

Child Protection Registry

Statistical Report

2019



社會福利署

Social Welfare Department

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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 cases involving children having been abused or currently at risk of abuse. Service units of both SWD and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) may register 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 further enhanced in July 2018 to capture more information on the cases.

Since 1996, statistical reports on the CPR have been published on an annual basis to provide general information and demographic data on registered cases involving children having been abused or currently at risk of abuse in the year. This report, “Statistical Report 2019”, consists of two parts. Part 1 is on the cases registered in 2019 and Part 2 is on a comparison of newly registered cases from 2017 to 2019. 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
August 2020

Part 1

Newly Registered Cases in 2019

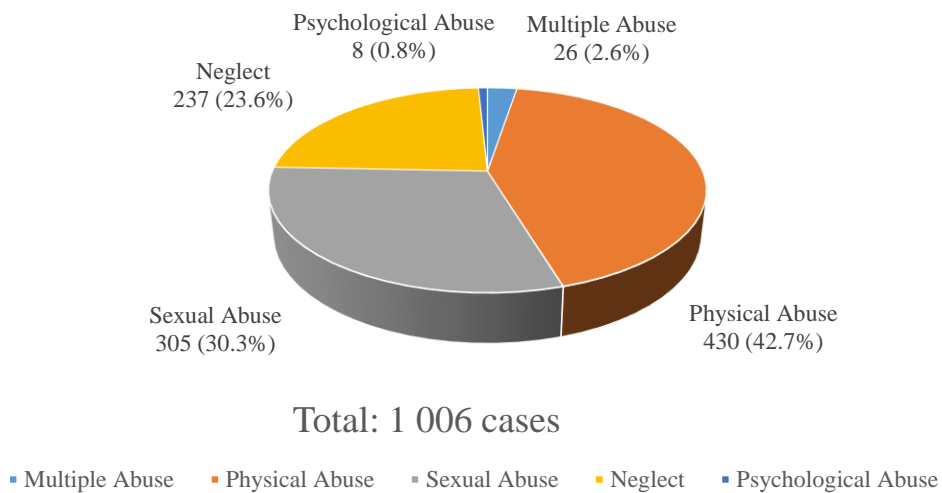
There were 1 006 newly registered cases.

1.1 General Information

1.1.1 Types of Abuse

42.7% of the newly registered cases were physical abuse cases and 30.3% were sexual abuse cases. 23.6% were neglect cases. 0.8% were psychological abuse cases. 2.6% were multiple abuse cases.

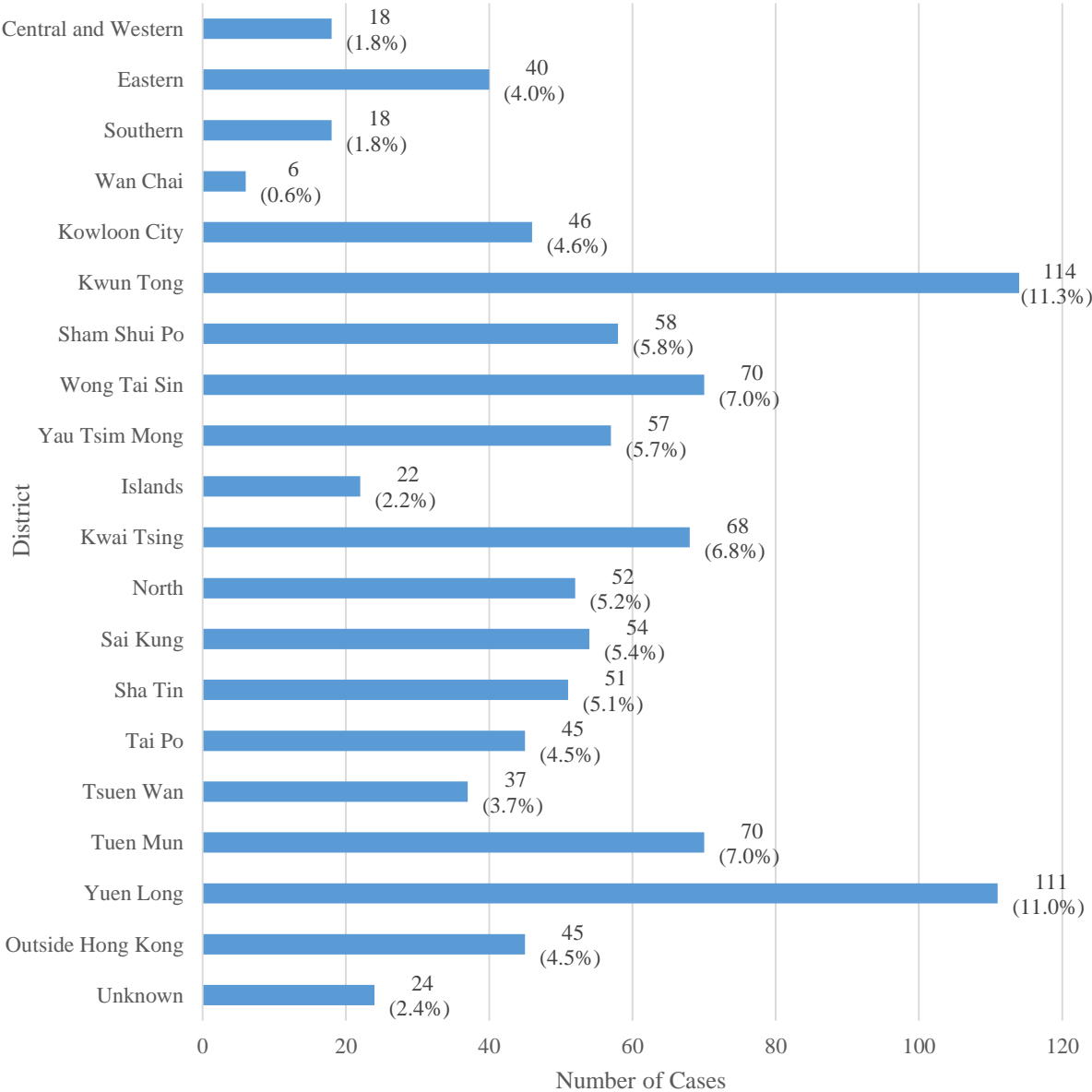
Graph 1: Distribution of Newly Registered Cases by Types of Abuse for 2019



1.1.2 Distribution by District

The four districts with the highest percentage of newly registered cases having the abuse incidents took place were Kwun Tong District (11.3%), Yuen Long District (11.0%), Tuen Mun District (7.0%) and Wong Tai Sin District (7.0%). Table 1 shows the incidence rate per 1 000 children (aged 0–17) population in different districts with the three districts having the highest incidence rate highlighted.

