

Child Protection Registry

Statistical Report

2020



社會福利署

Social Welfare Department

Index

Foreword.....	1
Part 1 Newly Registered Cases in 2020.....	2
1.1 General Information	2
1.1.1 Types of harm/maltreatment.....	2
1.1.2 Distribution by District.....	3
1.1.3 Multi-disciplinary Case Conference.....	5
1.1.4 Risk Factors of Child Maltreatment (at the Time of Identification/Disclosure/Investigation)	6
1.2 Characteristics of Children	10
1.2.1 Distribution of Children by Sex	10
1.2.2 Distribution of Children by Age.....	12
1.2.3 Distribution of Children by Age, by Sex and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment	13
1.2.4 Ethnicity of Children	14
1.2.5 Distribution of Children by Types of Children's Disabilities and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment.....	15
1.2.6 Living Arrangement of Children	16
1.3 Characteristics of Perpetrators.....	17
1.3.1 Distribution of Perpetrators by Sex	17
1.3.2 Distribution of Perpetrators by Age	19
1.3.3 Distribution of Perpetrators by Sex, by Age and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment	20
1.3.4 Marital Status of Perpetrators.....	22
1.3.5 Educational Attainment of Perpetrators	23
1.3.6 Relationship of Perpetrators and Children	24
Part 2 Comparison of Newly Registered Cases from 2018 to 2020.....	26
2.1 Types of Harm/Maltreatment	26
2.2 Characteristics of Children	27
2.2.1 Distribution of Children by Age.....	27
2.2.2 Distribution of Children by Types of Harm/Maltreatment and by Sex	27
2.3 Characteristics of Perpetrators.....	28
2.3.1 Distribution of Perpetrators by Age	28
2.3.2 Distribution of Perpetrators by Sex.....	28
2.3.3 Marital Status of Perpetrators.....	29

2.3.4	Educational Attainment of Perpetrators	29
2.3.5	Relationship of Perpetrators with Children.....	30
Appendix	31
Glossary	31

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 harmed/maltreated or currently at risk of harm/maltreatment. 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 protection 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 harmed/maltreated or currently at risk of harm/maltreatment in the year. This report, “Statistical Report 2020”, consists of two parts. Part 1 is on the cases registered in 2020 and Part 2 is on a comparison of newly registered cases from 2018 to 2020. In each part, general information on the cases and descriptive data on the characteristics of the children and the perpetrators are presented.

Child Protection Registry
Family and Child Welfare Branch
Social Welfare Department
May 2021

Part 1

Newly Registered Cases in 2020

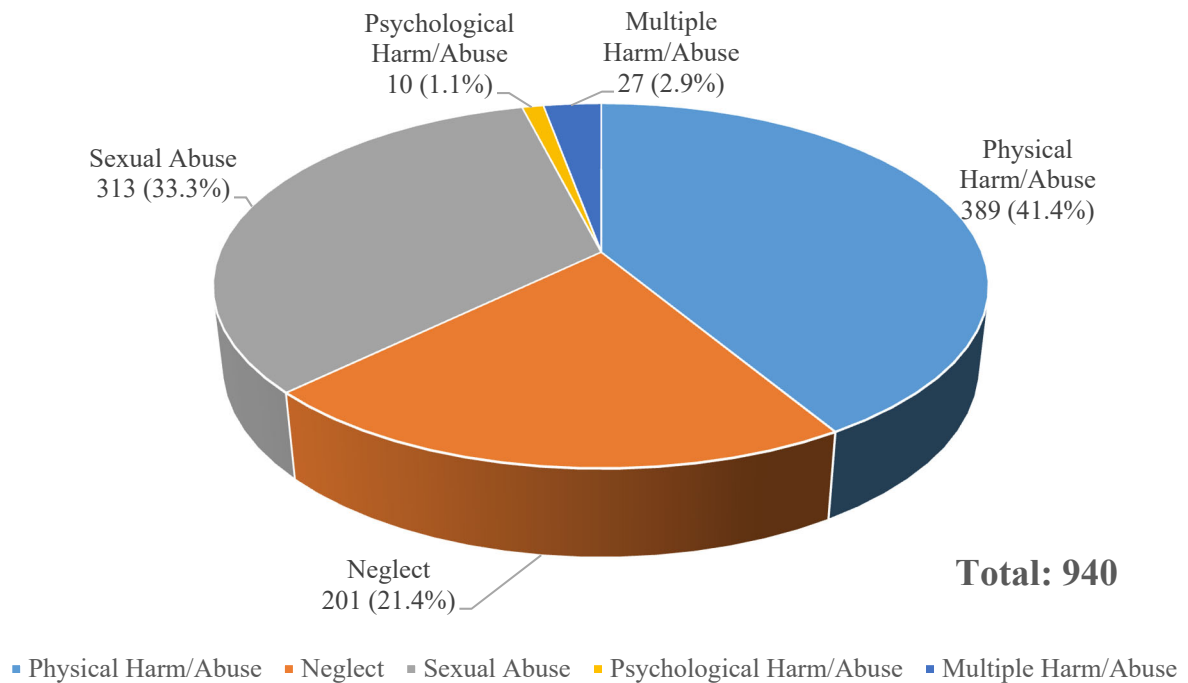
There were 940 newly registered cases.

1.1 General Information

1.1.1 Types of harm/maltreatment

41.4% of the newly registered cases were physical harm/abuse cases and 33.3% were sexual abuse cases. 21.4% were neglect cases. 1.1% were psychological harm/abuse cases. 2.9% were multiple harm/abuse cases.

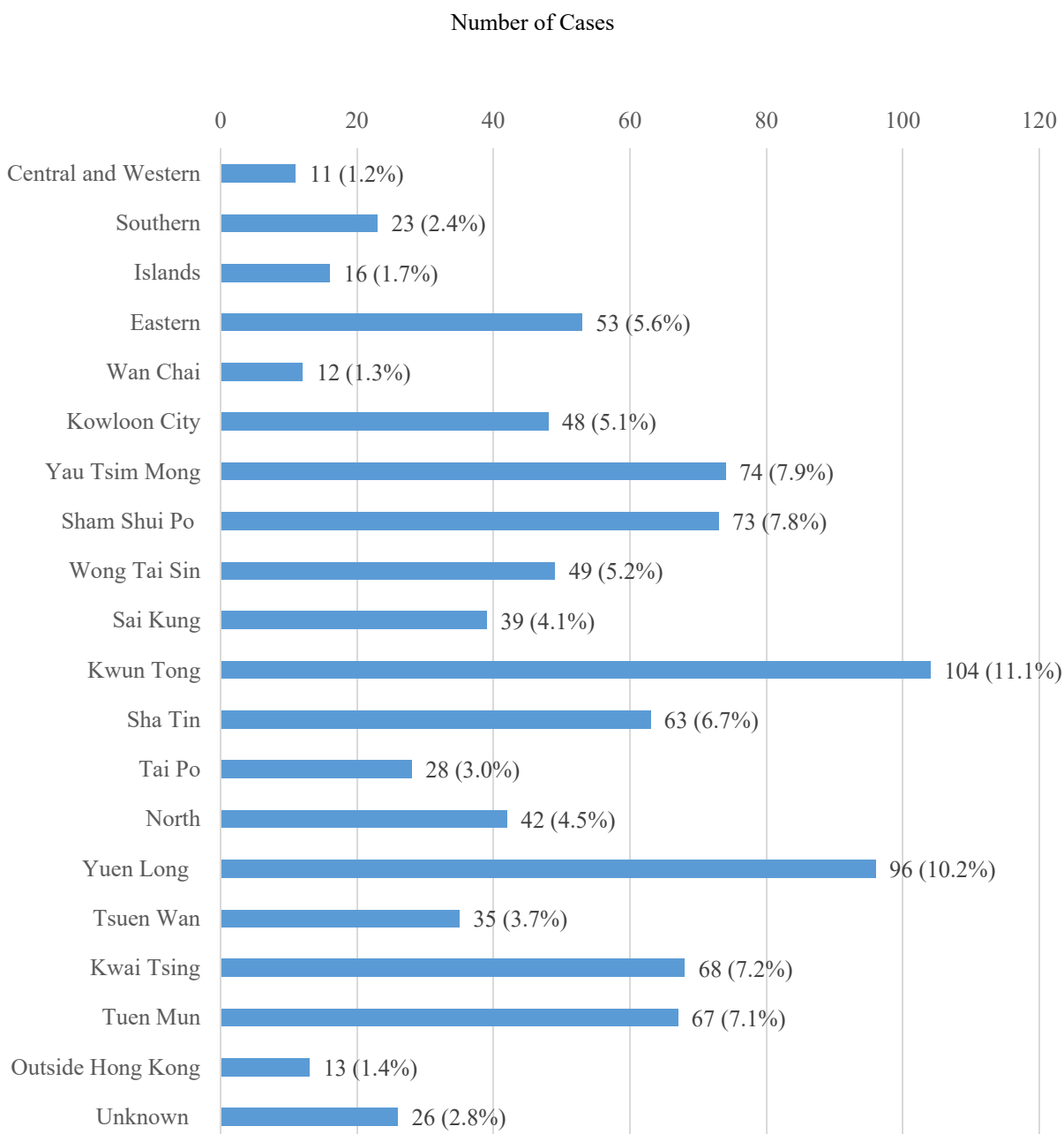
Graph 1: Distribution of Newly Registered Cases by Types of Harm/Maltreatment for 2020



