



Directorate Alternative Care

Interim Half-Yearly Statistical Report

Report period: Jan-Jun 2026

August 2026



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Introduction

This report presents statistical information regarding the Directorate Alternative Care (DAC), 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.

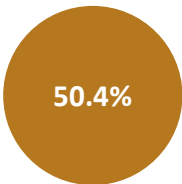
Executive summary

Cases worked with in Jan-Jun 2026:

2,591

Out of the 2,591 cases worked with between Jan-Jun 2026:

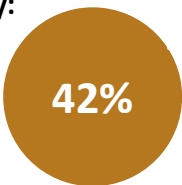
Gender:



Female



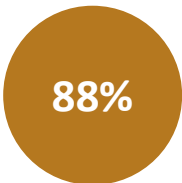
Age category:



17 years or younger



Nationality:



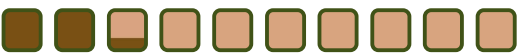
Maltese



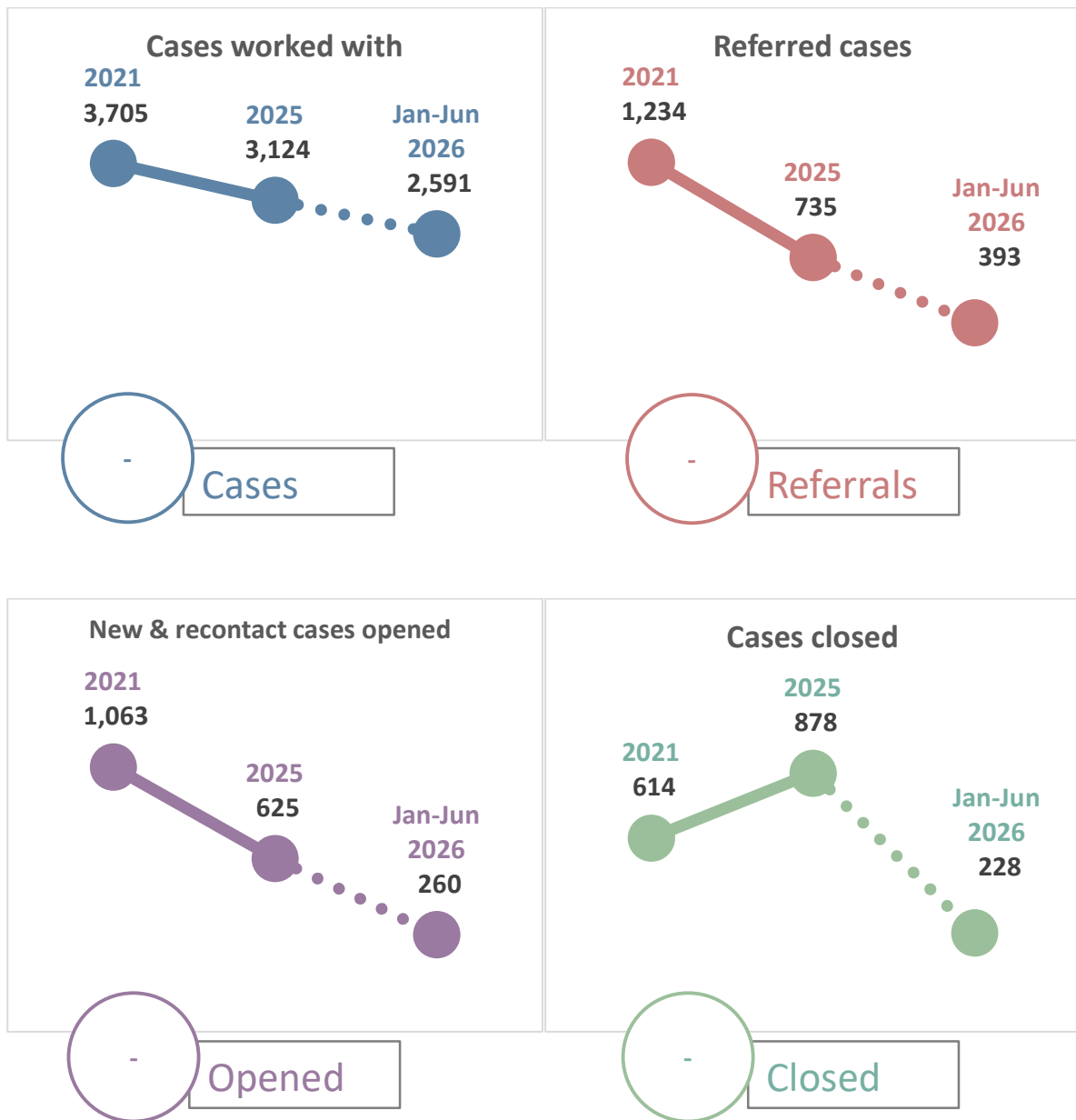
District:



Northern Harbour



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. Various services were added to the portfolio along the years and information on when services included can be found under the Service section. These changes should be considered when interpreting trends over time.

DAC: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

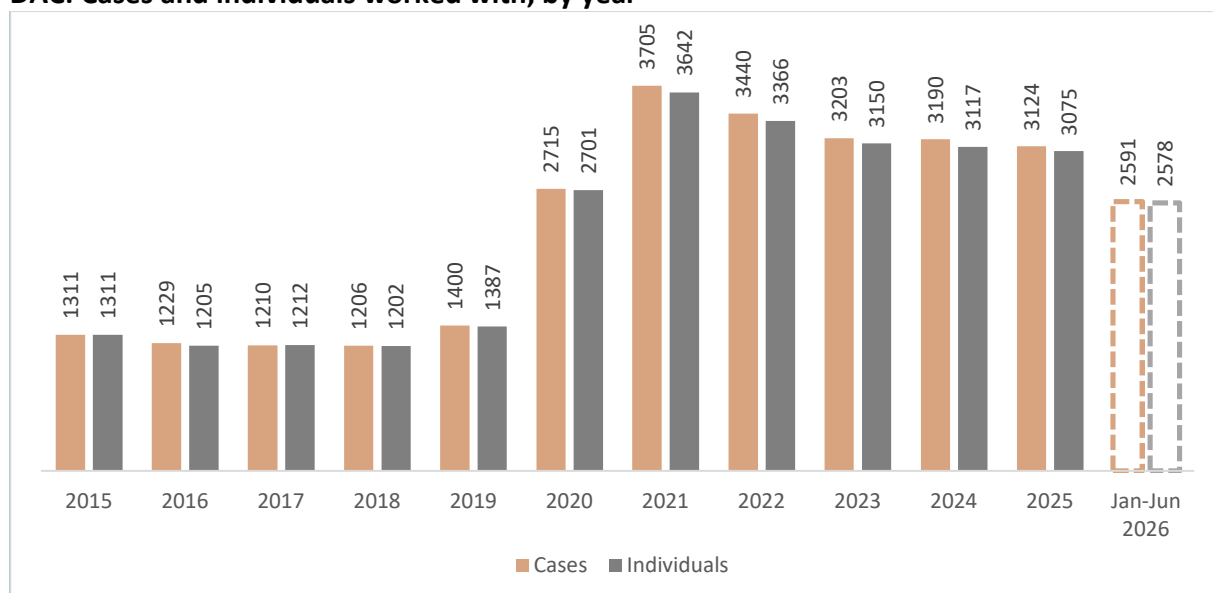


Figure 1: In Jan-Jun 2026, 2591 cases and 2578 individuals were worked with compared to 3124 and 3075 respectively in 2025.

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

Case activity, Jan-Jun 2026

	Total cases worked with	Individuals worked with	Waiting list end of Jun 2026
Looked After Children Service	407	405	6
Aftercare Service	205	204	0
Fostering Service	460	460	0
Adoption Service	452	452	16
Community Homes Service	152	152	75
Homestart - Malta	36	36	4
Youth In Focus Service	236	236	33
Embark for Life	112	112	22
Youth Empowerment Initiatives	140	137	7
Supervised Access Visits	391	384	0
Total	2591	2578	163

Service	Additional information
Looked After Children Healthcare Service	368 visits carried out with 286 children.
Additional DAC Services	32 cases worked with in the re-integration services; 49 children benefited from the Children's Fund; 0 children benefited from the Children Dreams (<i>it is only provided in the latter half of the year</i>); within the Senior Consultation Boards, 54 board sitting cases were heard concerning 42 individuals and the Socio-legal office also represented the Directorate for on 102 court cases spread over 155 court hearings.
Alternative Care Placement Records	457 children and youth cases were monitored, and 446 children and youth were allocated within 454 placements.

Figure 2: Case activity is concentrated within Fostering services, which accounts for the majority of both cases and individuals worked with during the reporting period.

A total of **2,591** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

DAC: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

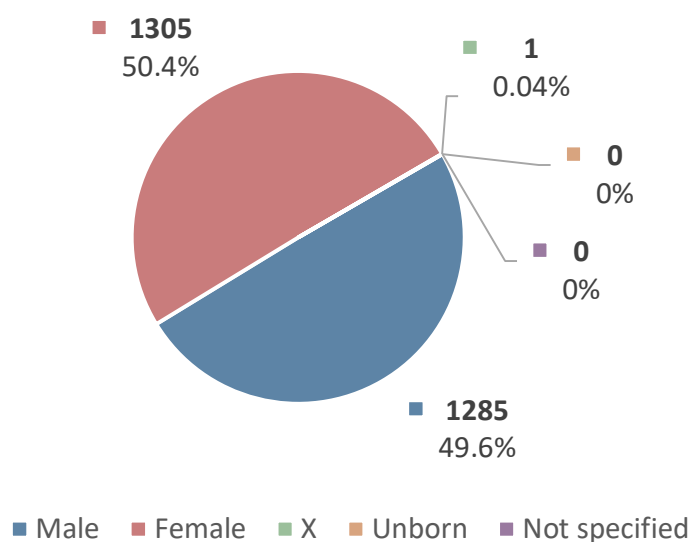


Figure 3: Female service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (50.4%).

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.

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

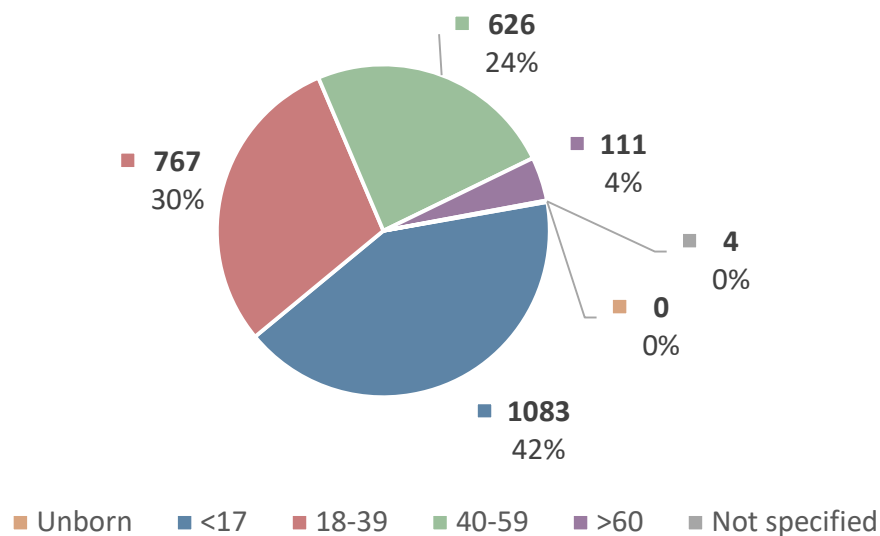


Figure 4: Service users aged 17 or younger accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (42%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

DAC: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

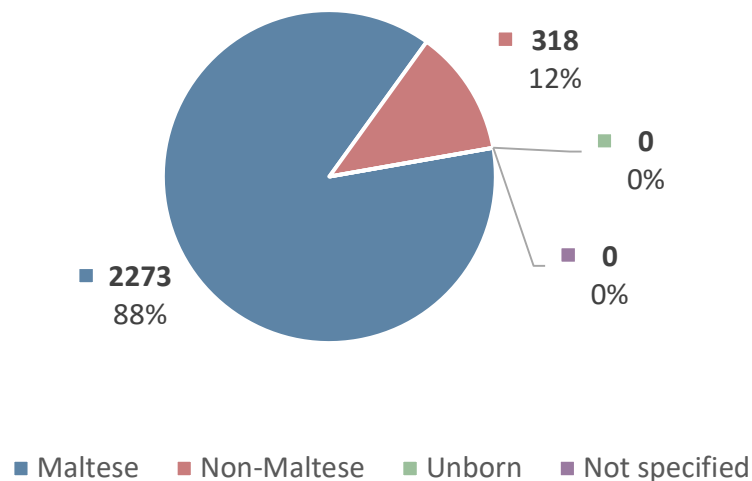
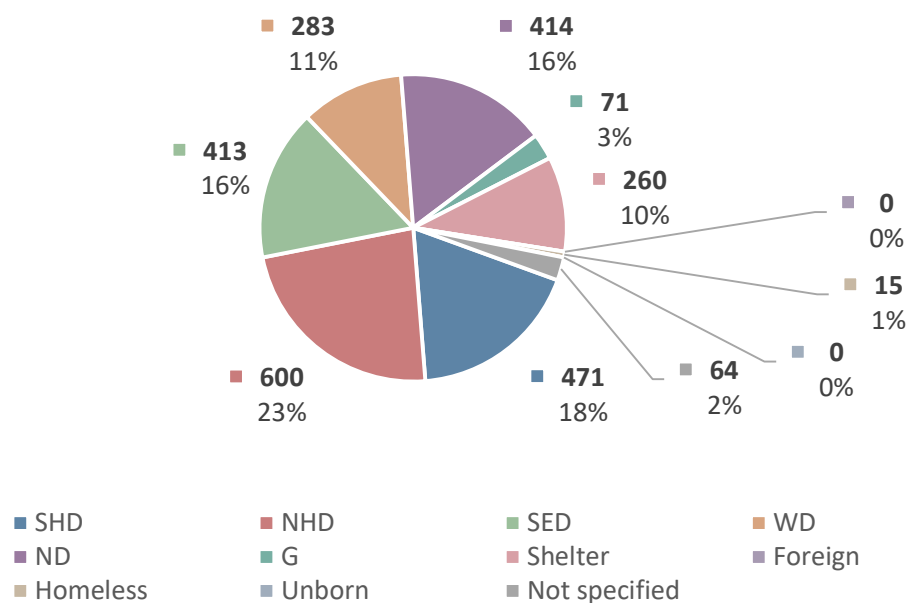


Figure 5: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (88%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 12%.

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

DAC: 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 accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (23%).

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.

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

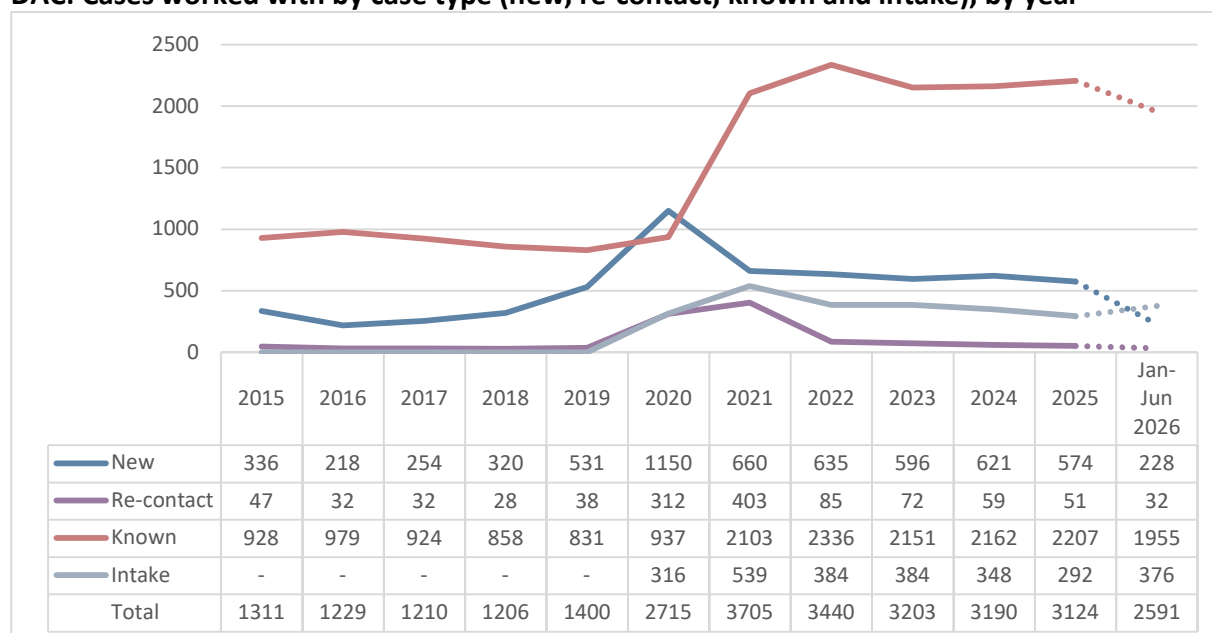


Figure 7: New cases accounted for 9% (228) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 1% (32).

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. With the introduction of the online data collection system, all known cases were re-entered into the system in 2020 and automatically recorded as new.

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

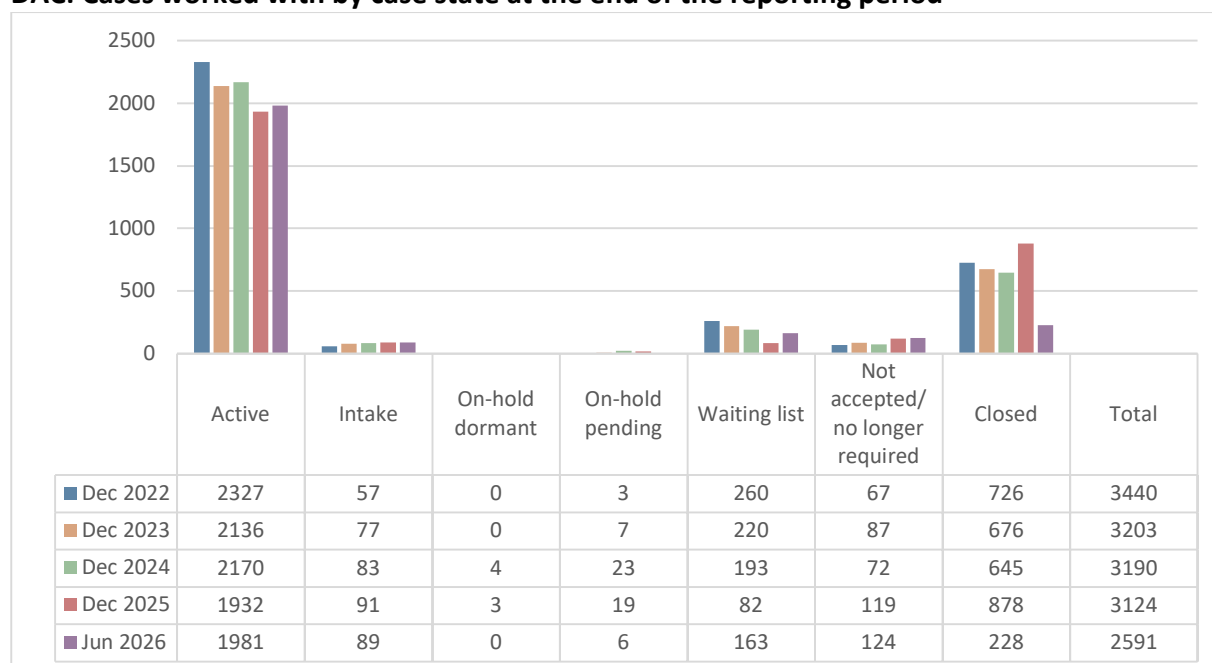


Figure 8: By the end of June 2026, 76% (1981) of the cases worked with remained active, 9% (228) were closed and 3% (89) remained on intake.

Note: Cases may end the reporting period by being intake, active, on hold, on the waiting list, or closed (see Glossary). The waiting list in the figure is only reported for cases worked with registered on the online data collection system. The waiting list in the subsequent figure is the full waiting list (sum) of all DAC services.

DAC: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

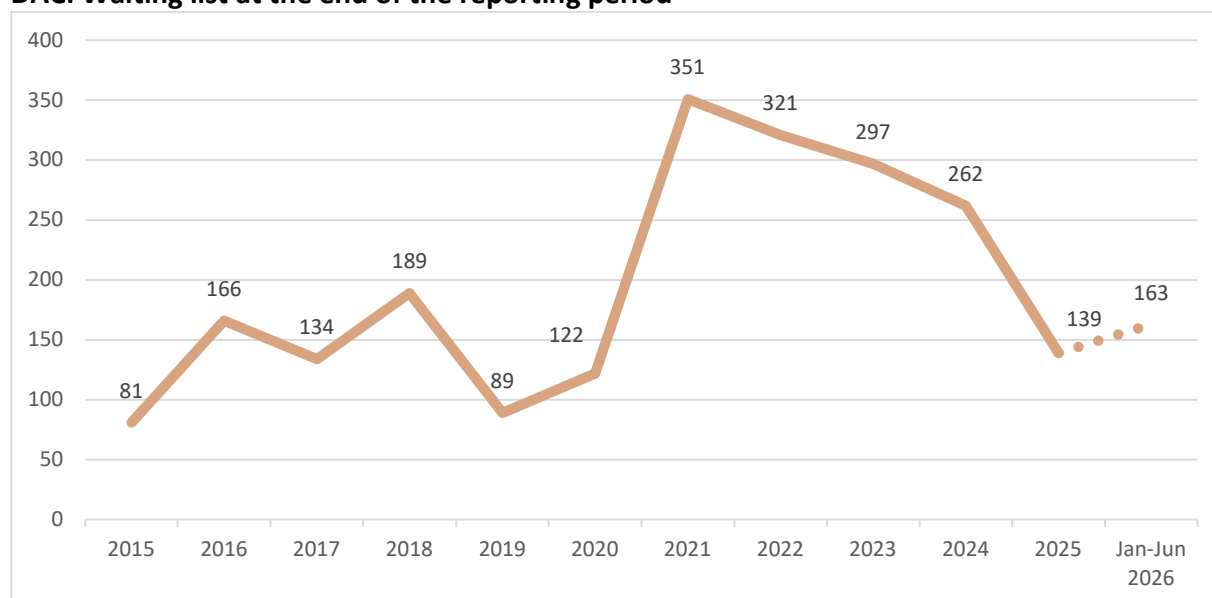


Figure 9: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 163 cases remained on the waiting list.

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. On a Directorate level, the waiting list is a sum of the respective service's waiting list.

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

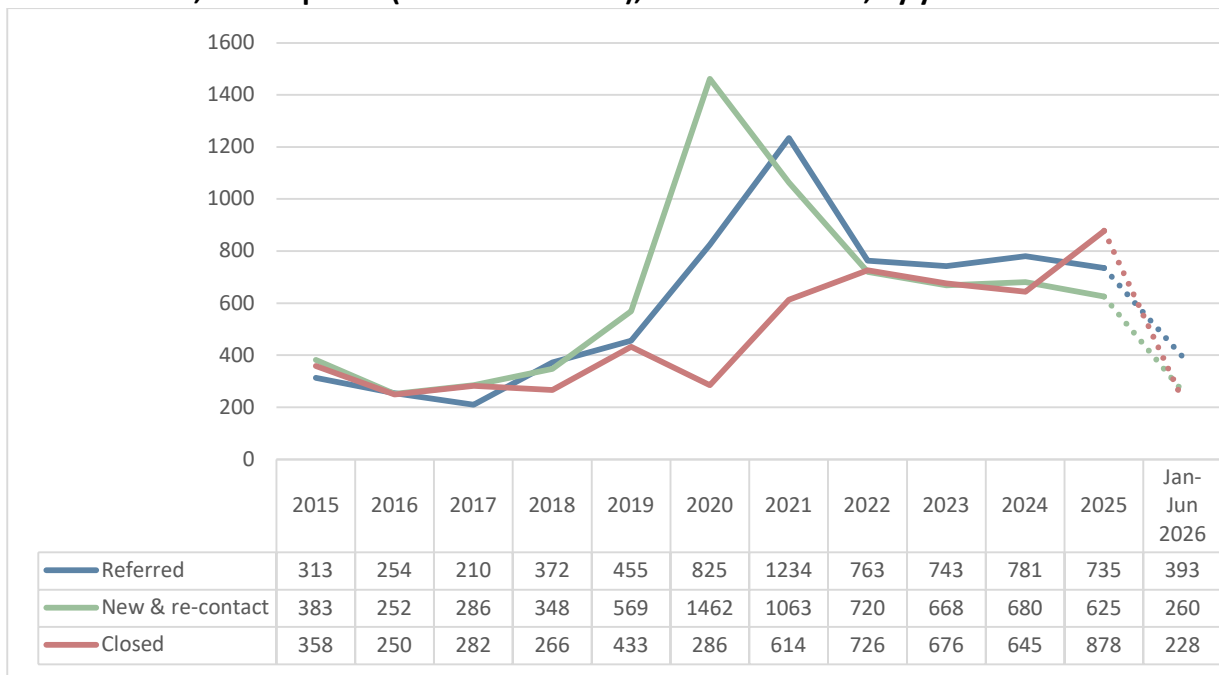


Figure 10: In Jan-Jun 2026, 393 cases were referred, 260 new & recontact cases opened, and 228 cases closed.

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 **260** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

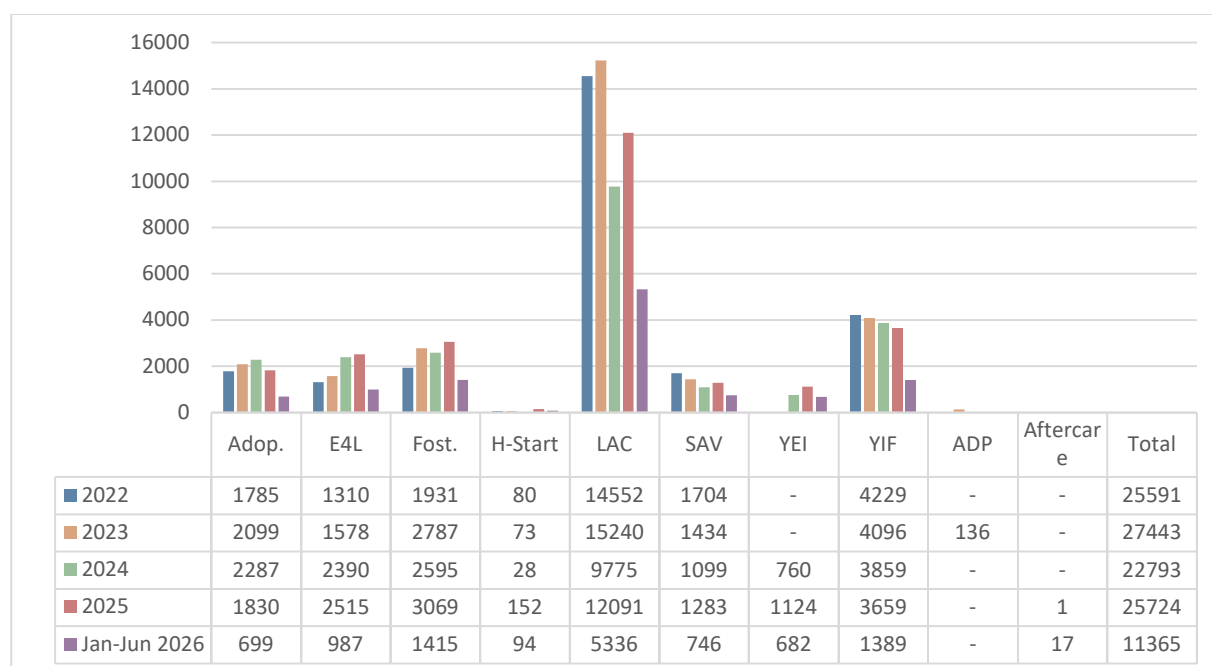
Note: Further breakdowns regarding cases opened by demographics can be found in Appendix A.

DAC: 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
<1	1	2	0	0	0	3
1-5	7	0	0	0	0	7
6-10	2	4	0	0	0	6
11-15	24	20	0	0	0	44
16-17	23	14	0	0	0	37
18-19	15	9	0	0	0	24
20-24	17	13	0	0	0	30
25-29	5	4	0	0	0	9
30-34	12	11	0	0	0	23
35-39	12	18	0	0	0	30
40-44	6	12	0	0	0	18
45-49	6	8	0	0	0	14
50-54	4	3	0	0	0	7
55-59	3	0	0	0	0	3
≥60	2	1	0	0	0	3
Not specified	1	1	0	0	0	2
Total	140	120	0	0	0	260

Figure 11: Service users aged 11 to 15 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (17%; 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.

DAC: Interventions conducted by service and year



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

Figure 12: A total of 11365 interventions were recorded during the reporting period, with most delivered by Looked After Children Service (47%).

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. The Aftercare service conducts interventions in a group setting.

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

Looked After Children Service (LAC)

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

LAC: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

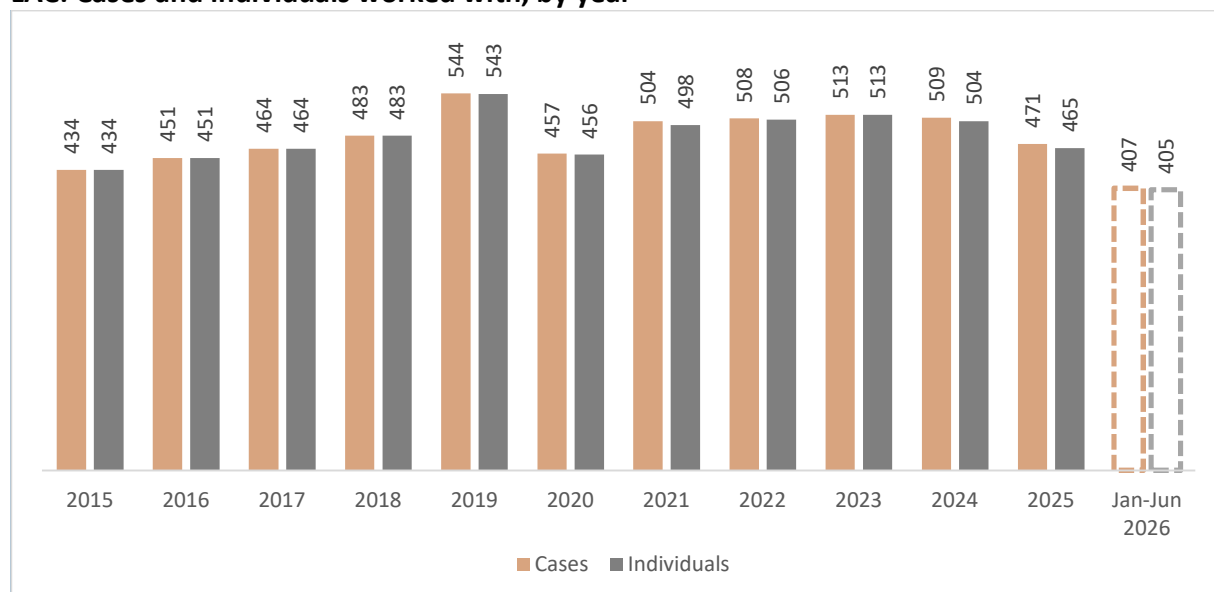


Figure 13: In Jan-Jun 2026, 407 cases and 405 individuals were worked with compared to 471 and 465 respectively in 2025.

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

A total of **407** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

LAC: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

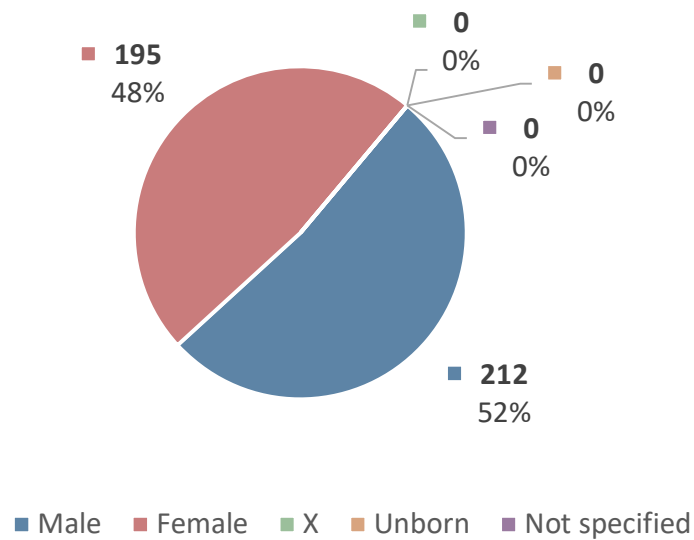


Figure 14: Male service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (52%).

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.

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

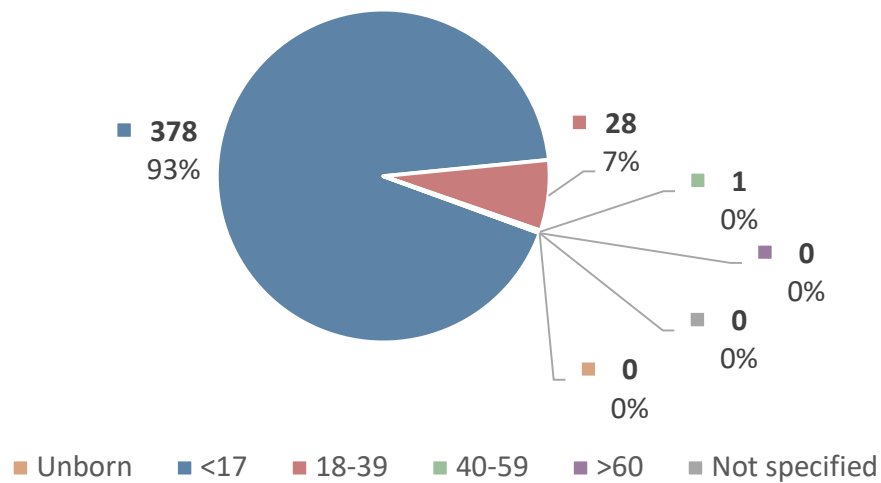


Figure 15: Service users aged 17 or younger accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (93%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

LAC: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

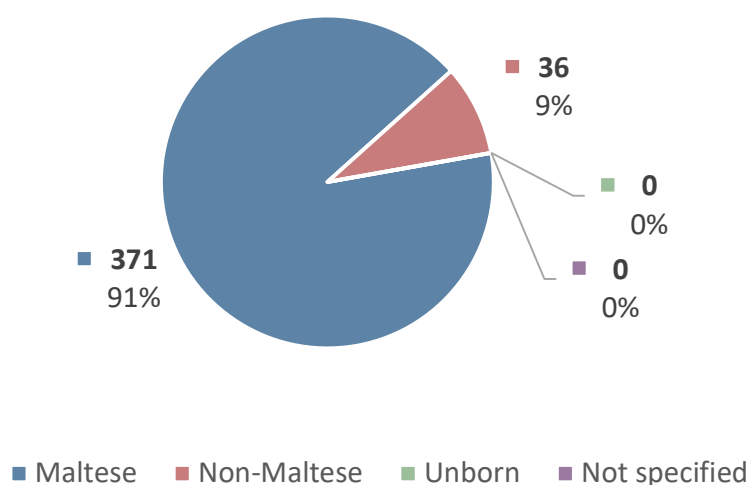
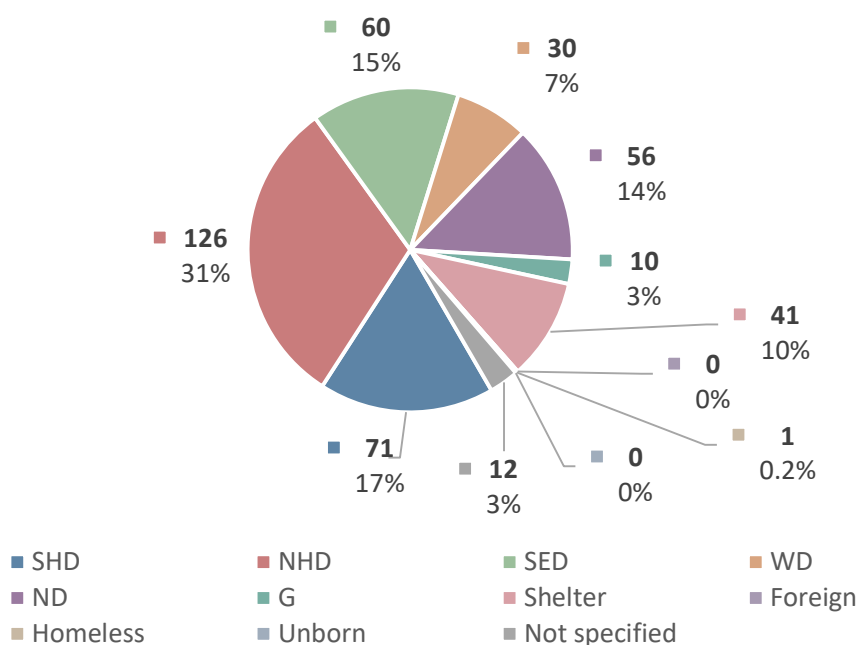


Figure 16: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (91%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 9%.

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

LAC: 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: 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.

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

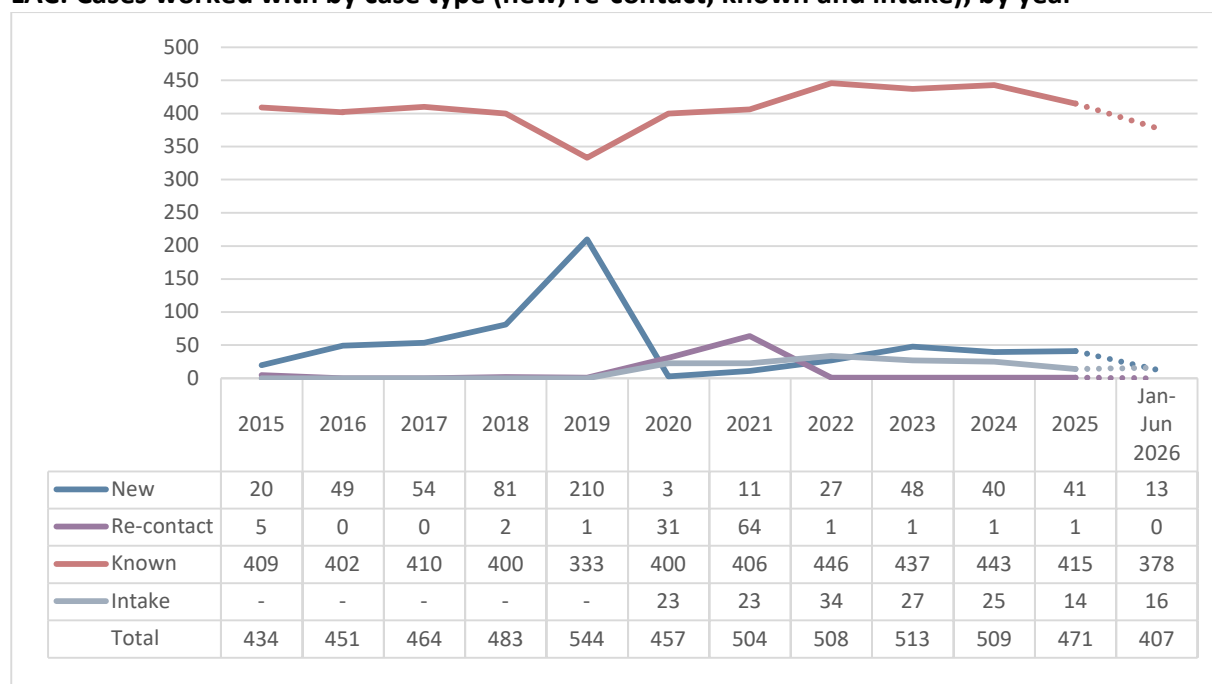


Figure 18: New cases accounted for 3% (13) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 0% (0).

