

Child Protection Registry

Statistical Report

2018



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 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 further enhanced in July 2018 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 2018”, consists of two parts. Part 1 is on newly registered cases in 2018 and Part 2 is on comparison of newly registered cases from 2016 to 2018. 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 2019

Part 1

Newly Registered Cases in 2018

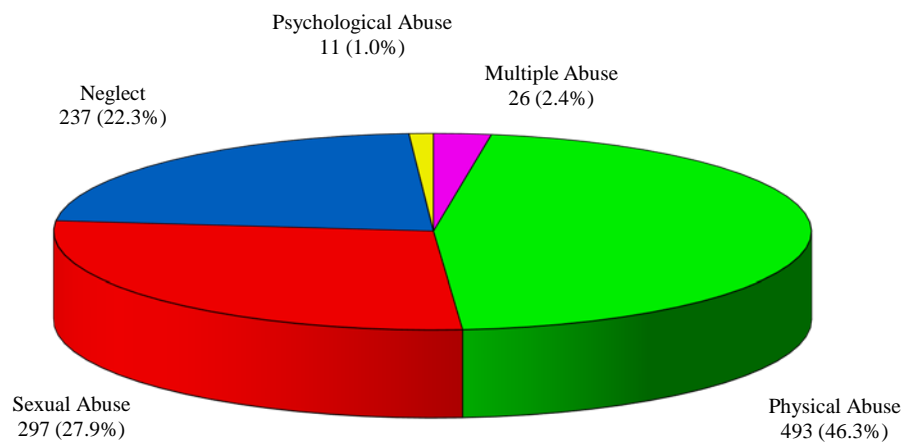
There were 1 064 newly registered cases.

1.1 General Information

1.1.1 Type of Abuse

46.3% of the newly registered cases were physical abuse cases and 27.9% were sexual abuse cases.

Graph 1 - Distribution of Newly registered Cases by Type of Abuse for 2018

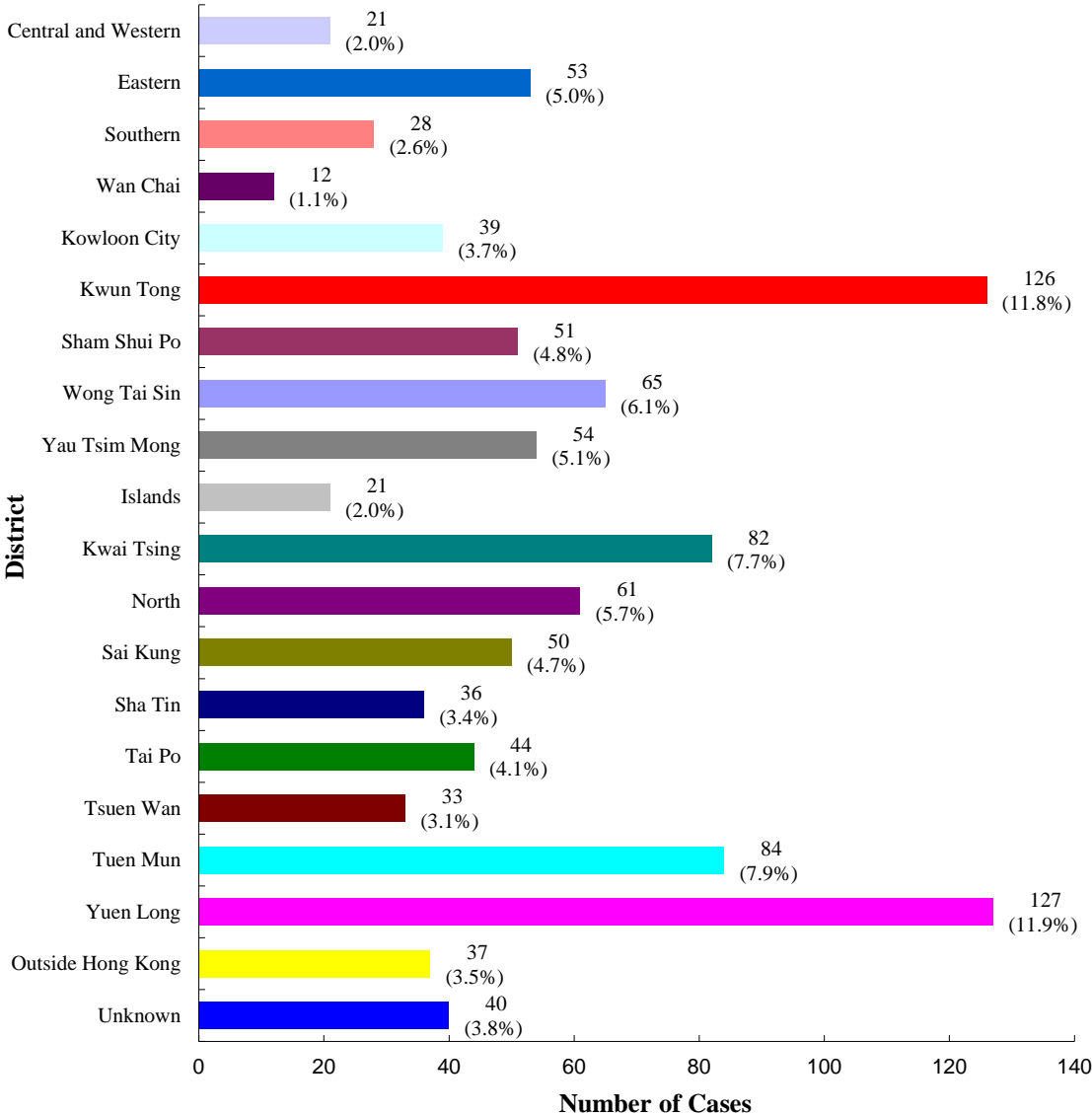


Total: 1 064 cases

1.1.2 Distribution by District*

The three districts with the highest percentage of newly registered cases were Yuen Long District (11.9%), Kwun Tong District (11.8%) and Tuen Mun District (7.9%). 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 2018



* Distribution by district refers to cases captured according to the district where the abuse incidents took place.

