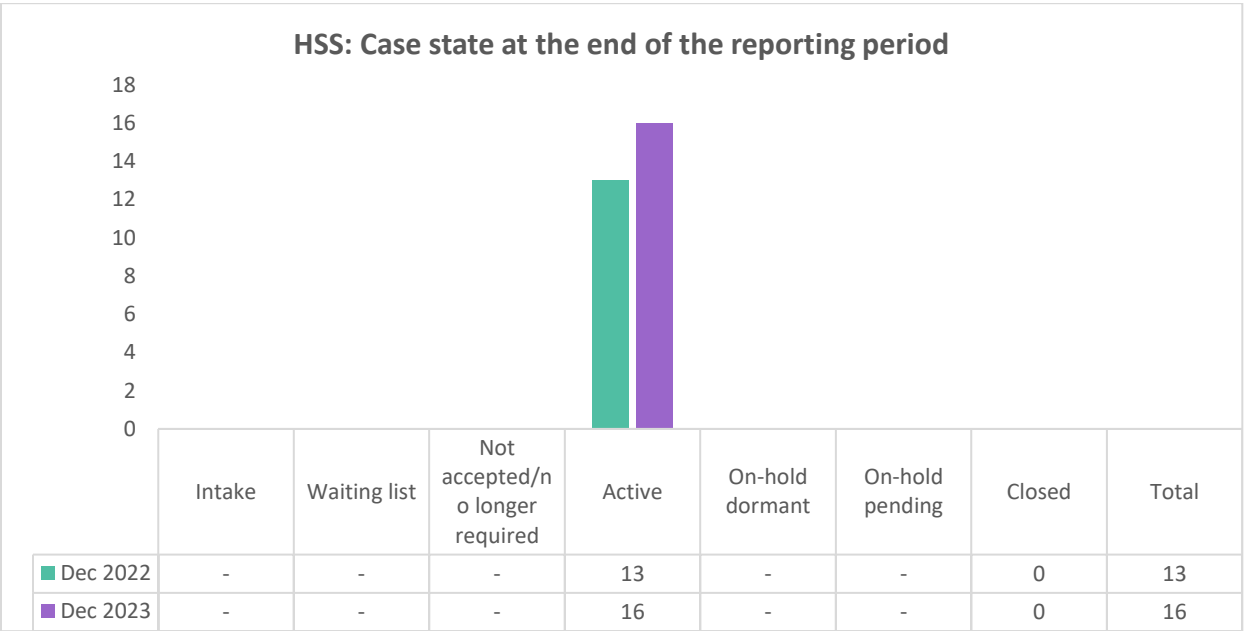


Figure 105: Cases will be handled throughout the year by placing them on intake, adding them to the waiting list, opening them, or closing them (definitions can be found in the glossary). The case state at the end of the reporting year is shown in the figure above. Within HSS, cases can only be active or closed. In 2023, 100% (16) of the cases worked with were still active by the end of the year. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

## Details regarding cases worked with January - December 2023

A total of 16 cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### HSS: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

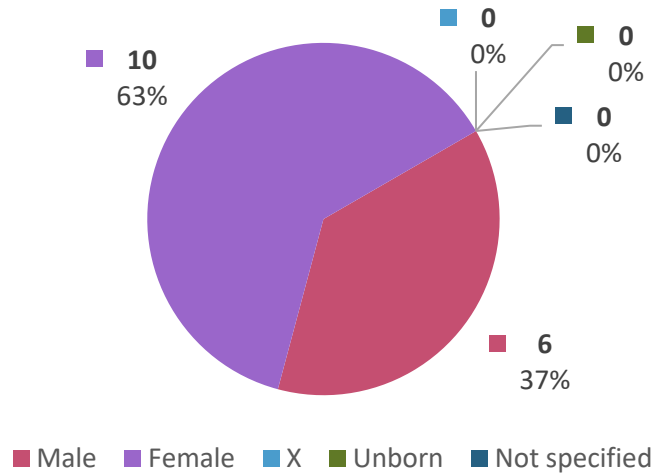


Figure 106: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were female (63%).

### HSS: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)

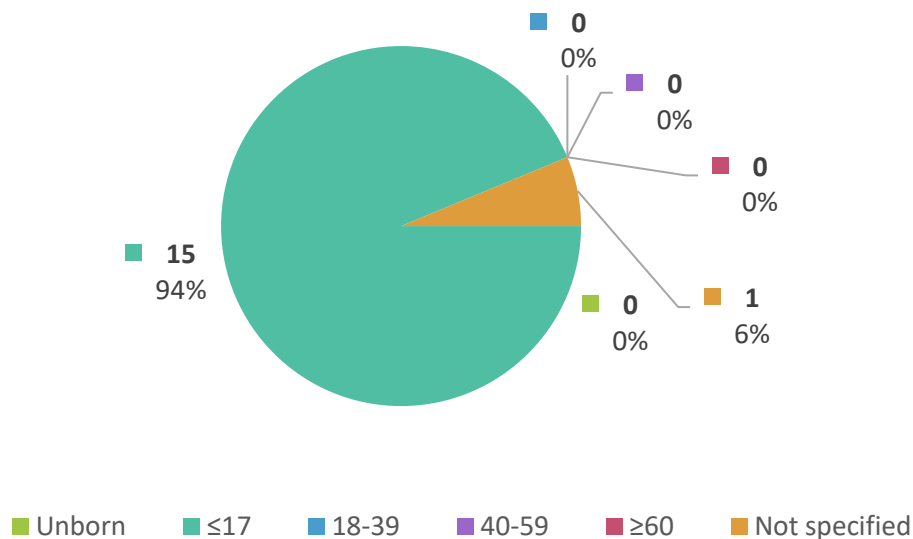


Figure 107: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 17 or younger (94%).

### HSS: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)

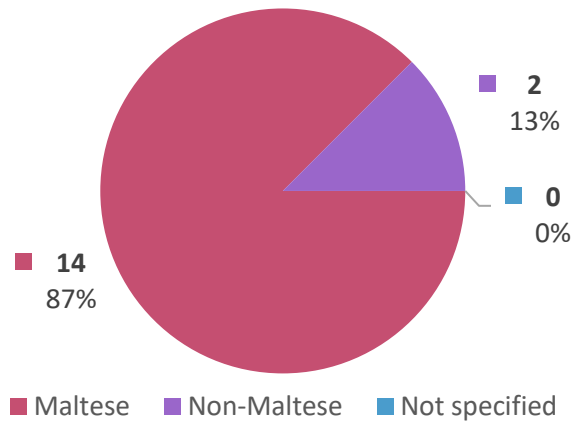


Figure 108: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 87% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 13% of cases.

### HSS: Number of cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by legal status

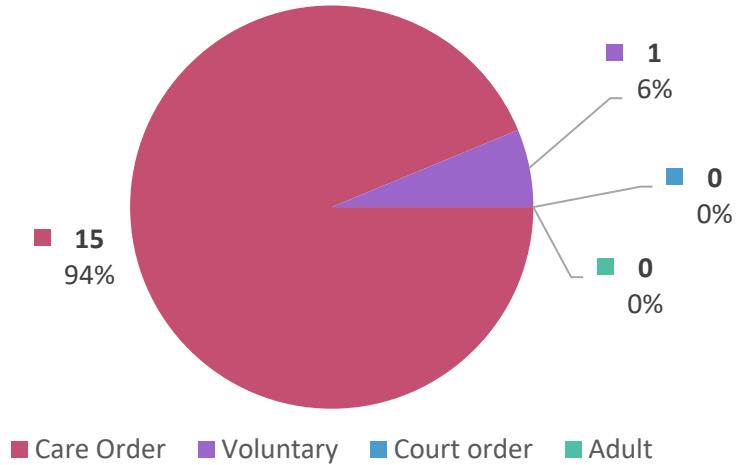


Figure 109: The figure above classifies the legal status of the case, as per legal definitions<sup>4</sup>, within the reporting year. It is the status as reported by the service user, known by the case worker, or based on documentation. In 2023, 94% (15) cases worked with were under a care order.

<sup>4</sup> Laws of Malta, chapter 602, Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act

### HSS: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)

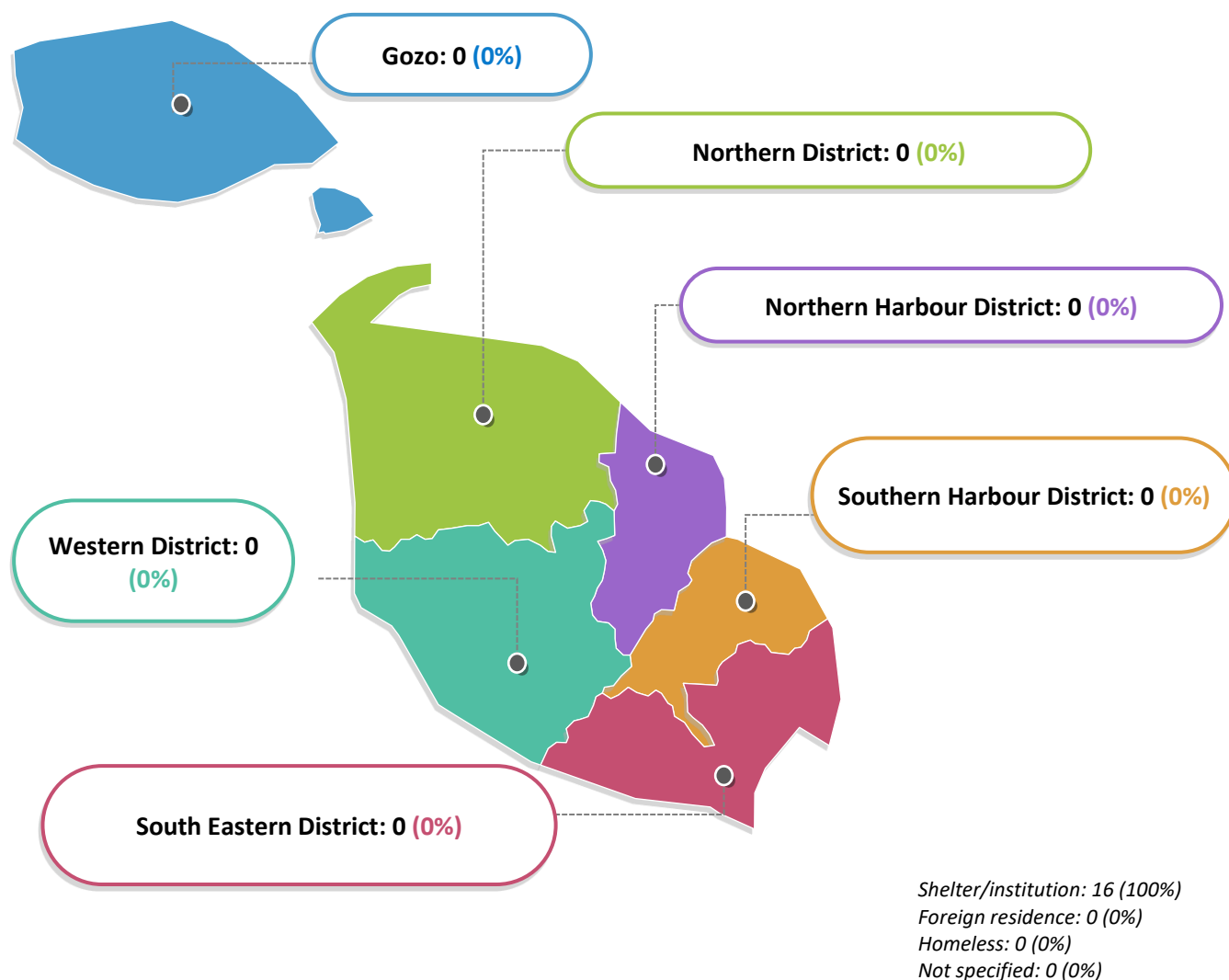


Figure 110: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. All cases worked with in 2023 reported residing within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential care home).

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **nil (0)** cases were opened between January and December 2023.

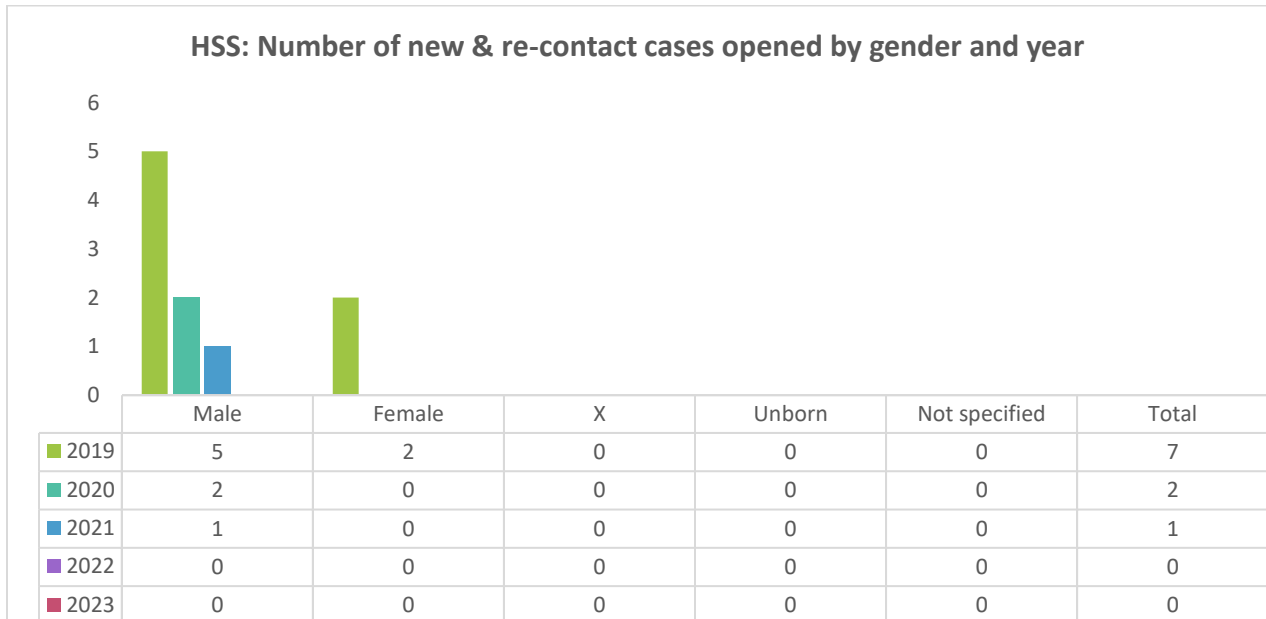


Figure 111: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, nil (0) cases were opened.

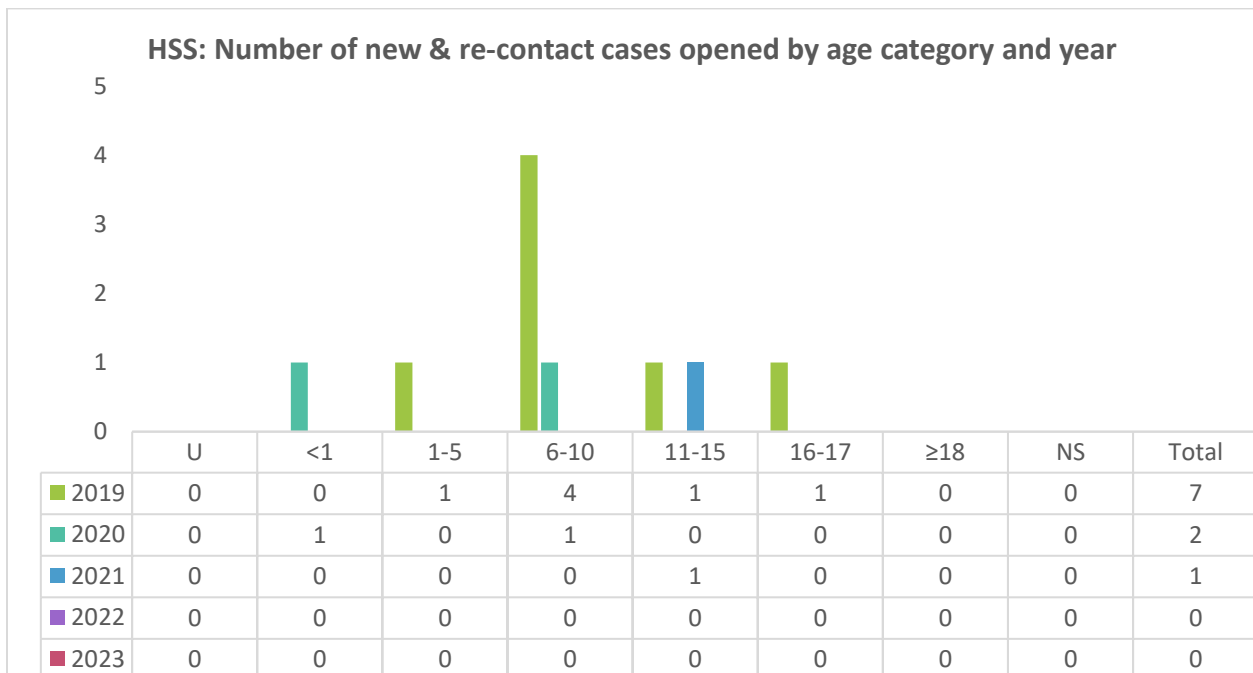


Figure 112: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, nil (0) cases were opened.

Graph Key: U = Unborn; NS = Not Specified.

HSS: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by gender and age January – December 2023						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-10	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-15	0	0	0	0	0	0
16-17	0	0	0	0	0	0
≥18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Figure 113: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, nil (0) cases were opened.

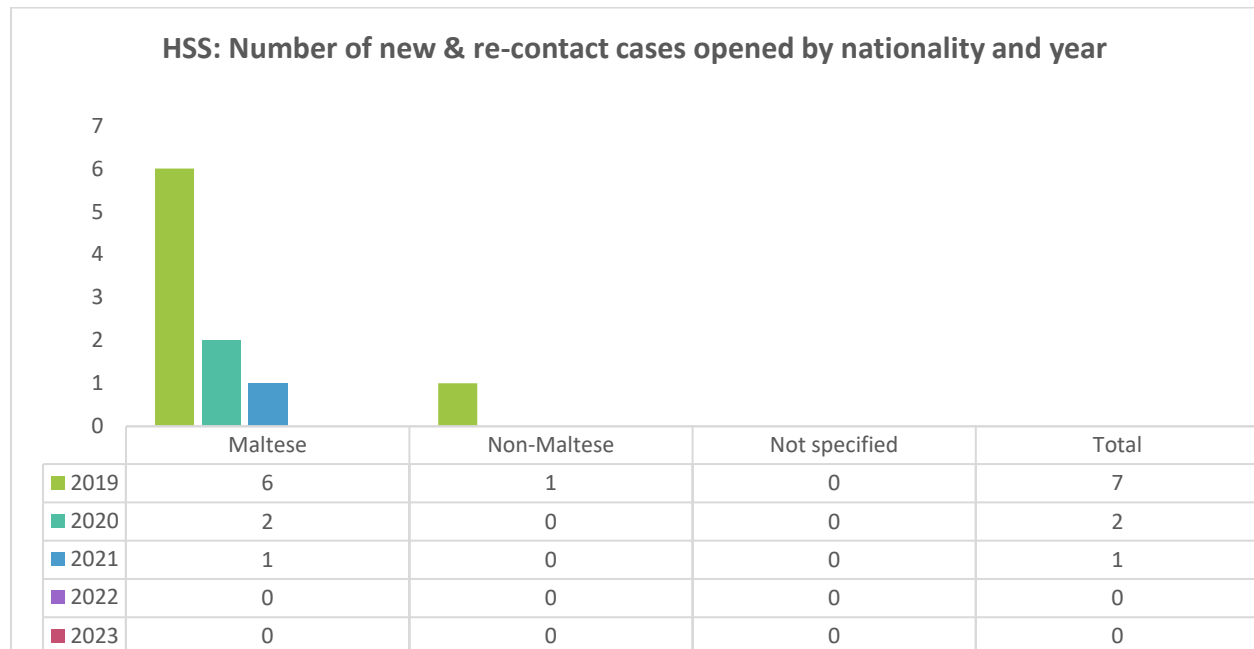


Figure 114: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, nil (0) cases were opened.

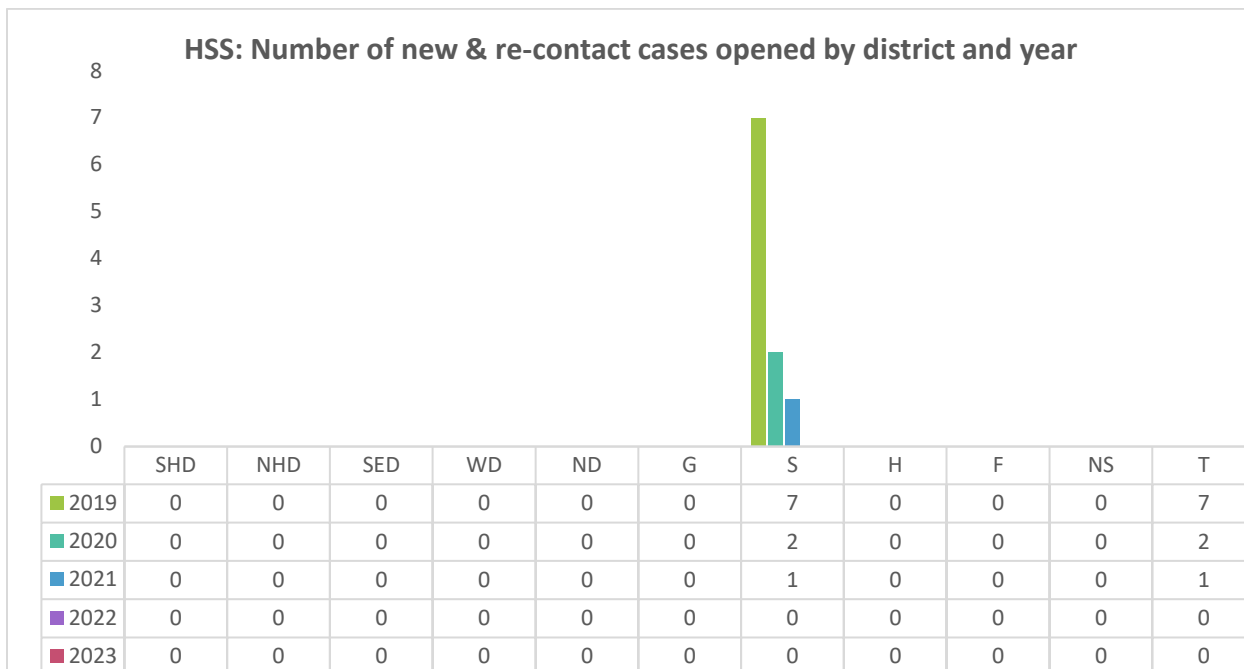


Figure 115: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, nil (0) cases were opened.

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

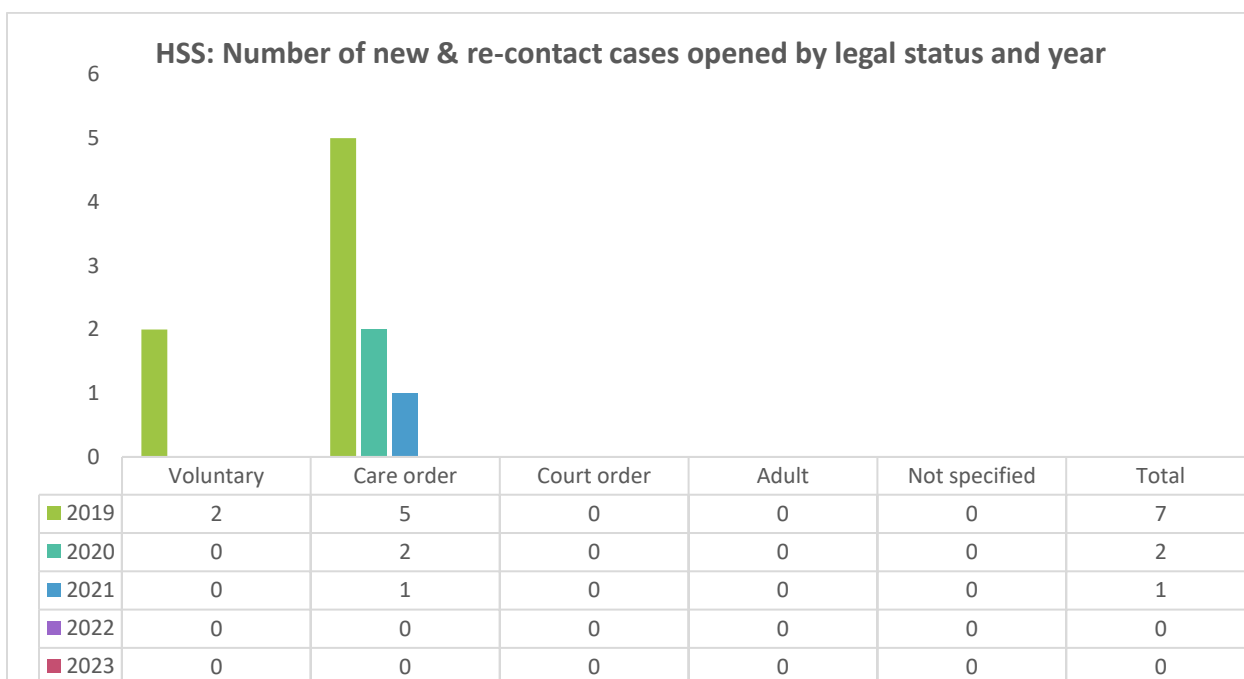


Figure 116: The figure above classifies the legal status of the case opened, as per legal definitions<sup>5</sup>, within the reporting year. It is the status as reported by the service user, known by the case worker, or based on documentation. In 2023, nil (0) cases were opened.

<sup>5</sup> Laws of Malta, chapter 602, Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act

# Community Homes Service (CHS)

## Case activity

The service began reporting data in 2015.

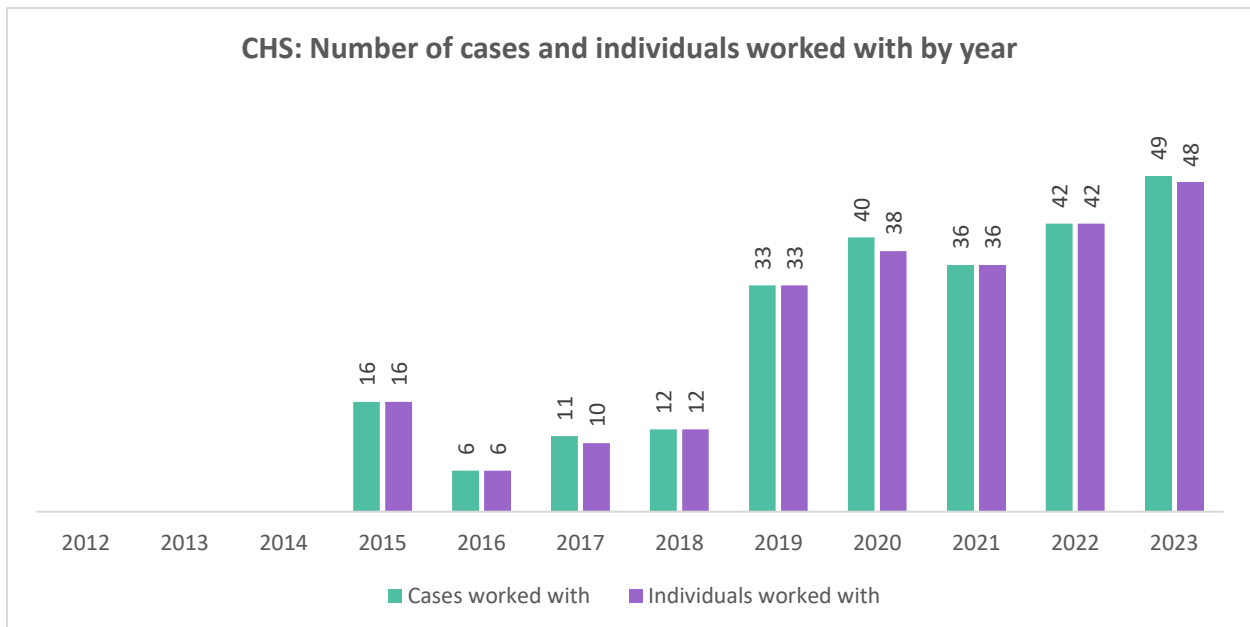


Figure 117: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals worked with. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. In 2023, 49 cases and 48 individuals were worked with compared to 42 and 42 respectively in 2022.

### CHS: Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with in the current year compared to the previous year.

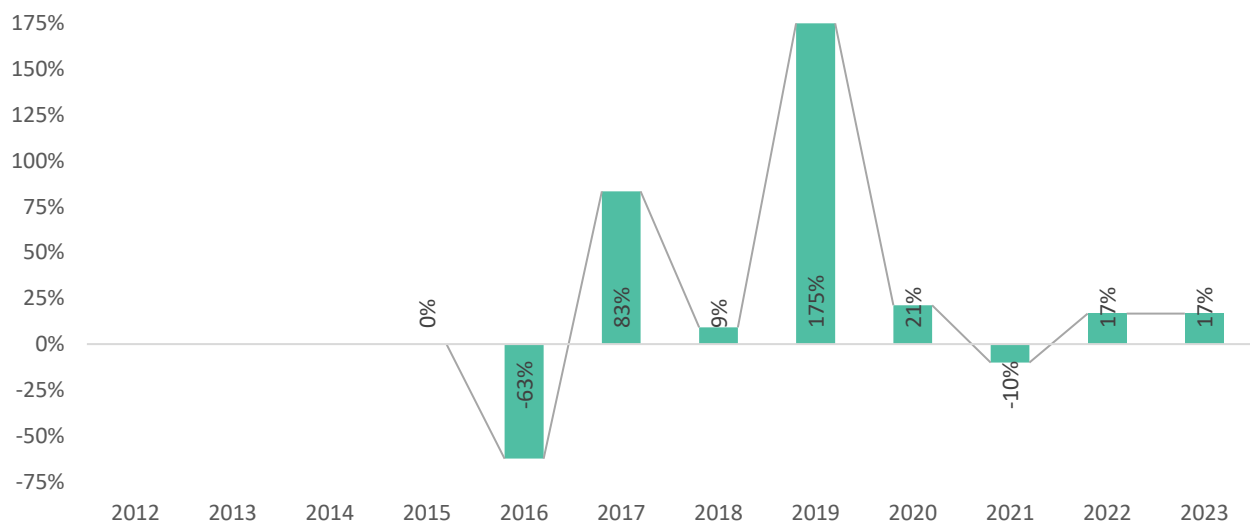


Figure 118: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with increased by 17% in 2022 over 2021. The expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, or changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

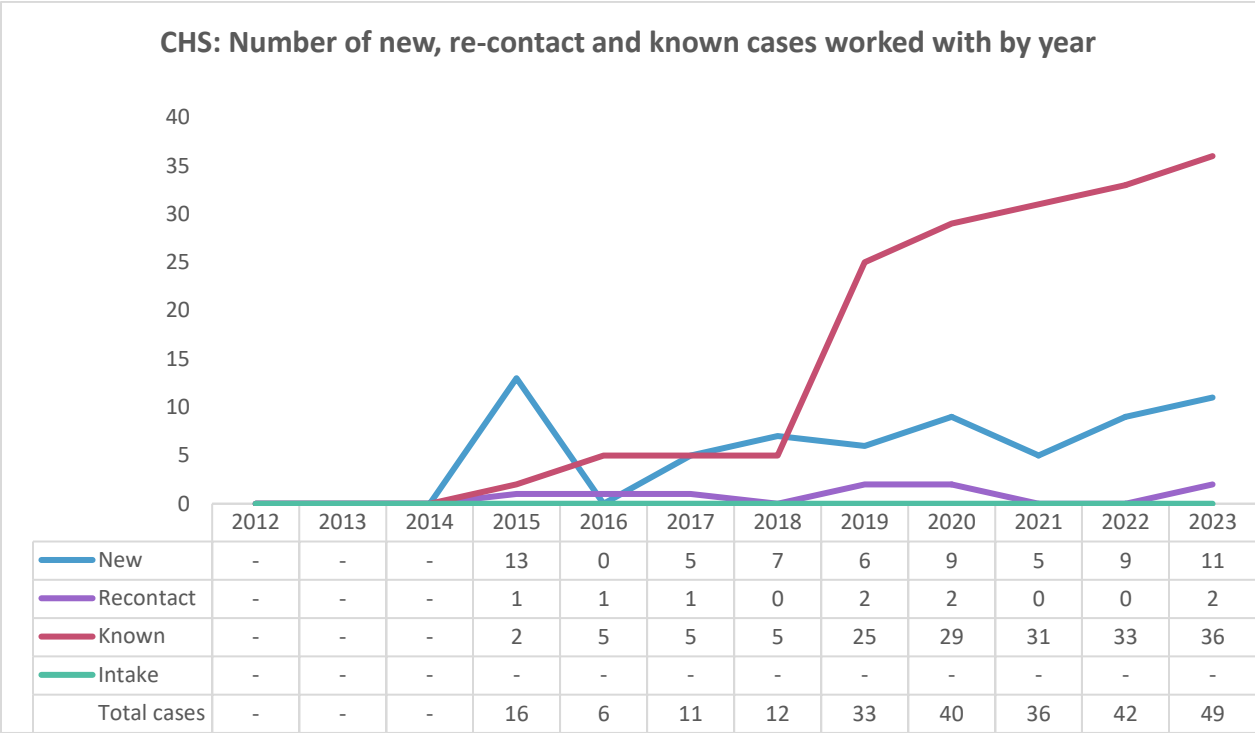


Figure 119: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary.

