



Child Protection Directorate

Interim Half-Yearly Statistical Report

Report period: Jan-Jun 2026

August 2026



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Introduction

This report presents statistical information regarding the Child Protection Directorate (CP), within Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS). It includes Directorate-level data, followed by detailed information for each service.

The information presented provides an overview of service use and selected indicators of service performance. In this report, “service users” refers to persons using the service from intake or referral through to case closure. Service descriptions and definitions of key terms are provided in Appendix B. Further information on service aims and activities is available at fsws.gov.mt.

The data are based on information submitted by services to the FSWS Research Team between 10 July and 20 August 2026. Where applicable, figures are provided at the individual level (number of individuals worked with) and case level (number of cases worked with). Individuals may access services multiple times within the reporting period or across multiple services simultaneously, resulting in more than one case per individual. 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. As such, the total number of cases is typically higher than the number of individuals.

The report also includes data on, but is not limited to, referrals, cases opened (new and re-contact cases), and cases closed. Data on cases worked with and cases opened are further broken down by key socio-demographic variables, with detailed tables about cases opened provided in Appendix A. Please note that due to rounding, percentages may not always total 100%.

Changes in data collection processes over time, including the introduction of the online data collection system, may affect comparability of data across years. Relevant notes about aspects which may have impacted the data and influence trends are provided throughout the report where applicable.

The data presented are subject to revision as additional information becomes available.

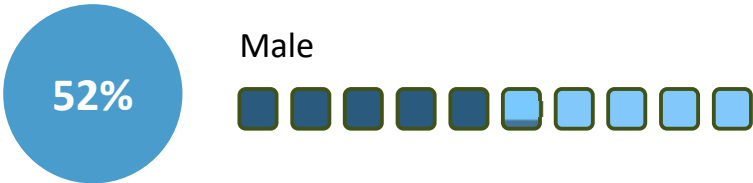
This report would not have been possible without the contribution of staff responsible for data entry and submission across the services.

Executive summary

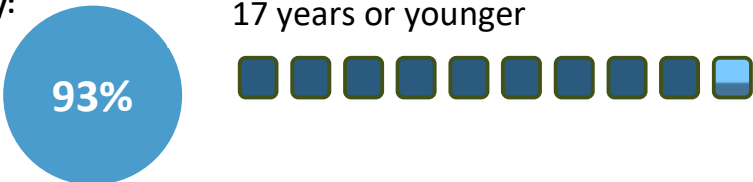
Cases worked with in Jan-Jun 2026: **3,843**

Out of the 3,843 cases worked with between Jan-Jun 2026:

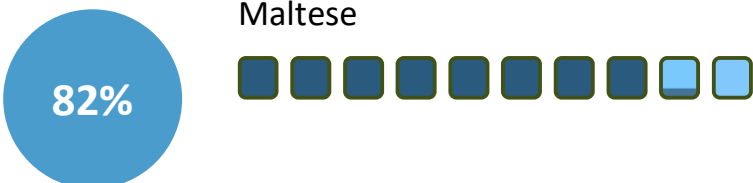
Gender:



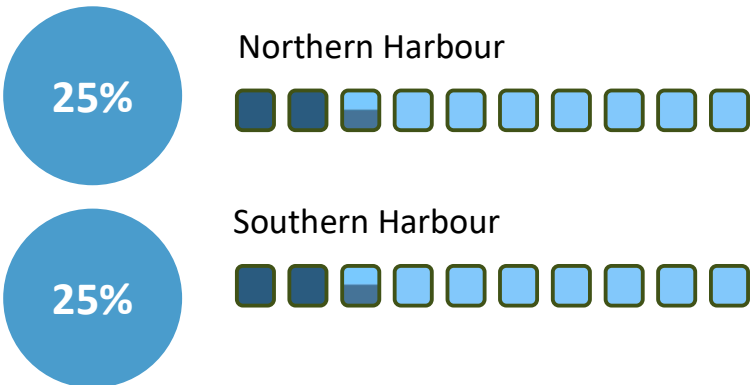
Age category:



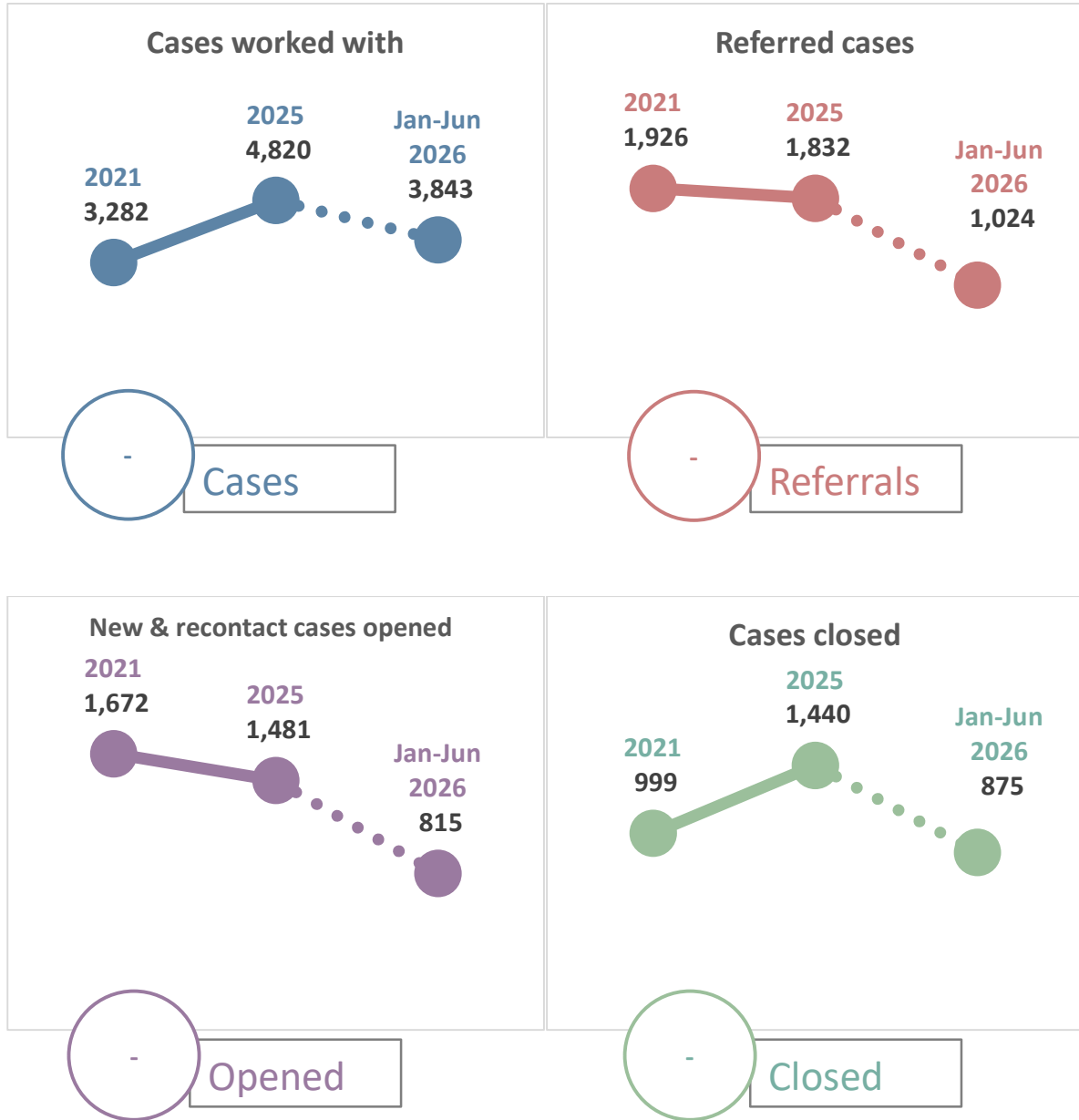
Nationality:



District:



5-year comparison of case activity (2021-2025) and Jan-Jun 2026:



Note: Data on the number of cases in 2021, 2025 and Jan-Jun 2026 is presented to display changes over a complete five-year period.

Directorate level data

This section provides information on a Directorate level.

A new online data collection system and reporting format were introduced in 2020. In the same year, the Court Service was transferred to the Child Protection Directorate, and historical data were incorporated into the Directorate's dataset. These changes should be considered when interpreting trends over time.

CP: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

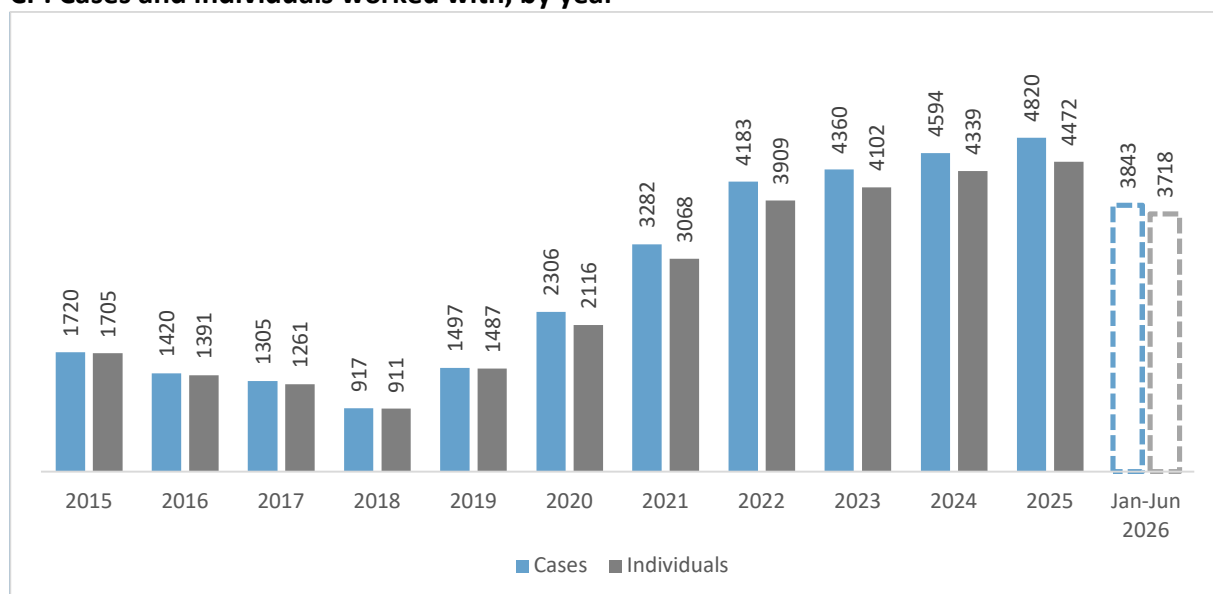


Figure 1: In Jan-Jun 2026, 3843 cases and 3718 individuals were worked with compared to 4820 and 4472 respectively in 2025.

Note: Individuals may have more than one case within a reporting period (see Glossary). Prior to 2022, the number of individuals is a sum across multiple units and thus can only provide an approximation of the number of individuals overall and the figures provided are therefore higher than the real figures. From 2022 onwards, the number of individuals is the true number of individuals across the entire directorate because figures are deduplicated across services.

Case activity, Jan-Jun 2026

	Total cases worked with	Individuals worked with	Waiting list end of Jun 2026
Child Protection Service	3563	3479	859
Court Services	280	279	78
Total	3843	-	937

Figure 2: Case activity is concentrated within Child Protection Service, which accounts for the majority of both cases and individuals worked with during the reporting period. Please note that the total unique individual across services is not provided since aggregating across services would include duplication and not provide the true number across services.