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.

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

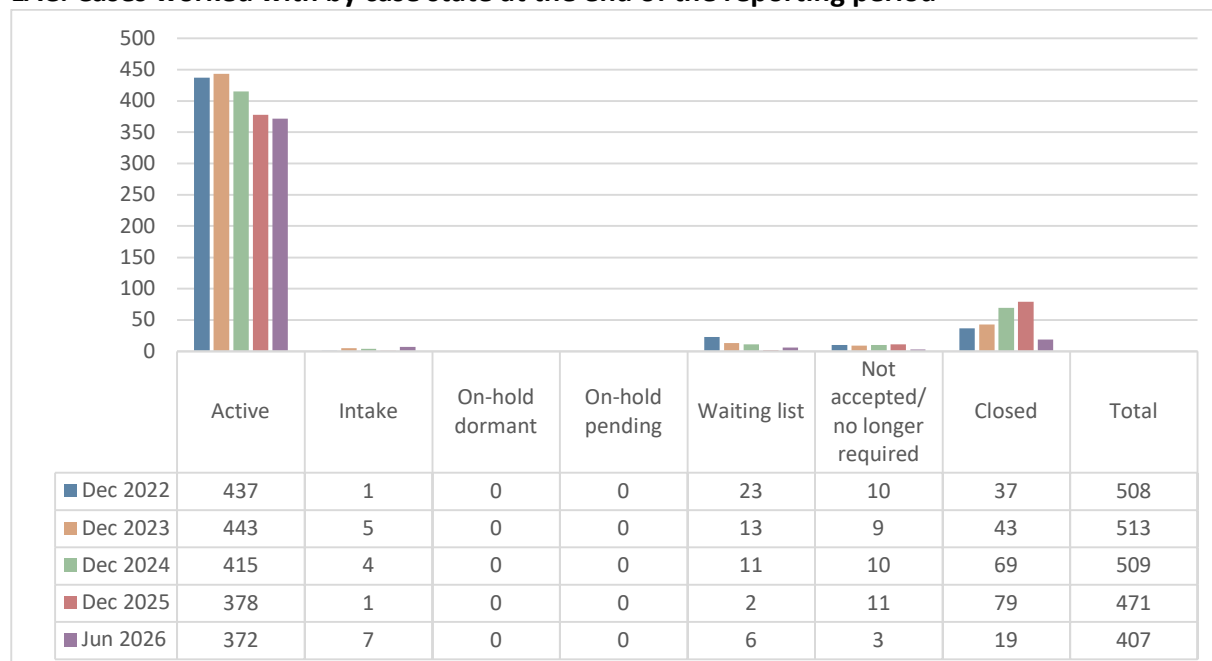


Figure 19: By the end of June 2026, 91% (372) of the cases worked with remained active, 5% (19) were closed and 2% (7) remained on intake.

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

LAC: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

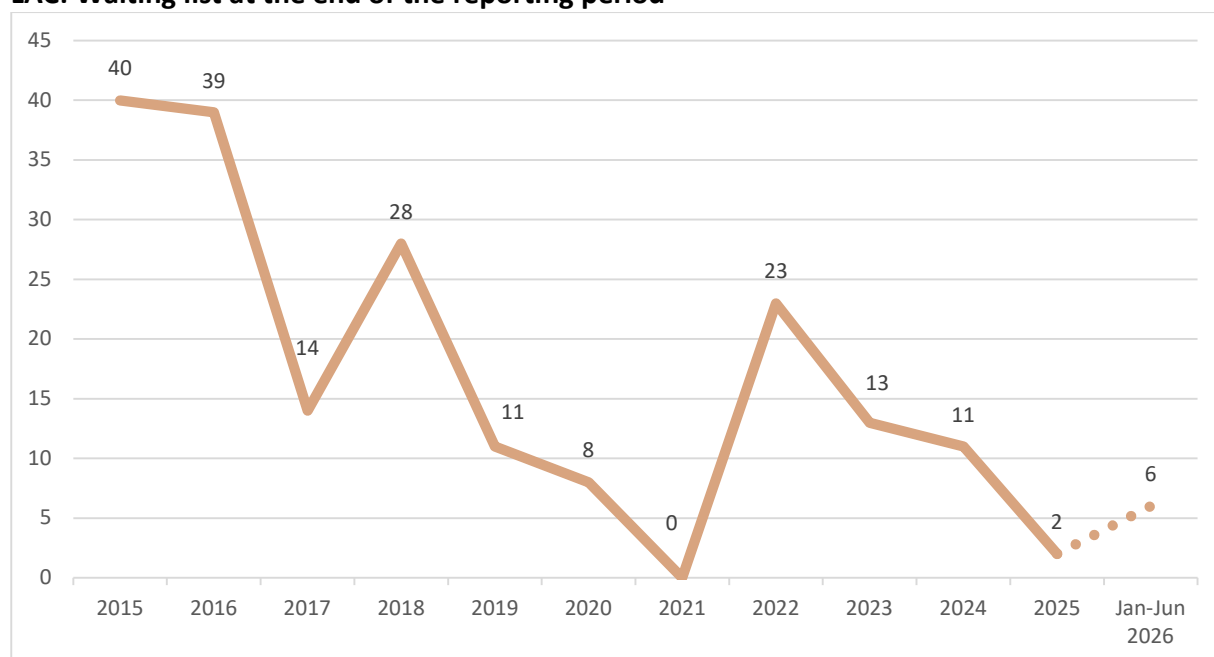


Figure 20: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 6 cases remained on the waiting list.

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.

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

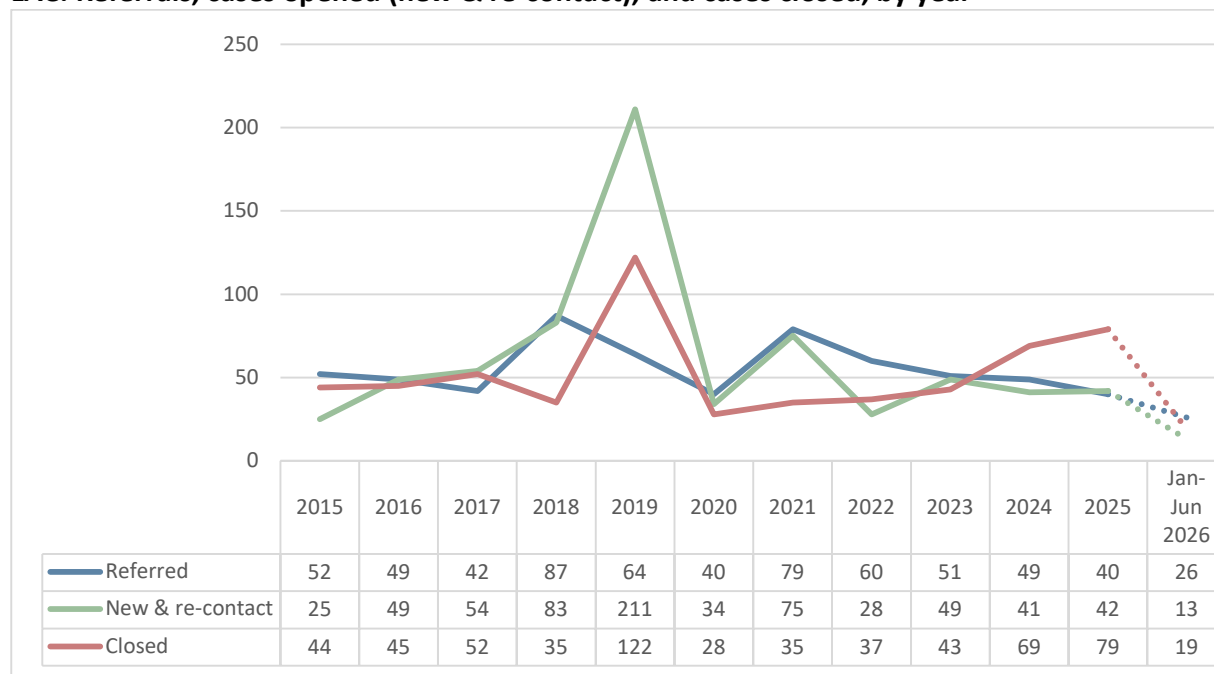


Figure 21: In Jan-Jun 2026, 26 cases were referred, 13 new & recontact cases opened, and 19 cases closed.

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).

A total of **13** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

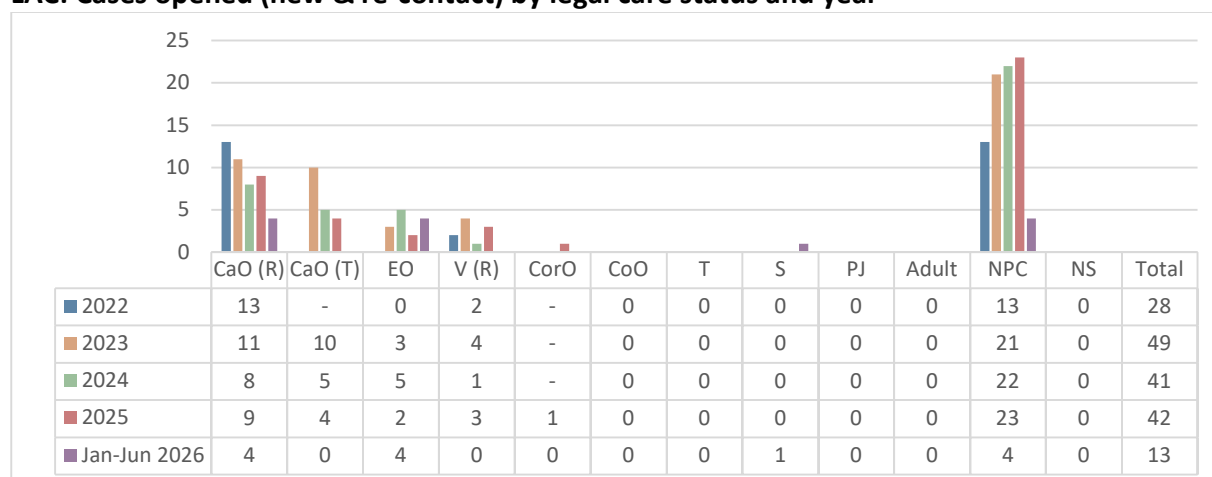
Note: Further breakdowns regarding cases opened by demographics can be found in Appendix A.

LAC: 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
<1	0	2	0	0	0	2
1-5	3	0	0	0	0	3
6-10	0	3	0	0	0	3
11-15	0	3	0	0	0	3
16-17	2	0	0	0	0	2
≥18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	8	0	0	0	13

Figure 22: Service users aged 1 to 5, 6 to 10 and 11 to 15 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (23%; 3 each).

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.

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



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

Figure 23: Service users with care order (regular), Emergency order and normal parental custody each accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (31%; 4 each).

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

Looked After Children Healthcare Service (LACHS)

Service was established in 2021 and data have been available for inclusion since 2022.

Between January to June 2026, 286 children or youths attended 368 healthcare visits.

LACHS: Number of visits carried out by age category of children and youth and by type of assessment January - June 2026							
	Less than 1 year	1 - 5 years	6 - 10 years	11 - 15 years	16 - 17 years	18+ years	Total
Initial health assessment (IHA)- new case	7	2	6	5	3	0	23
Review health assessments (RHA)	16	52	46	70	35	4	223
Ad hoc review	1	12	16	14	7	3	53
Initial health assessment-catch-up	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Educational talk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Telephone follow-up assessment	0	0	12	30	10	0	52
Meeting with biological parents	3	6	1	2	0	0	12
Meeting with foster parents	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Total	27	75	81	122	56	7	368

Figure 24: In Jan-Jun 2026, the highest number of visits consisted of review health assessment (RHA) provided to children aged 11 to 15 years (70).

Note: Children/youths within this service are provided with a range of visits, including initial health assessments, review health assessments, ad hoc reviews (e.g. when unwell), educational talks, and telephone follow-up assessments. The figure presents a breakdown of visit types by age group. Please note that each child may have been seen more than once during the reporting period. Initial health assessment catch-ups are provided only to minors who were already in care when the service commenced and required an initial assessment. Educational talks are delivered upon request from residential homes or social workers; however, sessions delivered to adults are excluded from this figure.

LACHS: Number of children and youth assessed by age category and gender January - June 2026						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Less than 1 years	5	6	0	-	0	11
1 - 5 years	32	19	0	-	0	51
6 - 10 years	40	25	0	-	0	65
11 - 15 years	50	55	0	-	0	105
16 - 17 years	21	26	0	-	0	47
18+ years	5	2	0	-	0	7
Total	153	133	0	-	0	286

Figure 25: Children aged 11 to 15 years (105 children assessed) accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with.

The table above provides the ages and gender of the children that attended visits in the reporting year.

LACHS: Number of children and youth assessed by gender and year

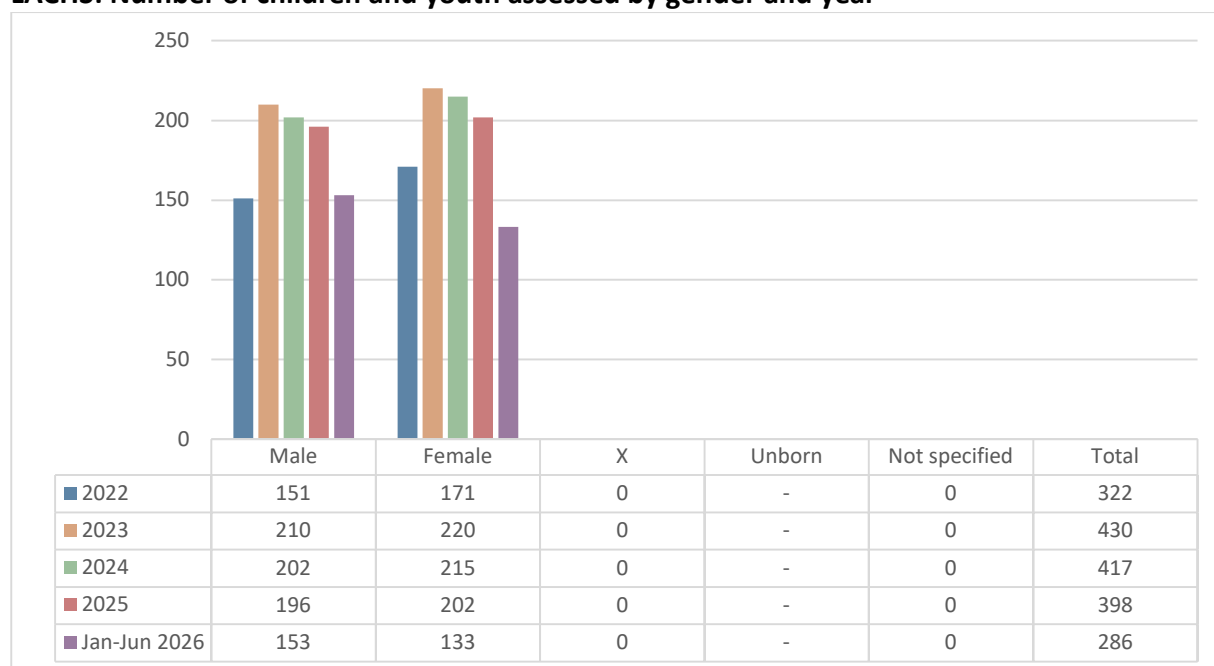


Figure 26: In Jan-Jun 2026, the majority of children and youth provided with healthcare visits were male (153).

Note: Gender is recorded at referral and may be updated over time, based on formal documentation and/or the individual's self-identified pronouns. Please note that each child may have been visited more than once within the reporting period.

LACHS: Number of visits by age category of children and youth, by year

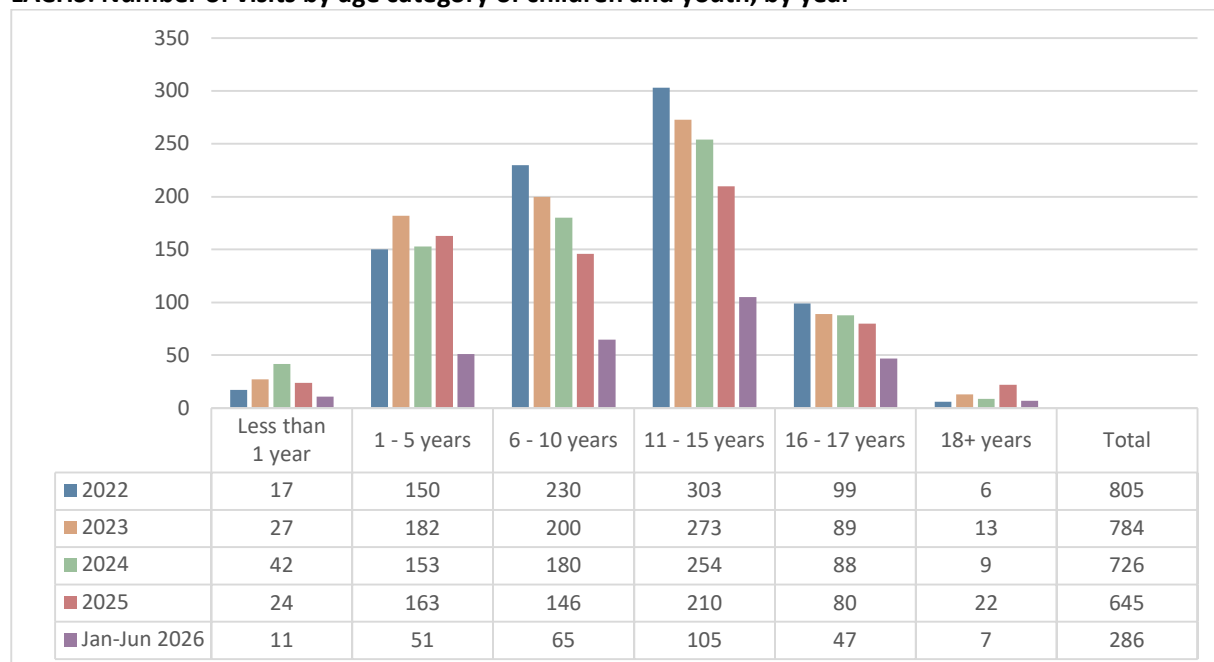


Figure 27: In Jan-Jun 2026, the majority of children and youth provided with healthcare visits were aged 11 to 15 (105).

Note: Please note that each child may have been visited more than once within the reporting period.

Additional DAC Services

Reintegration Services

Service data have been available for inclusion since 2022. Note that the service was amalgamated with the Looked After Children Service in May and all cases were closed.

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

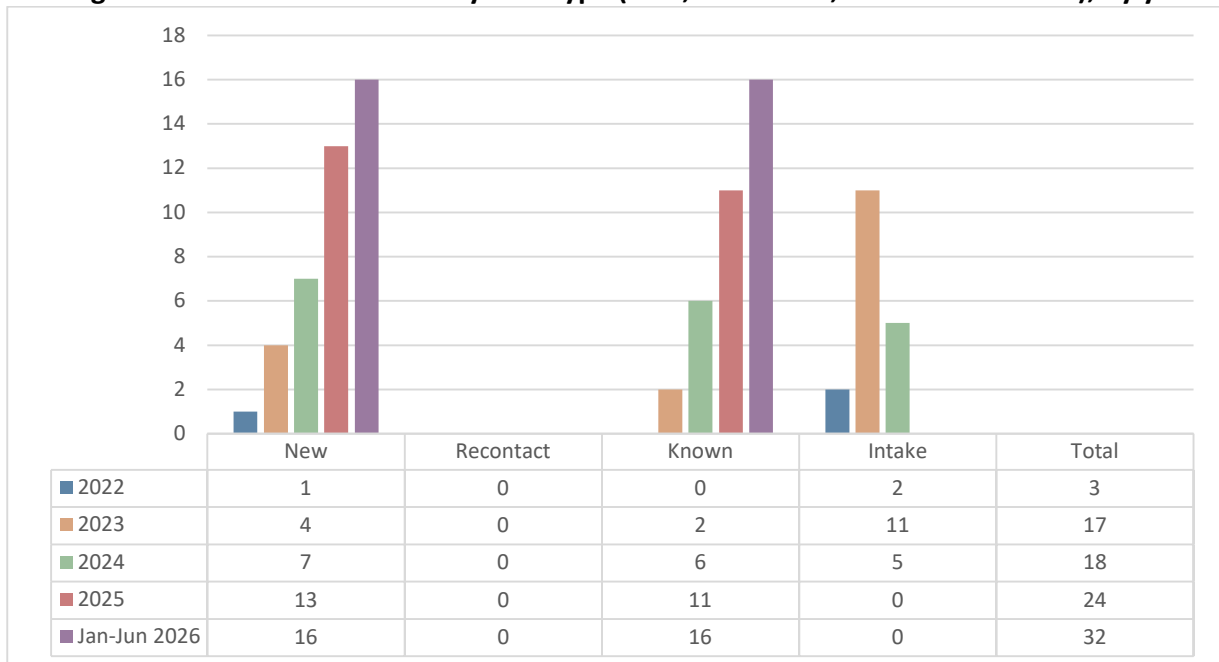


Figure 28: In Jan-Jun 2026, 32 cases were worked with compared to 24 in 2025. New cases accounted for 50% (16) of cases worked with.

Note: Cases worked with start the reporting period as a new, re-contact, known, or intake case (see Glossary).

Reintegration: Cases worked with by age category and gender January - June 2026						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0	0
<1	2	3	0	0	0	5
1-5	5	3	0	0	0	8
6-10	4	7	0	0	0	11
11-15	4	3	0	0	0	7
16-17	1	0	0	0	0	1
≥18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	16	16	0	0	0	32

Figure 29: Service users aged 6 to 10 (11 cases) accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with.

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.

Children's Fund

Service began reporting data as of 2022.

Children's Fund: Number of children and youth benefitting by year

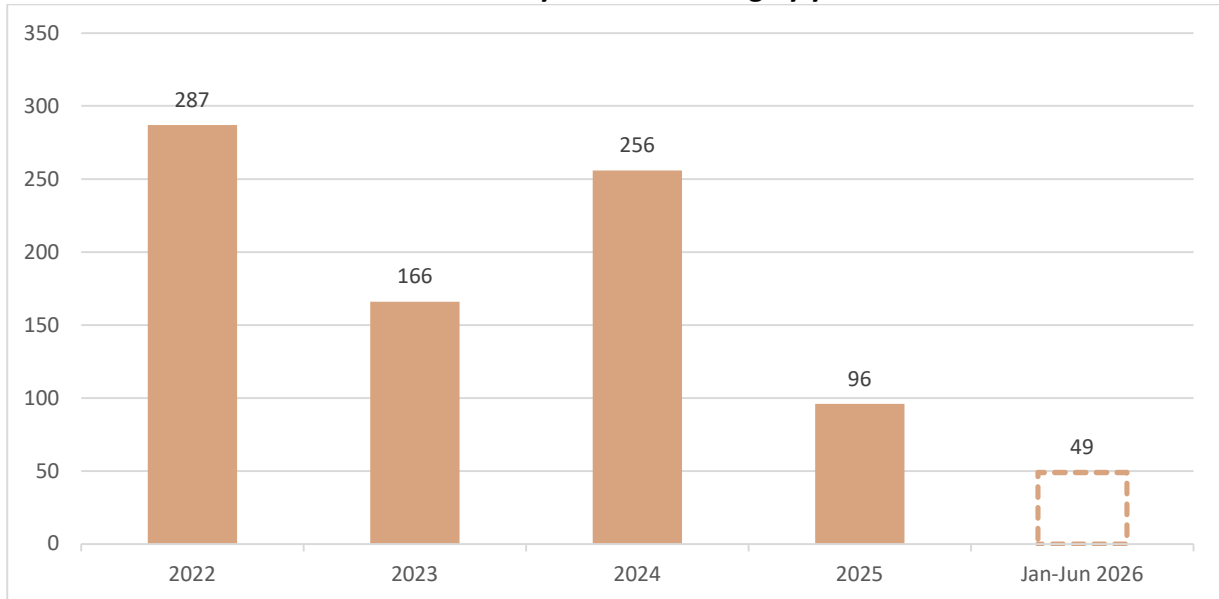


Figure 30: 49 children and youth benefited from this fund in Jan-Jun 2026

Note: Social workers submit applications on behalf of children and youth to access basic amenities funded through donations or fundraising initiatives.

Children Dreams

Service data have been available for inclusion since January 2022.

Children Dreams: Number of children and youth benefitting by year

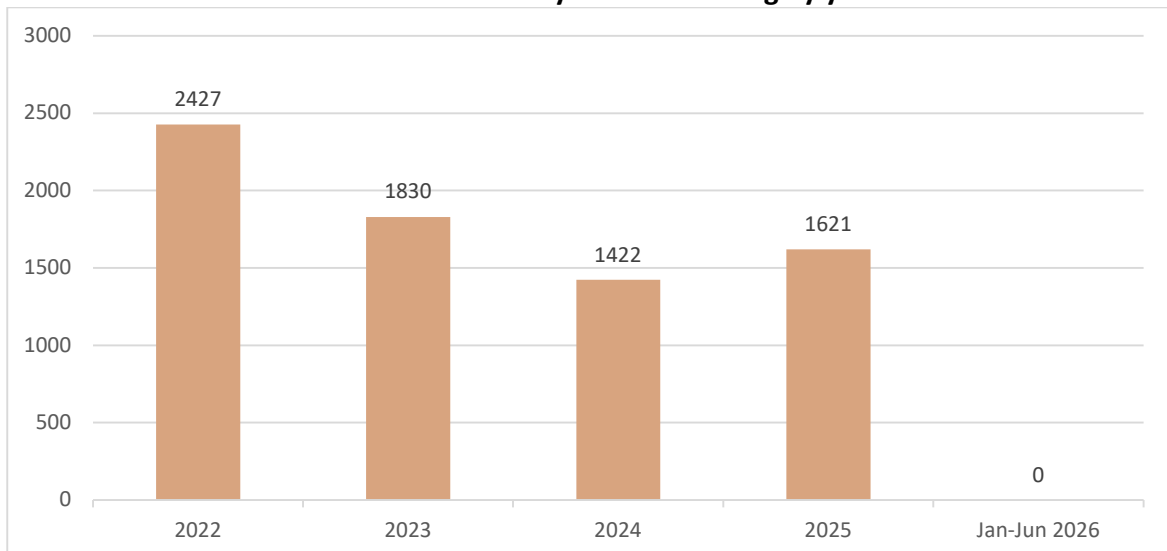


Figure 31: This is a seasonal activity and events take place during the latter half of the year. No events were provided in Jan-Jun 2026.

Note: This initiative enables individuals to support vulnerable children by providing a Christmas gift (e.g. a simple meal, an outing, or educational activities). As this is a seasonal activity, events take place during the latter half of the year.

Senior Consultation Board

Service data have been available for inclusion since January 2023. Prior to 2026, the service was known as Socio-Legal Service.

Senior Consultation Board Sitting

Senior consultation: Number of board meetings held, cases heard, and individuals involved, by year

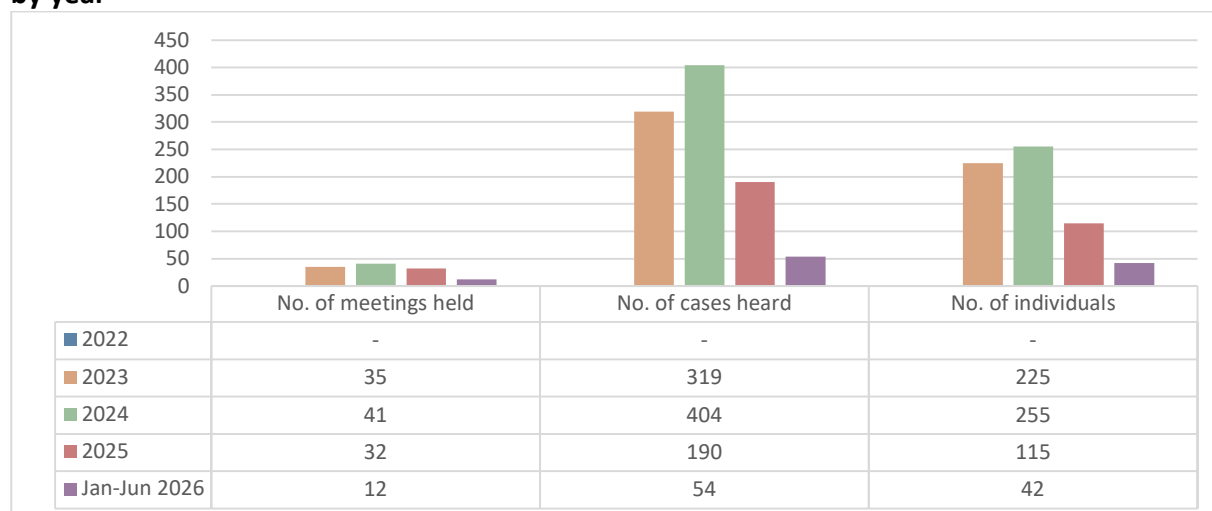
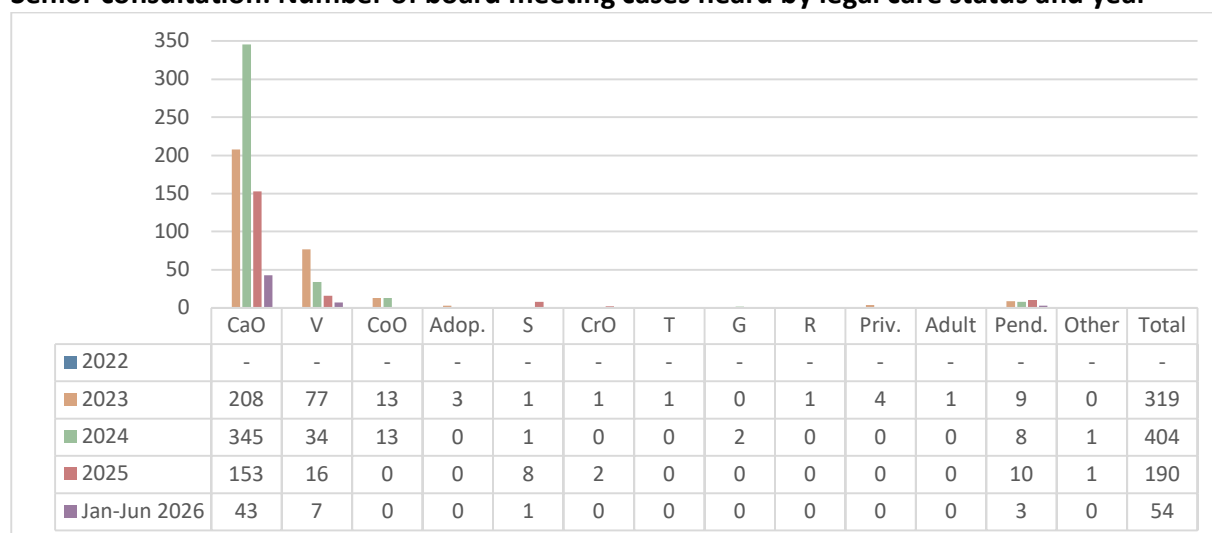


Figure 32: In Jan-Jun 2026, 12 board meetings were held, during which 54 cases concerning 42 individuals were discussed.

Note: Within this service, board meetings are convened to hear and discuss cases concerning individuals. During a single meeting, multiple cases and individuals may be considered.

Senior consultation: Number of board meeting cases heard by legal care status and year



Graph Key: CaO = Care order (regular); V = Voluntary (Regular); CoO = Court order; Adopt. = Adoption; S = Supervision order; CrO = Correctional order; T=Tutorship; G = Guardianship; R = Reintegration; Priv. = Other private arrangement; Adult = Independent adult; Pend. = Pendente; Other = Legal custody is not applicable.

Figure 33: Service users with care order (regular) accounted for the highest proportion of cases heard in Jan-Jun 2026 (80%; 43).

Note: Legal care status is recorded in line with legal definitions² and based on information reported in the reporting year by the service user, case worker knowledge, or supported by documentation.

² Laws of Malta, chapter 602, Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act

Legal representation for minors and youth in Alternative Care

Between **January and June 2026**:

- Provided court representation to **41** youths and adolescents over **104** court sittings.
- Represented the Directorate on **4** cases tied with threats on employees, over **5** court sittings.
- Assisted **9** youths and adolescents during **14** police interventions.
- Dispensed legal advice to **10** youths and adolescents through **18** meetings both at the office or at Centre of Residential Restorative Services (Corrs).

Directorate's presence in court hearings

Between **January and June 2026**, the Socio-legal office also represented the Directorate for Alternative Care on **102 court cases** spread over **155 court hearings**, and these cases heard in court were concerning **142 children**.

Senior consultation: Number of court cases by type of representation		
	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Permanency appeal	1	3
Applications for care orders (including conversions of voluntary cases)	62	61
Applications for correctional orders	4	1
Applications for freeing children up for adoption	15	14
Applications of supervision orders	4	19
Conversion from Supervision Order to Care Order	-	1
Application for a Removal Order	1	2
Application for a Treatment Order	-	1
Total	86	102

Figure 34: The majority of court cases representations in Jan-Jun 2026, involved applications for care orders (including conversions of voluntary cases) (60%; 61 cases).

Alternative Care Placement Records

The service records children and youth who, at any point during the year, resided in an alternative care placement and are followed or monitored³ by a service within the Directorate for Alternative Care or the Child Protection Service.

Children and Youths who were monitored

Placement: Number of children and families monitored, by year

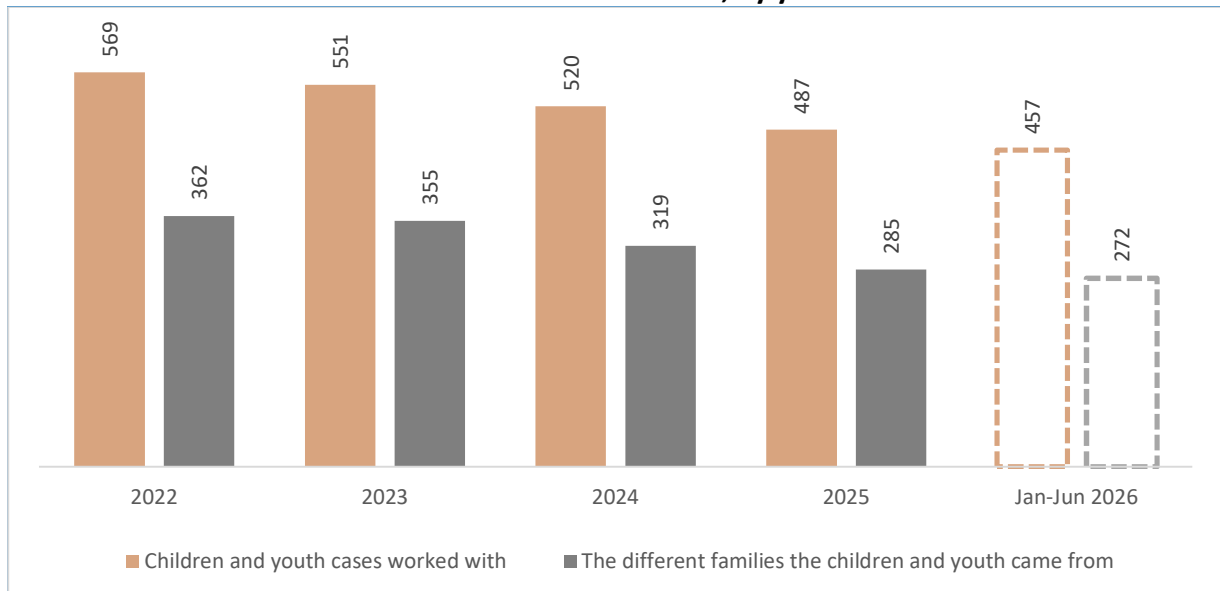


Figure 35: In Jan-Jun 2026, the Directorate for Alternative Care monitored 457 cases of children and youth from 272 different families.

Placement: Number of children and youth cases worked with and monitored in Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

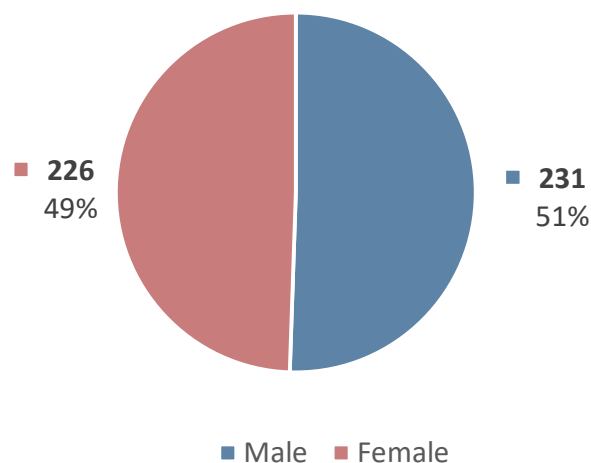


Figure 36: Out of the 457 children or youth cases monitored, 51% (231) were male and 49% (226) were female.

³ The service monitors persons in alternative care, 18+ cases moving towards independent living and persons reintegrated with immediate or extended families.

Placement: Number of children and youth cases worked with and monitored in Jan-Jun 2026 by age category

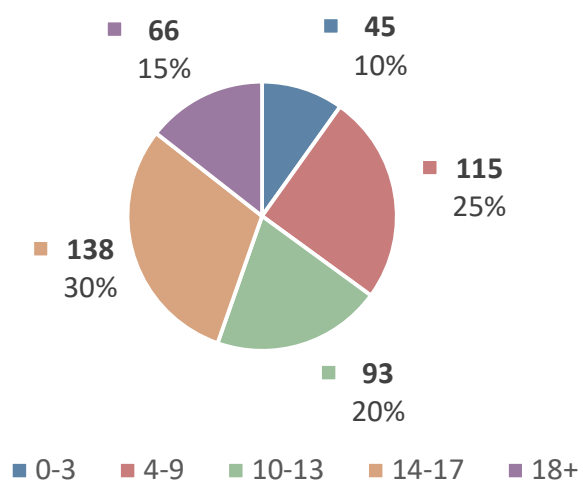
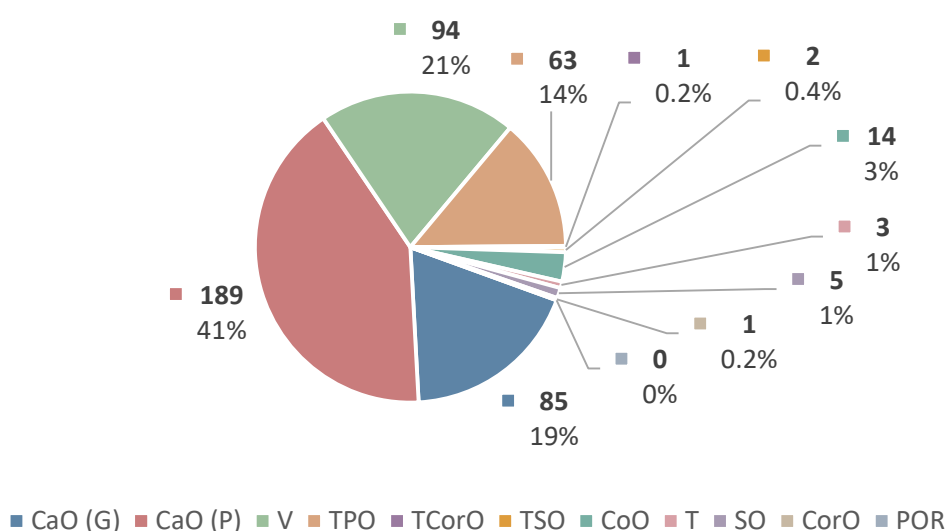


Figure 37: Out of the 457 children or youth cases monitored, 30% (138) were aged 14 to 17.