Graph 2: Distribution of Newly Registered Cases by District for 2019 *



Owing to the rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

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

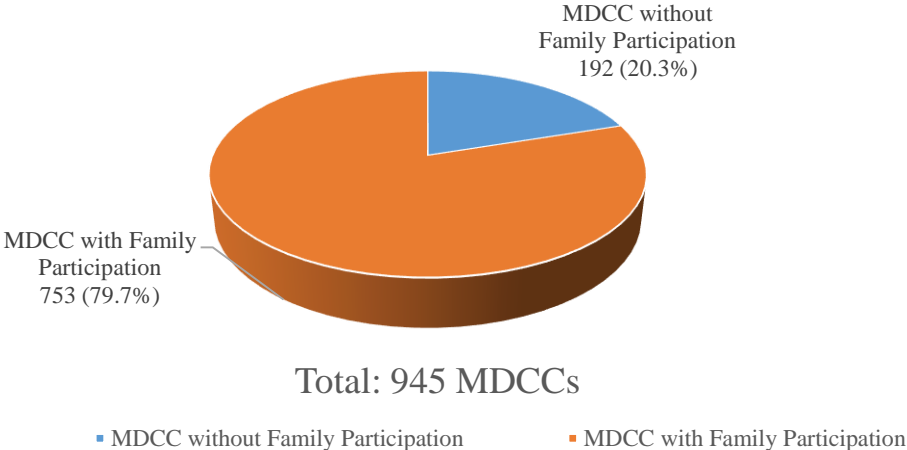
District	No. of Cases	Incidence Rate* Per 1 000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the District
Central/Western	18	0.62
Eastern	40	0.54
Southern	18	0.48
Wan Chai	6	0.29
Kowloon City	46	0.80
Kwun Tong	114	1.14
Sham Shui Po	58	0.94
Wong Tai Sin	70	1.33
Yau Tsim Mong	57	1.28
Islands	22	0.77
Kwai Tsing	68	0.98
North	52	1.09
Sai Kung	54	0.85
Sha Tin	51	0.54
Tai Po	45	1.06
Tsuen Wan	37	0.85
Tuen Mun	70	1.03
Yuen Long	111	1.19
Outside Hong Kong	45	N.A.
Unknown	24	N.A.
Total	1 006	0.91

* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2019 conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

1.1.3 Multi-disciplinary Case Conference

Out of the 1 006 newly registered cases, multi-disciplinary case conferences (MDCCs) were conducted for 934 cases (92.8%). A total of 945 MDCCs were held for discussion about the nature of the incidents, risk level and welfare plans for these 934 cases. 753 MDCCs (79.7%) were held with the participation of the children’s family members.

Graph 3: Family Participation in Multi-disciplinary Case Conference for 2019



1.1.4 Factors on Risk of Child Abuse at the Time of Identification/ Disclosure/ Investigation

Child Abuse cases were associated with a number of risk factors. These risk factors were categorised into four subgroups, i.e. (a) factors relating to the abused child*; (b) factors relating to abuser**; (c) factors relating to environmental or social circumstances; and (d) factors relating to the precipitating incident. The list of risk factors under each subgroup is appended below:

- a) Factors relating to the child
 1. School attendance / performance problem
 2. Behavioural problem
 3. Emotional / psychological problem
 4. Mental illness like schizophrenia, major depression, anxiety disorders, etc.
 5. Mental retardation including slow learning or developmental delay
 6. Special educational needs like Autism, Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder, dyslexia, specific learning disorder, etc.
 7. Illness / physical disability
 8. Unwanted child / pregnancy
 9. Long period of separation from parents in early infancy (i.e. separation for one year or over before the age of 5)

- b) Factors relating to abuser (for cases where parent(s) is/are abuser) (parent includes step-parent and adoptive parent)
 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 (e.g. gambling, indulgence in internet surfing)
 11. Heavy / chronic use of drug
 12. Heavy / chronic use of alcohol
 13. Intimate partner violence
 14. Refuse to cooperate with professionals / being evasive
 15. Being abuser / potential abuser of previous child abuse case / case with high risk of abuse

- c) Factors relating to environmental or social circumstances
 1. Financial difficulty / unemployment
 2. Housing problem / poor living environment
 3. Family crisis / stresses not coped with by abuser/suspected abuser/potential abuser
 4. Lack of support system (e.g. spouse, grandparents, relatives, friends, etc.)
 5. Lack of community resources (e.g. day child care centre, neighbourhood support child care project, tutorial class, etc.)
 6. The abuser/suspected abuser/potential abuser (non-family member) can easily access to the child

* 'Child/children' in the report include 'children having been abused and currently at risk of abuse'

** 'Abuser' in this report include suspected abuser and potential abuser for cases with children currently at risk of abuse

- d) Factors relating to the precipitating incident
1. Incident was severe and/or of high frequency
 2. Location of injury on delicate and/or extensive body parts
 3. Cause of injuries unknown

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

Table 2 – Major Risk Factors of Child Abuse

Risk Factors of Child Abuse	No. of Newly Registered Cases Associated with the Risk Factors of Child Abuse (Note)
Factors relating to the child	575 (57.2%)
Factors relating to abuser	708 (70.4%)
Factors relating to environmental or social circumstances	545 (54.2%)
Factors relating to the precipitating incident	288 (28.6%)

Note : One case may have more than one risk factor. Figures in brackets are the percentage of cases associated with the risk factors of child abuse in respect of a total of 1 006 cases in 2019.

In 2019, a larger proportion (70.4%) of the cases was associated with risk factors relating to abuser/suspected abuser/potential abuser followed by factors relating to abused child / child at risk of abuse. Table 3a shows the number of cases associated with the risk factors relating to abused child / child at risk of abuse. Table 3b shows number of cases associated with the risk factors relating to the abuser/suspected abuser/potential abuser.

Table 3a –Factors Relating to the Child

Factors Relating to the Child	No. of Newly Registered Cases Associated with the Risk Factor
School attendance / performance problem	140 (24.3%)
Behavioural problem	286 (49.7%)
Emotion / psychological problem	135 (23.5%)
Mental illness like schizophrenia, major depression, anxiety disorders, etc.	23 (4.0%)
Mental retardation including slow learning or developmental delay	42 (7.3%)
Special educational need	131 (22.8%)
Illness / physical disability	10 (1.7%)
Unwanted child / pregnancy	28 (4.9%)
Long period of separation from parents in early infancy	19 (3.3%)
Others	49 (8.5%)

Table 3b –Factors relating to Abuser

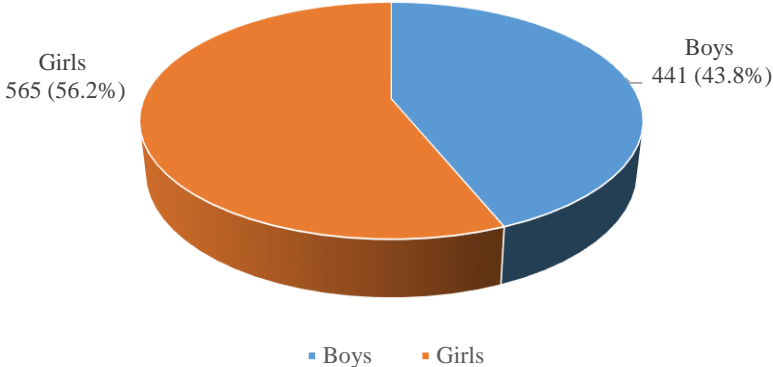
Factors Relating to Abuser	No. of Newly Registered Cases Associated with the Risk Factor
Superstitious belief	4 (0.6%)
Marital problem	134 (18.9%)
In-law relationship problem	20 (2.8%)
Emotion / psychological problem	230 (32.5%)
Mental illness / retardation	104 (14.7%)
Illness / physical disability	8 (1.1%)
Immaturity / extreme self-centredness	35 (4.9%)
Incompetence in child rearing / lack of parenting skills	318 (44.9%)
High expectation on child-in-question	102 (14.4%)
Undesirable hobbies (e.g. gambling, indulgence in internet surfing)	32 (4.5%)
Heavy / chronic use of drug	144 (20.3%)
Heavy / chronic use of alcohol	25 (3.5%)
Intimate partner violence	18 (2.5%)
Refuse to cooperate with professionals / evasive	73 (10.3%)
Being abuser / potential abuser of previous child abuse case / case with high risk of abuse	35 (4.9%)
Others	34 (4.8%)

1.2 Characteristics of Children

1.2.1 Distribution of Children by Sex

There were more girl (56.2%) than boy (43.8%) among the newly registered cases. Table 4 shows the Distribution of Newly Registered Cases and Incidence Rate by Sex.

