

# **Child Protection Registry**

## **Statistical Report**

**2017**

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## **Foreword**

The Child Protection Registry (CPR) has been computerised and administered by the Family and Child Welfare Branch of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) since June 1994. Functions of the CPR include case registration, case checking and provision of statistical information on registered child abuse cases. Service units of both SWD and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) may register child abuse cases handled by them with the CPR. Following the review of the CPR and the revision of the data input forms adopted for reporting child abuse cases to the CPR, the CPR was enhanced in January 2003 to capture more information on child abuse cases.

Commencing in 1996, statistical reports on the CPR have been published on an annual basis to provide general information and demographic data on the child abuse cases known to the CPR in the year. This report, “Statistical Report 2017”, consists of two parts. Part 1 is on newly registered cases in 2017 and Part 2 is on comparison of newly registered cases from 2015 to 2017. In each Part, general information on the cases and descriptive data on the characteristics of the children and the abusers are presented.

Child Protection Registry  
Family and Child Welfare Branch  
Social Welfare Department  
July 2018

# Part 1

## Newly Registered Cases in 2017

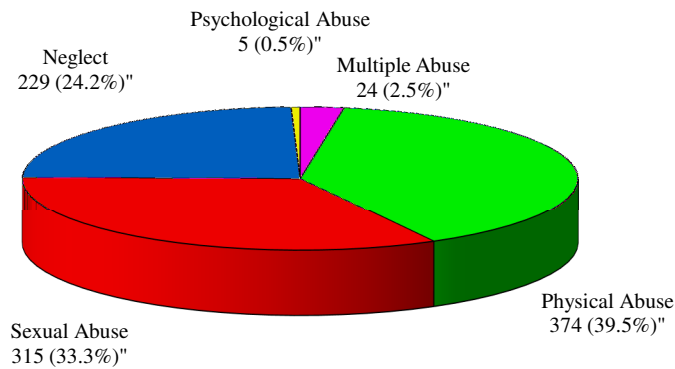
There were 947 newly registered cases.

### 1.1 General Information

#### 1.1.1 Types of Abuse

39.5% of the newly registered cases were physical abuse cases and 33.3% were sexual abuse cases.

**Graph 1 - Distribution of Newly registered Cases by Types of Abuse for 2017**

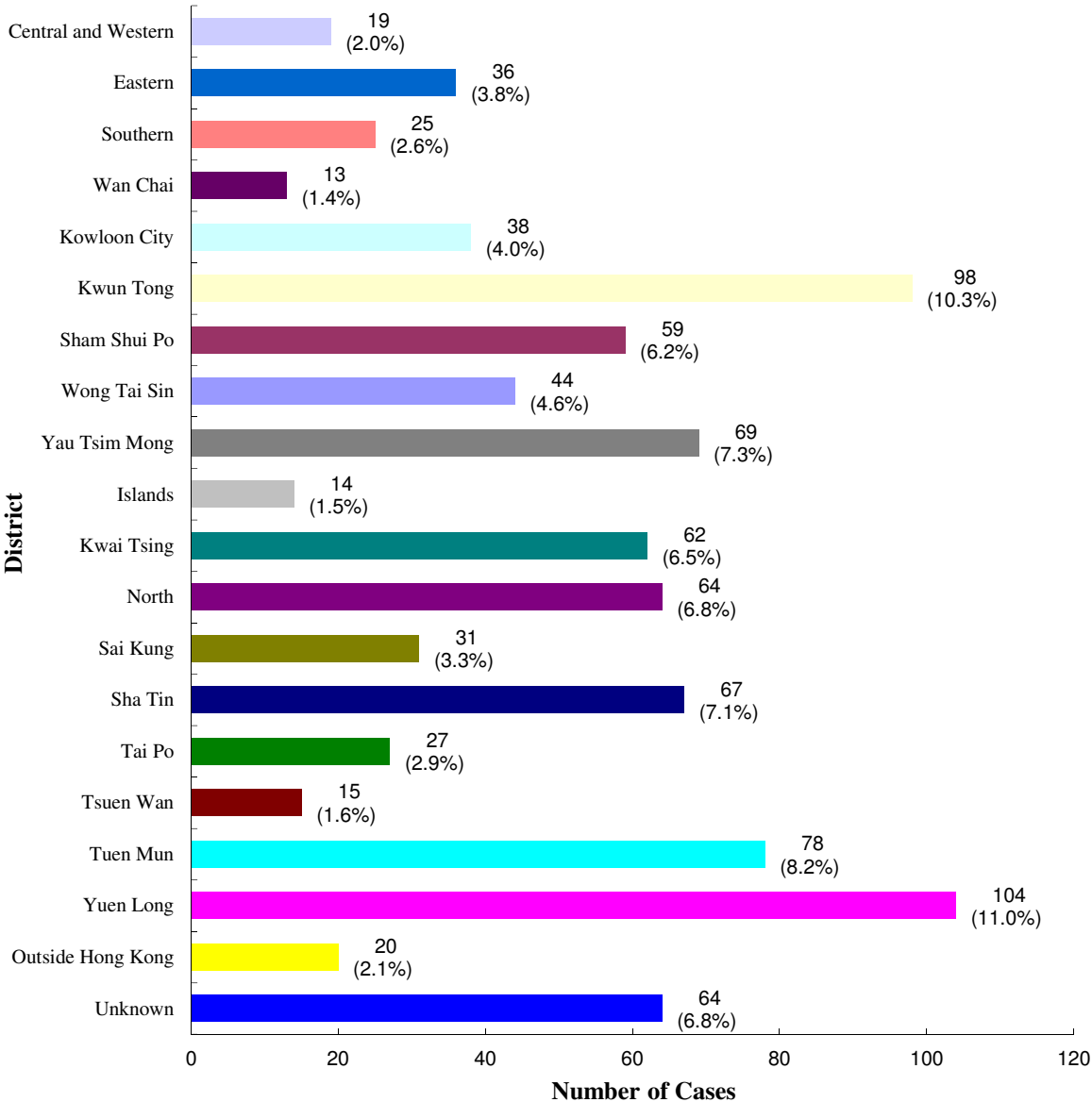


Total: 947 cases

**1.1.2 District Distribution\***

The three districts with the highest percentage of newly registered cases were Yuen Long District (11.0%), Kwun Tong District (10.3%) and Tuen Mun District (8.2%). Table 1 shows the incidence rate by children (aged 0–17) population in different districts with the three districts having the highest number/ incidence rate highlighted.