Note: Although the service primarily targets children up to 17 years of age, support may extend beyond the age of 18 to facilitate a smooth transition to independent living. For example, assistance may continue where a young adult is pursuing tertiary education and is unable to afford independent accommodation.

Placement: Number of children and youth cases worked with and monitored in Jan-Jun 2026 by protection category



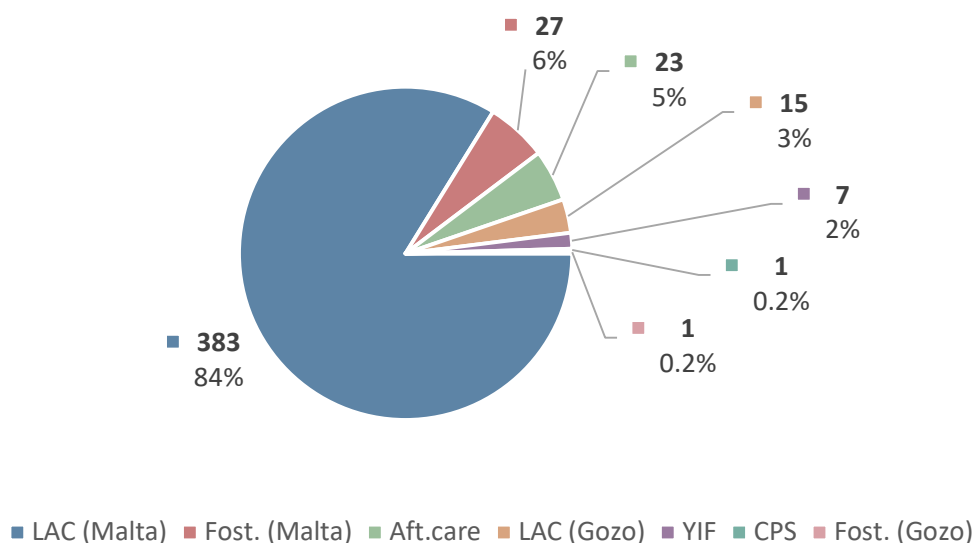
Graph Key: CaO (G) = Care order (general); CaO (P) = Care order (with permanency); V = Voluntary in care; TPO= Temporary protection order; TCorO= Temporary correctional order; TSO= Temporary supervision order; CoO = Court order; T=Tutorship; SO = Supervision order; CorO = Correctional order; POR = Protection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

Figure 38: Care order (with permanency) protection category accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (41%).

Note: The figure above classifies cases by protection category, in accordance with legal definitions⁴, within the reporting year. The classification reflects the status as reported by the service user, as known to the case worker, or as documented in official records. Some youth may have their protection order revoked upon reaching the age of 18; however, they may continue to receive placement support where needed to facilitate independent living. For example, support may continue where a young adult is pursuing tertiary education and is unable to afford independent accommodation.

⁴ Laws of Malta, chapter 602, Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act

Placement: Number of children and youth cases worked with and monitored in Jan-Jun 2026 by main service following the case



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

Figure 39: Of the 457 children and youth cases worked with, 84% (383) were mainly followed by Looked After Children Service Malta (LAC-Malta).

Note: Although a child or youth is monitored by the Alternative Care service, each case must also be assigned a social worker responsible for case follow-up.

Placement: Number of children and youth cases worked with and monitored in Jan-Jun 2026 by type of service

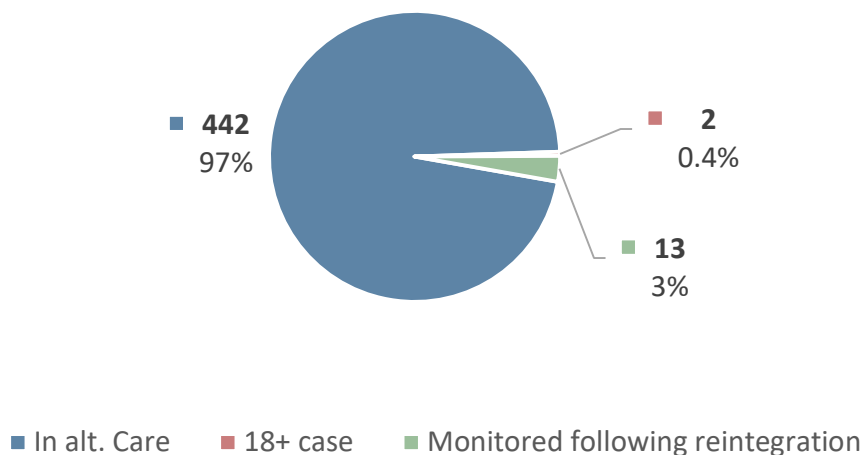
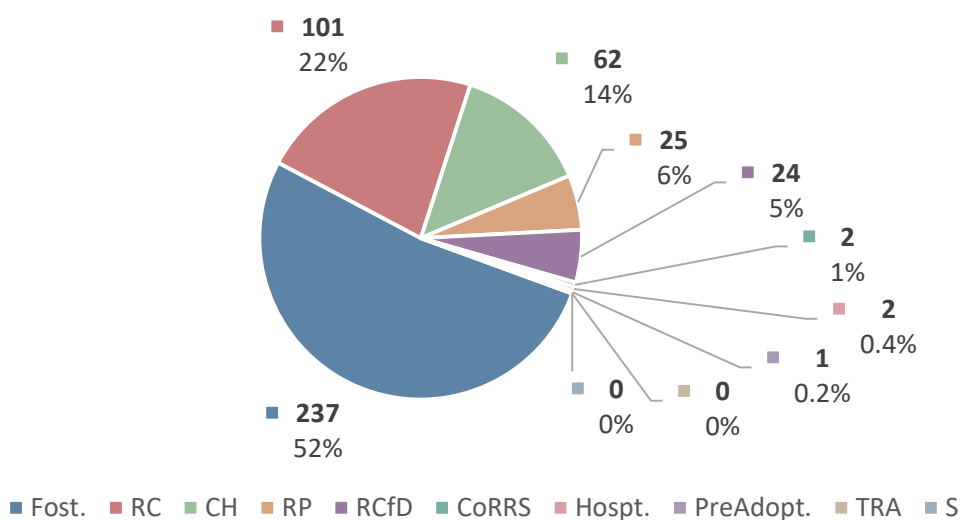


Figure 40: Of the 457 children and youth cases worked, 97% (442) were placed within an alternative care placement.

Placement activity

In total there were **446** unique children placed within **454** placements (because some children and youths may have more than one placement during the same year). On 30th June 2026 there were **418** still active placements.

Placement: Number of placements in Jan-Jun 2026 by placement type



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; Hospt. = Hospital; PreAdopt. = Pre-adoption placement; TRA = Temporary respite agreements; S = Shelters.

Figure 41: Of the 454 placements registered, 52% (237) were a fostering placement and 22% (101) were a residential care placement.

Note: Children and youth may have more than one placement within the same year. Therefore, the figure above presents the total number of placements, disaggregated by type of placement.

Placement: Number of unique children placed within an active placement in Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

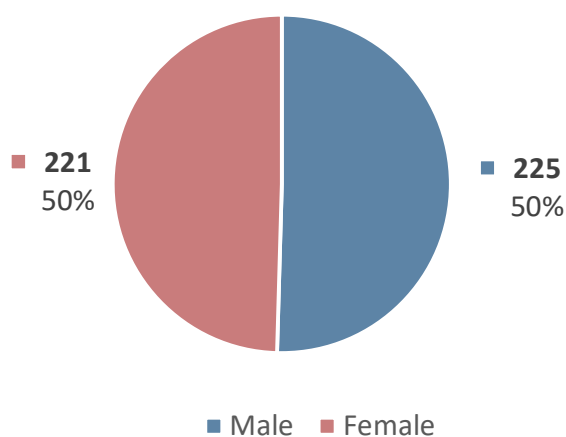


Figure 42: Females and males accounted for an equal proportion of the 446 unique children or youth placed within in a placement, (50%).

Placement: Number of unique children placed within an active placement in Jan-Jun 2026 by age category

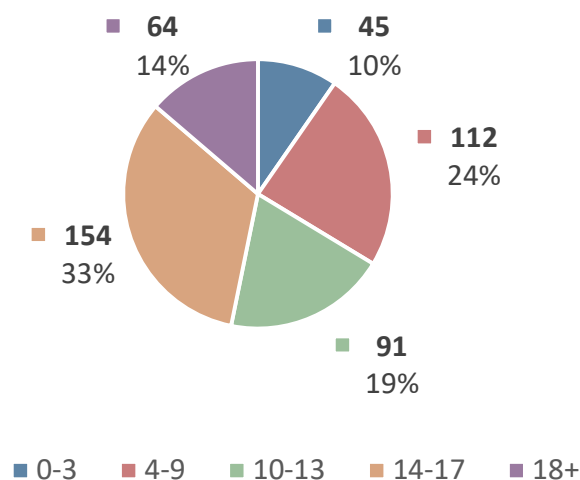
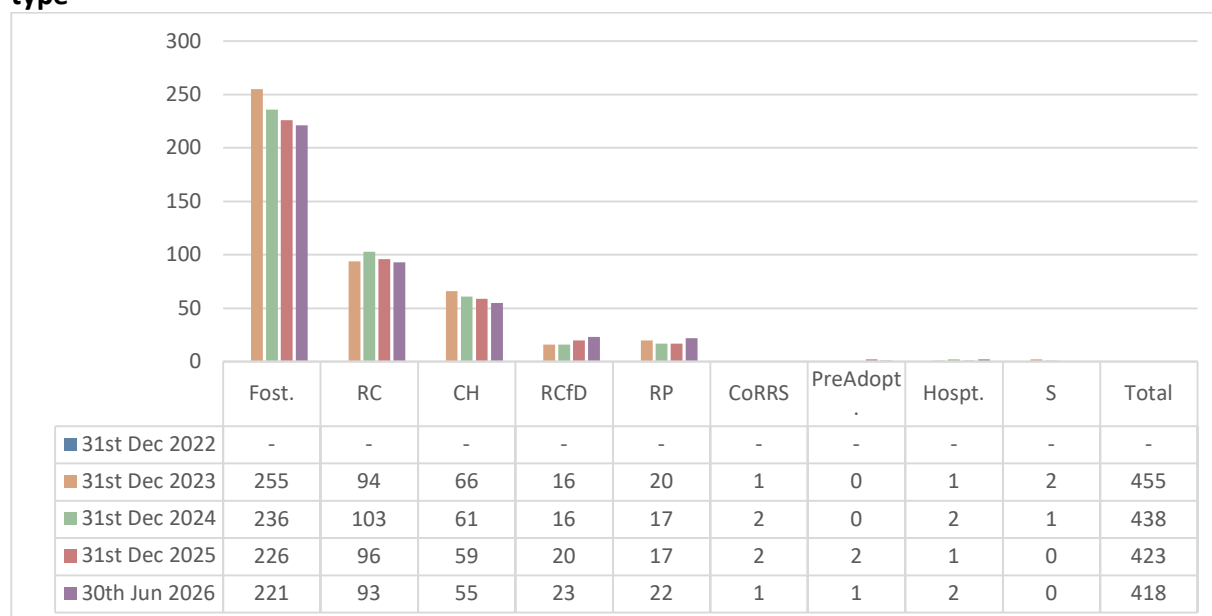


Figure 43: Children and youth aged 14 to 17 accounted for the highest proportion of the 446 unique children or youth placed within in a placement, (33%; 154).

Note: Although the service primarily targets children up to 17 years of age, support may extend beyond the age of 18 to facilitate a smooth transition to independent living. For example, assistance may continue where a young adult is pursuing tertiary education and is unable to afford independent accommodation.

Placement: Number of placements remaining active at end of reporting period, by placement type



Graph Key: Fost. = Fostering; RC = Residential Care; CH = Community Homes; RCfD = Residential care for persons with disabilities; RP = Residential Programmes; CoRRS = Centre of Residential Restorative Services; PreAdopt. = Pre-adoption placement; Hospt. = Hospital; S = Shelters.

Figure 44: On 30th June 2026, of the 418 still active placements, 53% (221) were foster care placements and 22% (93) were residential care placements.

Aftercare Service

Service data have been available for inclusion since July 2022 but data from 2021 was submitted, analysed and incorporated retrospectively.

Aftercare: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

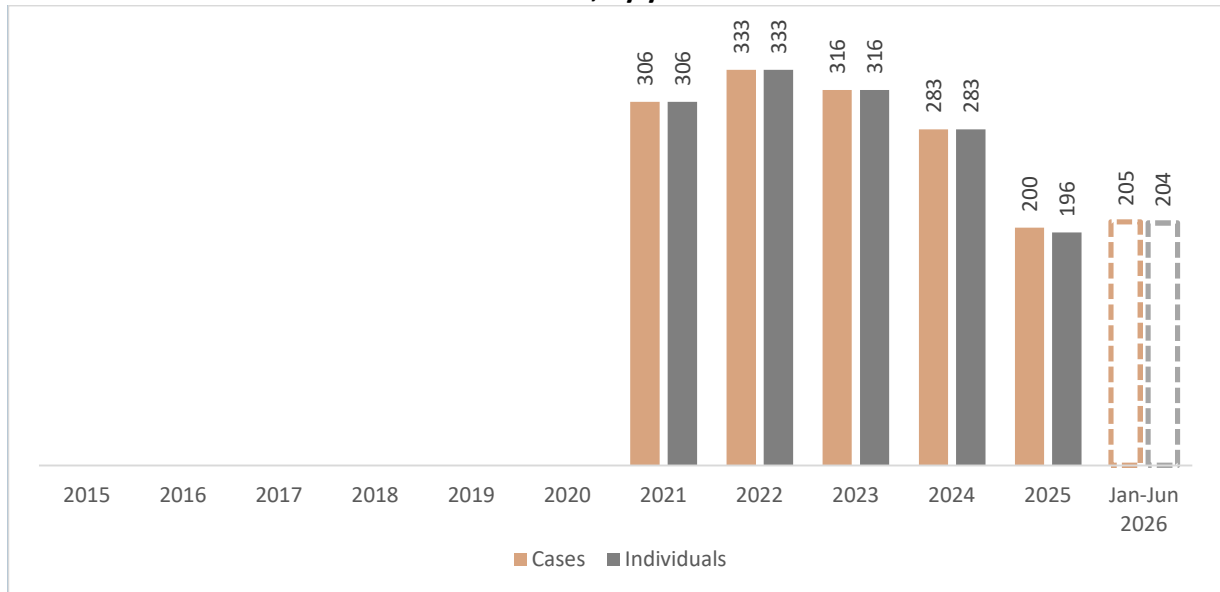


Figure 45: In Jan-Jun 2026, 205 cases and 204 individuals were worked with compared to 200 and 196 respectively in 2025.

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

A total of **205** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

Aftercare: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

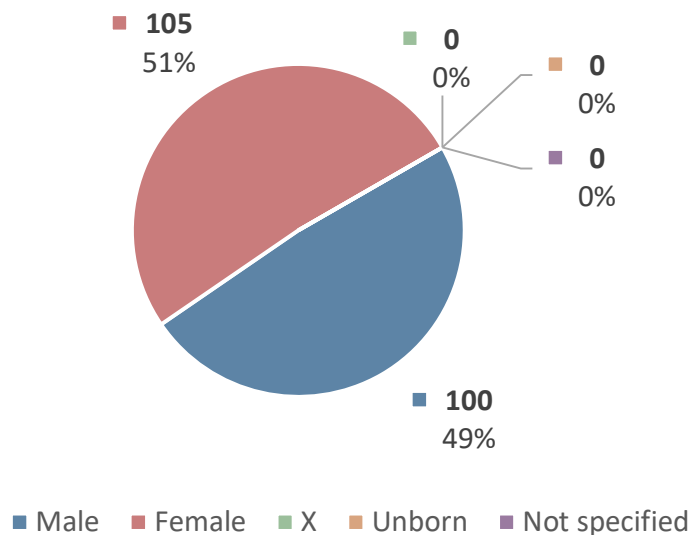


Figure 46: Female service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (51%).

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.

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

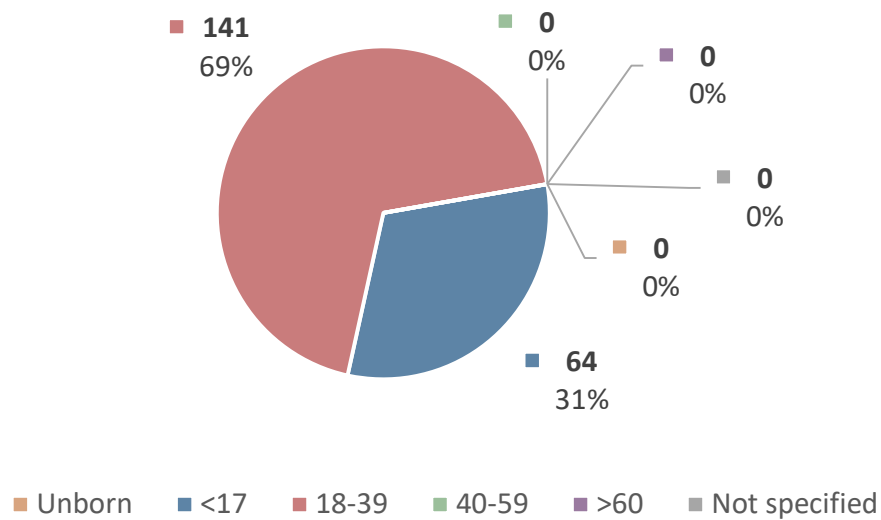


Figure 47: Service users aged 18 to 39 accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (69%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

Aftercare: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

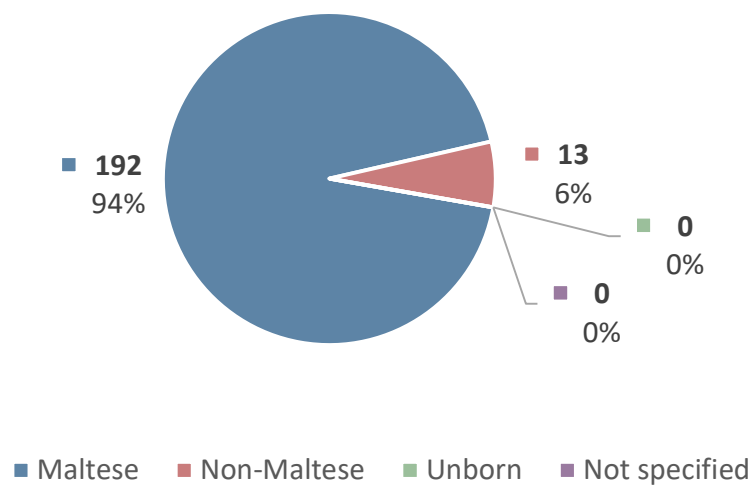
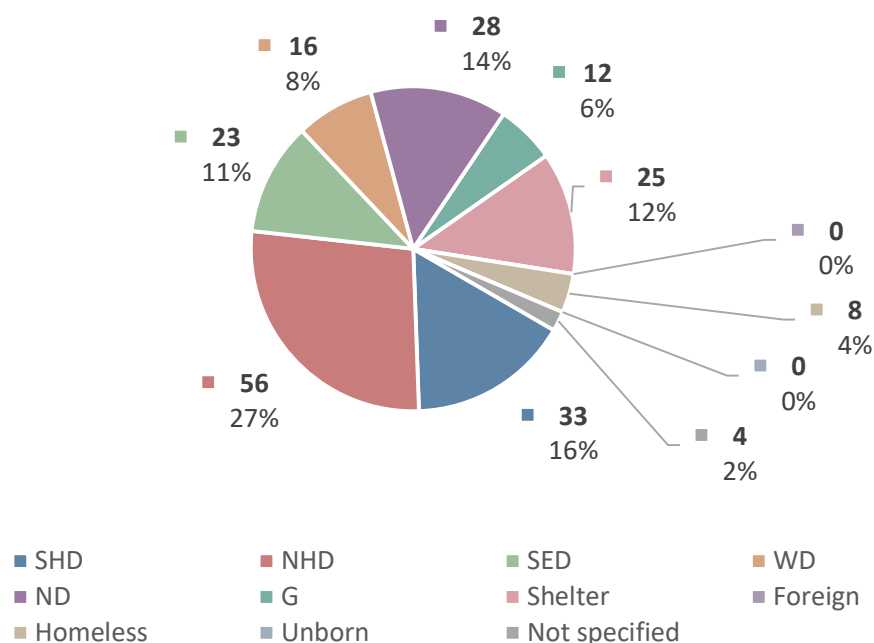


Figure 48: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (94%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 6%.

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

Aftercare: 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 49: Northern Harbour District accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (27%).

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.

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

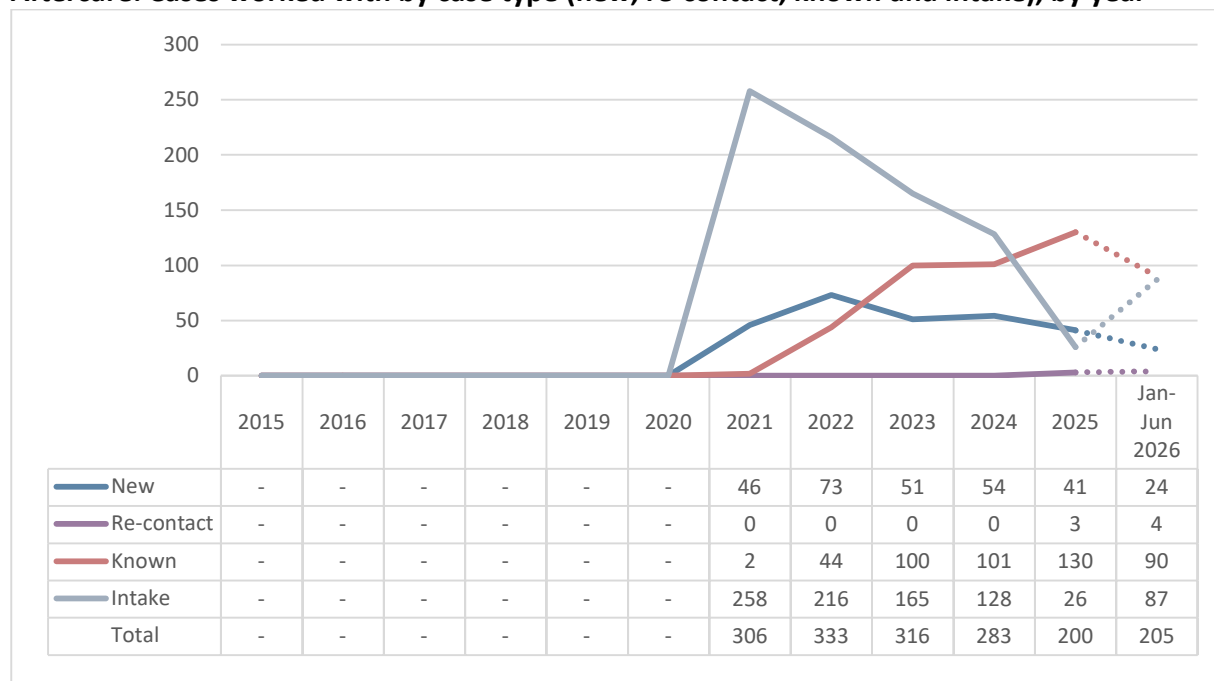


Figure 50: New cases accounted for 12% (24) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 2% (4).

Note: Cases worked with start the reporting period as a new, re-contact, known, or intake case (see Glossary).

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

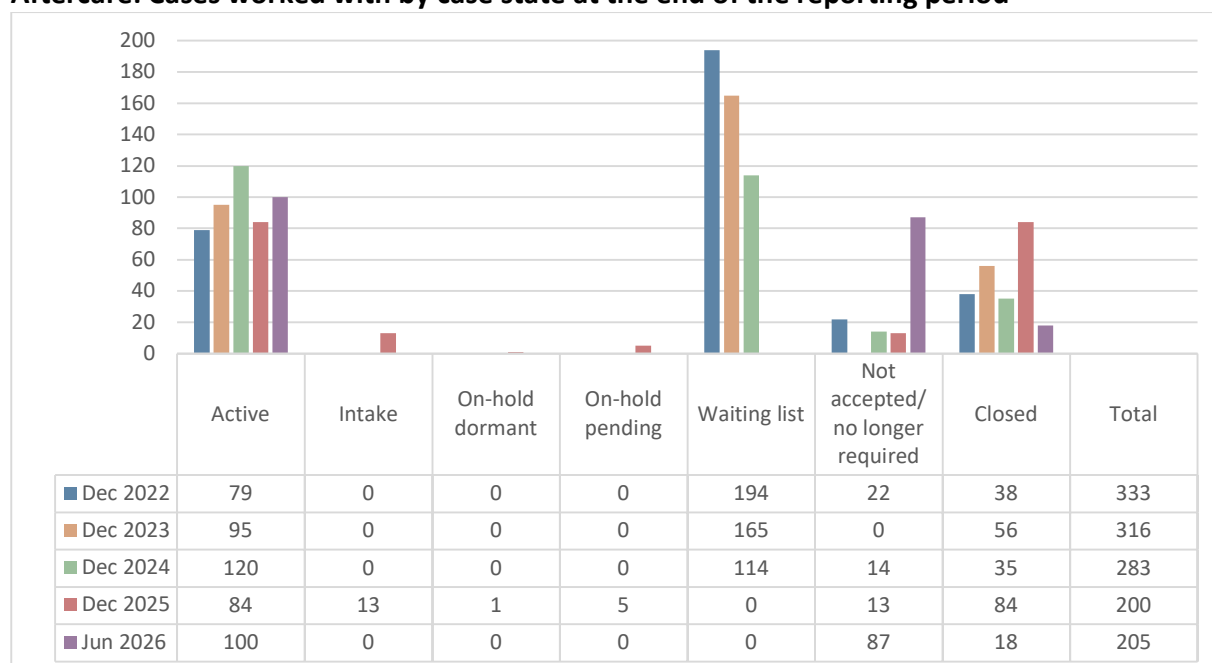


Figure 51: By the end of June 2026, 49% (100) of the cases worked with remained active, 9% (18) were closed and 0% (0) remained on intake.

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

Aftercare: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

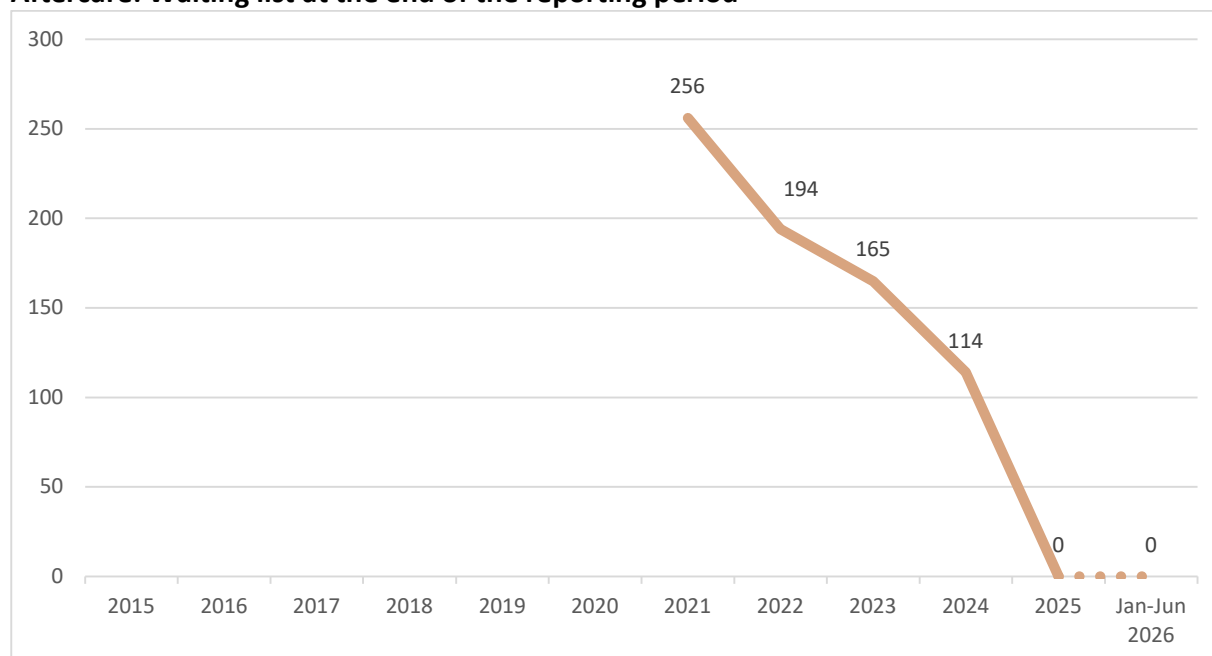


Figure 52: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 0 cases remained on the waiting list.

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.

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

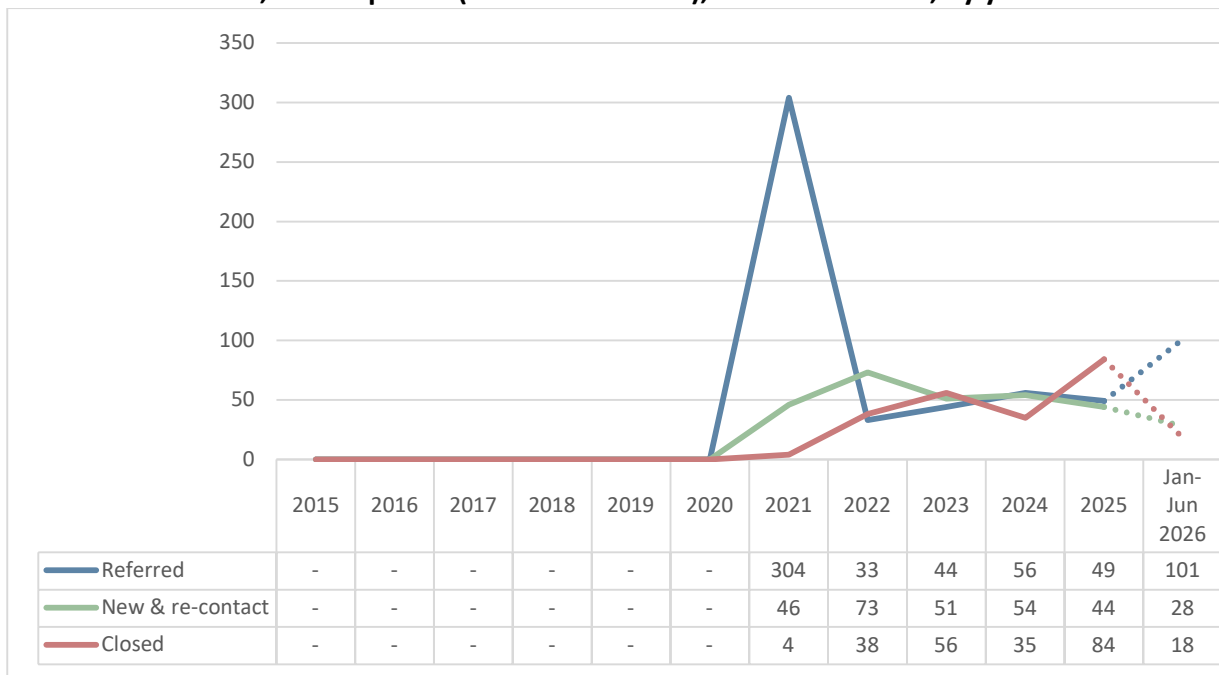


Figure 53: In Jan-Jun 2026, 101 cases were referred, 28 new & recontact cases opened, and 18 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 50 for breakdown).

A total of **28** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

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

Aftercare: 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
<1	0	0	0	-	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	-	0	0
6-10	0	0	0	-	0	0
11-15	0	0	0	-	0	0
16-17	5	2	0	-	0	7
18-19	5	3	0	-	0	8
20-24	3	8	0	-	0	11
25-29	1	1	0	-	0	2
30-34	0	0	0	-	0	0
35-39	0	0	0	-	0	0
40-44	0	0	0	-	0	0
45-49	0	0	0	-	0	0
50-54	0	0	0	-	0	0
55-59	0	0	0	-	0	0
≤60	0	0	0	-	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	-	0	0
Total	14	14	0	-	0	28

Figure 54: Service users aged 20 to 24 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (39%; 11).

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.

Fostering Service

A new online data collection system and reporting format were introduced in 2020. Due to changes in the data collection system and reporting format, data from 2010 to 2019 is not directly comparable with data from 2020 onwards. As a result, data for the period 2010 - 2019 is not included in the current report and can instead be found in previous reports. Additionally, while data from 2020 included both adult and minor service users accessing the service, from 2022 onwards the data reported relates only to adult service users.

Fostering: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

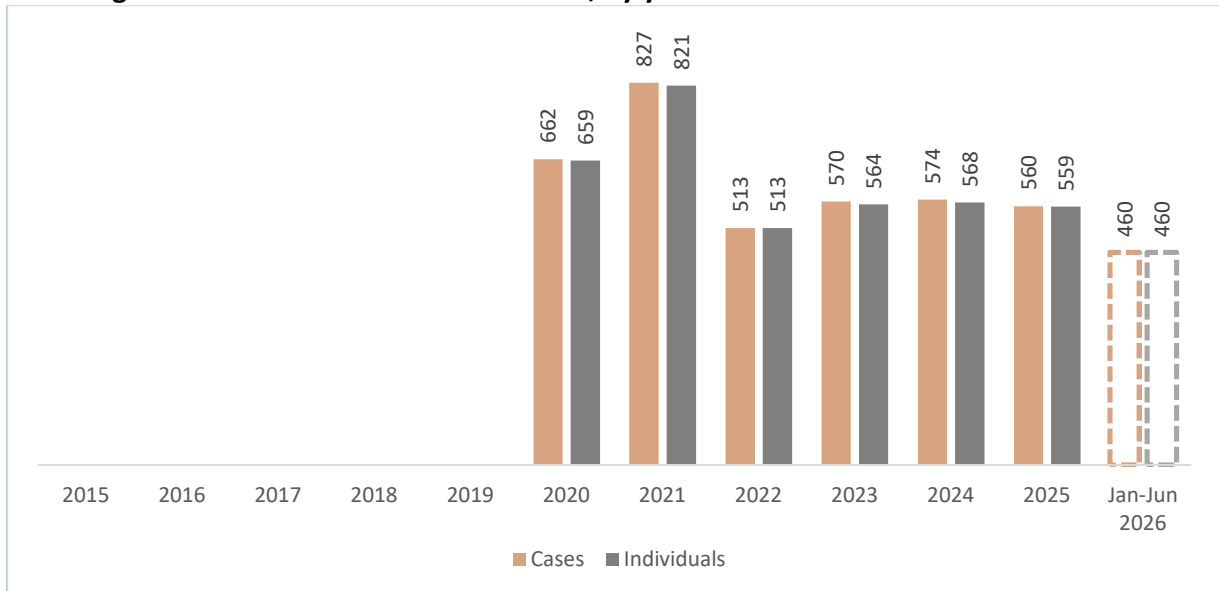


Figure 55: In Jan-Jun 2026, 460 cases and 460 individuals were worked with compared to 560 and 559 respectively in 2025.

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

A total of **460** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

Fostering: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

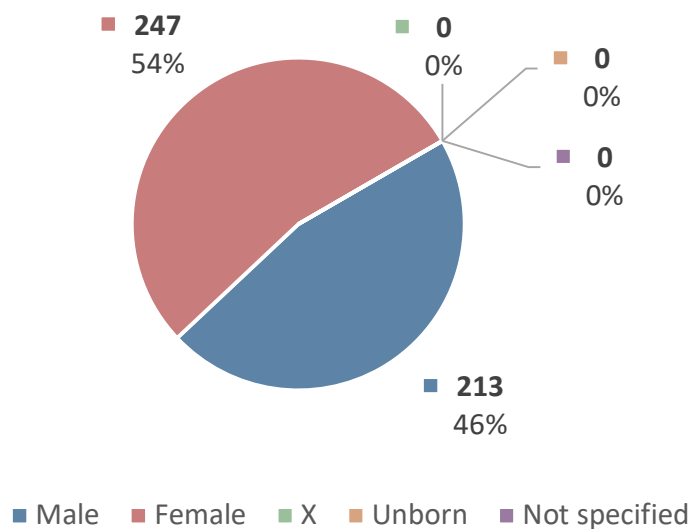


Figure 56: Female service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (54%).

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.