Graph 4 - Number of Cases by Distribution of Children by Sex for 2019



Total: 1 006 children

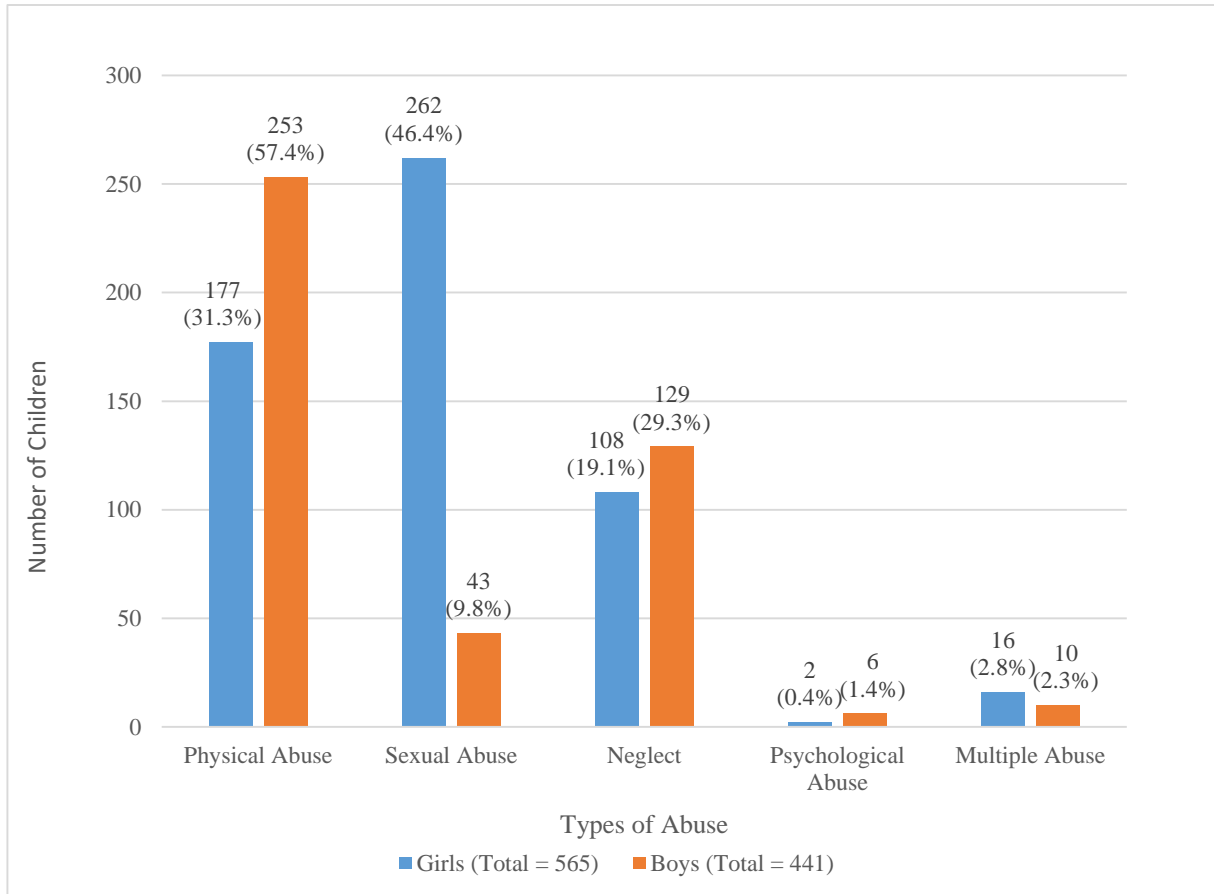
Table 4 - Distribution of Newly Registered Cases and Incidence Rate by Sex

Sex	No. of Cases	Incidence Rate* Per 1 000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the Population
Boys	441	0.83
Girls	565	1.13
Total	1 006	0.98

* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2019 conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

A breakdown of the sex of children by types of abuse indicated that 46.4% of the girls were involved in sexual abuse cases and 31.3% were involved in physical abuse cases, while 57.4% and 29.3% of the boys were involved in physical abuse cases and neglect cases respectively.

Graph 5 - Distribution of Children by Sex and by Types of Abuse for 2019



Note: Figure in bracket represents percentage in respect of the corresponding groups.

Owing to the rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

1.2.2 Distribution of Children by Age

The highest percentage (23.8%) of the newly registered cases was found among children within the age group of 12 to 14 years old. Table 5 shows the distribution of children of different age groups by types of abuse with the highest numbers highlighted.

Graph 6 - Distribution of Children by Age for 2019

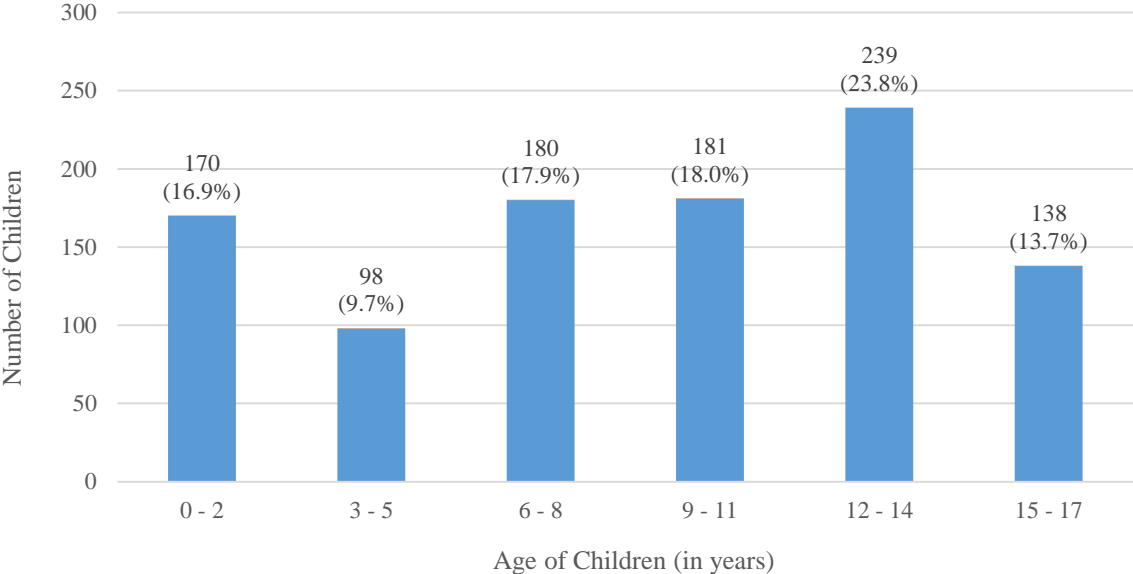


Table 5 – Distribution of Children by Age and by Types of Abuse

Age	Types of Abuse					Total
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Abuse	Multiple Abuse	
0 – 2	21	1	143	0	5	170
3 – 5	50	16	26	1	5	98
6 – 8	118	35	22	0	5	180
9 – 11	117	37	21	3	3	181
12 – 14	81	130	21	3	4	239
15 – 17	43	86	4	1	4	138
Total	430	305	237	8	26	1 006