**Graph 2 - Distribution of Newly Registered Cases by District for 2017**



\* District distribution refers to cases captured according to the district where the abuse incidents took place.  
 # Owing to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

**Table 1 - Distribution of Newly Registered Cases and Incidence Rate by District**

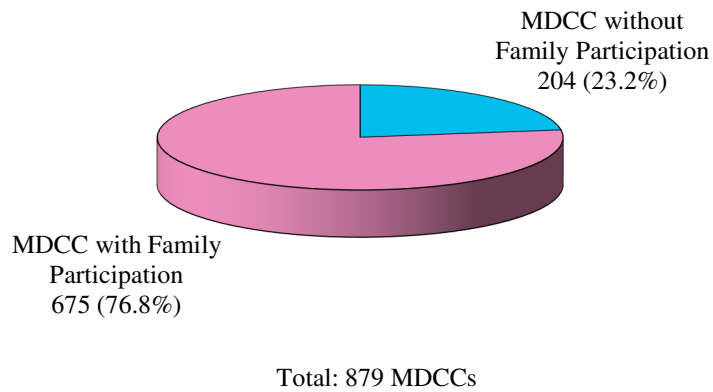
<b>District</b>	<b>No. of Cases</b>	<b>Incidence Rate* Per 1 000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the District</b>
Central/Western	19	0.64
Eastern	36	0.47
Southern	25	0.69
Wan Chai	13	0.60
Kowloon City	38	0.67
Kwun Tong	98	1.03
Sham Shui Po	59	1.01
Wong Tai Sin	44	0.79
Yau Tsim Mong	69	1.50
Islands	14	0.63
Kwai Tsing	62	0.86
North	64	1.32
Sai Kung	31	0.48
Sha Tin	67	0.71
Tai Po	27	0.63
Tsuen Wan	15	0.35
Tuen Mun	78	1.15
Yuen Long	104	1.14
Outside Hong Kong	20	NA
Unknown	64	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>0.93</b>

\* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2017 conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

### 1.1.3 Multi-disciplinary Case Conference

Out of the 947 newly registered child abuse cases, multi-disciplinary case conferences (MDCCs) were conducted for 869 cases (91.8%). A total of 879 MDCCs were held for discussion about the nature of the incidents, risk level and welfare plans of these 869 cases. 76.8% of the 879 MDCCs were held with the participation of the victims' family members.

**Graph 3 - Family Participation in Multi-disciplinary Case Conferences for 2017**





#### 1.1.4 Contributing Factors of Abuse

Child abuse cases were associated with a number of contributing factors. These contributing factors were categorised into four subgroups, i.e. (a) Factors relating to abused child/child-at-risk; (b) Factors relating to abuser/suspected abuser; (c) Factors relating to environmental or social circumstances; and (d) Factors relating to parent(s)/carer(s) where parent(s)/carer(s) is/are not abuser(s). The list of contributing factors under each subgroup is appended below :

- a) Factors relating to the abused child/child-at-risk
  1. School performance problem
  2. Behaviour problem
  3. Emotional/psychological problem
  4. Mental illness/retardation including slow learning or developmental delay
  5. Illness/physical disability
  6. Unwanted child/pregnancy
  7. Long period of separation from parents in early infancy
  
- b) Factors relating to abuser/suspected abuser
  1. Superstitious belief
  2. Marital problem
  3. In-law relationship problem
  4. Emotional/psychological problem
  5. Mental illness/retardation including slow learning or developmental delay
  6. Illness/physical disability
  7. Immaturity/extreme self-centredness
  8. Incompetence in child rearing/lack of parenting skills
  9. High expectation on child-in-question
  10. Undesirable hobbies
  
- c) Factors relating to environmental or social circumstances
  1. Financial difficulty/unemployment
  2. Housing problem
  3. Family crisis/stresses not coped with by abuser/suspected abuser/potential abuser
  4. Lack of support system
  5. Lack of community resources
  
- d) Factors relating to parent(s)/carer(s) where parent(s)/carer(s) is/are not abuser(s)
  1. Superstitious belief
  2. Marital problem
  3. In-law relationship problem
  4. Emotional/psychological problem
  5. Mental illness/retardation including slow learning or developmental delay
  6. Illness/physical disability
  7. Immaturity/extreme self-centredness
  8. Incompetence in child rearing/lack of parenting skills
  9. High expectation on child-in-question
  10. Undesirable hobbies

Table 2 shows the number of cases associated with the major contributing factors of child abuse under each subgroup.

**Table 2 – Major Contributing Factors of Child Abuse**

<b>Contributing Factors</b>	<b>No. of Newly Registered Cases Associated with the Contributing Factors</b> (Note)
Factors relating to abused child/child-at-risk	460 (48.6%)
Factors relating to abuser/suspected abuser	676 (71.4%)
Factors relating to environmental or social circumstances	449 (47.4%)
Factors relating to parent(s)/carer(s) where parent(s)/carer(s) is/are not abuser(s)	533 (56.3%)

Note : One case may have more than one contributing factor. Figures in the brackets are the percentage of cases associated with the contributing factors in respect of a total of 947 cases.

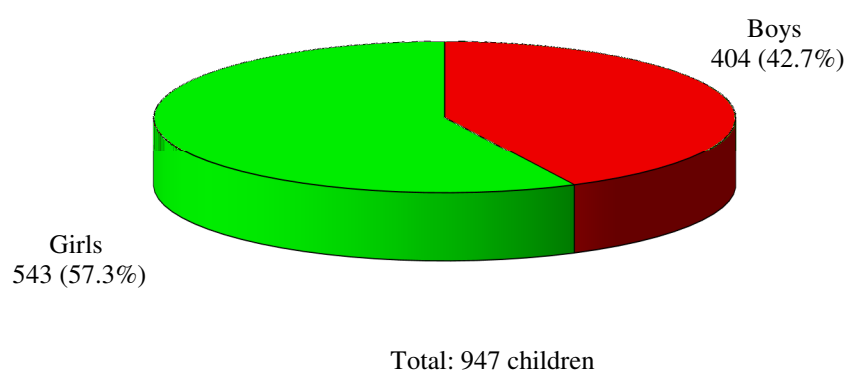
A larger proportion of the child abuse cases was associated with contributing factors relating to the abuser/suspected abuser. Among the ten factors relating to the abuser/suspected abuser, incompetence in child rearing/lack of parenting skills was the most usual contributing factor (305 cases, 45.1% of the total 676 cases), followed by emotional/psychological problem (230 cases, 34.0%) and undesirable hobbies (203 cases, 30.0%). Among the seven factors relating to the abused child/child-at-risk, behaviour problem was the most frequent contributing factor (283 cases, 61.5% of the total 460 cases), followed by school performance problem (112 cases, 24.3%) and emotional/psychological problem (84 cases, 18.3%).