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

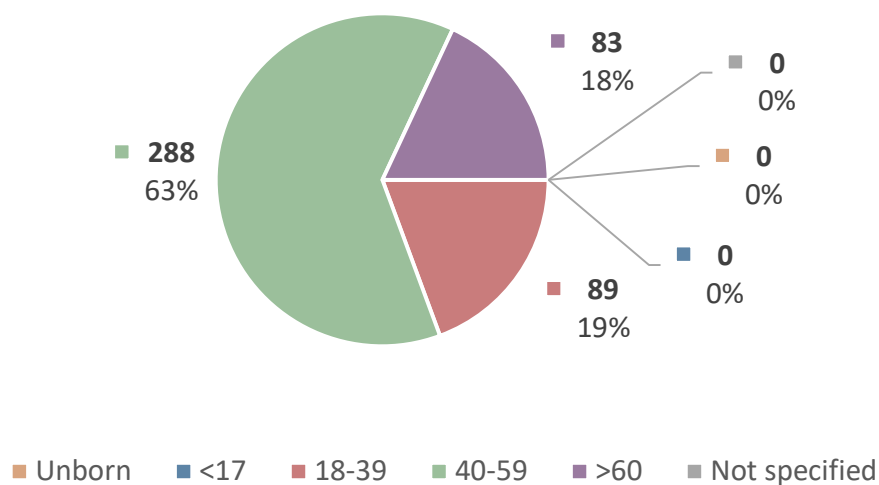


Figure 57: Service users aged 40 to 59 accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (63%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

Fostering: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

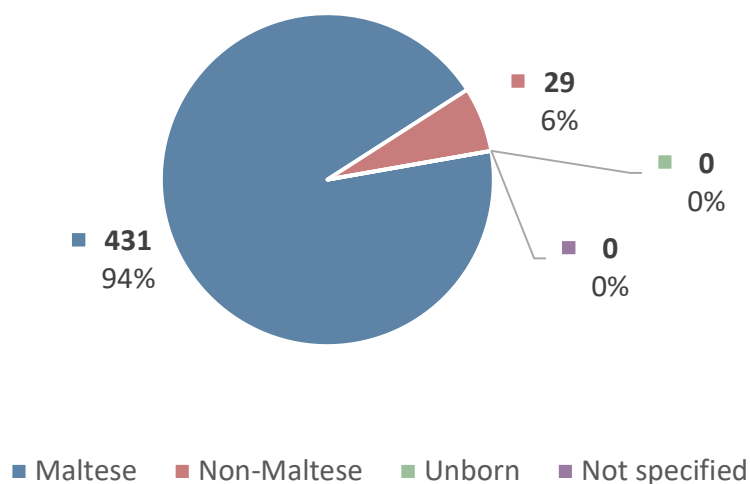
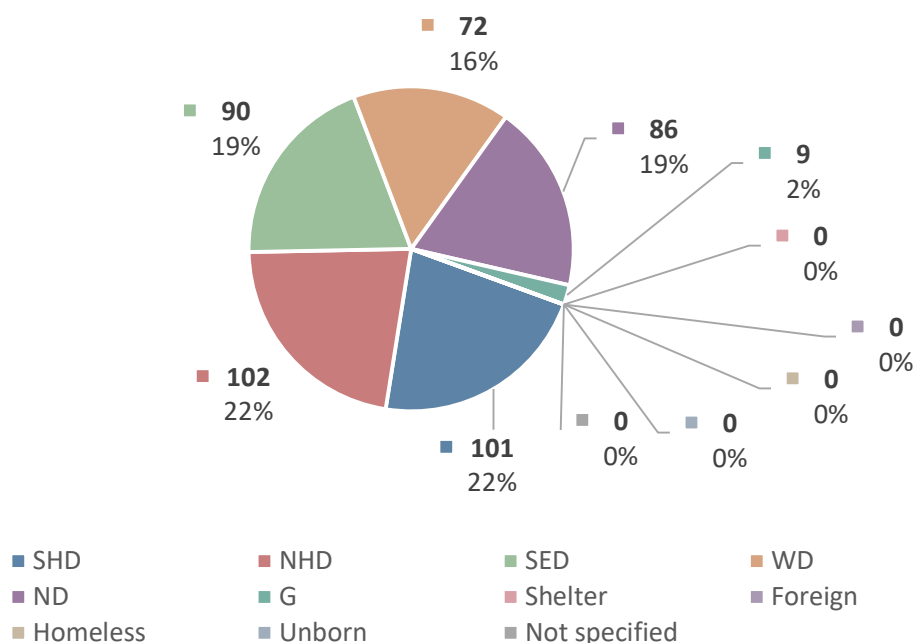


Figure 58: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (94%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 6%.

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

Fostering: 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 59: Southern Harbour District and Northern Harbour District accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (22% 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.

Fostering: Cases worked with by type of service user January - June 2026					
	New	Re-contact	Known	Intake	Total
Foster carer - next of kin	0	0	13	0	13
Foster carer - non-related	0	0	28	0	28
Prospective foster carer	26	2	20	12	60
Approved and matched	0	1	266	0	267
Approved but dormant	0	1	77	0	78
Approved but pending a match	0	0	14	0	14
Total	26	4	418	12	460

Figure 60: In Jan-Jun 2026, a total of 400 foster carers were worked with, alongside a further 60 prospective foster carers who were in the process of becoming approved carers.

Note: The service receives applications from individuals wishing to become foster carers, who are referred to as prospective foster carers. These applicants undergo an assessment process with the aim of becoming either kinship foster carers (i.e. closest living relatives by blood or by law) or non-related foster carers. In 2026, further categories were added to clarify the stage of foster care e.g. foster carers who are approved but awaiting a foster child are referred to as "approved but pending a match".

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

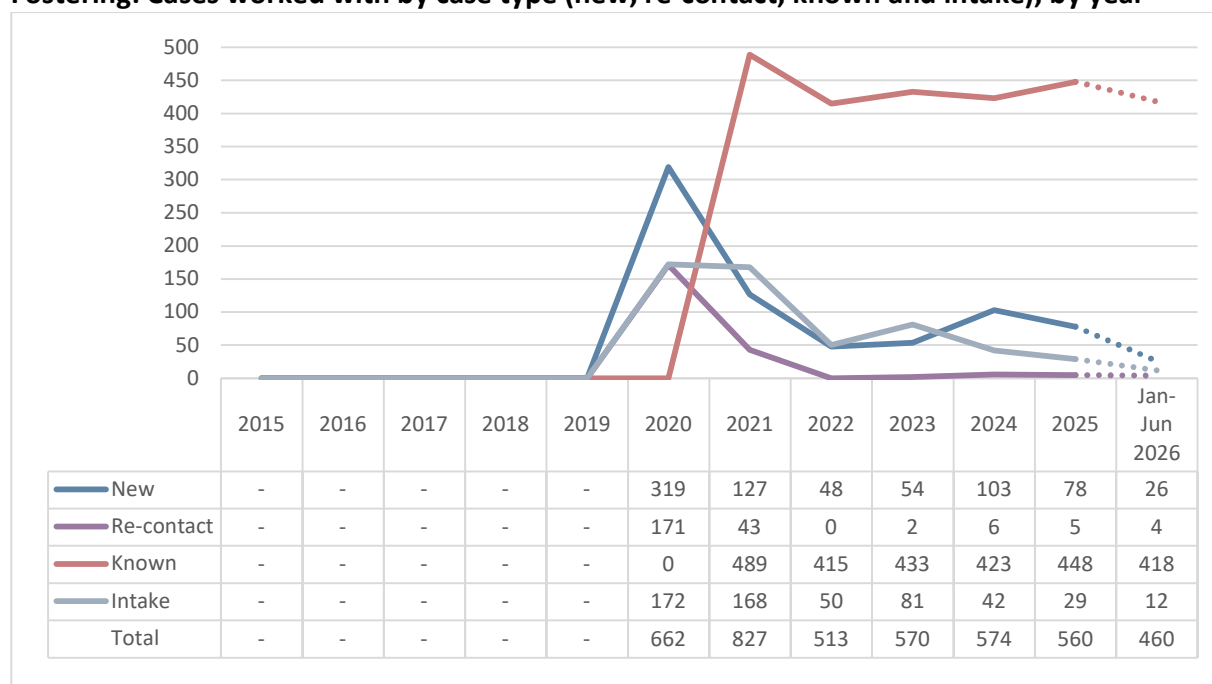


Figure 61: New cases accounted for 6% (26) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 1% (4).

Note: Cases worked with start the reporting period as a new, re-contact, known, or intake case (see Glossary). Intake has been reported since 2021 following the introduction of the online data collection system. With the introduction of the online data collection system, all known cases were re-entered into the system in 2020 and automatically recorded as new.

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

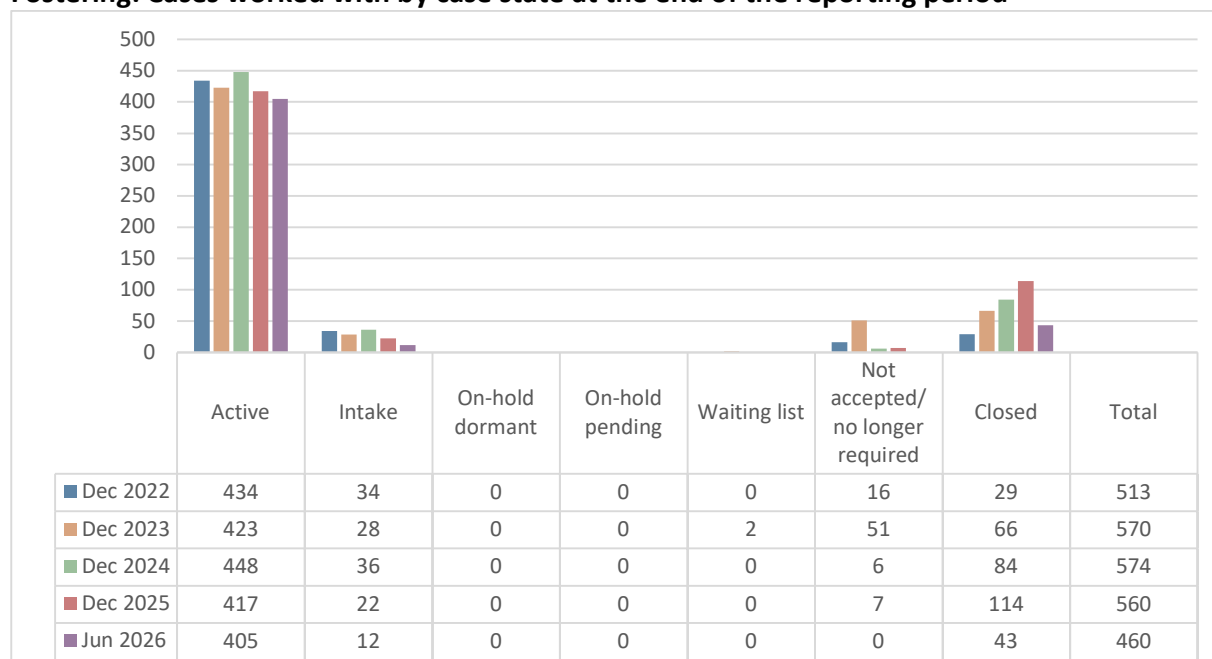


Figure 62: By the end of June 2026, 88% (405) of the cases worked with remained active, 9% (43) were closed and 3% (12) remained on intake.

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

Fostering: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

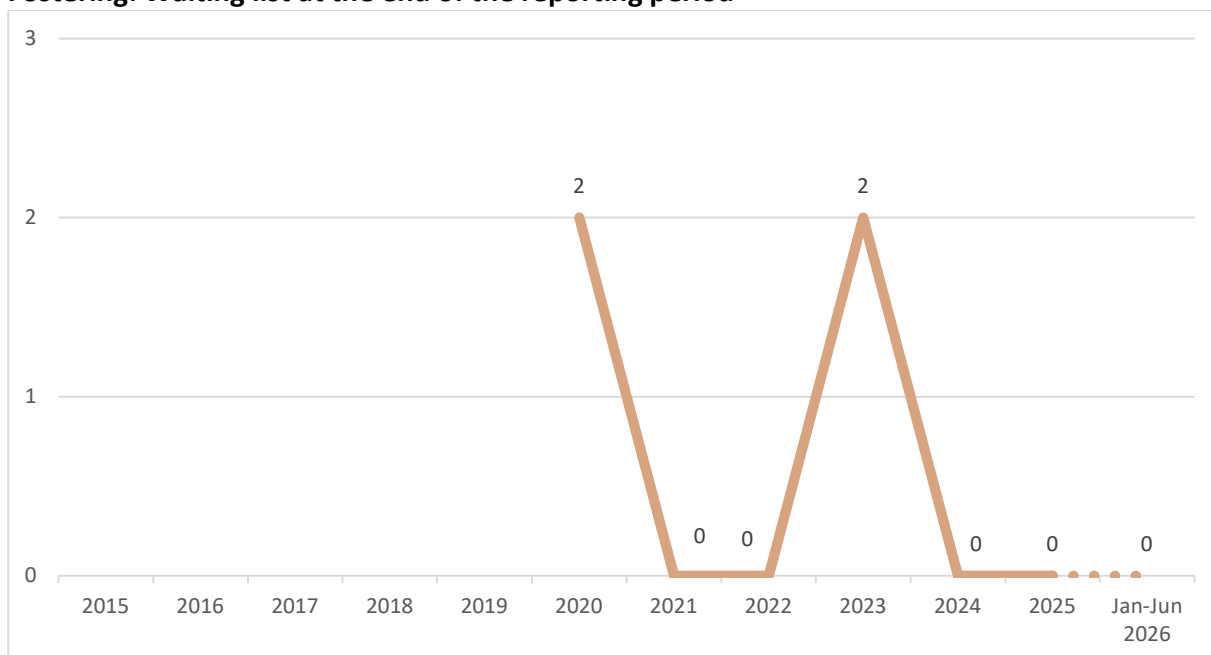


Figure 63: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 0 cases remained on the waiting list.

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.

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

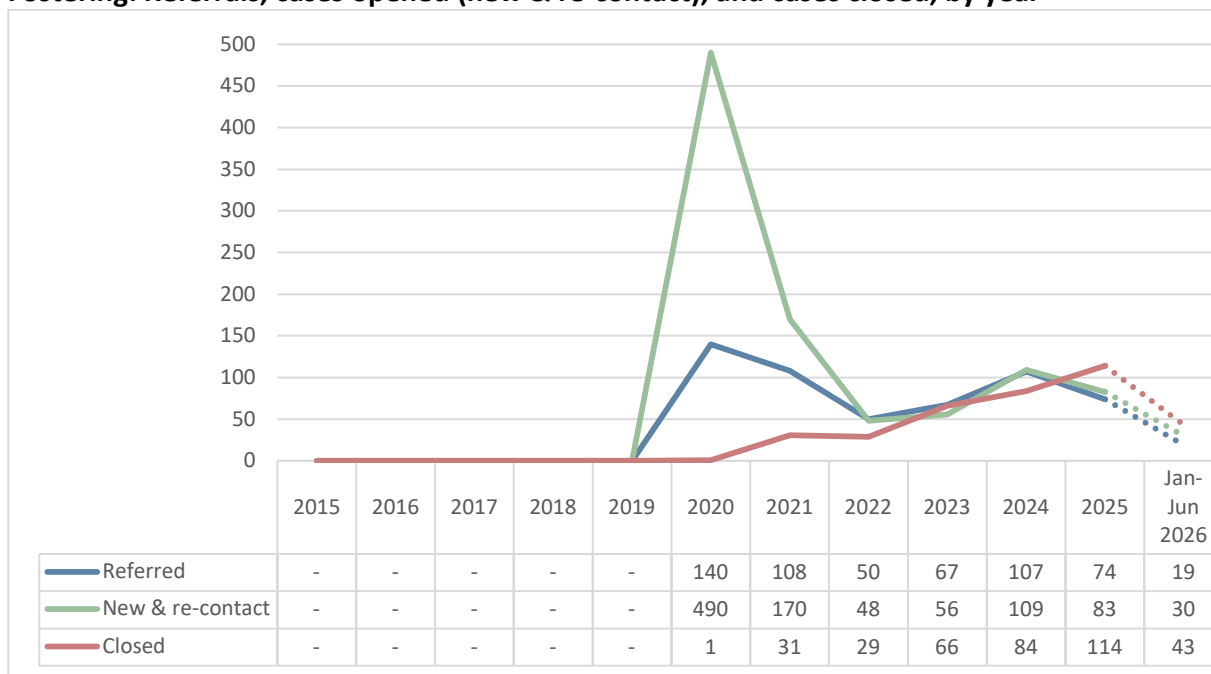


Figure 64: In Jan-Jun 2026, 19 cases were referred, 30 new & recontact cases opened, and 43 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 61 for breakdown).

A total of **30** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

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

Fostering: Cases opened (new & re-contact) of foster carers (foster carer and prospective) by age category and gender January - June 2026						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
≤17	0	0	0	-	0	0
18-19	0	0	0	-	0	0
20-24	0	0	0	-	0	0
25-29	0	0	0	-	0	0
30-34	4	2	0	-	0	6
35-39	2	5	0	-	0	7
40-44	3	3	0	-	0	6
45-49	3	4	0	-	0	7
50-54	2	1	0	-	0	3
55-59	1	0	0	-	0	1
≥60	0	0	0	-	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	-	0	0
Total	15	15	0	-	0	30

Figure 65: Service users aged 35 to 39 and 45 to 49 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (23%; 7 each).

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.

Adoption Service

A new online data collection system and reporting format were introduced in 2020. Due to changes in the data collection system and reporting format, data from 2010 to 2019 is not directly comparable with data from 2020 onwards. As a result, data for the period 2010 - 2019 is not included in the current report and can instead be found in previous reports. Additionally, from 2020 onwards the data reported relates only to adult and minor service users.

Adoption: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

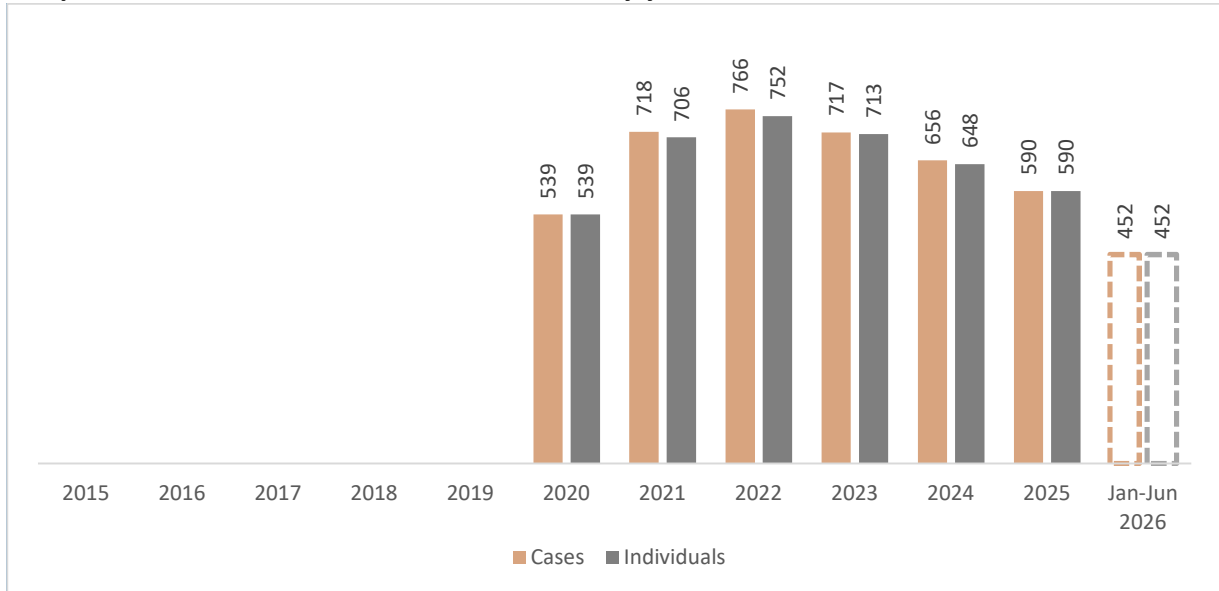


Figure 66: In Jan-Jun 2026, 452 cases and 452 individuals were worked with compared to 590 and 590 respectively in 2025.

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

A total of **452** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

Adoption: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

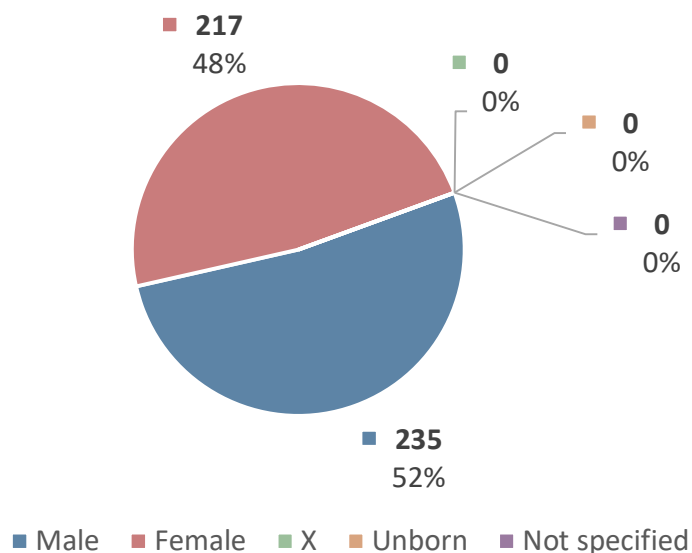


Figure 67: Male service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (52%).

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.

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

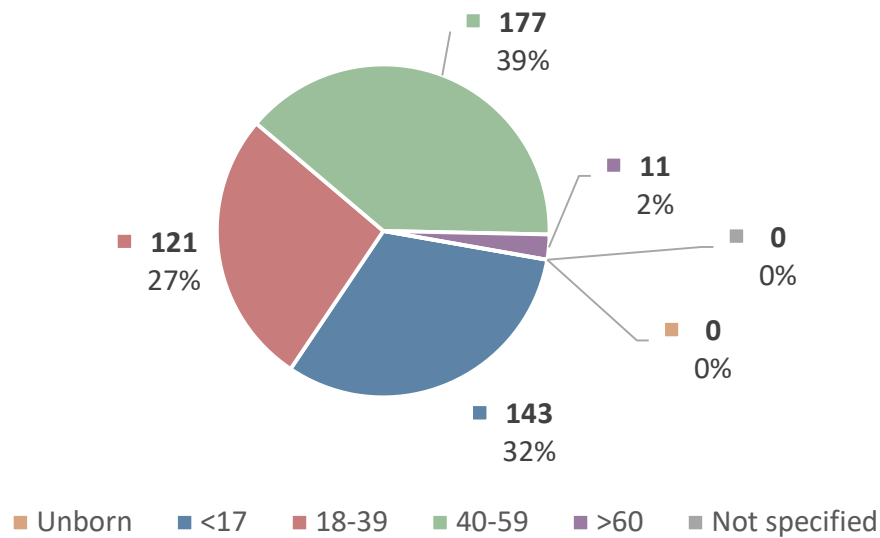


Figure 68: Service users aged 40 to 59 accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (39%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

Adoption: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

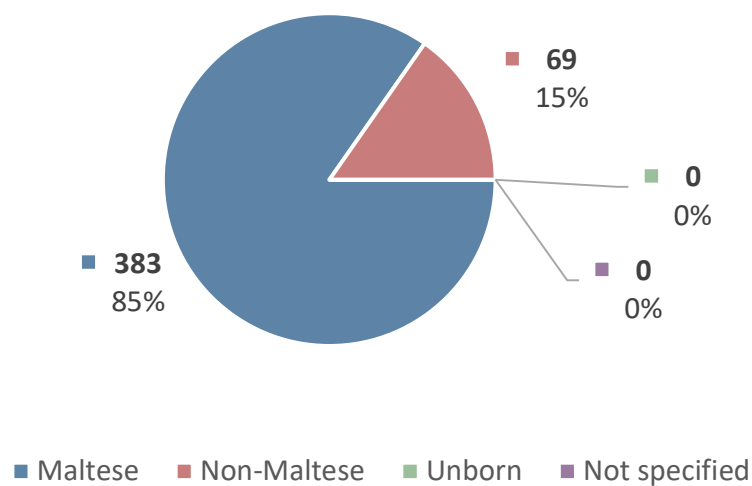
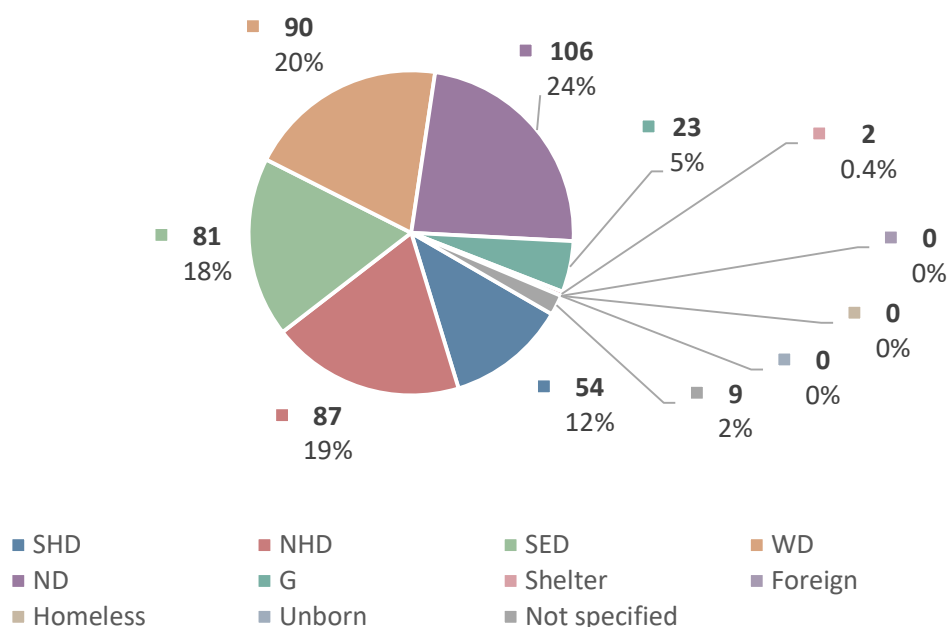


Figure 69: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (85%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 15%.

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

Adoption: 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 70: Northern Harbour District accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (24%).

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.

Adoption: Case worked with by type of service user					
January - June 2026					
	New	Re-contact	Known	Intake	Total
Adopted child	0	0	132	3	135
Adoptive parent	0	0	11	0	11
Prospective parent	31	2	216	34	283
Referred child	3	0	10	10	23
Total	34	2	369	47	452

Figure 71: In Jan-Jun 2026, 11 adoptive parents were worked with, alongside a further 283 prospective adoptive parents who were in the process of becoming approved adoptive parents.

Note: The service primarily focuses on adults who are, or intend to become, adoptive parents. Prospective adoptive parents undergo an assessment process with the aim of becoming approved adoptive parents. The service also maintains records on children adopted through its approved adoptive parents, as well as "referred children," a term used for children identified for adoption and in the process of being matched with a suitable adoptive family.

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

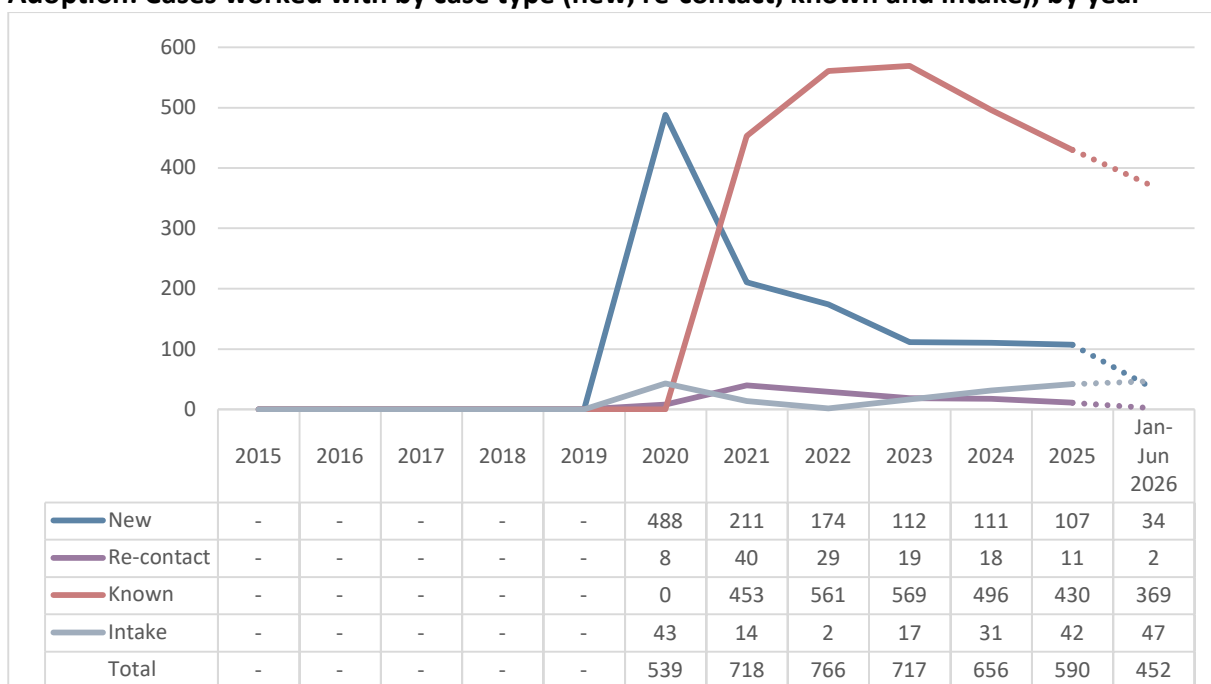


Figure 72: New cases accounted for 8% (34) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 0.4% (2).

Note: Cases worked with start the reporting period as a new, re-contact, known, or intake case (see Glossary). With the introduction of the online data collection system, all known cases were re-entered into the system in 2020 and automatically recorded as new.

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

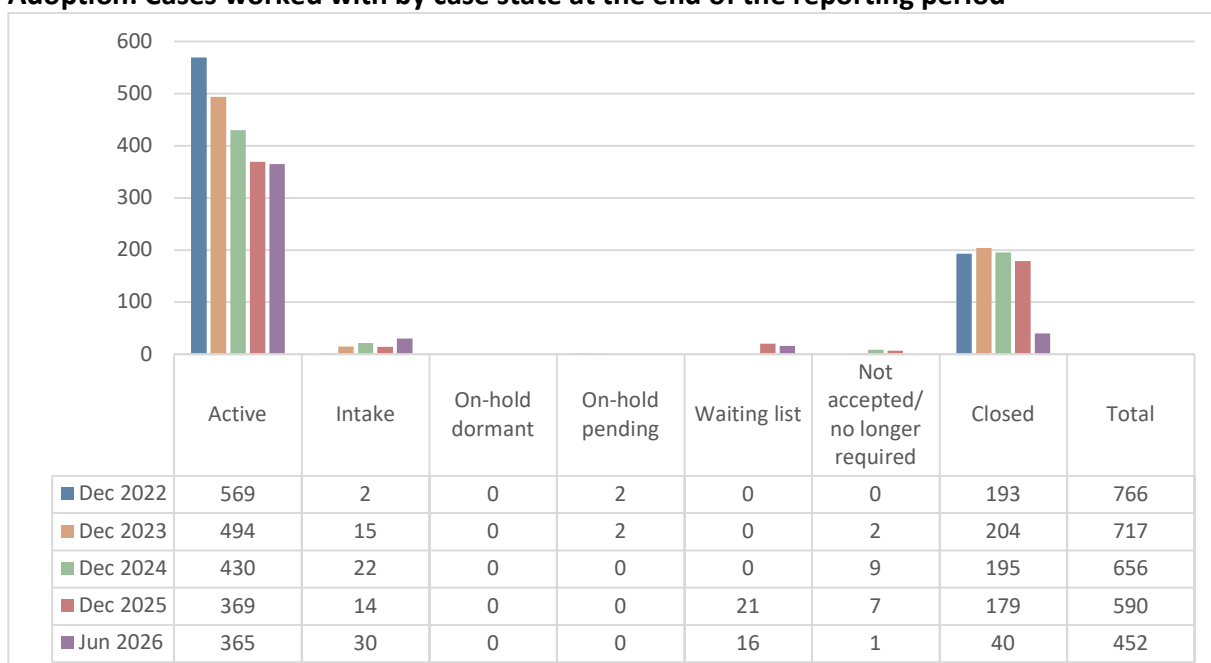


Figure 73: By the end of June 2026, 81% (365) of the cases worked with remained active, 9% (40) were closed and 7% (30) remained on intake.

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

Adoption: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

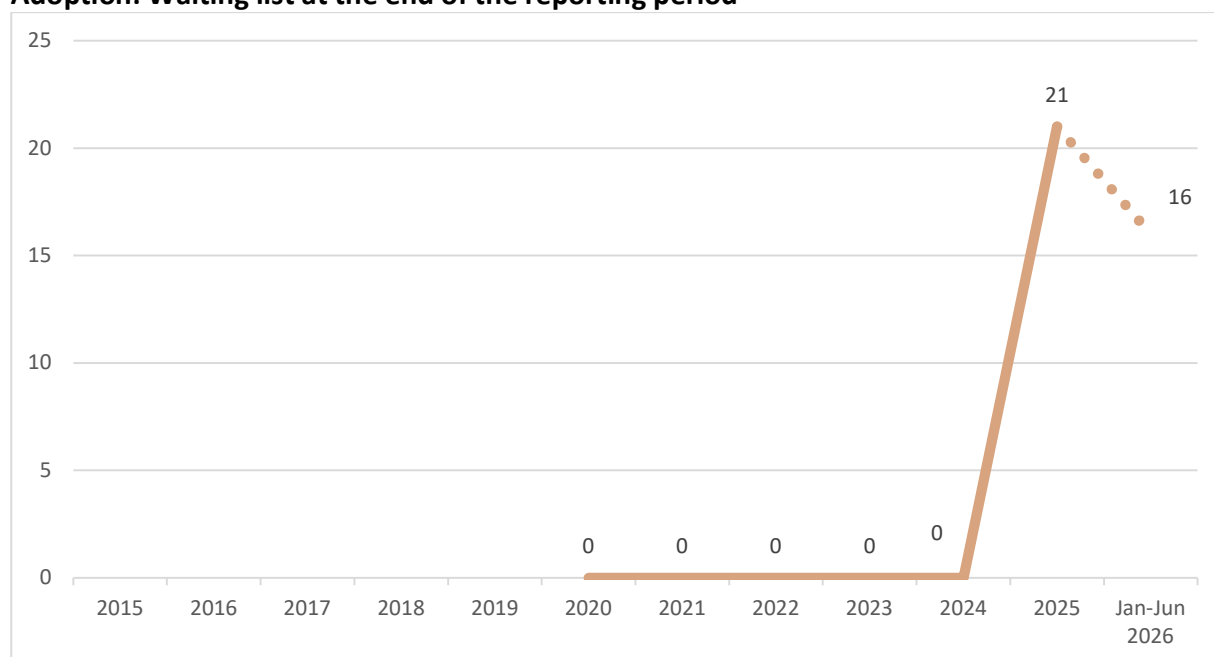


Figure 74: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 16 cases remained on the waiting list.

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.

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

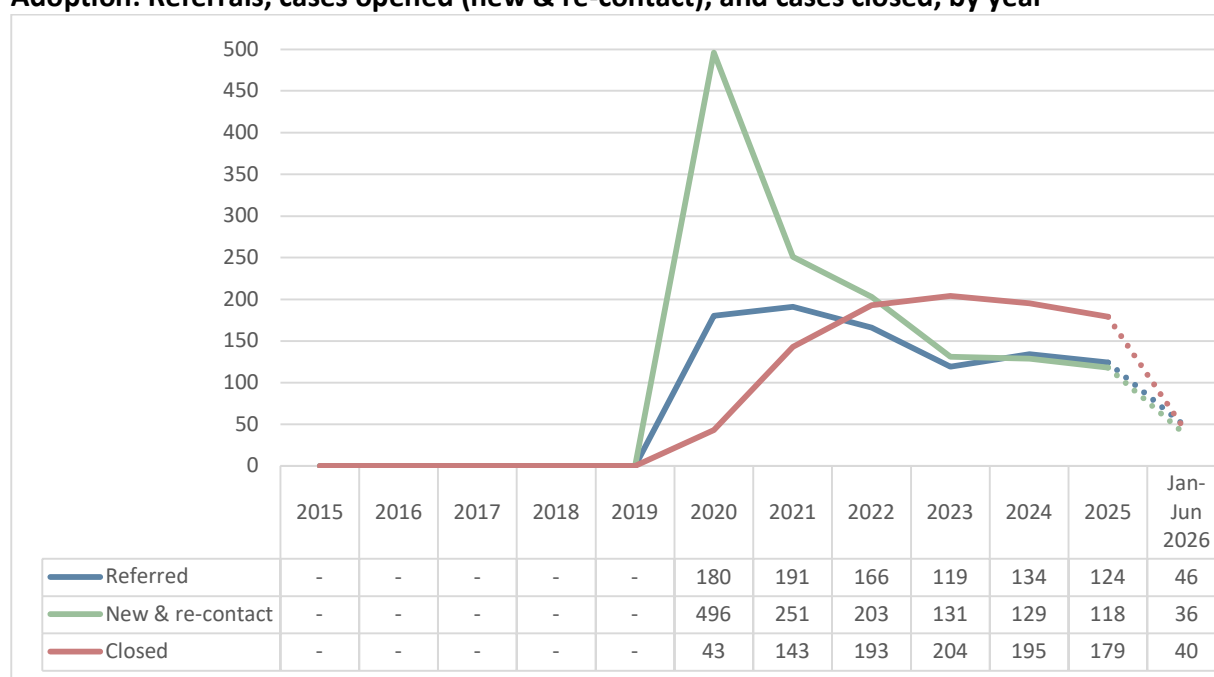


Figure 75: In Jan-Jun 2026, 46 cases were referred, 36 new & recontact cases opened, and 40 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 72 for breakdown).

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

A total of **36** cases were opened between January and June 2026 with **3** cases opened for service users who were children⁵, and **33** cases opened who were adoptive or prospective parents.

Adoption: Cases opened (new & re-contact) by type of service user and year

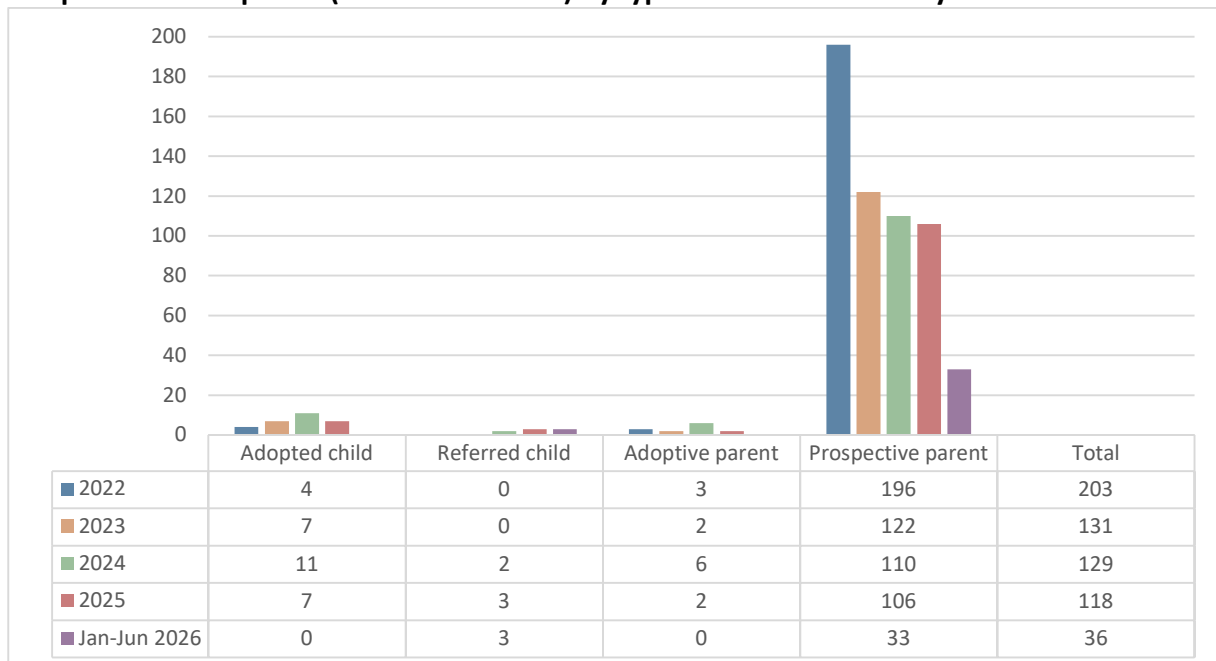


Figure 76: In Jan-Jun 2026, 0 cases opened related to adopted children, 3 cases opened related to children referred for adoption, 33 cases opened related to prospective adoptive parents, and 0 cases opened related to adoptive parents.