A total of **3,843** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

CP: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

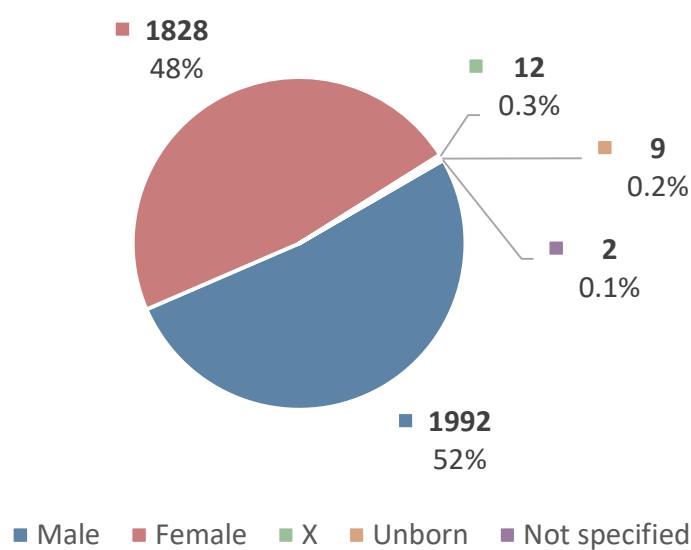


Figure 3: Males service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (52%).

Note: Gender is recorded at referral or first contact and may be updated over time, based on formal documentation and/or the individual's self-identified pronouns.

CP: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by age category

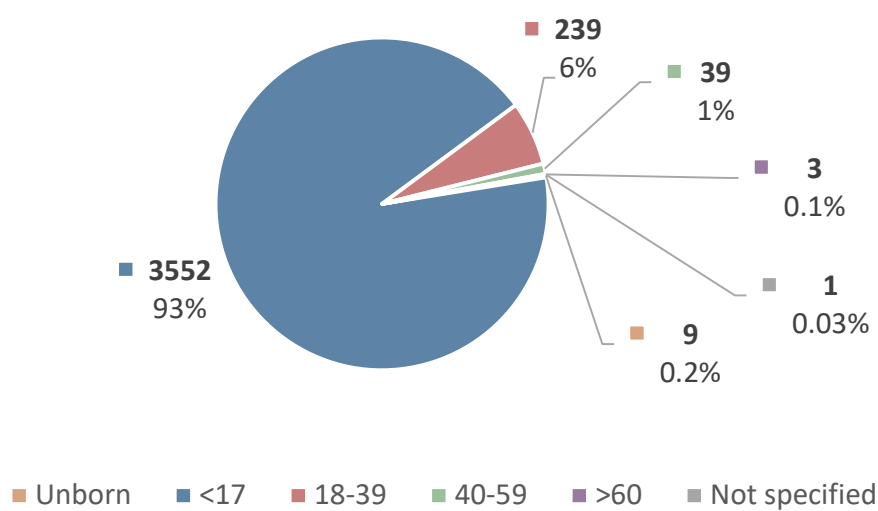


Figure 4: Service users aged 17 or younger accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (93%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

CP: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

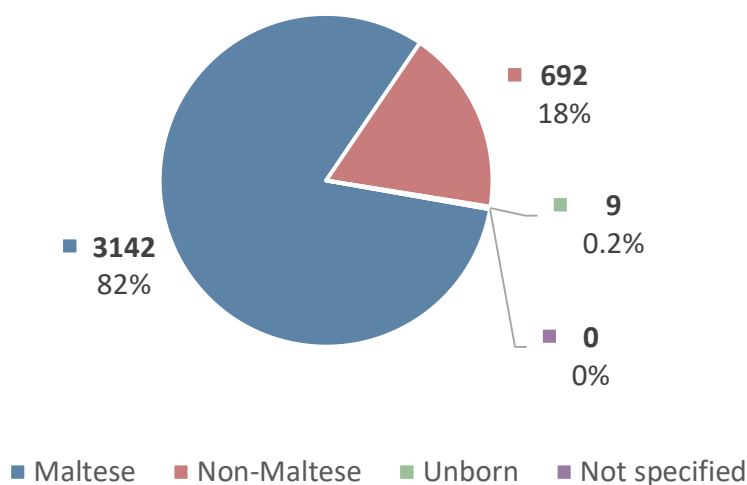
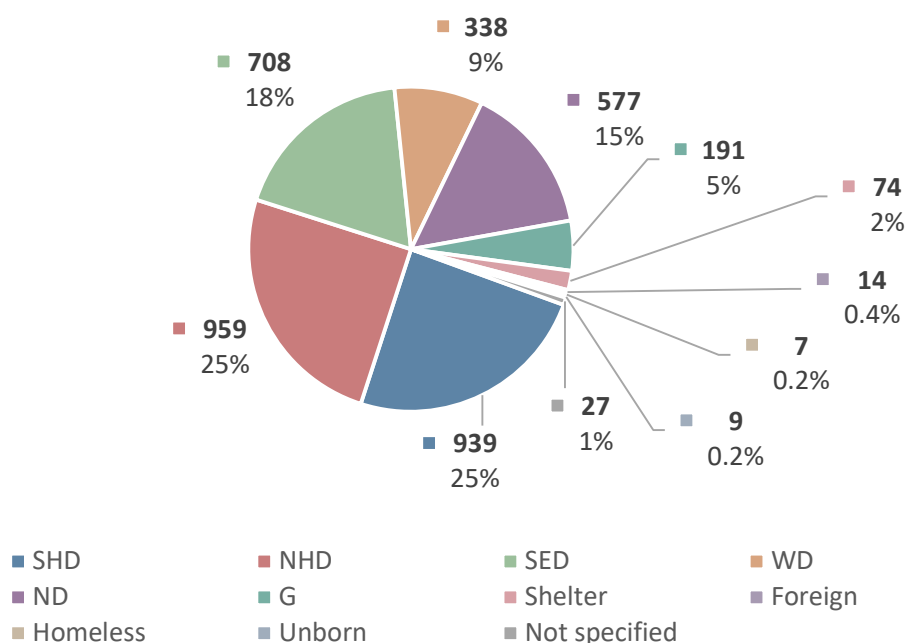


Figure 5: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (82%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 18%.

Note: Nationality reflects the self-reported or documented status (e.g. identity card) of the service user during the reporting period.

CP: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by district of residence



Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southeastern District; WD = Western District; ND = Northern District; G = Gozo District; Shelter = shelter/institution; Foreign = Foreign residence.

Figure 6: Northern Harbour District and the Southern Harbour District accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (25% each).

Note: District is based on self-reported residence within the reporting year. Shelter/institution (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters), foreign residence, and homelessness are shown separately to avoid bias in district distribution.

CP: Cases worked with by case type (new, re-contact, known and intake), by year

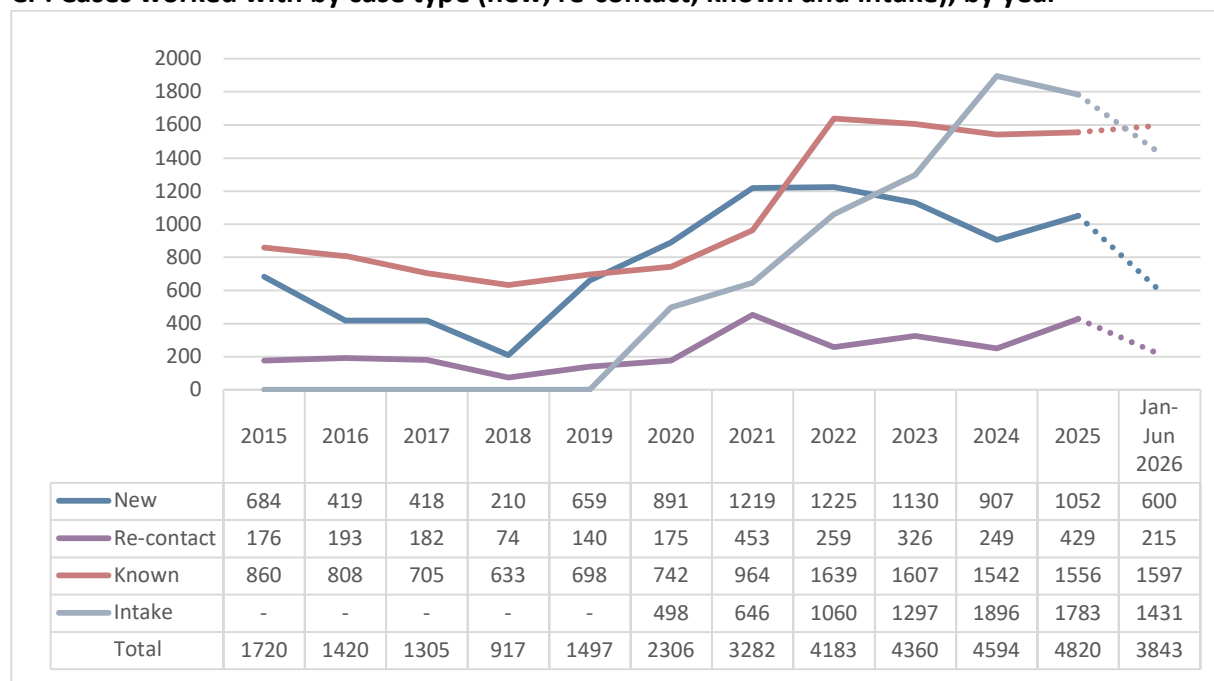


Figure 7: New cases accounted for 16% (600) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 6% (215).

Note: Cases worked with start the reporting period as a new, re-contact, known, or intake case (see Glossary). Intake has been reported since 2020 following the introduction of the online system. From 2023 onwards, new case figures represent Agency/Directorate -level totals; earlier figures were aggregated from services.

CP: Cases worked with by case state at the end of the reporting period

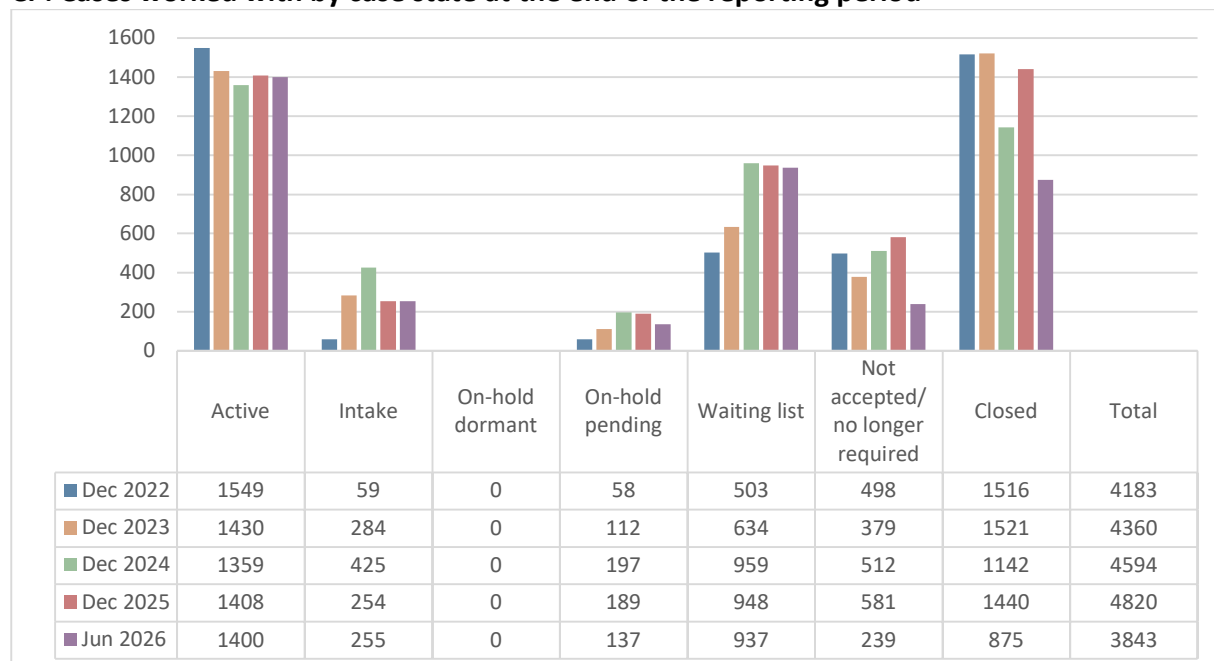


Figure 8: By the end of June 2026, 36% (1400) of the cases worked with remained active, 23% (875) were closed and 7% (255) remained on intake.