1.1.2 Distribution by District

The three districts with the highest percentage of newly registered cases having the maltreatment incidents taking place were Kwun Tong District (11.1%), Yuen Long District (10.2%), Yau Tsim Mong District (7.9%). 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 2020



* 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

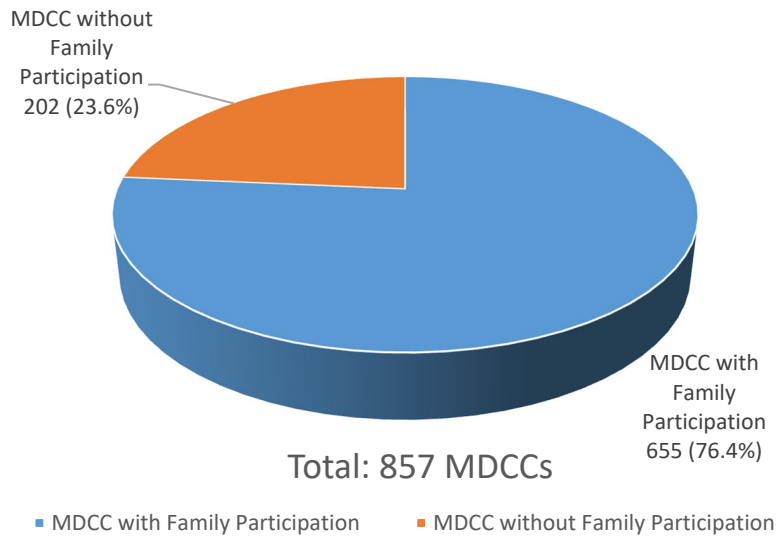
District	No. of Cases	Incidence Rate* Per 1 000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the District
Central/Western	11 (1.2%)	0.40
Southern	23 (2.4%)	0.64
Islands	16 (1.7%)	0.57
Eastern	53 (5.6%)	0.76
Wan Chai	12 (1.3%)	0.61
Kowloon City	48 (5.1%)	0.85
Yau Tsim Mong	74 (7.9%)	1.74
Sham Shui Po	73 (7.8%)	1.14
Wong Tai Sin	49 (5.2%)	0.90
Sai Kung	39 (4.1%)	0.62
Kwun Tong	104 (11.1%)	1.01
Sha Tin	63 (6.7%)	0.66
Tai Po	28 (3.0%)	0.65
North	42 (4.5%)	0.87
Yuen Long	96 (10.2%)	1.05
Tsuen Wan	35 (3.7%)	0.85
Kwai Tsing	68 (7.2%)	0.94
Tuen Mun	67 (7.1%)	0.98
Outside Hong Kong	13 (1.4%)	N.A.
Unknown	26 (2.8%)	N.A.
Total	940	0.92

* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2020 conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

1.1.3 Multi-disciplinary Case Conference

Out of the 940 newly registered cases, multi-disciplinary case conferences (MDCCs) were conducted for 844 cases (89.8%). A total of 857 MDCCs were held for discussion about the nature of the incidents, risk level and follow-up plans for these 844 cases. 655 MDCCs (76.4%) were held with family participation.

Graph 3: Family Participation in Multi-disciplinary Case Conference for 2020



1.1.4 Risk Factors of Child Maltreatment (at the Time of Identification/Disclosure/Investigation)

There may be circumstances giving rise to a number of risk factors which were observed when child maltreatment was identified/disclosed/investigated. These circumstances were categorised into four subgroups, i.e. (a) factors relating to child/children¹; (b) factors relating to perpetrator(s)²; (c) factors relating to environmental or social circumstances; and (d) factors relating to the precipitating incident. The list of circumstances under each subgroup is appended below:

- a) Factors relating to child/children
 - 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 perpetrator(s) (for case where parent(s) is/are perpetrator(s)/alleged perpetrator(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 habits (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 / evasive
 - 15. Being perpetrator(s) of previous child maltreatment case / case with high risk of maltreatment

¹ 'Child/children' in the report includes maltreated child/child at risk of maltreatment

² 'Perpetrator(s)' in this report includes perpetrator/alleged perpetrator-(for case where parent(s) is/are perpetrator(s)/alleged perpetrator(s); parent includes step parent and adoptive parent)

- c) Factors relating to environmental or social circumstances
 1. Financial difficulty / unemployment
 2. Housing problem / poor living environment
 3. Perpetrator(s) cannot cope with family crisis / stresses
 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. Perpetrator(s) (non-family member) can easily access to the child
- 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 with the major risk factors of child maltreatment identified under each subgroup.

Table 2 – Major Risk Factors of Child Maltreatment

Risk Factors of Child Maltreatment	No. of Newly Registered Cases with the Risk Factors of Child Maltreatment Identified (Note)
Factors relating to child/children	513 (54.6%)
Factors relating to perpetrator(s)	641 (68.2%)
Factors relating to environmental or social circumstances	506 (53.8%)
Factors relating to the precipitating incident	265 (28.2%)

Note : One case may have more than one risk factor. Figures in brackets are the percentage of cases with the risk factors of child maltreatment in respect of a total of 940 cases in 2020.

In 2020, a larger proportion (68.2%) of the cases having risk factors relating to perpetrator(s) followed by factors relating to child/children. Table 3a shows the number of cases with the risk factors relating to child/children. Table 3b shows number of cases with the risk factors relating to perpetrator(s). Table 3c shows number of cases with the risk factors relating to environmental or social circumstances. Table 3d shows number of cases with the risk factors relating to the precipitating incident.

Table 3a –Factors Relating to Child/Children

Factors Relating to Child/Children	No. of Newly Registered Cases with the Risk Factor
School attendance / performance problem	104 (20.3%)
Behavioural problem	241 (47.0%)
Emotion / psychological problem	142 (27.7%)
Mental illness like schizophrenia, major depression, anxiety disorders, etc.	32 (6.2%)
Mental retardation including slow learning or developmental delay	45 (8.8%)
Special educational need	167 (32.6%)
Illness / physical disability	6 (1.2%)
Unwanted child / pregnancy	26 (5.1%)
Long period of separation from parents in early infancy	15 (2.9%)
Others	37 (7.2%)

Table 3b –Factors Relating to Perpetrator(s)

Factors Relating to Perpetrator(s)	No. of Newly Registered Cases with the Risk Factor
Superstitious belief	4 (0.6%)
Marital problem	147 (22.9%)
In-law relationship problem	15 (2.3%)
Emotion / psychological problem	212 (33.1%)
Mental illness / retardation	77 (12.0%)
Illness / physical disability	9 (1.4%)
Immaturity / extreme self-centredness	27 (4.2%)
Incompetence in child rearing / lack of parenting skills	271 (42.3%)
High expectation on child-in-question	75 (11.7%)
Undesirable habits (e.g. gambling, indulgence in internet surfing)	16 (2.5%)
Heavy / chronic use of drug	150 (23.4%)
Heavy / chronic use of alcohol	26 (4.1%)
Intimate partner violence	32 (5.0%)
Refuse to cooperate with professionals / evasive	68 (10.6%)
Being abuser / potential perpetrator(s) of previous child maltreatment case / case with high risk of maltreatment	46 (7.2%)
Others	26 (4.1%)

Table 3c –Factors Relating to Environmental or Social Circumstances

Factors Relating to Environmental or Social Circumstances	No. of Newly Registered Cases with the Risk Factor
Financial difficulty / unemployment	132 (26.1%)
Housing problem / poor living environment	82 (16.2%)
Perpetrator(s) cannot cope with Family crisis / stresses	98 (19.4%)
Lack of support system (e.g. spouse, grandparents, relatives, friends, etc.)	230 (45.5%)
Lack of community resource (e.g. day child care centre, neighbourhood support child care project, tutorial class, etc.)	37 (7.3%)
Perpetrator(s) (non-family member) can easily access to the child	150 (29.6%)
Others	18 (3.6%)

Table 3d –Factors Relating to the Precipitating Incident

Factors Relating to the Precipitating Incident	No. of Newly Registered Cases with the Risk Factor
Incident was severe and/or of high frequency	178 (67.2%)
Location of injury on delicate and/or extensive body parts	78 (29.4%)
Cause of injuries unknown	20 (7.5%)
Others	15 (5.7%)

1.2 Characteristics of Children

1.2.1 Distribution of Children by Sex

There were more girl (57.0%) than boy (43.0%) 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 2020