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

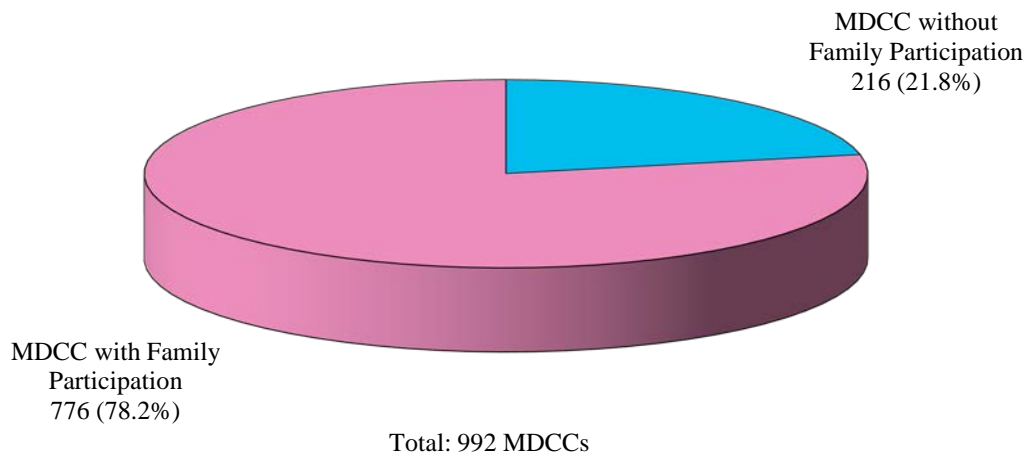
District	No. of Cases	Incidence Rate* Per 1 000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the District
Central/Western	21	0.69
Eastern	53	0.71
Southern	28	0.75
Wan Chai	12	0.55
Kowloon City	39	0.66
Kwun Tong	126	1.30
Sham Shui Po	51	0.88
Wong Tai Sin	65	1.18
Yau Tsim Mong	54	1.19
Islands	21	0.83
Kwai Tsing	82	1.16
North	61	1.28
Sai Kung	50	0.79
Sha Tin	36	0.39
Tai Po	44	1.02
Tsuen Wan	33	0.77
Tuen Mun	84	1.22
Yuen Long	127	1.37
Outside Hong Kong	37	N.A.
Unknown	40	N.A.
Total	1 064	1.04

* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2018 conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

1.1.3 Multi-disciplinary Case Conference

Out of the 1 064 newly registered child abuse cases, multi-disciplinary case conferences (MDCCs) were conducted for 975 cases (91.6%). A total of 992 MDCCs were held for discussion about the nature of the incidents, risk level and welfare plans of these 975 cases. 78.2% of the 992 MDCCs were held with the participation of the victims' family members.

Graph 3 - Family Participation in Multi-disciplinary Case Conferences for 2018



1.1.4 Contributing Factors of Abuse (January to June 2018)

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. Behavioural 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 environment 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 parents(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
(January to June 2018)**

Contributing Factors	No. of Newly Registered Cases Associated with the Contributing Factors (Note)
Factors relating to abused child/child-at-risk	312 (56.3%)
Factors relating to abuser/suspected abuser	430 (77.6%)
Factors relating to environmental or social circumstances	248 (44.8%)
Factors relating to parent(s)/carer(s) where parent(s)/carer(s) is/are not abuser(s)	314 (56.7%)

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 554 cases from January to June 2018.

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 common contributing factor (220 cases, 51.2% of the total 430 cases), followed by emotional/psychological problem (139 cases, 32.3%) and undesirable hobbies (e.g. gambling, indulgence in alcohol, substance abuse, etc.) (107 cases, 24.9%). Among the seven factors relating to the abused child/child-at-risk, behavioural problem was the most common contributing factor (206 cases, 66.0% of the total 312 cases), followed by school performance problem (100 cases, 32.1%) and emotional/psychological problem (68 cases, 21.8%).

1.1.5 Factors on Risk of Child Abuse (July to December 2018)*

Since July 2018, “Factors on Risk of Child Abuse” were captured instead of “Contributing Factors of Abuse” with the following categorisation:

- a) Factors relating to the abused child/child at risk of abuse
 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/suspected abuser/potential abuser (for case where parent(s) is/are abuser/suspected 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

- 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

* As “Factors on Risk of Child Abuse have only been captured since July 2018, statistical information of “Factors on Risk of Child Abuse” is only available from July to December 2018.

Table 3 shows the number of cases associated with the major Factors on Risk of Child Abuse under each subgroup.

**Table 3 – Major Factors on Risk of Child Abuse
(July to December 2018)**

Factors on Risk of Child Abuse	No. of Newly Registered Cases Associated with the Factors on Risk of Child Abuse (Note)
Factors relating to abuse child / child-at-risk	270 (52.9%)
Factors relating to abuse / suspected abuser / potential abuser	368 (72.2%)
Environmental factors	259 (50.8%)
Factors relating to the precipitating incident	141 (27.6%)

Note : One case may have more than one risk factor. Figures in the brackets are the percentage of cases associated with the factors on risk of child abuse in respect of a total of 510 cases from July to December 2018.

For the period of July to December 2018, a larger proportion of the child abuse cases was associated with risk factors relating to abuser/suspected abuser/potential abuser. Among the risk factors relating to the abuser/suspected abuser/potential abuser, incompetence in child rearing / lack of parenting skills was the most common risk factor (165 cases, 44.8% of the total 368 cases), followed by emotional / psychological problem (116 cases, 31.5%) and undesirable hobbies (103 cases, 28.0%) (including 72 cases from the factor of heavy / chronic use of drug and 13 cases from the factor heavy / chronic use of alcohol). Among the factors relating to the abused child / child at risk of abuse, behavioural problem was the most common risk factor (147 cases, 54.4% of the total 270 cases), followed by school performance / performance problem (81 cases, 30%) and emotional / psychological problem (48 cases, 17.8%).