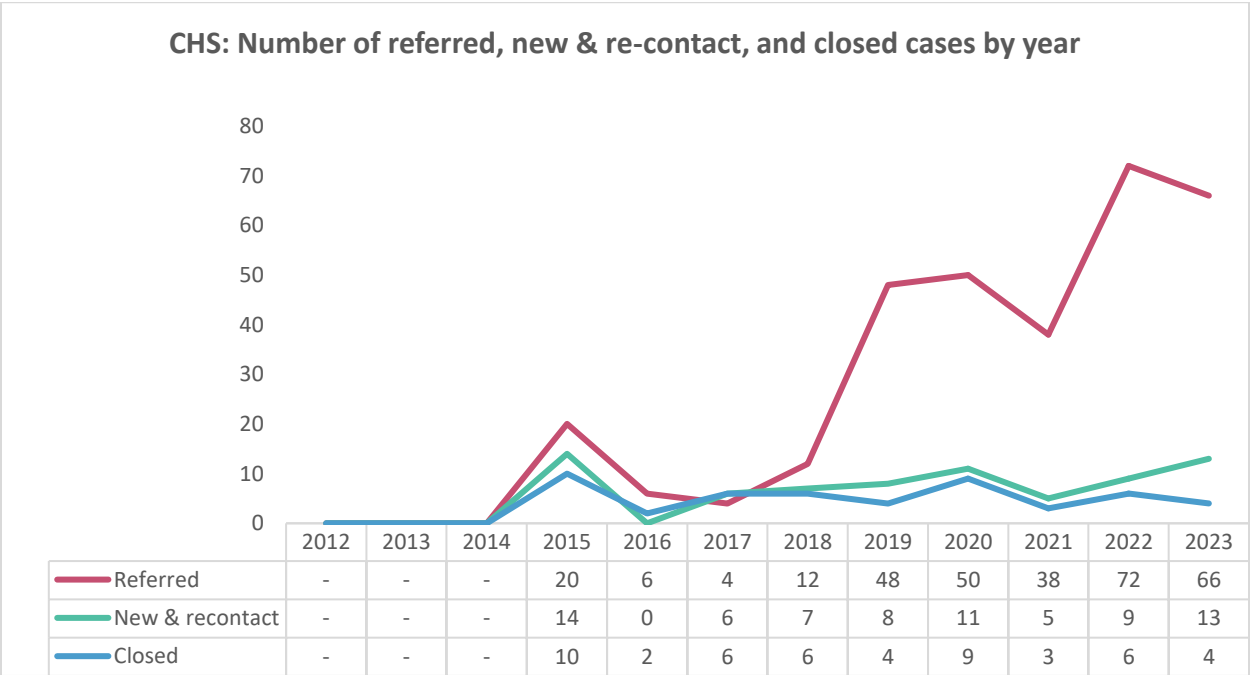


Figure 120: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 119 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, 66 cases were referred, 13 new & recontact cases opened, and 4 cases closed.

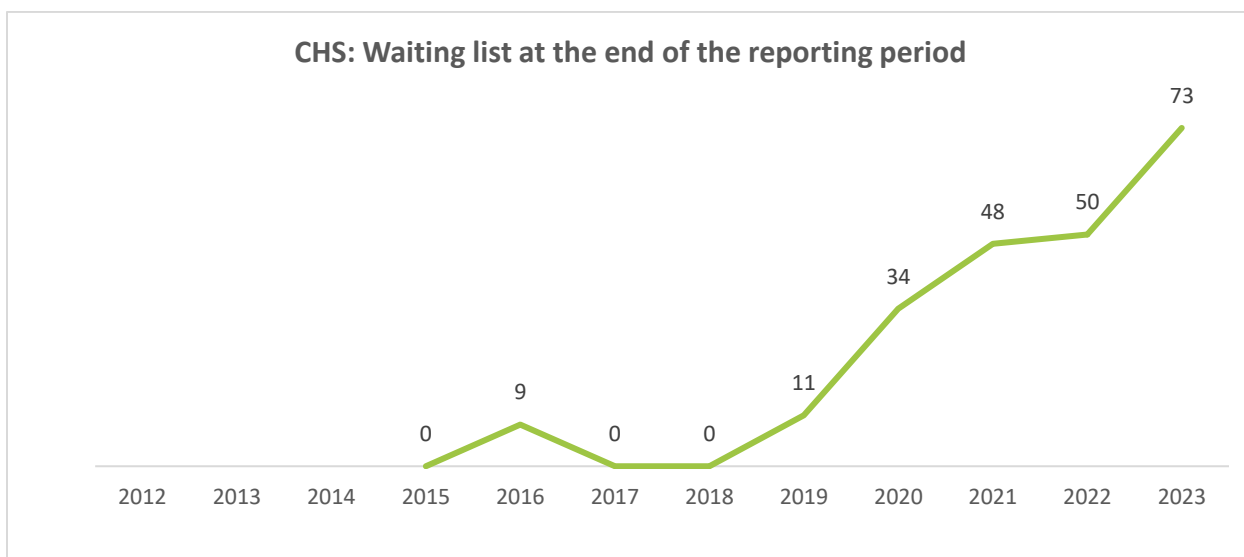


Figure 121: The figure above only reports cases that are still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

CHS: Case worked with by service and gender January – December 2023					
	Male	Female	X	Not specified	Total
Zejtun	5	2	0	0	7
Safe Haven	3	3	0	0	6
Sta. Margherita	0	6	0	0	6
Warm Haven	0	6	0	0	6
Paola Flats	2	3	0	0	5
Sempreviva Flat	0	5	0	0	5
Toorak Flats	3	1	0	0	4
Carini Flats	3	0	0	0	3
Valletta	0	2	0	0	2
Birkirkara	1	0	0	0	1
Gzira	0	1	0	0	1
Mgarr	0	1	0	0	1
Paola	1	0	0	0	1
Sta. Marija, Mosta	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>

Figure 122: There are various homes accessed through Community Home Service and the figure above stratifies the cases worked with in the reporting period by community home and gender of the service user. In 2023, the majority of cases worked with were housed within Zejtun (7 cases).

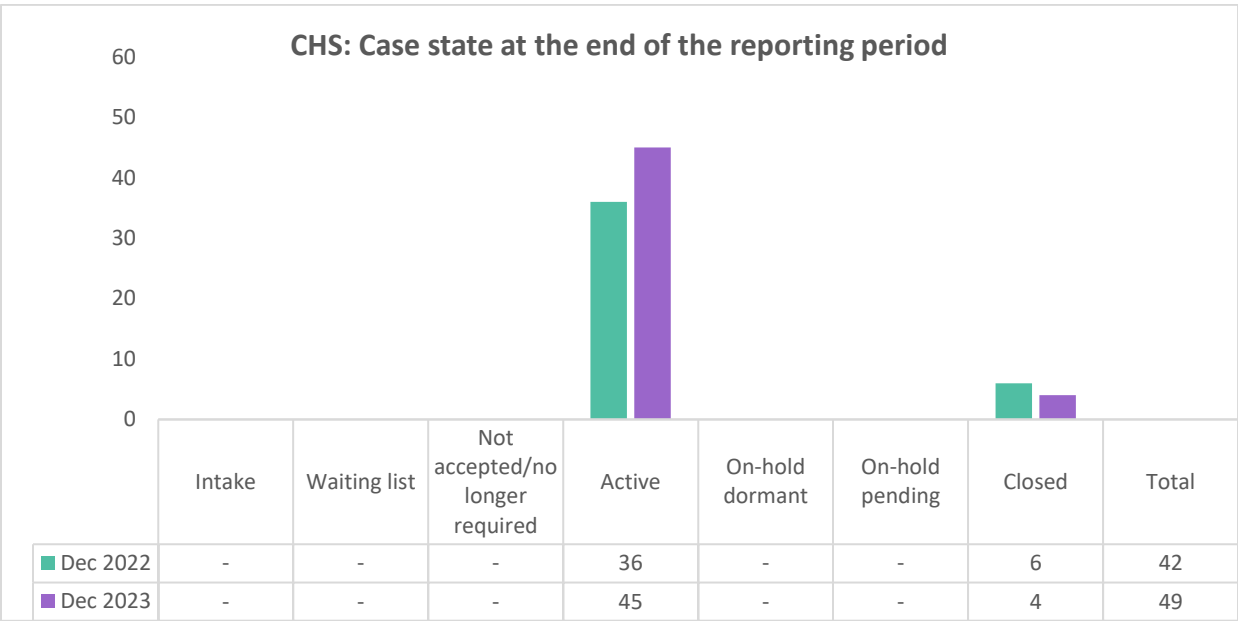


Figure 123: Cases will be handled throughout the year by placing them on intake, adding them to the waiting list, opening them, or closing them (definitions can be found in the glossary). The case state at the end of the reporting year is shown in the figure above. In 2023, 92% (45) of the cases worked with were still active by the end of the year. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

## Details regarding cases worked with January - December 2023

A total of 49 cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### CHS: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

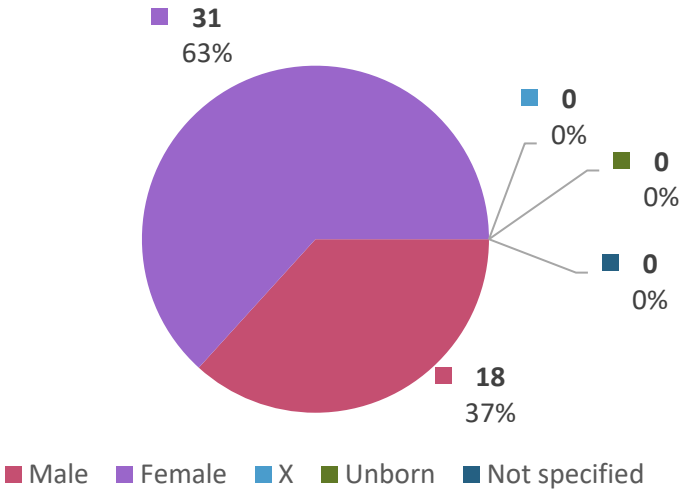


Figure 124: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were female (63%).

**CHS: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)**

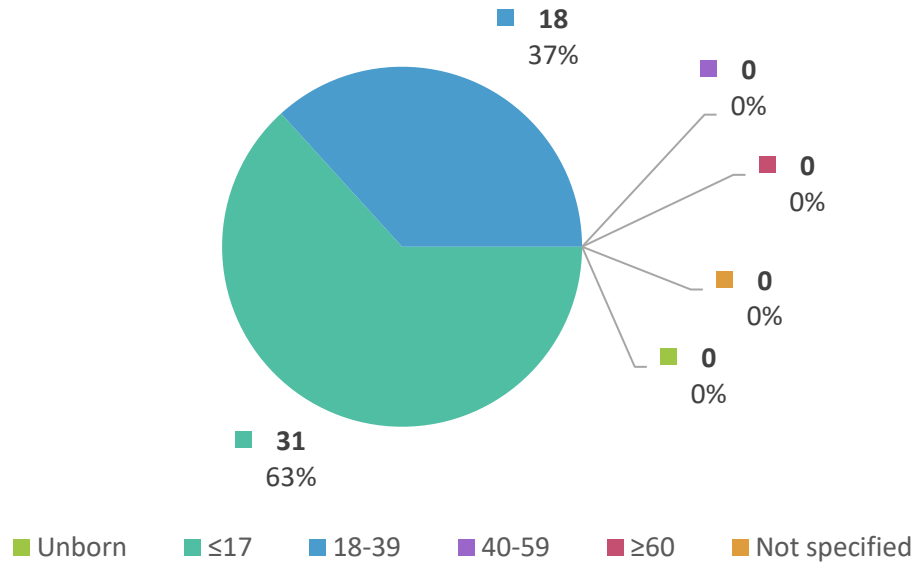


Figure 125: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 17 or younger (63%).

**CHS: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)**

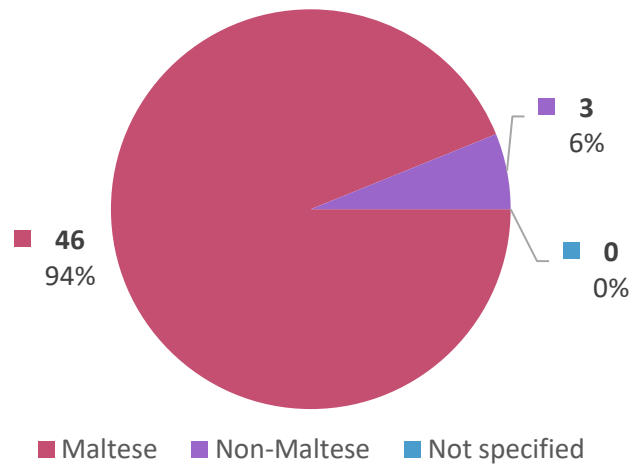


Figure 126: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 94% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 6% of cases.

**CHS: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)**

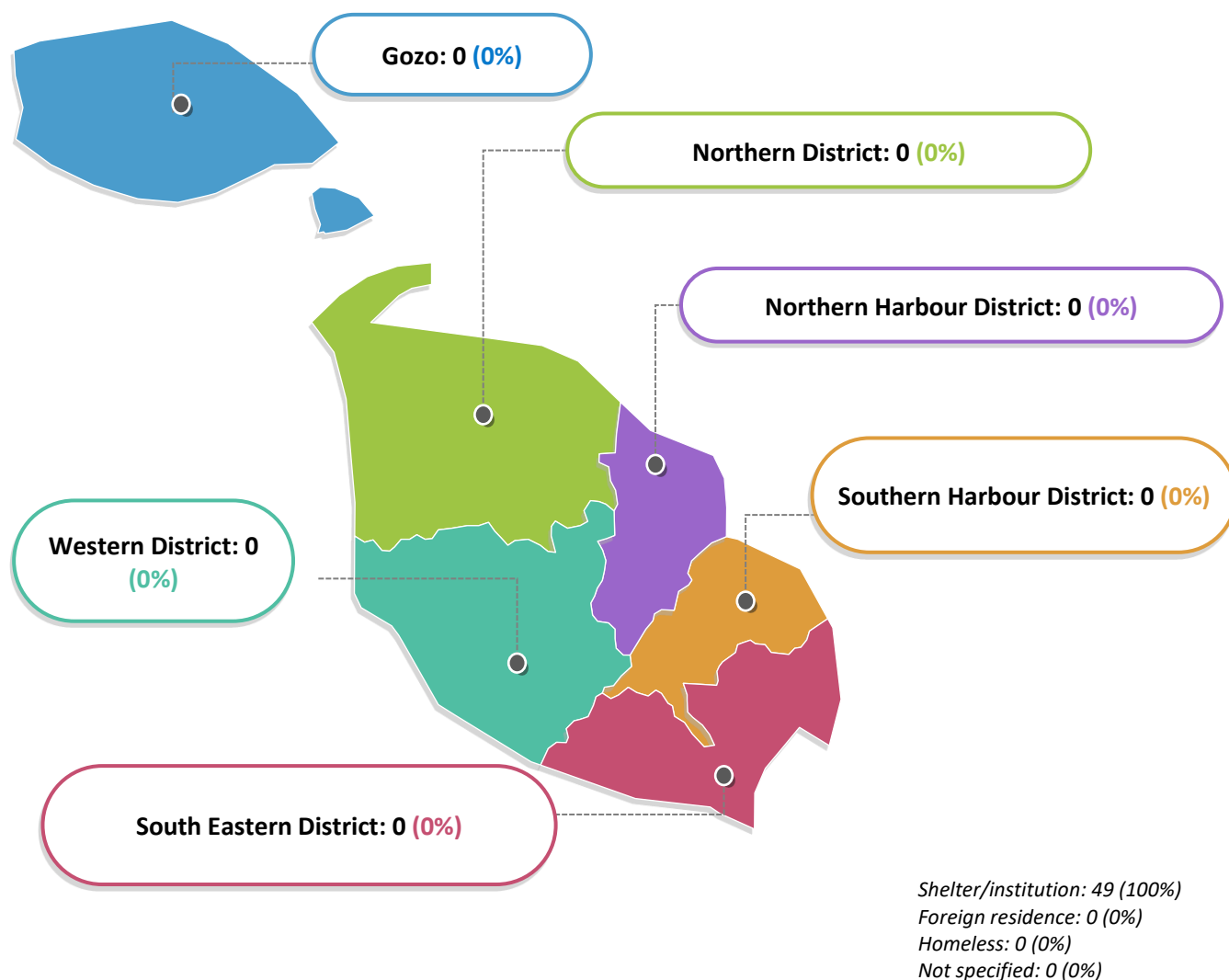


Figure 127: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. All cases worked with in 2023 reported residing within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential care home).

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **13** cases were opened between January and December 2023.

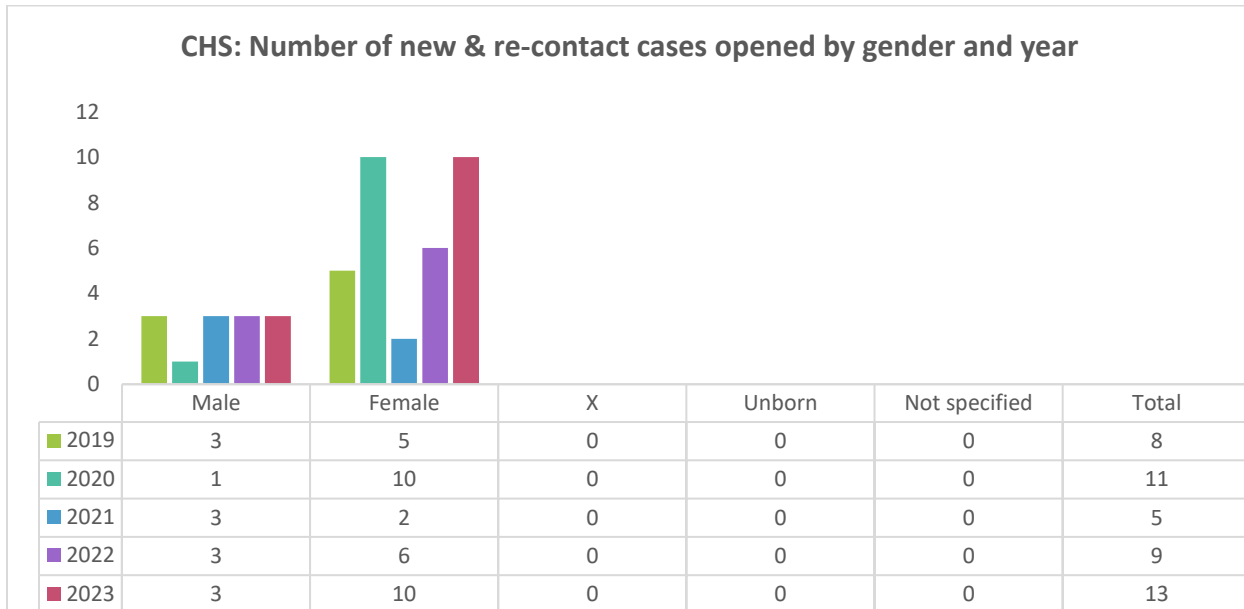


Figure 128: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were female (10).

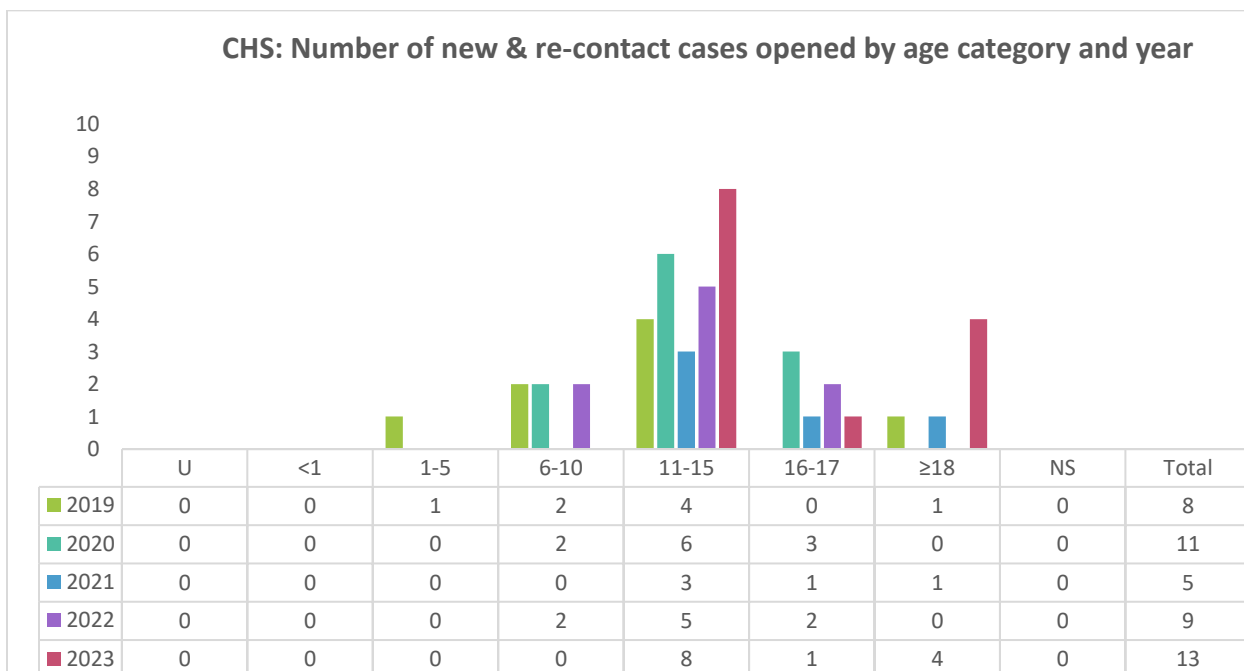


Figure 129: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were ages 11-15 (8). In some cases, the service is required to support a youth beyond the age of 18 in order for the youth to gain full independence (e.g., young adult is in tertiary education and cannot afford personal housing at this time).

Graph Key: U = Unborn; NS = Not Specified.

CHS: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by age category and gender January – December 2023						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
< 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-10	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-15	2	6	0	0	0	8
16-17	0	1	0	0	0	1
≥18	1	3	0	0	0	4
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

Figure 130: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In some cases, the service is required to support a youth beyond the age of 18 in order for the youth to gain full independence e.g., young adult is in tertiary education and cannot afford personal housing at this time.

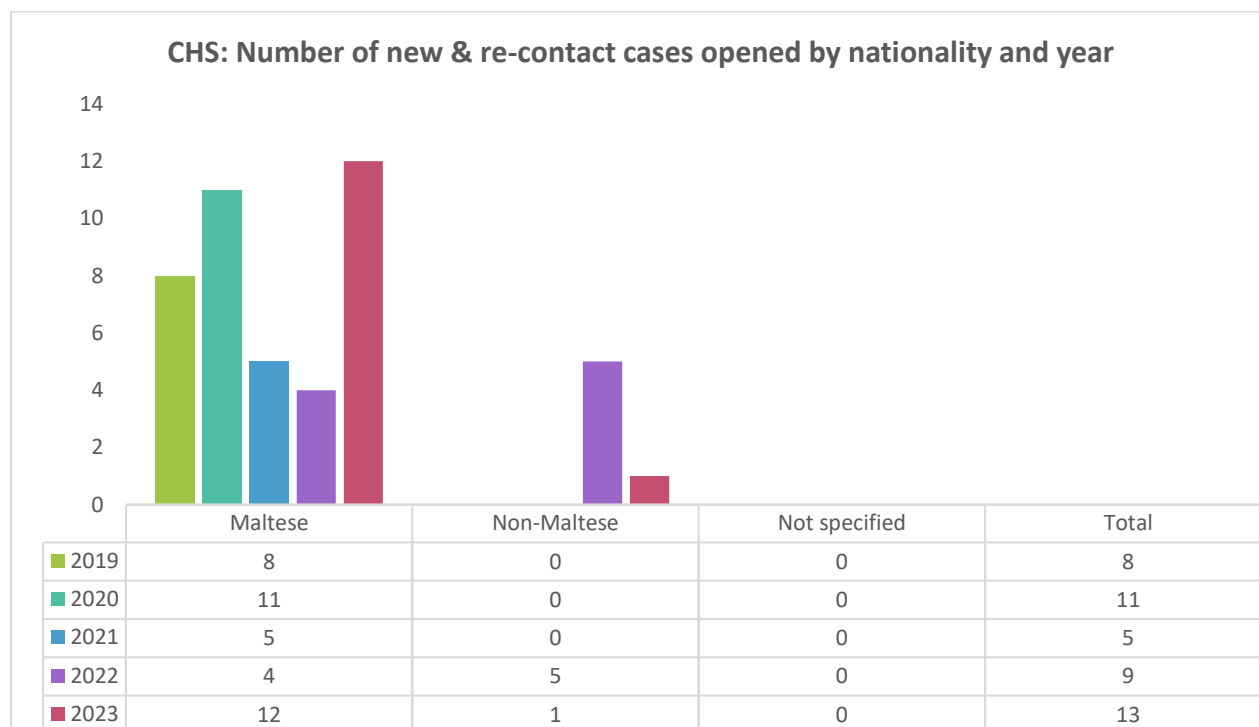


Figure 131: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, 12 cases opened in 2023 were Maltese while 1 case was non-Maltese.

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

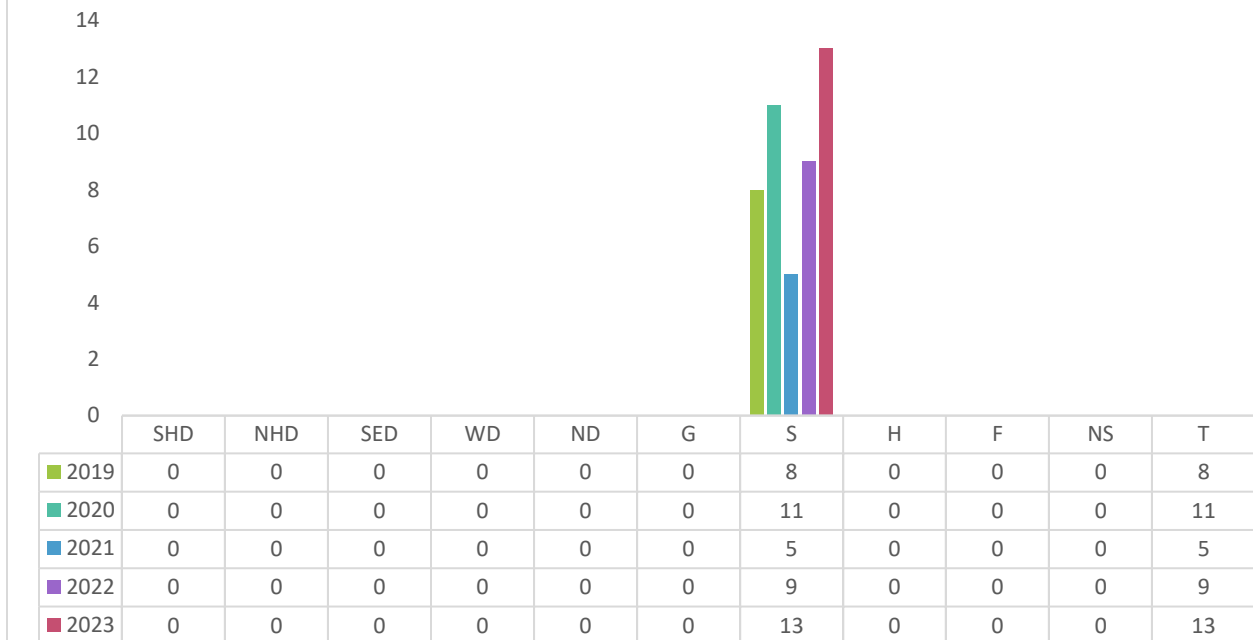


Figure 132: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. All cases opened in 2023 reported residing within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential care home).

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

# Home-Start Malta

## Case activity

The service began reporting data in 2019. A new online data collection system and reporting format were introduced in 2020. The service moved from Appogg to the Directorate Alternative Care in 2021 and it also expanded its remit to include services that were previously handled by Programme Uljed Darna (PUD), (i.e., volunteers and generic work with children).

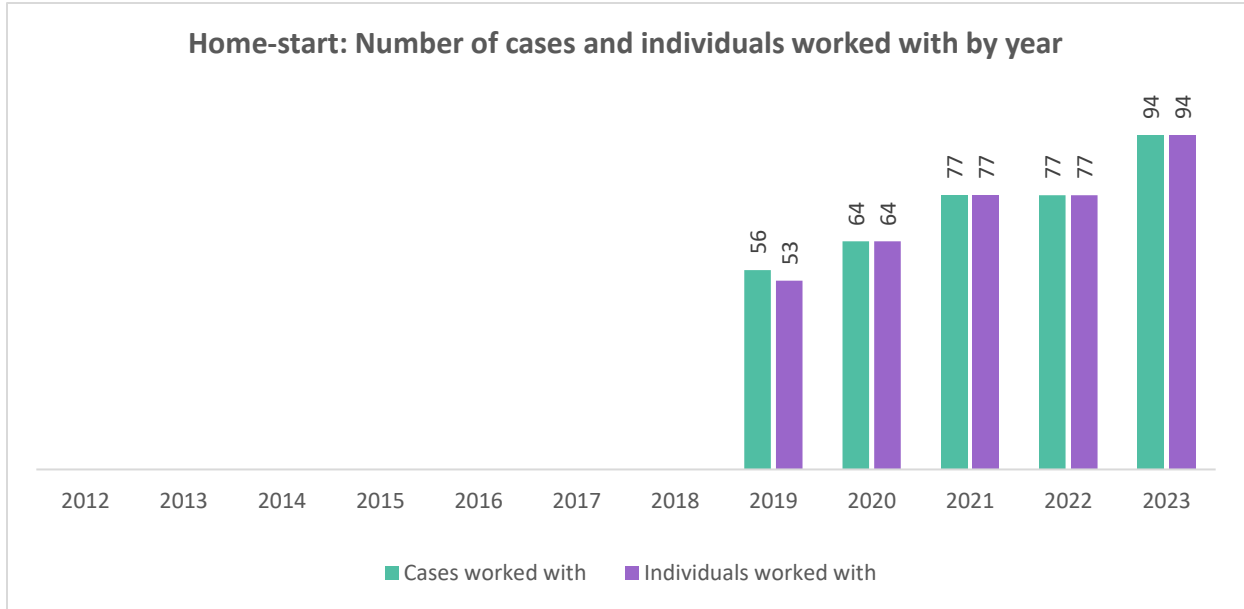


Figure 133: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals worked with. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. In 2023, 94 cases and 94 individuals were worked with compared to 77 and 77 respectively in 2022.