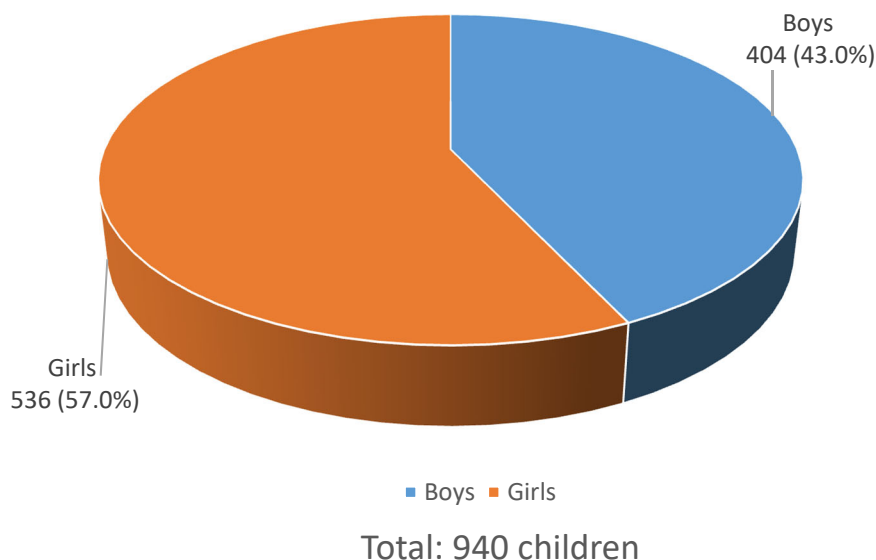


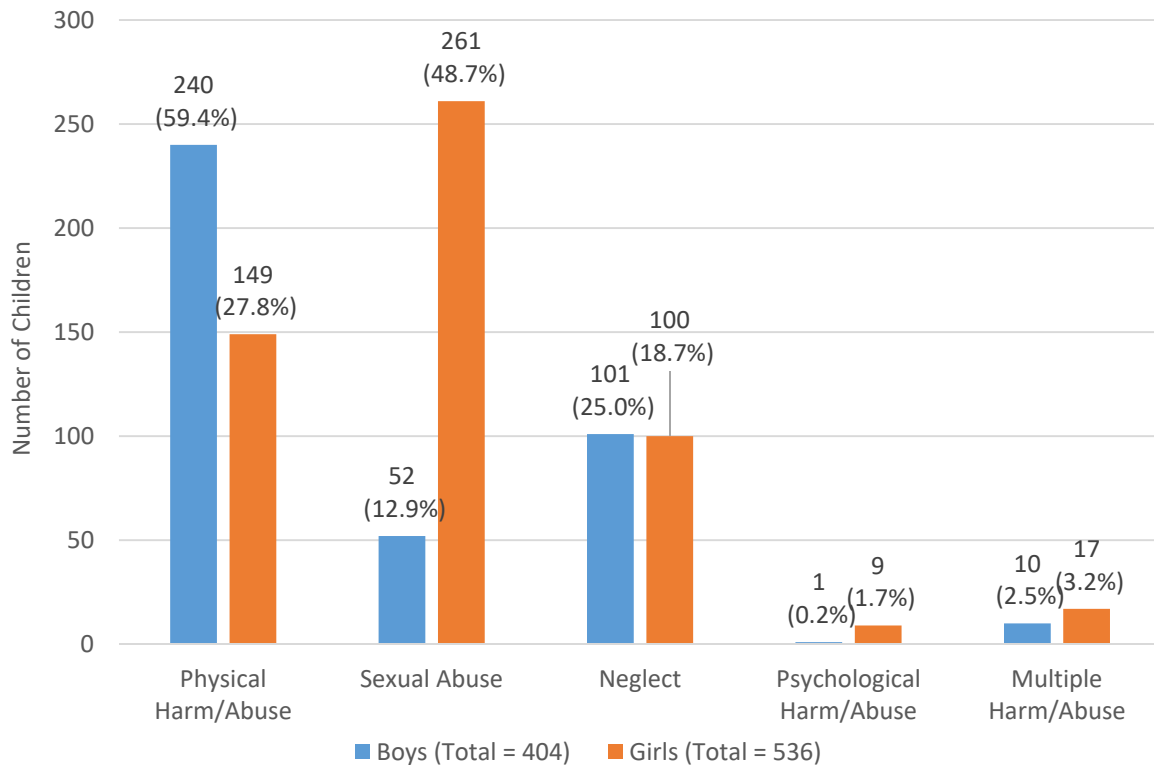
Table 4 - Distribution of Newly Registered Cases and Incidence Rate by Sex

Sex	No. of Cases	Incidence Rate* Per 1 000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the Population
Boys	404	0.77
Girls	536	1.07
Total	940	0.92

* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2020 conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

A breakdown of the sex of children by types of harm/maltreatment indicated that 48.7% of the girls were involved in sexual abuse cases and 27.8% were involved in physical harm/abuse cases, while 59.4% and 25.0% of the boys were involved in physical harm/abuse cases and neglect cases respectively.

Graph 5 - Distribution of Children by Sex and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment for 2020



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 (26.1%) of the age group among the newly registered cases was 12 to 14 years old. Table 5 shows the distribution of children of different age groups by types of harm/maltreatment with the highest numbers highlighted.

Graph 6 - Distribution of Children by Age for 2020

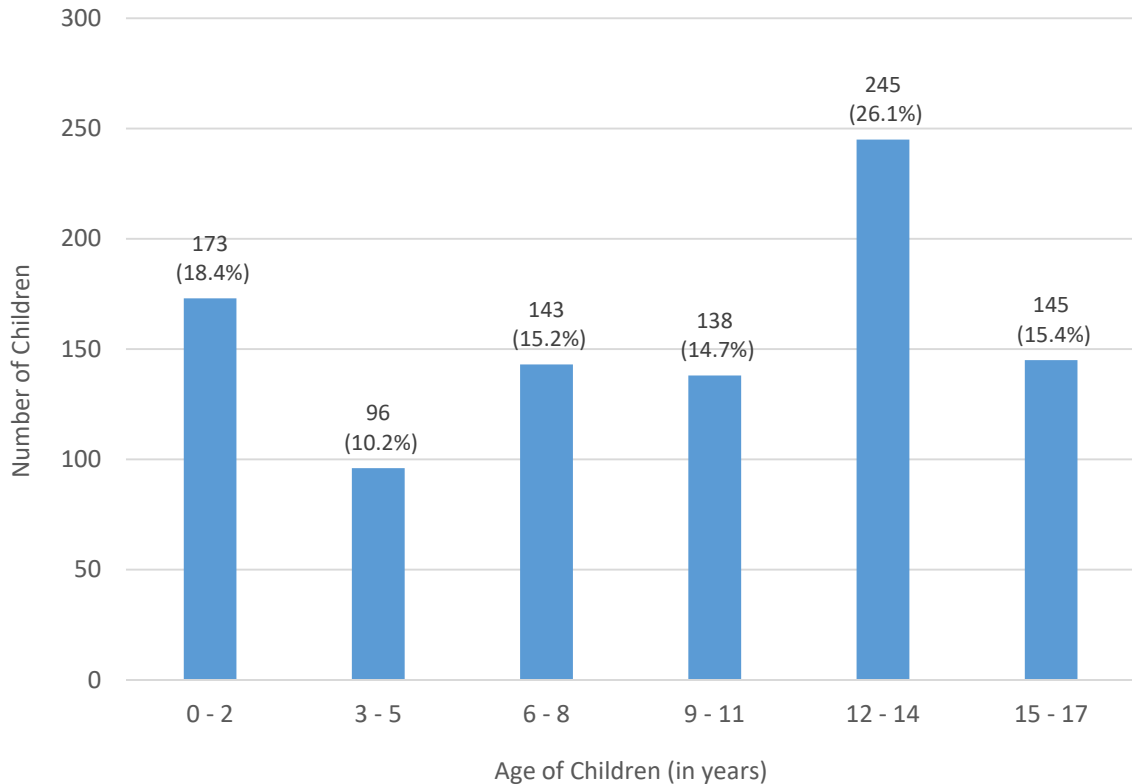


Table 5 – Distribution of Children by Age and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment

Age	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					Total
	Physical Harm/Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/Abuse	Multiple Harm/Abuse	
0 – 2	22	2	143	0	6	173
3 – 5	57	13	20	1	5	96
6 – 8	94	28	17	0	4	143
9 – 11	89	35	11	2	1	138
12 – 14	91	134	10	4	6	245
15 – 17	36	101	0	3	5	145
Total	389	313	201	10	27	940

1.2.3 Distribution of Children by Age, by Sex and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment

On Girls

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

Table 6 – Distribution of Girls by Age and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment

Age	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					Total
	Physical Harm/ Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/ Abuse	Multiple Harm/ Abuse	
0 – 2	10	2	78	0	0	90
3 – 5	15	10	9	0	4	38
6 – 8	41	17	9	0	4	71
9 – 11	27	31	2	2	0	62
12 – 14	38	112	2	4	5	161
15 – 17	18	89	0	3	4	114
Total	149	261	100	9	17	536

On Boys

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

Table 7 – Distribution of Boys by Age and by Types of harm/maltreatment

Age	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					Total
	Physical Harm/ Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/ Abuse	Multiple Harm/ Abuse	
0 – 2	12	0	65	0	6	83
3 – 5	42	3	11	1	1	58
6 – 8	53	11	8	0	0	72
9 – 11	62	4	9	0	1	76
12 – 14	53	22	8	0	1	84
15 – 17	18	12	0	0	1	31
Total	240	52	101	1	10	404

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 (94.4%) were Chinese while the total number of children of the six ethnic minorities, including Indonesian, Filipino, Indian, Pakistani, Nepalese and Thai, is 35 (3.7%) in 2020. Apart from the six ethnicity minorities, four children were African.