1.2.3 Distribution of Children by Age, by Sex and by Types of Abuse On Girls

The distribution of girls of different age groups by types of abuse, with the highest numbers highlighted, is as follows:

Table 6 – Distribution of Girls by Age and by Types of Abuse

Age	Types of Abuse					Total
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Abuse	Multiple Abuse	
0 – 2	12	0	62	0	4	78
3 – 5	20	15	12	0	1	48
6 – 8	29	27	10	0	4	70
9 – 11	46	30	7	1	2	86
12 – 14	39	114	13	0	2	168
15 – 17	31	76	4	1	3	115
Total	177	262	108	2	16	565

On Boys

The distribution of boys of different age groups by types of abuse, with the highest numbers highlighted, is as follows:

Table 7 – Distribution of Boys by Age and by Types of Abuse

Age	Types of Abuse					Total
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Abuse	Multiple Abuse	
0 – 2	9	1	81	0	1	92
3 – 5	30	1	14	1	4	50
6 – 8	89	8	12	0	1	110
9 – 11	71	7	14	2	1	95
12 – 14	42	16	8	3	2	71
15 – 17	12	10	0	0	1	23
Total	253	43	129	6	10	441

1.2.4 Ethnicity of Children

The figures on the ethnicity of children of newly registered cases have been captured by the revised Data Input Form upon enhancement of the CPR in July 2018. According to the figures on the ethnicity of children newly registered, most children (93.5%) were Chinese while the total number of children of the six ethnic minorities, including Indonesian, Filipino, Indian, Pakistani, Nepalese and Thai, is 41 (4.1%) in 2019. Apart from the six ethnicity minorities, four children were African and another four children were Japanese.

Table 8 - Ethnicity of Children

Ethnicity	Year	No. of Cases in 2019
Chinese		941 (93.5%)
Indonesian		7 (0.7%)
Filipino		9 (0.9%)
Indian		2 (0.2%)
Pakistani		7 (0.7%)
Nepalese		11 (1.1%)
Thai		5 (0.5%)
African		4 (0.4%)
Japanese		4 (0.4%)
British		3 (0.3%)
Canadian		1 (0.1%)
Russian		1 (0.1%)
Italian		1 (0.1%)
Nigerian		1 (0.1%)
Vietnamese		1 (0.1%)
Mongolian		1 (0.1%)
Malaysian		1 (0.1%)
Others		6 (0.6%)
Total		1 006 (100.0%)

Owing to the rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

1.2.5 Distribution of Children by Types of Children's Disabilities and by Types of Abuse

The figures of the children of newly registered cases with different types of disabilities have been captured by the revised Data Input Form upon enhancement of the CPR in July 2018. Among the 1 006 newly registered cases in 2019, 24.2% (243 children) were reported to have one or more than one type of disability. 11.2% (113 children) were reported to have Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). 5.8% (58 children) were reported to have Specific Learning Difficulties while 4.2% (42 children) were reported to have Intellectual Disability.

Table 9 - Children's Disabilities by Types of Abuse

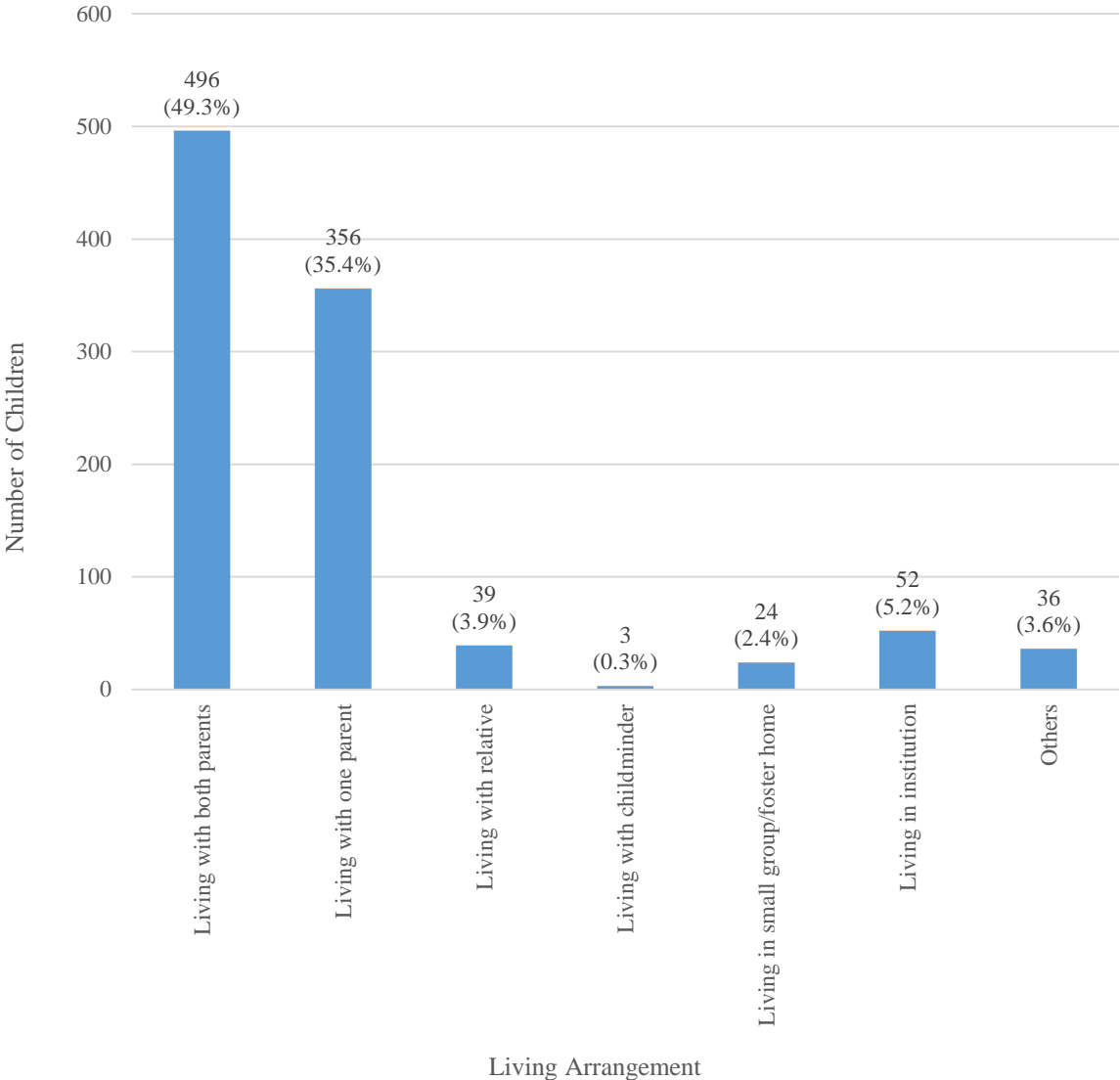
Types of Disabilities	Types of Abuse					Total
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Abuse	Multiple Abuse	
Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder	79 (18.4%)	28 (9.2%)	5 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (3.8%)	113 (11.2%)
Autism	24 (5.6%)	13 (4.3%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (12.5%)	0 (0.0%)	39 (3.9%)
Hearing Impairment	6 (1.4%)	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (0.8%)
Intellectual Disability	17 (4.0%)	19 (6.2%)	5 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (3.8%)	42 (4.2%)
Physical Disability	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.3%)	2 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (0.4%)
Mental Illness	6 (1.4%)	18 (5.9%)	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	25 (2.5%)
Specific Learning Difficulties	21 (4.9%)	23 (7.5%)	13 (5.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (3.8%)	58 (5.8%)
Speech Impairment	12 (2.8%)	7 (2.3%)	5 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (7.7%)	26 (2.6%)
Visceral Disability	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Visual Impairment	1 (0.2%)	3 (1.0%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (12.5%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (0.6%)
No. of Children with Disabilities*	123 (28.6%)	81 (26.6%)	27 (11.4%)	1 (12.5%)	5 (19.2%)	243 (24.2%)
Total No. of Children by Types of Abuse	430 (100%)	305 (100%)	237 (100%)	8 (100%)	26 (100%)	1 006 (100%)