Note: Cases may end the reporting period by being intake, active, on hold, on the waiting list, or closed (see Glossary).

CP: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

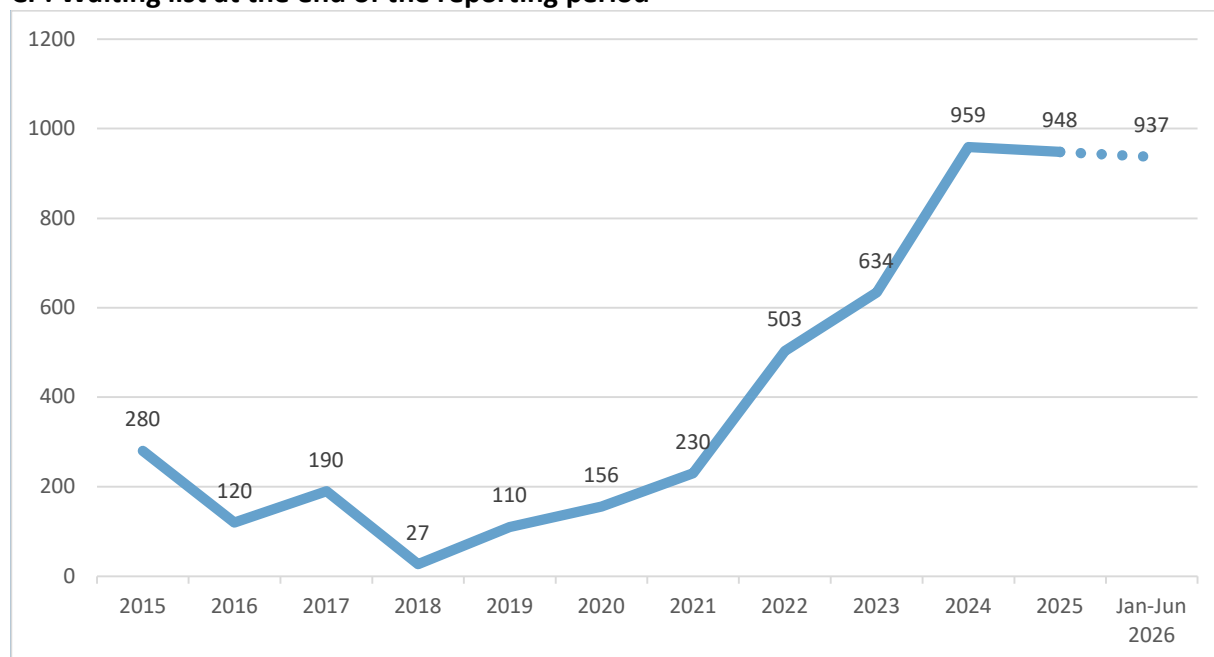


Figure 9: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 937 cases remained on the waiting list.

Note: Waiting list cases are assessed as low risk, have no immediate needs, or are awaiting the next available appointment or programme; they are monitored and supported at reduced intensity.

CP: Referrals, cases opened (new & re-contact), and cases closed, by year

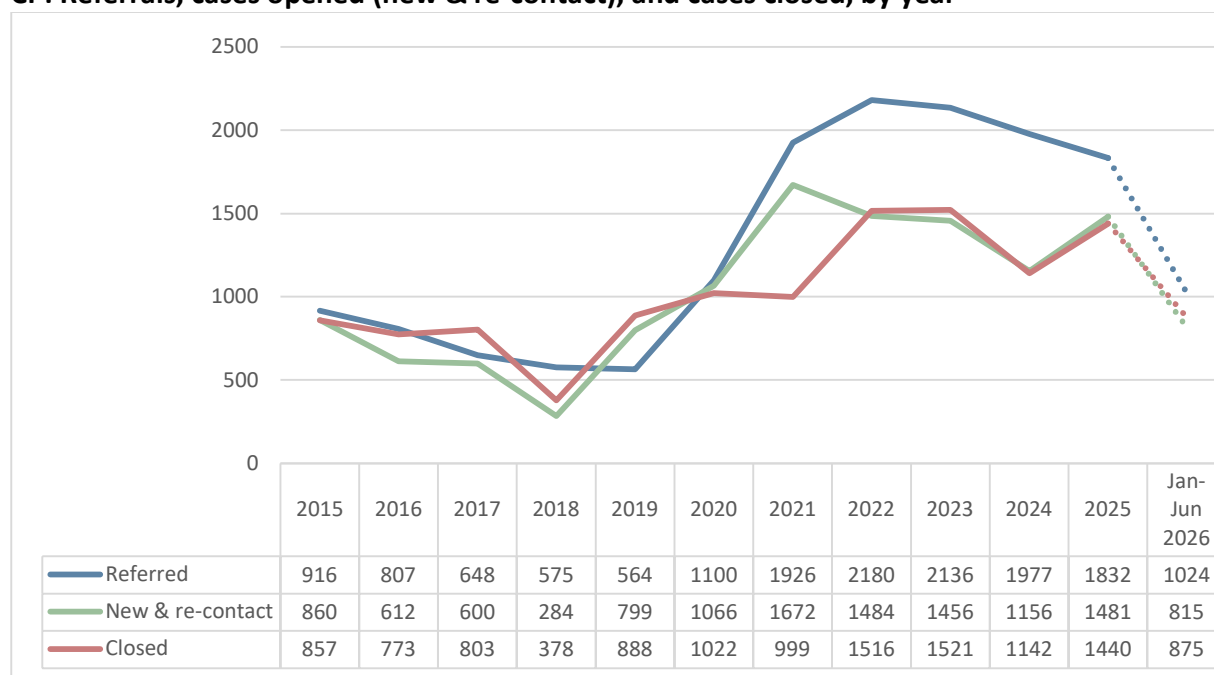


Figure 10: In Jan-Jun 2026, 1024 cases were referred, 815 new & recontact cases opened, and 875 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 7 for breakdown).

A total of **815** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

Note: Further breakdowns regarding cases opened by demographics can be found in Appendix A.

CP: Cases opened (new & re-contact) by age category and gender January - June 2026						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	5	0	5
<1	18	18	1	0	0	37
1-5	120	78	0	0	0	198
6-10	126	89	0	0	0	215
11-15	115	123	0	0	0	238
16-17	49	46	0	0	0	95
18-19	4	17	3	0	0	24
20-24	1	2	0	0	0	3
25-29	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-34	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-39	0	0	0	0	0	0
40-44	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-49	0	0	0	0	0	0
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
Total	433	373	4	5	0	815

Figure 11: Service users aged 11 to 15 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (29%; 238).

Note: Gender is recorded at referral or first contact and may be updated over time, based on formal documentation and/or the individual's self-identified pronouns. Age is calculated based on date of birth.

CP: Interventions conducted by service and year

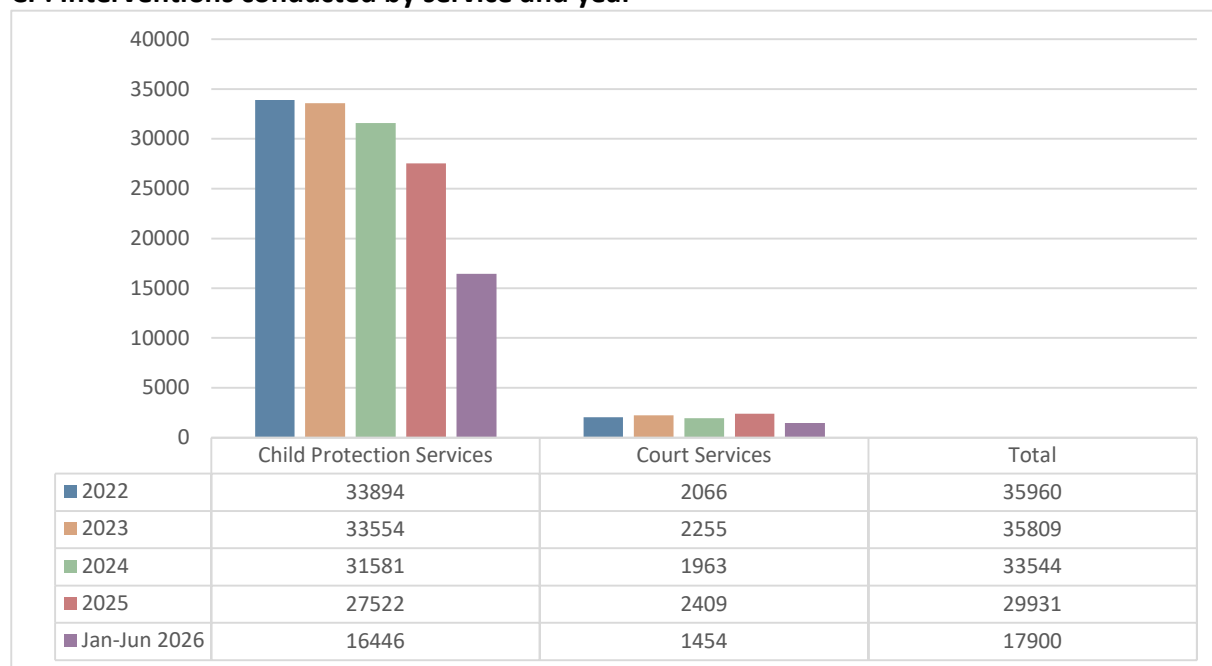


Figure 12: A total of 17,900 interventions were recorded during the reporting period, with most delivered by Child Protection Service (92%).

Note: Interventions reflect actions recorded in the online data collection system as completed, including activities such as assessments, psychotherapy, and case conferences, aimed at supporting and empowering the service user.

Service level data

Each service under the Directorate is presented below, with information on case activity and demographic profiles for cases worked with and new and re-contact cases opened.