Table 8 - Ethnicity of Children

Ethnicity \ Year	No. of Cases in 2020
Chinese	887 (94.4%)
Indonesian	4 (0.4%)
Filipino	10 (1.1%)
Indian	6 (0.6%)
Pakistani	6 (0.6%)
Nepalese	6 (0.6%)
Thai	3 (0.3%)
Vietnamese	2 (0.2%)
African	4 (0.4%)
Sri Lankan	2 (0.2%)
Australian	3 (0.3%)
Japanese	1 (0.1%)
Singaporean	1 (0.1%)
Others	5 (0.5%)
Total	940 (100%)

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 Harm/Maltreatment

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 940 newly registered cases in 2020, 28.9% (272 children) were reported to have one or more than one type of disability. 12.6% (118 children) were reported to have Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). 6.1% (57 children) were reported to have Specific Learning Difficulties while 5.7% (54 children) were reported to have Autism.

Table 9 - Children's Disabilities by Types of Harm/Maltreatment

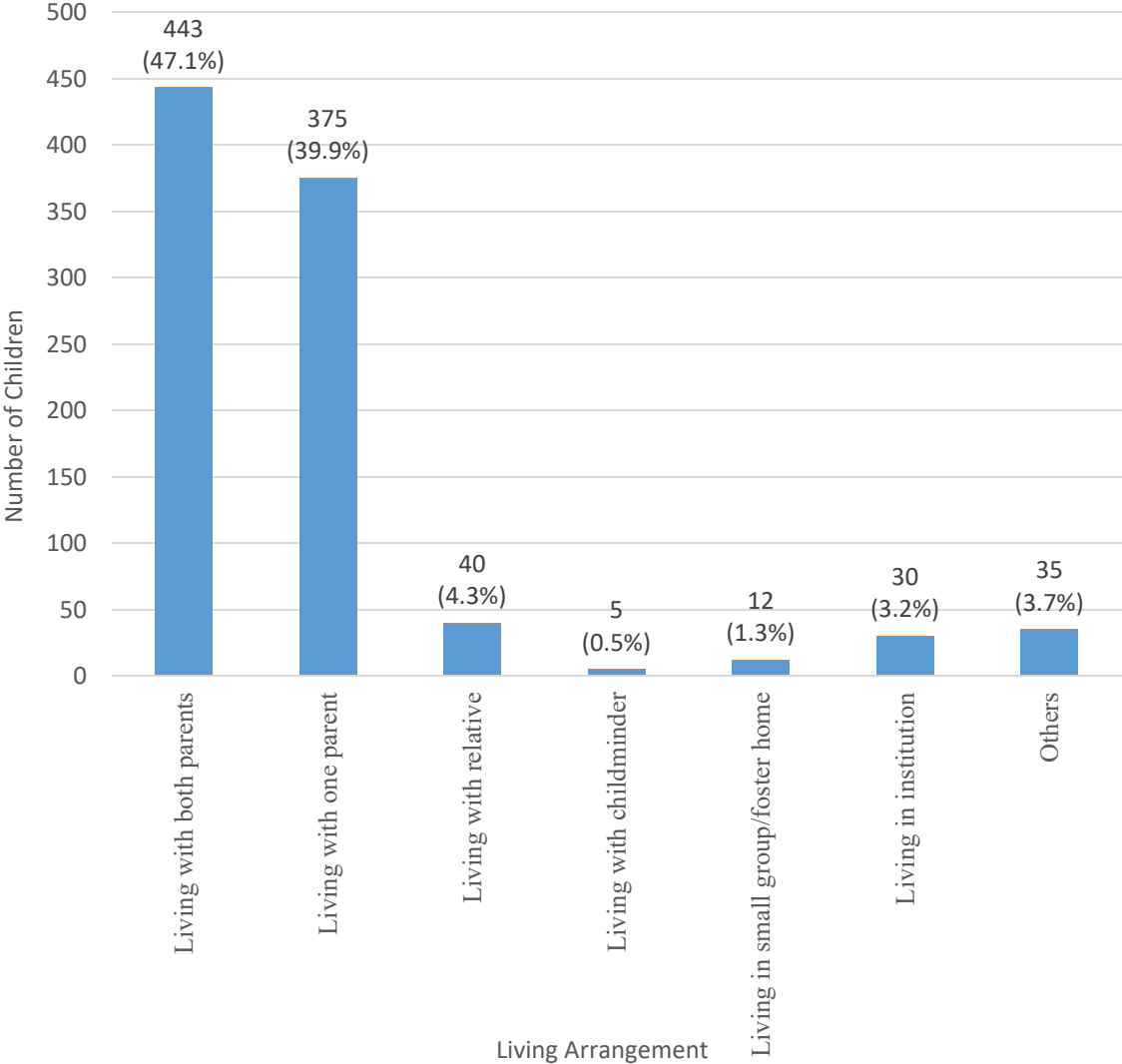
Types of Disabilities	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					
	Physical Harm/ Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/Abuse	Multiple Harm/ Abuse	Total
Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder	70 (18.0%)	36 (11.5%)	7 (3.5%)	1 (10.0%)	4 (14.8%)	118 (12.6%)
Autism	36 (9.3%)	15 (4.8%)	3 (1.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	54 (5.7%)
Hearing Impairment	1 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.2%)
Intellectual Disability	7 (1.8%)	19 (6.1%)	7 (3.5%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (7.4%)	35 (3.7%)
Physical Disability	2 (0.5%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.3%)
Mental Illness	11 (2.8%)	27 (8.6%)	3 (1.5%)	2 (20.0%)	2 (7.4%)	45 (4.8%)
Specific Learning Difficulties	24 (6.2%)	21 (6.7%)	6 (3.0%)	1 (10.0%)	5 (18.5%)	57 (6.1%)
Speech Impairment	18 (4.6%)	7 (2.2%)	11 (5.5%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (7.4%)	38 (4.0%)
Visceral Disability	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.2%)
Visual Impairment	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Others	6 (1.5%)	3 (1.0%)	4 (2.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (3.7%)	14 (1.5%)
No. of Children with Disabilities*	129 (33.2%)	94 (30.0%)	35 (17.4%)	2 (20.0%)	12 (44.4%)	272 (28.9%)
Total No. of Children by Types of harm/maltreatment	389 (100%)	313 (100%)	201 (100%)	10(100%)	27(100%)	940(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 number of children in each type of harm/maltreatment. The figures in the brackets represent the percentages of the types of disability corresponding to that type of harm/maltreatment. For example, out of 389 physical harm/abuse cases, there are 129 children having one or more than one type of disability, covering 33.2% of the total number of physical harm/abuse cases. For the 70 children having ADHD in physical harm/abuse, the percentage out of the total number of physical harm/abuse cases is 18.0%.

1.2.6 Living Arrangement of Children

Among the 940 newly registered cases, 87.0% of the children were living with either both parents or one of them whereas 4.5% were living in residential child care services including small group homes / foster homes / institutions at the time of the maltreatment / suspected maltreatment.