* One child may have more than one type of disability. The total number of children with disabilities does not equal to the sum of types of abuse. The figures in the brackets represent the percentages of corresponding type of abuse. For example, out of 430 physical abuse cases, there are 123 children having one or more than one type of disability, covering 28.6% of the total number of physical abuse cases. For the 79 children having ADHD, the percentage out of the total number of physical abuse cases is 18.4%.

1.2.6 Living Arrangement of Children

Among the 1 006 newly registered cases, 84.7% of the children were living with either both parents or one of them whereas 7.6% were living in residential child care services including small group homes / foster homes / institutions at the time of abuse/ suspected abuse happened.

Graph 7 - Distribution of Children by Living Arrangement for 2019#



Owing to rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the graph.

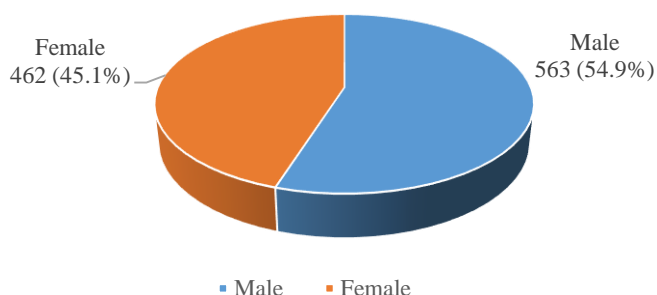
1.3 Characteristics of Abusers

There were 1 006 children and 1 025 abusers involved in the newly registered cases. The total number of abusers did not equal to the total number of child abuse cases as one abuser might have abused more than one child whereas one child could be abused by more than one abusers.

1.3.1 Distribution of Abusers by Sex

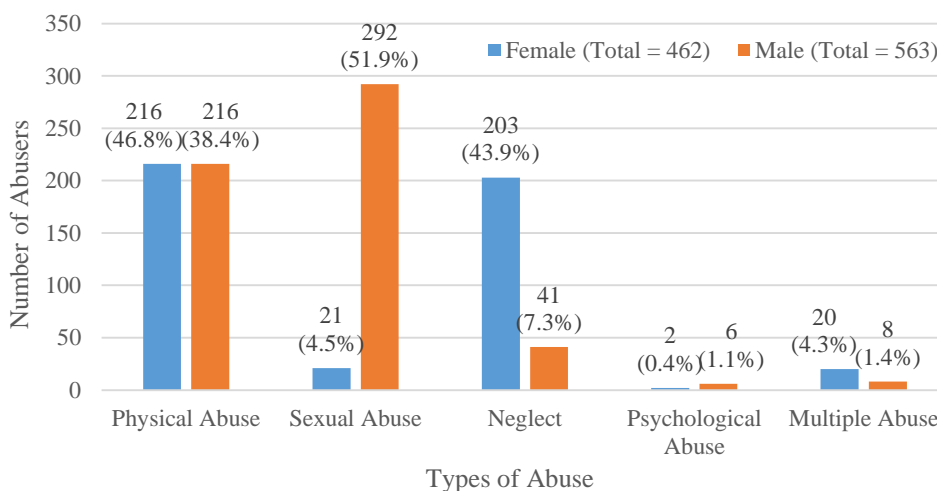
There were more male abusers (563, 54.9%) than female abusers (462, 45.1%) involved in the newly registered cases. The number of male abusers involved in sexual abuse cases was far more than the number of female abusers. The number of male and female abusers for physical abuse cases was the same. For psychological abuse cases, there were more male abusers than female abusers. For neglect and multiple abuse cases, there were more female abusers than male abusers.

Graph 8 - Distribution of Abusers by Sex for 2019



Total: 1 025 abusers

Graph 9 - Distribution of Abusers by Sex and by Types of Abuse for 2019



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

1.3.2 Distribution of Abusers by Age

36.2% of the abusers involved in the newly registered cases aged between 32 and 46. Table 10 shows the distribution of abuser of different age groups by types of abuse with the highest number highlighted. The abusers under the category of “Unknown” age group were unrelated or unidentified persons.