Note: The figure presents new and re-contact cases opened during the reporting period, disaggregated by service user type: prospective adoptive parents (i.e. individuals in the process of becoming adoptive parents), adoptive parents, adopted children (i.e. children adopted through the service's adoptive parents), and "referred children" (i.e. children identified for adoption and in the process of being matched with a suitable adoptive family). In this context, the term "child" or "children" primarily refers to individuals aged under 1 to 17 years; however, it may also include adults who continue to be followed post-adoption and remain recorded as adopted children within the service.

⁵ *In this context, the term "child" or "children" primarily refers to individuals aged under 1 to 17 years; however, it may also include adults who continue to be followed post-adoption and remain recorded as adopted children within the service.*

Adoption: Number of new decrees issued by country of birth of the child and year of decree

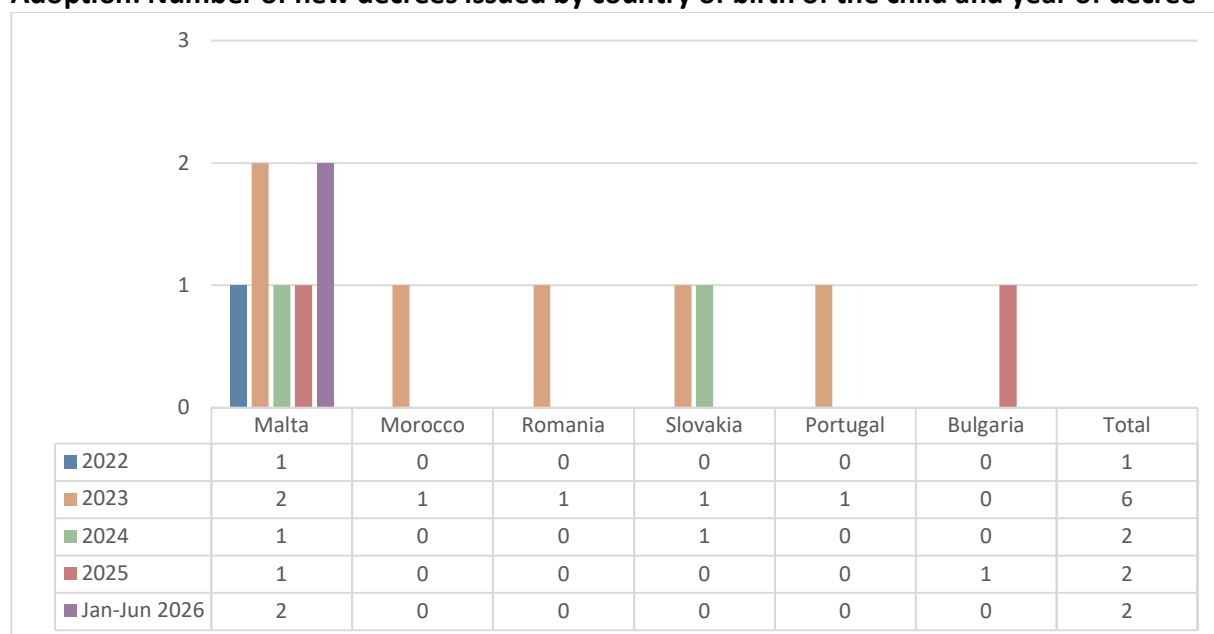


Figure 77: In Jan-Jun 2026, a total of 2 adoption decrees were recorded, relating to children born in Malta (2).

Note: The figure presents the number of new adoption decrees issued during the year, disaggregated by country of birth of the child. The decree date is based on the original country decree date forwarded to the Adoption Service and recorded in the database and reflects the information available at the time of data extraction. In some cases, decree dates may be submitted or updated after the publication of this report, which may result in discrepancies with figures reported at a later stage.

Furthermore, not all decrees may have been issued with the assistance of the FSWS Adoption Service, as some adoptions are undertaken through private agencies. In such cases, individuals may still become service users if they receive post-adoption support from the Adoption Service.

Children⁶ (adopted or referred to be adopted)

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

Adoption: Cases opened (new & re-contact) for children (adopted or referred for adopted), by age category and gender January - June 2026						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	0	0	0	-	0	0
<1	0	0	0	-	0	0
1-5	1	0	0	-	0	1
6-10	2	0	0	-	0	2
11-15	0	0	0	-	0	0
16-17	0	0	0	-	0	0
≥18	0	0	0	-	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	-	0	0
Total	3	0	0	-	0	3

Figure 78: Service users aged 6 to 10 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (67%; 2).

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.

⁶ The term children or child in this service does not only refer to persons aged <1 to 17 but can also include adult "children" being followed post adoption and who would still be considered as an adopted child of an adoptive parent.

Parents (prospective or adoptive)

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

Adoption: Cases opened (new & re-contact) for parents (prospective and adoptive), by age category and gender January - June 2026						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
≤17	0	0	0	-	0	0
18-19	0	0	0	-	0	0
20-24	0	0	0	-	0	0
25-29	0	0	0	-	0	0
30-34	3	5	0	-	0	8
35-39	6	3	0	-	0	9
40-44	2	5	0	-	0	7
45-49	3	4	0	-	0	7
50-54	0	1	0	-	0	1
55-59	1	0	0	-	0	1
≥60	0	0	0	-	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	-	0	0
Total	15	18	0	-	0	33

Figure 79: Service users aged 35 to 39 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (27%; 9).

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.

Community Homes Service (CHS)

Service data have been available for inclusion since 2015. In 2026, the database was amended to include intake cases worked with in the year.

CHS: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

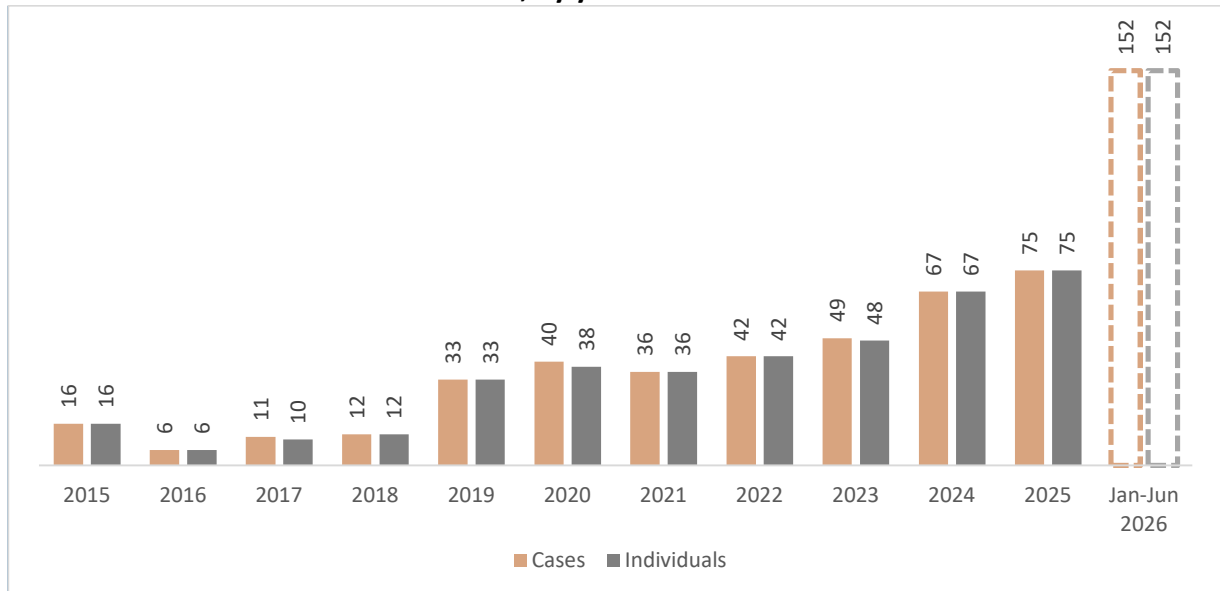


Figure 80: In Jan-Jun 2026, 152 cases and 152 individuals were worked with compared to 75 and 75 respectively in 2025. In 2026, the service started recording all intakes within the dataset and that is why there is such a large increase in the number of cases and individuals in 2026 compared to 2025.

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

A total of **152** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

CHS: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

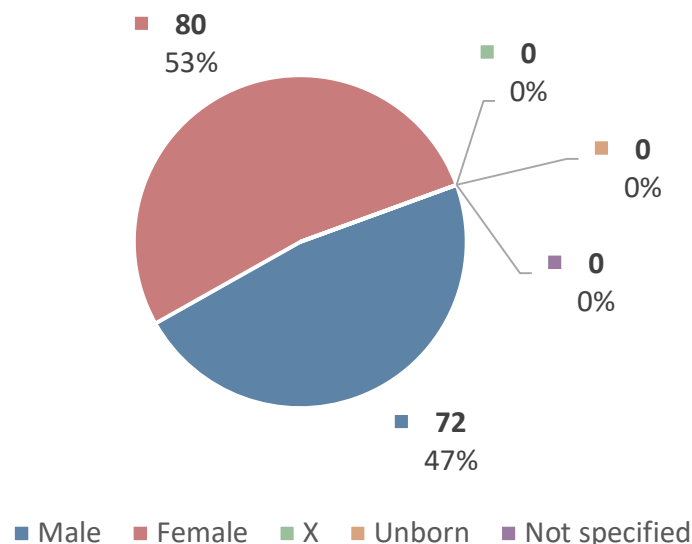


Figure 81: Female service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (53%).

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.

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

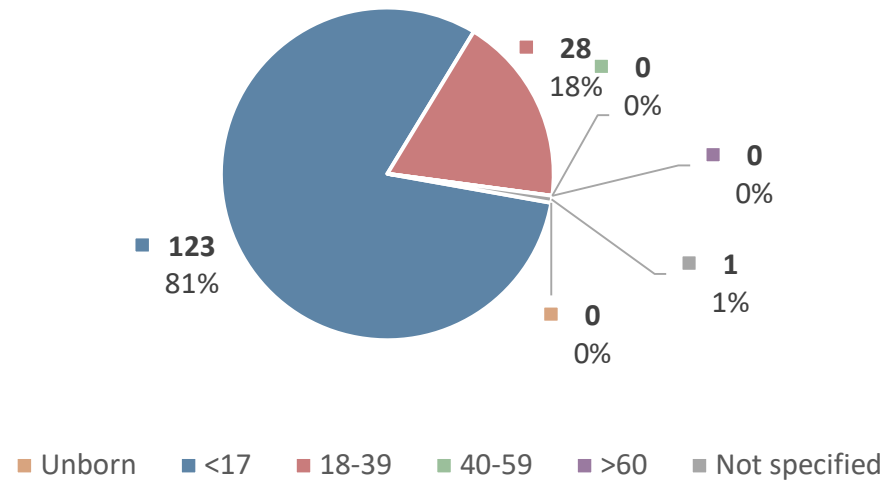


Figure 82: Service users aged 17 or younger accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (81%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

CHS: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

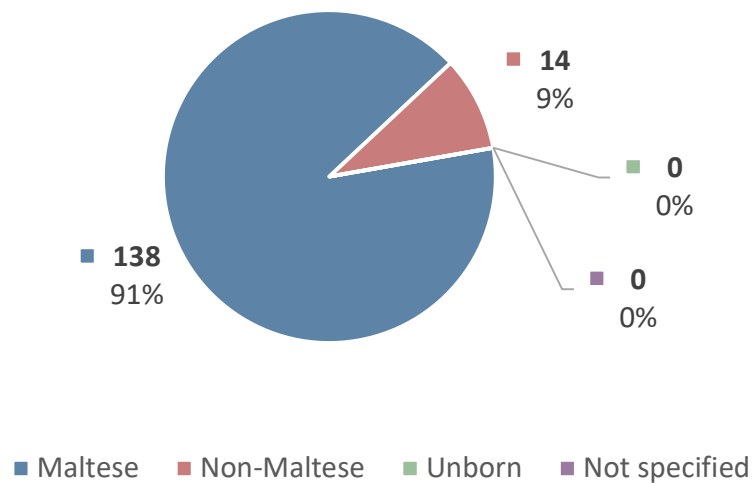
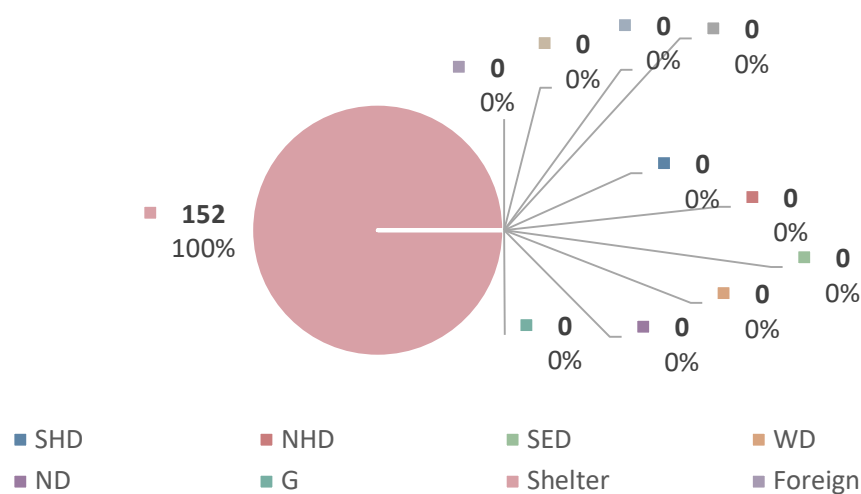


Figure 83: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (91%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 9%.

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

CHS: 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 84: All cases worked with in Jan-Jun 2026 were within a shelter/institution (100%).

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.

CHS: Case worked with by service and gender January - June 2026					
	Male	Female	X	Not specified	Total
Dingli Home	8	0	0	0	8
Gzira Home	1	6	0	0	7
Zejtun Home	5	2	0	0	7
Mgarr Home	0	6	0	0	6
Safe Haven, Attard	3	3	0	0	6
Sta. Margherita, Mosta	0	6	0	0	6
Sta. Marija, Mosta	0	6	0	0	6
Lumina, Gudja	3	2	0	0	5
Sempreviva, Mosta	0	5	0	0	5
Warm Haven, Mskala	0	5	0	0	5
Hamrun Aftercare	2	1	0	0	3
Paola Flats	2	0	0	0	2
Vallette Aftercare	0	2	0	0	2
Marsaskala Flat	1	0	0	0	1
None (on intake)	47	36	0	0	83
Total	72	80	0	0	152

Figure 85: In Jan-Jun 2026, after excluding cases on intake, the majority of cases worked with were housed within Dingli Home (8 cases).

Note: The Community Homes Service provides access to a number of residential homes. If a case is on intake, it is pending further assessments and allocation to a residential home.

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

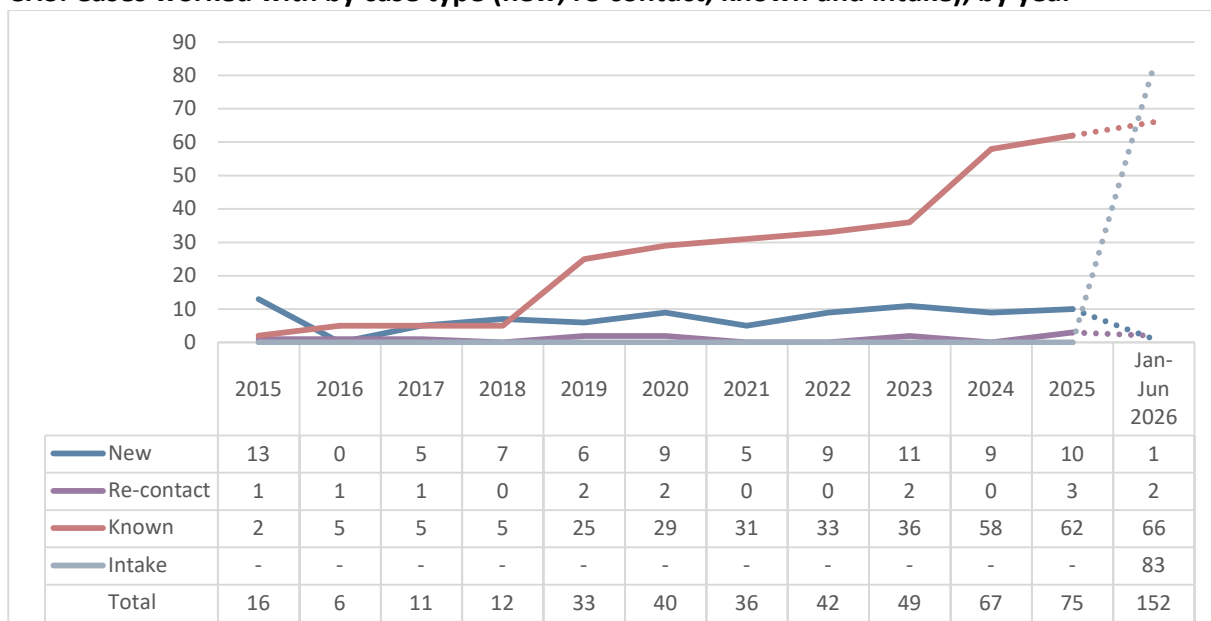


Figure 86: New cases accounted for 1% (1) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 1% (2).

Note: Cases worked with start the reporting period as a new, re-contact, known, or intake case (see Glossary). Intake has been reported since 2026 following data recording changes.

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

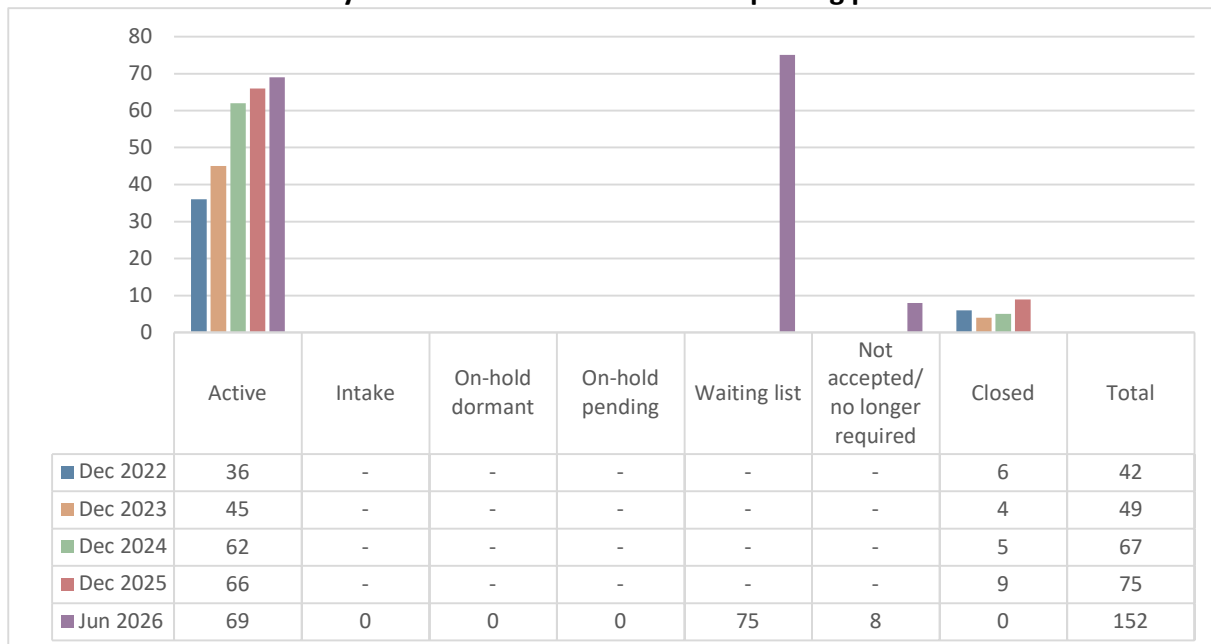


Figure 87: By the end of June 2026, 45% (69) of the cases worked with remained active, while 49% (75) were on the waiting list.

Note: Cases may end the reporting period by being intake, active, on hold, on the waiting list, or closed (see Glossary). The waiting list in the figure is only reported for cases registered on the online data collection system. The waiting list in the subsequent figure is the full waiting list registered separately by the service. Since 2026, the service included the waiting list in their dataset and subsequently the data in this figure and the subsequent figure provides the true waiting list.

CHS: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

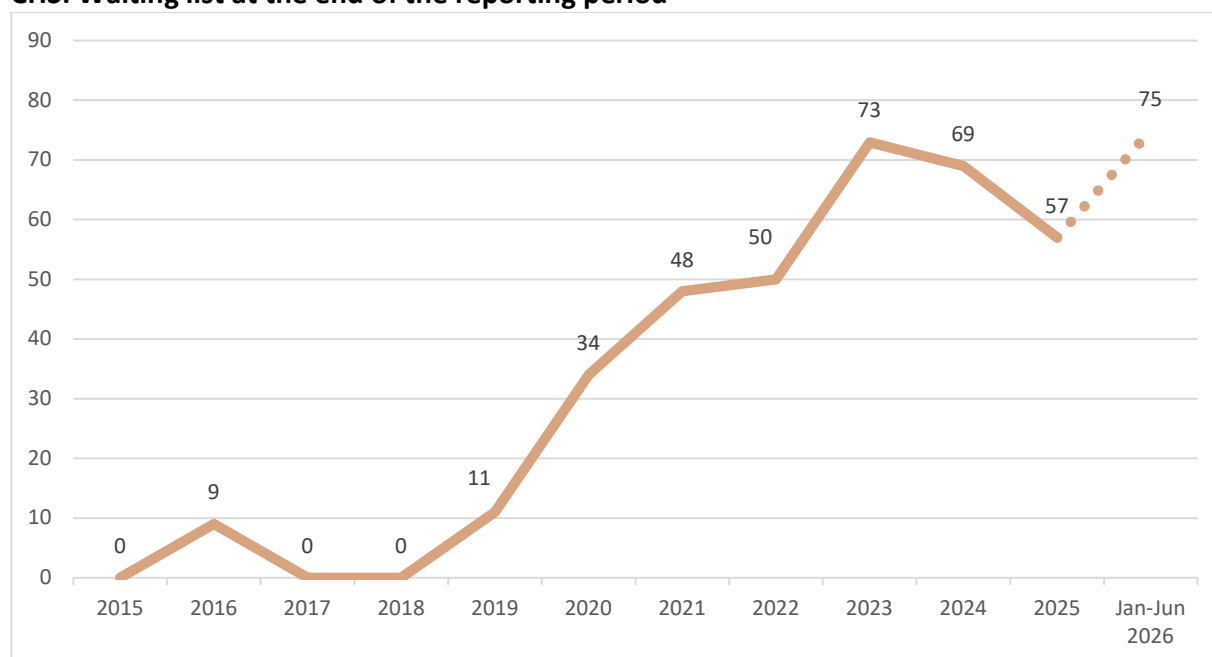


Figure 88: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 75 cases remained on the waiting list.

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. The waiting list in the figure is the full waiting list registered separately and reported by the services. Since 2026, the service included the waiting list in their dataset and subsequently the data in this figure matches the previous figure.

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

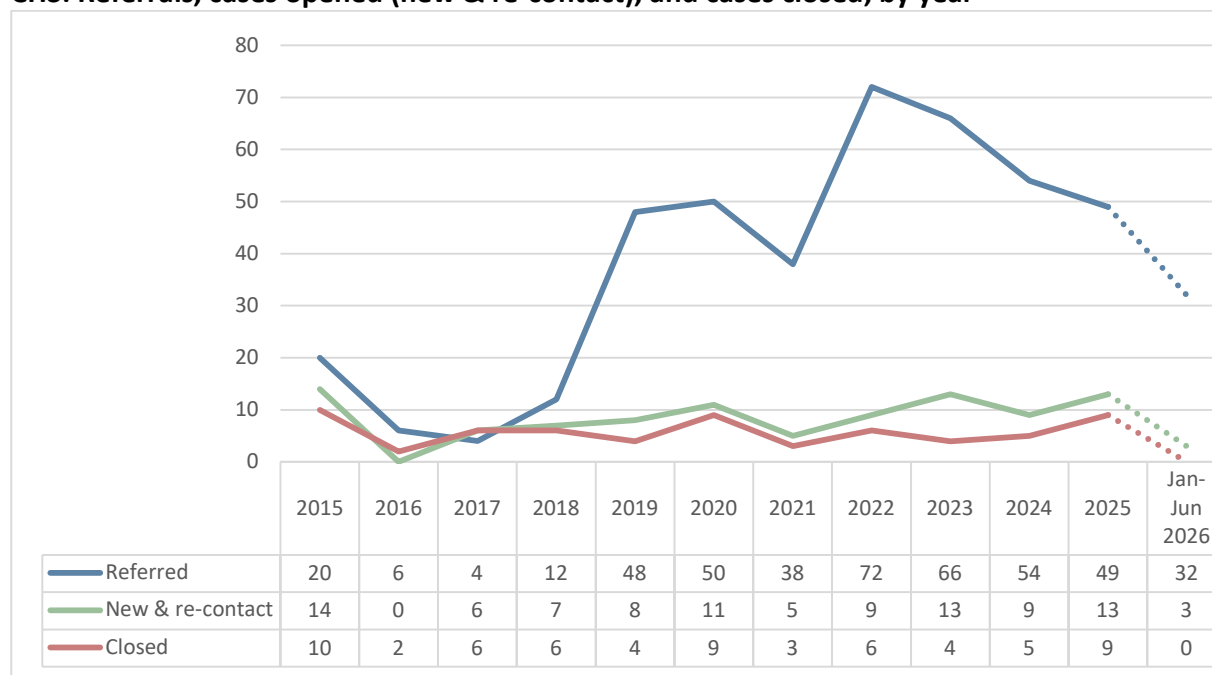


Figure 89: In Jan-Jun 2026, 32 cases were referred, 3 new & recontact cases opened, and 0 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 86 for breakdown).

A total of **3** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

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

CHS: 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
< 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	1	0	0	0	3
16-17	0	0	0	0	0	0
≥18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	1	0	0	0	3

Figure 90: Service users aged 11 to 15 accounted for all cases opened (100%; 3).

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. In some cases, the service may be required to support a youth beyond the age of 18 to facilitate the transition to full independence. For example, support may continue where a young adult is pursuing tertiary education and is unable to afford independent accommodation.

Home-Start Malta

Service data have been available for inclusion since 2019. A new online data collection system and reporting format were introduced in 2020. The service was transferred from Appogg to the Directorate for Alternative Care in 2021. Its remit was also expanded to include services previously provided by Programme Uljed Darna (PUD), namely volunteer-related activities and general work with children.

Home-start: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

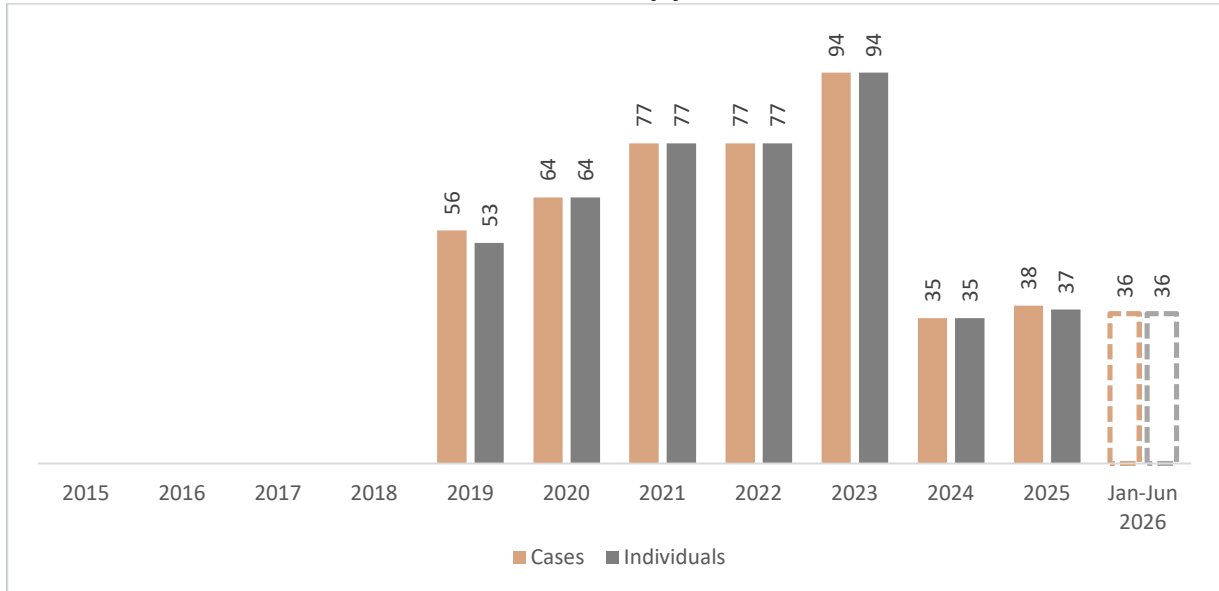


Figure 91: In Jan-Jun 2026, 36 cases and 36 individuals were worked with compared to 38 and 37 respectively in 2025.

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

A total of **36** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

Home-start: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

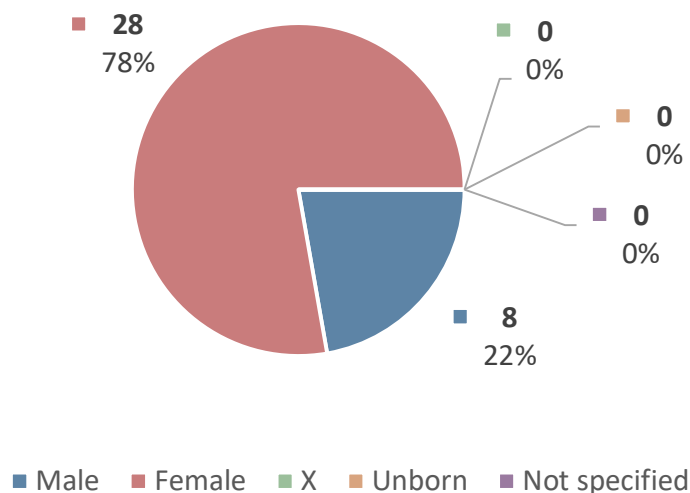


Figure 92: Female service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (78%).

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.

Home-start: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by age category

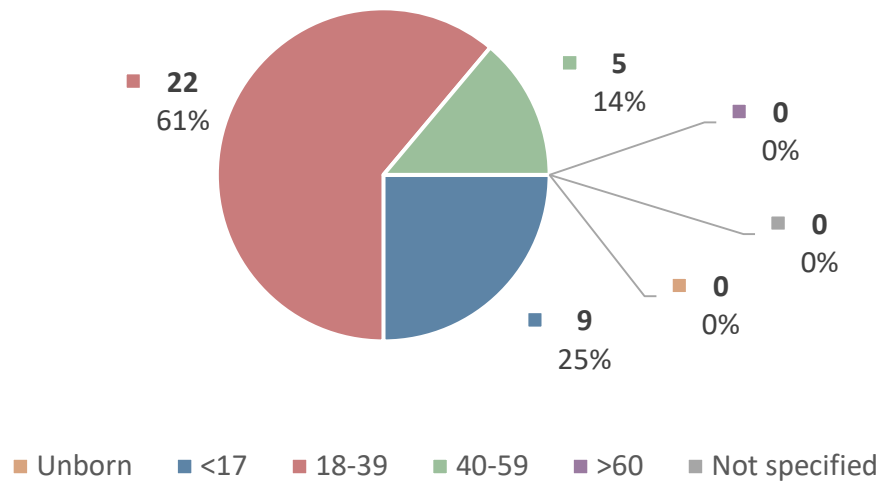


Figure 93: Service users aged 18 to 39 accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (61%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

Home-start: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

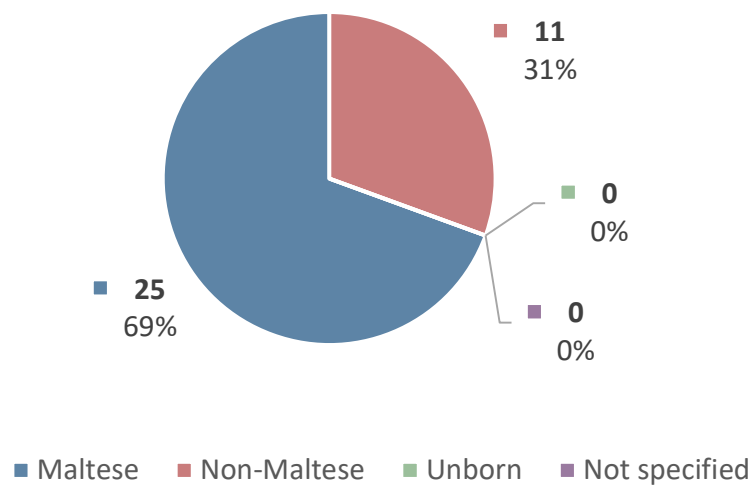
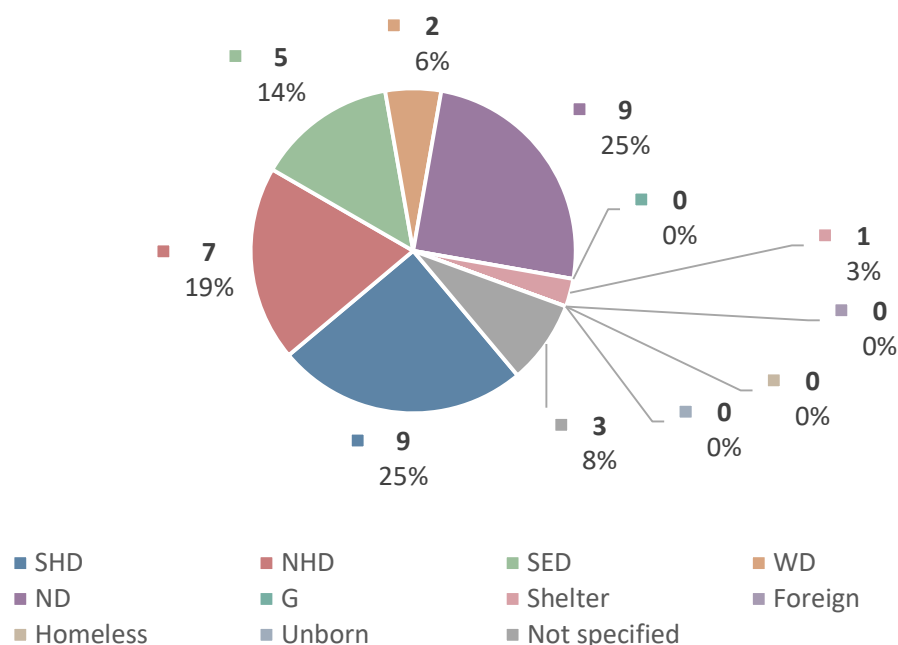


Figure 94: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (69%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 31%.

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

Home-start: 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 95: Southern Harbour District and Northern 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.

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

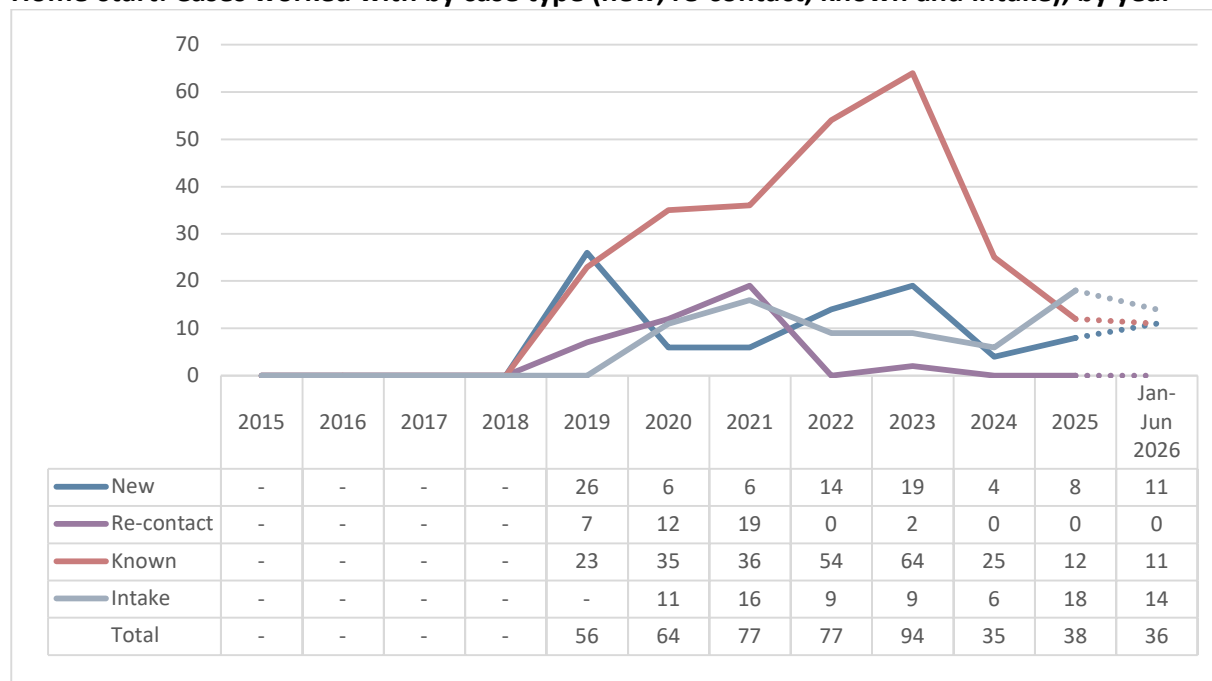


Figure 96: New cases accounted for 31% (11) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 0% (0).

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.