Graph 7 - Distribution of Children by Living Arrangement for 2020



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

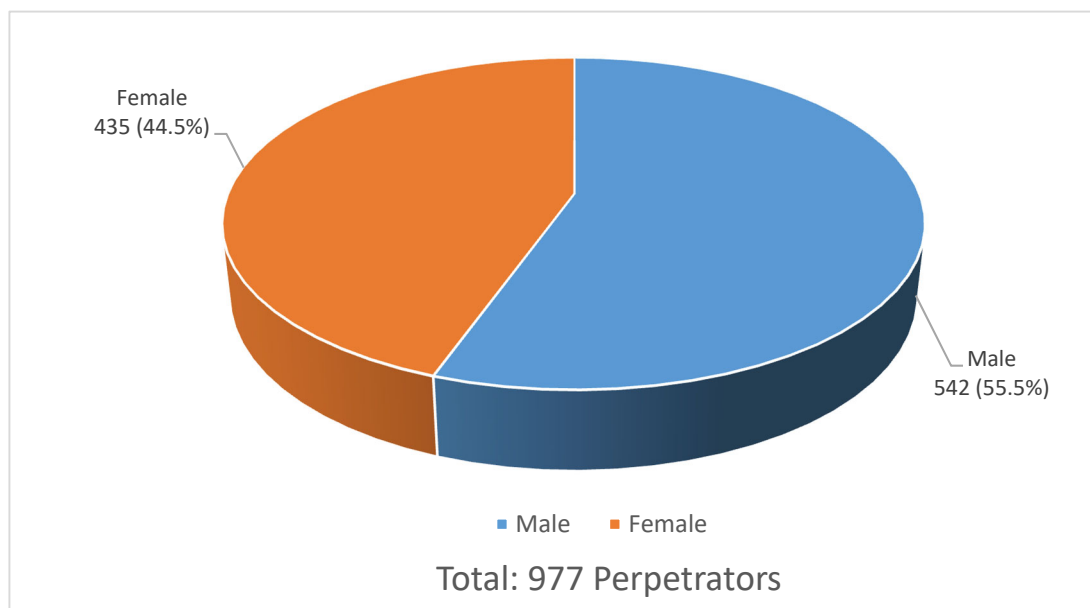
1.3 Characteristics of Perpetrators³

There were 940 children and 977 perpetrators involved in the newly registered cases. The total number of perpetrators did not equal to the total number of children in child protection cases as one perpetrator might have harmed/maltreated more than one child whereas one child could be harmed/maltreated by more than one perpetrator.

1.3.1 Distribution of Perpetrators by Sex

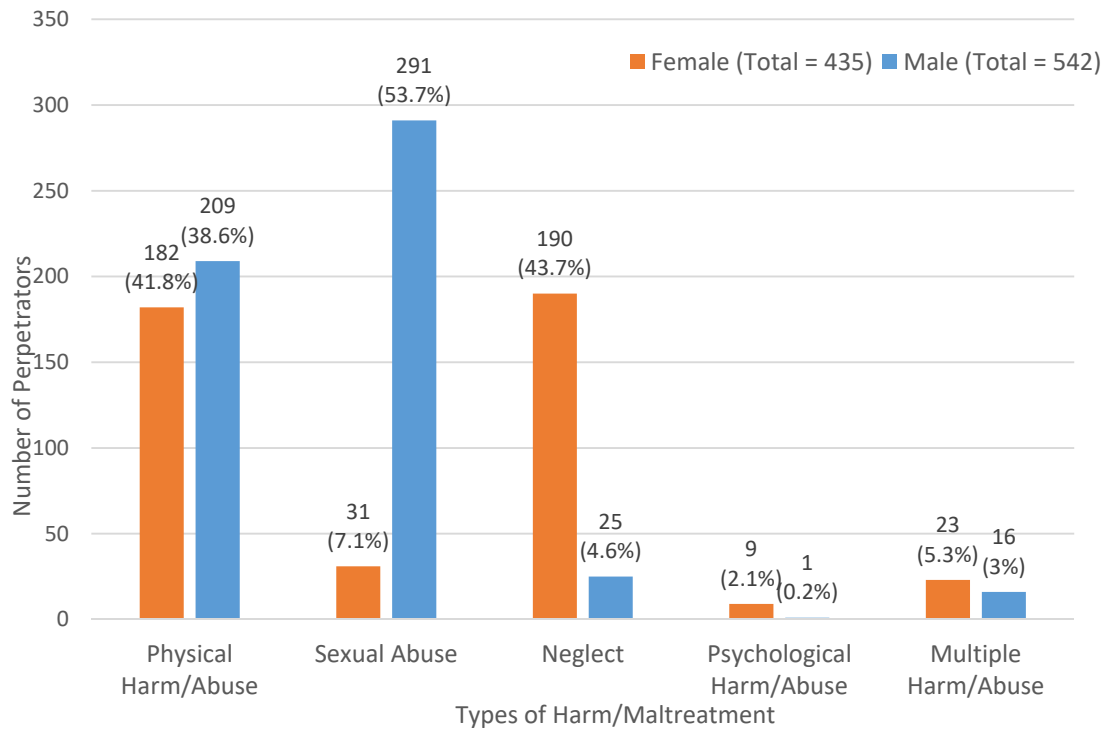
There were more male perpetrators (542, 55.5%) than female perpetrators (435, 44.5%) involved in the newly registered cases. The number of male perpetrators involved in sexual abuse cases was far more than the number of female perpetrators. For physical harm/abuse cases, there were more male perpetrators than female perpetrators. For neglect cases, there were far more female perpetrators than male perpetrators.

Graph 8 - Distribution of Perpetrators by Sex for 2020



³ Perpetrators means perpetrator / alleged perpetrator

Graph 9 - Distribution of Perpetrators by Sex and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment for 2020



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

1.3.2 Distribution of Perpetrators by Age

35.1% of the perpetrators involved in the newly registered cases aged between 32 and 46. Table 10 shows the distribution of perpetrators of different age groups by types of harm/maltreatment with the highest number highlighted. The perpetrators under the category of “Unknown” age group were unrelated or unidentified persons.

Graph 10 - Distribution of Perpetrators by Age for 2020

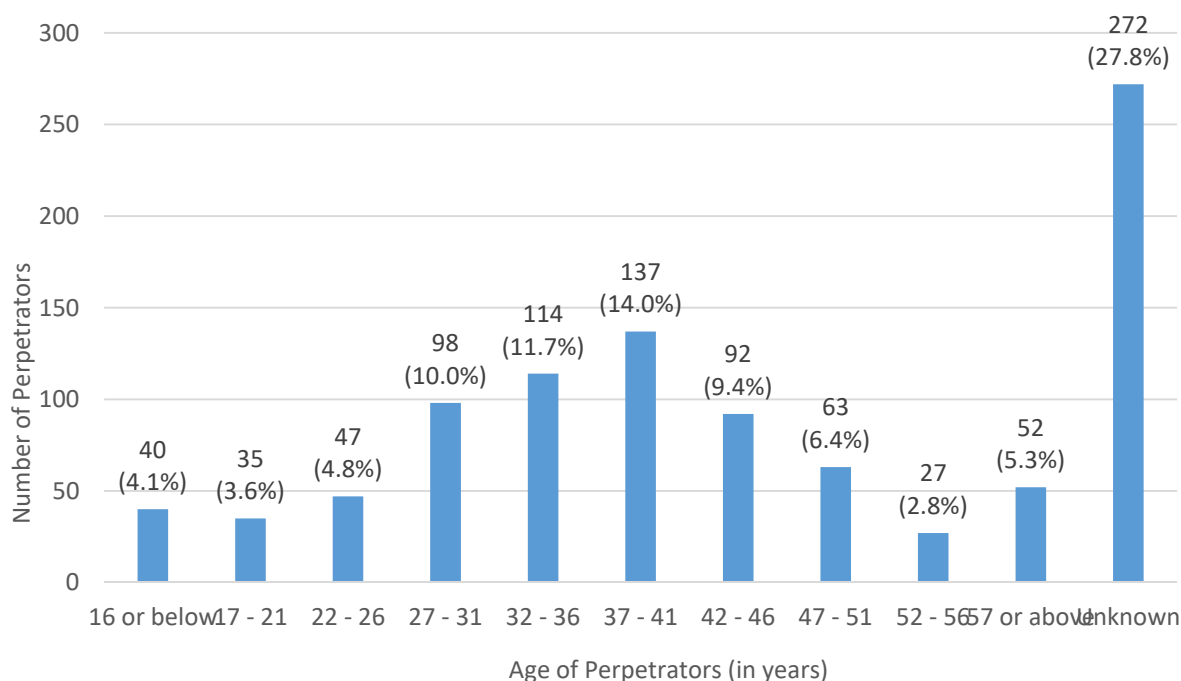


Table 10 –Distribution of Perpetrators by Age and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment for 2020

Age	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					Total
	Physical Harm/Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/Abuse	Multiple Harm/Abuse	
16 or below	2	38	0	0	0	40
17 – 21	3	18	12	0	2	35
22 – 26	17	6	21	0	3	47
27 – 31	31	4	55	1	7	98
32 – 36	59	4	47	1	3	114
37 – 41	78	5	42	4	8	137
42 – 46	62	3	21	1	5	92
47 – 51	42	8	6	2	5	63
52 – 56	23	0	4	0	0	27
57 or above	37	9	6	0	0	52
Unknown	37	227	1	1	6	272
Total	391	322	215	10	39	977

1.3.3 Distribution of Perpetrators by Sex, by Age and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment

On Female Perpetrators

The distribution of female perpetrators of different age groups by types of harm/maltreatment, with the highest numbers highlighted, is as follows:

Table 11 – Distribution of Female Perpetrators by Age and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment

Age	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					
	Physical Harm/ Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/Abuse	Multiple Harm/ Abuse	Total
16 or below	0	2	0	0	0	2
17 – 21	1	1	12	0	2	16
22 – 26	8	0	19	0	2	29
27 – 31	22	3	54	1	5	85
32 – 36	33	0	43	1	2	79
37 – 41	44	0	36	4	5	89
42 – 46	28	0	14	0	3	45
47 – 51	16	1	4	2	3	26
52 – 56	4	0	4	0	0	8
57 or above	9	1	4	0	0	14
Unknown	17	23	0	1	1	42
Total	182	31	190	9	23	435

On Male Perpetrators

The distribution of male perpetrators of different age groups by types of harm/maltreatment, with the highest numbers highlighted, is as follows:

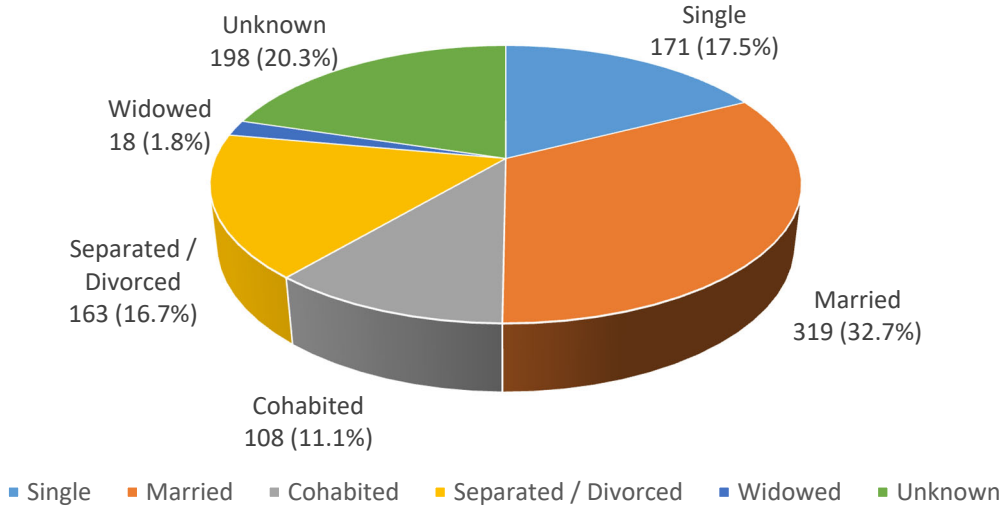
Table 12 – Distribution of Male Perpetrators by Age and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment

Age	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					Total
	Physical Harm/Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/Abuse	Multiple Harm/Abuse	
16 or below	2	36	0	0	0	38
17 – 21	2	17	0	0	0	19
22 – 26	9	6	2	0	1	18
27 – 31	9	1	1	0	2	13
32 – 36	26	4	4	0	1	35
37 – 41	34	5	6	0	3	48
42 – 46	34	3	7	1	2	47
47 – 51	26	7	2	0	2	37
52 – 56	19	0	0	0	0	19
57 or above	28	8	2	0	0	38
Unknown	20	204	1	0	5	230
Total	209	291	25	1	16	542

1.3.4 Marital Status of Perpetrators

32.7% of the 977 perpetrators of newly registered cases were married. As some of the perpetrators, particularly for sexual abuse cases, could not be identified or were unrelated persons, the marital status of a certain proportion of the perpetrators was unknown.

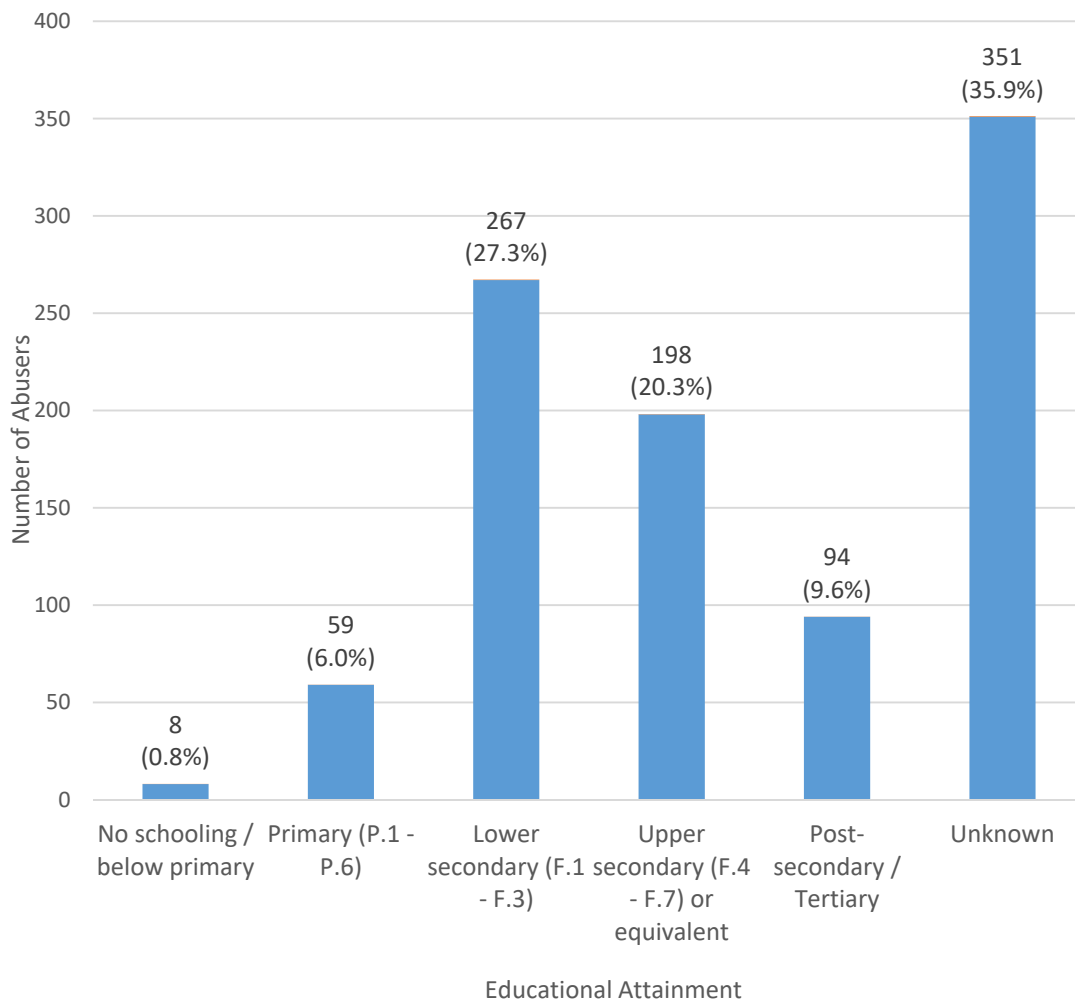
Graph 11 - Distribution of Perpetrators by Marital Status for 2020



1.3.5 Educational Attainment of Perpetrators

34.1% of the perpetrators of the newly registered cases were of lower secondary education standard or below. As some of the perpetrators, particularly for sexual abuse cases, could not be identified or were unrelated persons, the educational attainment of a certain proportion of the perpetrators was unknown.