Child Protection Services (CPS)

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

CPS: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

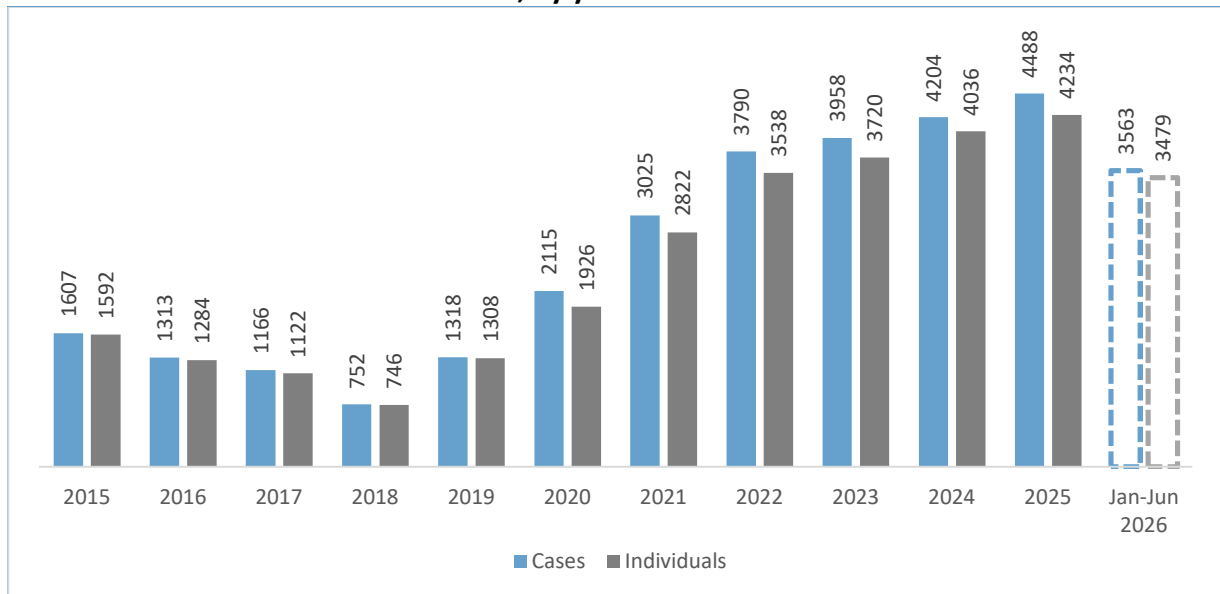


Figure 13: In Jan-Jun 2026, 3563 cases and 3479 individuals were worked with compared to 4488 and 4234 respectively in 2025.

Note: Individuals may have more than one case within a reporting period (see Glossary).

A total of **3,563** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

CPS: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

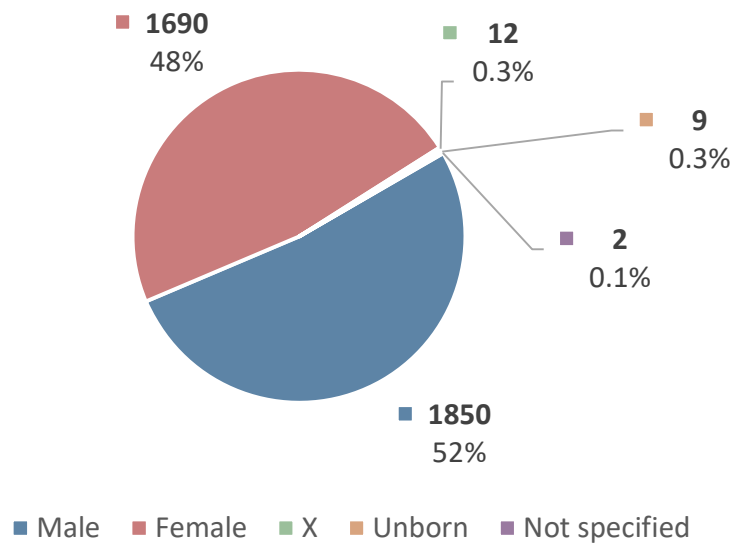


Figure 14: Males service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (52%).

Note: Gender is recorded at referral or first contact and may be updated over time, based on formal documentation and/or the individual's self-identified pronouns.

CPS: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by age category

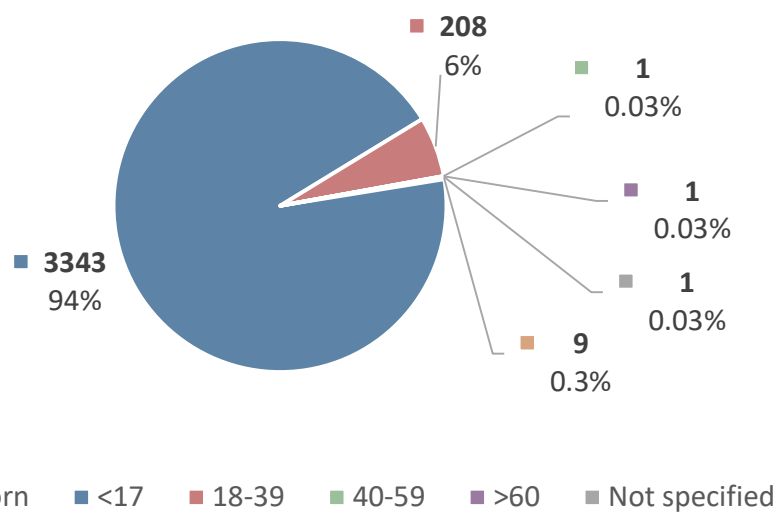


Figure 15: Service users aged 17 or younger accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (94%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

CPS: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

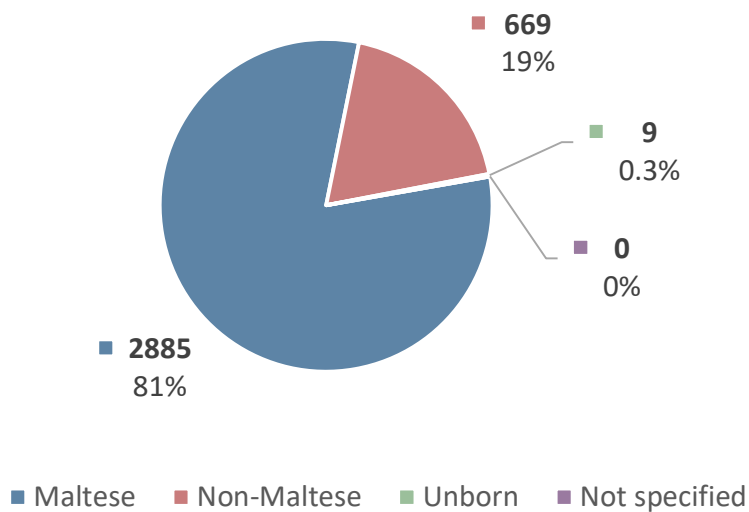
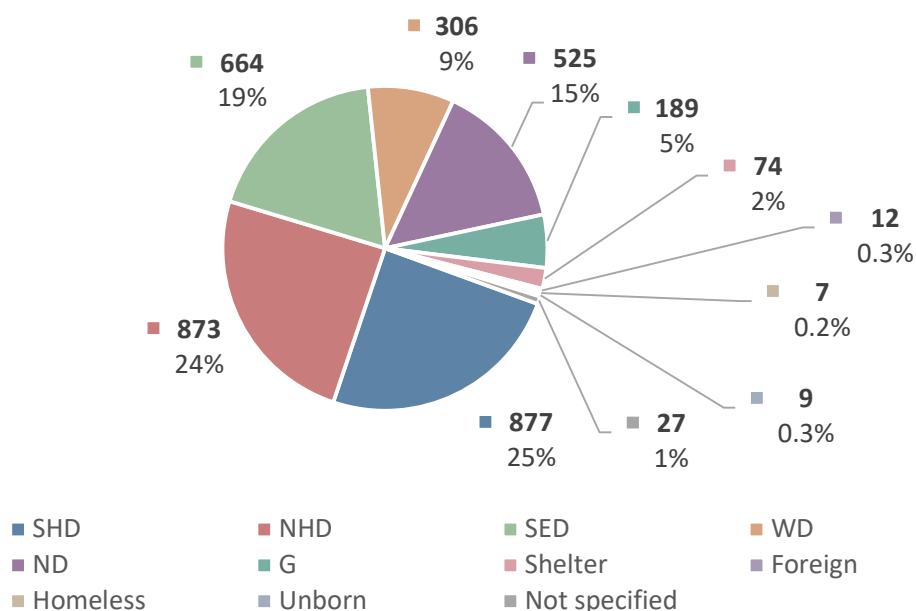


Figure 16: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked (81%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 19%.

Note: Nationality reflects the self-reported or documented status (e.g. identity card) of the service user during the reporting period.

CPS: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by district of residence



Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southeastern District; WD = Western District; ND = Northern District; G = Gozo District; Shelter = shelter/institution; Foreign = Foreign residence.

Figure 17: Southern Harbour District accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (25%).

Note: District is based on self-reported residence within the reporting year. Shelter/institution (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters), foreign residence, and homelessness are shown separately to avoid bias in district distribution

CPS: Cases worked with by case type (new, re-contact, known and intake), year

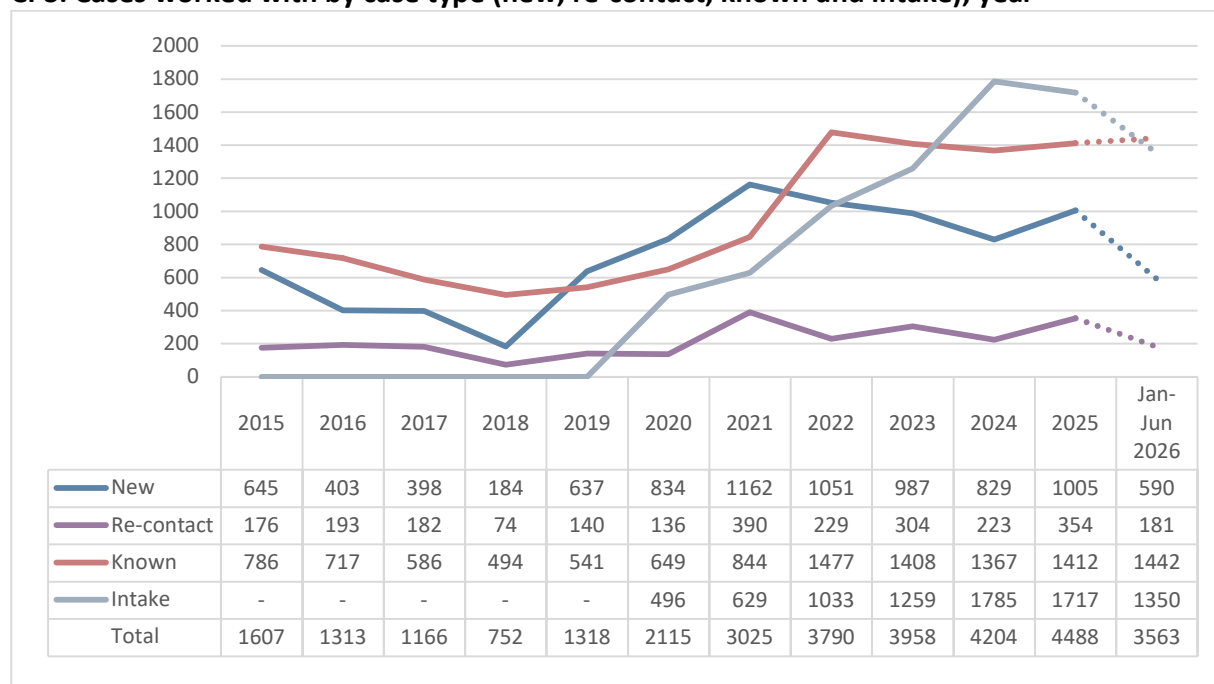


Figure 18: New cases accounted for 17% (590) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 5% (181).