## Home-start: Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with in the current year compared to the previous year.

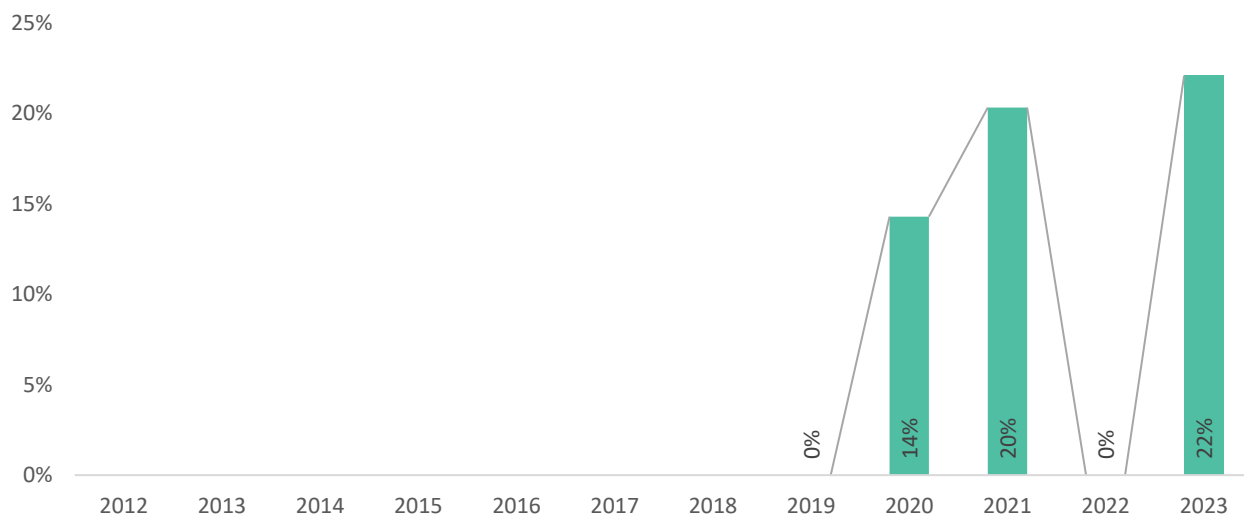


Figure 134: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with increased by 20% in 2021 over 2020. The expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, or changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

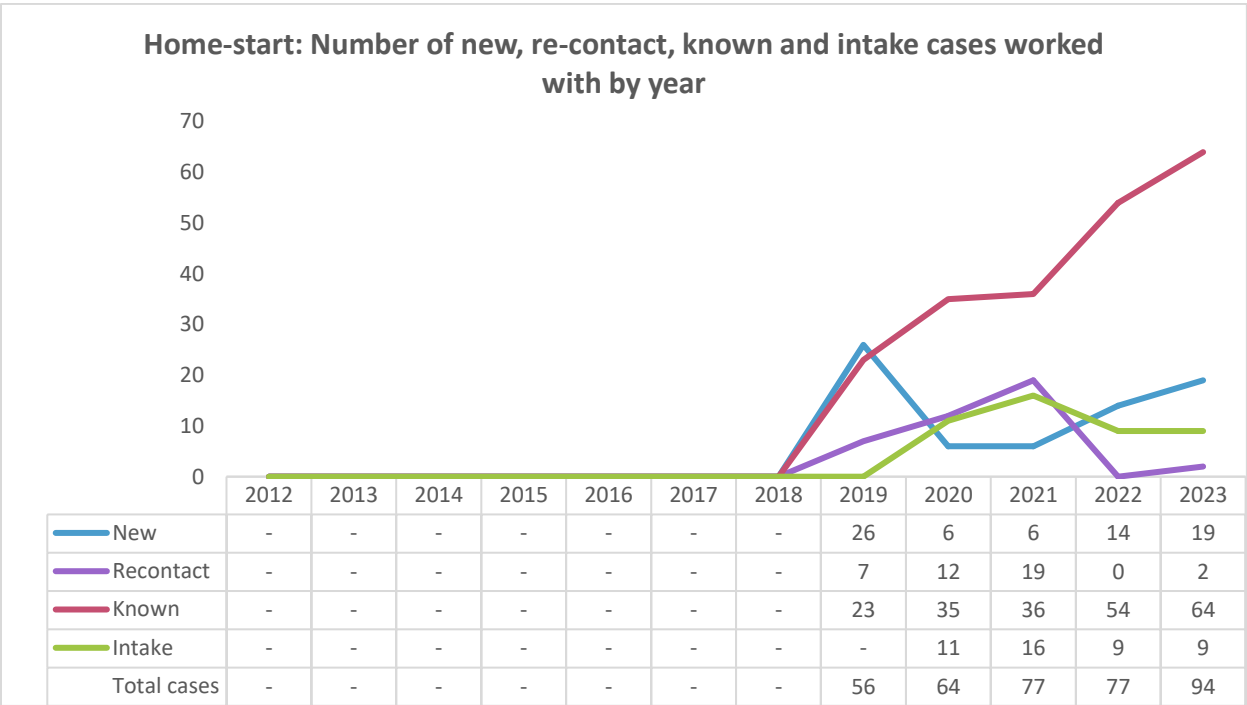


Figure 135: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary. For the above graph, intake began to be reported in 2020 due to the implementation of an online data collection system.

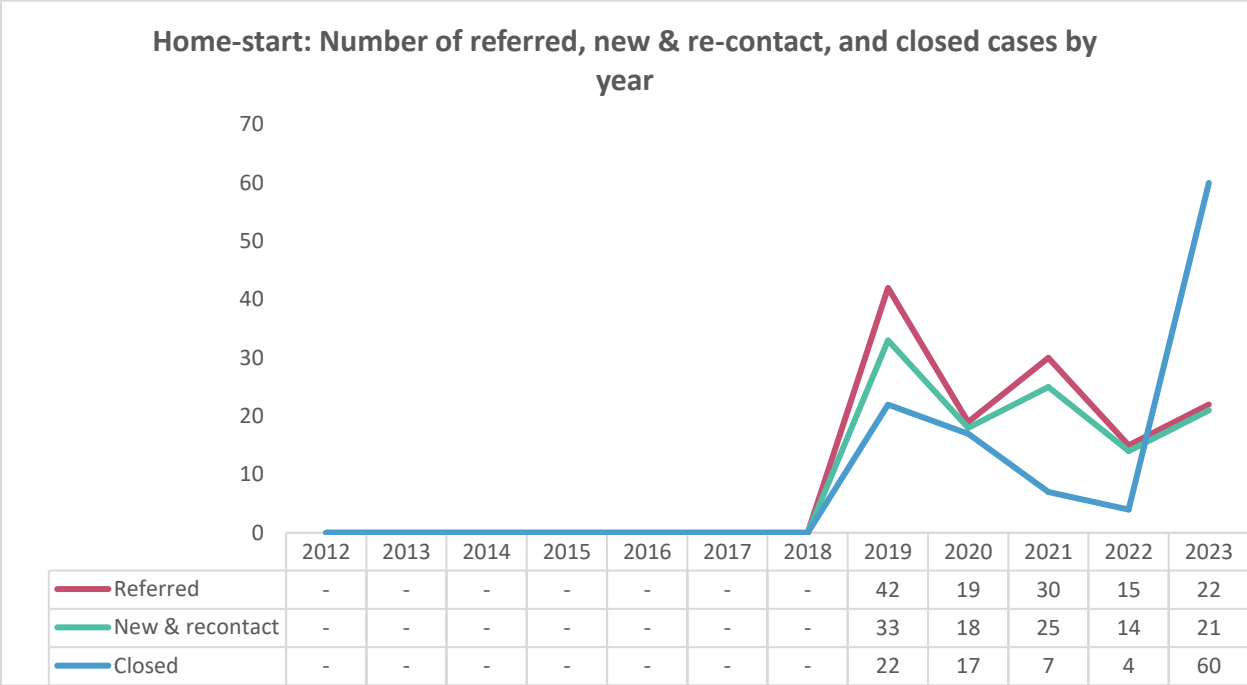


Figure 136: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 135 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, 22 cases were referred, 21 new & recontact cases opened, and 60 cases closed.

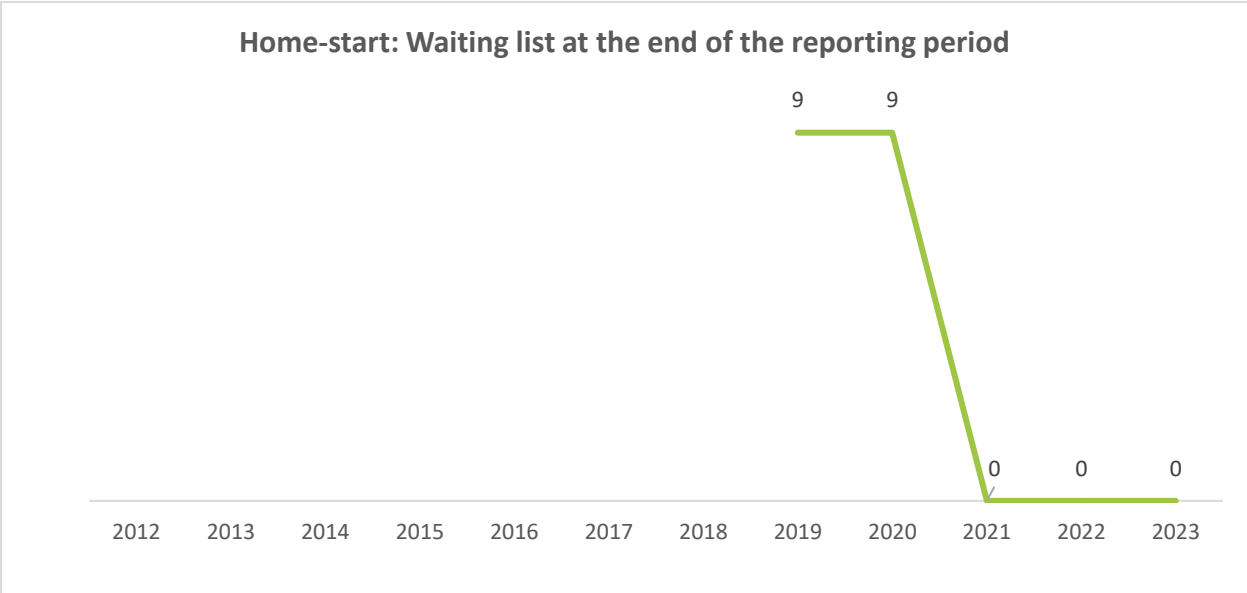


Figure 137: The figure above only reports cases that are still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

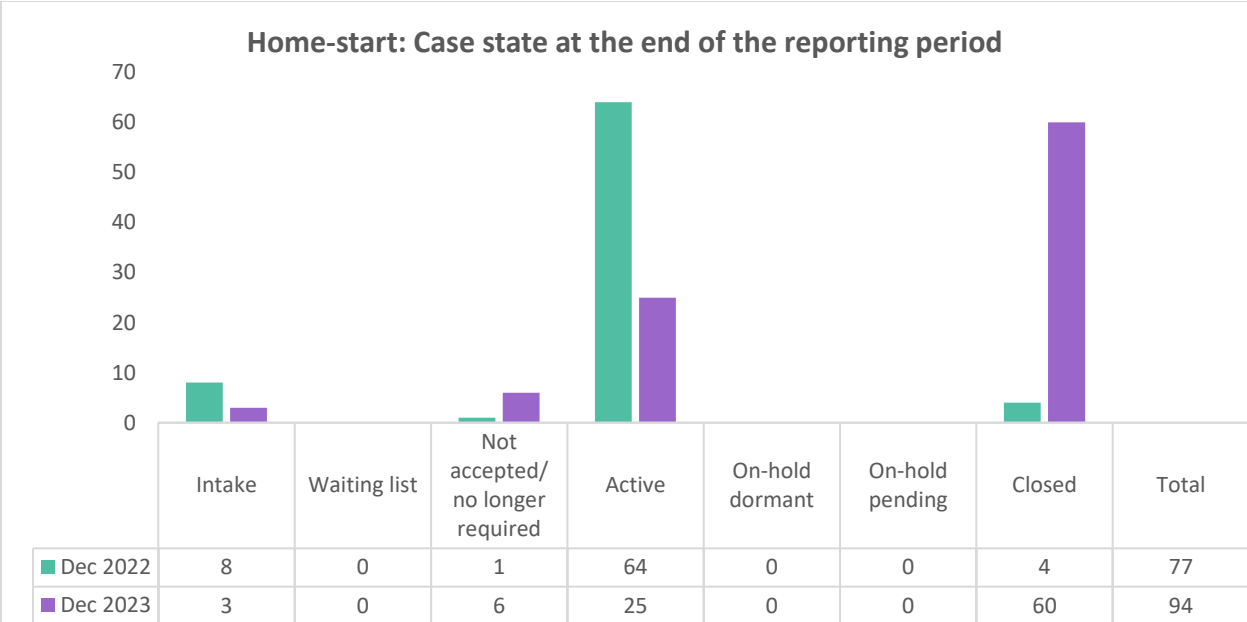


Figure 138: Cases will be handled throughout the year by placing them on intake, adding them to the waiting list, opening them, or closing them (definitions can be found in the glossary). The case state at the end of the reporting year is shown in the figure above. In 2023, 27% (25) of the cases worked with were still active by the end of the year. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

## Details regarding cases worked with January - December 2023

A total of **94** cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### Home-start: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

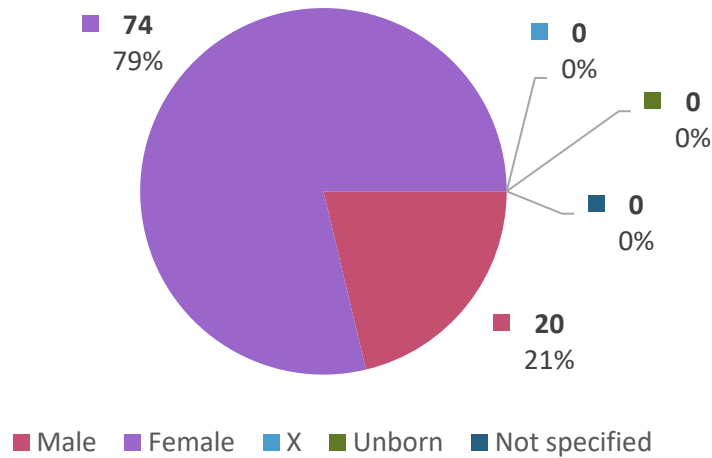


Figure 139: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were female (79%).

### Home-start: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)

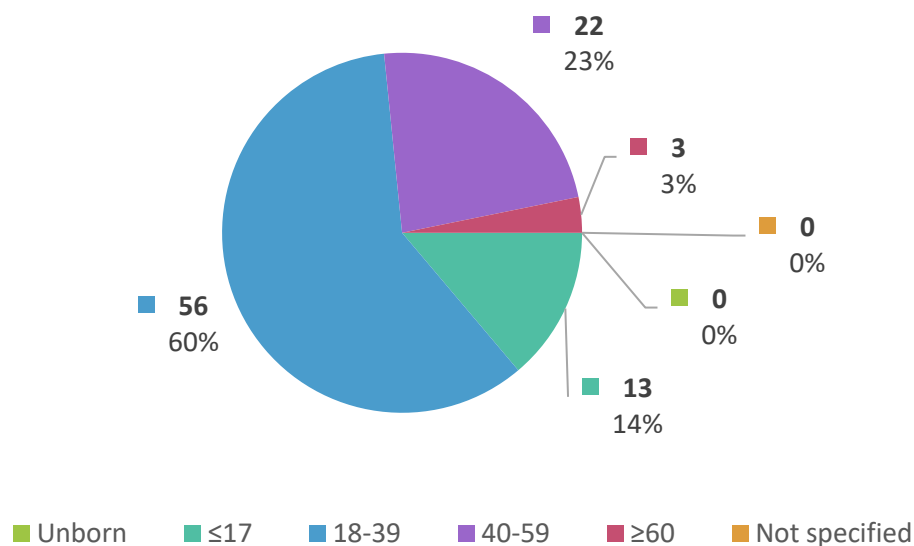
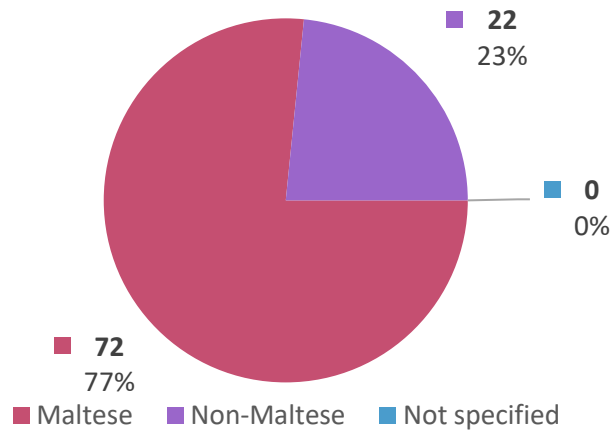


Figure 140: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 18 to 39 (60%).

**Home-start: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)**



*Figure 141: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 77% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 23% of cases.*

## Home-start: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)

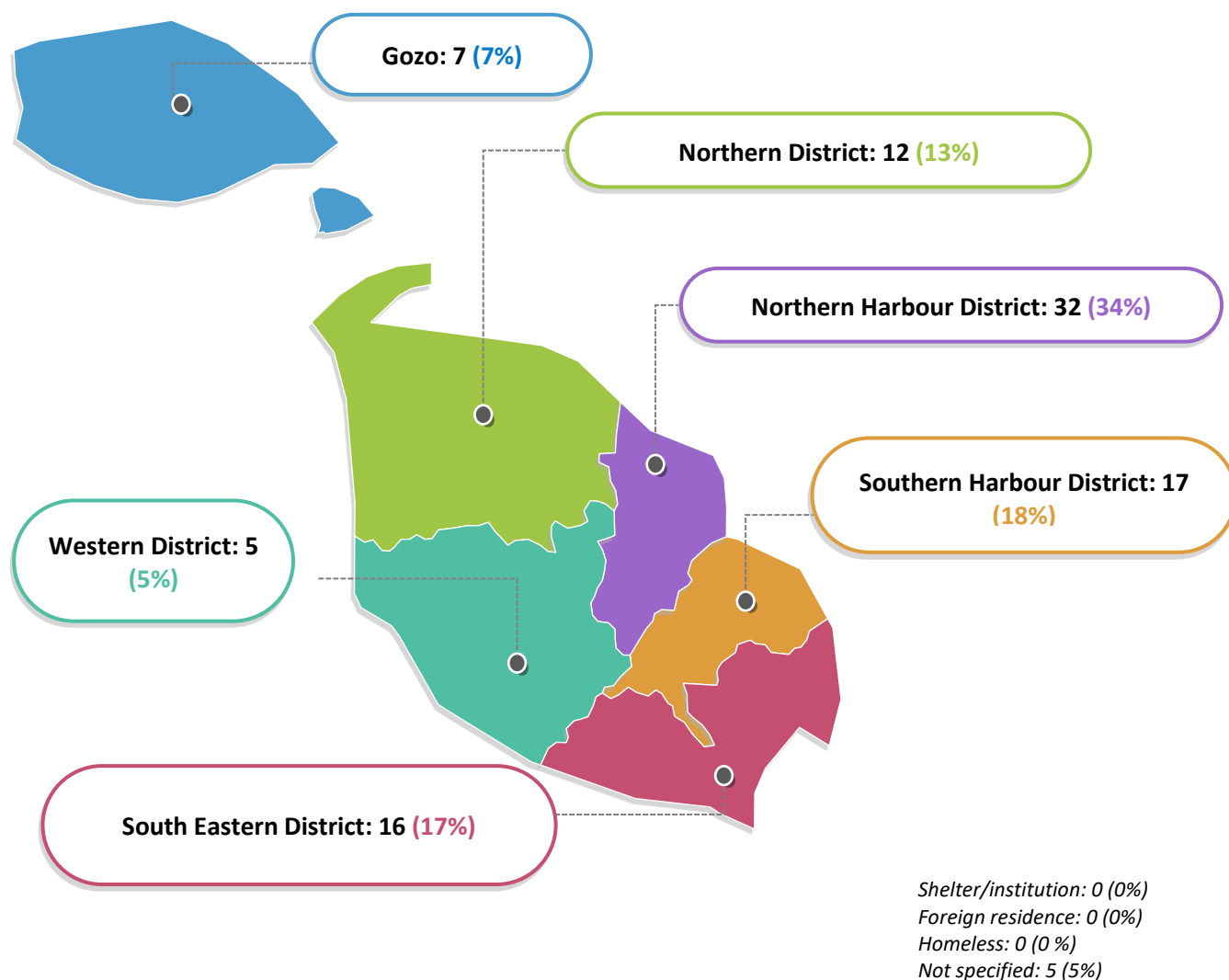


Figure 142: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. The Northern Harbour District (34%) had the highest percentage of cases worked with in 2023.

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **21** cases were opened between January and December 2023.

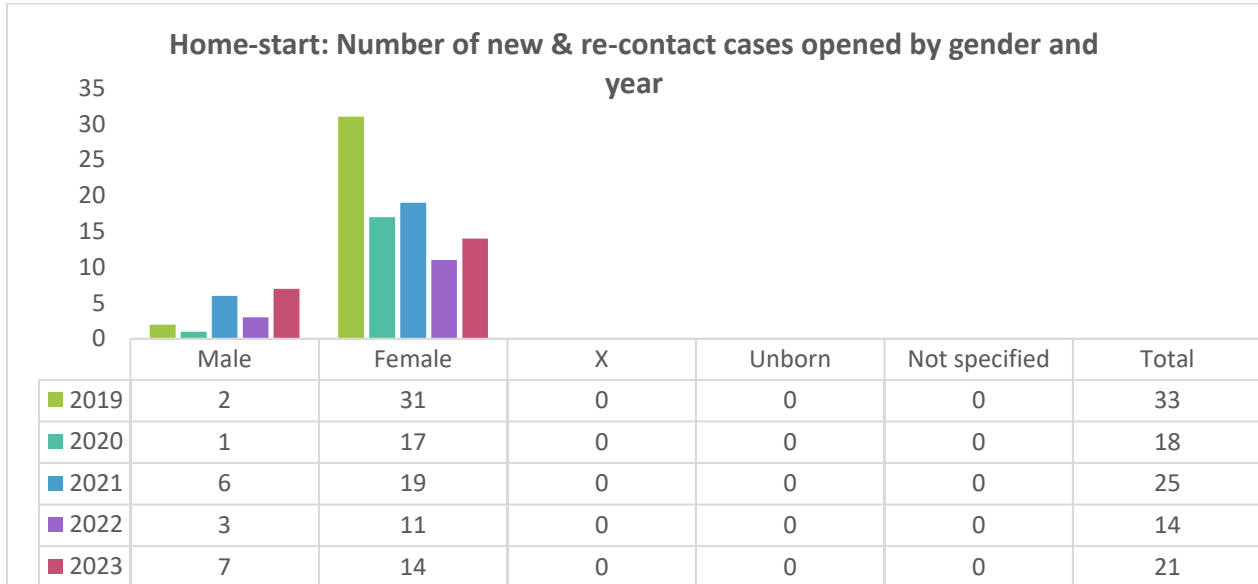


Figure 143: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were female (14).

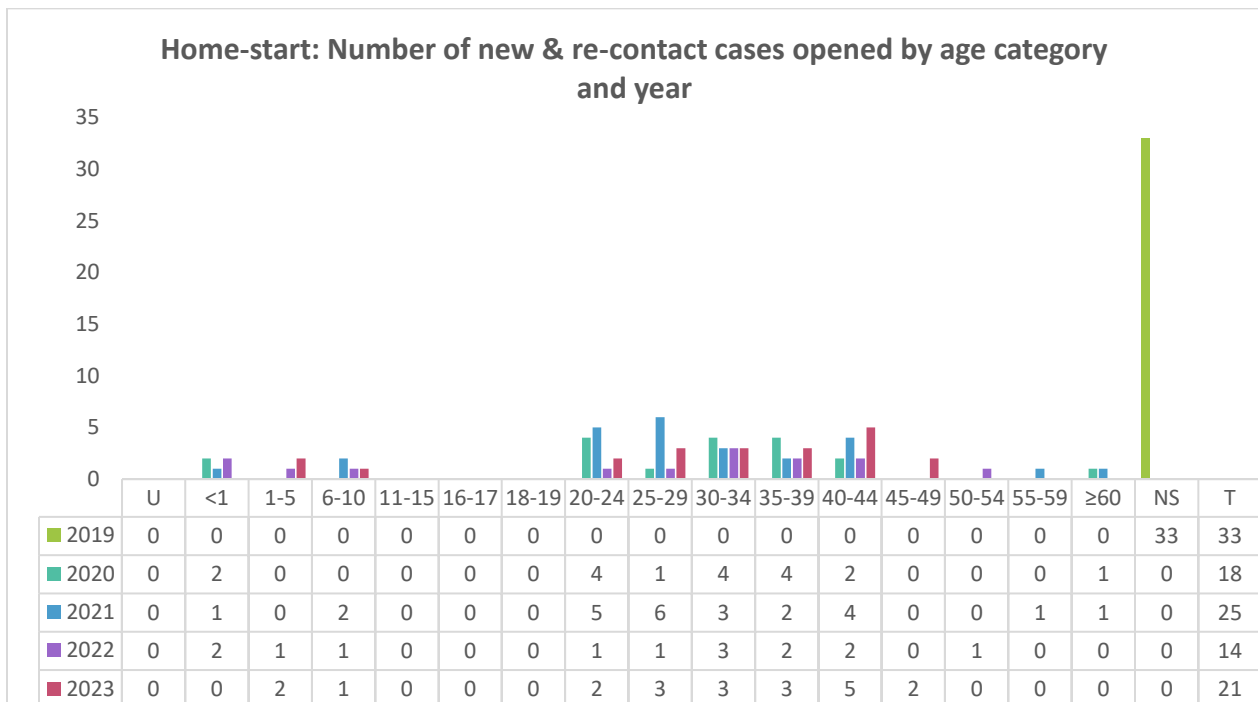


Figure 144: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were ages 40 to 44 (5).

Graph Key: U = Unborn; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

Home-Start: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by age category and gender January – December 2023						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	2	0	0	0	0	2
6-10	1	0	0	0	0	1
11-15	0	0	0	0	0	0
16-17	0	0	0	0	0	0
18-19	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-24	0	2	0	0	0	2
25-29	0	3	0	0	0	3
30-34	1	2	0	0	0	3
35-39	0	3	0	0	0	3
40-44	2	3	0	0	0	5
45-49	1	1	0	0	0	2
50-54	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-59	0	0	0	0	0	0
≥60	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>

Figure 145: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided.

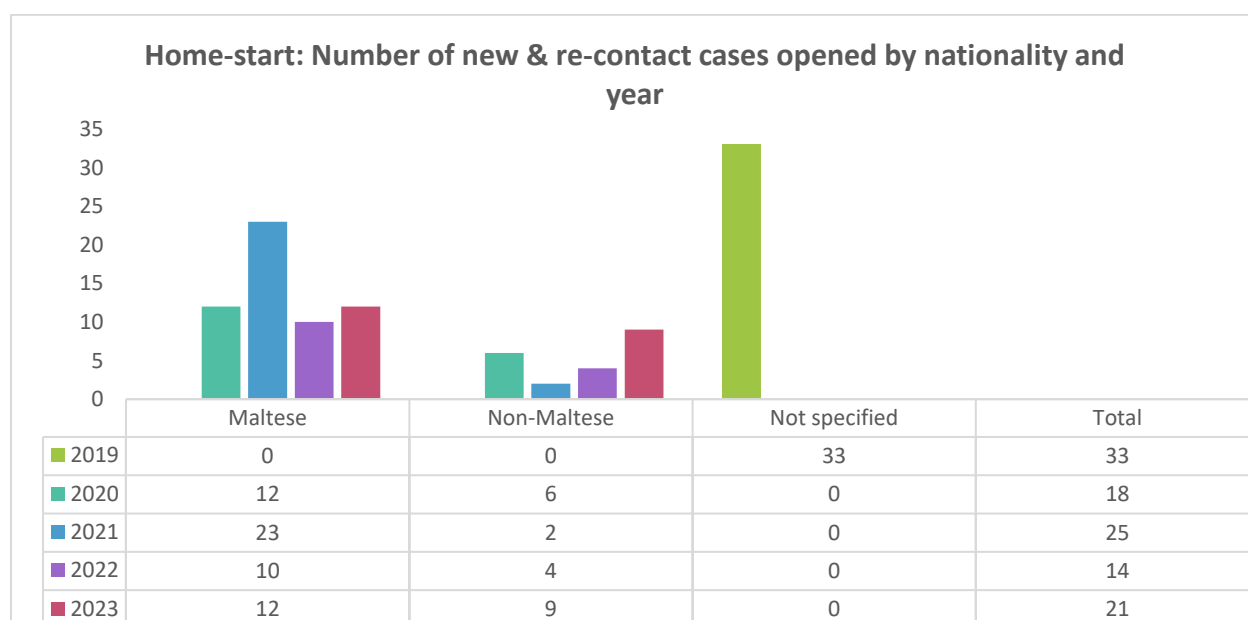


Figure 146: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, 12 cases opened in 2023 were Maltese while 6 cases were non-Maltese.

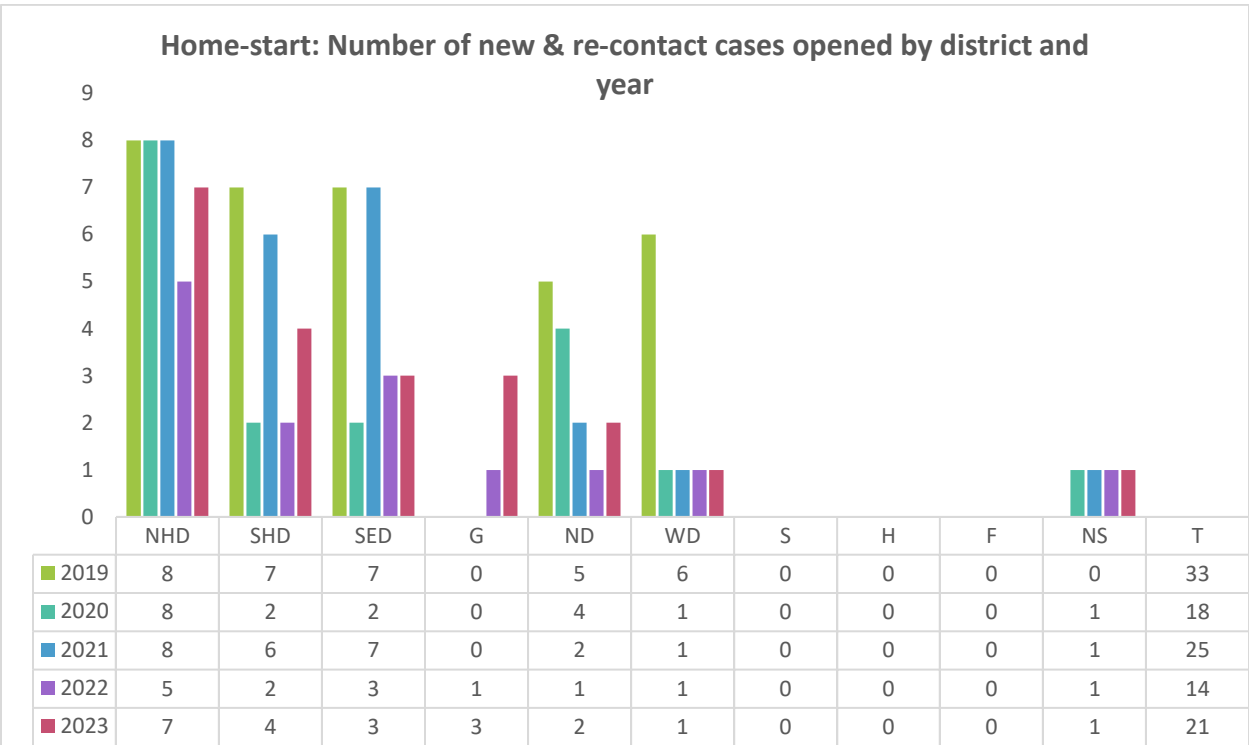


Figure 147: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. The Northern Harbour District (7) had the highest number of cases opened in 2023.