## **1.2 Child Characteristics**

### **1.2.1 Distribution of Children by Gender**

There were more girl victims (57.3%) than boy victims (42.7%) among the newly registered cases. A breakdown of the gender of the children by type of abuse indicated that 30.0% of the girl victims were involved in physical abuse cases and 46.4% were involved in sexual abuse cases, while 52.2% and 29.0% of the boy victims were involved in physical abuse cases and neglect cases respectively.

**Graph 4 - Distribution of Children by Gender for 2017**

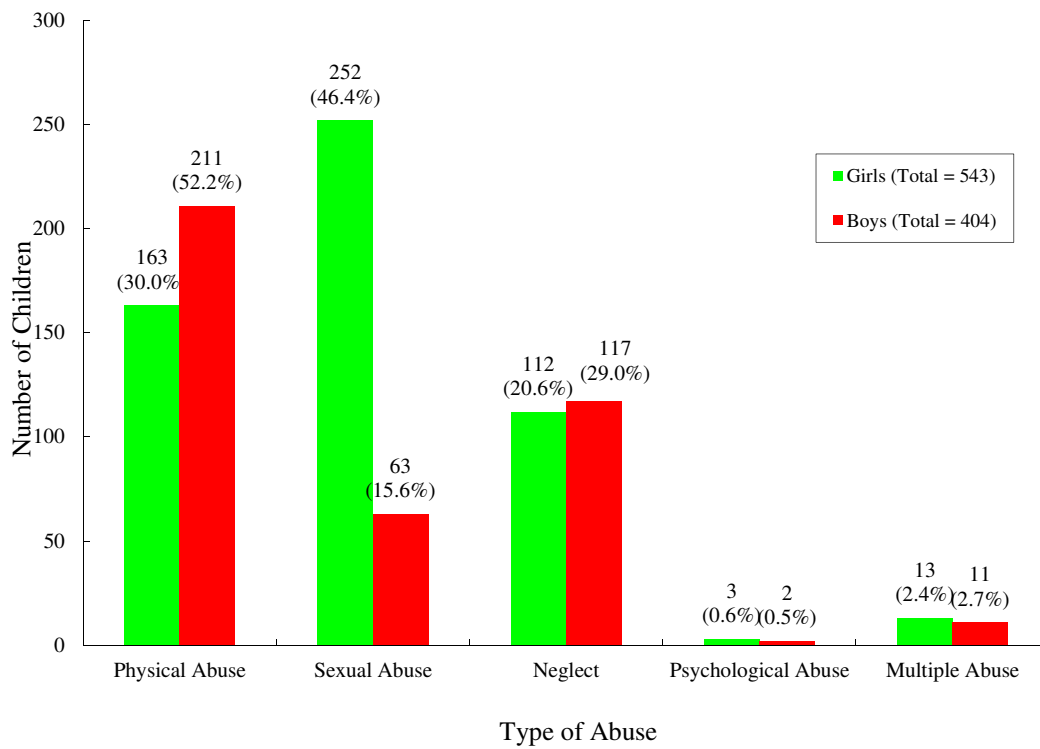


**Table 3 - Distribution of Newly Registered Cases and Incidence Rate by Gender**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>No. of Cases</b>	<b>Incidence Rate* Per 1,000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the Population</b>
Boys	404	0.76
Girls	543	1.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>0.93</b>

\* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2017 conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

**Graph 5 – Distribution of Children by Gender and by Type of Abuse for 2017**

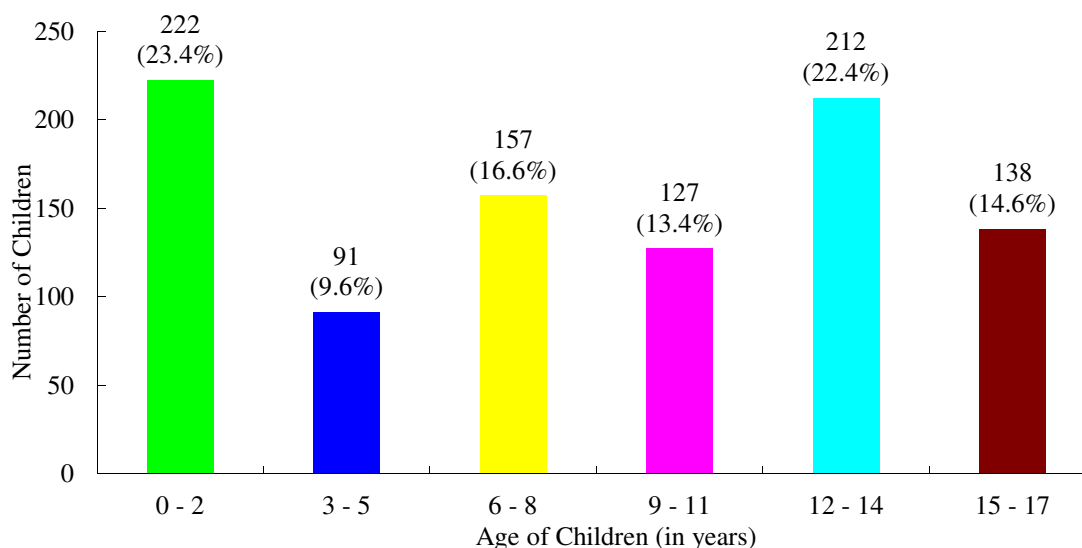


Note: Figures in brackets represent percentages in respect of the corresponding gender groups.  
 # Owing to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

## 1.2.2 Distribution of Children by Age

The highest percentage (23.4%) of the newly registered cases was found among children within the age group of 0 to 2 years old. Table 4 shows the distribution of children of different age groups by type of abuse with the highest numbers highlighted.