Note: Cases worked with start the reporting period as a new, re-contact, known, or intake case (see Glossary). Intake has been reported since 2020 following the introduction of the online system.

CPS: Cases worked with by case state at the end of the reporting period



Figure 19: By the end of June 2026, 36% (1271) of the cases worked with remained active, 23% (820) were closed and 7% (253) remained on intake.

Note: Cases may end the reporting period by being intake, active, on hold, on the waiting list, or closed (see Glossary).

CPS: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

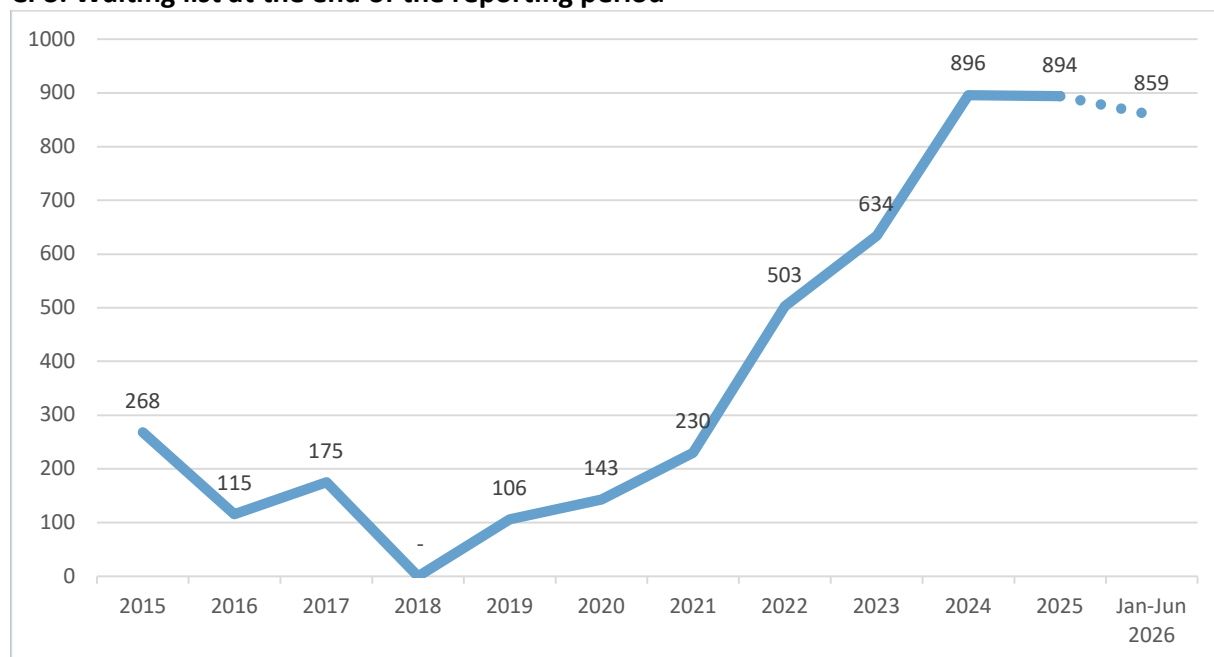


Figure 20: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 859 cases remained on the waiting list.

Note: Waiting list cases are assessed as low risk, have no immediate needs, or are awaiting the next available appointment or programme; they are monitored and supported at reduced intensity.

CPS: Referrals, cases opened (new & re-contact), and cases closed, by year

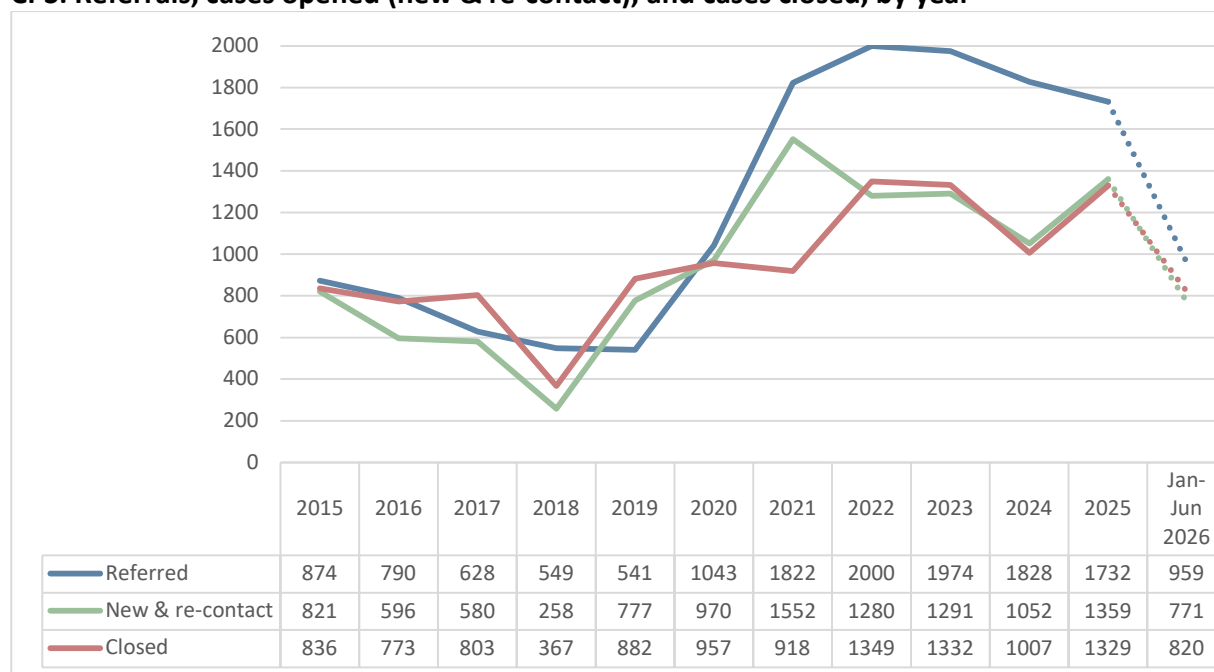


Figure 21: In Jan-Jun 2026, 959 cases were referred, 771 new & recontact cases opened, and 820 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 18 for breakdown).

CPS: Referred cases by type of alleged abuse/presenting concern, by year of referral (non-mutually exclusive)

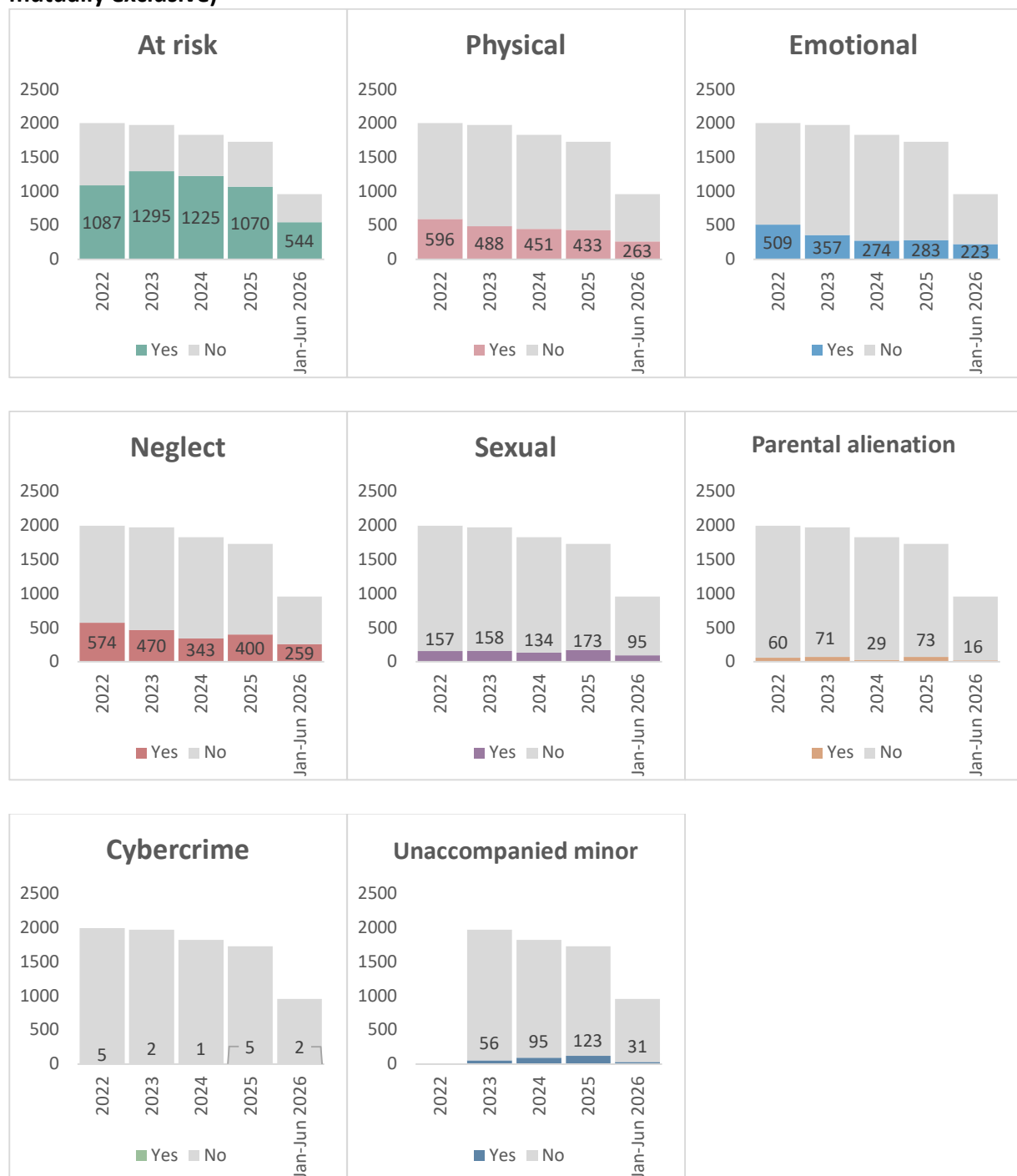


Figure 22: Multiple forms of alleged abuse or presenting concerns may be ticked for each referral; therefore, categories are not mutually exclusive and should not be summed. Figures represent the number of referrals in which each type of abuse or concern was indicated (see Glossary for definitions). For example, out of 959 referrals in Jan-Jun 2026, 544 (57%) reported being at risk and out of 959 referrals in Jan-Jun 2026, 263 (27%) reported physical abuse.