Home-start: Cases worked with by case state at the end of the reporting period

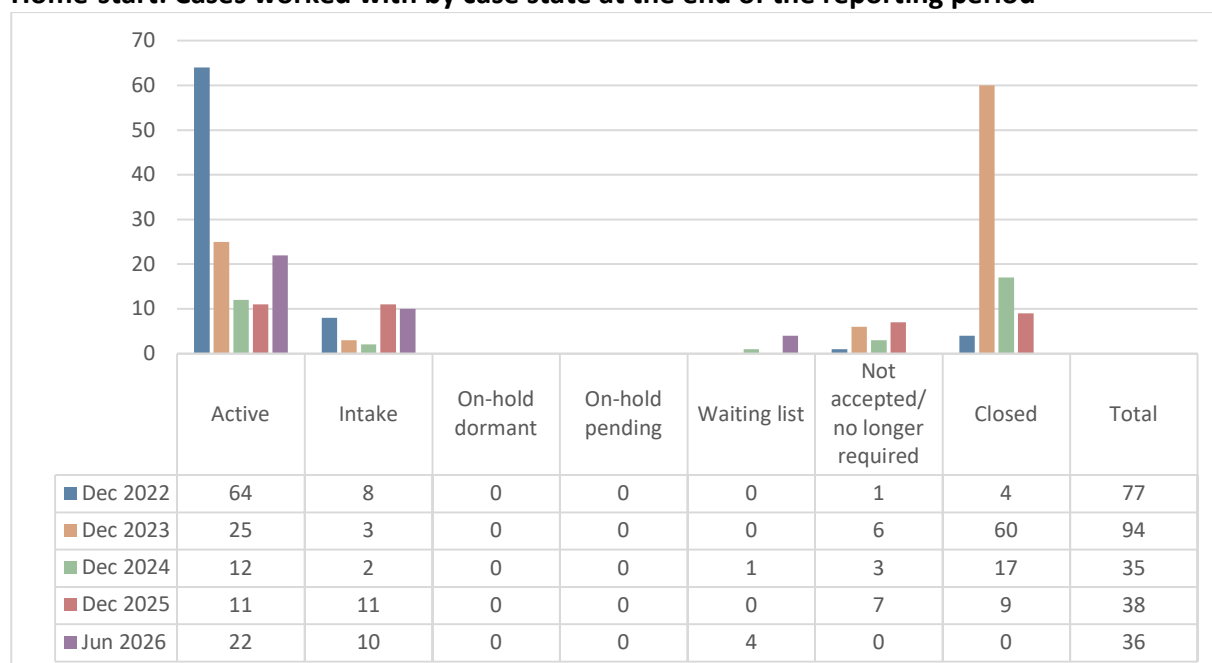


Figure 97: By the end of June 2026, 61% (22) of the cases worked with remained active, 0% (0) were closed and 28% (10) remained on intake.

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

Home-start: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

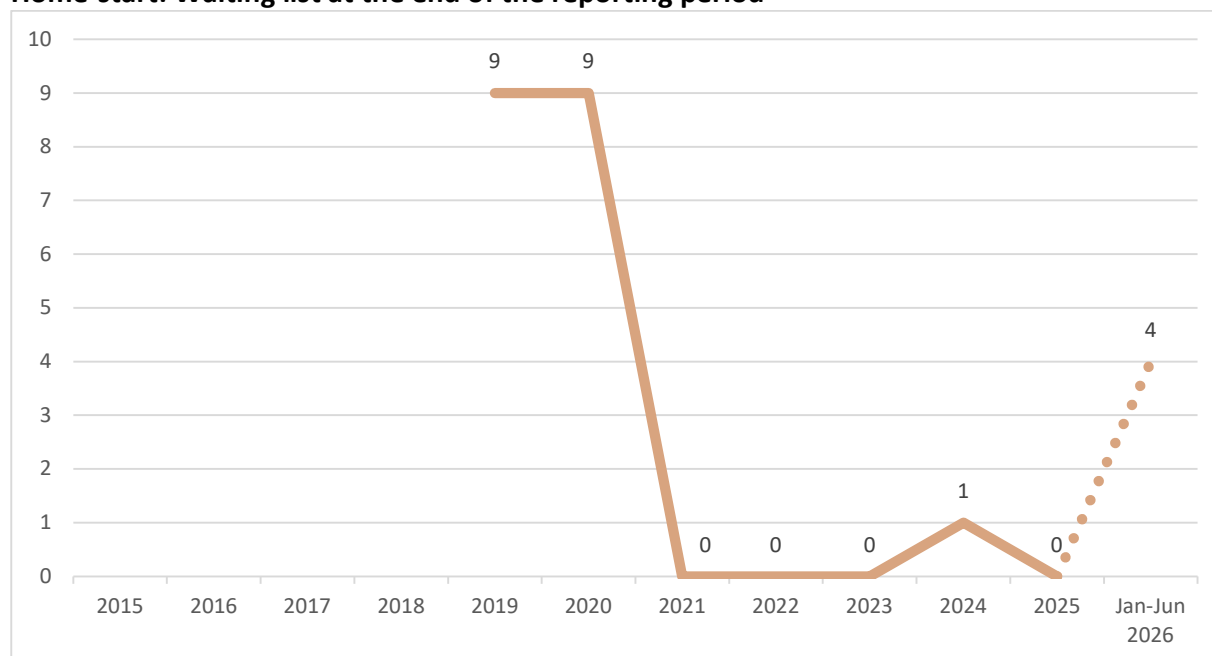


Figure 98: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 4 cases remained on the waiting list.

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.

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

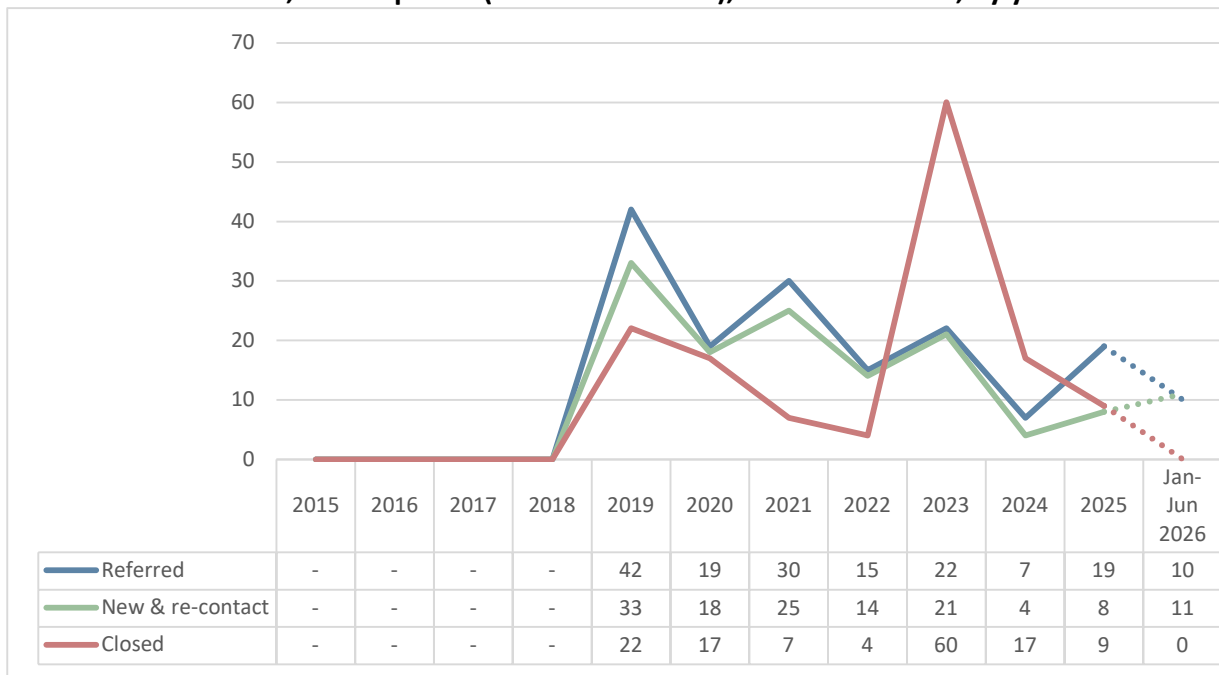


Figure 99: In Jan-Jun 2026, 10 cases were referred, 11 new & recontact cases opened, and 0 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 96 for breakdown).

A total of **11** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

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

Home-Start: 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
<1	1	0	0	-	0	1
1-5	3	0	0	-	0	3
6-10	0	1	0	-	0	1
11-15	0	0	0	-	0	0
16-17	0	0	0	-	0	0
18-19	0	0	0	-	0	0
20-24	0	0	0	-	0	0
25-29	0	2	0	-	0	2
30-34	0	0	0	-	0	0
35-39	0	3	0	-	0	3
40-44	0	1	0	-	0	1
45-49	0	0	0	-	0	0
50-54	0	0	0	-	0	0
55-59	0	0	0	-	0	0
≥60	0	0	0	-	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	-	0	0
Total	4	7	0	-	0	11

Figure 100: Service users aged 1 to 5 and 35 to 39 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (27%; 3 each).

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.

Youth in Focus Service (YIF)

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

YIF: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

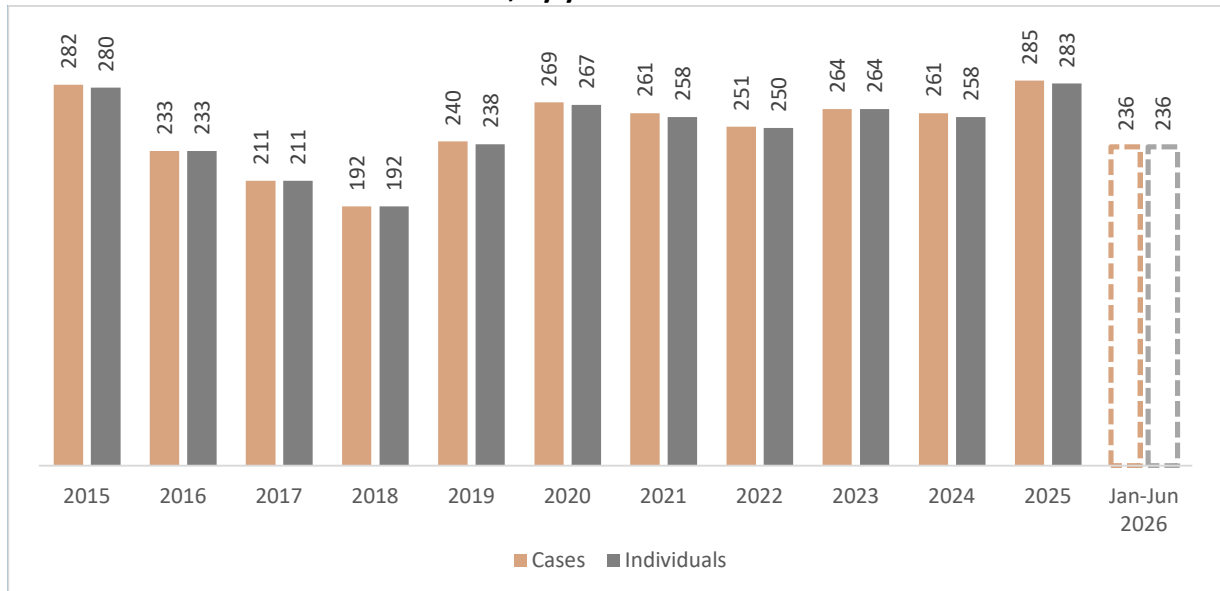


Figure 101: In Jan-Jun 2026, 236 cases and 236 individuals were worked with compared to 285 and 283 respectively in 2025.

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

A total of **236** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

YIF: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

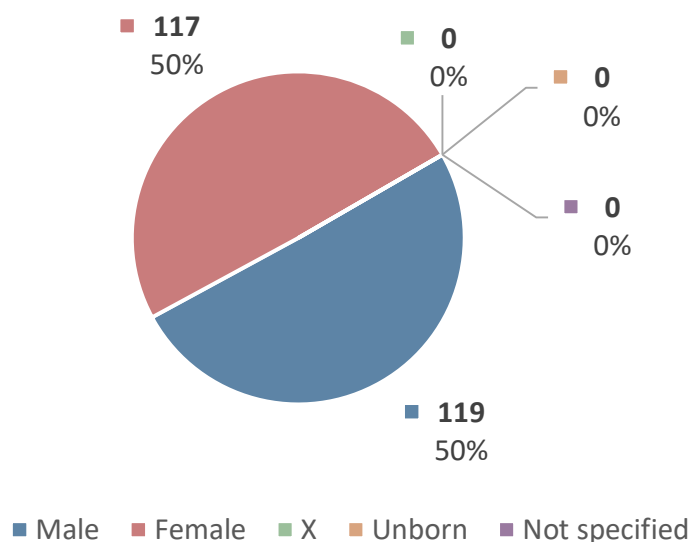


Figure 102: Male and female service users accounted for an equal proportion of cases worked with (50% each).

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.

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

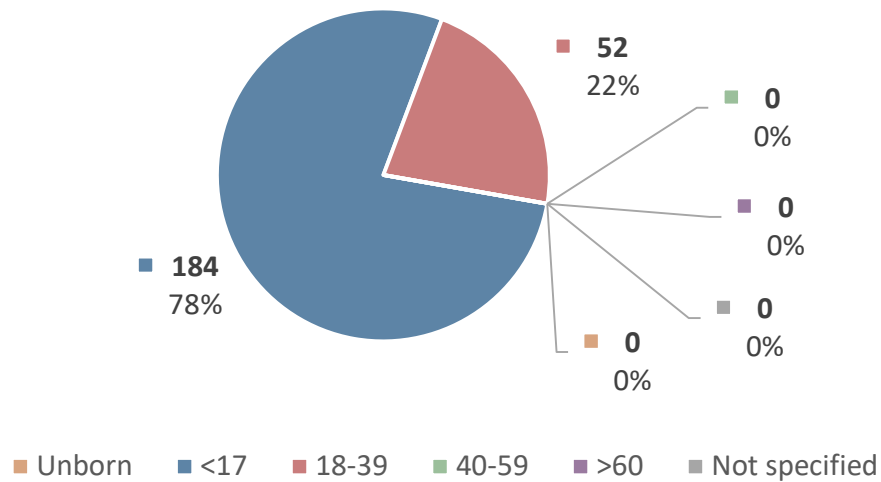


Figure 103: Service users aged 17 or younger accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (78%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

YIF: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

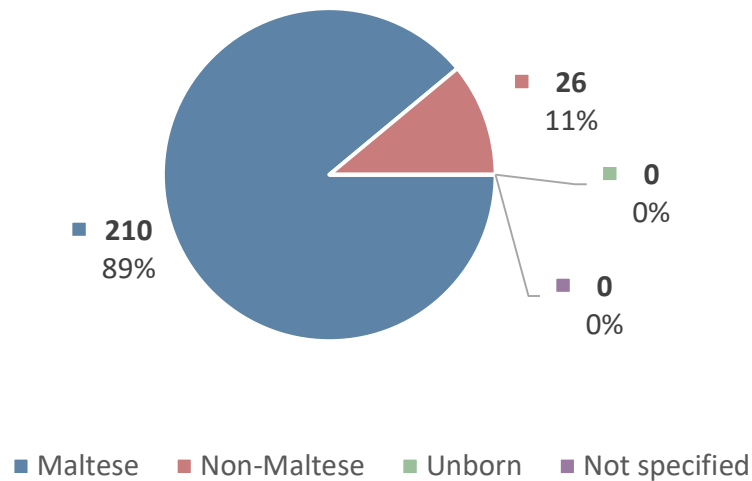
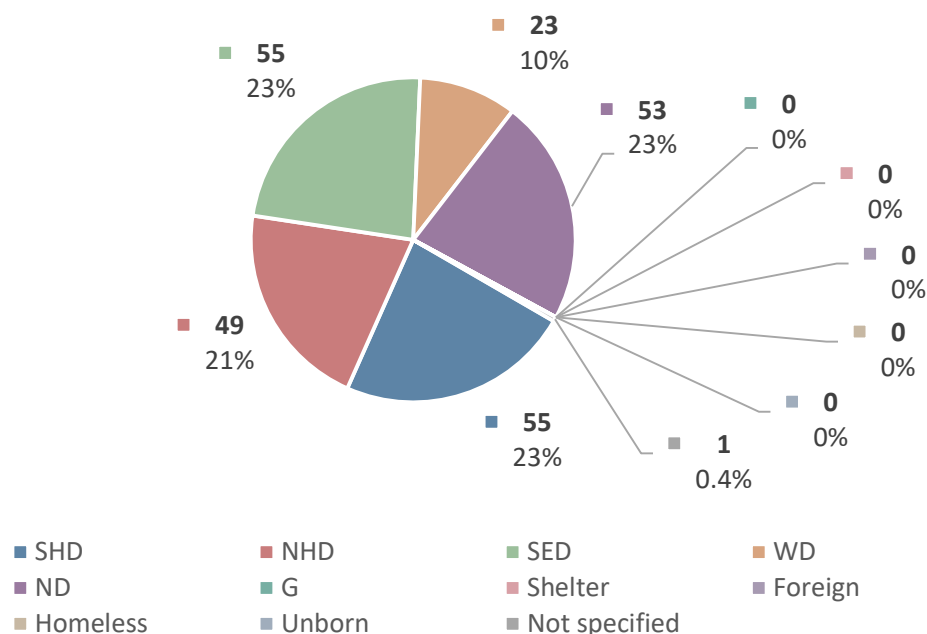


Figure 104: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (89%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 11%.

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

YIF: 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 105: Southern Harbour District, Southeastern District and Northern District accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (23% 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.

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

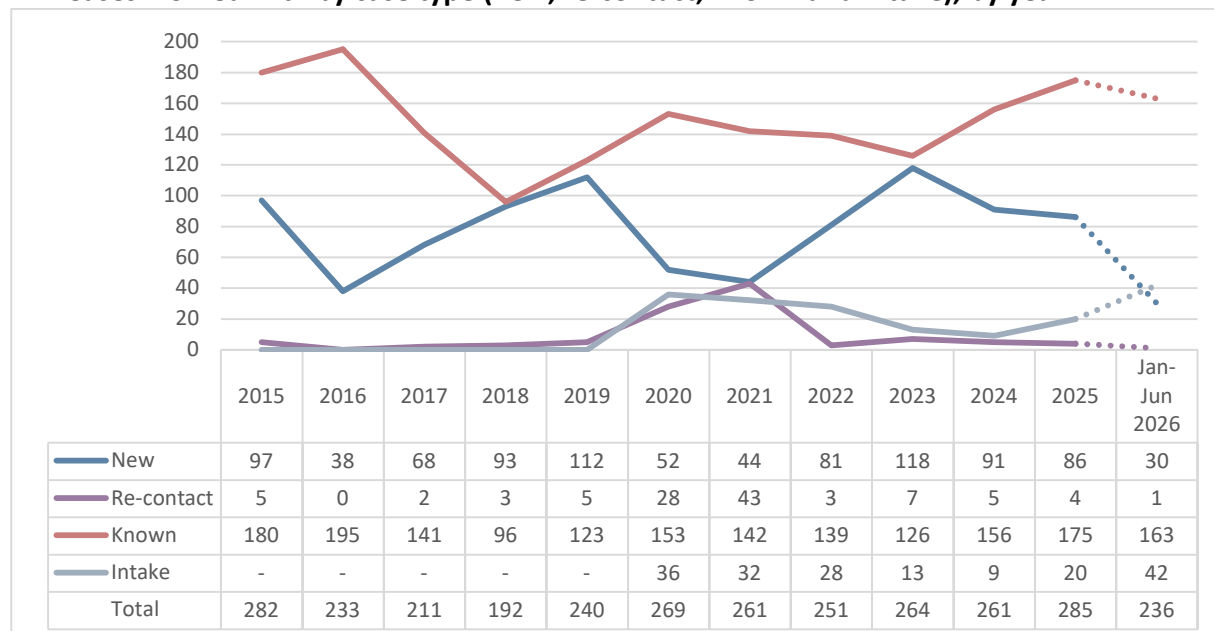


Figure 106: New cases accounted for 13% (30) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 0.4% (1).

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.

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

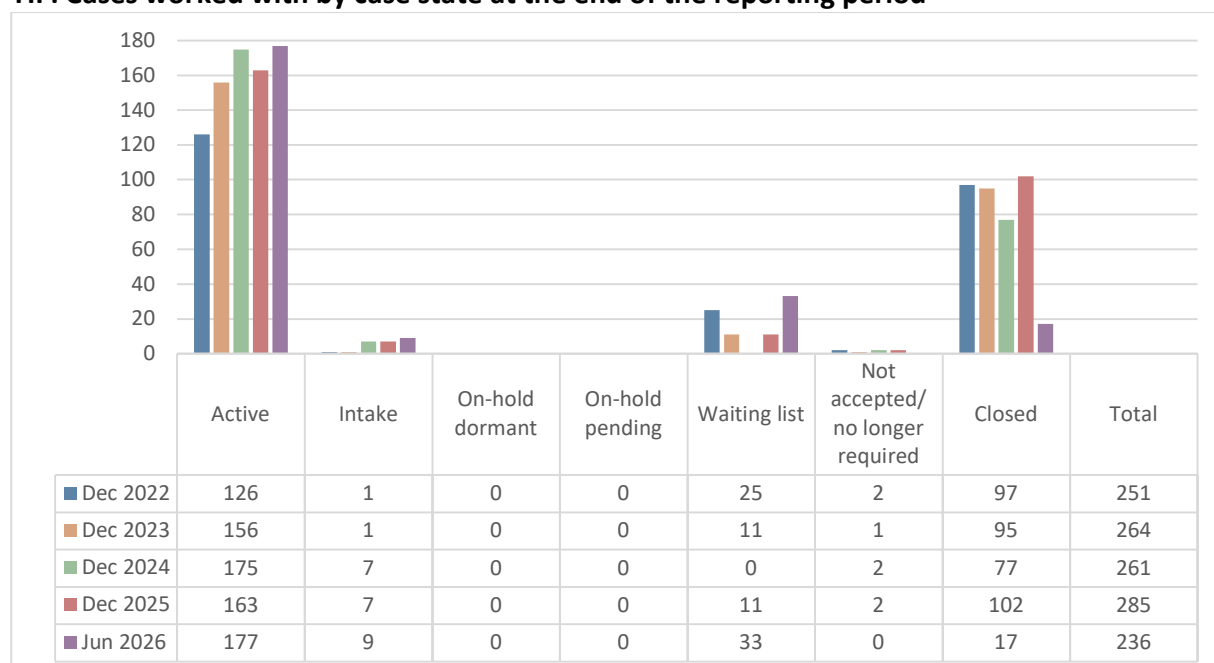


Figure 107: By the end of June 2026, 75% (177) of the cases worked with remained active, 7% (17) were closed and 4% (9) remained on intake.

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

YIF: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

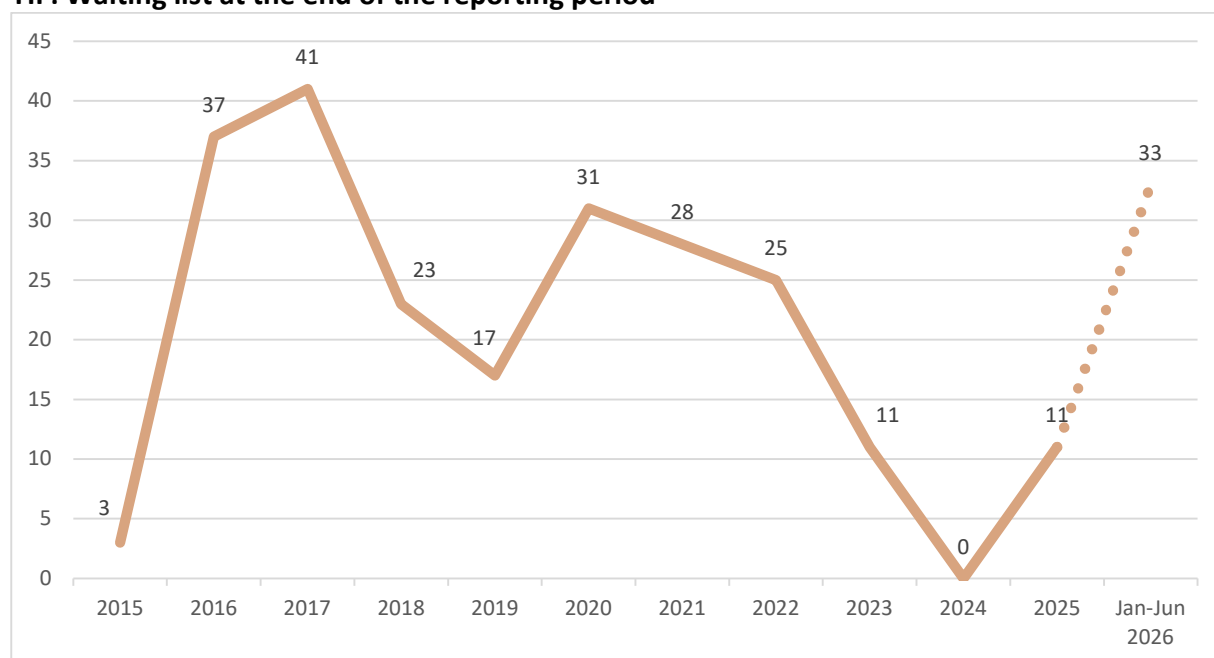


Figure 108: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 33 cases remained on the waiting list.

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.

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

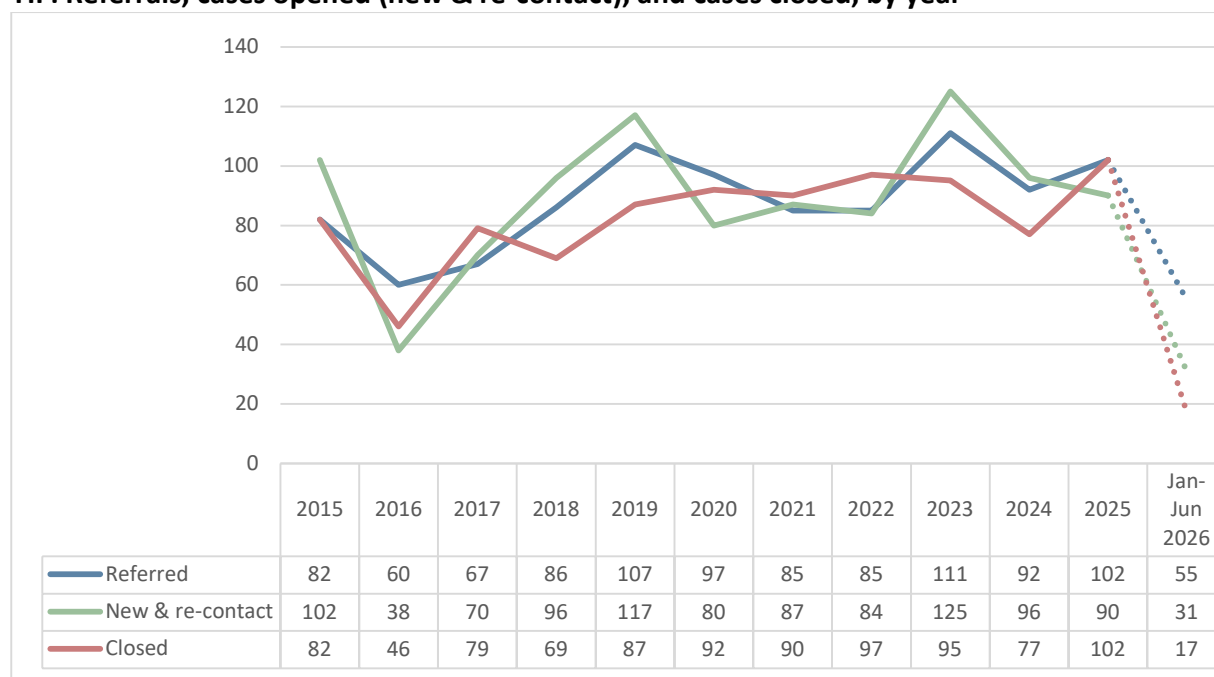


Figure 109: In Jan-Jun 2026, 55 cases were referred, 31 new & recontact cases opened, and 17 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 106 for breakdown).

YIF: Referred cases and primary problem, by year				
	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Addictive behaviour problems	29	20	19	10
Assault/rape/harassment/sexual abuse	0	0	0	0
Behaviour problems	-	-	0	0
Bereavement	0	0	0	0
Bullying or being bullied	-	0	2	1
Challenging behaviour	-	24	30	11
Child abuse	0	0	0	0
Child care or access	0	0	0	0
Delinquency	2	8	6	3
Disability related issues	0	0	0	0
Domestic violence	0	0	0	0
Eating disorder	0	0	0	0
Elderly needs	0	0	0	0
Employment issues	0	0	0	0
Family relations/relationships	11	11	15	12
Financial difficulties	0	0	0	0
Fostering or adoption	0	0	0	0
Health related issues	0	0	0	0
Homeless	1	0	0	0

Housing problems	0	0	0	0
Human trafficking	0	0	0	0
Identity related issues	1	1	0	0
Lack of support or guidance	9	3	4	2
Legal issues	0	0	0	0
Loneliness	0	0	0	0
Marital problems	0	0	0	0
Mental health issues	0	0	0	0
Migrant related issues	0	0	0	0
Oppositional defiant behaviours	47	20	17	8
Out of home care	-	0	0	0
Parenting skills/child-parent relationship	0	0	0	0
Personality related issues	0	0	0	0
Pregnancy related issues	0	0	0	0
Promiscuous behaviour	-	3	1	0
Psychological assessment	-	0	0	0
Relationship problems	0	0	0	0
School related problems	4	2	6	5
Self-harm or suicide	2	0	2	3
Separation related issues	0	0	0	0
Sex work related issues	0	0	0	0
Significant other for support sessions	-	0	0	0
Other	5	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0
Total	111	92	102	55

Figure 110: Referrals were distributed across several primary problems in Jan-Jun 2026, with family relations (12) among the most frequently reported.

Note: Service users may report multiple issues at referral, with one identified as the primary problem. A standard list is used to record and rank issues; "other" is used where an issue is not listed, and "not specified" where no issue is identified.

A total of **31** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

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

YIF: 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
< 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	13	8	0	0	0	21
16-17	4	5	0	0	0	9
≥18	1	0	0	0	0	1
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18	13	0	0	0	31

Figure 111: Service users aged 11 to 15 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (68%; 21).

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.

YIF: Cases opened (new & re-contact) by primary addictive behaviour reported and gender January - June 2026						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Technology/gaming/social media	0	0	0	-	0	0
Tobacco/e-cigarettes	0	1	0	-	0	1
Cannabis	2	1	0	-	0	3
Alcohol	0	0	0	-	0	0
Methamphetamines	0	0	0	-	0	0
Inhalants	0	0	0	-	0	0
Other opiates	0	0	0	-	0	0
Eating disorder/food	0	0	0	-	0	0
No addictive behaviour reported	0	0	0	-	0	0
None identified/reported	16	11	0	-	0	27
Total	18	13	0	-	0	31

Figure 112: In Jan-Jun 2026, the majority of cases opened reported no primary addictive behavioural issues (27 cases), of which 16 cases were male

Note: The primary problem or addiction is recorded at first contact and reflects the main issue experienced by the service user in the previous 12 months. "None reported" refers to service users who did not report a problem or addiction during this period, including those who had another issue which was not an addictive behaviour (e.g., school related issues), or significant others seeking support but do not have a primary problem themselves to report.

Embark for Life Service (E4L)

Service data have been available for inclusion since 2014. A new online data collection system and reporting format were introduced in 2023.

E4L: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

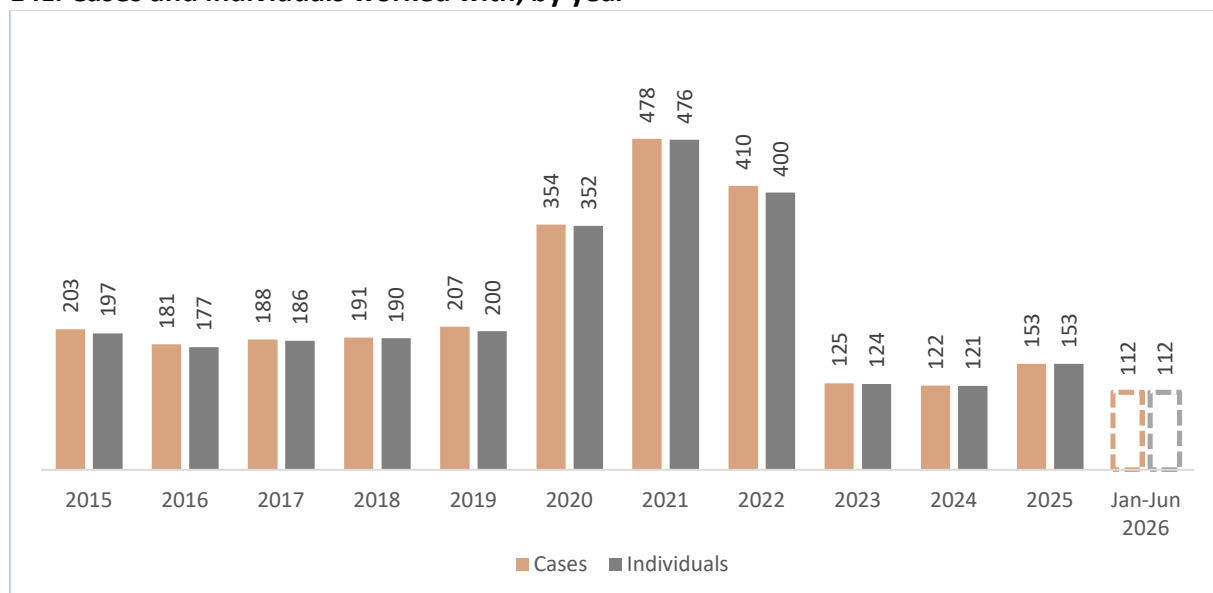


Figure 113: In Jan-Jun 2026, 112 cases and 112 individuals were worked with compared to 153 and 153 respectively in 2025.

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

A total of **112** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

E4L: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

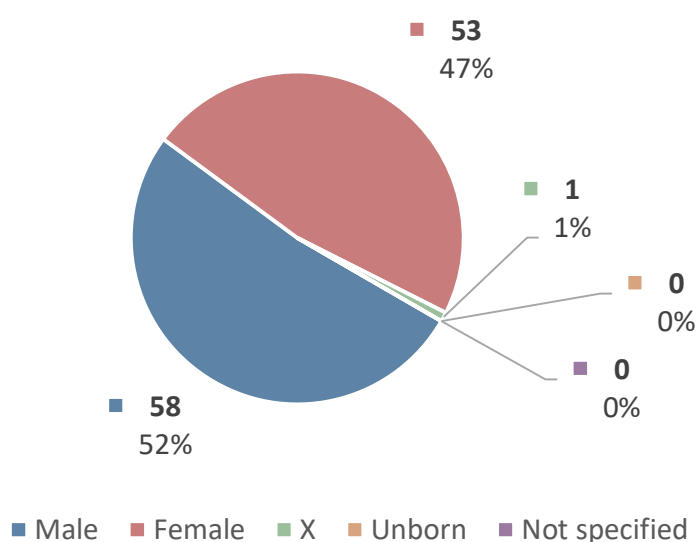


Figure 114: Male service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (52%).

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.

E4L: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by age category

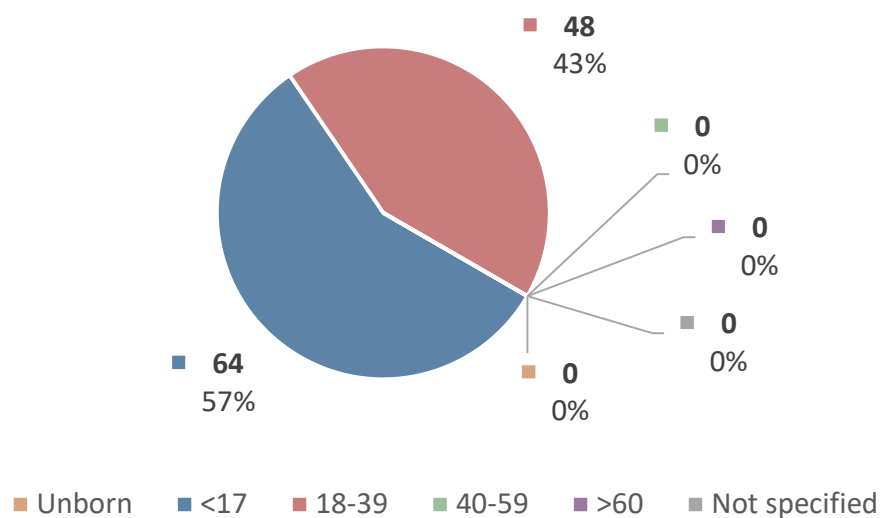


Figure 115: Service users aged 17 or younger accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (57%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

E4L: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

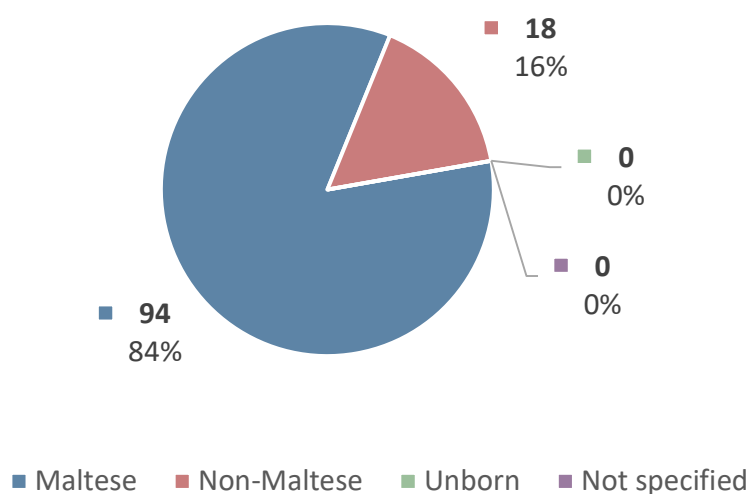
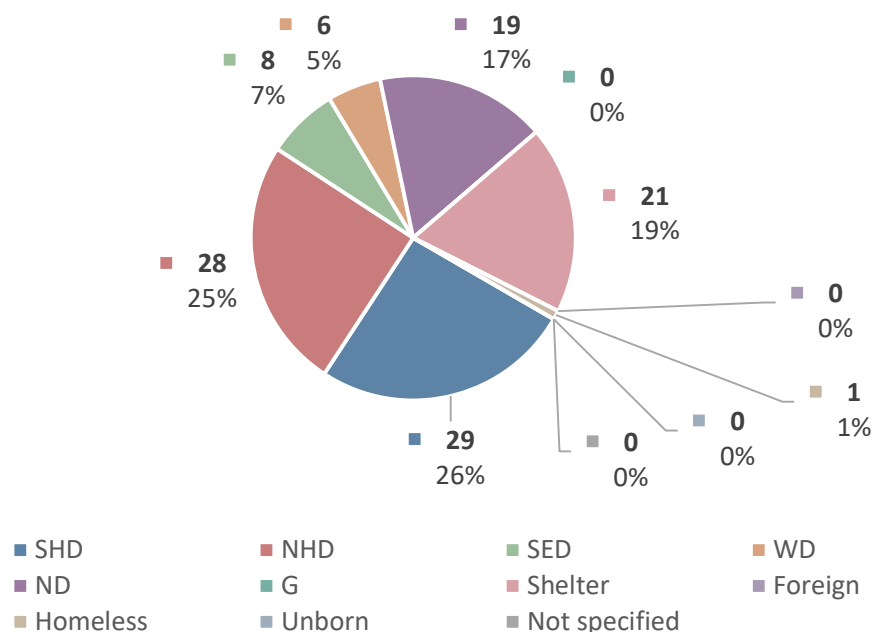


Figure 116: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (84%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 16%.

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

E4L: 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 117: Southern Harbour District accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (26%).

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.