Graph 10 - Distribution of Abusers by Age for 2019

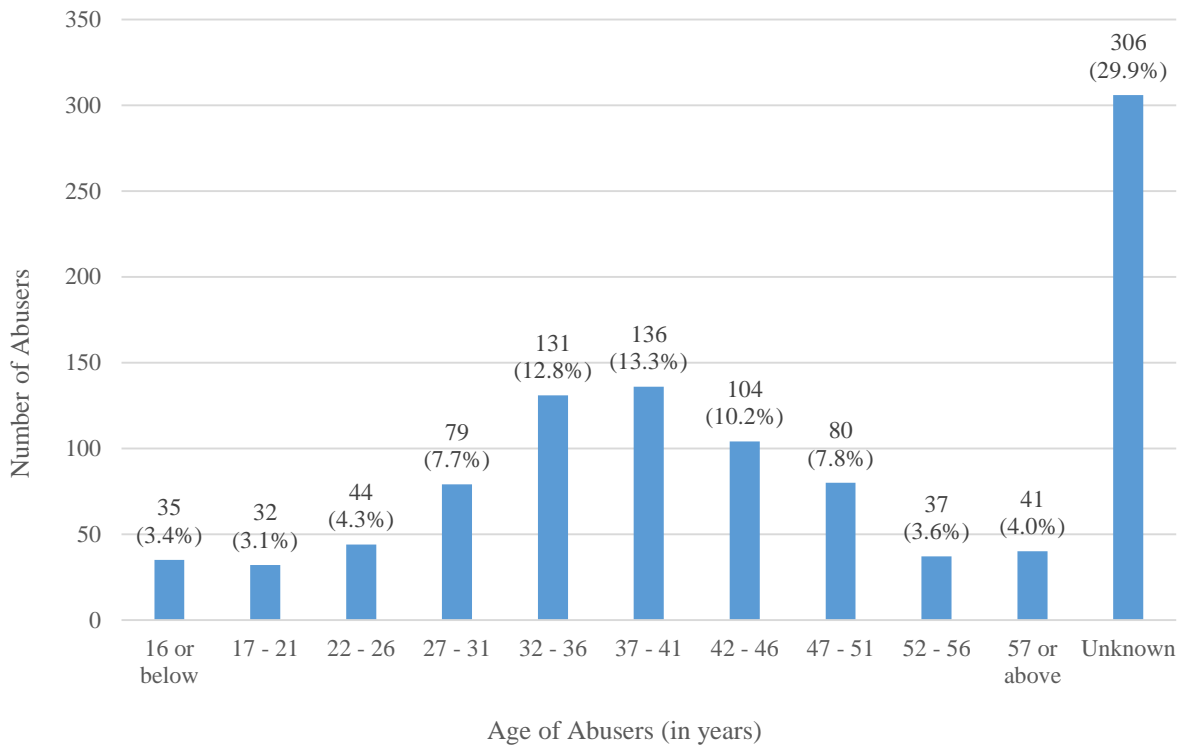


Table 10 –Distribution of Abusers by Age and by Types of Abuse for 2019

Age	Types of Abuse					Total
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Abuse	Multiple Abuse	
16 or below	2	31	2	0	0	35
17 – 21	3	16	13	0	0	32
22 – 26	9	4	30	0	1	44
27 – 31	27	2	44	0	6	79
32 – 36	76	3	48	1	3	131
37 – 41	86	2	46	0	2	136
42 – 46	72	5	18	1	8	104
47 – 51	53	1	21	2	3	80
52 – 56	22	5	9	0	1	37
57 or above	28	4	5	2	2	41
Unknown	54	240	8	2	2	306
Total	432	313	244	8	28	1 025

1.3.3 Distribution of Abusers by Sex, by Age and by Types of Abuse

On Female Abusers

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

Table 11 – Distribution of Female Abusers by Age and by Types of Abuse

Age	Types of Abuse					Total
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Abuse	Multiple Abuse	
16 or below	1	0	0	0	0	1
17 – 21	2	0	11	0	0	13
22 – 26	5	0	29	0	1	35
27 – 31	16	1	39	0	5	61
32 – 36	52	1	46	1	3	103
37 – 41	52	0	38	0	2	92
42 – 46	31	0	16	0	5	52
47 – 51	19	0	14	1	2	36
52 – 56	4	1	2	0	0	7
57 or above	7	0	1	0	1	9
Unknown	27	18	7	0	1	53
Total	216	21	203	2	20	462

On Male Abusers

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

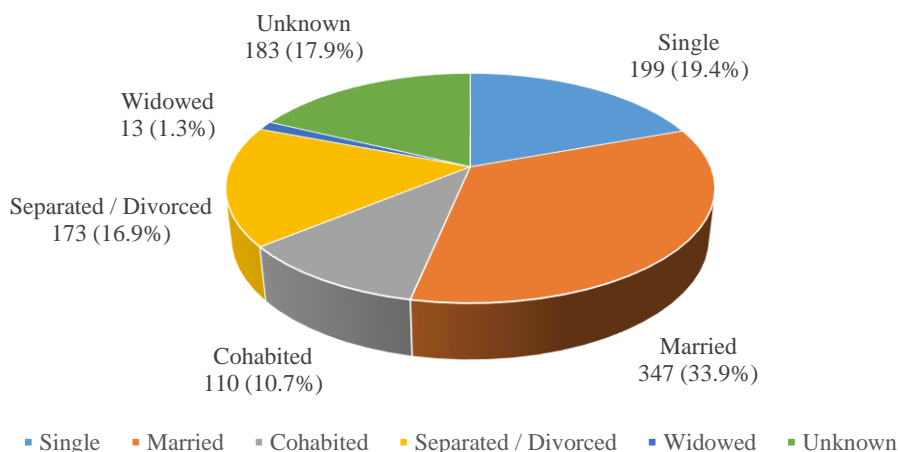
Table 12 – Distribution of Male Abusers by Age and by Types of Abuse

Age	Types of Abuse					Total
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Abuse	Multiple Abuse	
16 or below	1	31	2	0	0	34
17 – 21	1	16	2	0	0	19
22 – 26	4	4	1	0	0	9
27 – 31	11	1	5	0	1	18
32 – 36	24	2	2	0	0	28
37 – 41	34	2	8	0	0	44
42 – 46	41	5	2	1	3	52
47 – 51	34	1	7	1	1	44
52 – 56	18	4	7	0	1	30
57 or above	21	4	4	2	1	32
Unknown	27	222	1	2	1	253
Total	216	292	41	6	8	563

1.3.4 Marital Status of Abusers

33.9% of the 1 025 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.

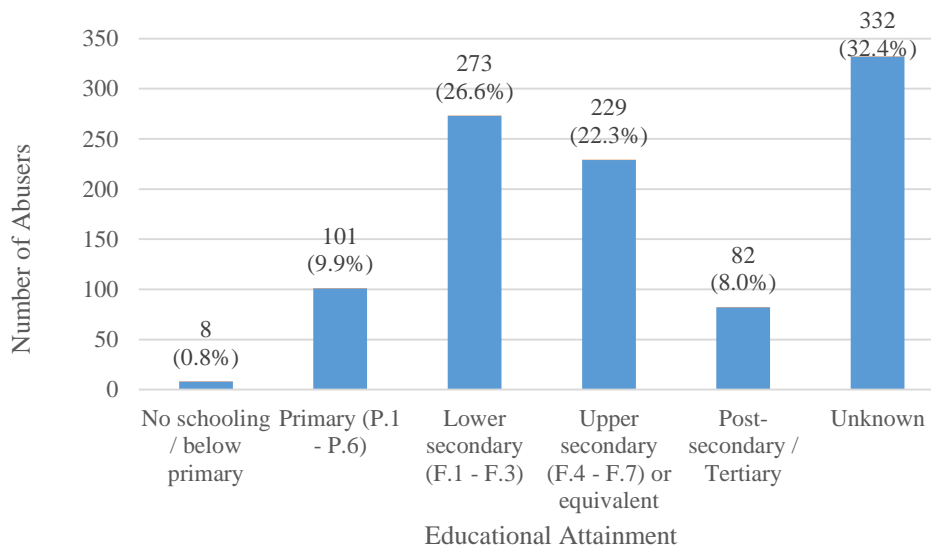
Graph 11 - Distribution of Abusers by Marital Status for 2019