A total of **771** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

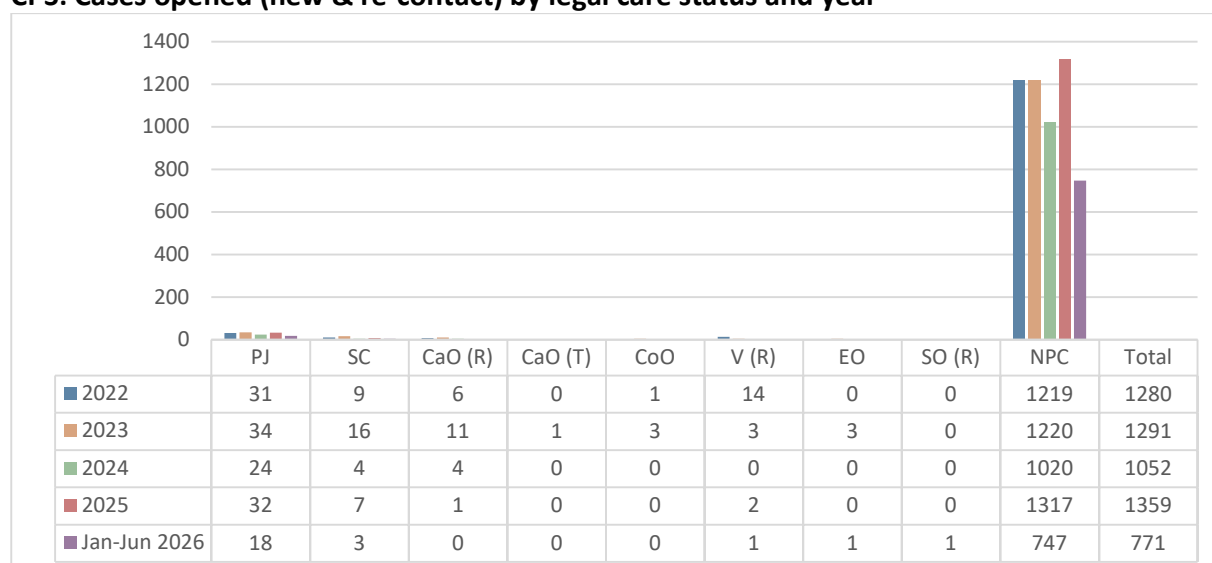
Note: Further breakdowns regarding cases opened by demographics can be found in Appendix A.

CPS: Cases opened (new & re-contact) by age category and gender January - June 2026						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	5	0	5
<1	18	18	1	0	0	37
1-5	114	68	0	0	0	182
6-10	119	85	0	0	0	204
11-15	108	114	0	0	0	222
16-17	49	45	0	0	0	94
≥18	5	19	3	0	0	27
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	413	349	4	5	0	771

Figure 23: Service users aged 11 to 15 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (29%; 222).

Note: Gender is recorded at referral or first contact and may be updated over time, based on formal documentation and/or the individual's self-identified pronouns. Age is calculated based on date of birth.

CPS: Cases opened (new & re-contact) by legal care status and year



Graph Key: PJ= Parental joint; SC= Sole custody; CaO (R) = Care order (regular); CaO (T) = Care order (temporary); CoO = Court order; V (R)= Voluntary (Regular); EO= Emergency order; SO (R) = Supervision order (Regular); NPC= Normal parental custody.

Figure 24: Cases opened under a care order (regular) accounted for the third highest proportion of cases opened (3, 0.4%), after normal parental custody and parental joint custody.

Note: Legal care status is recorded in line with legal definitions¹ and based on information reported in the reporting year by the service user, case worker knowledge, or supported by documentation. Data relate to new and re-contact cases opened during the reporting period. Categories include special custody arrangements or normal parental custody.

¹ Laws of Malta, chapter 602, Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act

Court Services

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

Court: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

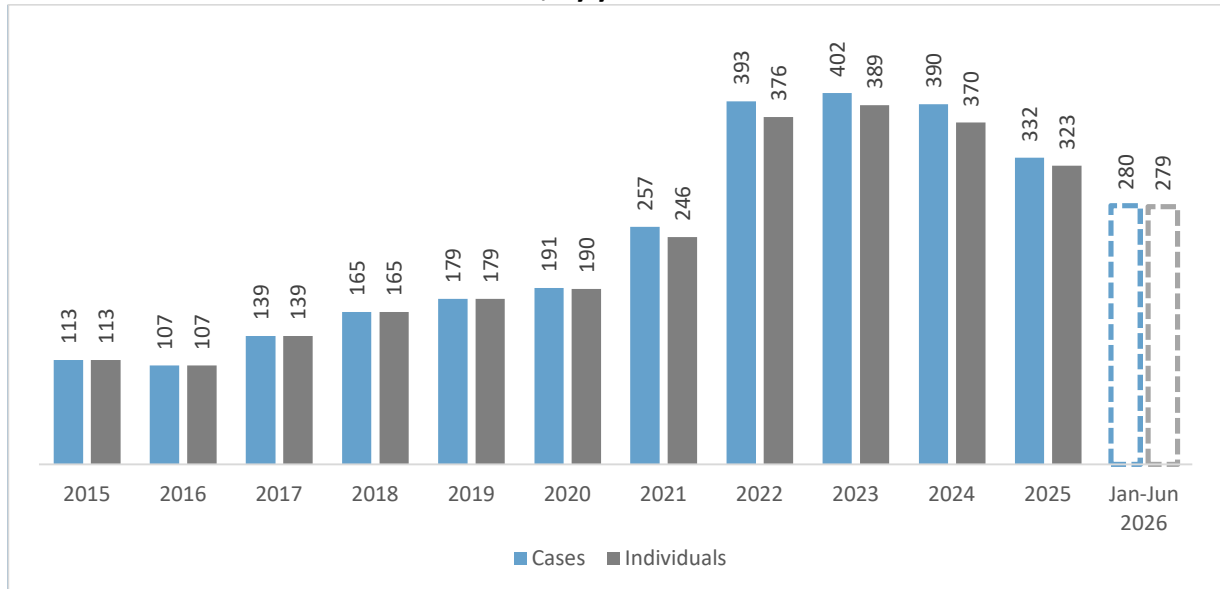


Figure 25: In Jan-Jun 2026, 280 cases and 279 individuals were worked with compared to 332 and 323 respectively in 2025.

Note: Individuals may have more than one case within a reporting period (see Glossary).

A total of **280** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

Court: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

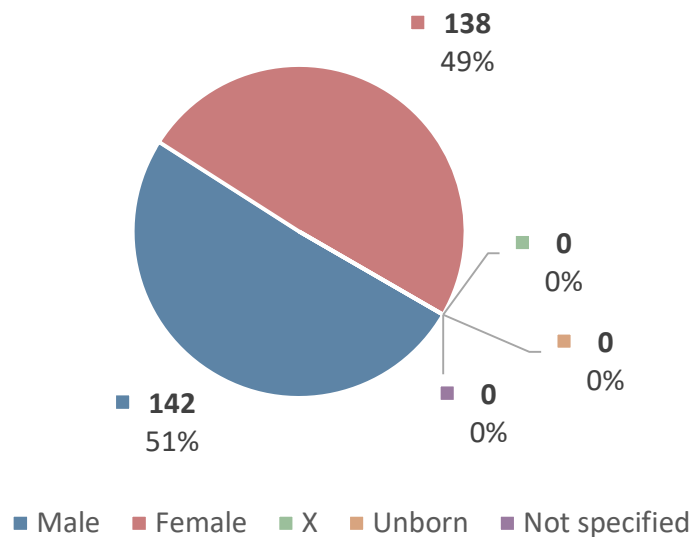


Figure 26: Male service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (51%).

Note: Gender is recorded at referral or first contact and may be updated over time, based on formal documentation and/or the individual's self-identified pronouns.

Court: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by age category

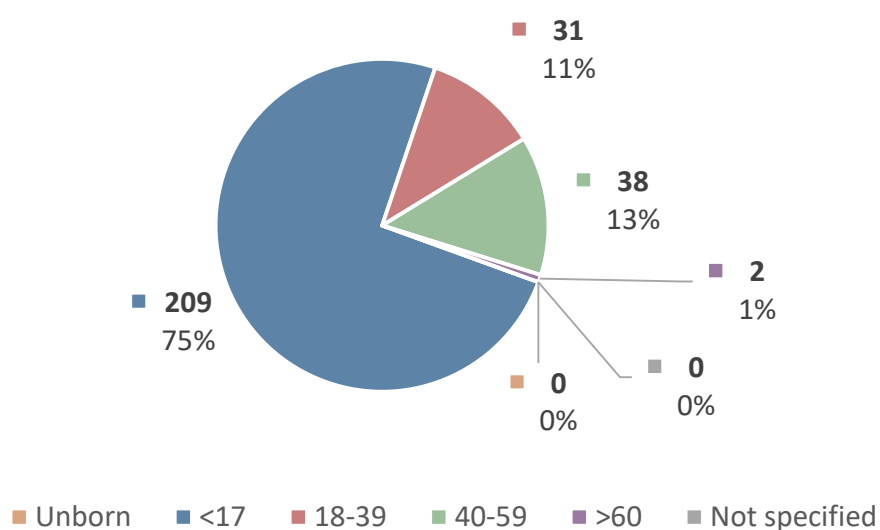


Figure 27: Service users aged 17 or younger accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (75%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

Court: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

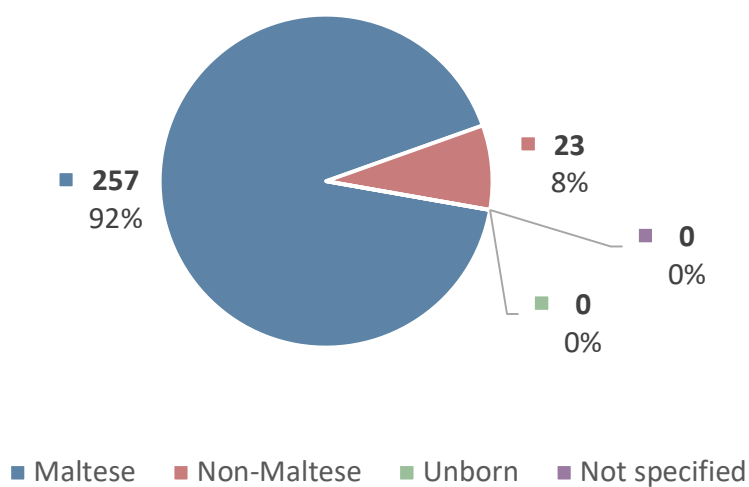
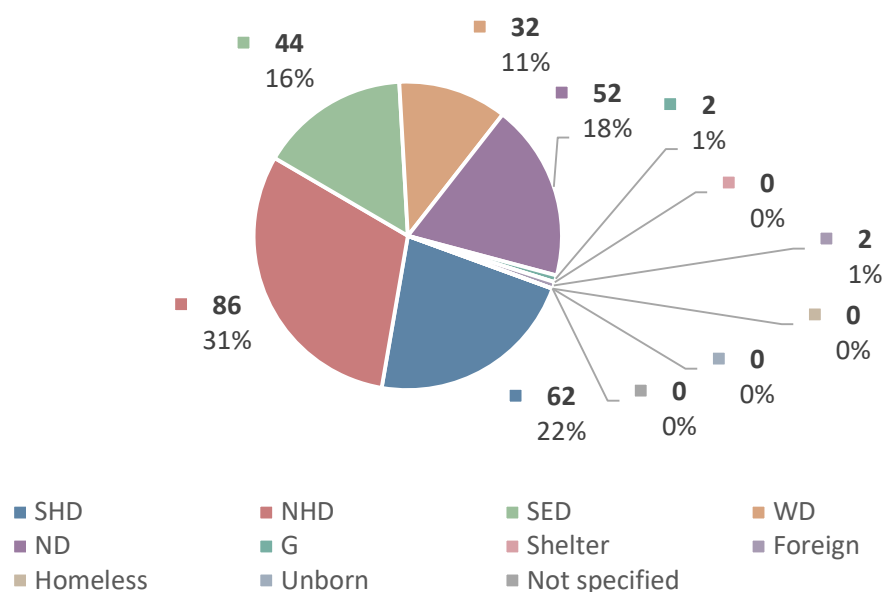


Figure 28: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (92%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 8%.