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

# Youth in Focus Service (YIF)

## Case activity

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

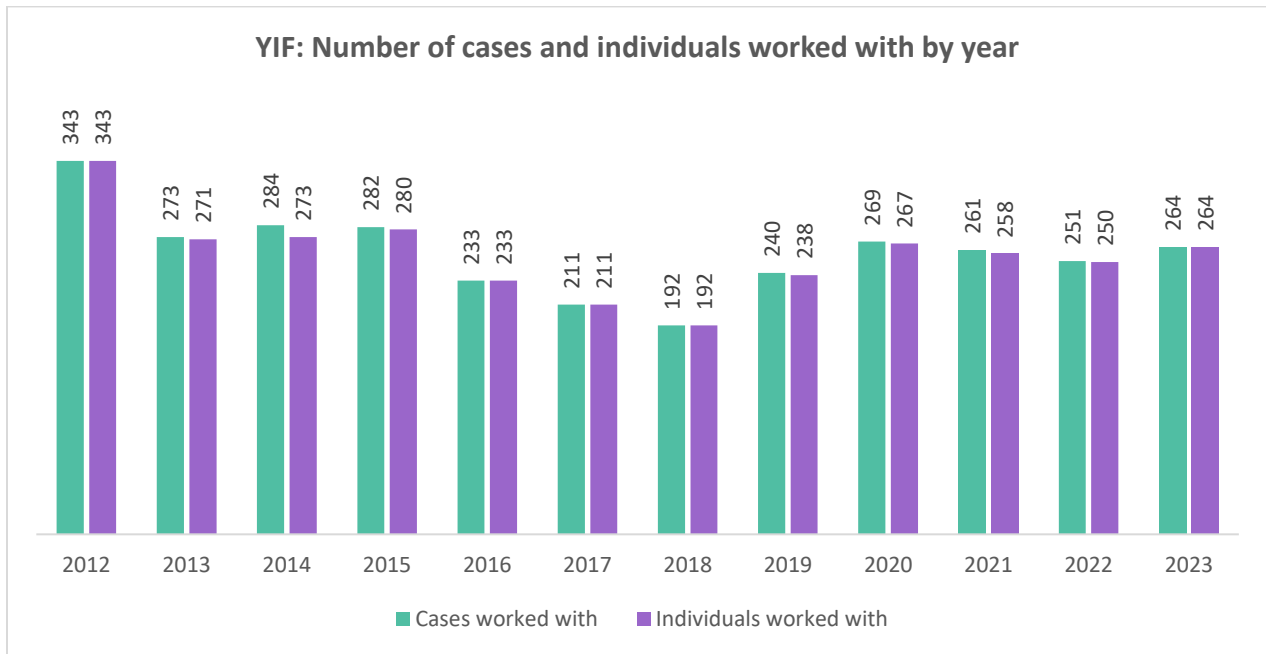


Figure 148: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals worked with. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. In 2023, 264 cases and 264 individuals were worked with compared to 251 and 250 respectively in 2022.

### YIF: Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with in the current year compared to the previous year.

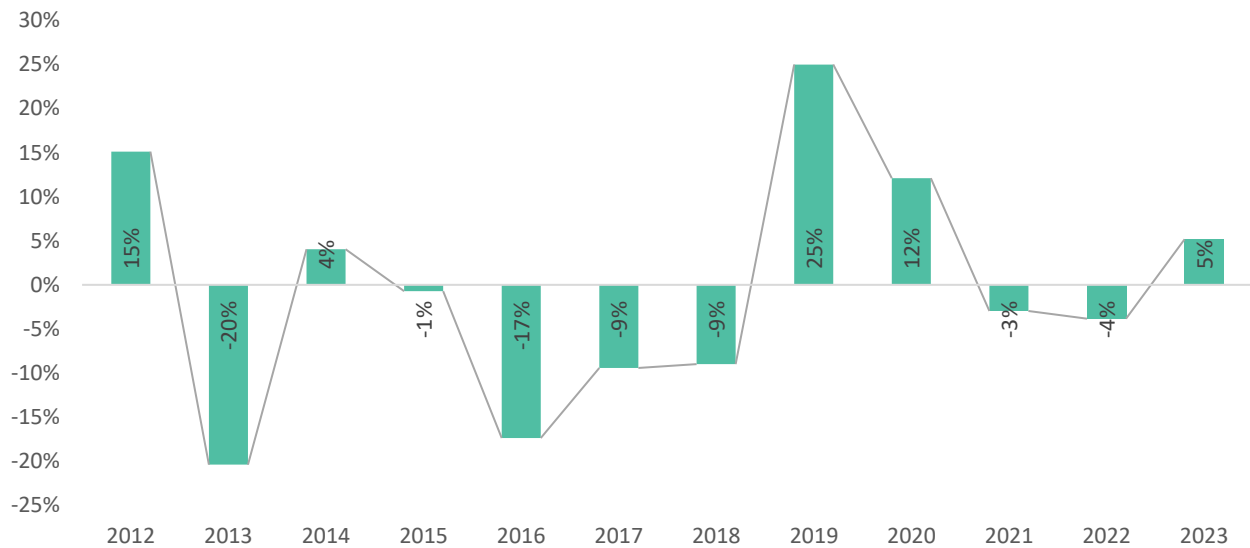


Figure 149: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with decreased by 4% in 2022 over 2021. The expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, or changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

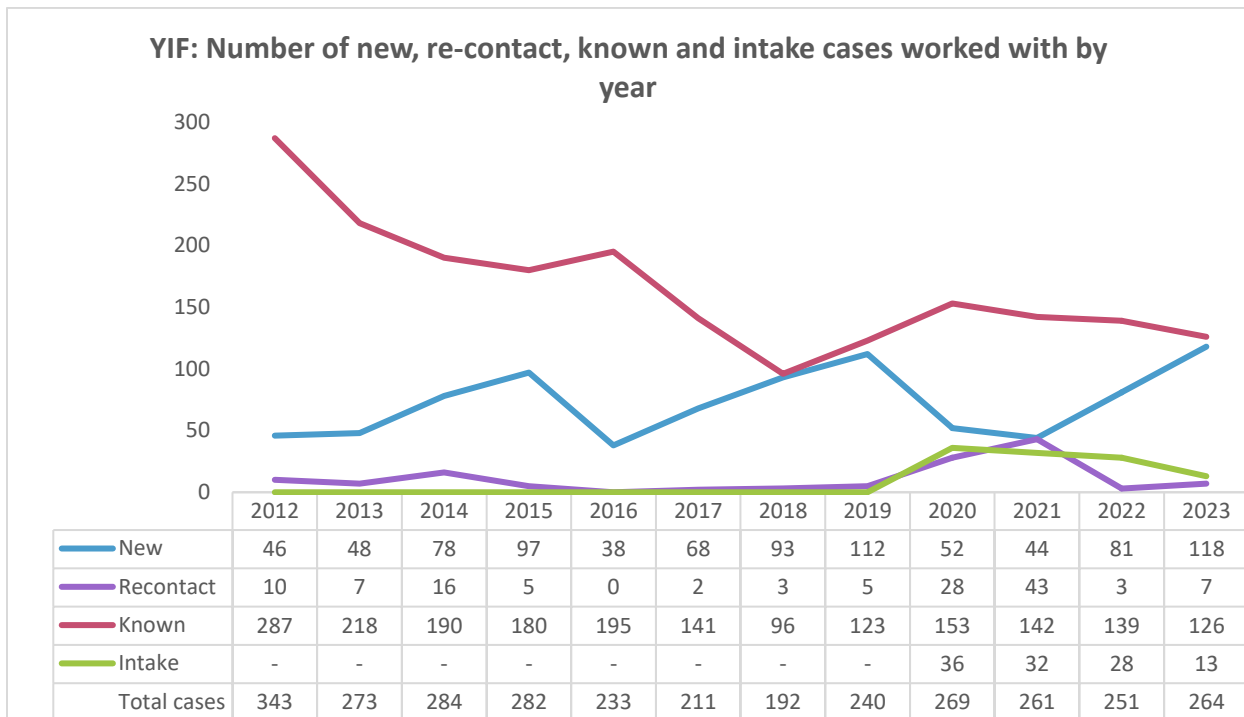


Figure 150: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary. For the above graph, intake began to be reported in 2020 due to the implementation of an online data collection system.

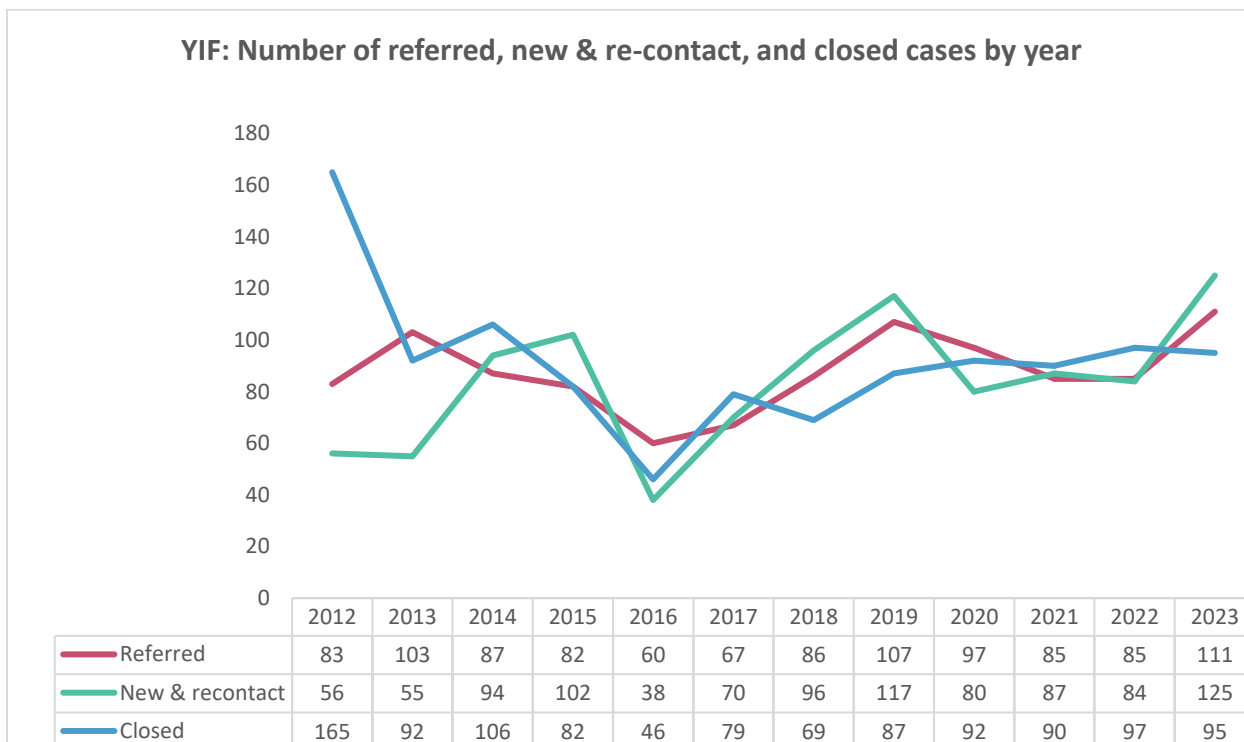


Figure 151: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 150 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, 111 cases were referred, 125 new & recontact cases opened, and 95 cases closed.

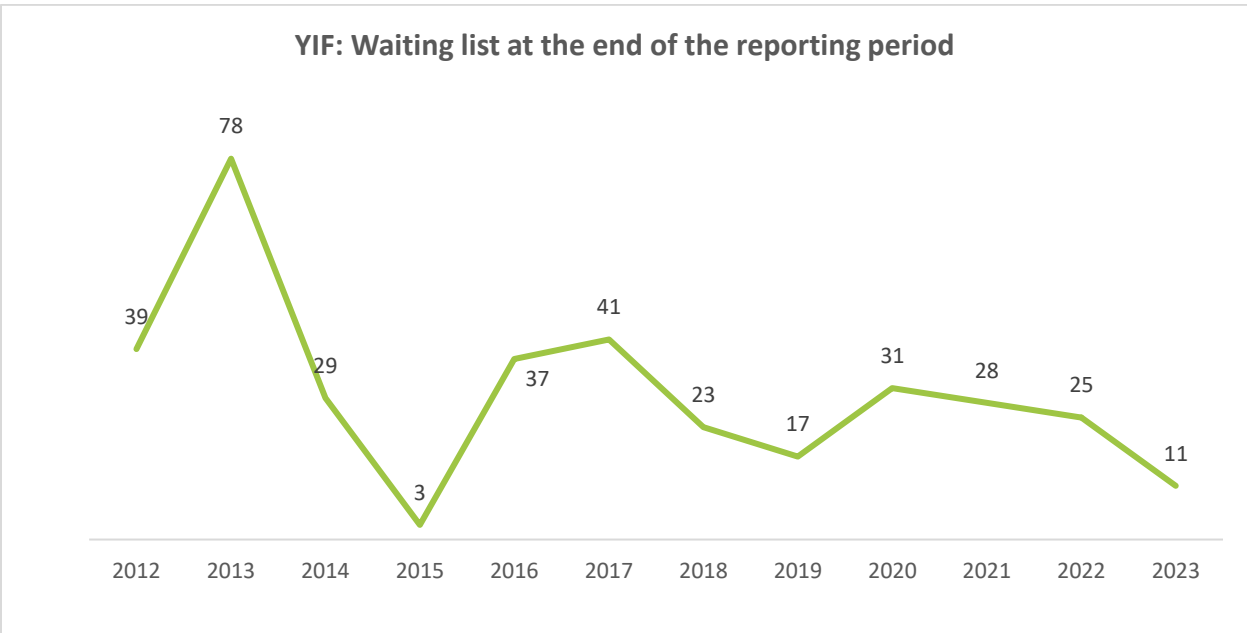


Figure 152: The figure above only reports cases that are still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

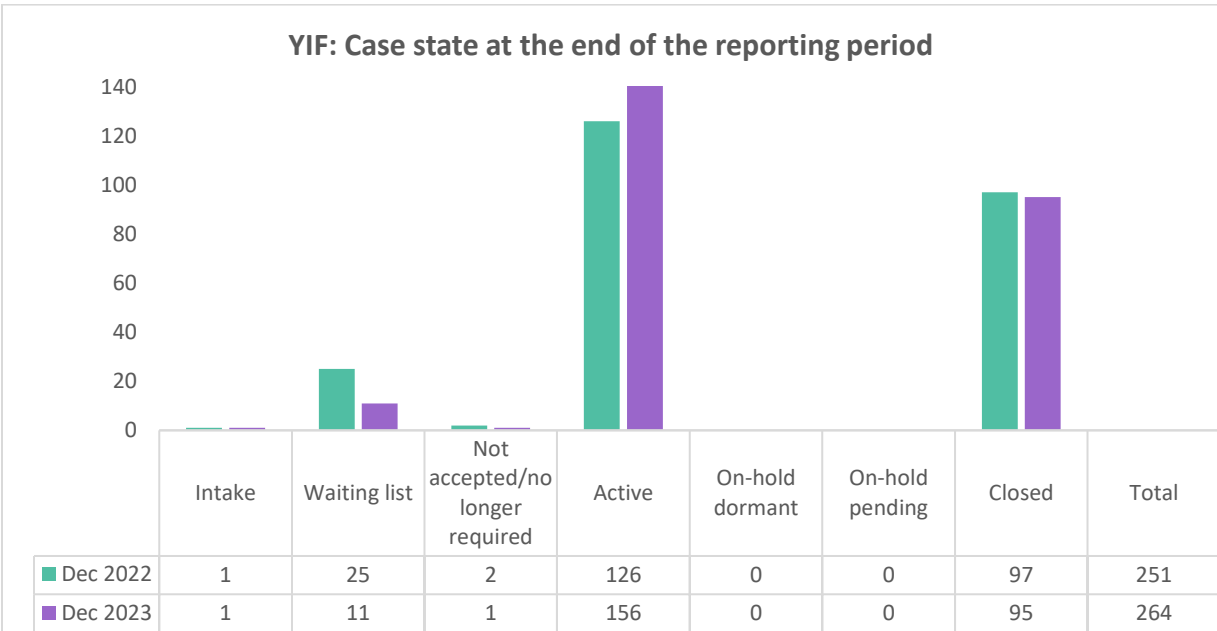


Figure 153: Cases will be handled throughout the year by placing them on intake, adding them to the waiting list, opening them, or closing them (definitions can be found in the glossary). The case state at the end of the reporting year is shown in the figure above. In 2023, 59% (156) of the cases worked with were still active by the end of the year. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

## Details regarding cases worked with January - December 2023

A total of **264** cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### YIF: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

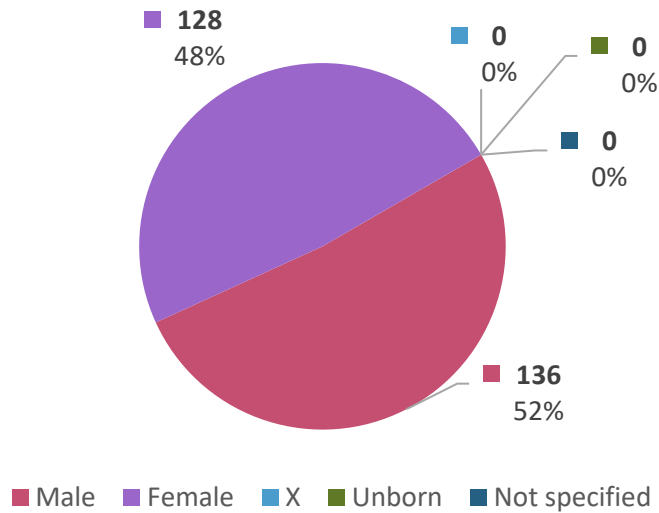


Figure 154: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were male (52%).

### YIF: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)

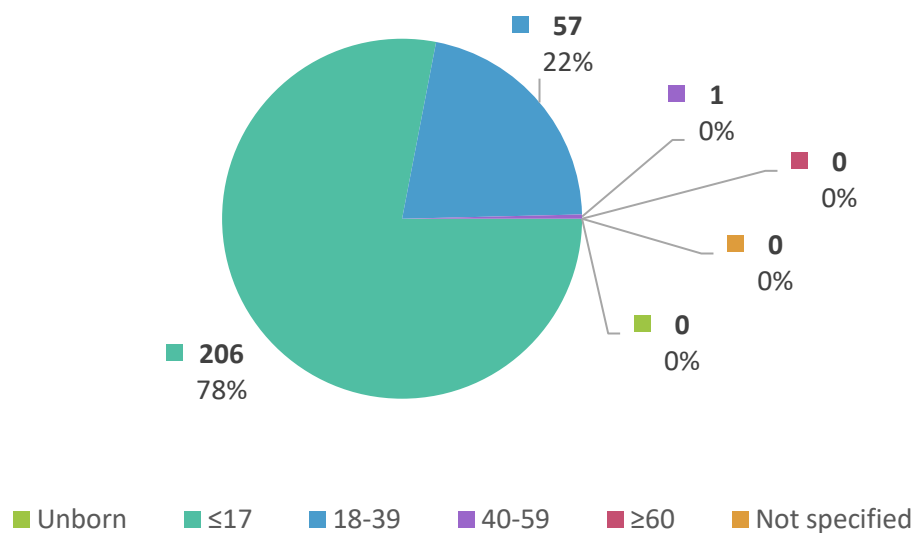
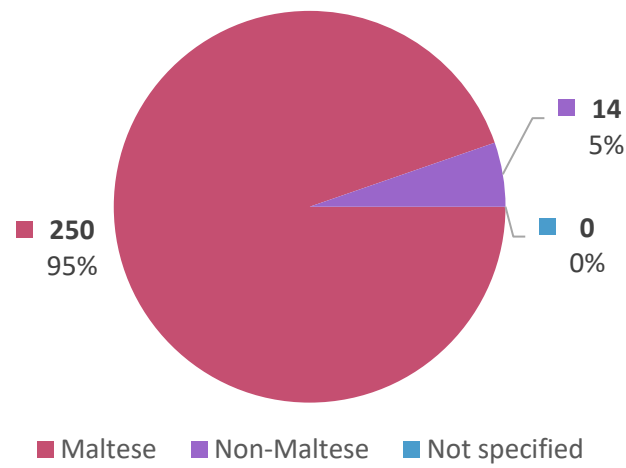


Figure 155: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 17 or younger (78%).

**YIF: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)**



*Figure 156: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 95% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 5% of cases.*

**YIF: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)**

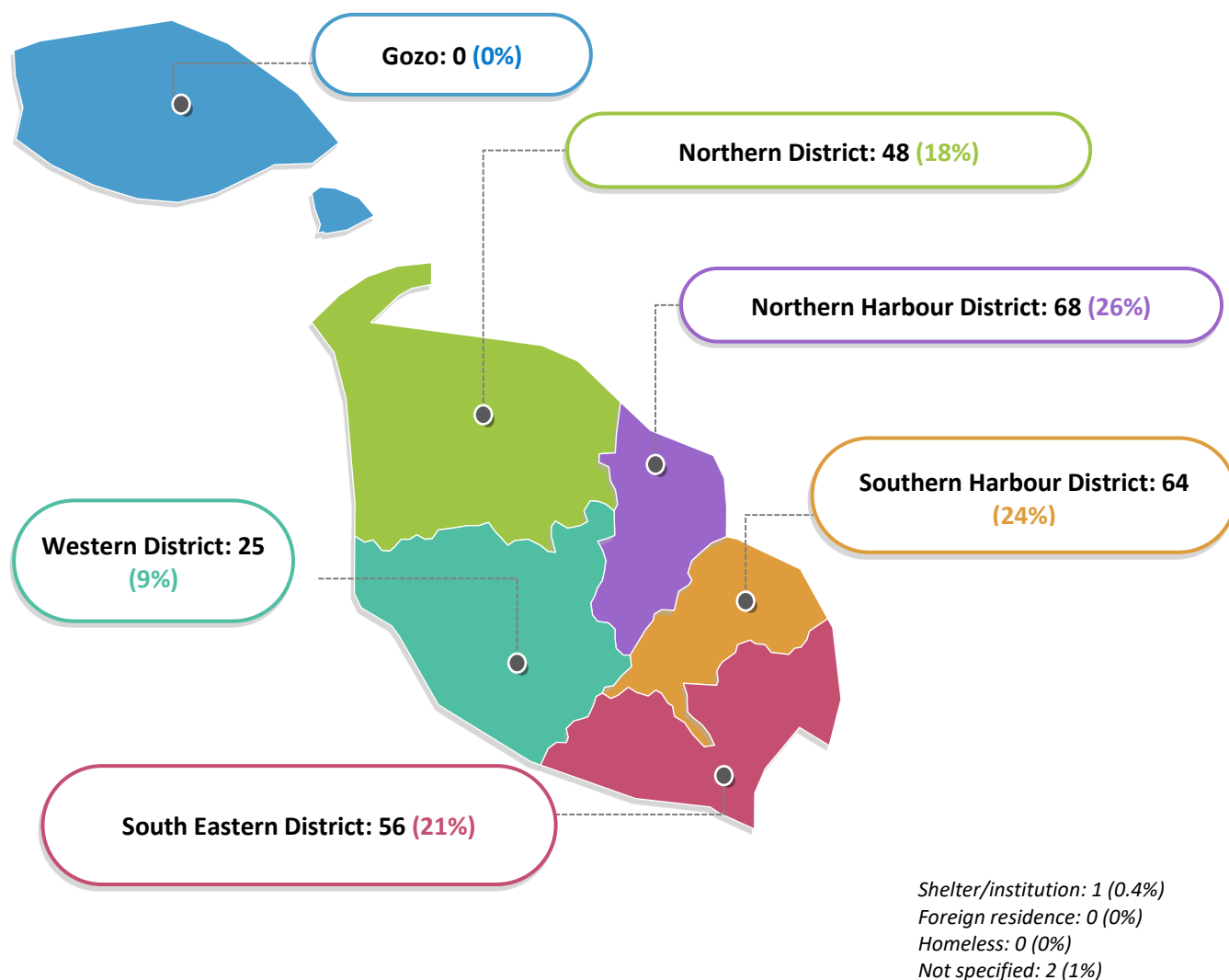


Figure 157: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. The Northern Harbour District (26%) had the highest percentage of cases worked with in 2023.

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **125** cases were opened between January and December 2023.

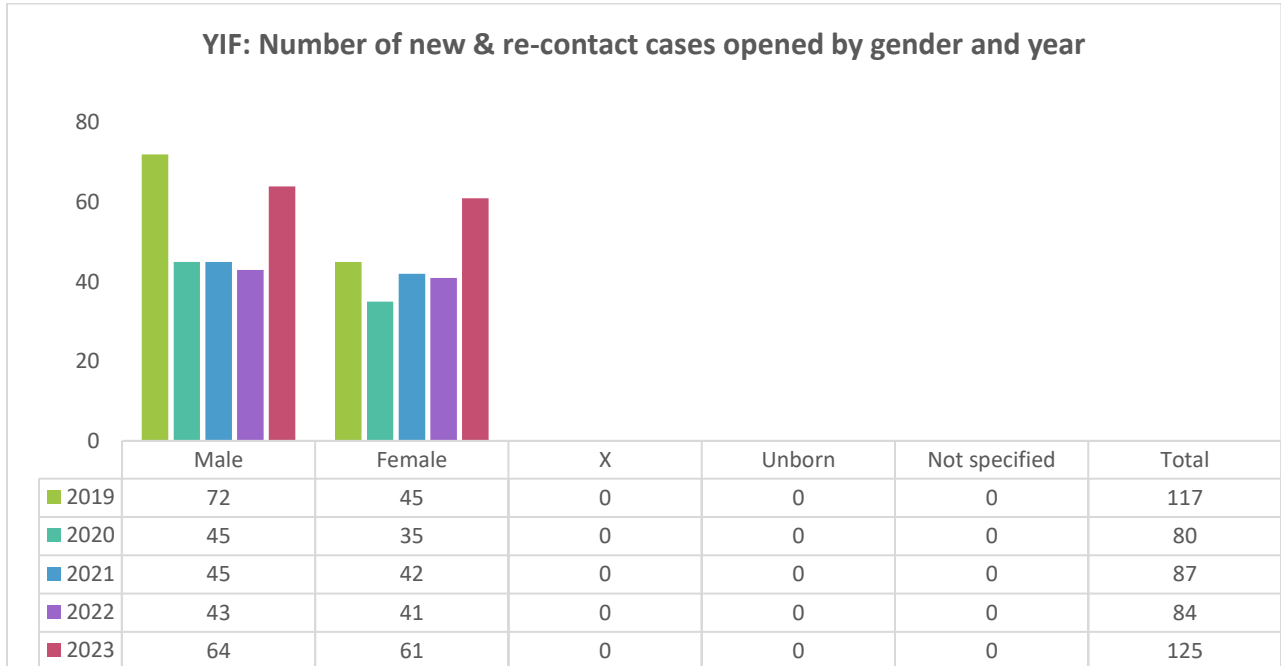


Figure 158: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were male (64).

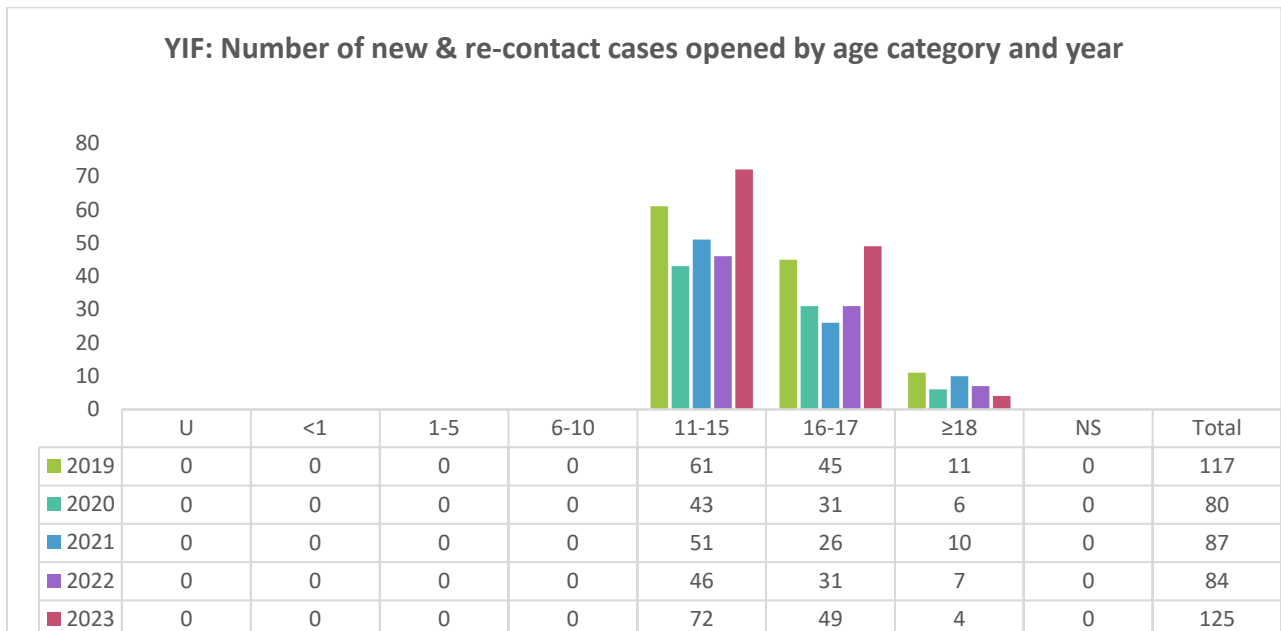


Figure 159: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were ages 11 to 15 (72).

Graph Key: U = Unborn; NS = Not Specified.

YIF: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by age category and gender January – December 2023						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
< 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-10	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-15	33	39	0	0	0	72
16-17	28	21	0	0	0	49
≥18	3	1	0	0	0	4
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125</b>

Figure 160: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided.