1.2 Characteristics of Child

1.2.1 Distribution of Children by Gender

There were more girl victims (53.2%) than boy victims (46.8%) among the newly registered cases.

Graph 4 - Distribution of Children by Gender for 2018

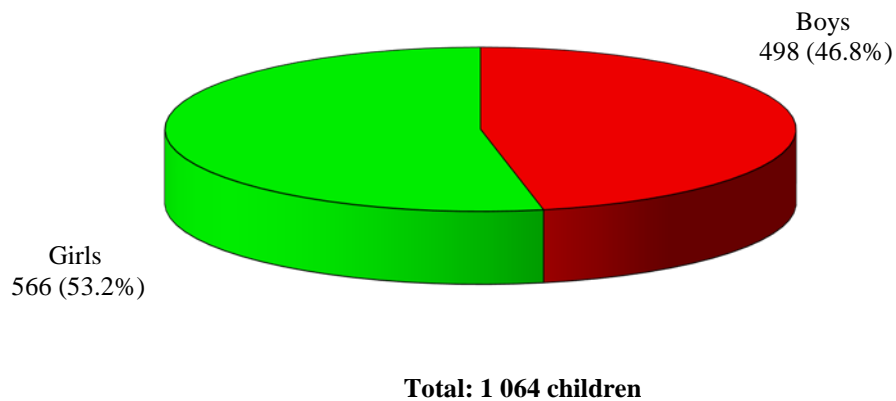


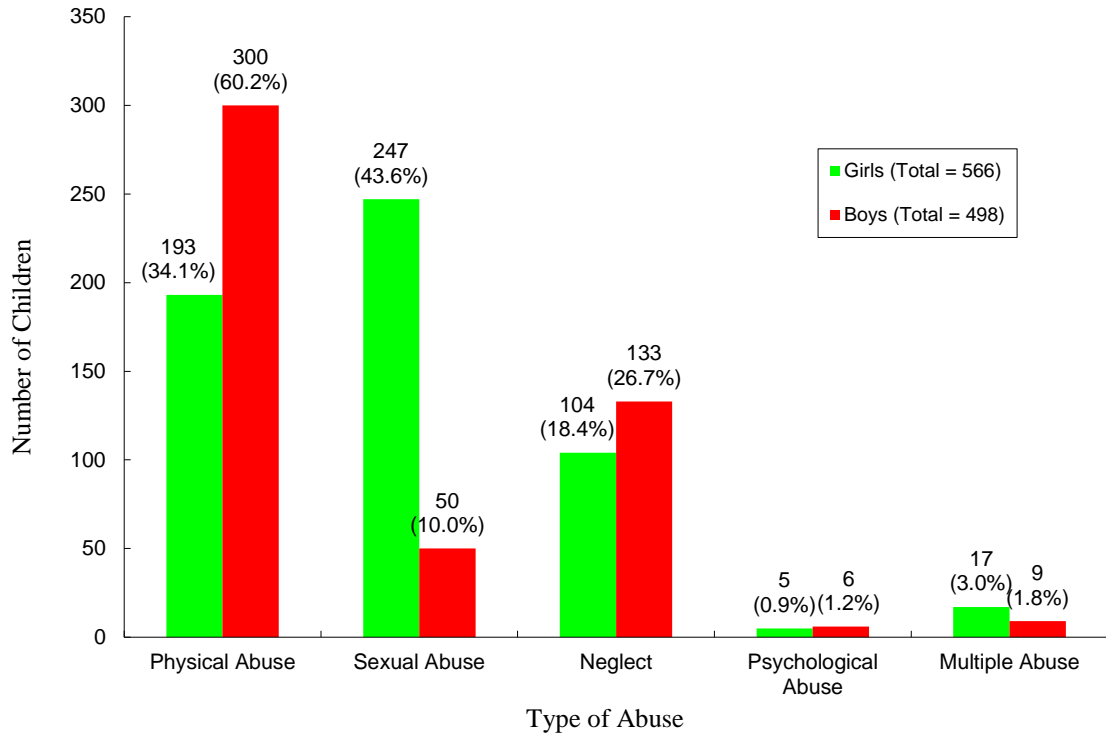
Table 4 - Distribution of Newly Registered Cases and Incidence Rate by Gender

Gender	No. of Cases	Incidence Rate* Per 1 000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the Population
Boys	498	0.94
Girls	566	1.14
Total	1 064	1.04

* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2018 conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

A breakdown of the gender of children by type of abuse indicated that 43.6% of the girl victims were involved in sexual abuse cases and 34.1% were involved in physical abuse cases, while 60.2% and 26.7% of the boy victims were involved in physical abuse cases and neglect cases respectively.

Graph 5 - Distribution of Children by Gender and by Type of Abuse for 2018



Note : Figures in brackets represent percentages in respect of the corresponding gender 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 (22.3%) of the newly registered cases was found among children within the age group of 12 to 14 years old. Table 4 shows the distribution of children of different age groups by type of abuse with the highest numbers highlighted.