Graph 12 - Distribution of Perpetrators by Educational Attainment for 2020

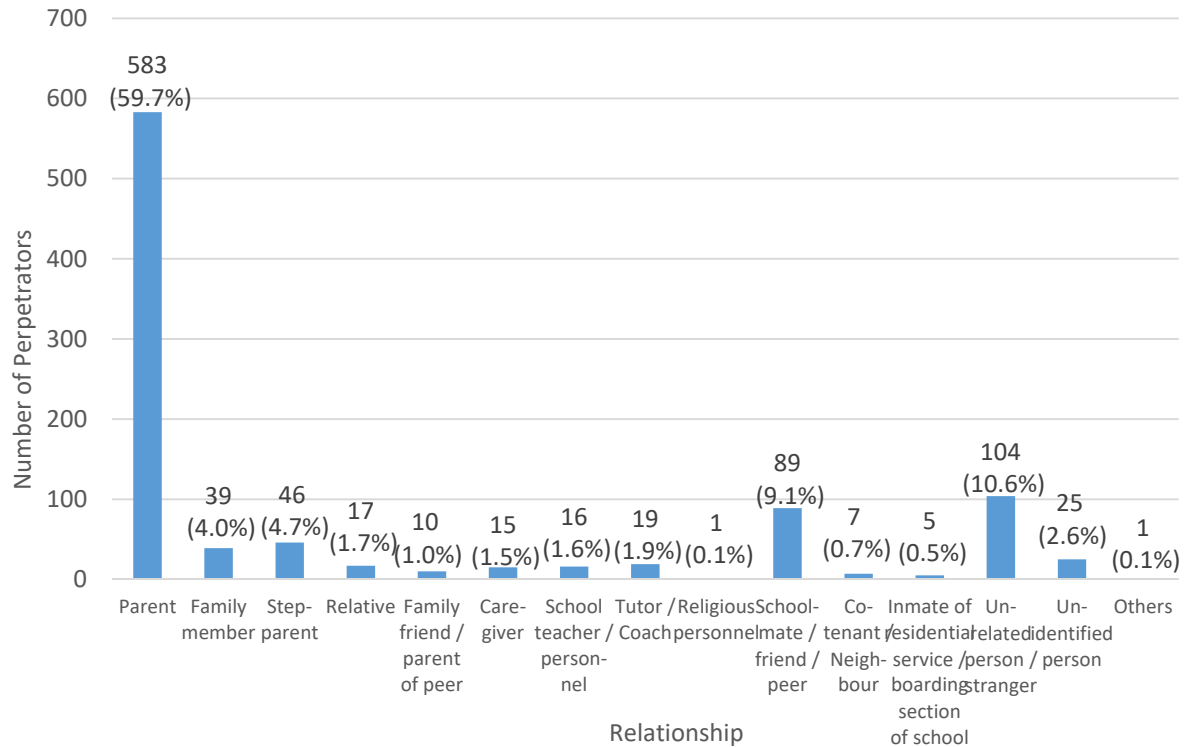


Owing to rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

1.3.6 Relationship of Perpetrators and Children

59.7% of the perpetrators involved in the newly registered cases were parents of the children. Among the 322 perpetrators involved in sexual abuse, 32.3% of them were unrelated persons/ strangers whereas majority of perpetrators of the other three types of harm/maltreatment were parents of the children. The relationship of perpetrators and children with the highest number of cases for each types of harm/maltreatment are highlighted in Table 13.

Graph 13 - Distribution of Perpetrators by Relationship with Children for 2020



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

**Table 13 – Distribution of Perpetrators’ Relationship with Children
by Types of Harm/Maltreatment**

Relationship	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					
	Physical Harm/ Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/Abuse	Multiple Harm/ Abuse	Total
Parent	326	13	208	8	28	583
Family member	15	20	4	0	0	39
Step-parent	21	14	1	2	8	46
Relative	8	7	1	0	1	17
Family friend / parent of peer	1	7	1	0	1	10
Caregiver	9	6	0	0	0	15
School teacher / personnel	0	16	0	0	0	16
Staff of boarding section of school	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tutor / Coach	4	15	0	0	0	19
Religious personnel	0	1	0	0	0	1
Schoolmate / friend / peer	0	88	0	0	1	89
Co-tenant / Neighbour	0	7	0	0	0	7
Inmate of residential service / boarding section of school	0	5	0	0	0	5
Unrelated person / stranger	0	104	0	0	0	104
Unidentified person	6	19	0	0	0	25
Others	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total*	391	322	215	10	39	977

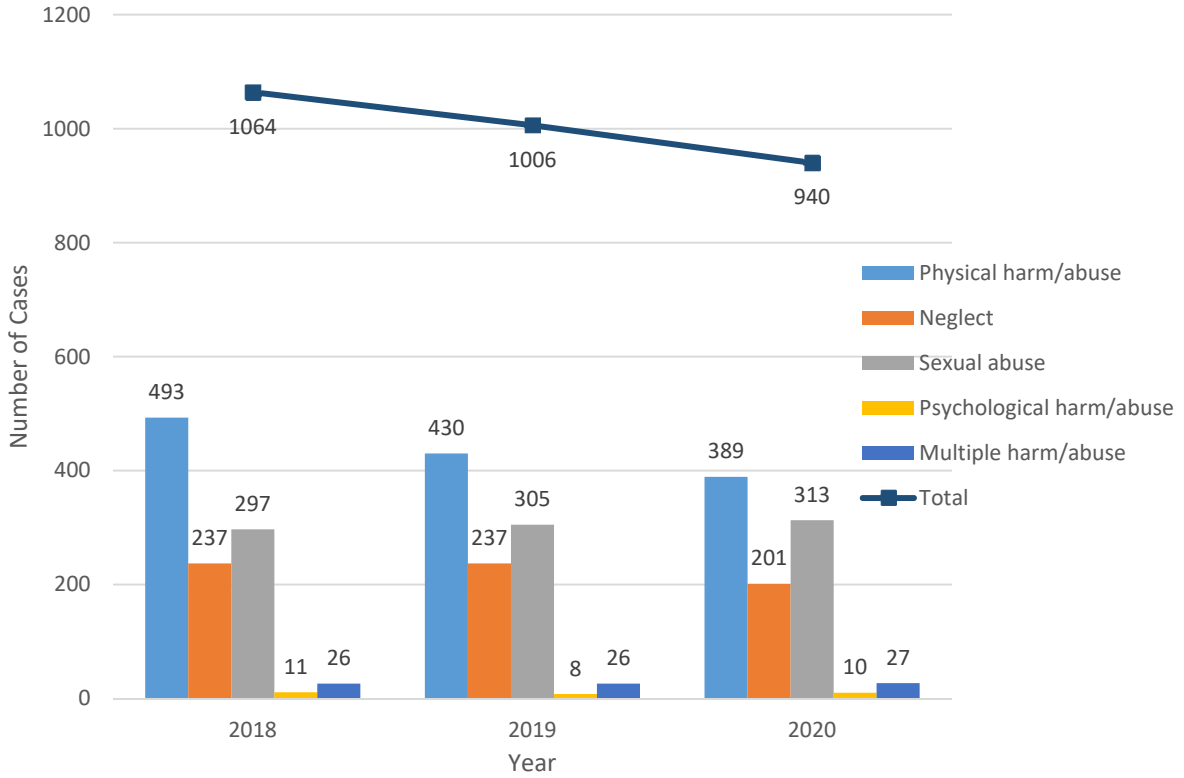
* The total number of perpetrators did not equal to the total number of children in child protection cases as one perpetrator might have harmed/maltreated more than one child whereas one child could be harmed/maltreated by more than one perpetrators.

Note: Since July 2018, the figures of newly reported child protection cases have been captured by new Data Input Form. Staff of boarding section of school, religious personnel and inmate of residential service / boarding section of school are new items.

Part 2
Comparison of Newly Registered Cases from 2018 to 2020

2.1 Types of Harm/Maltreatment

Graph 14 - Distribution of Newly Registered Cases by Types of Harm/Maltreatment



2.2 Characteristics of Children

2.2.1 Distribution of Children by Age

Table 14 – Age Distribution of Children

Age \ Year	2018	2019	2020
0 - 2	185 (17.4%)	170 (16.9%)	173 (18.4%)
3 - 5	99 (9.3%)	98 (9.7%)	96 (10.2%)
6 - 8	177 (16.6%)	180 (17.9%)	143 (15.2%)
9 - 11	227 (21.3%)	181 (18.0%)	138 (14.7%)
12 - 14	237 (22.3%)	239 (23.8%)	245 (26.1%)
15 - 17	139 (13.1%)	138 (13.7%)	145 (15.4%)
Total	1 064 (100.0%)	1 006 (100.0%)	940 (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 Harm/Maltreatment and by Sex

Table 15 – Distribution of Children by Types of Harm/Maltreatment and by Sex

Types of Harm/ Maltreatment	2018		2019		2020	
	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	No. of Girls
Physical harm/abuse	300 (28.2%)	193 (18.1%)	253 (25.1%)	177 (17.6%)	240 (25.5%)	149 (15.9%)
Neglect	133 (12.5%)	104 (9.8%)	129 (12.8%)	108 (10.7%)	101 (10.7%)	100 (10.6%)
Sexual abuse	50 (4.7%)	247 (23.2%)	43 (4.3%)	262 (26.0%)	52 (5.5%)	261 (27.8%)
Psychological harm/abuse	6 (0.6%)	5 (0.5%)	6 (0.6%)	2 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)	9 (1.0%)
Multiple harm/abuse	9 (0.8%)	17 (1.6%)	10 (1.0%)	16 (1.6%)	10 (1.1%)	17 (1.8%)
Sub-total	498 (46.8%)	566 (53.2%)	441 (43.8%)	565 (56.2%)	404 (43.0%)	536 (57.0%)
Total	1 064 (100%)		1 006 (100%)		940 (100%)	

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

2.3 Characteristics of Perpetrators

2.3.1 Distribution of Perpetrators by Age

Table 16 - Age Distribution of Perpetrators

Age \ Year	2018	2019	2020
16 or below	27 (2.5%)	35 (3.4%)	40 (4.1%)
17 - 21	17 (1.6%)	32 (3.1%)	35 (3.6%)
22 - 26	37 (3.5%)	44 (4.3%)	47 (4.8%)
27 - 31	93 (8.8%)	79 (7.7%)	98 (10.0%)
32 - 36	151 (14.2%)	131 (12.8%)	114 (11.7%)
37 - 41	154 (14.5%)	136 (13.3%)	137 (14.0%)
42 - 46	125 (11.8%)	104 (10.1%)	92 (9.4%)
47 - 51	71 (6.7%)	80 (7.8%)	63 (6.4%)
52 - 56	33 (3.1%)	37 (3.6%)	27 (2.8%)
57 or above	43 (4.1%)	41 (4.0%)	52 (5.3%)
Unknown	309 (29.2%)	306 (29.9%)	272 (27.8%)
Total	1 060 (100.0%)	1 025 (100.0%)	977 (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 Perpetrators by Sex