Note: Nationality reflects the self-reported or documented status (e.g. identity card) of the service user during the reporting period.

Court: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by district of residence



Graph Key: SHD = Southern Harbour District; NHD = Northern Harbour District; SED = Southeastern District; WD = Western District; ND = Northern District; G = Gozo District; Shelter = shelter/institution; Foreign = Foreign residence.

Figure 29: Northern Harbour District accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (31%).

Note: District is based on self-reported residence within the reporting year. Shelter/institution (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters), foreign residence, and homelessness are shown separately to avoid bias in district distribution.

Court: Cases worked with by case type (new, re-contact, known and intake), by year

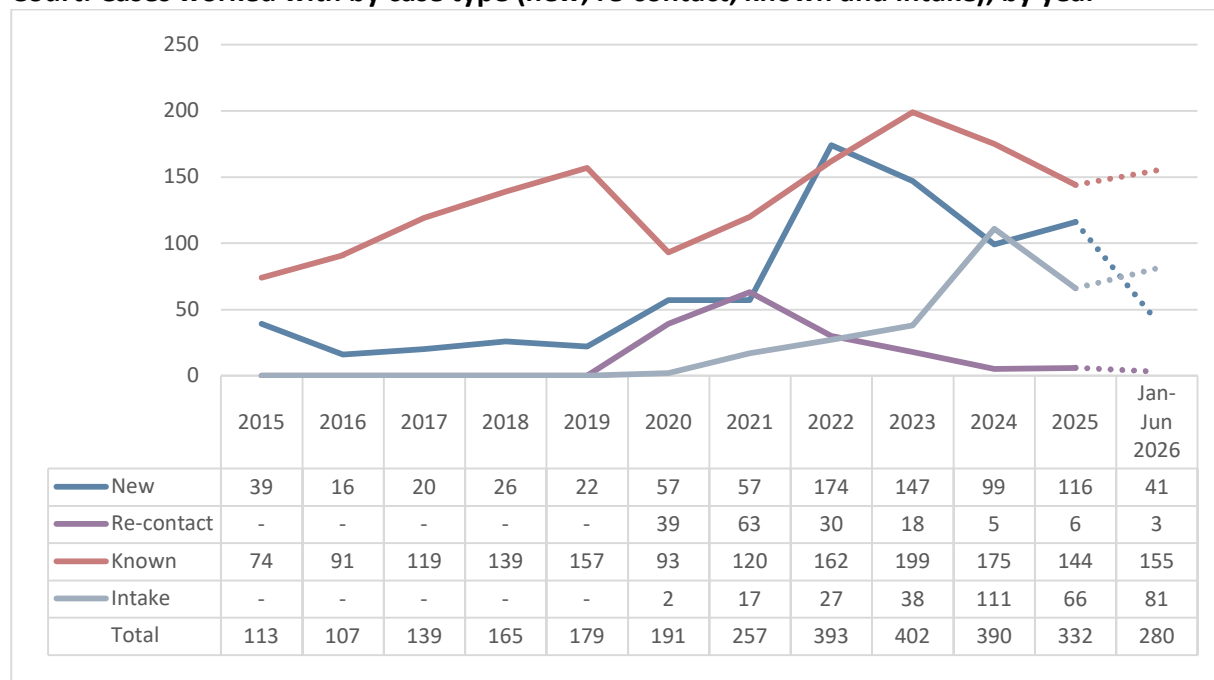


Figure 30: New cases accounted for 15% (41) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 1% (3).

Note: Cases worked with start the reporting period as a new, re-contact, known, or intake case (see Glossary). Intake has been reported since 2020 following the introduction of the online data collection system. Prior to 2022, the data could not differentiate between new or re-contact cases and all cases were registered as new.

Court: Cases worked with by case state at the end of the reporting period

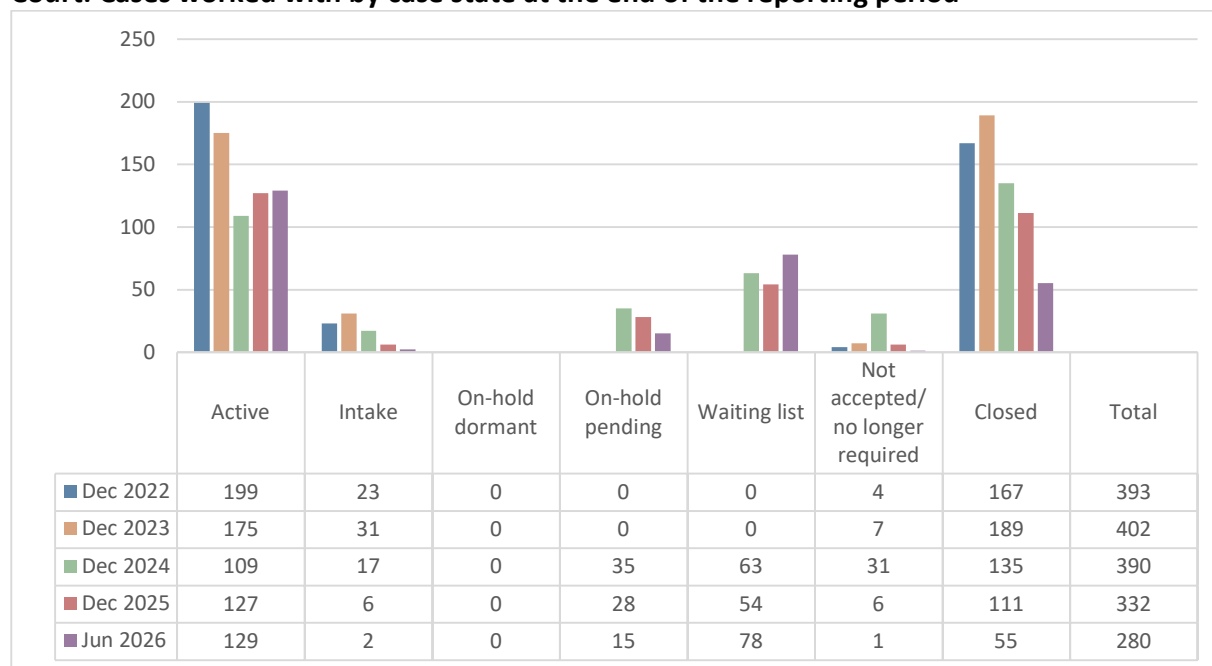


Figure 31: By the end of June 2026, 46% (129) of the cases worked with remained active, 20% (55) were closed and 1% (2) remained on intake.

Note: Cases may end the reporting period by being intake, active, on hold, on the waiting list, or closed (see Glossary).

Court: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

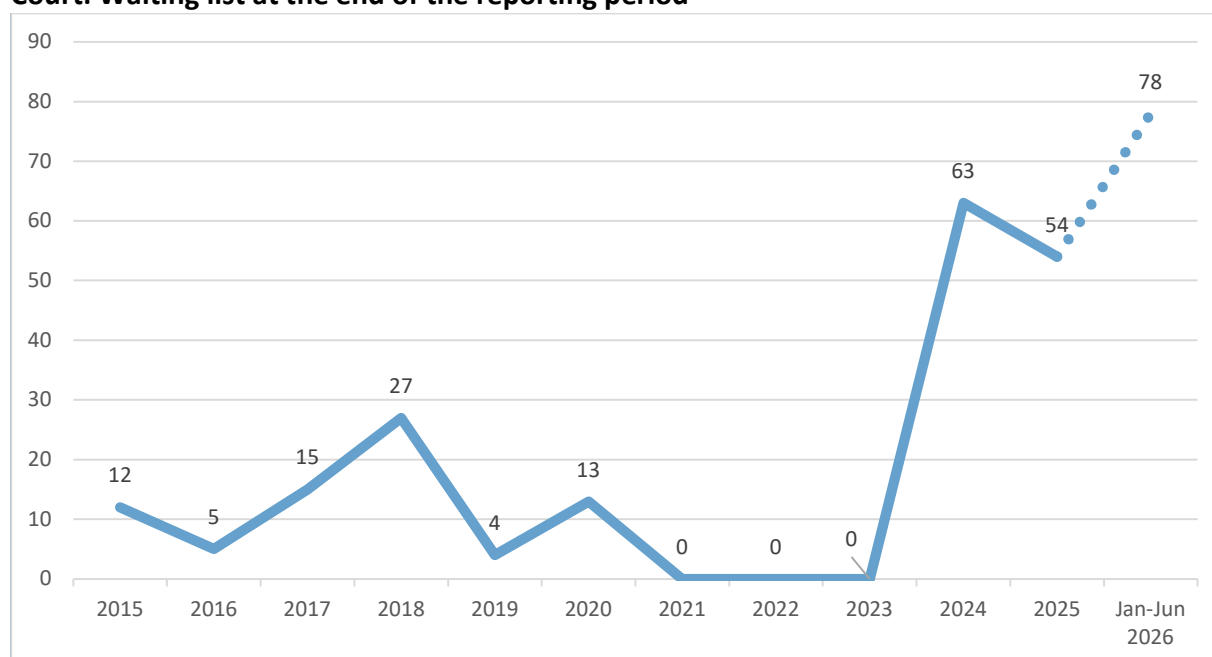


Figure 32: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 78 cases remained on the waiting list.

Note: Waiting list cases are assessed as low risk, have no immediate needs, or are awaiting the next available appointment or programme; they are monitored and supported at reduced intensity.

Court: Referrals, cases opened (new & re-contact), and cases closed, by year

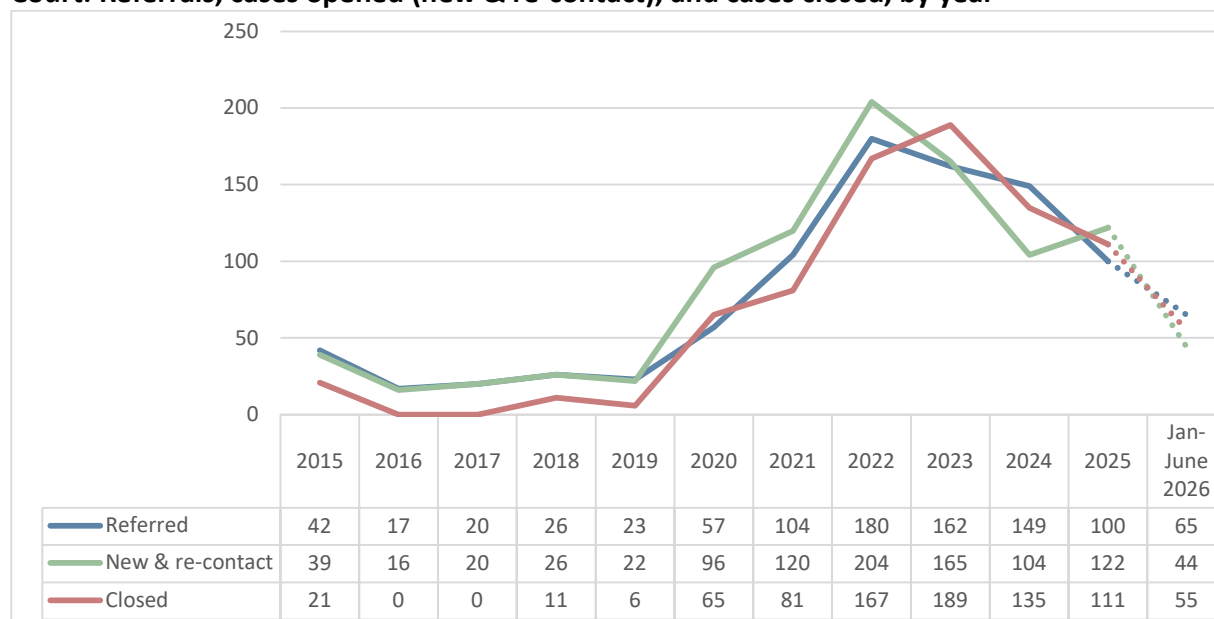


Figure 33: In Jan-Jun 2026, 65 cases were referred, 44 new & recontact cases opened, and 55 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 30 for breakdown).