**Graph 6 - Distribution of Children by Age for 2017**



**Table 4 – Distribution of Children by Age and by Type of Abuse**

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
0 – 2	46	3	167	0	6	222
3 – 5	54	15	19	0	3	91
6 – 8	103	25	20	3	6	157
9 – 11	73	38	10	0	6	127
12 – 14	66	132	12	1	1	212
15 – 17	32	102	1	1	2	138
<b>Total</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>947</b>

### 1.2.3 Distribution of Children by Age, by Gender and by Type of Abuse

#### *On Girls*

The distribution of girl victims of different age groups by type of abuse, with the highest numbers highlighted, is as follows:

**Table 5 – Distribution of Girl Victims by Age and by Type of Abuse**

Age	Type of Abuse					
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	Total
0 – 2	19	1	85	0	2	107
3 – 5	22	10	7	0	1	40
6 – 8	38	21	11	1	3	74
9 – 11	23	30	1	0	4	58
12 – 14	38	109	7	1	1	156
15 – 17	23	81	1	1	2	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>543</b>

#### *On Boys*

The distribution of boy victims of different age groups by type of abuse, with the highest numbers highlighted, is as follows:

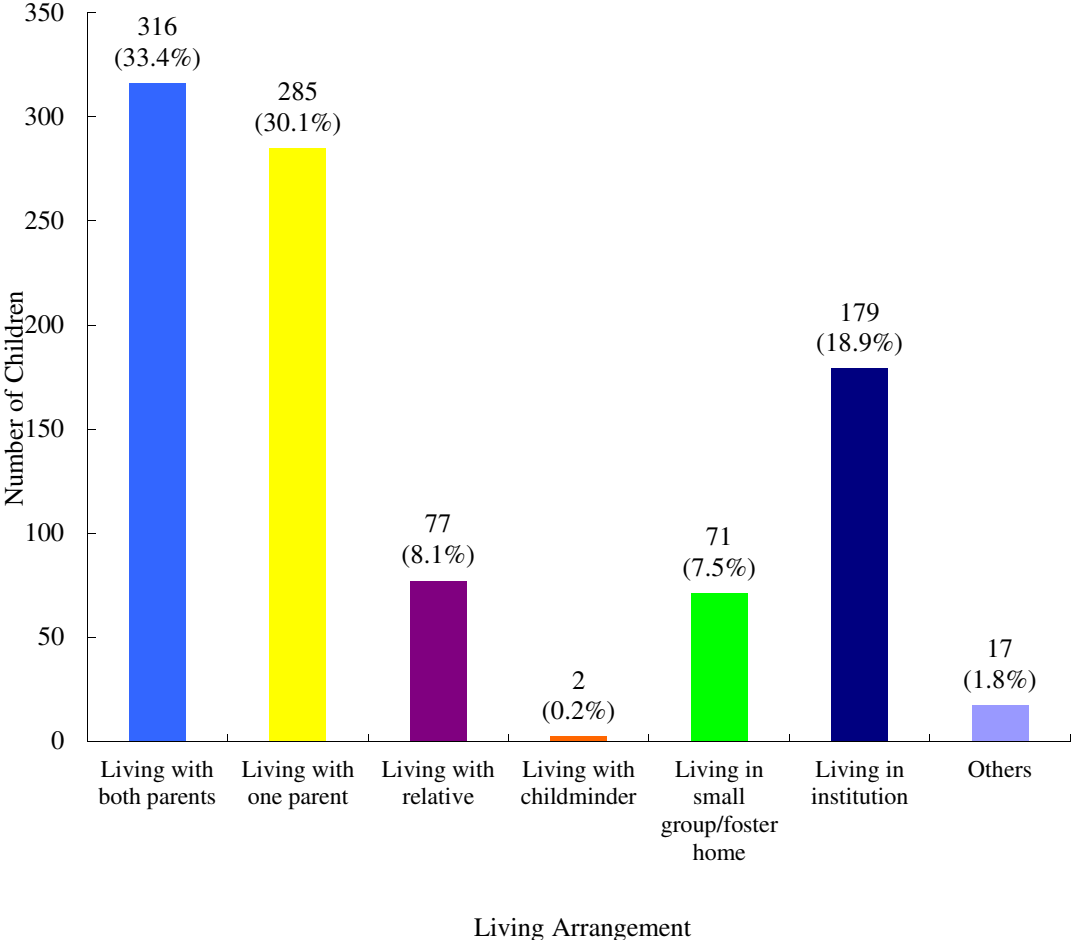
**Table 6 – Distribution of Boy Victims by Age and by Type of Abuse**

Age	Type of Abuse					
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	Total
0 – 2	27	2	82	0	4	115
3 – 5	32	5	12	0	2	51
6 – 8	65	4	9	2	3	83
9 – 11	50	8	9	0	2	69
12 – 14	28	23	5	0	0	56
15 – 17	9	21	0	0	0	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>404</b>

**1.2.4 Living Arrangement of Children**

Among the 947 newly registered cases, 63.5% of the abused children were living with either both parents or one of them at the time of reporting to CPR whereas 26.4% had been arranged residential child care services.

**Graph 7 - Distribution of Children by Living Arrangement for 2017**



# Owing to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

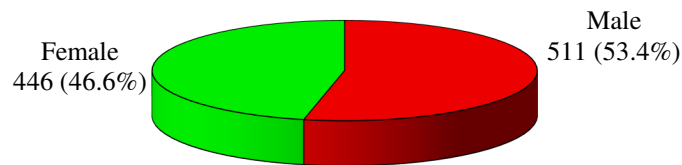
### 1.3 Abuser Characteristics

There were 947 children and 957 abusers involved in the newly registered cases. The number of abusers did not tally with the number of children because an abuser might abuse more than one child and a child might be abused by more than one abuser.