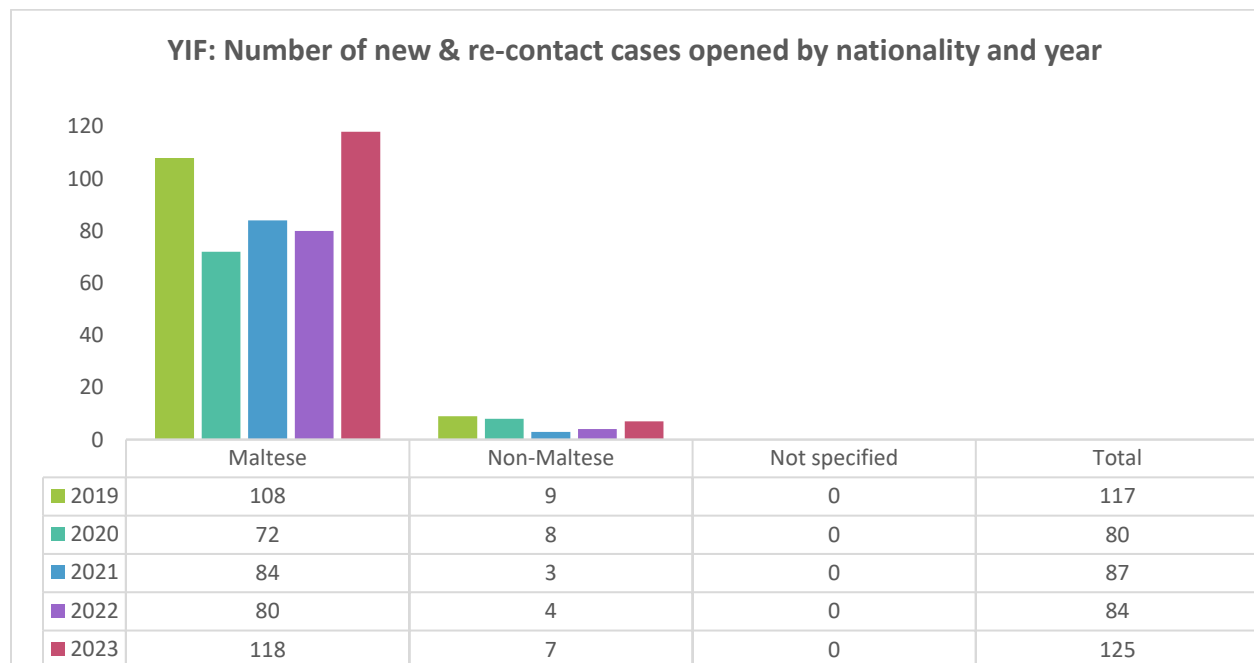


Figure 161: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, 118 cases opened in 2023 were Maltese while 7 cases were non-Maltese.

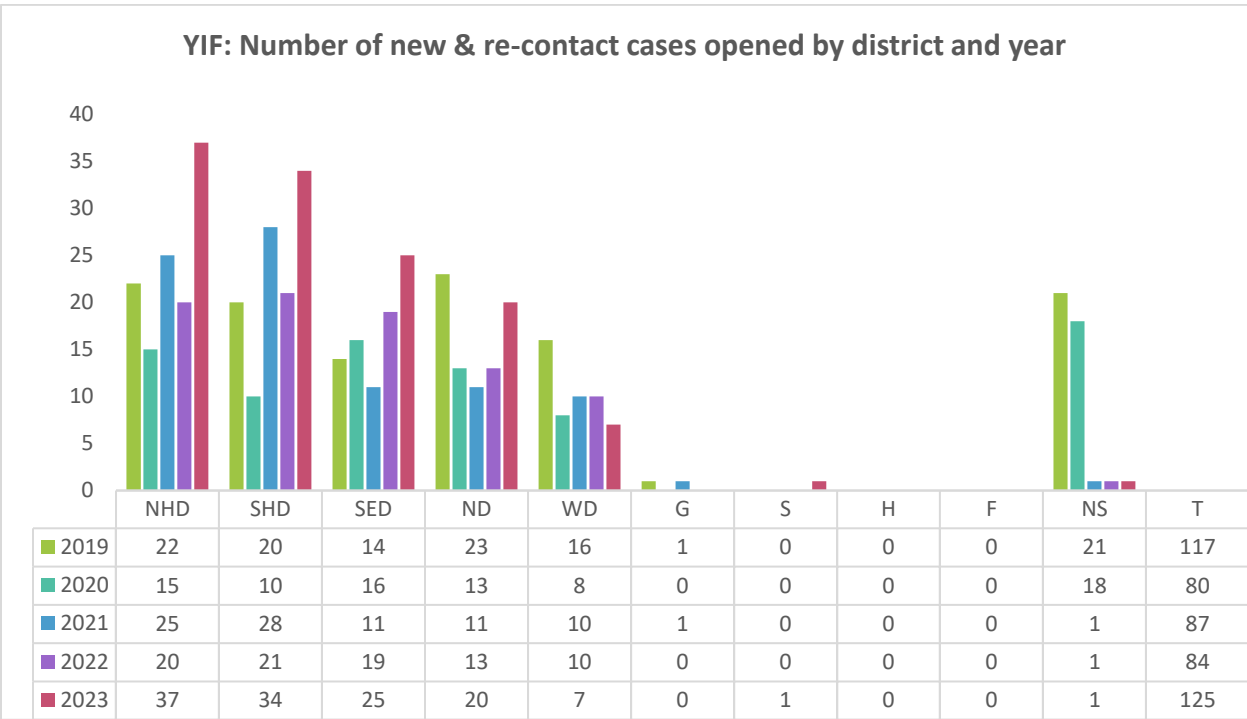


Figure 162: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. The Northern Harbour District (37) had the highest number of cases opened in 2023.

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

<b>YIF: New &amp; re-contact cases opened by primary addictive behaviour reported and gender</b>						
<b>January – December 2023</b>						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Tobacco/e-cigarettes	10	18	0	0	0	28
Cannabis	8	10	0	0	0	18
Alcohol	3	1	0	0	0	4
Cocaine	1	1	0	0	0	2
Technology/gaming/social media	2	0	0	0	0	2
Eating disorder/food	0	0	0	0	0	0
None identified/reported	40	31	0	0	0	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125</b>

Figure 163: The primary substance/addiction stated by service users during first contact is recorded in the online data collection system, and it is the primary substance/addiction utilised in the previous 12 months. The term “none identified/reported” describes service users who did not report using a substance/addiction in the previous 12 months, service users who had another issue which was not an addictive behaviour (e.g., school related issues) or significant others who come to the service for support but do not have a primary substance themselves to report. For example, the majority of cases opened in 2023 reported no primary addictive behavioural issues (71 cases) followed by 28 cases that reported issues related to tobacco or e-cigarettes use and of these tobacco or e-cigarettes cases, the majority were female (18 cases).

YIF: Number of referred cases by primary problem and year		
	2022	2023
Addictive behaviour problems	19	29
Assault/rape/harassment/sexual abuse	0	0
Behaviour problems	-	-
Bereavement	0	0
Child abuse	0	0
Child care or access	0	0
Delinquency	1	2
Disability related issues	0	0
Domestic violence	0	0
Eating disorder	0	0
Elderly needs	0	0
Employment issues	0	0
Family relations/relationships	5	11
Financial difficulties	0	0
Fostering or adoption	0	0
Gender related issues	0	1
Health related issues	0	0
Homeless	1	1
Housing problems	0	0
Human trafficking	0	0
Lack of support or guidance	2	9
Legal issues	0	0
Loneliness	0	0
Marital problems	0	0
Mental health issues	0	0
Migrant related issues	0	0
Oppositional defiant behaviours	48	47
Parenting skills/child-parent relationship	0	0
Personality related issues	0	0
Pregnancy related issues	0	0
Relationship problems	0	0
School related problems	1	4
Self-harm or suicide	6	2
Separation related issues	0	0
Sex work related issues	0	0
Other	2	5
Not specified	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>111</b>

Figure 164: Service users may mention one or more issues during a referral, and they will designate which one is of the highest importance (primary issue). A list of typical issues is available in the online data collection system for workers to record the issues raised during referral and they also rank the issues. Any issue that is not on the list is noted as 'other' and 'none specified' is reported if no issue is acknowledged or named.

# Embark for Life Service (E4L)

## Case activity

Data started being reported in 2014. A new online data collection system and reporting format were introduced in 2023.

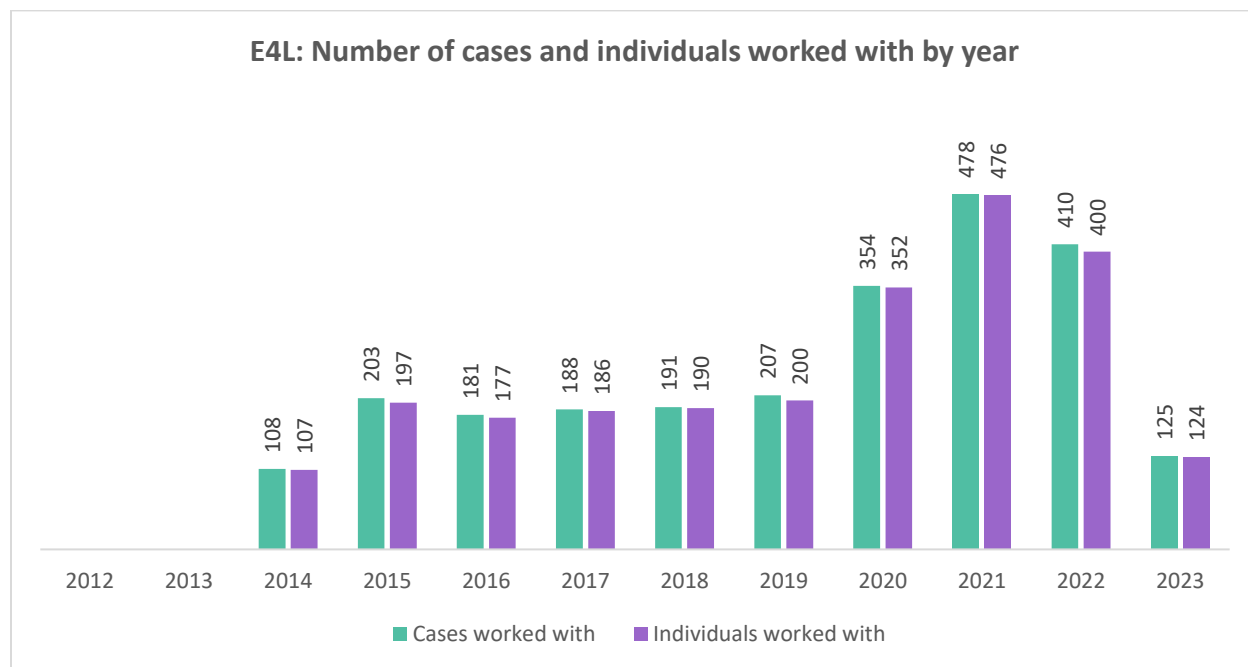


Figure 165: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals worked with. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. In 2023, 125 cases and 124 individuals were worked with compared to 410 and 400 respectively in 2022.

### E4L: Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with in the current year compared to the previous year.

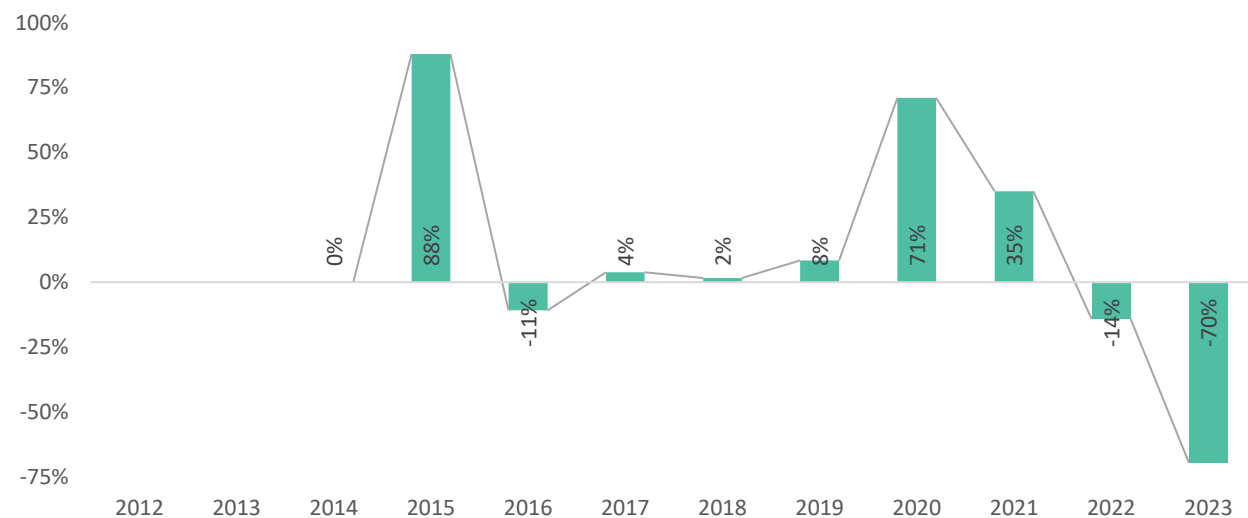


Figure 166: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with decreased by 14% in 2022 over 2021. The expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, or changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

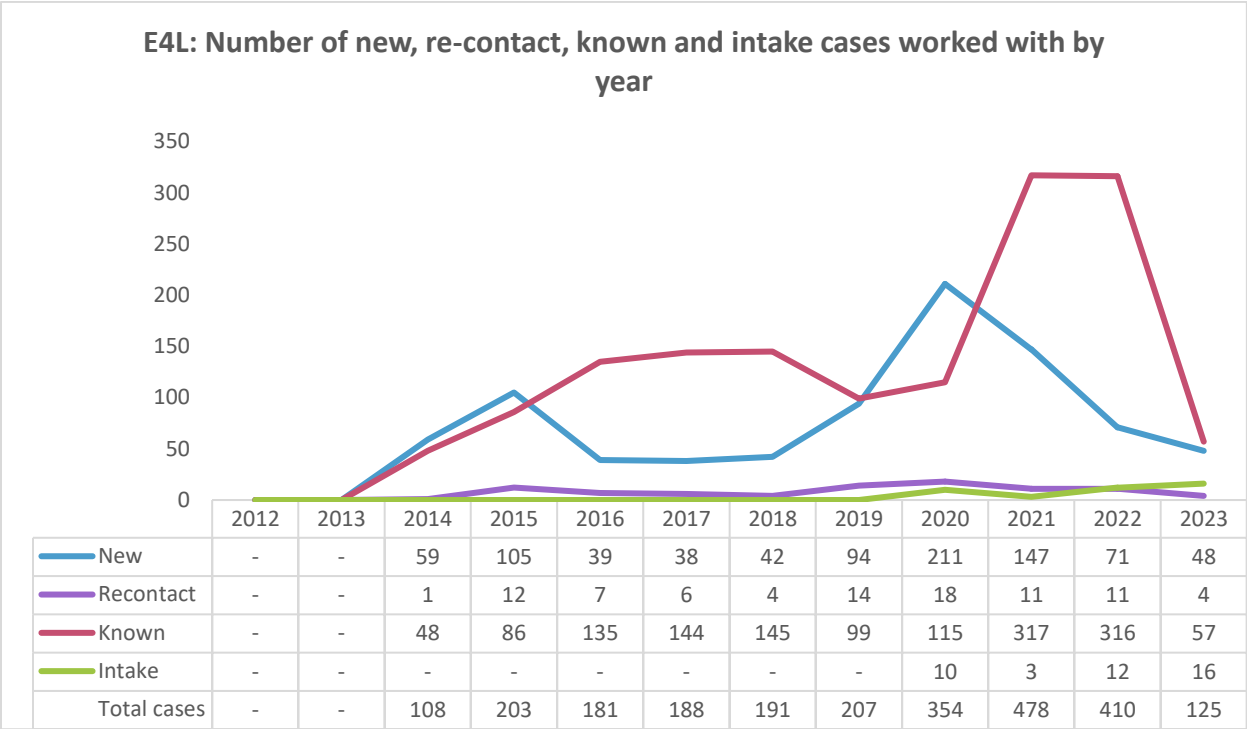


Figure 167: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary. For the above graph, intake began to be reported in 2020 due to the implementation of an online data collection system.

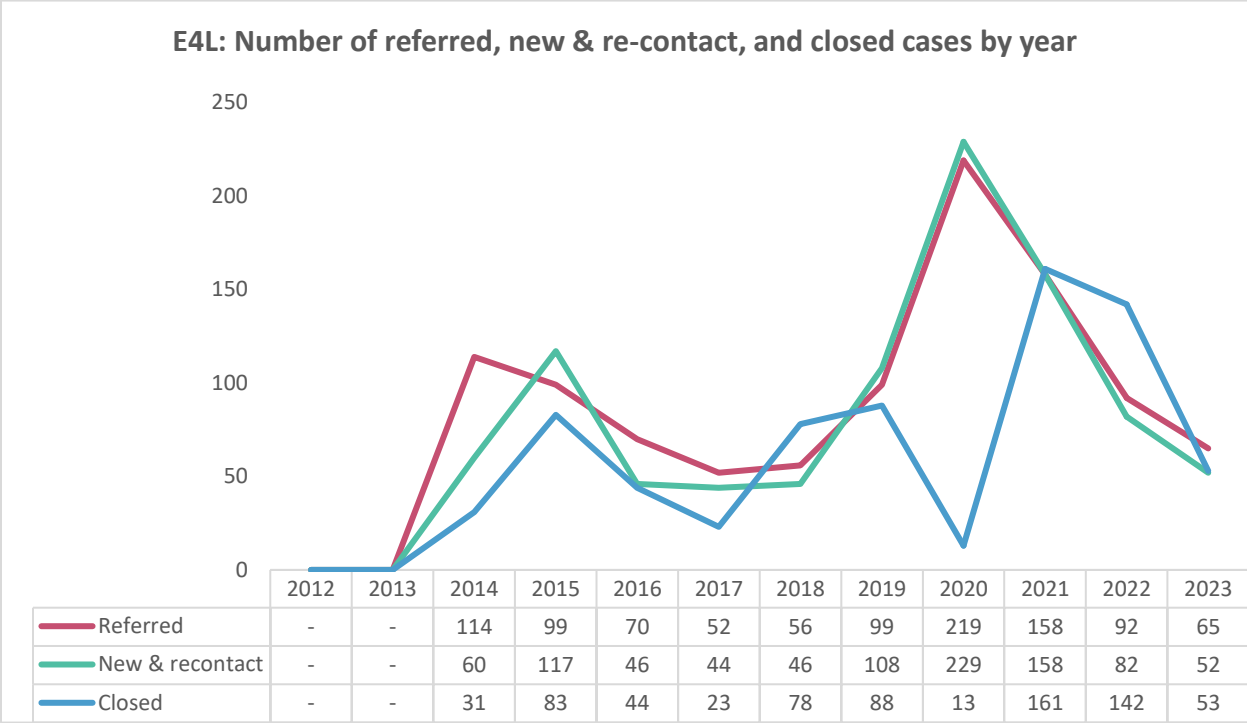


Figure 168: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 167 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, 65 cases were referred, 52 new & recontact cases opened, and 53 cases closed.

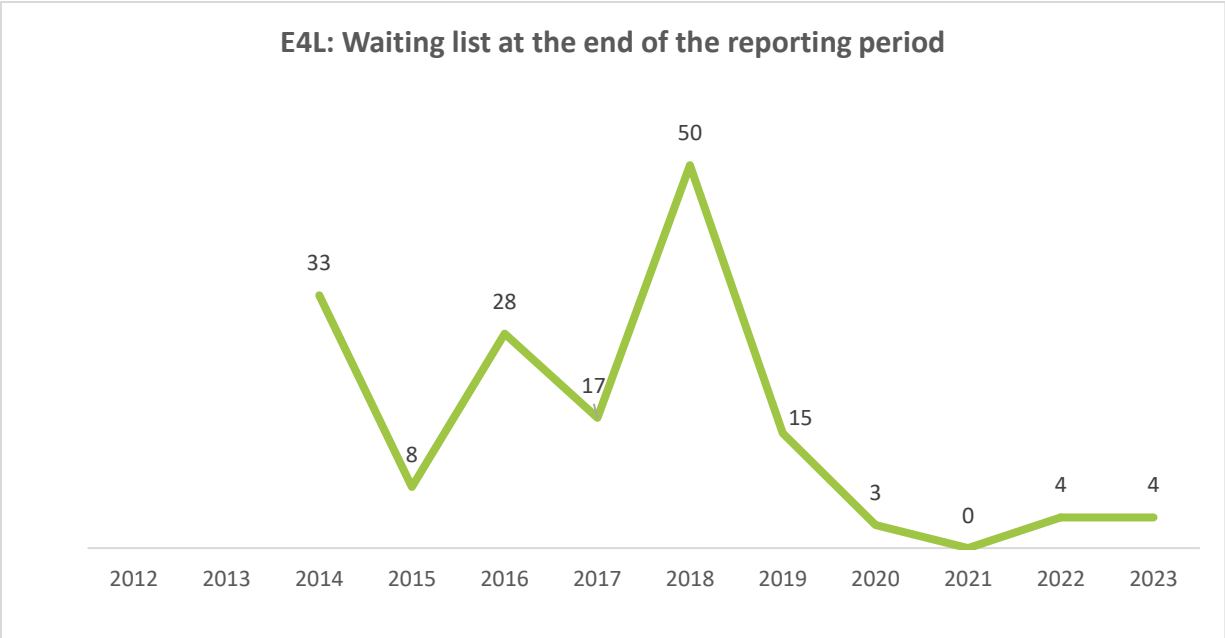


Figure 169: The figure above only reports cases that are still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

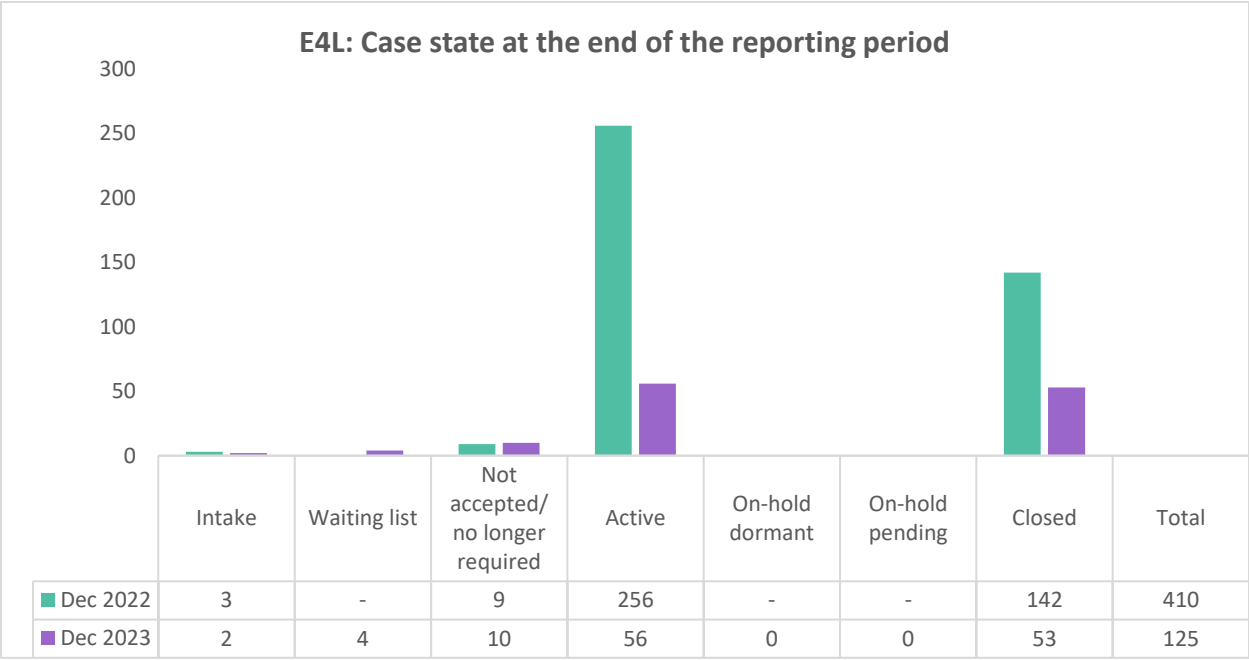


Figure 170: Cases will be handled throughout the year by placing them on intake, adding them to the waiting list, opening them, or closing them (definitions can be found in the glossary). The case state at the end of the reporting year is shown in the figure above. In 2023, 45% (56) of the cases worked with were still active by the end of the year. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

## Details regarding cases worked with January - December 2023

A total of 125 cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### E4L: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

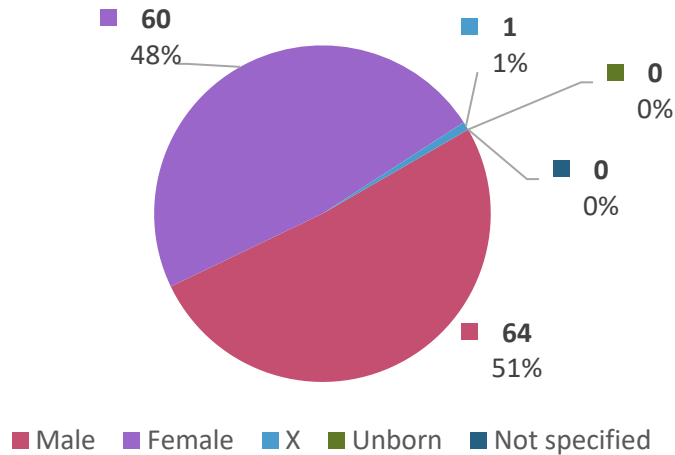


Figure 171: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were male (51%).

### E4L: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)

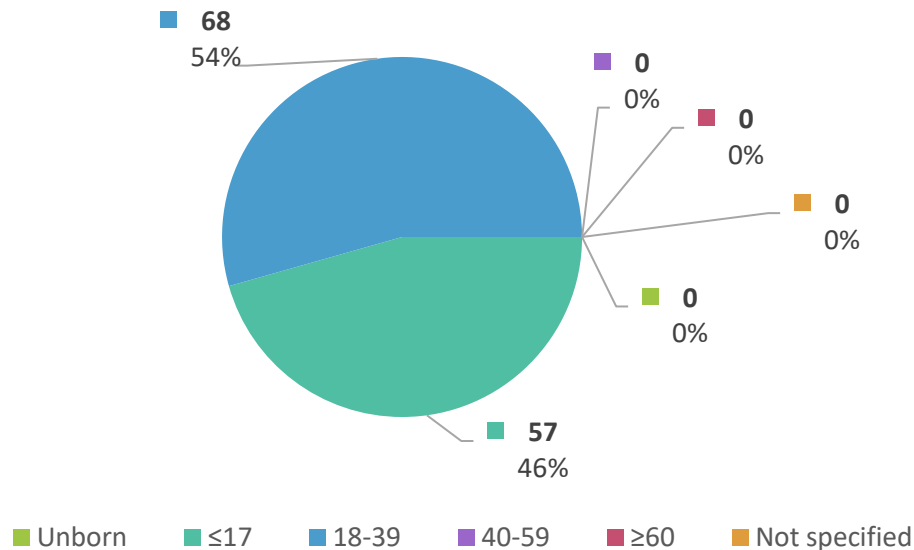
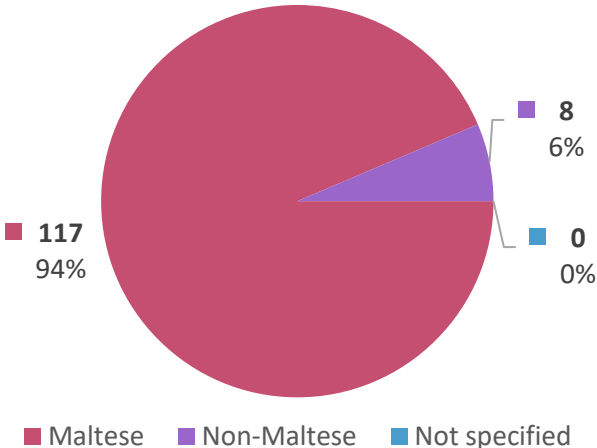


Figure 172: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 18 to 39 (54%).

**E4L: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)**



*Figure 173: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 94% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 6% of cases.*

### E4L: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)

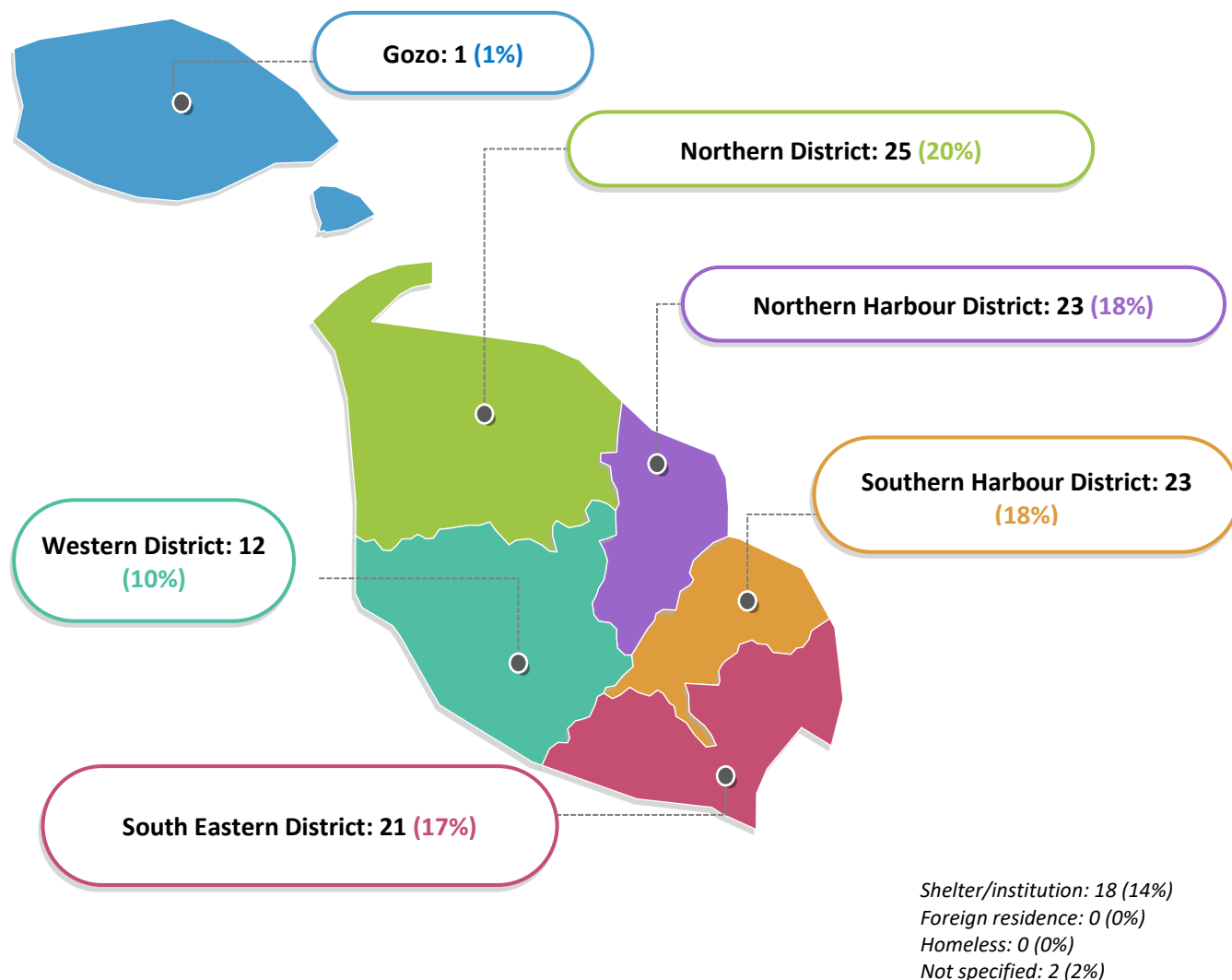


Figure 174: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. The Northern District (20%) had the highest percentage of cases worked with in 2023.