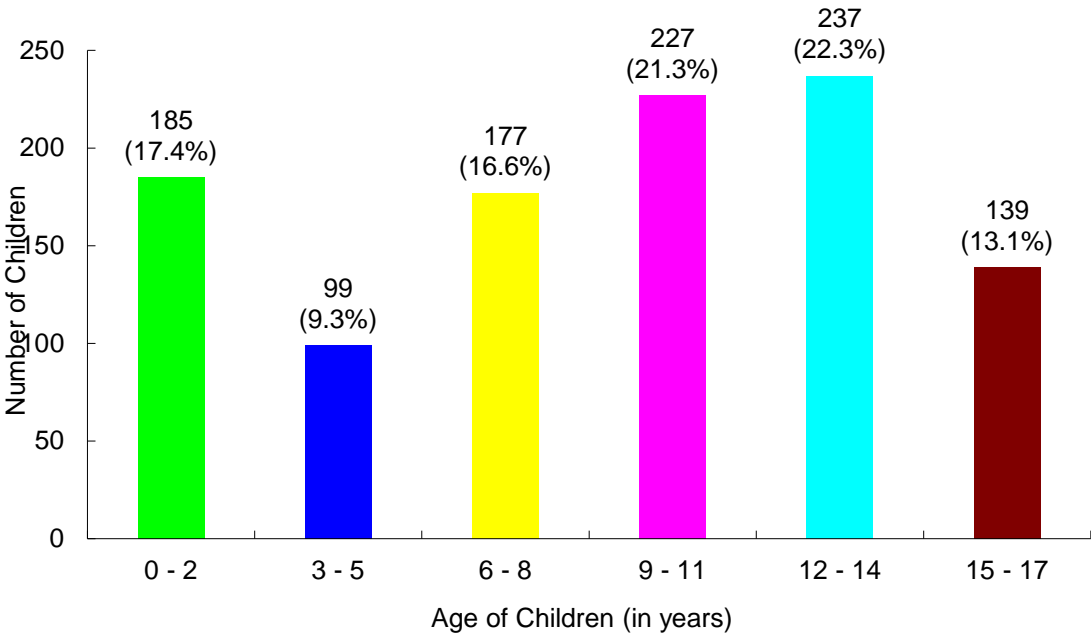


Table 5 – Distribution of Children by Age and by Type of Abuse

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
0 – 2	31	0	150	1	3	185
3 – 5	53	15	27	2	2	99
6 – 8	128	18	24	1	6	177
9 – 11	139	55	25	2	6	227
12 – 14	100	119	10	4	4	237
15 – 17	42	90	1	1	5	139
Total	493	297	237	11	26	1 064

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 6 – Distribution of Girl Victims by Age and by Type of Abuse

Age	Type of Abuse					
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	Total
0 – 2	6	0	67	1	2	76
3 – 5	19	13	12	1	2	47
6 – 8	49	12	9	0	2	72
9 – 11	45	41	10	1	4	101
12 – 14	46	103	5	1	3	158
15 – 17	28	78	1	1	4	112
Total	193	247	104	5	17	566

On Boys

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

Table 7 – Distribution of Boy Victims by Age and by Type of Abuse

Age	Type of Abuse					
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	Total
0 – 2	25	0	83	0	1	109
3 – 5	34	2	15	1	0	52
6 – 8	79	6	15	1	4	105
9 – 11	94	14	15	1	2	126
12 – 14	54	16	5	3	1	79
15 – 17	14	12	0	0	1	27
Total	300	50	133	6	9	498

1.2.4 Ethnicity of Victims

Since July 2018, the figures of the ethnicity of the victims of newly reported child abuse cases have been captured by new Data Input Form upon enhancement of the CPR. According to the figures of the ethnicity of newly reported child abuse victims, most child victims (95.7%) are Chinese while the total number of victims of the six ethnic minorities, including Indonesian, Filipino, Indian, Pakistani, Nepalese and Thai, is 16 (3.1%) for the period of July to December 2018.

Table 8 - Ethnicity of Victims

Ethnicity \ Year	July to December 2018
Chinese	488 (95.7%)
Pakistani	6 (1.2%)
Filipino	4 (0.8%)
Indonesian	3 (0.6%)
Indian	2 (0.4%)
African	1 (0.2%)
New Zealander	1 (0.2%)
Australian	1 (0.2%)
Thai	1 (0.2%)
Vietnamese	1 (0.2%)
Others	1 (0.2%)
Unknown	1 (0.2%)
Total	510 (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 Cases by Type of Children's Disabilities by Type of Abuse

The figures of the victims of newly reported child abuse cases with different types of disabilities have been captured by the new Data Input Form upon enhancement of the CPR in July 2018. Among the 510 newly registered cases from July to December 2018, 19.8% (101 cases) of the child victims are reported to have certain kind of disabilities. 8.8% (45 cases) of child victims were reported to have Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). 3.9% (20 cases) of child victims were reported to have Intellectual Disability while 3.5% (18 cases) of child victims were reported to have Autism.

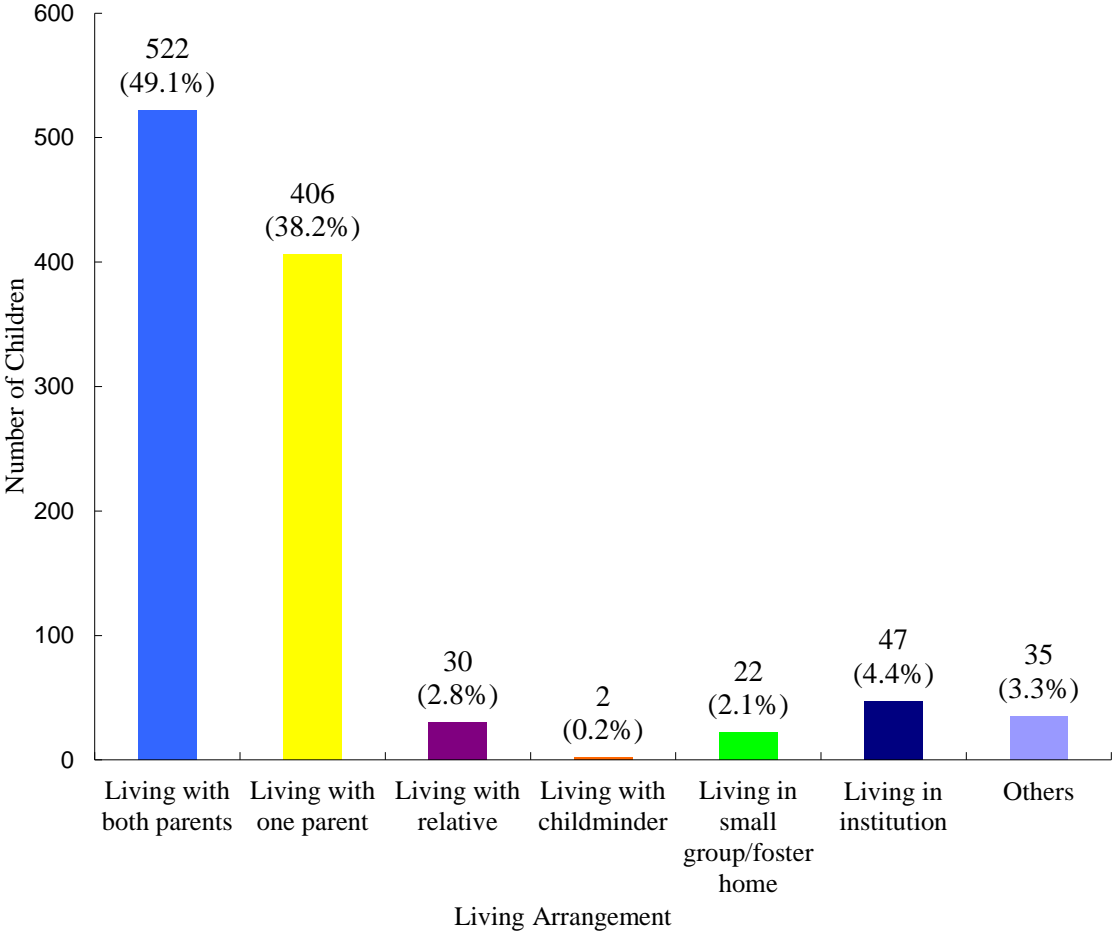
Table 9 - Children's Disabilities by Type of Abuse