#### 1.3.1 Distribution of Abusers by Gender

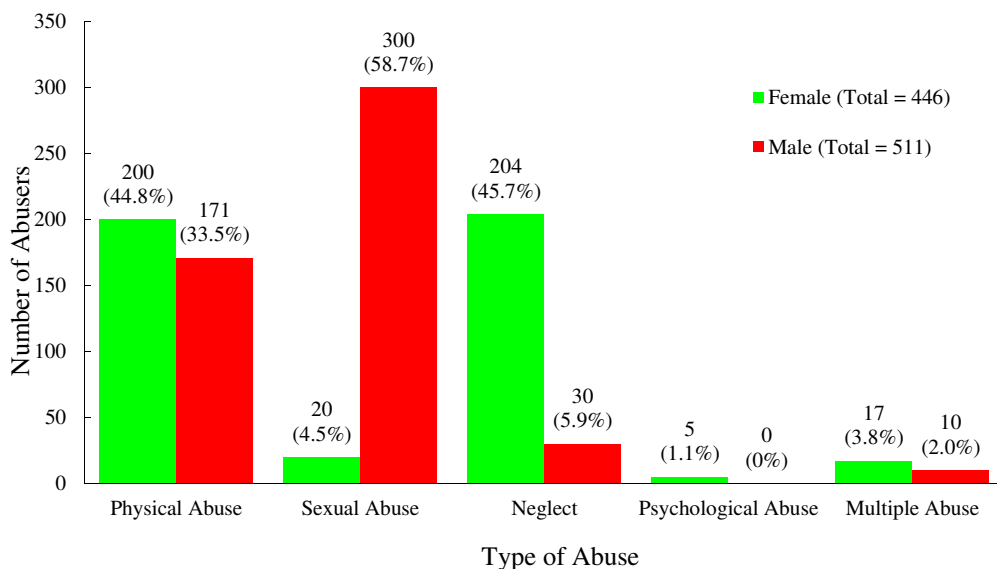
There were more male abusers (511, 53.4%) than female abusers (446, 46.6%) involved in the newly registered cases. The number of male abusers involved in sexual abuse case was far greater than that of female abusers. However, apart from sexual abuse cases, there were more female abusers than male abusers involved in other types of abuse.

**Graph 8 - Distribution of Abusers by Gender for 2017**



Total: 957 abusers

**Graph 9 - Distribution of Abusers by Gender and by Type of Abuse for 2017**



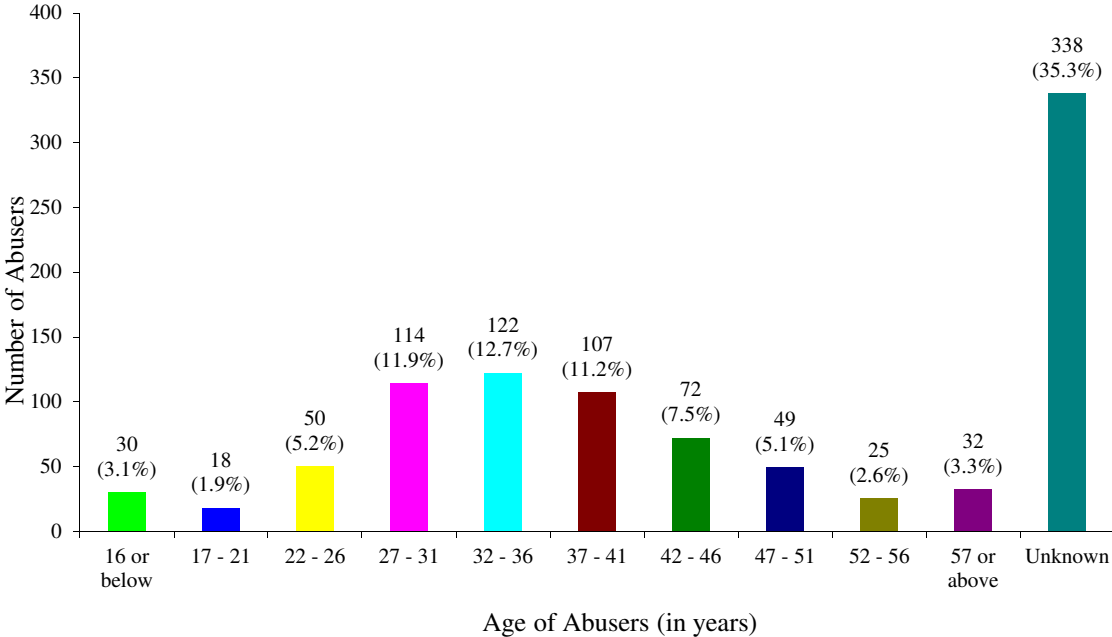
Note: Figures in brackets represent percentages in respect of the corresponding gender groups.



**1.3.2 Distribution of Abusers by Age**

35.8% of the abusers involved in the newly registered cases were aged between 27 and 41. Table 7 shows the distribution of abusers of different age groups by type of abuse with the highest numbers highlighted. As some of the abusers, particularly for sexual abuse cases, could not be identified or were unrelated persons, the age of a certain proportion of the abusers was unknown.

**Graph 10 - Distribution of Abusers by Age for 2017**



**Table 7 – Distribution of Abusers by Age and by Type of Abuse**

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
16 or below	3	24	3	0	0	30
17 – 21	2	6	10	0	0	18
22 – 26	17	5	27	0	1	50
27 – 31	38	3	66	1	6	114
32 – 36	67	5	47	0	3	122
37 – 41	52	8	43	1	3	107
42 – 46	53	1	12	3	3	72
47 – 51	39	1	4	0	5	49
52 – 56	18	1	6	0	0	25
57 or above	17	9	4	0	2	32
Unknown	65	257	12	0	4	338
<b>Total</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>957</b>

### 1.3.3 Distribution of Abusers by Gender, by Age and by Type of Abuse

#### *On Female Abusers*

The distribution of female abusers of different age groups by type of abuse, with the highest numbers highlighted, is as follows:

**Table 8 – Distribution of Female Abusers by Age and by Type of Abuse**

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
16 or below	2	0	2	0	0	4
17 – 21	1	0	10	0	0	11
22 – 26	11	0	26	0	1	38
27 – 31	24	0	64	1	5	94
32 – 36	45	2	45	0	3	95
37 – 41	34	0	35	1	3	73
42 – 46	26	0	9	3	1	39
47 – 51	10	0	1	0	3	14
52 – 56	3	0	0	0	0	3
57 or above	2	1	2	0	0	5
Unknown	42	17	10	0	1	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>446</b>

#### *On Male Abusers*

The distribution of male abusers of different age groups by type of abuse, with the highest numbers highlighted, is as follows:

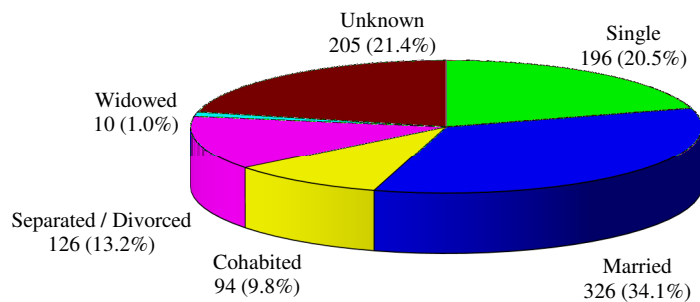
**Table 9 – Distribution of Male Abusers by Age and by Type of Abuse**

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
16 or below	1	24	1	0	0	26
17 – 21	1	6	0	0	0	7
22 – 26	6	5	1	0	0	12
27 – 31	14	3	2	0	1	20
32 – 36	22	3	2	0	0	27
37 – 41	18	8	8	0	0	34
42 – 46	27	1	3	0	2	33
47 – 51	29	1	3	0	2	35
52 – 56	15	1	6	0	0	22
57 or above	15	8	2	0	2	27
Unknown	23	240	2	0	3	268
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>511</b>

### 1.3.4 Marital Status of Abusers

34.1% of the 957 abusers of newly registered cases were married. As some of the abusers, particularly for sexual abuse cases, could not be identified or were unrelated persons, the marital status of a certain proportion of the abusers was unknown.