1.3.5 Educational Attainment of Abusers

37.3% 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 2019

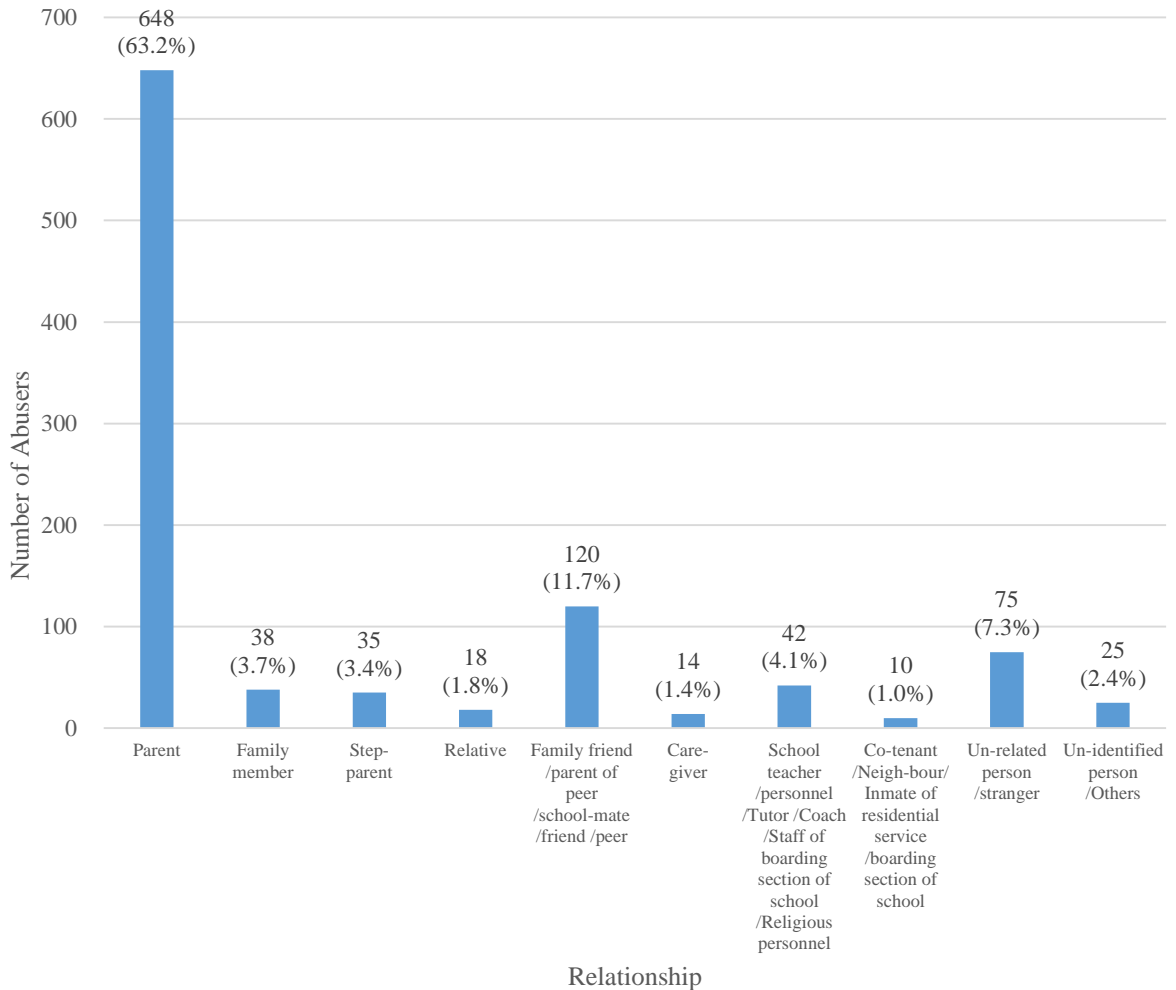


Owing to rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

1.3.6 Relationship of Abusers and Children

63.2% of the abusers involved in the newly registered cases were parents of the children. Among the 313 abusers involved in sexual abuse, 24% of them was unrelated persons/ strangers whereas majority of abusers (61.5%) of the other three types of child abuse cases were parents of the children. The type of relationship of abusers with children with the highest number of cases for each type of abuse are highlighted in Table 13.

Graph 13 - Distribution of Abuser by Relationship with Children for 2019



Owing to rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

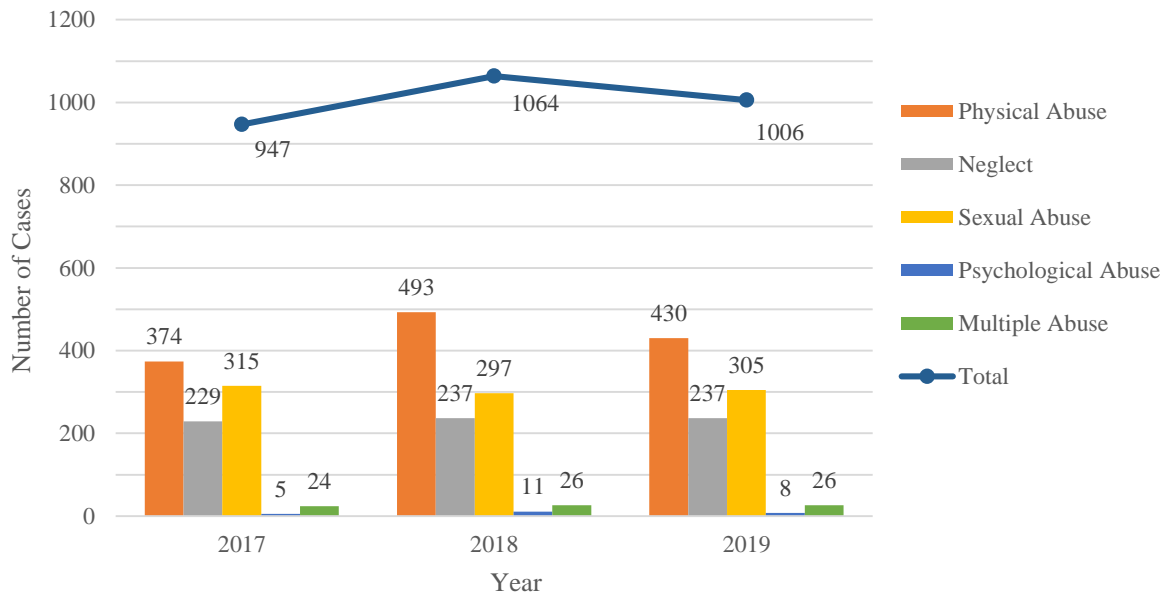
Table 13 – Distribution of Abusers’ Relationship with Children by Types of Abuse