E4L: Cases worked with by case type (new, re-contact, known and intake), by year

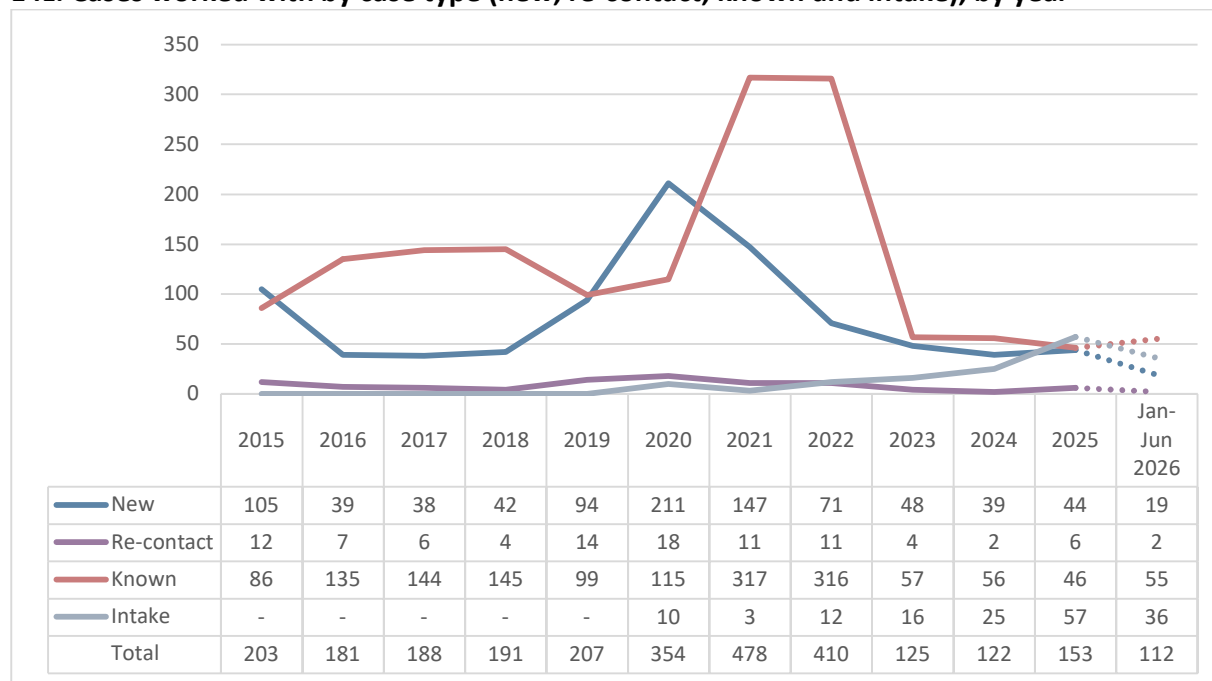


Figure 118: New cases accounted for 17% (19) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 2% (2).

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.

E4L: Cases worked with by case state at the end of the reporting period

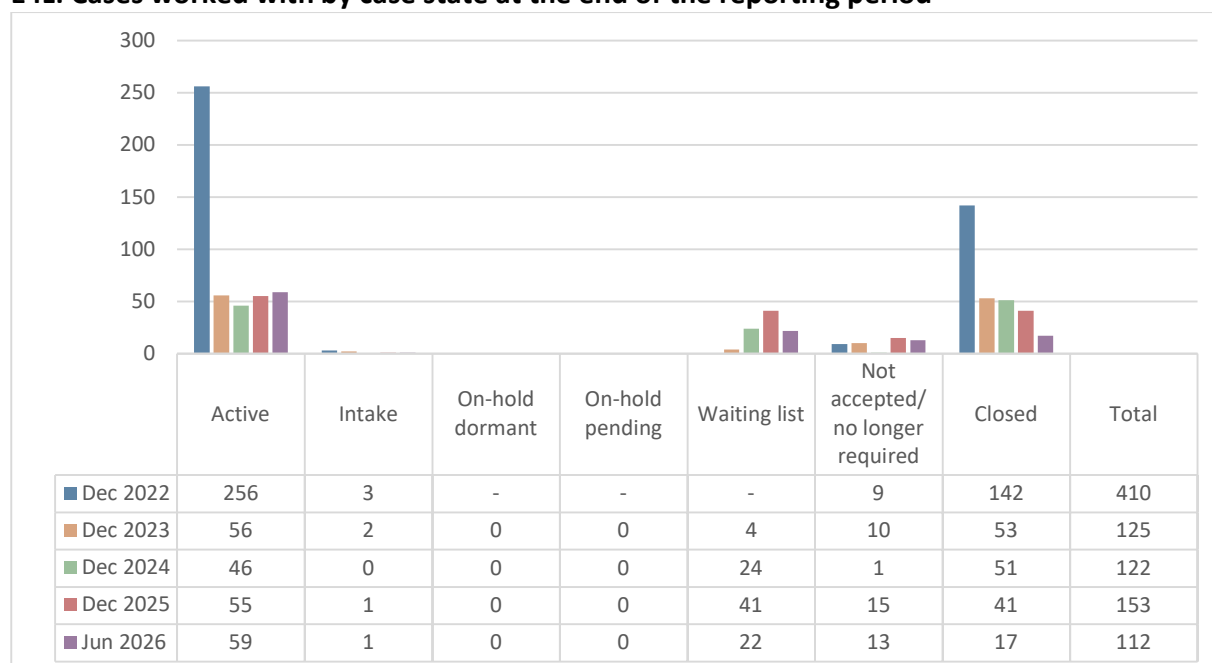


Figure 119: By the end of June 2026, 53% (59) of the cases worked with remained active, 15% (17) were closed and 1% (1) remained on intake.

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

E4L: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

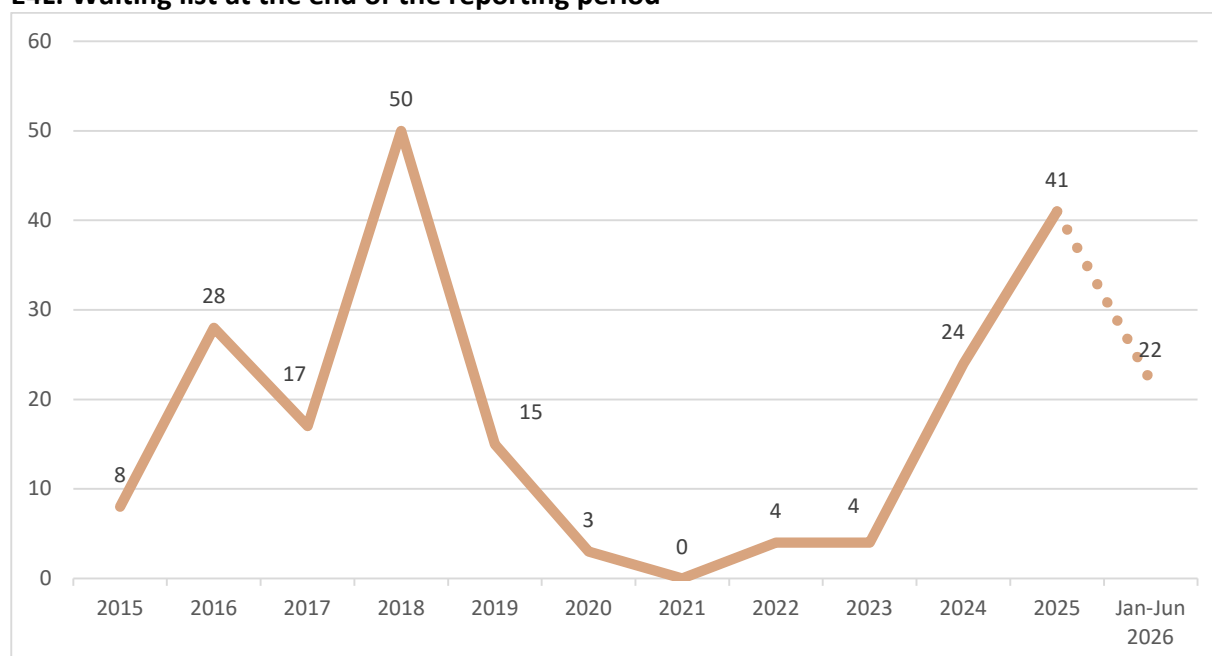


Figure 120: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 22 cases remained on the waiting list.

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.

E4L: Referrals, cases opened (new & re-contact), and cases closed, by year

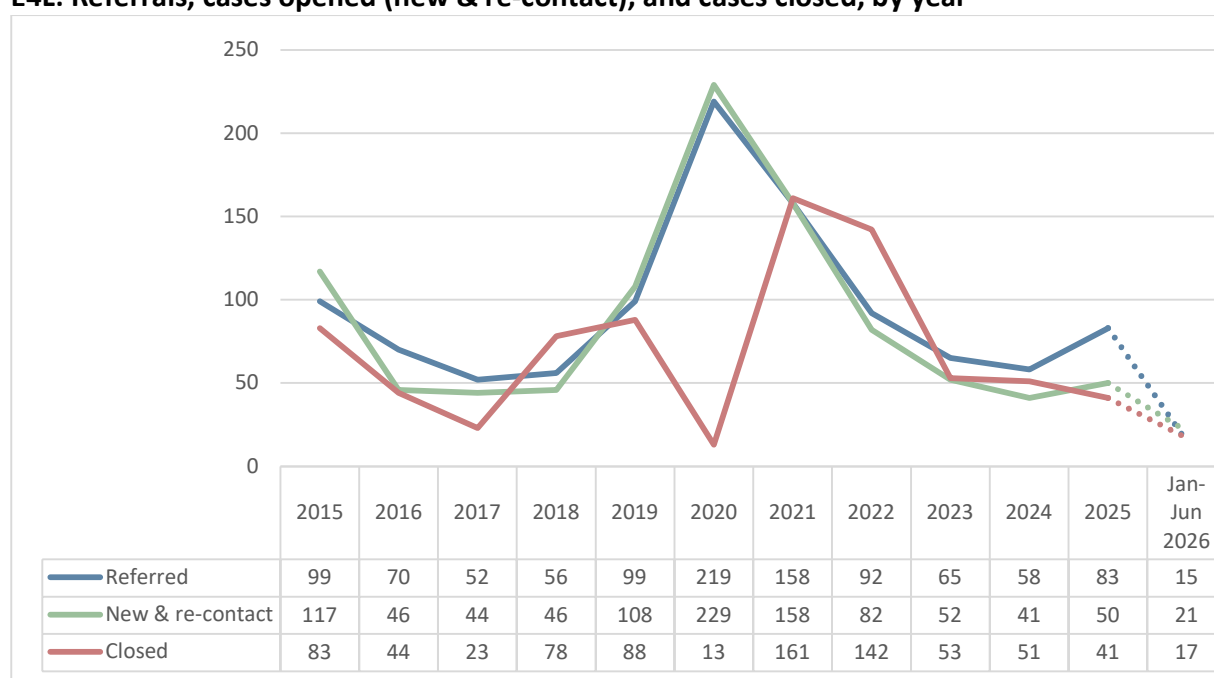


Figure 121: In Jan-Jun 2026, 15 cases were referred, 21 new & recontact cases opened, and 17 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 118 for breakdown).

A total of **21** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

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

E4L: 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
< 1	0	0	0	-	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	-	0	0
6-10	0	0	0	-	0	0
11-15	3	2	0	-	0	5
16-17	6	5	0	-	0	11
≥18	2	3	0	-	0	5
Not specified	0	0	0	-	0	
Total	11	10	0	-	0	21

Figure 122: Service users aged 16 to 17 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (52%; 11).

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.

Youth Empowerment Initiatives (YEI)

The Adolescent Day Programme Service (ADP) and Youth Initiatives reported in previous reports were incorporated into the Youth Empowerment Service (YEI) in 2024. As a result, and due to changes in data collection and reporting, data from 2013 to 2023 is not directly comparable with data from 2024 onwards. Consequently, data for ADP covering the period 2013 - 2023 can be found in previous reports, while data for the Youth Empowerment Service (YEI) from 2024 onwards is presented in this report.

YEI: Number of cases and individuals worked with at YEI by year

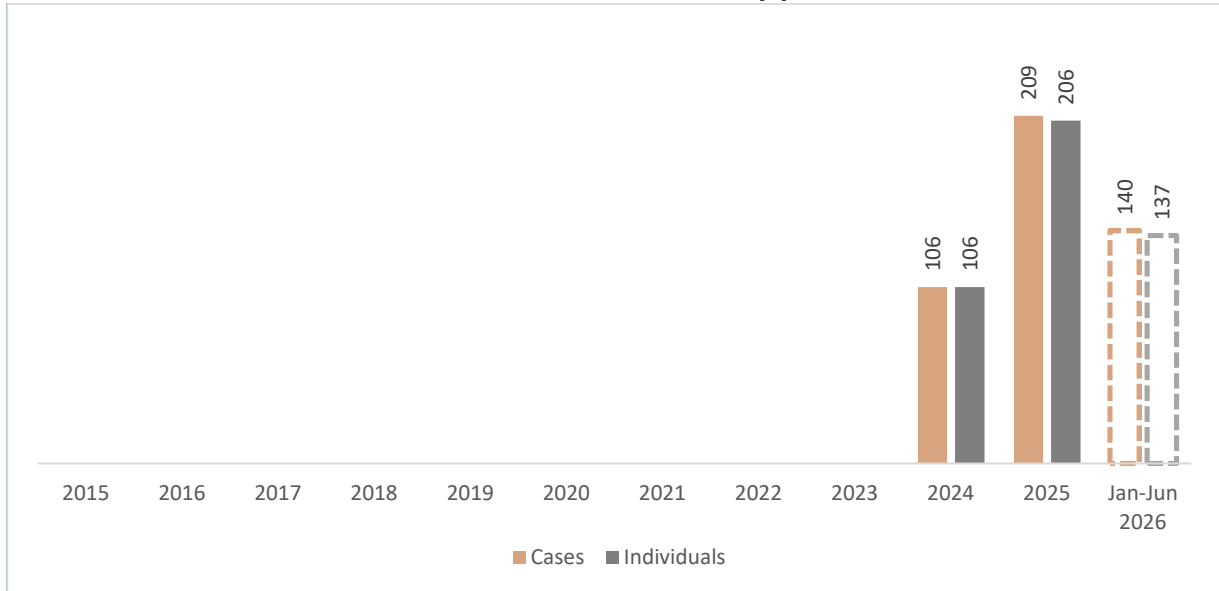


Figure 123: In Jan-Jun 2026, 140 cases and 137 individuals were worked with compared to 209 and 206 respectively in 2025.

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

A total of **140** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

YEI: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

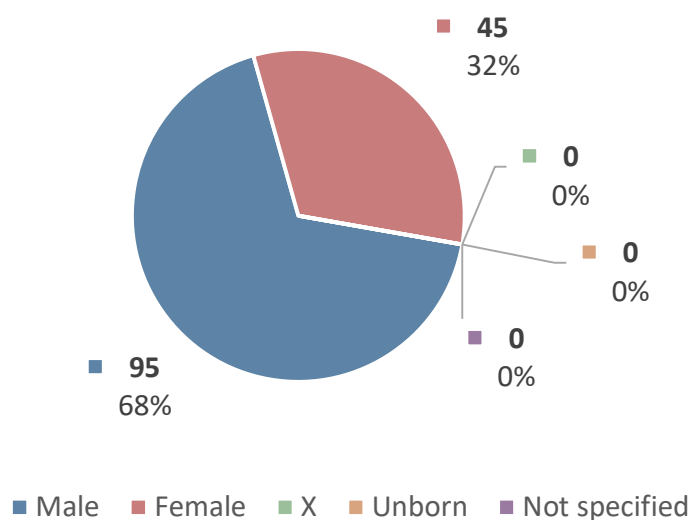


Figure 124: Male service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (68%).

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.

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

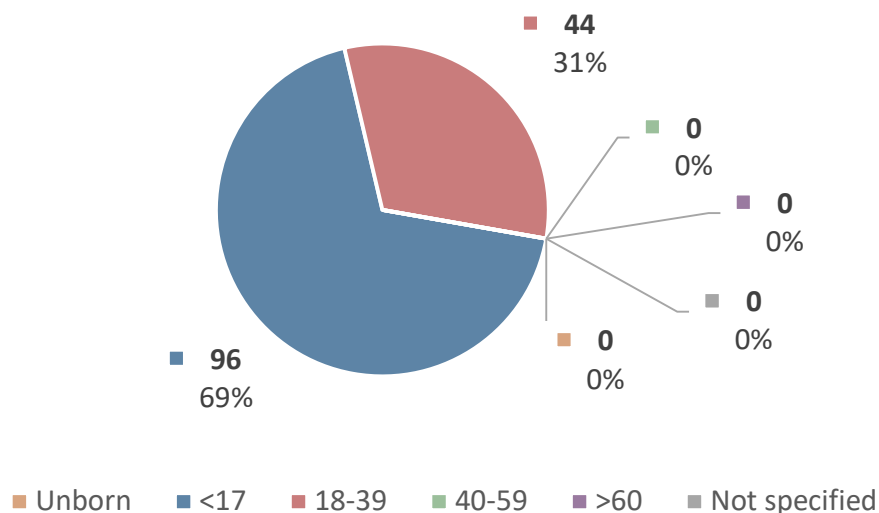


Figure 125: Service users aged 17 or younger accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (69%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth

YEI: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

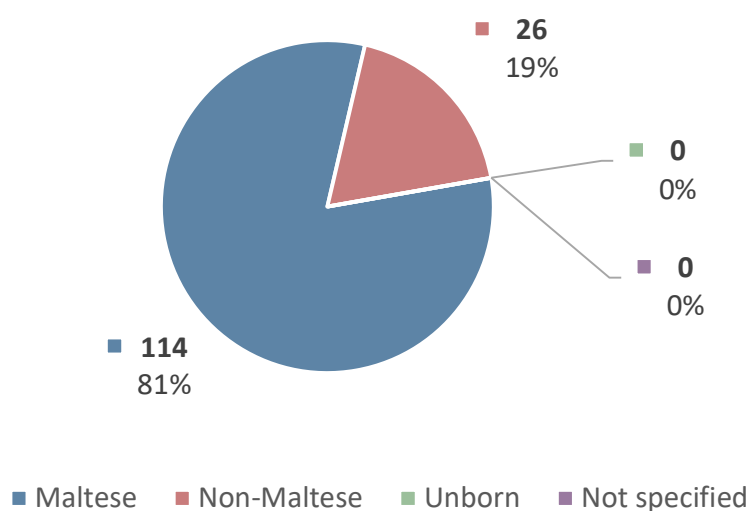
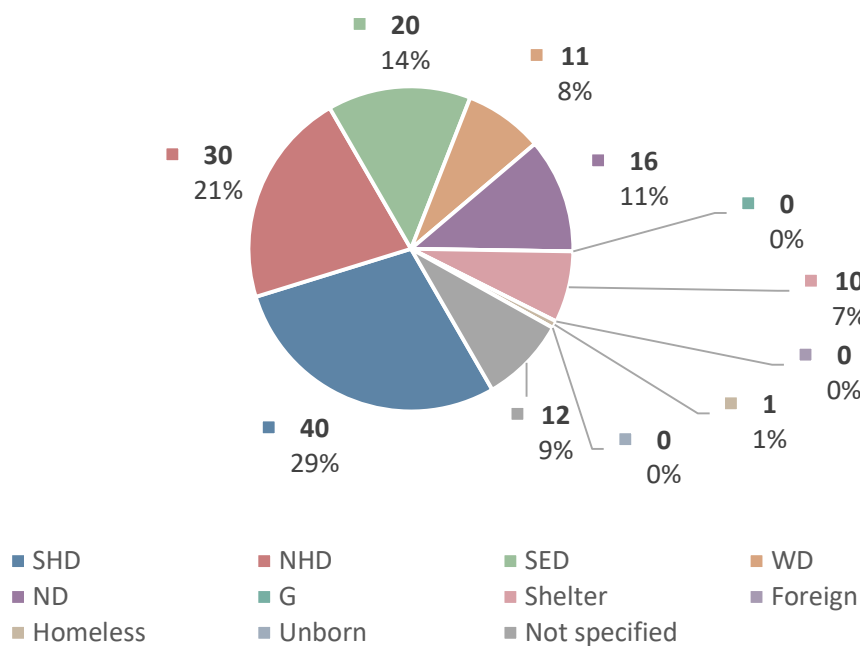


Figure 126: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (81%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 19%.

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

YEI: 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 127: Southern Harbour District accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (29%).

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.

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

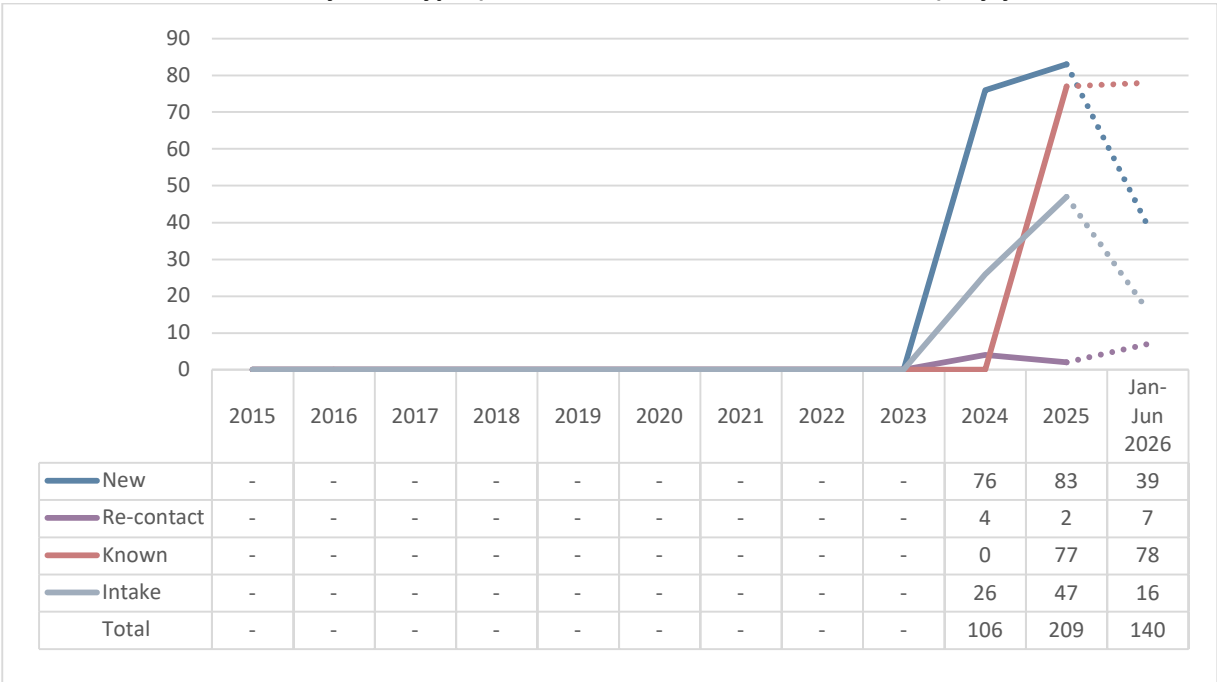


Figure 128: New cases accounted for 28% (39) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 5% (7).

Note: Cases worked with start the reporting period as a new, re-contact, known, or intake case (see Glossary). Intake has been reported since 2024 following the introduction of the online system and data collection changes.

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

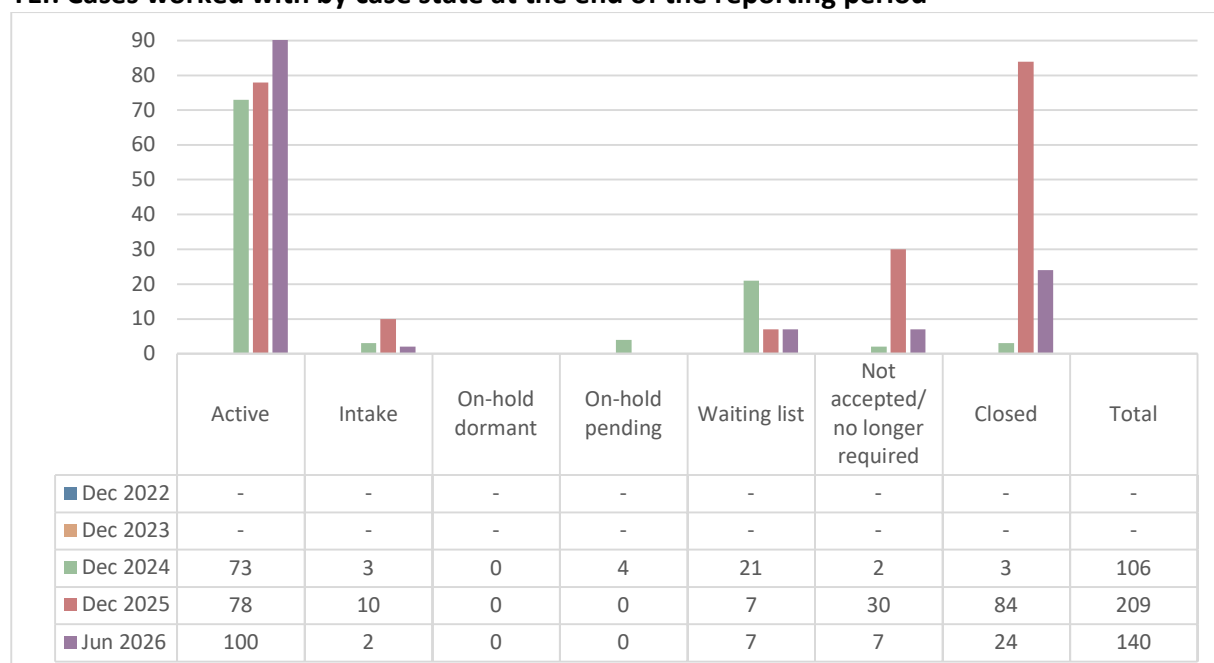


Figure 129: By the end of June 2026, 71% (100) of the cases worked with remained active, 17% (24) were closed and 1% (2) remained on intake.

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

YEI: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

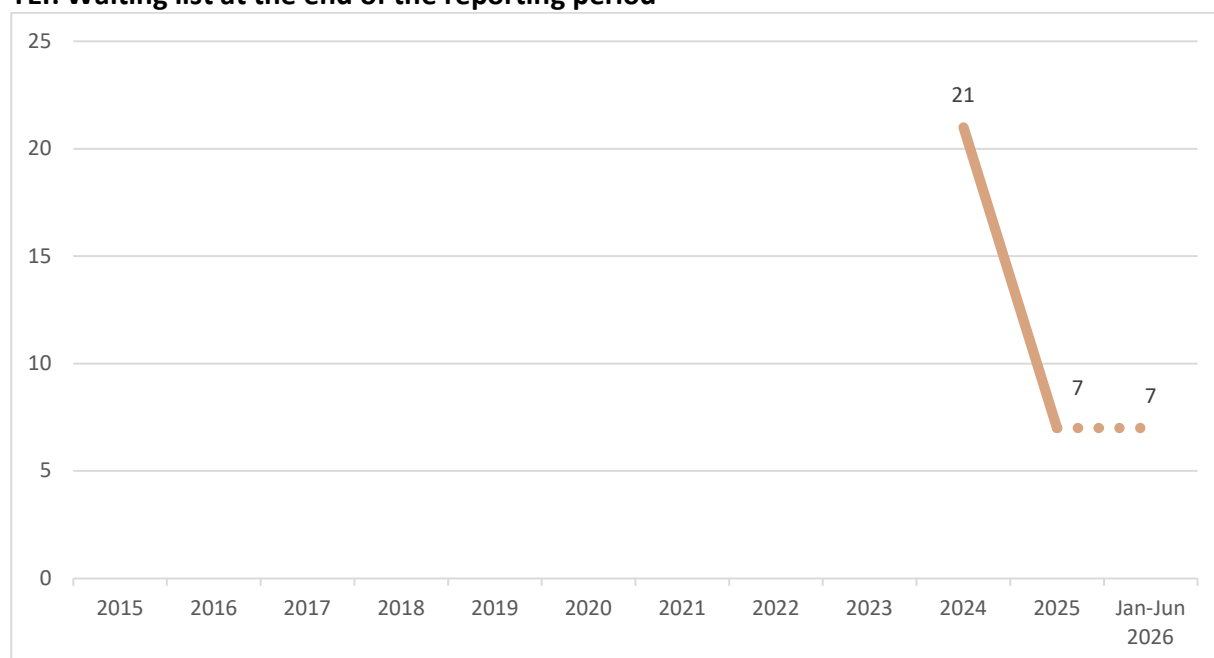


Figure 130: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 7 cases remained on the waiting list.

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.

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

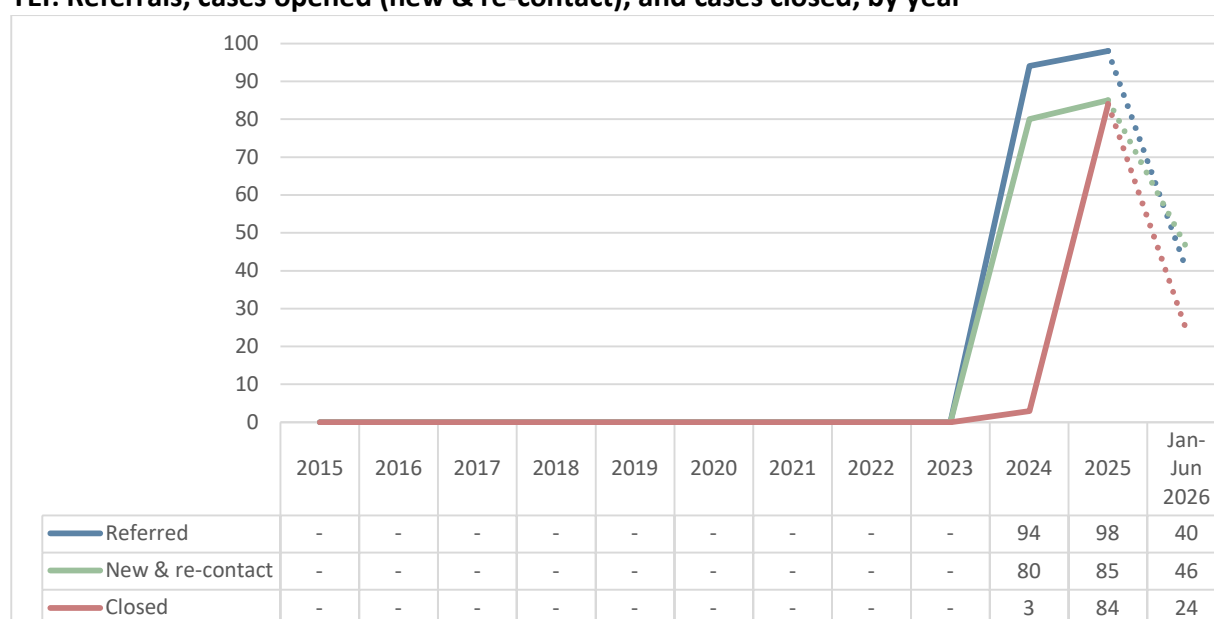


Figure 131: In Jan-Jun 2026, 40 cases were referred, 46 new & recontact cases opened, and 24 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 128 for breakdown).

YEI: Referred cases by primary problem and year			
	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Addictive behaviour problems	2	1	1
Bullying or being bullied	2	1	0
Challenging behaviour	10	12	1
Delinquency	0	32	21
Employment issues	3	3	0
Family relations/relationships	15	3	2
Homeless	1	0	0
Housing problems	0	0	0
Identity related issues	2	1	0
Lack of support or guidance	0	7	4
Mental health issues	0	0	0
Migrant related issues	0	0	0
Oppositional defiant behaviours	18	5	0
School related problems	40	33	6
Self-harm or suicide	1	0	0
Other	0	0	5
Not specified	0	0	0
Total	94	98	40

Figure 132: Referrals were distributed across several primary problems in Jan-Jun 2026, with delinquency (21) among the most frequently reported.

Note: Service users may report multiple issues at referral, with one identified as the primary problem. A standard list is used to record and rank issues; "other" is used where an issue is not listed, and "not specified" where no issue is identified.

A total of **46** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

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

YEI: 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
< 1	0	0	0	-	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	-	0	0
6-10	0	0	0	-	0	0
11-15	6	6	0	-	0	12
16-17	6	2	0	-	0	8
18-19	8	3	0	-	0	11
20-24	14	1	0	-	0	15
25-29	0	0	0	-	0	0
30-34	0	0	0	-	0	0
35-39	0	0	0	-	0	0
40-44	0	0	0	-	0	0
45-49	0	0	0	-	0	0
50-54	0	0	0	-	0	0
55-59	0	0	0	-	0	0
≤60	0	0	0	-	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	-	0	0
Total	34	12	0	-	0	46

Figure 133: Service users aged 20 to 24 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (33%; 15).

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.

YEI: Number of interventions by type of intervention and year			
	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Programme session	438	810	471
Generic session (e.g. care plan or follow-ups)	3	1	75
Group work session	190	146	52
Case discussion and networking	26	124	44
Helping or supportive session	16	20	20
Telephone intervention	0	12	12
Service feedback session	0	7	1
Confrontation session	2	2	1
Case conference/ case review	2	1	1
Accompanying	0	1	1
Crisis intervention	1	0	1
Group based parenting programme	0	0	1
Advocacy	0	0	1
Social contact	0	0	1
Adolescent treatment group	58	0	0
Assessment	23	0	0
Office Note	1	0	0
Total	760	1124	682

Figure 134: The majority of intervention in Jan-Jun 2026 were programme sessions (471).

Note: The service provides various interventions and programmes throughout the year e.g. the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) Programme.

Supervised Access Visits Service (SAV)

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

SAV: Cases and individuals worked with, by year

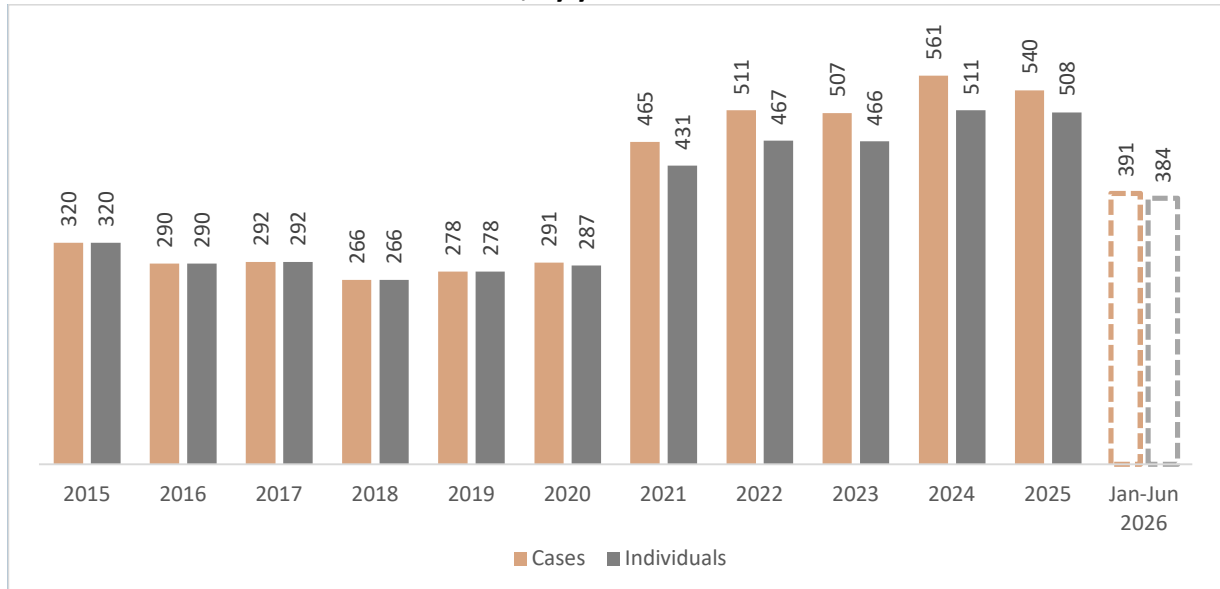


Figure 135: In Jan-Jun 2026, 391 cases and 384 individuals were worked with compared to 540 and 508 respectively in 2025.

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

A total of **391** cases were worked with between January and June 2026.

SAV: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by gender

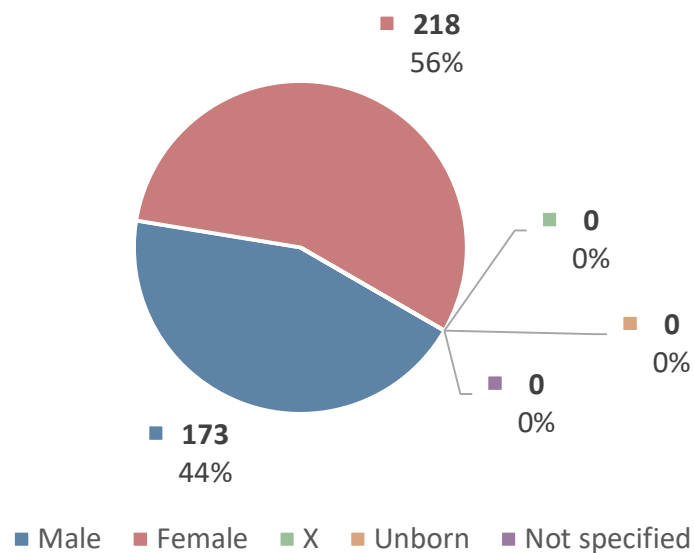


Figure 136: Female service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (56%).

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.

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

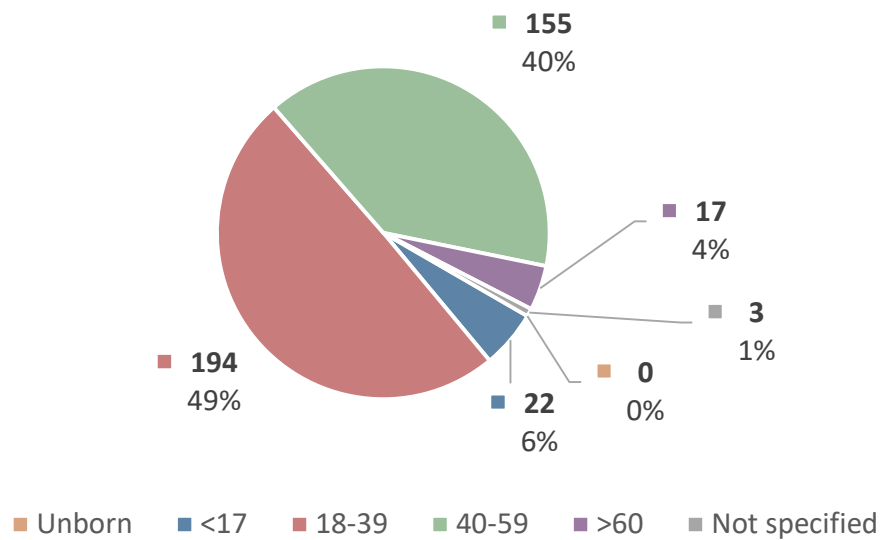


Figure 137: Service users aged 18 to 39 accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (49%).

Note: Age is calculated based on date of birth.