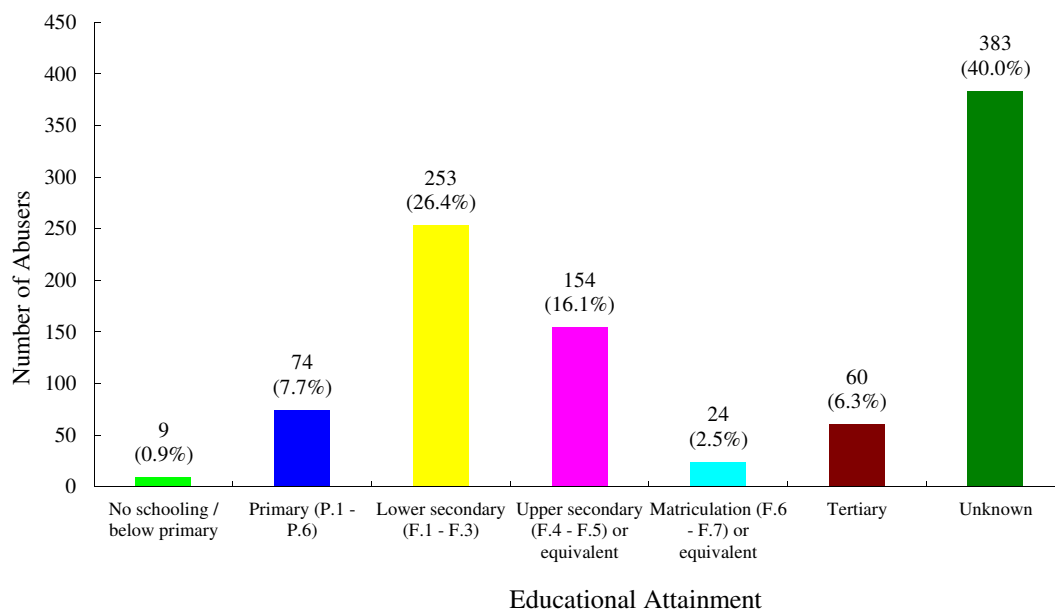
**Graph 11 - Distribution of Abusers by Marital Status for 2017**



### 1.3.5 Educational Attainment of Abusers

35.1% of the abusers of the newly registered cases were of lower secondary education standard or below. As some of the abusers, particularly for sexual abuse cases, could not be identified or were unrelated persons, the educational attainment of a certain proportion of the abusers was unknown.

**Graph 12 - Distribution of Abusers by Educational Attainment for 2017**

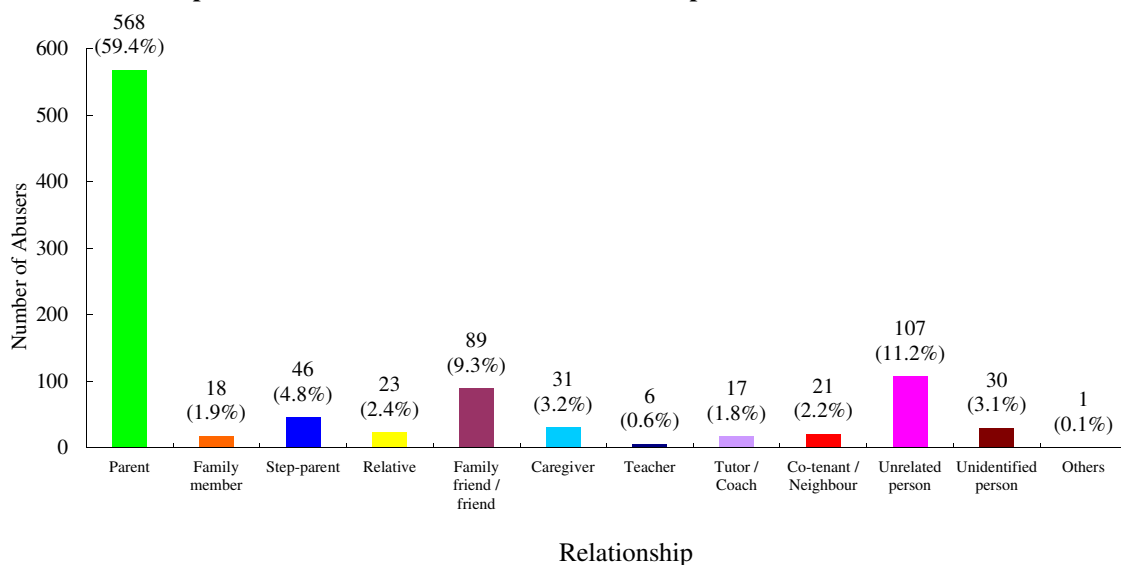


# Owing to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

### 1.3.6 Relationship of Abusers with Abused Children

59.4% of the abusers involved in the newly registered cases were parents of the victims. The breakdown by type of abuse, in Table 10, indicated that quite a large number of abusers in sexual abuse cases were unrelated persons, friends or family's friends, while the majority of abusers were parents of the victims in the other four types of child abuse cases. The types of abusers with the highest numbers of cases for each type of abuse are highlighted.