A total of **44** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

Note: Further breakdowns regarding cases opened by demographics can be found in Appendix A.

Court: Cases opened (new & re-contact) by age category and gender						
January - June 2026						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
≤17	20	24	0	0	0	44
18-19	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-24	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-29	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-34	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-39	0	0	0	0	0	0
40-44	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-49	0	0	0	0	0	0
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
Total	20	24	0	0	0	44

Figure 34: All service users were aged 17 or younger (100%; 44).

Note: Gender is recorded at referral or first contact and may be updated over time, based on formal documentation and/or the individual's self-identified pronouns. Age is calculated based on date of birth.

Appendix A

To compare yearly trends, new and re-contact cases opened are used, as they exclude cases carried over from previous years and provide an indication of incidence

Number of cases opened (new & re-contact) by gender and year

Gender is recorded at referral or first contact and may be updated over time, based on formal documentation and/or the individual's self-identified pronouns.

Child Protection Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	643	655	597	706	413
Female	625	620	443	639	349
X	4	8	8	11	4
Unborn	4	5	0	3	5
Not specified	4	3	4	0	0
Total	1280	1291	1052	1359	771

Courts Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	101	80	47	63	20
Female	103	85	56	59	24
X	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	0	0	1	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	204	165	104	122	44

Child Protection Directorate	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	744	735	644	769	433
Female	728	705	499	698	373
X	4	8	8	11	4
Unborn	4	5	1	3	5
Not specified	4	3	4	0	0
Total	1484	1456	1156	1481	815

Number of cases opened (new & re-contact) by age category and year

Age is calculated based on date of birth.

Child Protection Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	4	5	0	3	5
<1	48	40	37	41	37
1-5	290	286	209	257	182
6-10	331	373	274	371	204
11-15	356	388	271	403	222
16-17	217	161	142	211	94
≥18	34	38	119	73	27
Age Not Specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1280	1291	1052	1359	771

Courts Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	1	0	0
<1	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	1	11	28	16
6-10	2	2	16	47	11
11-15	0	0	10	36	16
16-17	2	0	1	6	1
≥18	200	162	65	5	0
Age Not Specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	204	165	104	122	44

Child Protection Directorate	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	4	5	1	3	5
<1	48	40	37	41	37
1-5	290	287	220	285	198
6-10	333	375	290	418	215
11-15	356	388	281	439	238
16-17	219	161	143	217	95
≥18	234	200	184	78	27
Age Not Specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1484	1456	1156	1481	815

Number of cases opened (new & re-contact) by nationality and year

Nationality reflects the self-reported or documented status (e.g. identity card) of the service user during the reporting period.

Child Protection Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	5	0	3	5
Maltese	931	1067	751	1025	622
Non-Maltese	349	219	301	331	144
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1280	1291	1052	1359	771

Courts Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	1	0	0
Maltese	177	136	84	114	39
Non-Maltese	27	29	19	8	5
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	204	165	104	122	44

Child Protection Directorate	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	5	1	3	5
Maltese	1108	1203	835	1139	661
Non-Maltese	376	248	320	339	149
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1484	1456	1156	1481	815

Number of cases opened (new & re-contact) by district of residence and year

District is based on self-reported residence within the reporting year. Shelter/institution (e.g., residential homes, centre of residential restorative services, or shelters), foreign residence, and homelessness are shown separately to avoid bias in district distribution.

Child Protection Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	293	269	189	303	182
Southern Harbour District	267	293	219	254	171
Northern District	191	238	202	276	123
Southeastern District	277	228	191	230	140
Western District	125	122	71	126	84
Gozo district	67	51	56	76	39
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	6	22	88	51	21
Foreign residence	0	0	0	1	0
Homeless	0	1	3	2	0
Unborn	-	-	-	3	5
Not specified	54	67	33	37	6
Total	1280	1291	1052	1359	771

Courts Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	52	43	27	37	13
Southern Harbour District	42	37	14	29	11
Northern District	27	28	27	21	5
Southeastern District	41	29	11	23	10
Western District	31	16	12	10	2
Gozo district	5	1	2	2	1
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	0	1	0	0	0
Foreign residence	0	0	0	0	2
Homeless	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	6	10	11	0	0
Total	204	165	104	122	44

Child Protection Directorate	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	345	312	216	340	195
Southern Harbour District	309	330	233	283	182
Northern District	218	266	229	297	128
Southeastern District	318	257	202	253	150
Western District	156	138	83	136	86
Gozo district	72	52	58	78	40
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	6	23	88	51	21
Foreign residence	0	0	0	1	2
Homeless	0	1	3	2	0
Unborn	-	-	-	3	5
Not specified	60	77	44	37	6
Total	1484	1456	1156	1481	815

Appendix B

Service descriptions

Service	Description
Child Protection Service (CPS)	Provides support in cases of child abuse and neglect and intervenes where a child is experiencing, or is at risk of, significant harm.
Court Service	Focuses mostly on presenting social work court reports as requested by the Courts of Malta.

Glossary of terms

Variable	Definition
Cases worked with	Total number of service user cases that were new, re-contact, or known during the reporting period, including cases remaining on intake at period end. This does not represent the number of individuals, as one individual may have multiple cases in the same reporting period. For example, 1 individual may have re-contacted a service 3 times in the same year and this would mean 3 cases worked with in the same year.
Individuals worked with	Number of unique service users with at least one case worked with during the reporting period. Cases re-opened or re-referred for the same individual in the same reporting period are excluded. 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.
Case type	Classification of cases worked with based on how the case starts the reporting period, including new, re-contact, known, or intake case.
New case	A case opened for the first time during the reporting period with no prior history with the service.
Re-contact case	A previously worked with case that is reopened during the reporting period. This also applies if it is re-opened after a new case was closed in the current reporting year.
Known case	A case that was opened in a previous reporting period and remains active during the current reporting period. This is also referred to as cases carried over from previous years.
Intake case	Cases referred to a service are initially placed on intake, where information is gathered to address immediate needs and determine next steps (e.g. assignment to a professional, placement on the waiting list, opening, or closure). A case is classified as intake if it remains at this stage at the end of the reporting period.
Waiting list	Cases moved from intake to waiting list where it is determined that the service user would benefit from the service, but it cannot be provided immediately. This may be due to capacity constraints, further assessment, or awaiting additional information from the service user. Cases on the waiting list continue to be monitored and receive support at reduced intensity.
Referred case	A case reported to the service by an external party or the service user themselves. A case may be referred for support 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.
Cases opened (new & re-contact case)	Cases that have been formally opened and allocated, including both new and re-contact cases.
Closed case	A case that has been formally terminated during the reporting period.
Case state	State of a case at the end of the reporting period (e.g. active, intake, on-hold, waiting list, not accepted/no longer required or closed). For example, a case may

	start the reporting period as a known active case but by the end of the reporting period, the case is closed so the case state is now reported as closed.
Active state	A case that is open and remains active at the end of the reporting period.
Closed state	A case that is open but has been closed by the end of the reporting period.
Intake state	A case that remains at the intake stage at the end of the reporting period.
On-hold state	An open case that remains on hold at the end of the reporting period. An on-hold case is an open case that is temporarily paused by either being pending or in a dormant state: - Pending: where activity is temporarily paused pending input or action from another service - Dormant: cases that must remain open but require little or no active intervention. This generally occurs when a case is awaiting uptake by another service.
Waiting list state	A case that was on the waiting list in the year and still on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period.
Not accepted/no longer required state	A case that was on intake or the waiting list during the reporting period but was closed by the end of the reporting period. Such cases are typically closed following assessment which indicated that the service is not appropriate, the alleged issues were not confirmed, or the service user no longer requires or declines the service.
Intervention	An action undertaken with or on behalf of a service user, including activities such as assessments, psychotherapy, and case conferences, aimed at supporting and empowering the service user.
Global/family cases	A grouping of one or more service user cases worked with under a single global case, particularly when work is carried out with families. A global/family case may consist of a single service user case or multiple service user cases identified as part of the same family. - 1 service user case: One individual who attends in the year on their own without any other family member, or - 2 or more service users' cases: Several individuals identified as part of the same family attending in the year.
Gender	Recorded at referral or first contact and may be updated over time based on formal documentation and/or the individual's self-identified pronouns.
Age	Calculated based on the service user's date of birth.
Nationality	Based on self-reported or official documentation (e.g. identity card) of the service user during the reporting period.
District of residence	Based on reported residence. Non-standard categories (e.g. shelter, foreign residence, homelessness) are recorded separately.
Ghost cases	Cases recorded as active or at intake but are actually inactive with no contact or recorded activity for a set period of time and therefore are not actively worked with. These cases may remain open in the system and can lead to an overestimation of service activity until identified and closed administratively as per individuals service policy.
Primary problem	Service users may present a complex range of issues, but the main issue is recorded, as identified by the service user or the professional.
Not specified	A variable that cannot be specified since the information is not available or the service user was unwilling to provide the information.
Other	Treatment, issue or location not elsewhere specified.

Types of abuse/presenting concern

Variable	Definition
At Risk	Situations where there is risk of any form of abuse. This is most commonly found in re-contact situations where the family is monitored so that abuse does not re-occur. This may be recorded alongside another type of abuse where there is both an indicated abuse and a risk of further abuse.

Emotional Abuse	Behaviour that causes psychological harm, including insults, put-downs, injuring or harming the victim's pets, harming the victim's objects, ignoring the victim, refraining from communicating with the victim, verbal threats, humiliation, etc.
Physical Abuse	Any form of unwanted physical harm, such as pushing, punching, burns and bruises, fractures, throwing of objects, stabbing, use of weapons, etc.
Neglect	Failure to meet basic needs, including financial neglect, neglecting to feed the person, neglecting basic hygiene requirements etc.
Sexual abuse	Any form of unwanted sexual activity, ranging from forcing the individual to watch pornography to rape. Includes actions such as, forcing the victim to participate in sexual activities against their will, forcing them to watch the perpetrator engage in sexual activity with another person, etc.
Cybercrime	Abuse or criminal activity carried out through digital or online platforms.
Parental alienation	A situation where a child's relationship with a parent (or a parent's extended family) or grandparent is negatively influenced or disrupted by the actions of another parent. Includes actions such as manipulation or conveying of exaggerated or false information by the other parent. The situation most often arises during a divorce or custody battles, but it can happen in intact families as well.
Unaccompanied minor	This is a child traveling (often migrating illegally) without the presence of a legal guardian.

Maltese districts

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

Report designed by Christine Marchand-Agius

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