SAV: Cases worked with Jan-Jun 2026 by nationality

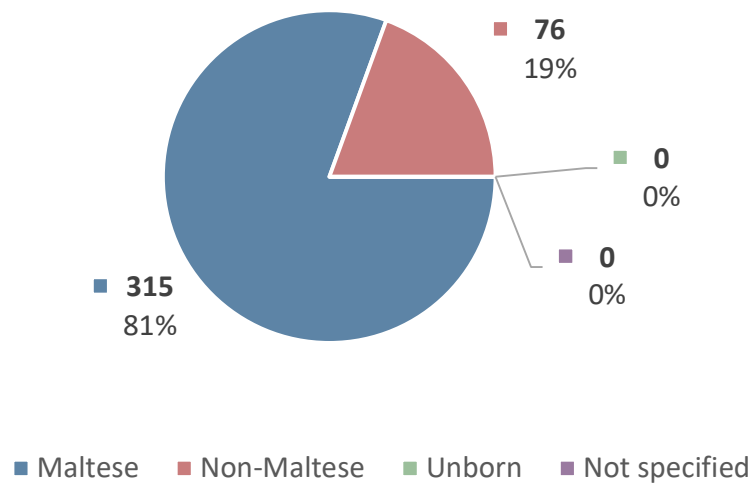
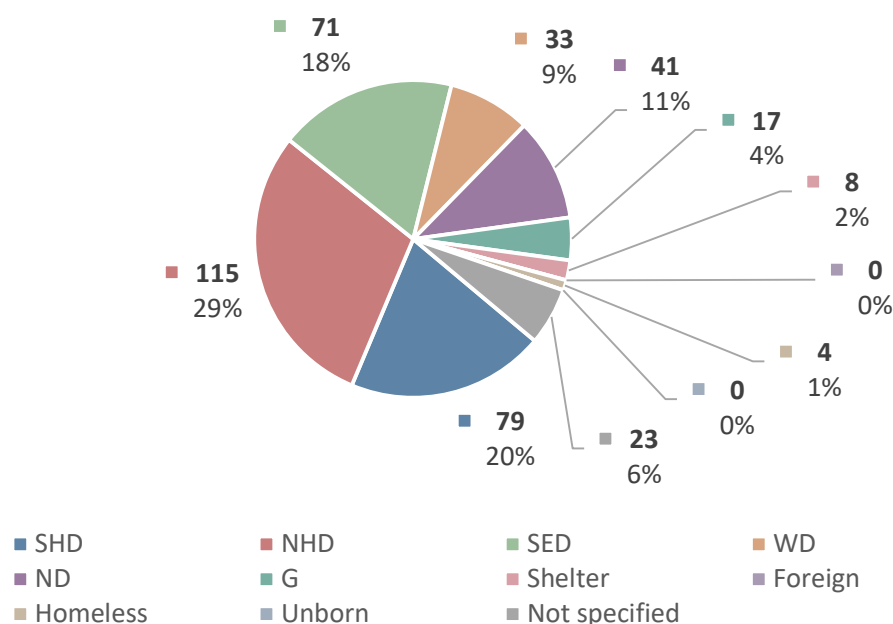


Figure 138: Maltese service users accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (81%), while non-Maltese service users accounted for 19%.

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

SAV: 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 139: Northern Harbour District accounted for the highest proportion of cases worked with (29%).

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.

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

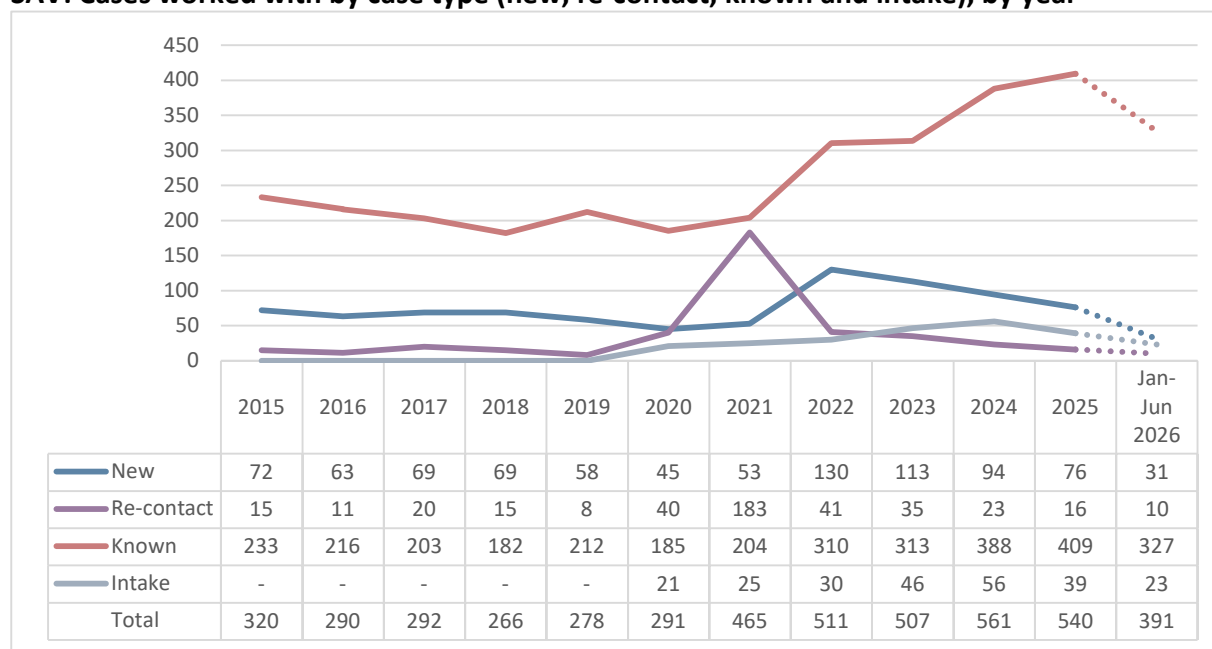


Figure 140: New cases accounted for 8% (31) of cases worked with, while re-contact cases accounted for 3% (10).

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.

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

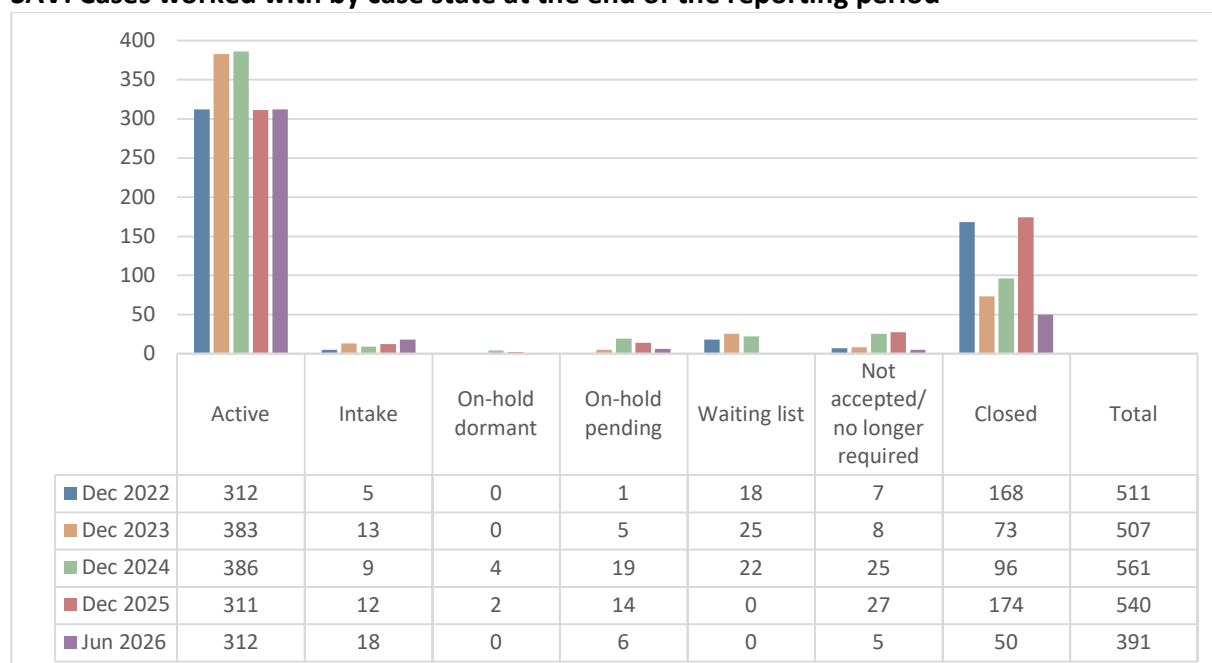


Figure 141: By the end of June 2026, 80% (312) of the cases worked with remained active, 13% (50) were closed and 5% (18) remained on intake.

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

SAV: Waiting list at the end of the reporting period

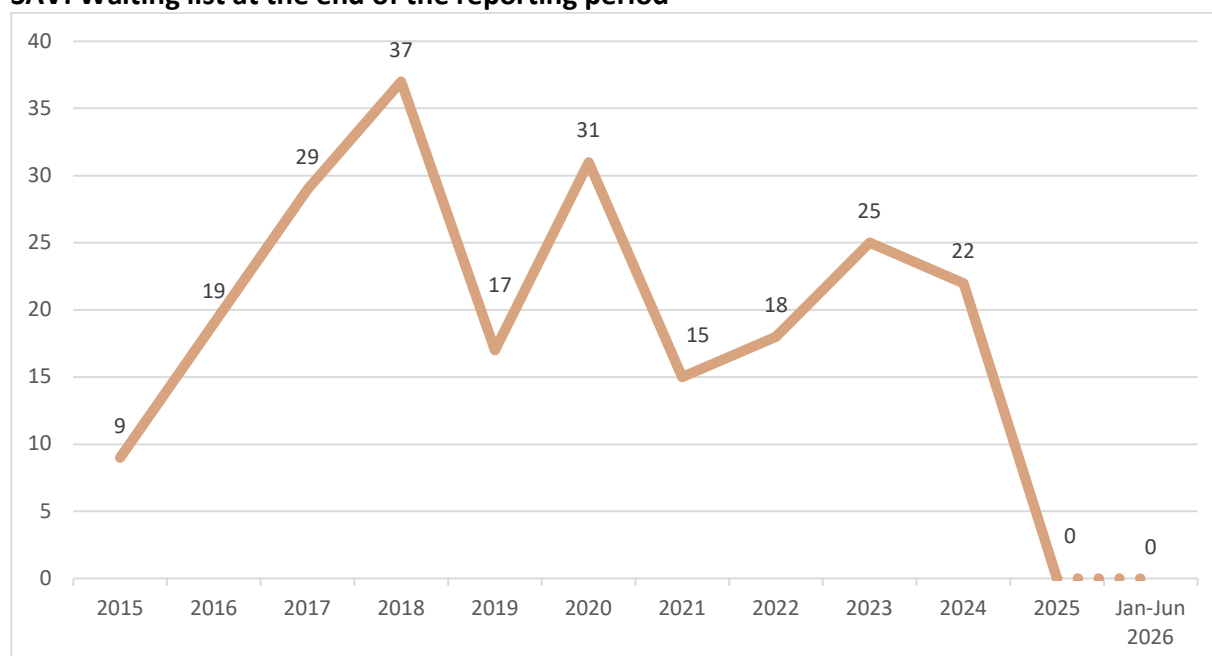


Figure 142: Only cases remaining on the waiting list at the end of the reporting period are included. At the end of June 2026, 0 cases remained on the waiting list.

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.

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

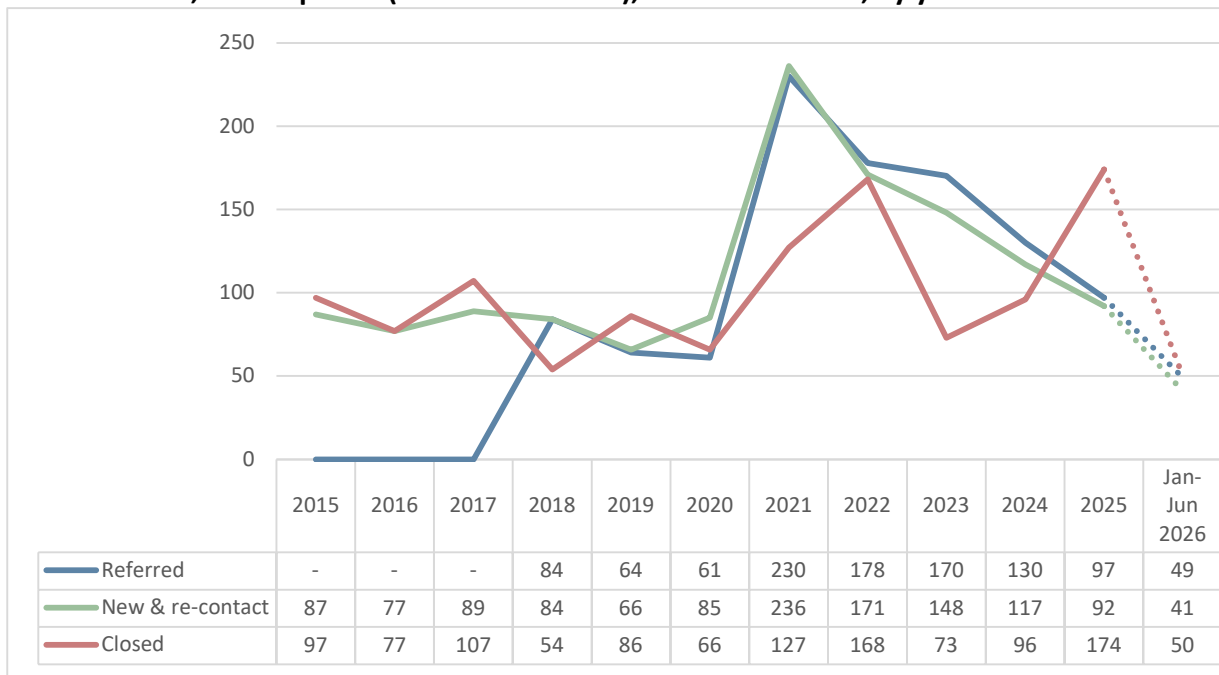


Figure 143: In Jan-Jun 2026, 49 cases were referred, 41 new & recontact cases opened, and 50 cases closed.

Note: Cases may be referred, opened, or closed throughout the year (see Glossary). Opened cases include both new and re-contact cases (see Figure 140 for breakdown).

A total of **41** cases were opened between January and June 2026.

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

SAV: Cases opened (new & re-contact) by age category and gender January - June 2026						
	Male	Female	X	Unborn	Not specified	Total
Unborn	-	-	-	-	-	-
<1	0	0	0	-	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	-	0	0
6-10	0	0	0	-	0	0
11-15	0	0	0	-	0	0
16-17	0	0	0	-	0	0
18-19	0	0	0	-	0	0
20-24	0	4	0	-	0	4
25-29	3	1	0	-	0	4
30-34	5	4	0	-	0	9
35-39	4	7	0	-	0	11
40-44	1	3	0	-	0	4
45-49	0	0	0	-	0	0
50-54	2	1	0	-	0	3
55-59	1	0	0	-	0	1
≥60	2	1	0	-	0	3
Not specified	1	1	0	-	0	2
Total	19	22	0	-	0	41

Figure 144: Service users aged 35 to 39 accounted for the highest proportion of cases opened (27%; 11).

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

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.

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.

Looked After Children Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	13	21	21	26	5
Female	15	28	20	16	8
X	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	28	49	41	42	13

Aftercare Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	30	26	23	17	14
Female	43	25	31	27	14
X	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	73	51	54	44	28

Fostering Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	24	30	57	37	15
Female	24	26	52	46	15
X	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	48	56	109	83	30

Adoption Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	94	60	57	60	18
Female	109	71	72	58	18
X	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	203	131	129	118	36

High Support Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	0	0	0	0	-
Female	0	0	0	0	-
X	0	0	0	0	-
Unborn	0	0	0	0	-

Not specified	0	0	0	0	-
Total	0	0	0	0	-

Community Homes Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	3	3	6	5	2
Female	6	10	3	8	1
X	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	13	9	13	3

Home-Start Malta	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	3	7	0	0	4
Female	11	14	4	8	7
X	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	21	4	8	11

Youth in Focus Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	43	64	51	54	18
Female	41	61	45	36	13
X	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	84	125	96	90	31

Embark for Life Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	38	25	19	21	11
Female	44	27	22	28	10
X	0	0	0	1	0
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	82	52	41	50	21

Adolescent Day Programme	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	5	12	-	-	-
Female	3	10	-	-	-
X	0	0	-	-	-
Unborn	0	0	-	-	-
Not specified	0	0	-	-	-
Total	8	22	-	-	-

Youth Empowerment Initiatives	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	-	-	52	60	34

Female	-	-	28	25	12
X	-	-	0	0	0
Unborn	-	-	0	0	0
Not specified	-	-	0	0	0
Total	-	-	80	85	46

Supervised Access Visits Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	70	75	53	43	19
Female	101	73	64	49	22
X	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	171	148	117	92	41

Directorate Alternative Care	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Male	323	323	339	323	140
Female	397	345	341	301	120
X	0	0	0	1	0
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	720	668	680	625	260

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

Age is calculated based on date of birth.

Looked After Children Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
<17	28	45	41	41	13
18-19	0	4	0	1	0
20-24	0	0	0	0	0
25-29	0	0	0	0	0
30-34	0	0	0	0	0
35-39	0	0	0	0	0
40-44	0	0	0	0	0
45-49	0	0	0	0	0
50-54	0	0	0	0	0
55-59	0	0	0	0	0
60+	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	28	49	41	42	13

Aftercare Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
<17	8	26	34	20	7
18-19	26	20	16	17	8

20-24	36	4	4	4	11
25-29	3	1	0	3	2
30-34	0	0	0	0	0
35-39	0	0	0	0	0
40-44	0	0	0	0	0
45-49	0	0	0	0	0
50-54	0	0	0	0	0
55-59	0	0	0	0	0
60+	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	73	51	54	44	28

Fostering Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
<17	0	0	0	0	0
18-19	0	0	0	0	0
20-24	0	0	0	0	0
25-29	11	4	1	6	0
30-34	8	6	15	5	6
35-39	10	15	20	30	7
40-44	8	15	26	18	6
45-49	3	9	23	12	7
50-54	5	4	10	8	3
55-59	3	3	6	3	1
60+	0	0	8	1	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	48	56	109	83	30

Adoption Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
<17	5	7	13	10	3
18-19	0	0	0	0	0
20-24	1	0	0	0	0
25-29	8	3	5	4	0
30-34	45	23	14	23	8
35-39	55	32	36	37	9
40-44	52	33	33	26	7
45-49	24	15	17	11	7
50-54	7	7	8	3	1
55-59	4	8	2	3	1
60+	2	3	1	1	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	203	131	129	118	36

High Support Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	-

<17	0	0	0	0	-
18-19	0	0	0	0	-
20-24	0	0	0	0	-
25-29	0	0	0	0	-
30-34	0	0	0	0	-
35-39	0	0	0	0	-
40-44	0	0	0	0	-
45-49	0	0	0	0	-
50-54	0	0	0	0	-
55-59	0	0	0	0	-
60+	0	0	0	0	-
Not specified	0	0	0	0	-
Total	0	0	0	0	-

Community Homes Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
<17	9	9	9	13	3
18-19	0	3	0	0	0
20-24	0	1	0	0	0
25-29	0	0	0	0	0
30-34	0	0	0	0	0
35-39	0	0	0	0	0
40-44	0	0	0	0	0
45-49	0	0	0	0	0
50-54	0	0	0	0	0
55-59	0	0	0	0	0
60+	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	13	9	13	3

Home-Start Malta	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
<17	4	3	0	0	5
18-19	0	0	0	0	0
20-24	1	2	1	2	0
25-29	1	3	1	1	2
30-34	3	3	1	1	0
35-39	2	3	1	2	3
40-44	2	5	0	2	1
45-49	0	2	0	0	0
50-54	1	0	0	0	0
55-59	0	0	0	0	0
60+	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	21	4	8	11

Youth in Focus Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
<17	77	121	92	87	30
18-19	7	4	4	3	1
20-24	0	0	0	0	0
25-29	0	0	0	0	0
30-34	0	0	0	0	0
35-39	0	0	0	0	0
40-44	0	0	0	0	0
45-49	0	0	0	0	0
50-54	0	0	0	0	0
55-59	0	0	0	0	0
60+	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	84	125	96	90	31

Embark for Life Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
<17	50	34	31	30	16
18-19	13	13	5	8	4
20-24	12	5	3	11	0
25-29	1	0	2	1	1
30-34	0	0	0	0	0
35-39	0	0	0	0	0
40-44	0	0	0	0	0
45-49	0	0	0	0	0
50-54	0	0	0	0	0
55-59	0	0	0	0	0
60+	0	0	0	0	0
Not specified	6	0	0	0	0
Total	82	52	41	50	21

Adolescent Day Programme	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	-	-	-
<17	7	18	-	-	-
18-19	1	2	-	-	-
20-24	0	2	-	-	-
25-29	0	0	-	-	-
30-34	0	0	-	-	-
35-39	0	0	-	-	-
40-44	0	0	-	-	-
45-49	0	0	-	-	-
50-54	0	0	-	-	-
55-59	0	0	-	-	-
60+	0	0	-	-	-
Not specified	0	0	-	-	-

Total	8	22	-	-	-
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Youth Empowerment Initiatives	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	-	-	0	0	0
<17	-	-	68	55	20
18-19	-	-	7	8	11
20-24	-	-	5	22	15
25-29	-	-	0	0	0
30-34	-	-	0	0	0
35-39	-	-	0	0	0
40-44	-	-	0	0	0
45-49	-	-	0	0	0
50-54	-	-	0	0	0
55-59	-	-	0	0	0
60+	-	-	0	0	0
Not specified	-	-	0	0	0
Total	-	-	80	85	46

Supervised Access Visits Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
<17	8	18	10	7	0
18-19	5	1	1	2	0
20-24	9	10	7	5	4
25-29	18	20	20	11	4
30-34	25	27	18	14	9
35-39	26	19	24	14	11
40-44	31	22	21	19	4
45-49	23	18	6	5	0
50-54	8	6	5	5	3
55-59	3	5	3	1	1
60+	15	2	2	9	3
Not specified	0	0	0	0	2
Total	171	148	117	92	41

Directorate Alternative Care	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
<17	196	281	298	263	97
18-19	52	47	33	39	24
20-24	59	24	20	44	30
25-29	42	31	29	26	9
30-34	81	59	48	43	23
35-39	93	69	81	83	30
40-44	93	75	80	65	18

45-49	50	44	46	28	14
50-54	21	17	23	16	7
55-59	10	16	11	7	3
60+	17	5	11	11	3
Not specified	6	0	0	0	2
Total	720	668	680	625	260

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.

Looked After Children Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	28	37	36	37	13
Non-Maltese	0	12	5	5	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	28	49	41	42	13

Aftercare Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	68	51	50	41	24
Non-Maltese	5	0	4	3	4
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	73	51	54	44	28

Fostering Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	42	49	96	78	27
Non-Maltese	6	7	13	5	3
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	48	56	109	83	30

Adoption Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	172	115	104	86	27
Non-Maltese	31	16	25	32	9
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	203	131	129	118	36

High Support Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	-
Maltese	0	0	0	0	-
Non-Maltese	0	0	0	0	-
Not specified	0	0	0	0	-
Total	0	0	0	0	-

Community Homes Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
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Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	4	12	7	12	3
Non-Maltese	5	1	2	1	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	13	9	13	3

Home-Start Malta	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	10	12	3	6	7
Non-Maltese	4	9	1	2	4
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	21	4	8	11

Youth in Focus Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	80	118	88	79	23
Non-Maltese	4	7	8	11	8
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	84	125	96	90	31

Embark for Life Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	78	47	36	42	19
Non-Maltese	4	5	5	8	2
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	82	52	41	50	21

Adolescent Day Programme	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	-	-	-	-	-
Maltese	8	21	-	-	-
Non-Maltese	0	1	-	-	-
Not specified	0	0	-	-	-
Total	8	22	-	-	-

Youth Empowerment Initiatives	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	-	-	0	0	0
Maltese	-	-	65	67	35
Non-Maltese	-	-	15	18	11
Not specified	-	-	0	0	0
Total	-	-	80	85	46

Supervised Access Visits Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	146	118	92	71	32

Non-Maltese	25	30	25	21	9
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	171	148	117	92	41

Directorate Alternative Care	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Unborn	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	636	580	577	519	210
Non-Maltese	84	88	103	106	50
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	720	668	680	625	260

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.

Looked After Children Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	9	17	10	8	2
Southern Harbour District	4	10	18	8	4
Northern District	4	4	3	12	0
Southeastern District	5	8	4	5	4
Western District	3	3	2	2	1
Gozo district	0	2	0	4	1
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	1	1	0	3	1
Foreign residence	0	0	0	0	0
Homeless	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	2	4	4	0	0
Total	28	49	41	42	13

Aftercare Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	3	5	2	16	7
Southern Harbour District	9	6	5	8	3
Northern District	2	9	10	7	8
Southeastern District	1	3	3	4	2
Western District	3	1	3	3	3
Gozo district	2	0	3	0	1
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	24	24	27	6	2
Foreign residence	2	0	0	0	0
Homeless	2	0	1	0	1
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	25	3	0	0	1
Total	73	51	54	44	28

Fostering Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
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Northern Harbour District	8	12	35	16	8
Southern Harbour District	9	12	18	12	8
Northern District	18	6	15	9	7
Southeastern District	8	13	20	23	6
Western District	5	10	18	21	1
Gozo district	0	1	3	0	0
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign residence	0	0	0	0	0
Homeless	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	0	2	0	2	0
Total	48	56	109	83	30

Adoption Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	52	25	33	23	7
Southern Harbour District	18	30	23	21	4
Northern District	41	22	23	24	12
Southeastern District	52	19	20	11	4
Western District	28	27	17	17	7
Gozo district	8	7	8	12	1
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	0	0	0	0	1
Foreign residence	0	0	0	0	0
Homeless	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	4	1	5	10	0
Total	203	131	129	118	36

High Support Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	0	0	0	0	-
Southern Harbour District	0	0	0	0	-
Northern District	0	0	0	0	-
Southeastern District	0	0	0	0	-
Western District	0	0	0	0	-
Gozo district	0	0	0	0	-
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	0	0	0	0	-
Foreign residence	0	0	0	0	-
Homeless	0	0	0	0	-
Unborn	-	-	-	0	-
Not specified	0	0	0	0	-
Total	0	0	0	0	-

Community Homes Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Harbour District	0	0	0	0	0
Northern District	0	0	0	0	0
Southeastern District	0	0	0	0	0

Western District	0	0	0	0	0
Gozo district	0	0	0	0	0
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	9	13	9	13	3
Foreign residence	0	0	0	0	0
Homeless	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	13	9	13	3

Home-Start Malta	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	5	7	0	1	1
Southern Harbour District	2	4	1	2	6
Northern District	1	2	2	1	2
Southeastern District	3	3	1	1	0
Western District	1	1	0	2	0
Gozo district	1	3	0	0	0
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign residence	0	0	0	0	0
Homeless	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	1	1	0	1	2
Total	14	21	4	8	11

Youth in Focus Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	20	37	20	17	6
Southern Harbour District	21	34	30	16	7
Northern District	13	20	13	24	8
Southeastern District	19	25	24	20	9
Western District	10	7	9	11	1
Gozo district	0	0	0	0	0
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	0	1	0	0	0
Foreign residence	0	0	0	0	0
Homeless	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	1	1	0	2	0
Total	84	125	96	90	31

Embark for Life Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	22	10	13	7	6
Southern Harbour District	15	8	10	17	4
Northern District	17	9	6	9	4
Southeastern District	15	7	4	8	1
Western District	5	5	3	0	1
Gozo district	0	0	0	0	0
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	8	13	5	8	5
Foreign residence	0	0	0	0	0

Homeless	0	0	0	1	0
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0
Total	82	52	41	50	21

Adolescent Day Programme	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	4	6	-	-	-
Southern Harbour District	1	5	-	-	-
Northern District	0	3	-	-	-
Southeastern District	1	2	-	-	-
Western District	0	2	-	-	-
Gozo district	0	1	-	-	-
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	2	0	-	-	-
Foreign residence	0	0	-	-	-
Homeless	0	0	-	-	-
Unborn	-	-	-		
Not specified	0	3	-	-	-
Total	8	22	-	-	-

Youth Empowerment Initiatives	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	-	-	14	20	12
Southern Harbour District	-	-	14	26	9
Northern District	-	-	10	9	7
Southeastern District	-	-	11	12	6
Western District	-	-	13	9	3
Gozo district	-	-	0	2	0
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	-	-	8	3	2
Foreign residence	-	-	0	0	0
Homeless	-	-	0	0	1
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	-	-	10	4	6
Total	-	-	80	85	46

Supervised Access Visits Service	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	35	44	26	27	11
Southern Harbour District	31	23	27	22	6
Northern District	41	21	18	11	1
Southeastern District	27	25	18	15	10
Western District	20	14	12	3	5
Gozo district	5	4	4	3	3
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	1	5	3	1	0
Foreign residence	1	0	0	0	0
Homeless	0	0	0	0	0
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	10	12	9	10	5
Total	171	148	117	92	41

Directorate Alternative Care	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan-Jun 2026
Northern Harbour District	158	163	153	135	60
Southern Harbour District	110	132	146	132	51
Northern District	137	96	100	106	49
Southeastern District	131	105	105	99	42
Western District	75	70	77	68	22
Gozo district	16	18	18	21	6
Shelter/ institution/ other residence	45	57	52	34	14
Foreign residence	3	0	0	0	0
Homeless	2	0	1	1	2
Unborn	-	-	-	0	0
Not specified	43	27	28	29	14
Total	720	668	680	625	260

Appendix B

Service descriptions

Service	Description
Looked After Children Service	Provides social work interventions to children and young people living in out-of-home care system, such as in residential and foster care.
Looked After Children Healthcare Service	Provides holistic health assessments and healthcare support to minors residing in residential care or foster care and aims to improve their health outcomes.
Additional DAC Service	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) Alternative Care Placement Records: records from all DAC services are kept on where children are placed when alternative care is provided.
Aftercare Service	Prepares minors, reaching the age for care leaving, to live completely independently and/or reach their educational/career goals.
Fostering Service	Recruits, trains, assesses, licenses and supports foster carers while promoting foster care in Malta.
Adoption Service	Assesses and prepares prospective adoptive parents and provides support throughout the adoption process, including post-adoption reporting requirements.
High Support Service	Provides one-to-one support to children and young people living in out-of-home, who require additional behavioural, emotional, and developmental support.
Community Homes Service	Provides as much as possible family-like residential care and support to children and young adults who cannot live with their birth families or in foster care.
Home-Start Malta	Provides practical and emotional support to families with young children (under 5 years of age) to strengthen parenting capacity, family wellbeing, and widen link with the local community.
Youth in Focus Service	Promotes the physical, emotional, and social wellbeing of adolescents through a comprehensive service.
Embark for Life Service	Supports young people aged 16 to 24 in developing the skills and confidence needed to integrate better within the workforce and society.
Adolescent Day Programme Service	A structured day programme provided to vulnerable adolescents (aged between 14 and 18) to help them eventually obtain employment. Provides skills development, learning experiences, and opportunities.
Youth Empowerment Initiatives	Provides youth work interventions in a form of nonformal and informal educational learning. Interventions are carried out through various programmes and initiatives which amongst others include the Adolescent Day Programme. This programme which is also affiliated with the Prince Trust International Programme enables young people to experience a journey where they could learn various social skills.
Supervised Access Visits Service	Facilitates supervised contact between children and non-custodial parents or relatives in a safe and structured environment. The visits are often regulated by a Court decree or requested by the Children and Young Persons Advisory Board.

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.

Primary problems

Variable	Definition
Addictive behaviour problems	Behaviours which involve compulsive seeking and taking of a substance or performing of an activity despite negative or harmful consequences. The most common forms of addictive behaviours are drug or alcohol use, gambling, and technology use.
Assault/rape/harassment/sexual abuse	Forms of abuse suffered by an adult which consists of assault, rape and/or sexual abuse as well as forms of harassment (which is unwelcome conduct that is based on race, colour, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information).
Behaviour problems	Symptomatic expression of emotional or interpersonal maladjustment especially in children which often manifests in non-person directed behaviours (e.g. damage to property, hyperactivity, stealing, inappropriate

	sexualised behaviour, destruction of clothing, incontinence, lack of awareness of danger, and withdrawal), aggressive or violent behaviours (e.g. biting and scratching, hitting, pinching, grabbing, hair pulling, throwing objects, verbal abuse, screaming, spitting) and stereotyped behaviours (e.g. repetitive movements, rocking, repetitive speech and repetitive manipulation of objects.)
Bereavement	Bereavement is the period of grief and mourning after a death. Persons may experience grief as a mental, physical, social or emotional reaction.
Child abuse	Child abuse is emotional and/or psychological maltreatment, physical, sexual, or neglect of a child, especially by a parent or a caregiver. This also includes cases where there was abuse in the past and there is a risk of abuse re-occurring.
Child care or access	Involves issues with the current care of a child (e.g. due to admission to hospital, need for care during working hours etc) and also restricted access to a child (e.g. SAV, separation cases, children in state care). Issues can also relate to care during placements or even potential placement breakdown including the need for placement/admission or the quality of the placement provided.
Delinquency	Delinquency is a minor crime, especially one committed by a youth
Disability related issues	A person with a disability is someone who has a physical, visual, intellectual, hearing or psychological impairment that substantially impacts one or more major life activity.
Domestic violence	Domestic abuse violence (also referred to as "intimate partner violence"), can be defined as a pattern of behaviour in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is physical, sexual, financial, neglect of needs, emotional or psychological actions (e.g. threats, humiliations and blaming). This also includes cases where there was abuse in the past and there is a risk of abuse re-occurring. The abuse also includes gender-based violence and honour-based violence.
Eating disorder	Abnormal or disturbed eating habits such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia, to the extent that it is causing impairment to one's own or significant other's life.
Elderly needs	Needs of an elderly person such as care and equipment.
Employment issues	Issues concerning employment (including unemployment) such as harassment, working on black market, discrimination, wage abuse, safety issues etc.
Family relations/relationships	Problems are situations and difficulties that have a negative effect on the short- and long-term success of a relationships and the family relationships include nuclear, extended and reconstituted (also known as a blended family) families.
Financial difficulties	Issues concerning finances, either lack of (e.g. debt, or insufficient funds) or risk of losing financial security (e.g. lack of social security benefits or risk of losing such benefits).
Fostering or adoption	Fostering is the time when a child is placed under the care of a foster parent. Adoption is a process whereby a person assumes rights and responsibilities of another through legal means. Issues may arise relating to queries about the processes (e.g. how to become a foster parent), or issues regarding the process of becoming an adoptive parent/foster carer or even breakdowns during the fostering or adoption placements.
Health related issues	Issues which arise as a result of having health related concerns (e.g. long-term illness) but it excludes disability and mental health issues. These could be access to medication/medical equipment, access to appropriate carers, hygiene related issues etc.
Homeless	Homelessness is the condition of people without a regular dwelling. The Homeless Service primarily works with individuals experiencing one of the

	following forms of homelessness: • Rooflessness (people living rough - in the streets, abandoned buildings etc); • Houselessness (people in accommodation for the homeless, in accommodation for migrants, people due to be released from institutions and people receiving long-term support due to homelessness); • Couch surfing: (people living temporarily with friends, sharing accommodation with others which is not secure); and • At risk of homelessness/Inadequate housing (people living in insecure tenancies, under threat of eviction or violence, living in unfit housing, non-conventional dwellings or in situations of extreme overcrowding.
Housing problems	Concerns regarding safety issues in the home or else difficulty finding alternative appropriate dwellings.
Human trafficking	The unlawful act of transporting or coercing people in order to benefit from their work or service, typically in the form of forced labour or sexual exploitation.
Identity related issues	Queries or concerns about identity or gender e.g. sexual feelings or attractions and even gender dysphoria (i.e. experiencing of discomfort or distress because there is a mismatch between one's biological sex and one's gender identity).
Lack of support or guidance	Persons who express a general lack of support or guidance with non-specific needs (e.g. lack of significant others to emotionally support the person in day to day stressors)
Legal issues	Issues concerning legal aspects such as finding legal advice, pending court cases, legal fees etc.
Loneliness	Loneliness is the state of distress or discomfort that results when one perceives a gap between one's desires for social connection and actual experiences of it.
Marital problems	Marital problems such as poor communication, lack of intimacy, lack of trust, infidelity issues and growing apart.
Mental health issues	Mental health conditions include mental disorders and psychosocial disabilities as well as other mental states associated with significant distress, impairment in functioning. Issues may arise when these mental health conditions (both diagnosed and undiagnosed) may substantially impact one or more major life activity.
Migrant related issues	Challenges migrants may face such as language/cultural barriers, discrimination, access to services, documentation issues etc.
Oppositional defiant behaviours	Consists of severe disobedient behaviours. They are behaviour problems consisting of severe tantrums, argumentativeness, easily angered, severely critical, impulsiveness, severe disobedience, and hostile behaviour towards authority figures.
Parenting skills/child-parent relationship	Issues or concerns about one's parenting style, parenting techniques, attachment/ bonding and fears or concerns regarding current parent skills, disciplinary methods and the need to improve current skills.
Personality related issues	People with personality related issues often have a hard time understanding emotions and tolerating distress, or act impulsively and this makes it hard for them to relate to others, causing serious issues, and affecting their family life, social activities, work and school performance, and overall quality of life.
Pregnancy related issues	Difficulties accessing appropriate care, teenage pregnancy, fears relating to the pregnancy, and lack of preparation for the future child.
Relationship problems	Issues within the romantic relationship such as poor communication, lack of intimacy, lack of trust, or infidelity issues. It may also include conflict and issues between friends.
School related problems	Issues such as poor academic performance, lack of motivation for school, boredom with school work, school absenteeism, loss of interest in school work, or poor relationships with peers or teachers.

Self-harm or suicide	Self-injury behaviours such as cutting, headbanging, scratching, pulling, eye poking, picking, grinding teeth, eating things that aren't food and suicide or attempted suicide
Separation related issues	Separation occurs when couples or married partners stop living together and either put their marriage or relationship on hold or it is a stepping stone for marriage dissolution. A separation can be initiated informally, or there can be a legal separation with a formal separation agreement. Issues (e.g. animosity, conflict, anger, communication issues etc) concerning separation may be at initiation, during and even after the process.
Sex work related issues	Issues raised in relation to the sex work such as safety issues, health concerns, and longevity of career.

Fostering service user types

Service	Description
Foster carer - next of kin	An approved foster carer who is related to the child by family ties or has a significant existing relationship with the child.
Foster carer - non-related	An approved foster carer who is not related to the child and provides care through the formal fostering system.
Prospective foster carer	An individual currently undergoing assessment, training, or screening to become an approved foster carer.
Approved and matched	An approved foster carer who is currently matched with and providing care to a foster child.
Approved but dormant	An approved foster carer who is temporarily inactive and not currently available for foster placements.
Approved but pending a match	An approved foster carer who is available to provide foster care but has not yet been matched with a child.

Maltese districts

District	Towns
Northern Harbour District	Birkirkara, Gzira, Hamrun, Msida, Pembroke, Pieta, Qormi, San Giljan, San Gwann, Santa Venera, Sliema, Swieqi, Ta Xbiex.
Southern Harbour District	Birgu, Bormla, Fgura, Floriana, Isla, Kalkara, Luqa, Marsa, Paola, Santa Lucija, Tarxien, Valletta, Xaghjra, Zabbar.
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.

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