Table 17 - Sex of Perpetrators

Sex \ Year	2018	2019	2020
Male	560 (52.8%)	563 (54.9%)	542 (55.5%)
Female	500 (47.2%)	462 (45.1%)	435 (44.5%)
Total	1 060 (100%)	1 025 (100.0%)	977 (100.0%)

2.3.3 Marital Status of Perpetrators

Table 18 - Marital Status of Perpetrators

Year	2018	2019	2020
Marital Status			
Single	159 (15.0%)	199 (19.4%)	171 (17.5%)
Married	398 (37.5%)	347 (33.9%)	319 (32.7%)
Cohabited	95 (9.0%)	110 (10.7%)	108 (11.1%)
Separated/divorced	201 (19.0%)	173 (16.9%)	163 (16.7%)
Widowed	18 (1.7%)	13 (1.3%)	18 (1.8%)
Unknown	189 (17.8%)	183 (17.9%)	198 (20.3%)
Total	1 060 (100.0%)	1 025 (100.0%)	977 (100.0%)

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

Table 19 - Educational Attainment of Perpetrators

Year	2018	2019	2020
Educational Attainment			
No schooling/below primary	7 (0.7%)	8 (0.8%)	8 (0.8%)
Primary (P.1 - P.6)	80 (7.5%)	101 (9.9%)	59 (6.0%)
Lower secondary (F.1 - F.3)	292 (27.5%)	273 (26.6%)	267 (27.3%)
Upper secondary (F.4 - F.5)	219 (20.7%)	229 (22.3%)	198 (20.3%)
Matriculation (F.6 - F.7)	12 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Tertiary	80 (7.5%)	82 (8.0%)	94 (9.6%)
Unknown	370 (34.9%)	332 (32.4%)	351 (35.9%)
Total	1 060 (100.0%)	1 025 (100.0%)	977 (100.0%)

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

2.3.5 Relationship of Perpetrators with Children

Table 20 - Perpetrators' Relationship with Children

Relationship	Year	2018	2019	2020
Parent		684 (64.5%)	648 (63.2%)	583 (59.7%)
Sibling (including step-siblings)		14 (1.3%)	25 (2.4%)	18 (1.8%)
Grandparent		24 (2.3%)	13 (1.3%)	21 (2.1%)
Step-parent		42 (4.0%)	35 (3.4%)	46 (4.7%)
Relative		12 (1.1%)	18 (1.8%)	17 (1.7%)
Family friend/ parent of peer		51 (4.8%)	9 (0.9%)	10 (1.0%)
Caregiver		19 (1.8%)	14 (1.4%)	15 (1.5%)
School teacher/ Personnel		14 (1.3%)	18 (1.8%)	16 (1.6%)
Staff of boarding section of school		3 (0.3%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Tutor/ Coach		24 (2.3%)	22 (2.1%)	19 (1.9%)
Religious personnel		0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
School-mate/ Friend/ peer		43 (4.1%)	111 (10.8%)	89 (9.1%)
Co-tenant/Neighbour/		7 (0.7%)	7 (0.7%)	7 (0.7%)
Inmate of residential service/ boarding section of school		4 (0.4%)	3 (0.3%)	5 (0.5%)
Unrelated person/Stranger		79 (7.5%)	75 (7.3%)	104 (10.6%)
Unidentified person		36 (3.4%)	22 (2.1%)	25 (2.6%)
Others		4 (0.4%)	3 (0.3%)	1 (0.1%)
Total		1 060 (100%)	1 025 (100%)	977 (100.0%)

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

*Since July 2018, the figures of newly reported child protection cases have been captured by new Data Input Form. Hence, some items [i.e. family friend / parent of peer, staff of boarding section of school, religious personnel, schoolmate / friend / peer, inmate of residential service] of the newly reported cases in 2018 is not comparable with the figure of the same period in other year.

Appendix

Glossary

In this annual report, the glossary will follow the “Protecting Children from Maltreatment – Procedural Guide for Multi-disciplinary Co-operation” (Procedural Guide 2020) implemented on 1 April 2020 while the same glossary in the “Procedural Guide for Handling Child Abuse Cases” (Procedural Guide 2015) will be compared below. The figures for comparison of different years should be interpreted with caution.

Child Abuse / Child Maltreatment (definition) As a general guide since implementation of the Procedural Guide 2020, **Child Abuse** will be often named as **child maltreatment**. In a broad sense, child maltreatment is defined as any act of commission or omission that endangers or impairs the physical/psychological health and development of an individual under the age of 18. Child maltreatment 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.

The comparison of types of child abuse in the Procedural Guide 2015 and child maltreatment in Procedural Guide 2020 is as below:-

	Child Abuse (In Procedural Guide 2015)	Child Harm/Maltreatment (In Procedural Guide 2020)
Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Harm/Abuse This refers to physical injury or suffering inflicted on a child by violent or other means (e.g. punching, kicking, striking with an object, poisoning, suffocation, burning, shaking an infant or Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another*), 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	[* Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another, formerly known as Munchausen’s Syndrome by Proxy, occurs when a parent or guardian falsifies physical and psychological signs or symptoms of a child, or induction of injury or disease to a child, or causes a child to receive innumerable

**Child Abuse
(In Procedural Guide 2015)**

**Child Harm/Maltreatment
(In Procedural Guide 2020)**

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.)]

unnecessary hospital treatments through other deceitful conducts (e.g. alters a child’s laboratory test report) (Ref.: American Psychiatric Association. (2013). Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th Edition).)]

• **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

• **Sexual Abuse**

This refers to forcing or enticing a child to take part in any acts of sexual activity for sexual exploitation or abuse and the child does not consent to or fully understand or comprehend this sexual activity that occurs to him/her due to mental immaturity.

This sexual activity includes behaviours that have or do not have direct physical contact with children (e.g. rape, oral sex, procuring a child to masturbate others/exposing his/her sexual organs, or posing in an obscene way/watching sexual activities of others, production of pornographic material, forcing a child to engage in prostitution, etc.).

Sexual abuse may be committed inside or outside the home or through social media on the internet by perpetrators acting individually or in an organised manner. It includes luring a child through rewards or other means for abuse, including sexual grooming, which refers to designedly establish a relationship/an emotional connection with a child by various means for gaining his/her

**Child Abuse
(In Procedural Guide 2015)**

“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.]

**Child Harm/Maltreatment
(In Procedural Guide 2020)**

trust with an intent to sexually abuse him/her (e.g. communicating with a child through mobile phone or the Internet).

Consensual sexual activity between an adolescent and another person may also involve sexual exploitation by a person whose characteristics are in a position of differential power to the adolescent. Cases where the adolescent is not mentally mature, too young (e.g. under the age of 13) or the sexual activity leads to sexually transmitted diseases (“STDs”) or pregnancy may be handled as suspected sexual abuse

• **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)

• **Neglect**

This refers to a severe or repeated pattern of lack of attention to a child’s basic needs that endangers or impairs the child’s health or development. Neglect may be caused by the following forms :

- (a) Physical neglect includes failure to provide necessary food/clothing/shelter, failure to prevent physical injury/suffering, lack of appropriate supervision, leaving a young child unattended, improper storage of dangerous drugs resulting in accidental ingestion by a child or allowing a child to stay in a drug-taking environment resulting in inhalation of the dangerous drugs by a child. Drug/alcohol abuse during pregnancy can affect the health and development of an infant. If a pregnant woman fails to receive treatment for drug

**Child Abuse
(In Procedural Guide 2015)**

**Child Harm/Maltreatment
(In Procedural Guide 2020)**

- ❖ 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

/alcohol abuse or make every effort to reduce her drug/alcohol use during pregnancy resulting in signs of poisoning (e.g. being tested positive for dangerous drugs or alcohol) of the newborn or withdrawal symptoms for dangerous drug or alcohol of the infant, these cases may be handled as suspected neglect; or
(b) Medical neglect includes failure to provide necessary medical or mental health treatment to a child; or
(c) Educational neglect includes failure to provide education or ignoring the educational/training needs arising from a child's disability.

(Emotional neglect has been put under psychological harm/maltreatment)

[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”).]

**Child Abuse
(In Procedural Guide 2015**

**Child Harm/Maltreatment
(In Procedural Guide 2020)**

(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.

• **Psychological Harm/Abuse**

This refers to a repeated pattern of behaviour and/or interaction between carer and child, or an extreme incident that endanger(s) or impair(s) the child’s physical and psychological health (including emotional, cognitive, social and physical development).

• **Multiple Harm/Abuse**

Combination of more than one of the above four types of harm/maltreatment.

Case One case refers to one child.

Newly Registered Cases in 2020 Newly registered cases in 2020 include cases involving children having been harmed/maltreated or currently at risk of harm/maltreatment.