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **52** cases were opened between January and December 2023.

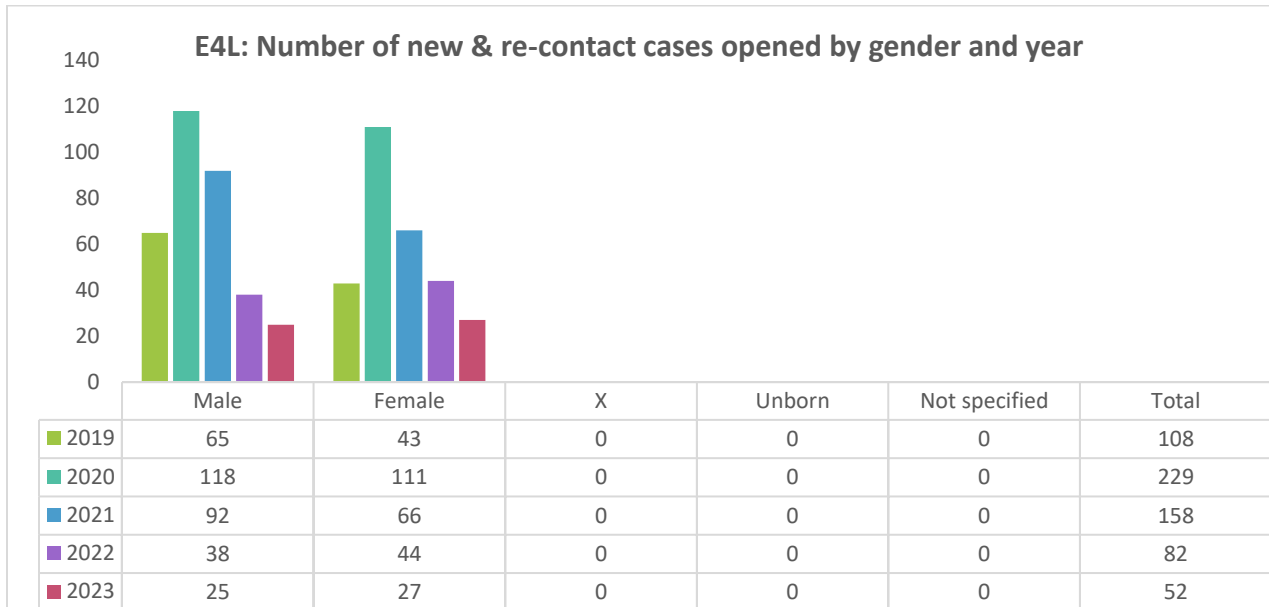


Figure 175: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were female (27).

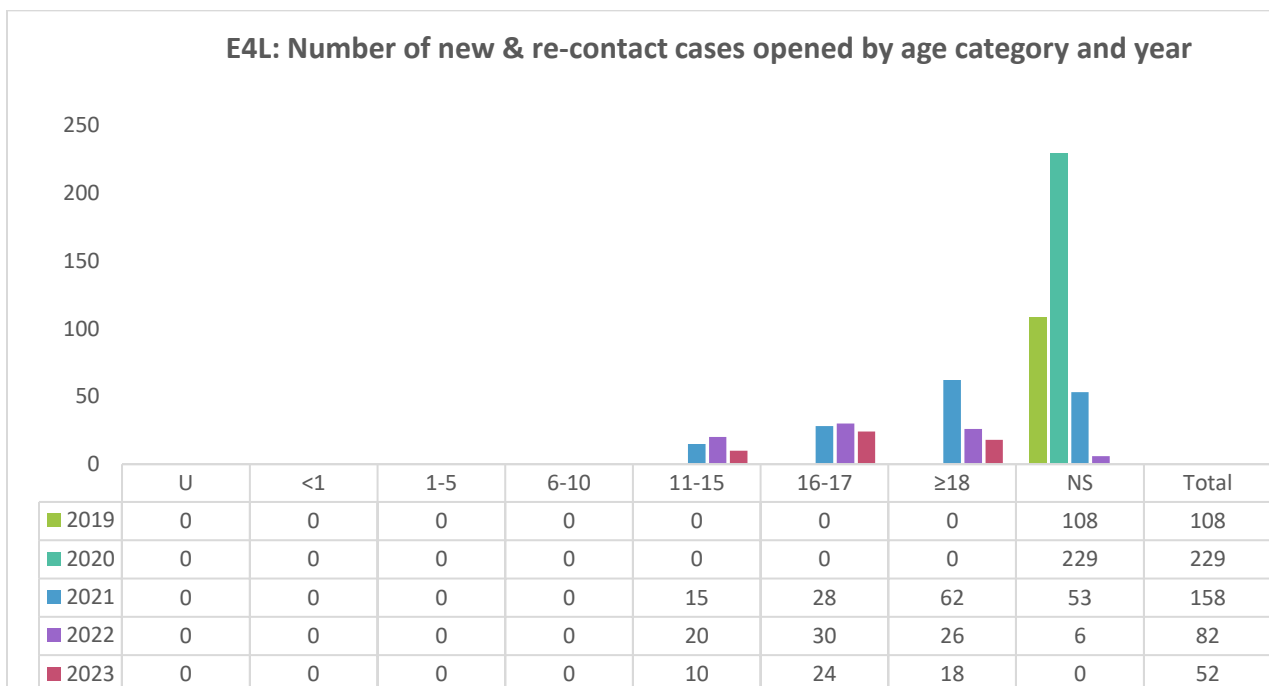


Figure 176: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were ages 16 to 17 (24).

Graph Key: U = Unborn; NS = Not Specified.

E4L: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by age category and gender January – December 2023						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
< 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-10	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-15	4	6	0	0	0	10
16-17	10	14	0	0	0	24
≥18	11	7	0	0	0	18
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>

Figure 177: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided.

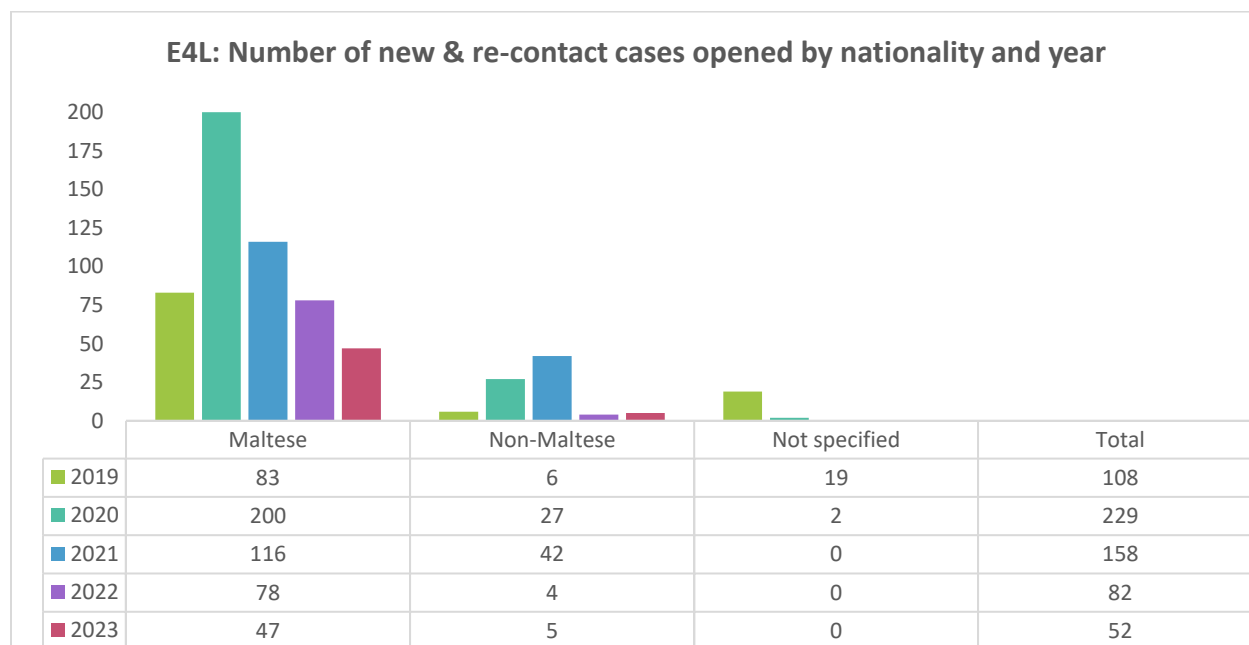


Figure 178: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, 47 cases opened in 2023 were Maltese while 5 cases were non-Maltese.

### E4L: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by district and year

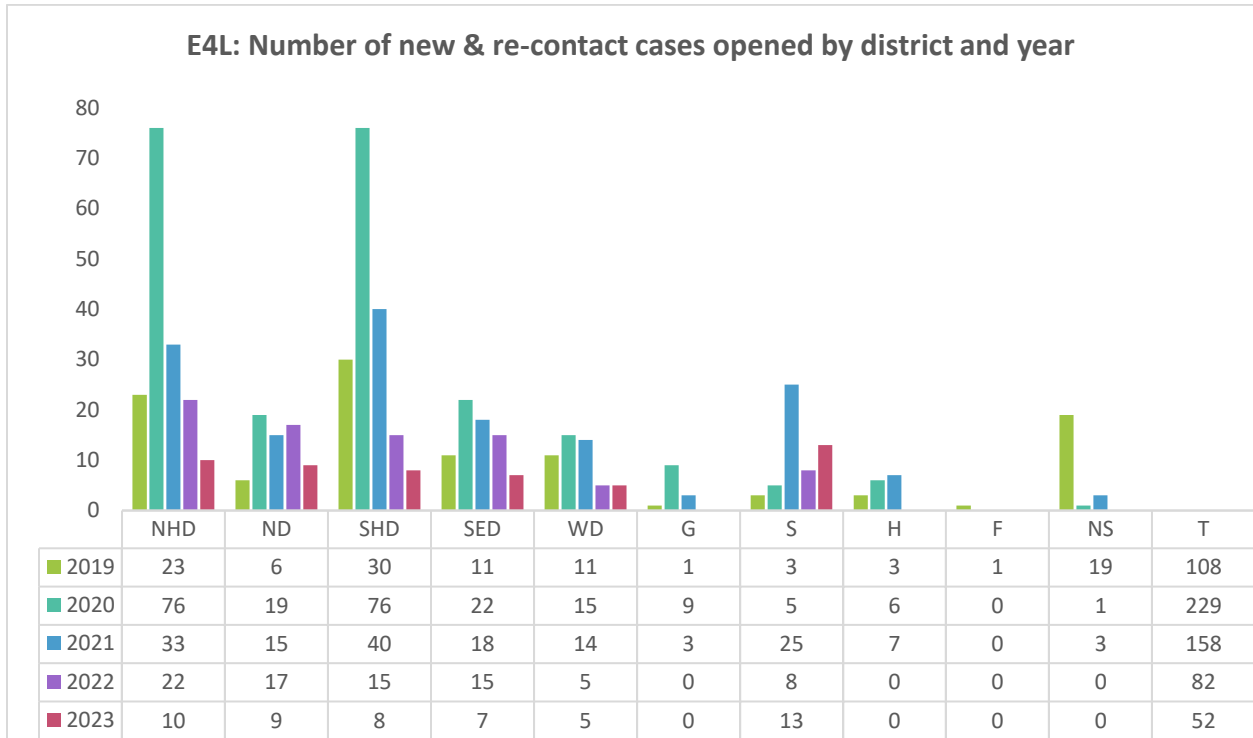


Figure 179: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. The majority of cases opened in 2023 reported residing within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential care home) (13).

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

# Adolescent Day Programme Service (ADP)

## Case activity

Service began reporting data as of 2015. Part of the Programme was postponed in 2020 and 2021, due to COVID-19. A new online data collection system was implemented in 2023.

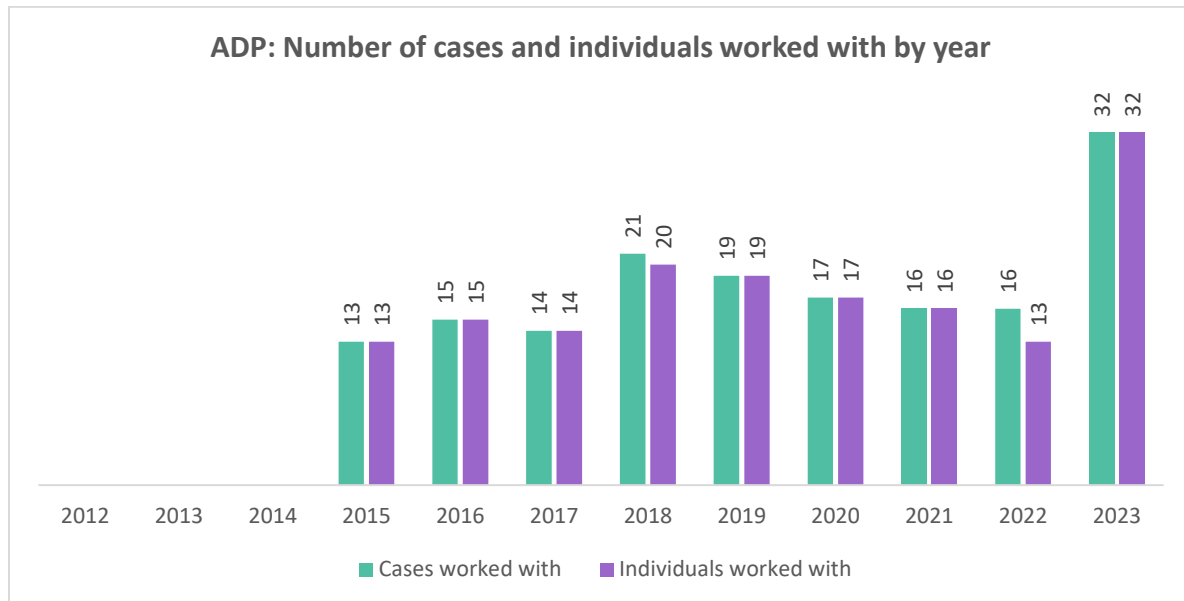


Figure 180: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals worked with. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. In 2023, 32 cases and 32 individuals were worked with compared to 16 and 13 respectively in 2022.

### ADP: Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with in the current year compared to the previous year.

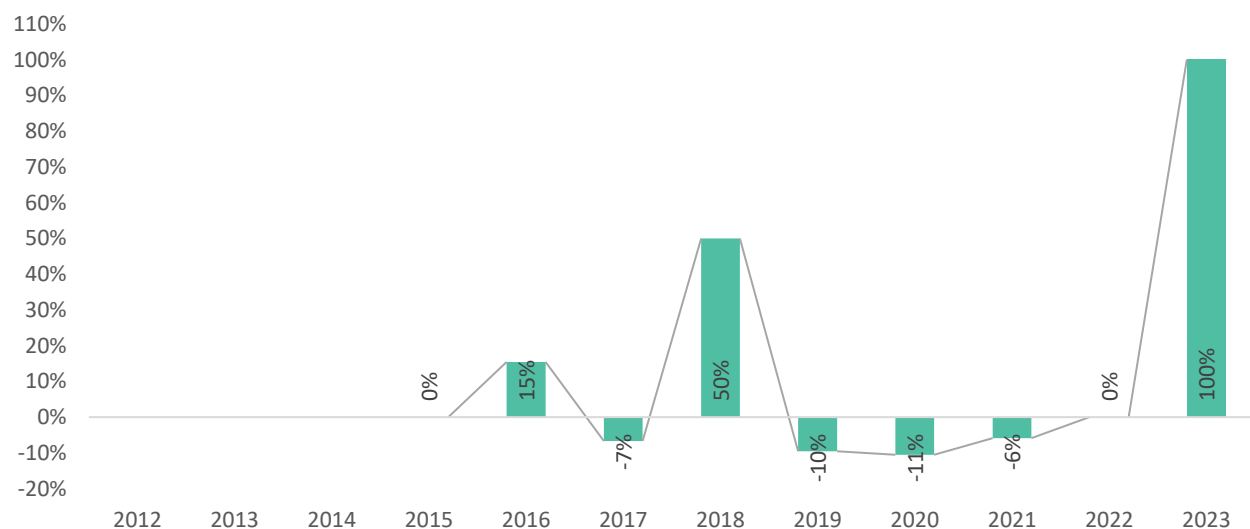


Figure 181: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with decreased by 6% in 2021 over 2020. The expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, or changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

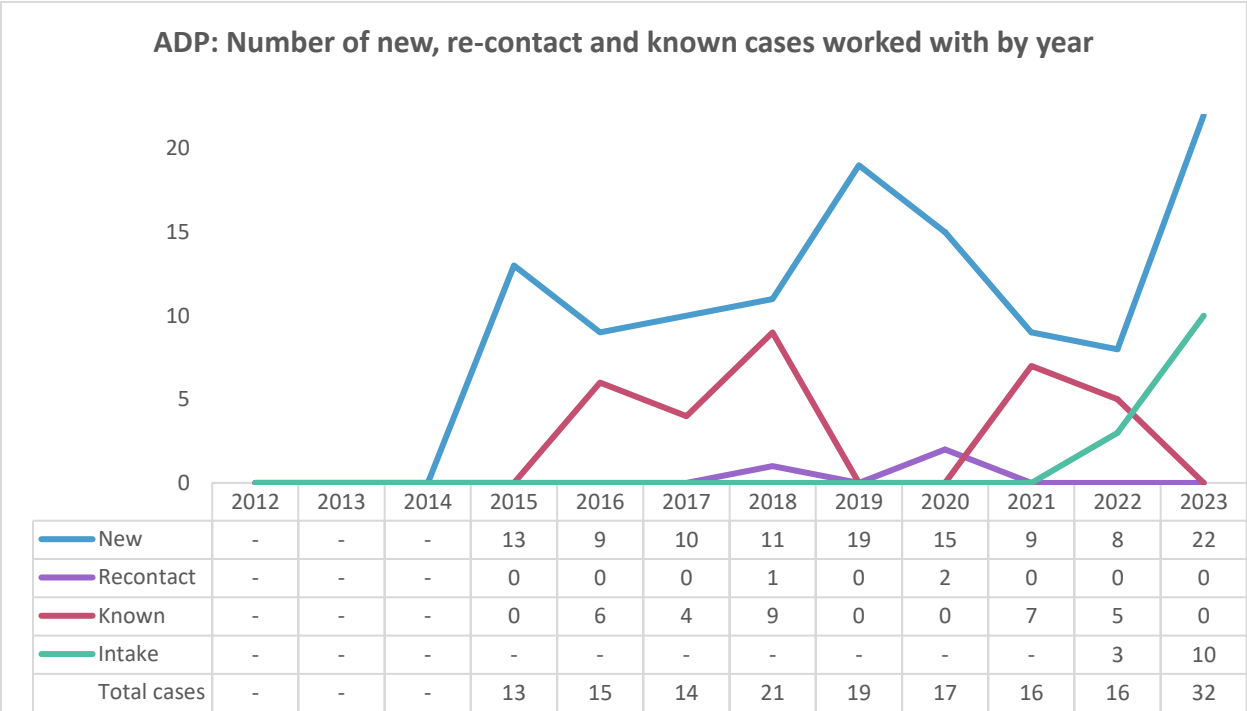


Figure 182: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary. For the above graph, intake began to be reported in 2022. All known cases were re-inputted into an online data collection system in 2023 and as a result these were automatically registered as new.

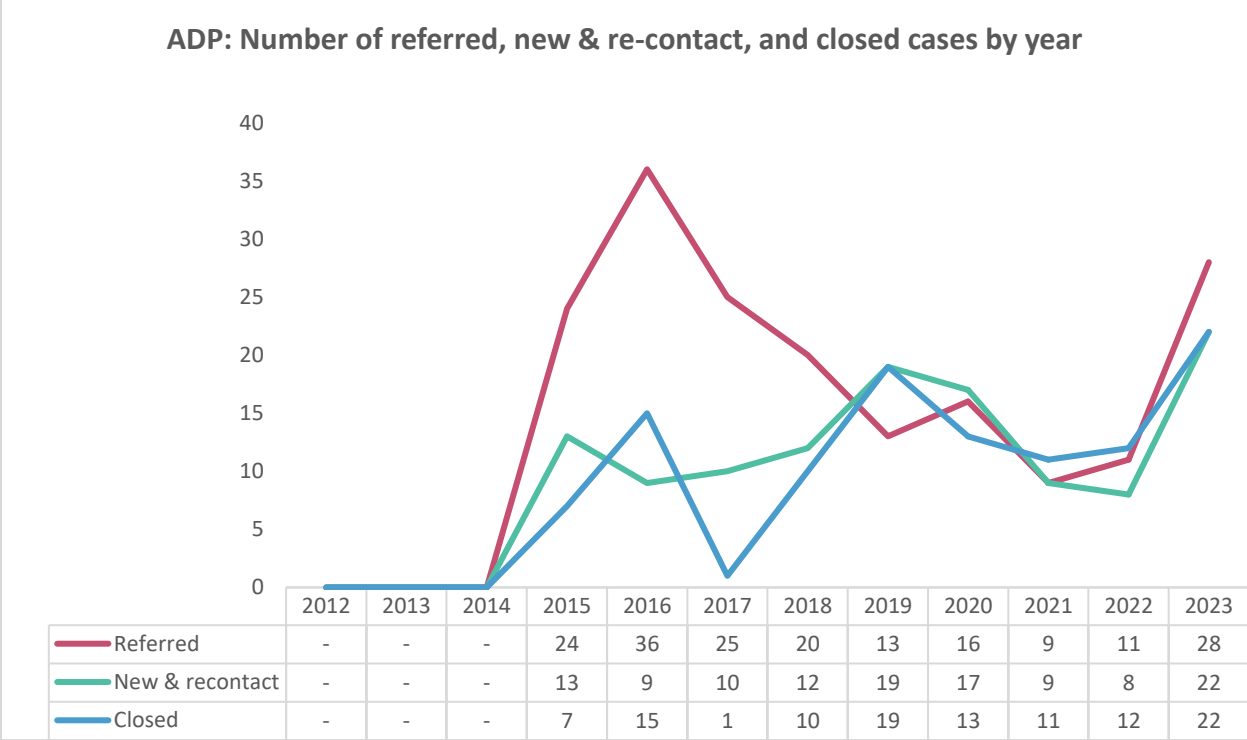


Figure 183: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 182 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, 28 cases were referred, 22 new & recontact cases opened, and 22 cases closed.

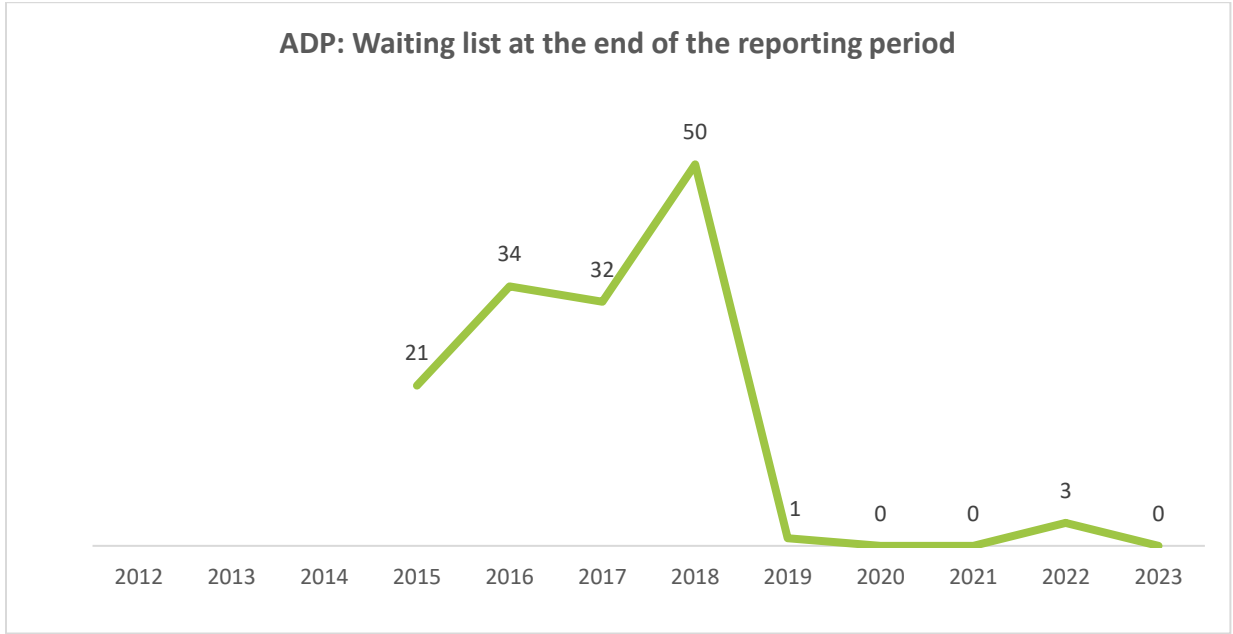


Figure 184: The figure above only reports cases that are still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

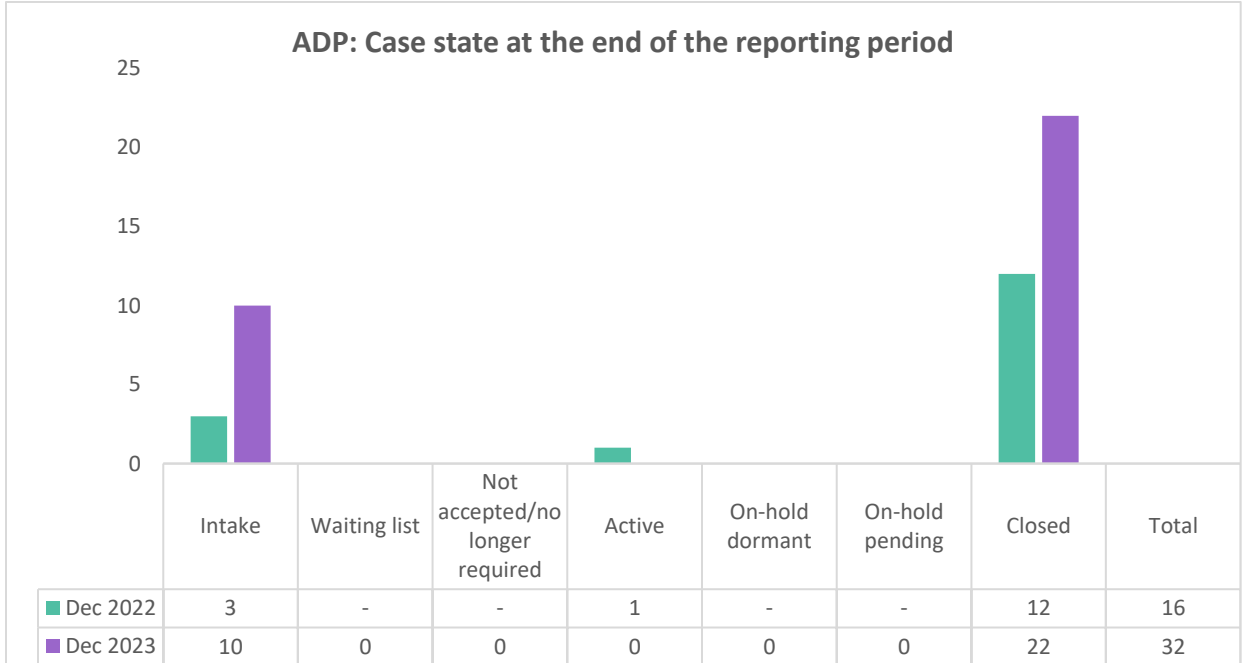


Figure 185: Cases will be handled throughout the year by placing them on intake, adding them to the waiting list, opening them, or closing them (definitions can be found in the glossary). The case state at the end of the reporting year is shown in the figure above. In 2023, 0% (0) of the cases worked with were still active by the end of the year. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

## Details regarding cases worked with January - December 2023

A total of **32** cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### ADP: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

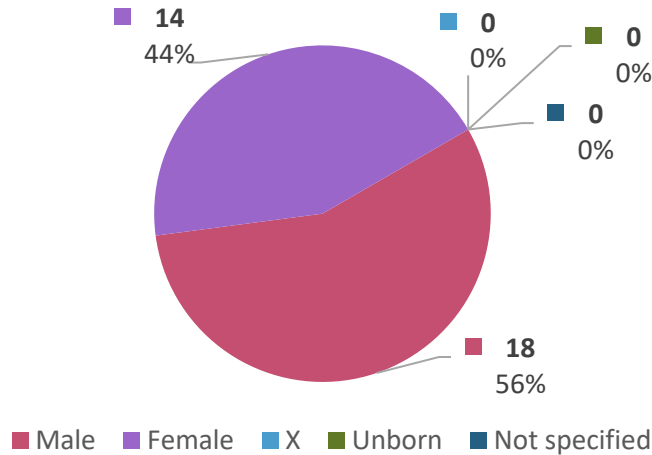


Figure 186: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were male (56%).

### ADP: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)

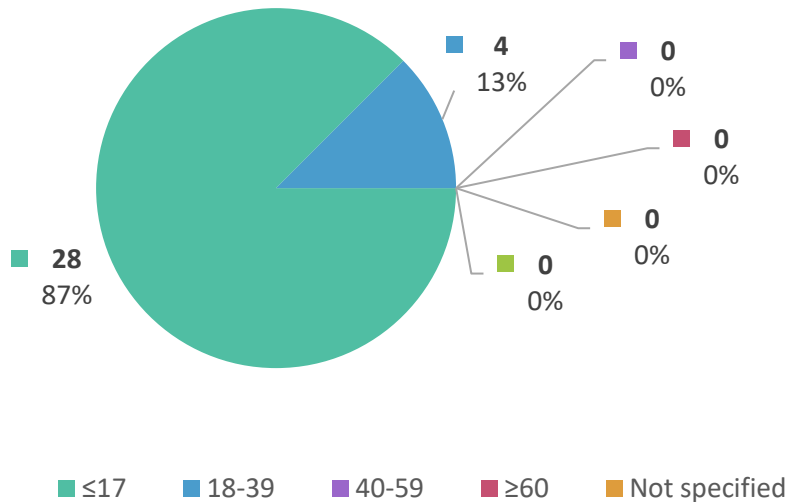
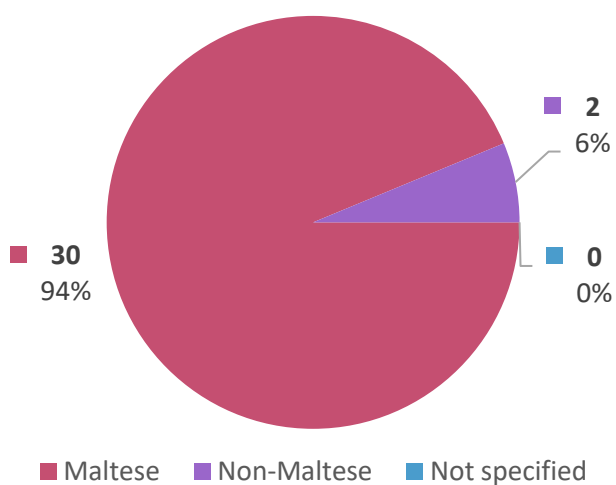


Figure 187: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 17 or younger (87%).