Disabilities	July to December 2018					
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	Total
Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder	29 (12.7%)	13 (8.5%)	3 (2.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	45 (8.8%)
Autism	13 (5.7%)	5 (3.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	18 (3.5%)
Hearing Impairment	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.4%)
Intellectual Disability	8 (3.5%)	9 (5.9%)	1 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (16.7%)	20 (3.9%)
Physical Disability	1 (0.4%)	2 (1.3%)	1 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (0.8%)
Mental Illness	2 (0.9%)	7 (4.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (8.3%)	10 (2.0%)
Specific Learning Difficulties	6 (2.6%)	2 (1.3%)	2 (1.8%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (2.0%)
Speech Impairment	4 (1.7%)	2 (1.3%)	3 (2.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	9 (1.8%)
Visceral Disability	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Visual Impairment	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	54 (23.6%)	33 (21.6%)	11 (9.9%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (25.0%)	101 (19.8%)

1.2.6 Living Arrangement of Children

Among the 1 064 newly registered cases, 87.3% of the abused children were living with either both parents or one of them at the time of the abuse/ suspected abuse whereas 6.5% were living in residential child care services including small group homes / foster homes / institutions.

Graph 7 - Distribution of Children by Living Arrangement for 2018 *



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

* Figures refer to the living arrangement at the time of the abuse / suspected abuse. They are not comparable to the data under the same topic in previous reports, which indicates the living arrangement after MDCC.

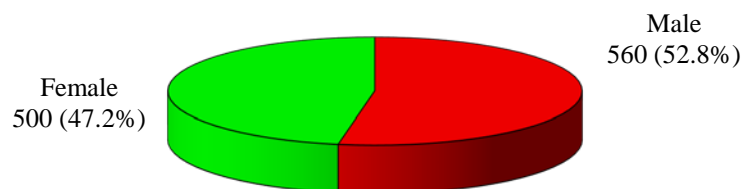
1.3 Characteristics of Abuser

There were 1 064 children and 1 060 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

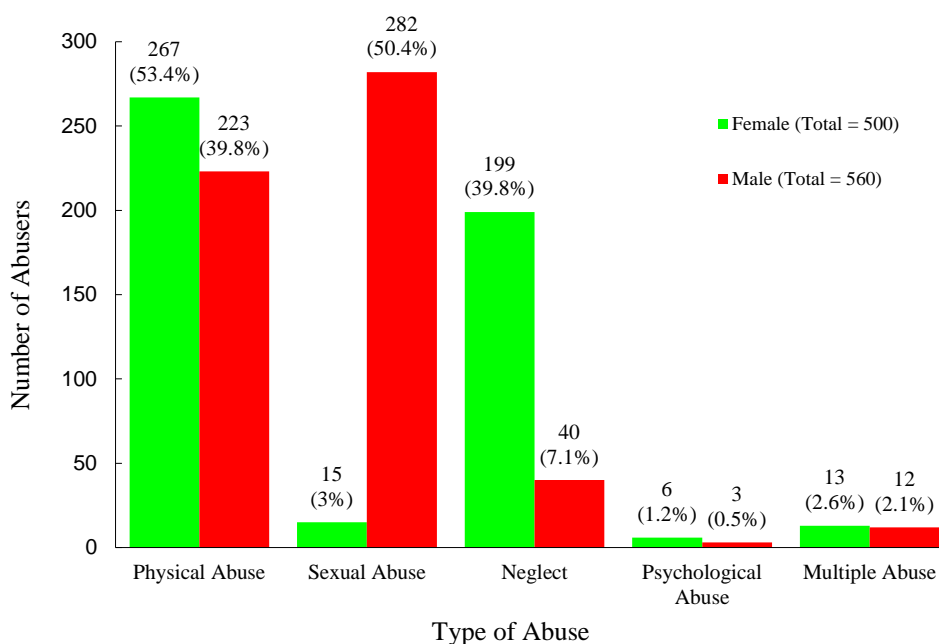
There were more male abusers (560, 52.8%) than female abusers (500, 47.2%) involved in the newly registered cases. The number of male abusers involved in sexual abuse case was far more than that of female abusers. However, apart from sexual abuse cases, there were more female abusers than male abusers involved in other types of abuse.