Relationship	Types of Abuse					Total
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Abuse	Multiple Abuse	
Parent	362	18	237	8	23	648
Family member	16	18	3	0	1	38
Step-parent	21	12	1	0	1	35
Relative	5	13	0	0	0	18
Family friend / parent of peer / school-mate / friend /peer	2	117	0	0	1	120
Caregiver	7	5	0	0	2	14
School teacher / personnel / Tutor / Coach / Staff of boarding section of school / Religious personnel	13	29	0	0	0	42
Co-tenant / Neighbour / Inmate of residential service / boarding section of school	0	10	0	0	0	10
Unrelated person / stranger	0	75	0	0	0	75
Unidentified person / Others	6	16	3	0	0	25
Total	432	313	244	8	28	1 025

Part 2
Comparison of Newly Registered Cases from 2017 to 2019

2.1 Types of Abuse

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



2.2 Characteristics of Children

2.2.1 Distribution of Children by Age

Table 14 – Age Distribution of Children

Age \ Year	2017	2018	2019
0 - 2	222 (23.4%)	185 (17.4%)	170 (16.9%)
3 - 5	91 (9.6%)	99 (9.3%)	98 (9.7%)
6 - 8	157 (16.6%)	177 (16.6%)	180 (17.9%)
9 - 11	127 (13.4%)	227 (21.3%)	181 (18.0%)
12 - 14	212 (22.4%)	237 (22.3%)	239 (23.8%)
15 - 17	138 (14.6%)	139 (13.1%)	138 (13.7%)
Total	947 (100%)	1 064 (100%)	1 006 (100.0%)

Owing to the rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

2.2.2 Distribution of Children by Types of Abuse and by Sex

Table 15 – Distribution of Children by Types of Abuse and by Sex

Types of Abuse	2017		2018		2019	
	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	No. of Girls
Physical abuse	211 (22.3%)	163 (17.2%)	300 (28.2%)	193 (18.1%)	253 (25.1%)	177 (17.6%)
Neglect	117 (12.4%)	112 (11.8%)	133 (12.5%)	104 (9.8%)	129 (12.8%)	108 (10.7%)
Sexual abuse	63 (6.7%)	252 (26.6%)	50 (4.7%)	247 (23.2%)	43 (4.3%)	262 (26.0%)
Psychological abuse	2 (0.2%)	3 (0.3%)	6 (0.6%)	5 (0.5%)	6 (0.6%)	2 (0.2%)
Multiple abuse	11 (1.2%)	13 (1.4%)	9 (0.8%)	17 (1.6%)	10 (1.0%)	16 (1.6%)
Sub-total	404 (42.7%)	543 (57.3%)	498 (46.8%)	566 (53.2%)	441 (43.8%)	565 (56.2%)
Total	947 (100%)		1 064 (100%)		1 006 (100%)	

Owing to the rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

2.3 Characteristics of Abusers

2.3.1 Distribution of Abusers by Age

Table 16 - Age Distribution of Abusers

Age \ Year	2017	2018	2019
16 or below	30 (3.1%)	27 (2.5%)	35 (3.4%)
17 - 21	18 (1.9%)	17 (1.6%)	32 (3.1%)
22 - 26	50 (5.2%)	37 (3.5%)	44 (4.3%)
27 - 31	114 (11.9%)	93 (8.8%)	79 (7.7%)
32 - 36	122 (12.7%)	151 (14.2%)	131 (12.8%)
37 - 41	107 (11.2%)	154 (14.5%)	136 (13.3%)
42 - 46	72 (7.5%)	125 (11.8%)	104 (10.1%)
47 - 51	49 (5.1%)	71 (6.7%)	80 (7.8%)
52 - 56	25 (2.6%)	33 (3.1%)	37 (3.6%)
57 or above	32 (3.3%)	43 (4.1%)	41 (4.0%)
Unknown	338 (35.3%)	309 (29.2%)	306 (29.9%)
Total	957 (100%)	1 060 (100%)	1 025 (100.0%)

Owing to the rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

2.3.2 Distribution of Abusers by Sex

Table 17 - Sex of Abusers

Sex \ Year	2017	2018	2019
Male	511 (53.4%)	560 (52.8%)	563 (54.9%)
Female	446 (46.6%)	500 (47.2%)	462 (45.1%)
Total	957 (100%)	1 060 (100%)	1 025 (100.0%)

2.3.3 Marital Status of Abusers

Table 18 - Marital Status of Abusers

Year	2017	2018	2019
Marital Status			
Single	196 (20.5%)	159 (15.0%)	199 (19.4%)
Married	326 (34.1%)	398 (37.5%)	347 (33.9%)
Cohabited	94 (9.8%)	95 (9.0%)	110 (10.7%)
Separated/divorced	126 (13.2%)	201 (19.0%)	173 (16.9%)
Widowed	10 (1.0%)	18 (1.7%)	13 (1.3%)
Unknown	205 (21.4%)	189 (17.8%)	183 (17.9%)
Total	957 (100%)	1 060 (100%)	1 025 (100%)

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 the rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

2.3.4 Educational Attainment of Abusers

Table 19 - Educational Attainment of Abusers

Educational Attainment \ Year	2017	2018	2019
No schooling/below primary	9 (0.9%)	7 (0.7%)	8 (0.8%)
Primary (P.1 - P.6)	74 (7.7%)	80 (7.5%)	101 (9.9%)
Lower secondary (F.1 - F.3)	253 (26.4%)	292 (27.5%)	273 (26.6%)
Upper secondary (F.4 - F.5)	154 (16.1%)	219 (20.7%)	229 (22.3%)
Matriculation (F.6 - F.7)	24 (2.5%)	12 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Tertiary	60 (6.3%)	80 (7.5%)	82 (8.0%)
Unknown	383 (40.0%)	370 (34.9%)	332 (32.4%)
Total	957 (100%)	1 060 (100%)	1 025 (100%)

Owing to the rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

2.3.5 Relationship of Abusers with Children

Table 20 - Abusers' Relationship with Children

Relationship \ Year	2017	2018	2019
Parent	568 (59.4%)	684 (64.5%)	648 (63.2%)
Family member	18 (1.9%)	38 (3.6%)	38 (3.7%)
Step-parent	46 (4.8%)	42 (4.0%)	35 (3.4%)
Relative	23 (2.4%)	12 (1.1%)	18 (1.8%)
Family friend/ parent of peer/ school-mate/ Friend/ peer	89 (9.3%)	94 (8.9%)	120 (11.7%)
Caregiver	31 (3.2%)	19 (1.8%)	14 (1.4%)
School teacher/ Personnel/ Tutor/ Coach/ Staff of boarding section of school/ Religious personnel	23 (2.4%)	41 (3.9%)	42 (4.1%)
Co-tenant/Neighbour/ Inmate of residential service/ boarding section of school	21 (2.2%)	11 (1.0%)	10 (1.0%)
Unrelated person/Stranger	107 (11.2%)	79 (7.5%)	75 (7.3%)
Unidentified person/ Others	31 (3.2%)	40 (3.8%)	25 (2.4%)
Total	957 (100%)	1 060 (100%)	1 025 (100%)

Owing to the rounding effect, the total percentage 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 considered damaging on the basis of a combination of community standards and professional expertise. 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 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 is different 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 or 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 as a reward, though the child may say “yes” to the perpetrator, this should not be regarded as “informed consent” given 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 in 2019 Newly registered cases in 2019 include cases involving children having been abused or currently at risk of abuse.