**ADP: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)**



*Figure 188: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 94% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 6% of cases.*

**ADP: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)**

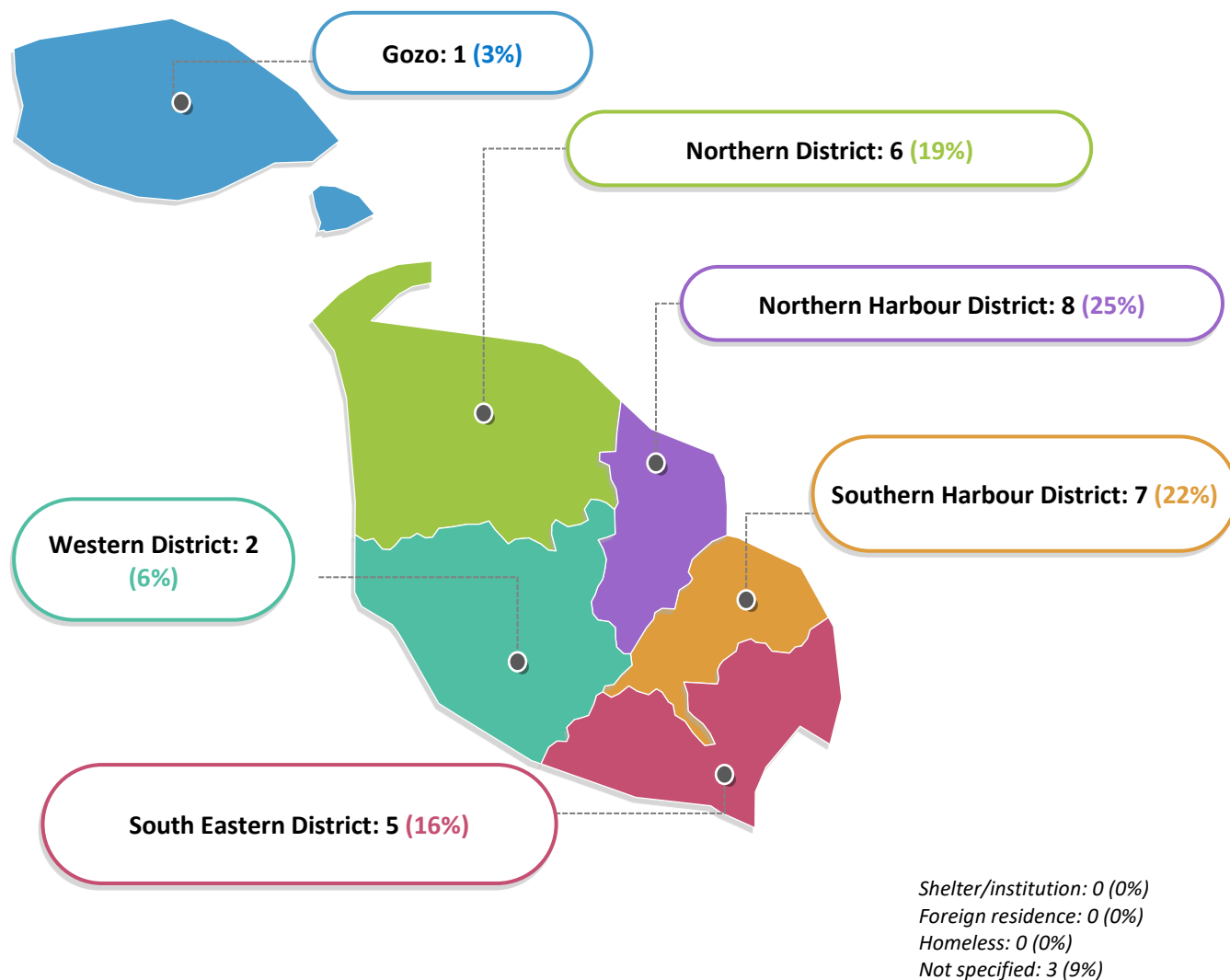


Figure 189: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. The Northern Harbour District (25%) had the highest percentage of cases worked with in 2023.

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **22** cases were opened between January and December 2023.

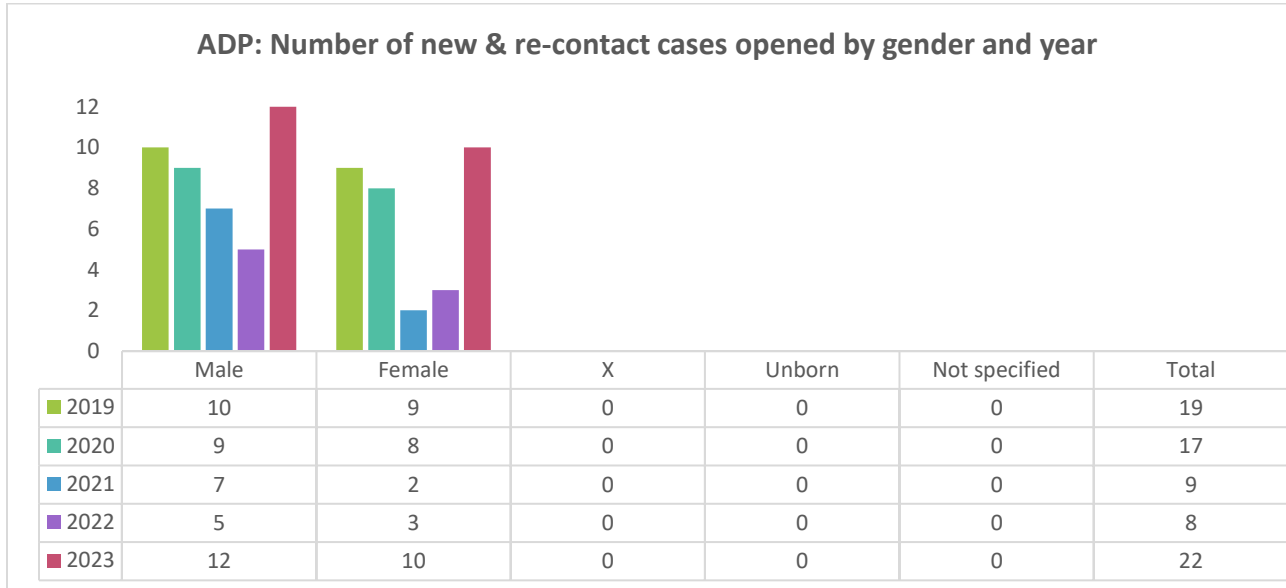


Figure 190: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were male (12).

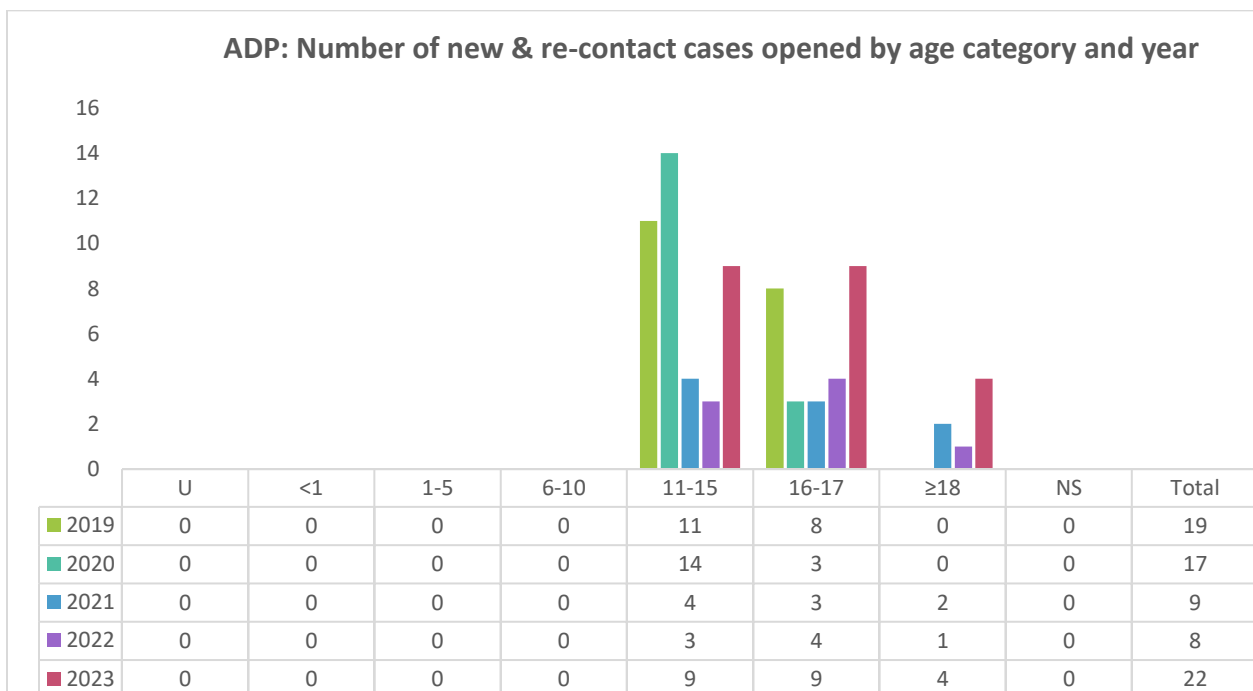


Figure 191: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were ages 11 to 15 (9) and 16 to 17 (9).

Graph Key: U = Unborn; NS = Not Specified.

**ADP: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by age category and gender**  
**January – December 2023**

	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
< 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-10	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-15	3	6	0	0	0	9
16-17	5	4	0	0	0	9
≥18	4	0	0	0	0	4
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>

Figure 192: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided.

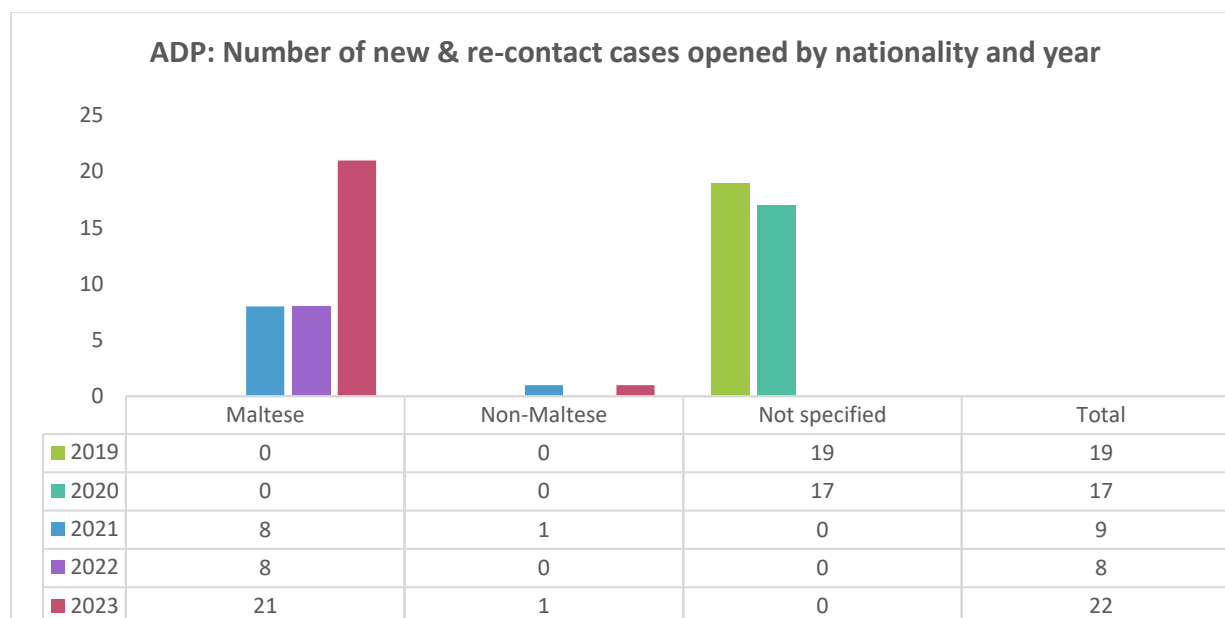


Figure 193: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, 21 cases opened in 2023 were Maltese while 1 case was non-Maltese.

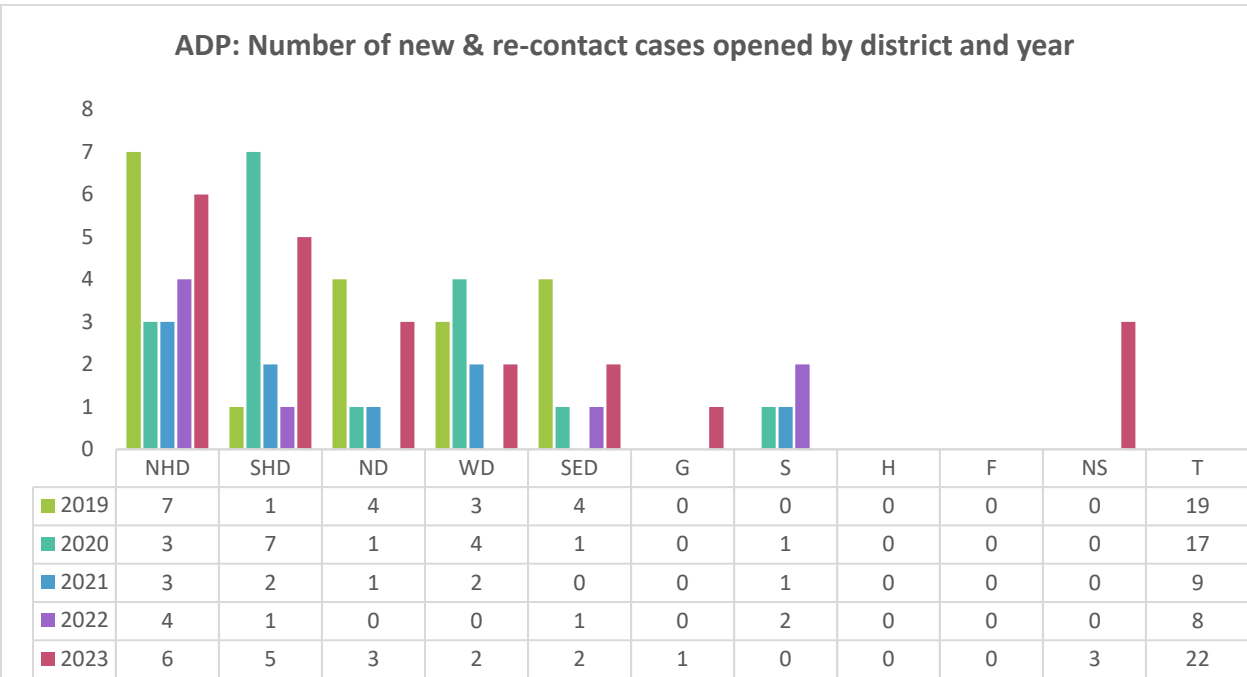


Figure 194: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. The Northern Harbour District (6) had the highest number of cases opened in 2023.

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

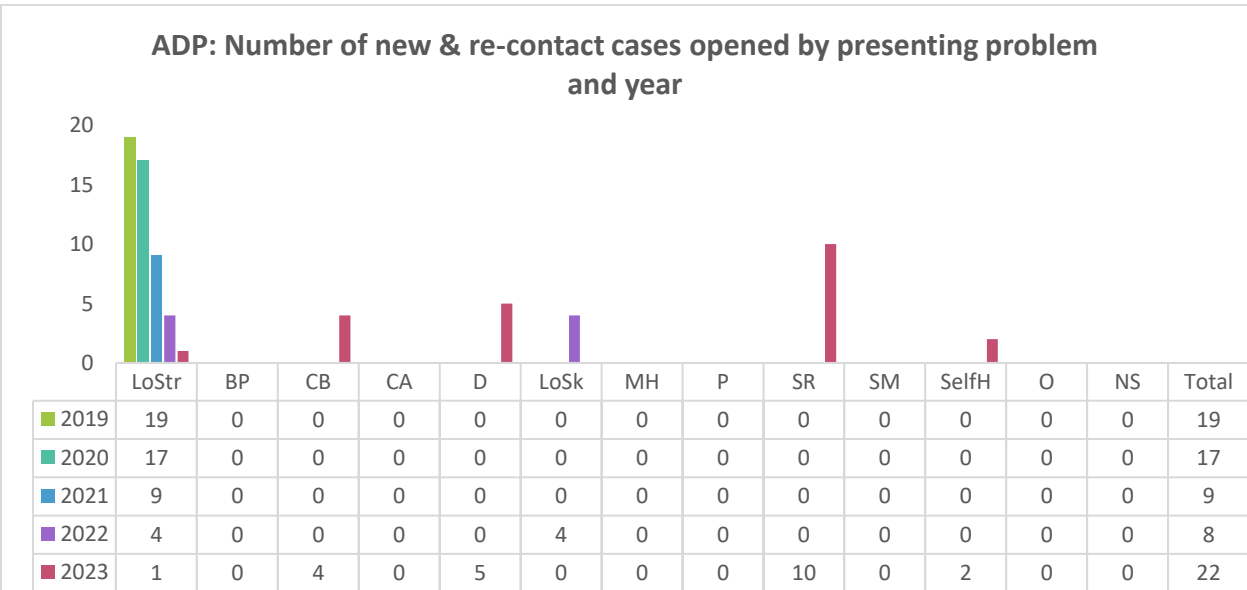


Figure 195: Service users may mention one or more issues during a referral, and they will designate which one is of the highest importance (primary issue). A list of typical issues is available in the online data collection system for workers to record the issues raised during referral and they also rank the issues. Any issue that is not on the list is noted as 'other' and 'none specified' is acknowledged or named. The figure above only reports the primary issue identified by the worker with the service user for cases opened in the reporting period. Most of the cases opened in 2023 reported school related issues (10 cases).

Graph Key: LoStr = Lack of structure; BP = Behavioural problems; CB = Challenging behaviours; CA = Child abuse; D = Delinquency; LoSk = Lack of skills; MH = Mental health issues; P = Probation issues; SR = School related issues; SM = Substance misuse; SelfH = Self-Harm or suicide; O = Other; NS = Not specified.

# Supervised Access Visits Service (SAV)

## Case activity

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

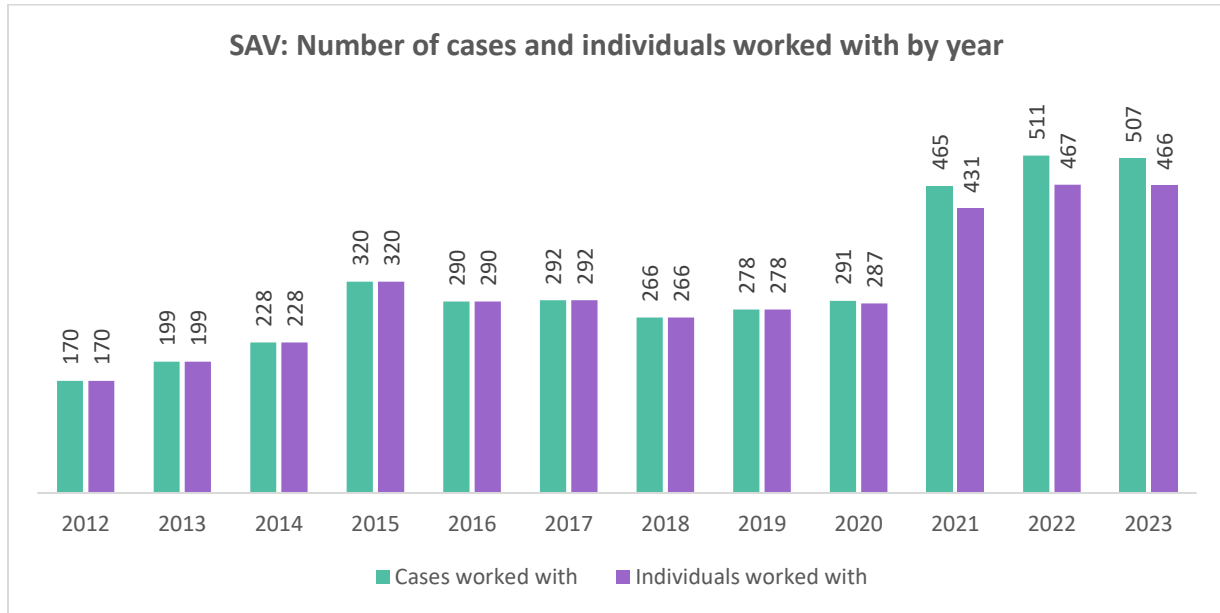


Figure 196: The figure above provides the number of cases worked with and the number of individuals. To demonstrate the difference, consider Person A, who started and stopped attending a service twice in the same year, making it equivalent to 2 cases, but 1 individual worked with. In 2023, 507 cases and 466 individuals were worked with compared to 511 and 467 respectively in 2022.

### SAV: Percentage difference in the number of cases worked with in the current year compared to the previous year.

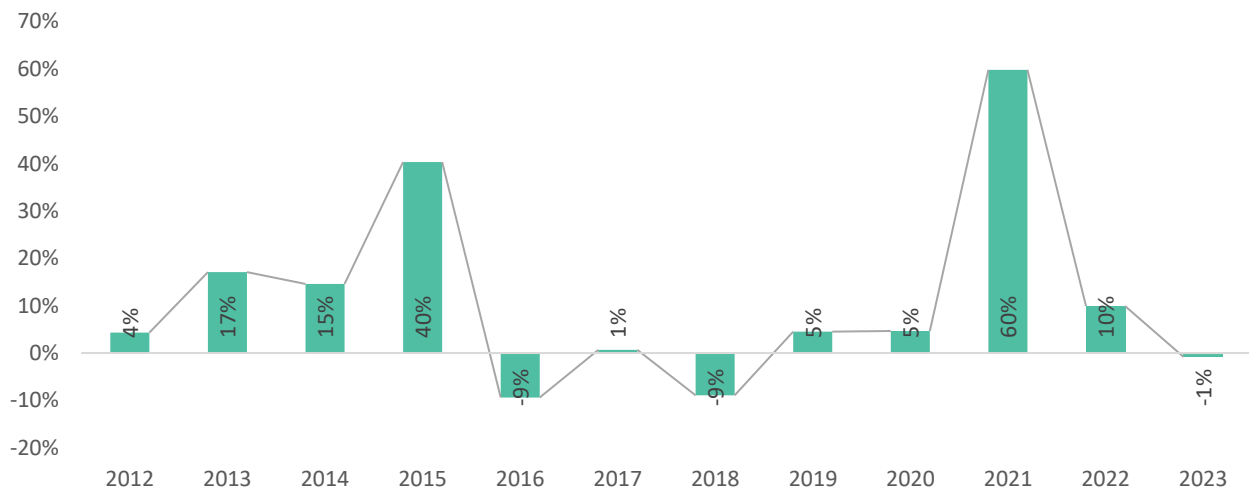


Figure 197: The percentage difference for the number of cases worked with between the reported year and the year before is seen in the figure above. For instance, the number of cases worked with increased by 10% in 2022 over 2021. The expansion or contraction of the personnel base, increased public awareness of services, or changes in the demand for services (such as the implementation of new legislation or removal of a policy) or changes in procedure (e.g., data collection methods) may impact differences observed between the years.

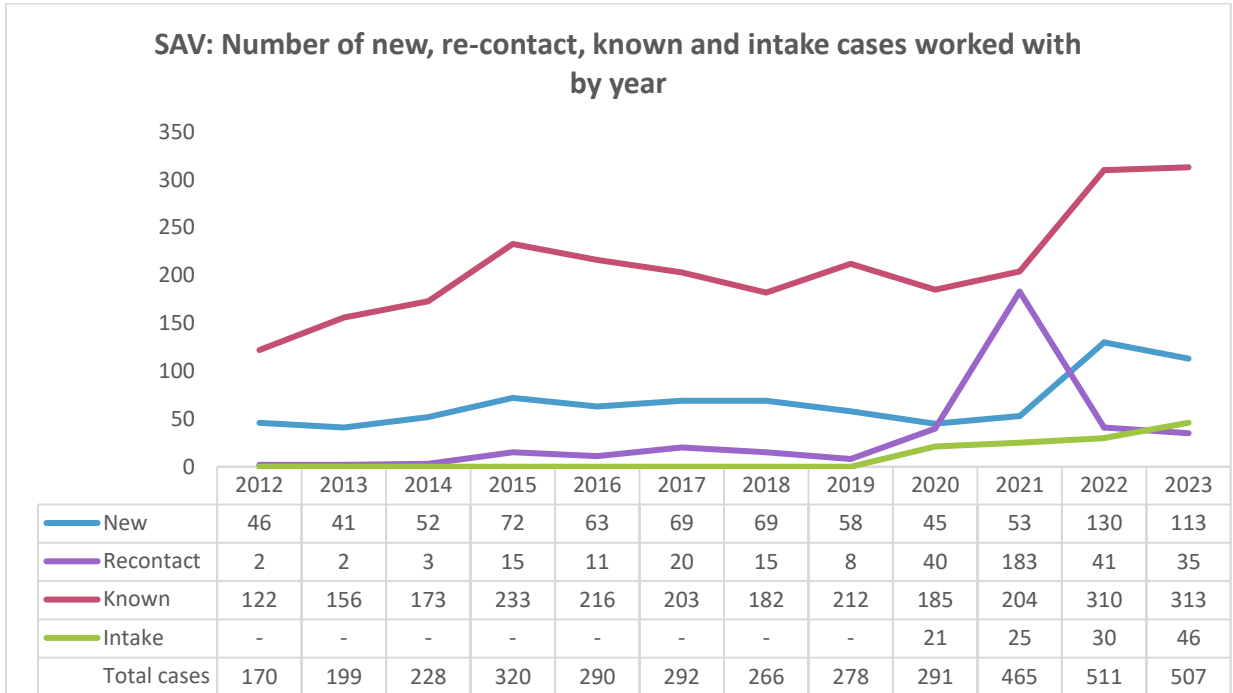


Figure 198: The cases worked with each year can be a new case, recontact case, known case or an intake case (a case starting and ending the year on intake). Further definitions can be found in the glossary. For the above graph, intake began to be reported in 2020 due to the implementation of an online data collection system.

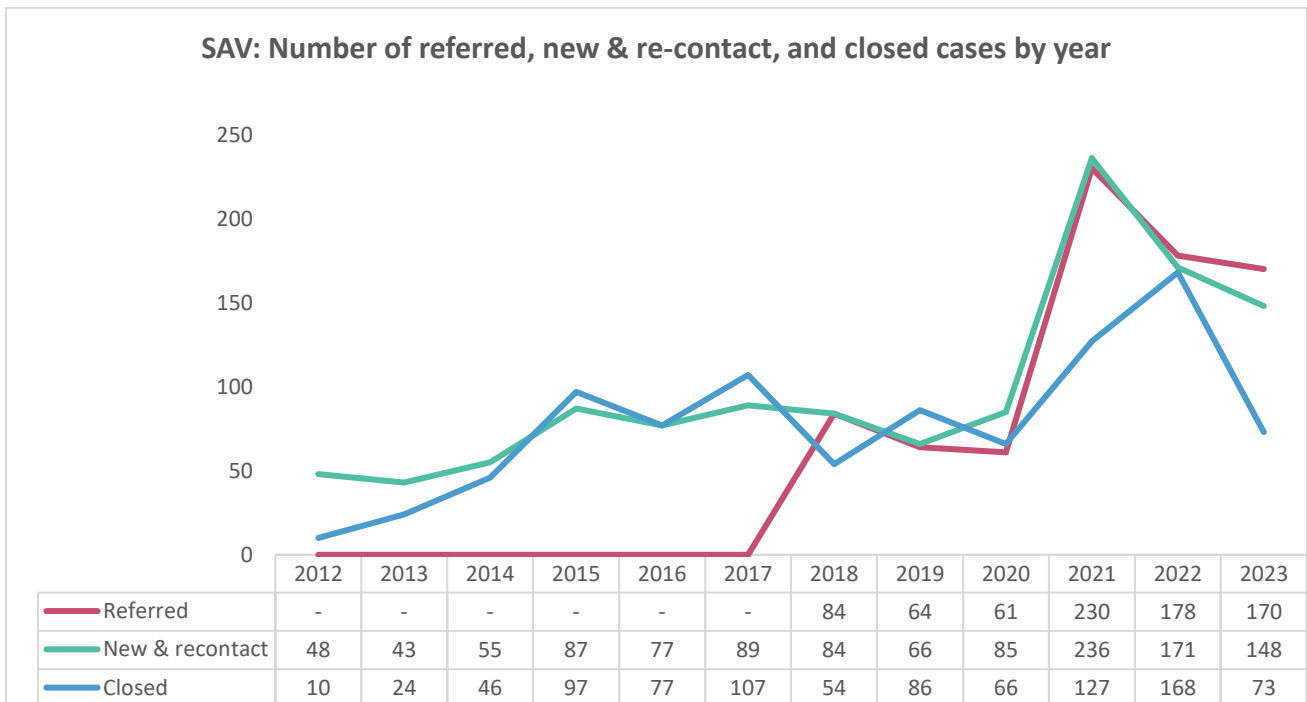


Figure 199: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (definitions can be found in the glossary). Opened cases include both new and recontact cases (see figure 198 for breakdown of new & recontact cases). In 2023, 170 cases were referred, 148 new & recontact cases opened, and 73 cases closed.

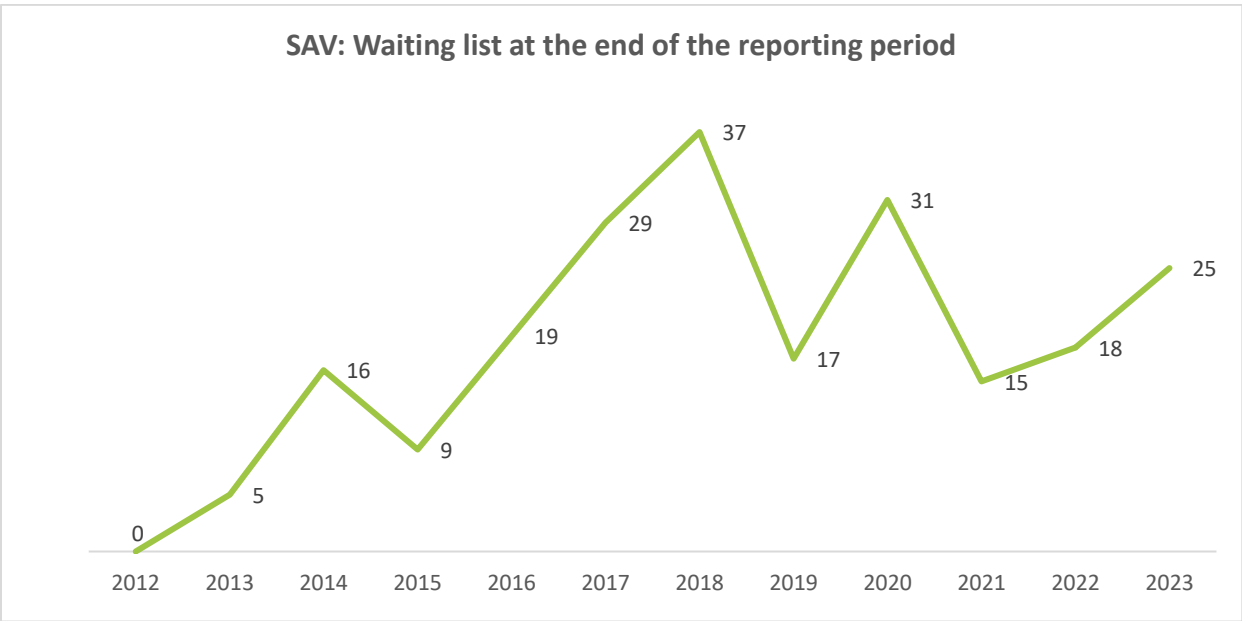


Figure 200: The figure above only reports cases that are still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

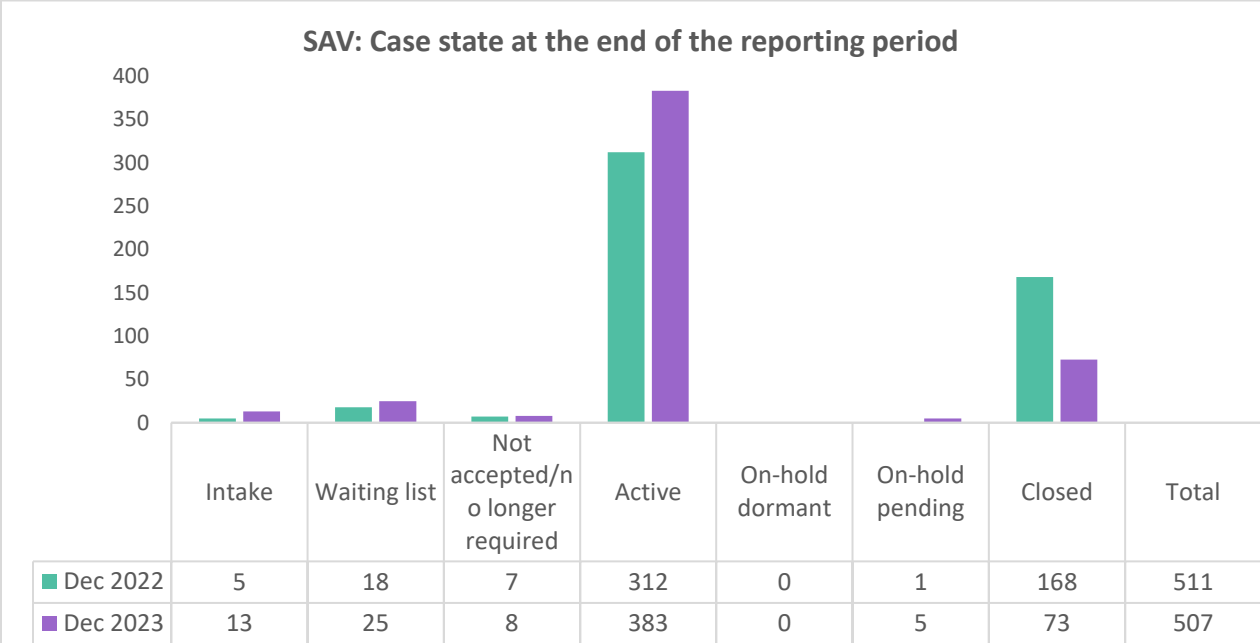


Figure 201: Cases will be handled throughout the year by placing them on intake, adding them to the waiting list, opening them, or closing them (definitions can be found in the glossary). The case state at the end of the reporting year is shown in the figure above. In 2023, 76% (383) of the cases worked with were still active by the end of the year. The waiting list provides the number of service users who have been assessed and determined to be at low risk, do not have any immediate needs, and/or are awaiting the next available appointment/programme. Such cases are still monitored and provided services but at a lower intensity than an active case.