Graph 8 - Distribution of Abusers by Gender for 2018



Total: 1 060 abusers

Graph 9 - Distribution of Abusers by Gender and by Type of Abuse for 2018



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

1.3.2 Distribution of Abusers by Age

40.6% of the abusers involved in the newly registered cases were aged between 32 and 46. Table 10 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 2018

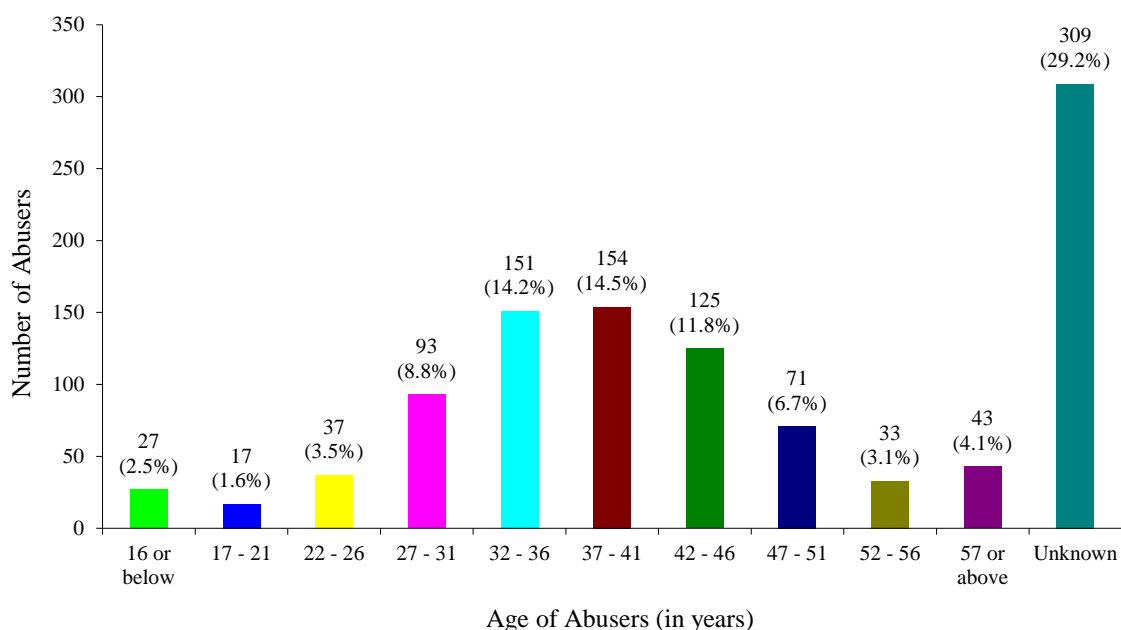


Table 9 – Distribution of Abusers by Age and by Type of Abuse

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
16 or below	1	24	2	0	0	27
17 – 21	2	8	7	0	0	17
22 – 26	7	5	23	0	2	37
27 – 31	36	1	54	0	2	93
32 – 36	90	3	54	0	4	151
37 – 41	107	7	35	0	5	154
42 – 46	84	5	27	3	6	125
47 – 51	53	5	9	0	4	71
52 – 56	26	0	6	1	0	33
57 or above	23	7	12	0	1	43
Unknown	61	232	10	5	1	309
Total	490	297	239	9	25	1 060

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 11 – Distribution of Female Abusers by Age and by Type of Abuse

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
16 or below	1	1	2	0	0	4
17 – 21	1	0	7	0	0	8
22 – 26	4	0	23	0	2	29
27 – 31	23	0	50	0	1	74
32 – 36	64	0	47	0	3	114
37 – 41	62	2	30	0	2	96
42 – 46	43	0	20	3	3	69
47 – 51	21	0	7	0	2	30
52 – 56	5	0	1	1	0	7
57 or above	6	0	5	0	0	11
Unknown	37	12	7	2	0	58
Total	267	15	199	6	13	500

On Male Abusers

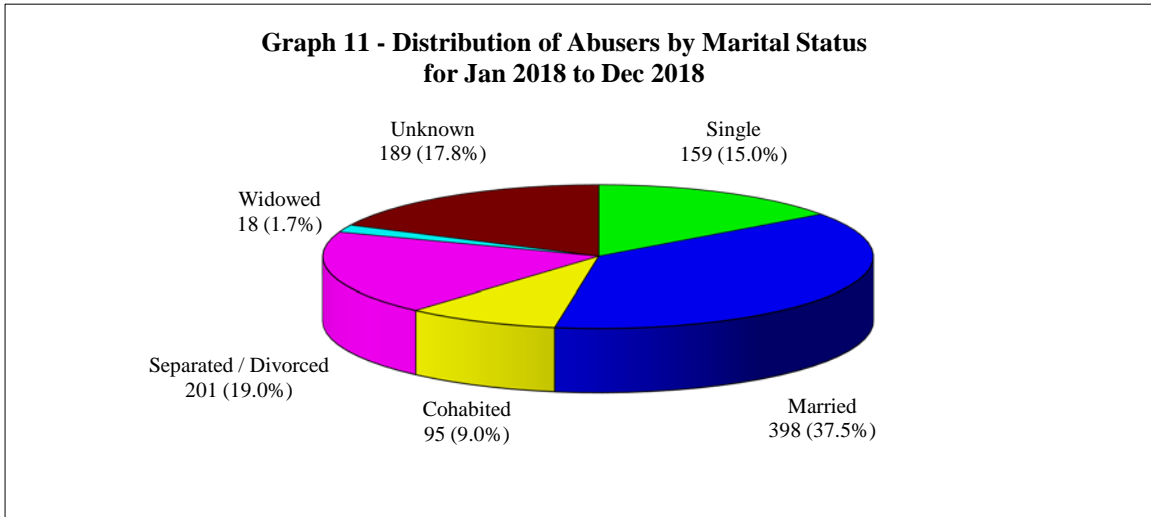
The distribution of male abusers of different age groups by type of abuse, with the highest numbers highlighted, is as follows:

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

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
16 or below	0	23	0	0	0	23
17 – 21	1	8	0	0	0	9
22 – 26	3	5	0	0	0	8
27 – 31	13	1	4	0	1	19
32 – 36	26	3	7	0	1	37
37 – 41	45	5	5	0	3	58
42 – 46	41	5	7	0	3	56
47 – 51	32	5	2	0	2	41
52 – 56	21	0	5	0	0	26
57 or above	17	7	7	0	1	32
Unknown	24	220	3	3	1	251
Total	223	282	40	3	12	560