**Graph 13 - Distribution of Abusers' Relationship with Abused Children for 2017**



# Owing to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

**Table 10 – Distribution of Abusers' Relationship with Abused Children by Type of Abuse**

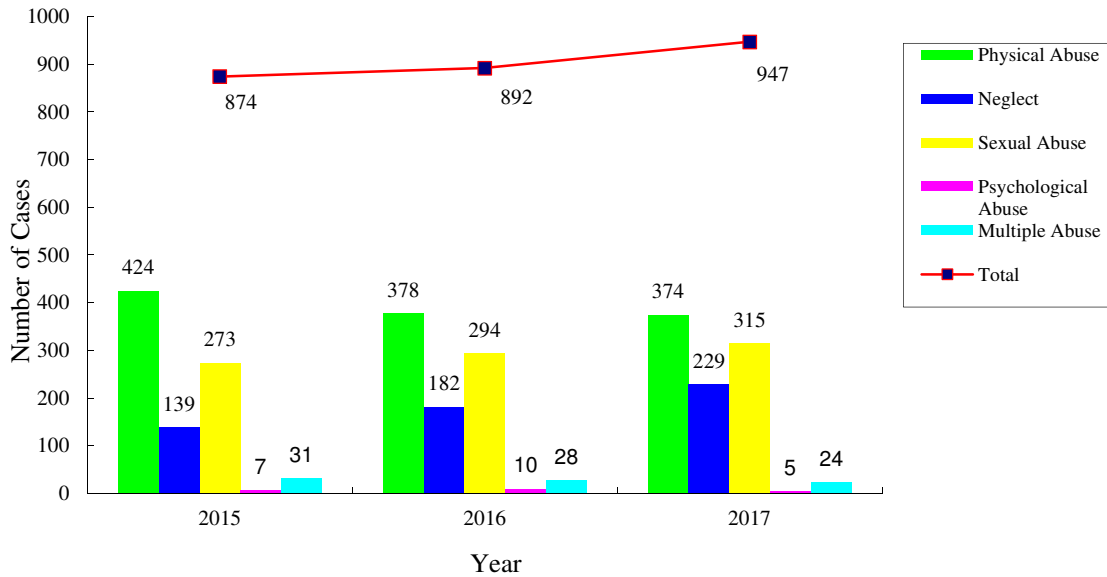
Relationship	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
Parent	294	19	225	5	25	568
Family member	6	7	5	0	0	18
Step-parent	22	23	0	0	1	46
Relative	10	12	0	0	1	23
Family's friend/friend	1	88	0	0	0	89
Caregiver	22	8	1	0	0	31
Teacher	2	4	0	0	0	6
Tutor/coach	3	14	0	0	0	17
Co-tenant/neighbour	1	20	0	0	0	21
Unrelated person	0	107	0	0	0	107
Unidentified person	10	17	3	0	0	30
Others	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>957</b>

## Part 2

### Comparison of Newly Registered Cases from 2015 to 2017

#### 2.1 Types of Abuse

**Graph 14 - Distribution of Newly Registered Cases by Types of Abuse**



#### 2.2 Child Characteristics

##### 2.2.1 Distribution of Children by Age

**Table 11 – Age Distribution of Children**

Year Age	2015	2016	2017
0 - 2	92 (10.5%)	158 (17.7%)	222 (23.4%)
3 - 5	100 (11.4%)	104 (11.7%)	91 (9.6%)
6 - 8	179 (20.5%)	153 (17.2%)	157 (16.6%)
9 - 11	174 (19.9%)	172 (19.3%)	127 (13.4%)
12 - 14	209 (23.9%)	194 (21.7%)	212 (22.4%)
15 - 17	120 (13.7%)	111 (12.4%)	138 (14.6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>874 (100%)</b>	<b>892 (100%)</b>	<b>947 (100%)</b>

# Owing to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

## 2.2.2 Distribution of Children by Type of Abuse and by Gender

Table 12 – Distribution of Children by Type of Abuse and by Gender

Type of Abuse	2015		2016		2017	
	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	No. of Girls
Physical abuse	250 (28.6%)	174 (19.9%)	221 (24.8%)	157 (17.6%)	211 (22.3%)	163 (17.2%)
Neglect	73 (8.4%)	66 (7.6%)	93 (10.4%)	89 (10.0%)	117 (12.4%)	112 (11.8%)
Sexual abuse	34 (3.9%)	239 (27.3%)	52 (5.8%)	242 (27.1%)	63 (6.7%)	252 (26.6%)
Psychological abuse	3 (0.3%)	4 (0.5%)	6 (0.7%)	4 (0.4%)	2 (0.2%)	3 (0.3%)
Multiple abuse	12 (1.4%)	19 (2.2%)	11 (1.2%)	17 (1.9%)	11 (1.2%)	13 (1.4%)
Sub-total	372 (42.6%)	502 (57.4%)	383 (42.9%)	509 (57.1%)	404 (42.7%)	543 (57.3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>874 (100%)</b>		<b>892 (100%)</b>		<b>947 (100%)</b>	

# Owing to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

## 2.3 Abuser Characteristics

### 2.3.1 Distribution of Abusers by Age

Table 13 - Age Distribution of Abusers

Age \ Year	2015	2016	2017
16 or below	25 (2.8%)	24 (2.6%)	30 (3.1%)
17 - 21	15 (1.7%)	17 (1.9%)	18 (1.9%)
22 - 26	38 (4.2%)	46 (5.0%)	50 (5.2%)
27 - 31	62 (6.9%)	75 (8.2%)	114 (11.9%)
32 - 36	127 (14.1%)	138 (15.1%)	122 (12.7%)
37 - 41	129 (14.3%)	109 (12.0%)	107 (11.2%)
42 - 46	95 (10.6%)	82 (9.0%)	72 (7.5%)
47 - 51	61 (6.8%)	48 (5.3%)	49 (5.1%)
52 - 56	25 (2.8%)	27 (3.0%)	25 (2.6%)
57 or above	41 (4.6%)	38 (4.2%)	32 (3.3%)
Unknown	282 (31.3%)	307 (33.7%)	338 (35.3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>900 (100%)</b>	<b>911 (100%)</b>	<b>957 (100%)</b>

# Owing to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

### 2.3.2 Distribution of Abusers by Gender

**Table 14 - Gender of Abusers**

<b>Gender \ Year</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Male	499 (55.4%)	500 (54.9%)	511 (53.4%)
Female	401 (44.6%)	411 (45.1%)	446 (46.6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>900 (100%)</b>	<b>911 (100%)</b>	<b>957 (100%)</b>

### 2.3.3 Marital Status of Abusers

**Table 15 - Marital Status of Abusers**

<b>Marital Status \ Year</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Single	139 (15.4%)	156 (17.1%)	196 (20.5%)
Married	368 (40.9%)	305 (33.5%)	326 (34.1%)
Cohabited	58 (6.4%)	93 (10.2%)	94 (9.8%)
Separated/divorced	142 (15.8%)	150 (16.5%)	126 (13.2%)
Widowed	16 (1.8%)	9 (1.0%)	10 (1.0%)
Unknown	177 (19.7%)	198 (21.7%)	205 (21.4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>900 (100%)</b>	<b>911 (100%)</b>	<b>957 (100%)</b>

Note : As some of the abusers, particularly for sexual abuse cases, could not be identified or were unrelated persons, the marital status of a certain proportion of the abusers was unknown.