## Details regarding cases worked with January - December 2023

A total of 507 cases were worked with between January and December 2023.

### SAV: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by gender (no. & %)

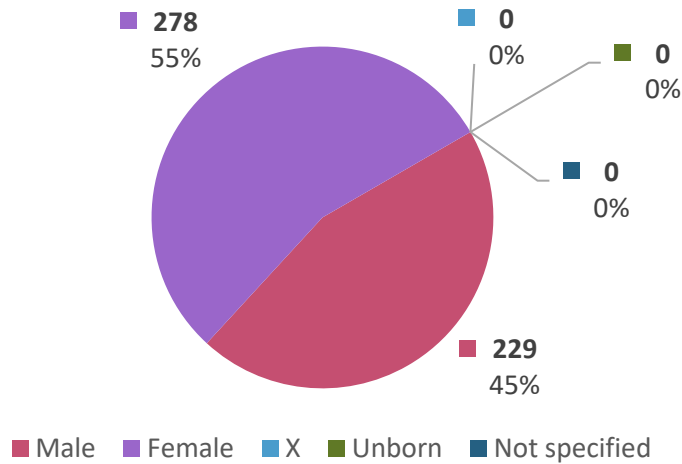


Figure 202: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were female (55%).

### SAV: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by age category (no. & %)

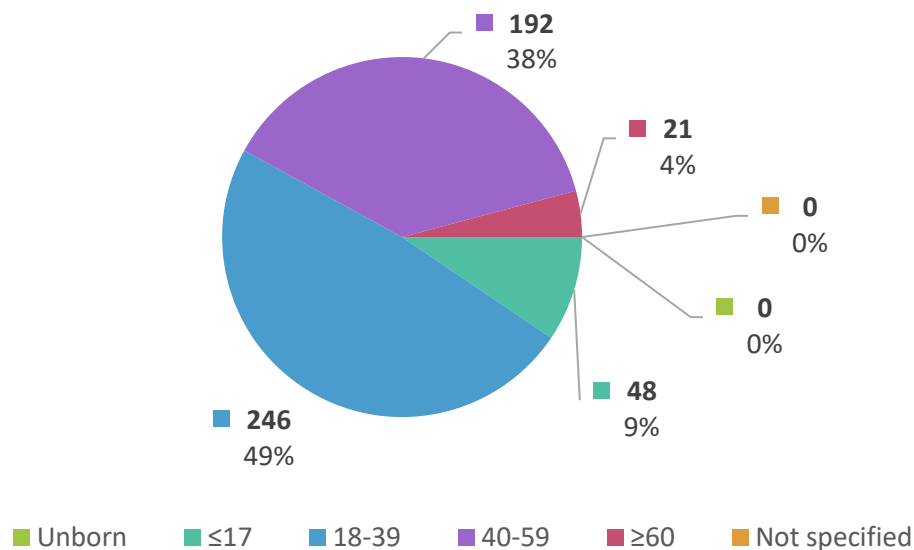
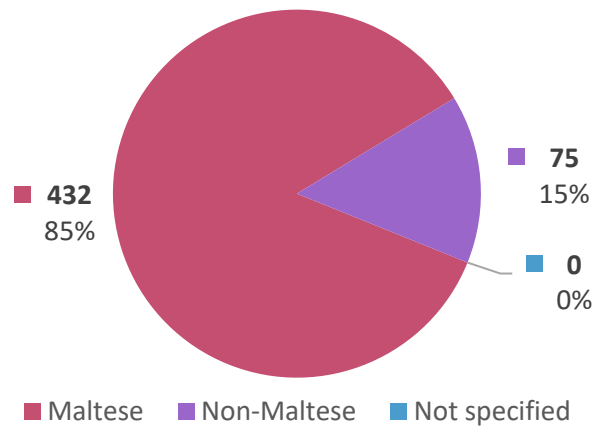


Figure 203: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. In 2023, the highest percentage of cases worked with were ages 18 to 39 (49%).

**SAV: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by nationality (no. & %)**



*Figure 204: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. In 2023, 85% of the cases worked with were Maltese while non-Maltese made up 15% of cases.*

**SAV: Cases worked with Jan-Dec 2023 by district of residence (no. & %)**

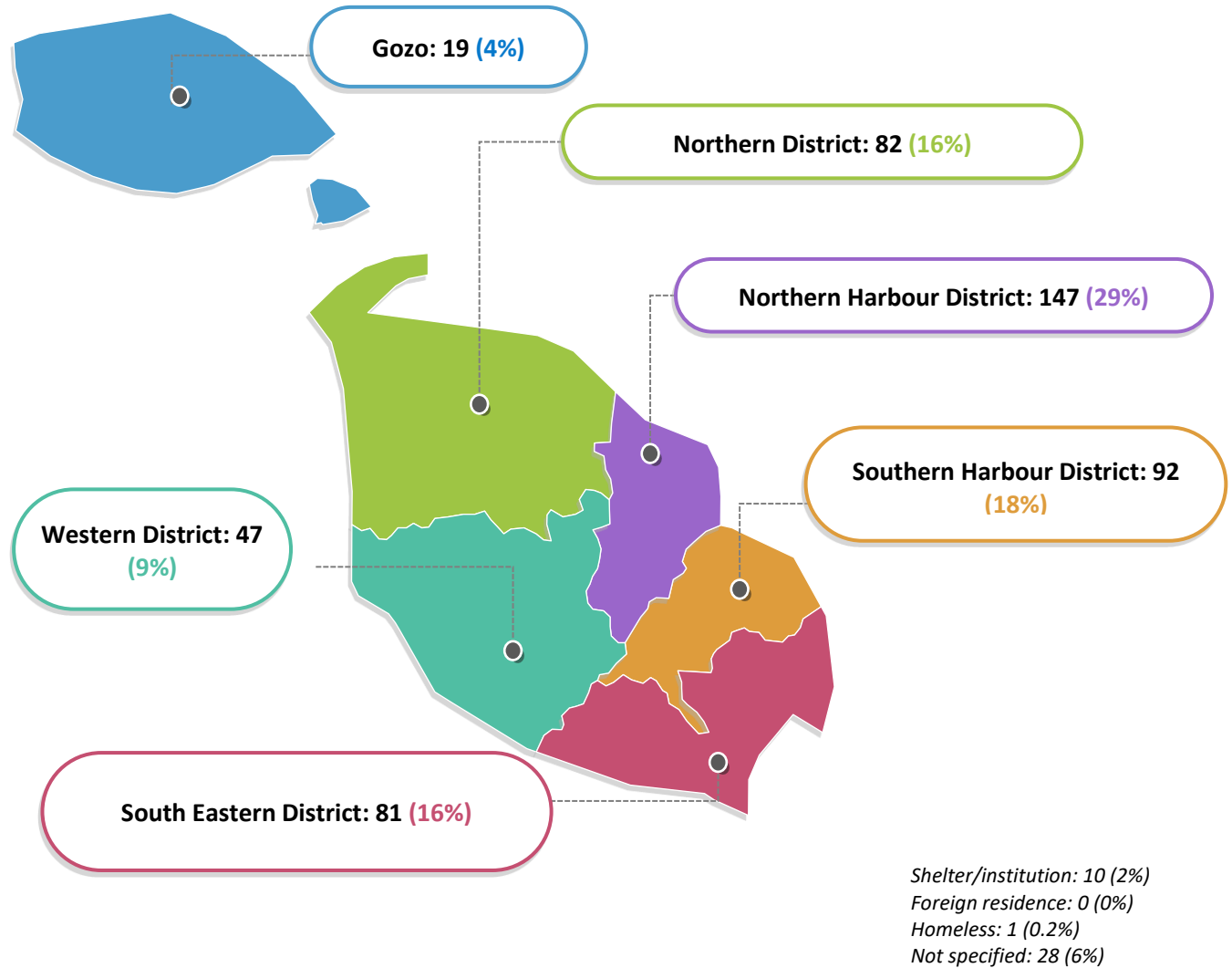


Figure 205: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. The Northern Harbour District (29%) had the highest percentage of cases worked with in 2023.

## Details regarding new and re-contact cases opened

For comparing yearly trends, instead of using cases worked with, which would include any cases carried over from one year to the next, we use the number of new & recontact cases opened because it excludes the carried over cases and gives us an indication of incidence data.

A total of **148** cases were opened between January and December 2023.

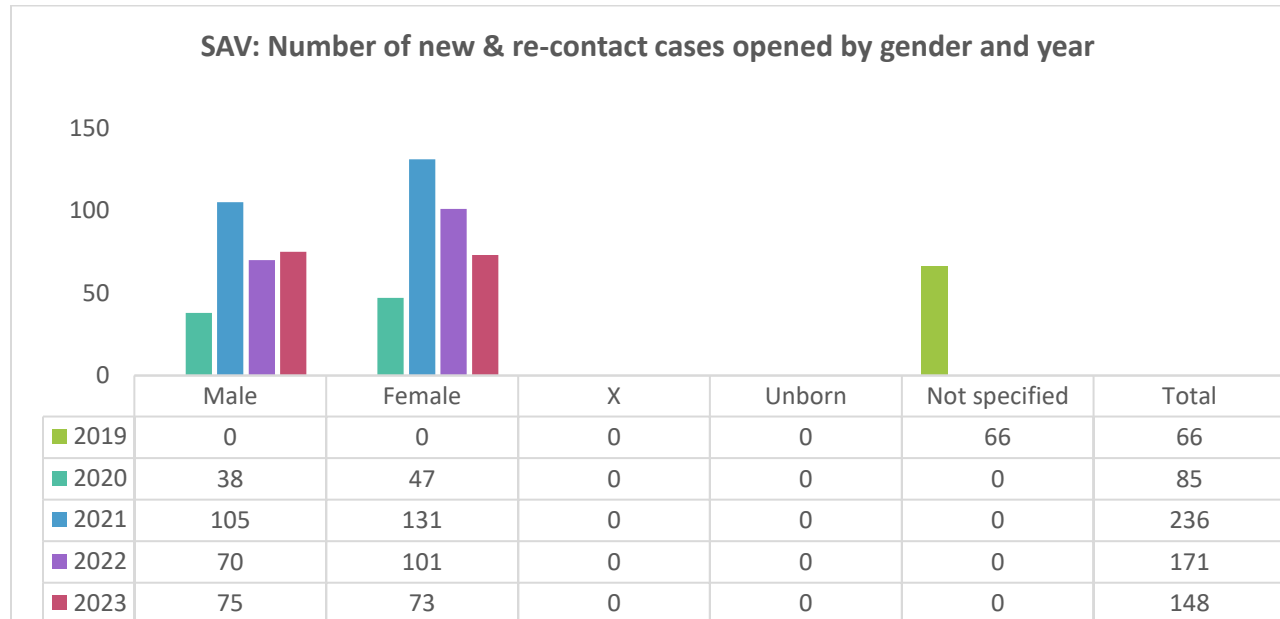


Figure 206: The figure above classifies the gender of the service user whose case was opened in the reported period. Gender is collected at referral or first contact, but it can be updated throughout the lifetime of the case as required. The gender is collected either through formal documentation and/or the pronouns the person utilised when referring to themselves. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were male (75).

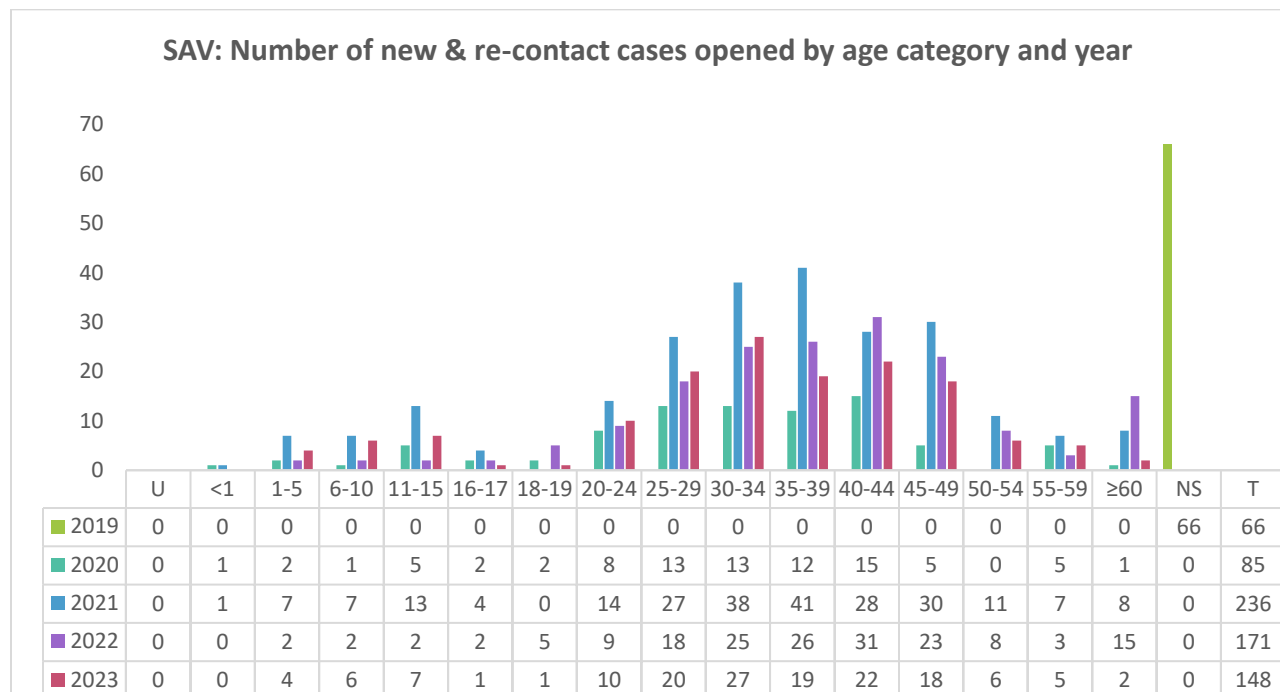


Figure 207: The figure above classifies the age of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, the highest number of cases opened were ages 30 to 34 (27).

Graph Key: U = Unborn; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

SAV: Number of new & re-contact cases opened by age category and gender January – December 2023						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	1	3	0	0	0	4
6-10	2	4	0	0	0	6
11-15	3	4	0	0	0	7
16-17	1	0	0	0	0	1
18-19	0	1	0	0	0	1
20-24	2	8	0	0	0	10
25-29	5	15	0	0	0	20
30-34	15	12	0	0	0	27
35-39	10	9	0	0	0	19
40-44	14	8	0	0	0	22
45-49	13	5	0	0	0	18
50-54	3	3	0	0	0	6
55-59	5	0	0	0	0	5
≥60	1	1	0	0	0	2
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>148</b>

Figure 208: The figure above classifies the age and gender of the service user in the reporting year based on the specified date of birth and gender. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided.

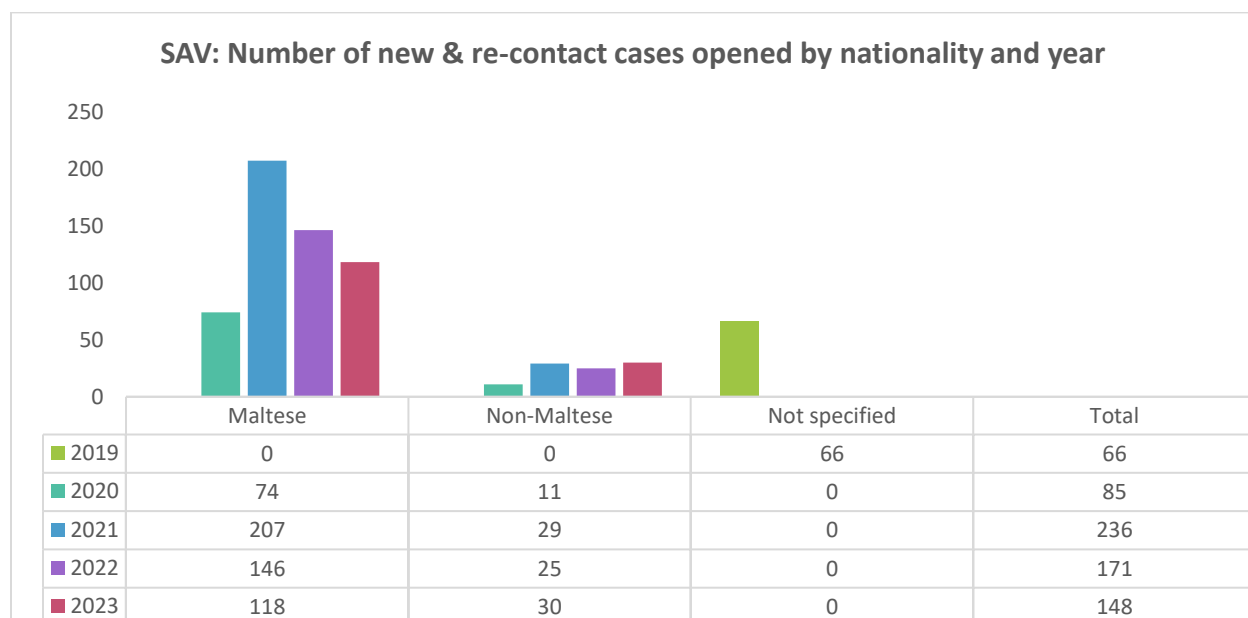


Figure 209: The figure above classifies the nationality as reported by the service user within the reporting year or based on an identity card/document. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. In 2023, 118 cases opened in 2023 were Maltese while 30 cases were non-Maltese.

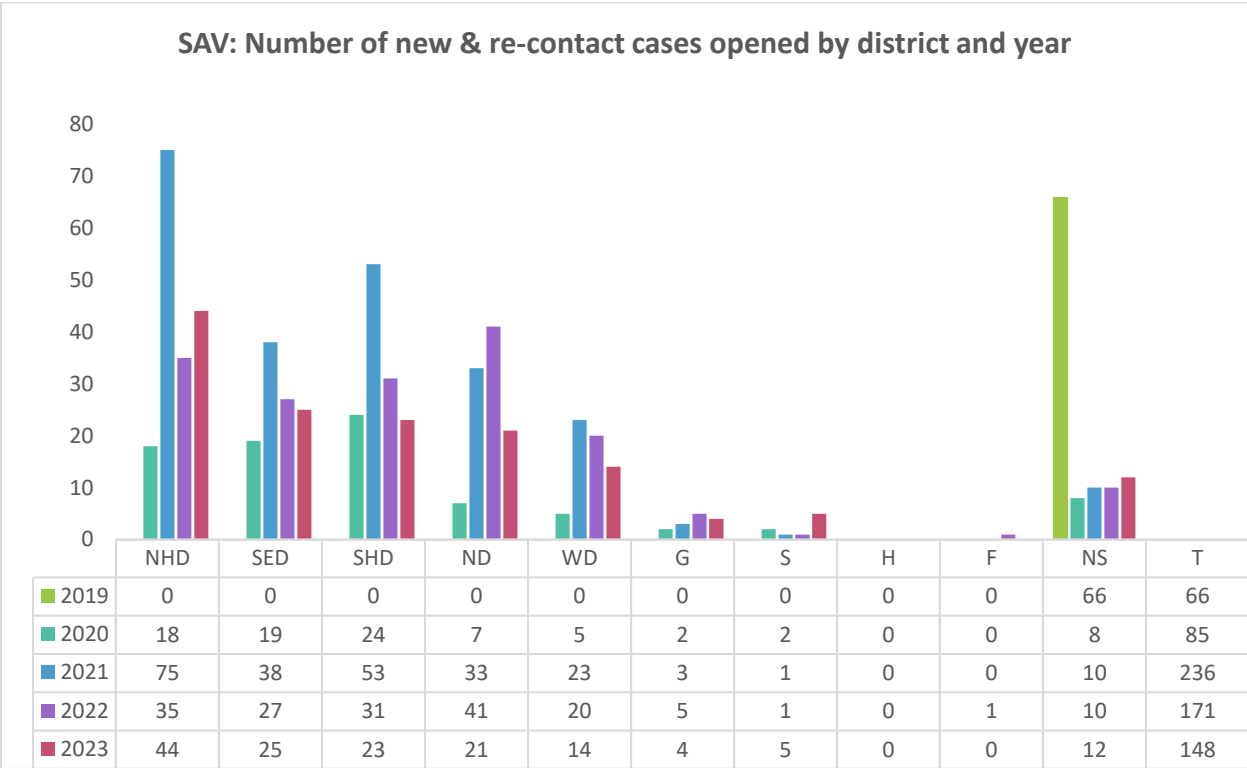


Figure 210: The figure above classifies the district of residence as reported by the service user within the reporting year. Some service users reside within “shelter/institution” (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters). Some service users are in Malta temporarily and so normally have a foreign residence whilst others are homeless and do not have a fixed residence. Shelter/institution, foreign residence and homeless are reported as separate categories to avoid biasing the data on district. Only data for new & re-contact cases opened in the reported period are provided. The Northern Harbour District (44) had the highest number of cases opened in 2023.

Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southern Eastern District; ND = Northern District; WD = Western District; G = Gozo; S = Shelter/Institution; H = Homeless; F = Foreign Residence; NS = Not Specified; T = Total.

# Appendix

## Service descriptions

Service	Description
<b>Looked After Children Service</b>	The main objective of the service is to provide social work interventions to children who are in the out-of-home care system, i.e. those in residential and foster care.
<b>Looked After Children Healthcare Service</b>	This service offers holistic health assessments of minors residing in residential care or foster care and aims to improve their health outcomes.
<b>Additional DAC Service</b>	These services are global services for DAC and support many of the other services within this Directorate. They consist of (1) Reintegration Services: supports children to make the transition back to their immediate/extended family or into the community; (2) Children's Fund: collective voluntary effort to raise funds to support children in need who currently use the services provided by the FSWS; (3) Children's Dreams: project that makes Christmas wishes come true for the children from families facing social and financial difficulty, or for children being raised in community homes; (4) Socio-Legal Service: provides legal advice as necessary to minors in DAC, on what are at times, sensitive and impactful situations. (5) Youth Initiative: provides a platform for young people to develop their fullest potential, expand their understanding and find their authentic task in society and the world. (6) Alternative Care Placement Records: records from all DAC services are kept on where children are placed when alternative care is provided.
<b>Aftercare Service</b>	This service prepares minors, reaching the age for care leaving, to live completely independently and/or reach their educational/career goals.
<b>Fostering Service</b>	The aim of this service is to promote fostering, to train and licence potential foster carers and to assist foster carers in their requirements.
<b>Adoption Service</b>	Social workers provide training to and assess the prospective adoptive parent/s' suitability and offer them guidance and support through the adoption process. After children are adopted, post-adoption reports are required by law, and their frequency and duration will depend on the law of the country from where the children were adopted. The Adoption Service is responsible for the submission of these reports.
<b>High Support Service</b>	Provides one-to-one support to children living in out-of-home, who require more in-depth interventions due to the challenging behaviour which they present. The purpose of the service is to foster the child's independence and to nurture the child physically, emotionally, and spiritually, as well as coaching them to develop social and educational skills.
<b>Community Homes Service</b>	The service provides alternative accommodation for children and young adults who cannot live with either their birth families and/or in foster care. As much as possible, it provides a family-like environment throughout the alternative care journey.

<b>Home-Start Malta</b>	Offers support, friendship, and practical help to families with young children under 5 years of age. To help give children the best possible start in life, the service supports parents as they grow in confidence, strengthen their relationships with their children and widen their links within the local community.
<b>Youth in Focus Service</b>	Aims to deliver a comprehensive service to promote the physical, emotional, and social well-being of adolescents.
<b>Embark for Life Service</b>	The aim of project is to provide support to young people, aged between 16 and 24 years, who need assistance to integrate better within the workforce and society.
<b>Adolescent Day Programme Service</b>	The service for vulnerable adolescents aged between 14 and 18 aims to provide participants with skills learning experiences and opportunities to help them eventually obtain employment. The Day Programme runs for three to four months and can cater for 8 young people at a time.
<b>Supervised Access Visits Service</b>	Provides supervised access visits to non-custodial parents and relatives. These visits are held on a regular basis and are very often regulated by a Court decree or requested by the Children and Young Persons Advisory Board.

## Glossary of terms

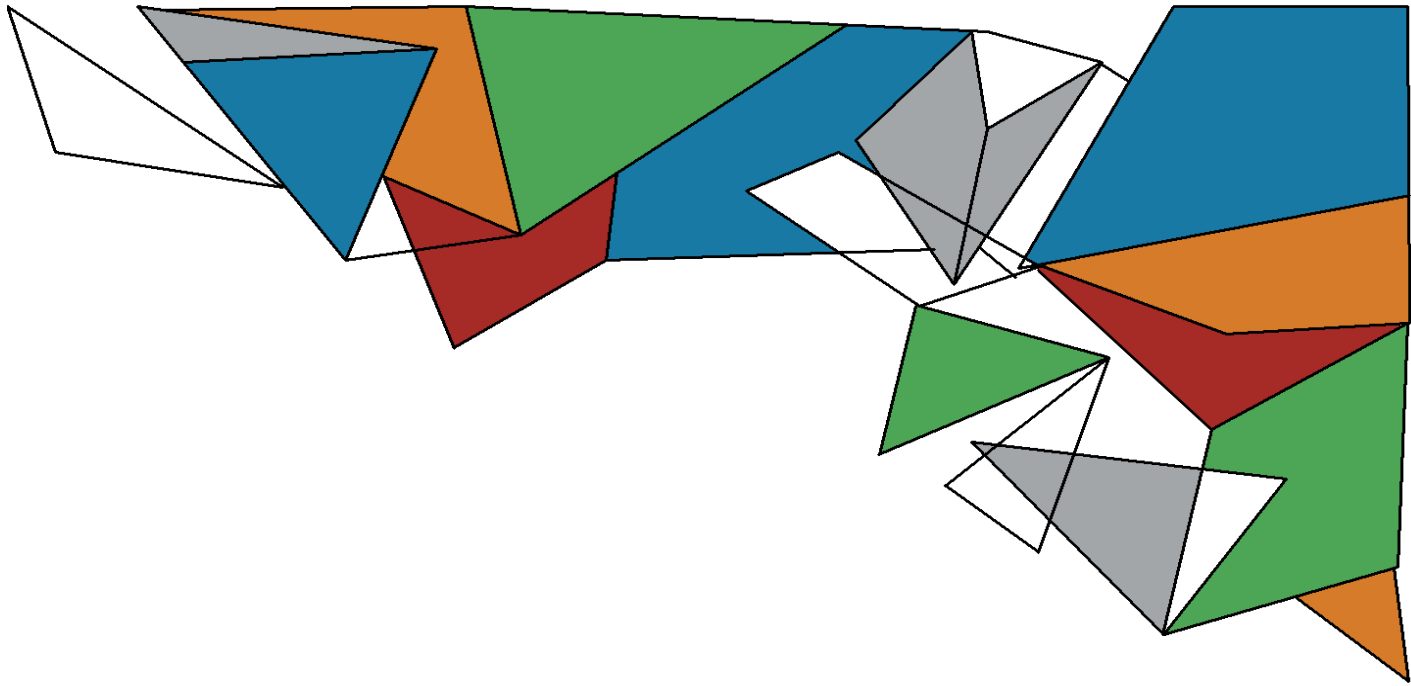
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Cases worked with</b>	The total number of service user cases that were new, re-contact or known in the reporting year and intake cases still on intake at the end of the reporting period. This does not indicate the number of individuals as some individuals could attend 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.
<b>Individuals worked with</b>	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.
<b>New case</b>	A case that was opened or activated for the first time ever within the reporting year and that was never previously worked with.
<b>Re-contact case</b>	A case that was worked with and closed in the past and has been re-activated or re-opened within the current reporting year.
<b>Known case</b>	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.
<b>Intake case</b>	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.
<b>Waiting list</b>	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.

<b>Referred case</b>	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.
<b>New &amp; re-contact case</b>	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.
<b>Closed case</b>	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.
<b>Case state</b>	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.
<b>Active state</b>	A case state where the case was opened in the year and still open by the end of the reporting period.
<b>Closed state</b>	A case state where the case was opened in the year but closed by the end of the reporting period.
<b>Intake state</b>	A case state where the case was on intake in the year and still on intake by the end of the reporting period.
<b>On-hold state</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pending: cases where all activity stops pending the action of another service. E.g., the case is pending outcomes from the child protection investigations.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Waiting list state</b>	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.
<b>Not accepted/no longer required state</b>	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.
<b>Global/family cases</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 service user case: One individual who attends in the year on their own without any other family member, or</li> <li>- 2 or more service users' cases: Several individuals identified as part of the same family attending in the year.</li> </ul>
<b>Ghost cases</b>	These are cases where although the case may be registered as active or on intake, the case is actually inactive since the person may not have had contact with the service for a set period of time (no longer actually being worked with). As a result, the case may remain open for some time without any intervention or activities and will skew the actual number of service users worked with. As a result, administrators of the data will conduct exercises to identify these cases and close them administratively as per individuals service policy.
<b>Gender</b>	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.

<b>Primary problem</b>	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.
<b>Not specified</b>	A variable that cannot be specified since the information is not available or the service user was unwilling to provide the information.
<b>Other</b>	Treatment, issue or location not elsewhere specified.

## Maltese districts

<b>District</b>	<b>Towns</b>
<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>	Birzebugia, 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), centre of residential restorative services (CoRRS) 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.



# 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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