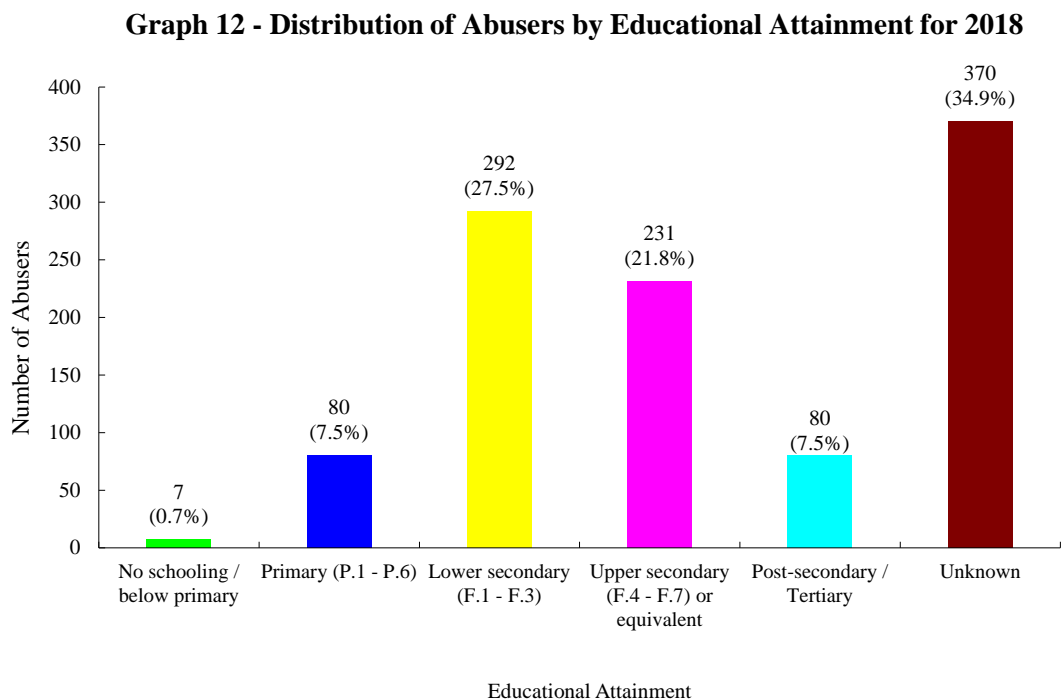
1.3.4 Marital Status of Abusers

37.5% of the 1 060 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.



1.3.5 Educational Attainment of Abusers

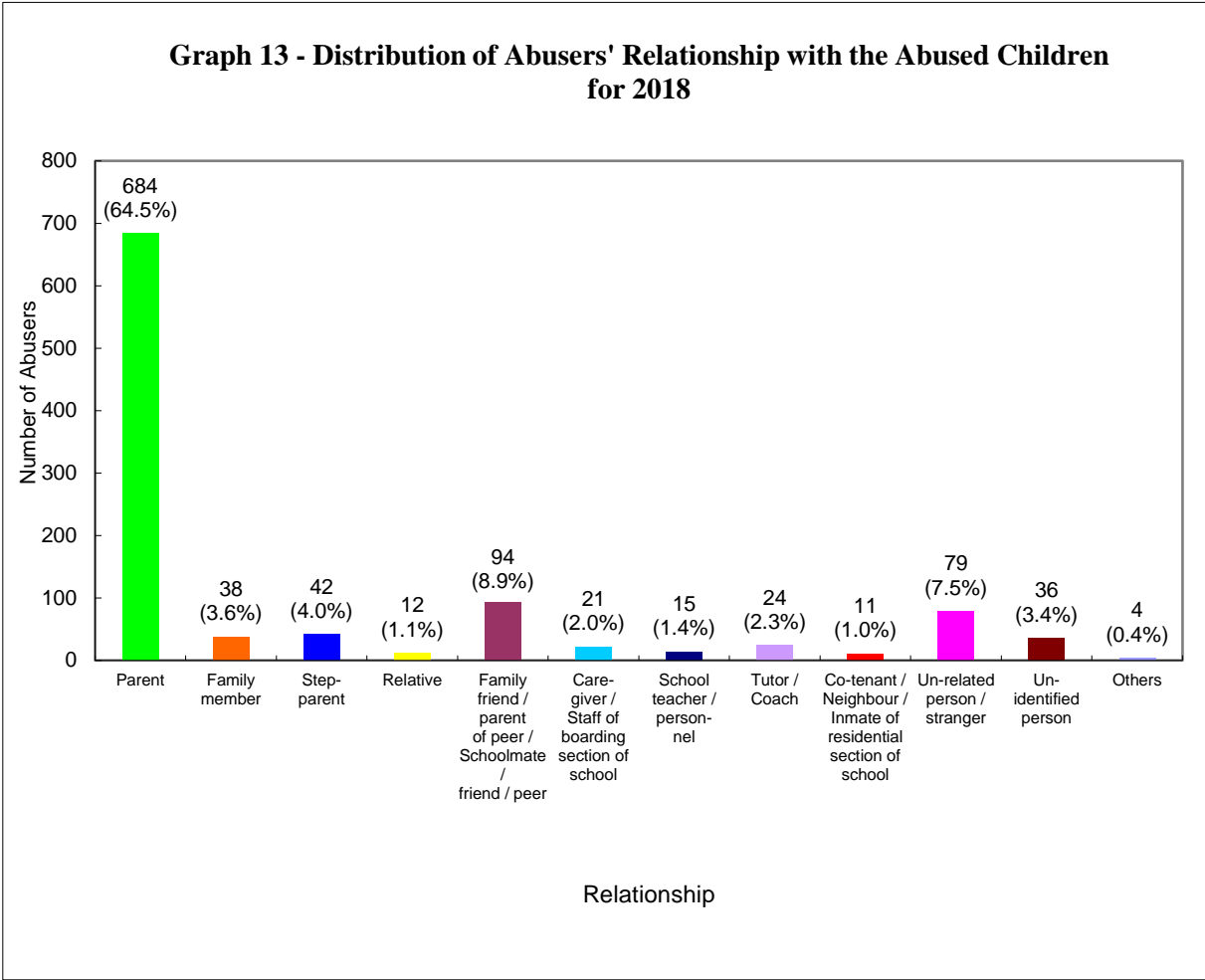
35.8% of the abusers of the newly registered cases were of lower secondary education standard or below. As some of the abusers, particularly for sexual abuse cases, could not be identified or were unrelated persons, the educational attainment of a certain proportion of the abusers was unknown.