# Owing to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

## 2.3.4 Educational Attainment of Abusers

**Table 16 - Educational Attainment of Abusers**

Educational Attainment	Year		
	2015	2016	2017
No schooling/below primary	12 (1.3%)	11 (1.2%)	9 (0.9%)
Primary (P.1 - P.6)	77 (8.6%)	74 (8.1%)	74 (7.7%)
Lower secondary (F.1 - F.3)	247 (27.4%)	269 (29.5%)	253 (26.4%)
Upper secondary (F.4 - F.5)	145 (16.1%)	157 (17.2%)	154 (16.1%)
Matriculation (F.6 - F.7)	29 (3.2%)	12 (1.3%)	24 (2.5%)
Tertiary	58 (6.4%)	57 (6.3%)	60 (6.3%)
Unknown	332 (36.9%)	331 (36.3%)	383 (40.0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>900</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>911</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>957</b> <b>(100%)</b>

# Owing to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

## 2.3.5 Relationship of Abusers with Abused Children

**Table 17 - Abusers' Relationship with Abused Children**

Relationship	Year		
	2015	2016	2017
Parent	548 (60.9%)	534 (58.6%)	568 (59.4%)
Family member	9 (1.0%)	28 (3.1%)	18 (1.9%)
Step-parent	41 (4.6%)	46 (5.0%)	46 (4.8%)
Relative	26 (2.9%)	21 (2.3%)	23 (2.4%)
Family's friend/Friend	85 (9.4%)	94 (10.3%)	89 (9.3%)
Caregiver	25 (2.8%)	23 (2.5%)	31 (3.2%)
Teacher/Tutor/Coach	31 (3.4%)	35 (3.8%)	23 (2.4%)
Co-tenant/Neighbour	8 (0.9%)	14 (1.5%)	21 (2.2%)
Unrelated person	103 (11.4%)	79 (8.7%)	107 (11.2%)
Unidentified person/ Others	24 (2.7%)	37 (4.1%)	31 (3.2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>900 (100%)</b>	<b>911 (100%)</b>	<b>957 (100%)</b>

# Owing to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.



## Appendix

### Glossary

#### **Child Abuse (definition)**

As a general guide, child abuse is defined as any act of commission or omission that endangers or impairs a child's physical/psychological health and development. Such an act is judged on the basis of a combination of community standards and professional expertise to be damaging. It is committed by individuals, singly or collectively, who by their characteristics (e.g. age, status, knowledge, organisational form) are in a position of differential power that renders a child vulnerable. Child abuse is not limited to a child-parent/guardian situation but includes anyone who is entrusted with the care and control of a child e.g. child-minders, relatives, teachers, etc. For child sexual abuse, the acts may also be committed by strangers to the child.

Child abuse includes:

- **Physical Abuse**

It is a physical injury or physical suffering to a child, (including non-accidental use of force, deliberate poisoning, suffocation, burning, Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, etc.), where there is a definite knowledge, or a reasonable suspicion that the injury has been inflicted non-accidentally;

[\* Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy occurs when a parent or guardian falsifies a child's medical history or alters a child's laboratory test or actually causes an illness or injury to a child in order to gain medical attention for the child which may result in innumerable harmful hospital procedures. (Ref.: Zumwalt R.E. & Kirsch C.S., "Pathology of Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect" in R.E. Helfer & R.S. Kempe (Eds.), The Battered Child (4th ed.), pp.247-285, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987.)]

- **Sexual Abuse**

It is an involvement of a child in a sexual activity (e.g. rape, oral sex) which is unlawful, or to which a child is unable to give informed consent\*. This includes direct or indirect sexual exploitation and abuse of a child (e.g. production of pornographic material). It may be committed by individuals whether inside the home or outside. It may be committed by parents, or carers or other adults singly or acting in an organised way, or children. It includes acts which may be rewarded or apparently attractive to the child. It may be committed by individuals either known or strange to the child; (Child sexual abuse differentiates from casual sexual relationship that does not include any sexual exploitation e.g. between a boy and a girl, though the boy can be liable for offences like indecent assault or unlawful sexual intercourse with an under aged girl.)

[\* Any dependent, developmentally immature children and adolescents involved in sexual activities that they do not fully comprehend are considered unable to give “informed consent”. For instance, when a child is involved in a sexual act for snacks or money, though the child may say “yes” to the perpetrator, this should not be regarded as an “informed consent” by the child.]

- **Neglect**

It is severe or a repeated pattern of lacking of attention to a child’s basic needs that endangers or impairs the child’s health or development. Neglect may be :

- ❖ Physical (e.g. failure to provide necessary food, clothing or shelter, failure to prevent physical injury or suffering, lack of appropriate supervision or being left unattended)
- ❖ Medical (e.g. failure to provide necessary medical or mental health treatment)
- ❖ Educational (e.g. failure to provide education or ignoring educational needs arising from a child's disability\*)
- ❖ Emotional (e.g. ignoring a child’s emotional needs, failure to provide psychological care);

[\*According to the Disability Discrimination Ordinance Code of Practice on Education, the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Ordinance apply to a wide range of persons, including those usually referred to as persons with intellectual disability or mental handicap, autism, specific learning disabilities, hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical disability or handicap, mental illness and various other chronic illnesses, and persons who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (commonly known as “HIV-positive”) or who have acquired immune deficiency syndrome (commonly known as “AIDS”)]

- **Psychological Abuse**

It is the repeated pattern of behaviour and attitudes towards a child or extreme incident that endangers or impairs the child’s emotional or intellectual development. Examples include acts of spurning, terrorizing, isolating, exploiting/corrupting, denying emotional responsiveness, conveying to a child that he/she is worthless, flawed, unwanted or unloved. Such act damages immediately or ultimately the behavioural, cognitive, affective, or physical functioning of the child.

- **Multiple Abuse**

Combination of more than one of the above four types of abuse.

**Case**

One case refers to one child.

**Newly Registered Cases** Child abuse and at-risk of abuse cases newly registered with the Child Protection Registry in 2017.  
**in 2017**