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

1.3.6 Relationship of Abusers with Abused Children

64.5% of the abusers involved in the newly registered cases were parents of the victims. The breakdown by type of abuse, in Table 13, indicated that quite a large number of abusers in sexual abuse cases were unrelated person / stranger, family friend / parent of peer / schoolmate / friend / peer while the majority of abusers were parents of the victims in the other four types of child abuse cases. The type of abusers with the highest numbers of cases for each type of abuse are highlighted.



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

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

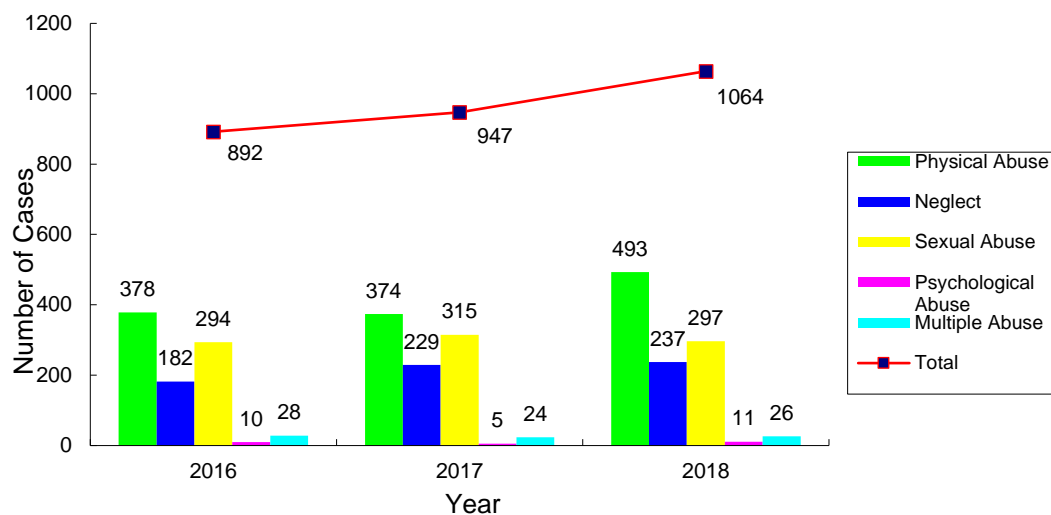
Relationship	Type of Abuse					
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	Total
Parent	410	20	223	8	23	684
Family member	14	15	8	0	1	38
Step-parent	24	16	1	0	1	42
Relative	6	6	0	0	0	12
Family friend / parent of peer / schoolmate / friend / peer	3	95	0	0	0	98
Caregiver	16	2	1	0	0	19
School teacher / personnel / Staff of boarding section of school	3	13	0	1	0	17
Tutor/coach	2	22	0	0	0	24
Co-tenant / Neighbour	0	6	1	0	0	7
Unrelated person / stranger	0	79	0	0	0	79
Unidentified person	11	20	5	0	0	36
Others	1	3	0	0	0	4
Total	490	297	239	9	25	1 060

Part 2

Comparison of Newly Registered Cases from 2016 to 2018

2.1 Type of Abuse

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



2.2 Characteristics of Child

2.2.1 Distribution of Children by Age

Table 14 – Age Distribution of Children

Year Age	2016	2017	2018
0 - 2	158 (17.7%)	222 (23.4%)	185 (17.4%)
3 - 5	104 (11.7%)	91 (9.6%)	99 (9.3%)
6 - 8	153 (17.2%)	157 (16.6%)	177 (16.6%)
9 - 11	172 (19.3%)	127 (13.4%)	227 (21.3%)
12 - 14	194 (21.7%)	212 (22.4%)	237 (22.3%)
15 - 17	111 (12.4%)	138 (14.6%)	139 (13.1%)
Total	892 (100%)	947 (100%)	1 064 (100%)

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 Type of Abuse and by Gender

Table 15 – Distribution of Children by Type of Abuse and by Gender

Type of Abuse	2016		2017		2018	
	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	No. of Girls
Physical abuse	221 (24.8%)	157 (17.6%)	211 (22.3%)	163 (17.2%)	300 (28.2%)	193 (18.1%)
Neglect	93 (10.4%)	89 (10.0%)	117 (12.4%)	112 (11.8%)	133 (12.5%)	104 (9.8%)
Sexual abuse	52 (5.8%)	242 (27.1%)	63 (6.7%)	252 (26.6%)	50 (4.7%)	247 (23.2%)
Psychological abuse	6 (0.7%)	4 (0.4%)	2 (0.2%)	3 (0.3%)	6 (0.6%)	5 (0.5%)
Multiple abuse	11 (1.2%)	17 (1.9%)	11 (1.2%)	13 (1.4%)	9 (0.8%)	17 (1.6%)
Sub-total	383 (42.9%)	509 (57.1%)	404 (42.7%)	543 (57.3%)	498 (46.8%)	566 (53.2%)
Total	892 (100%)		947 (100%)		1 064 (100%)	

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

2.3 Characteristics of Abuser

2.3.1 Distribution of Abusers by Age

Table 16 - Age Distribution of Abusers

Age \ Year	2016	2017	2018
16 or below	24 (2.6%)	30 (3.1%)	27 (2.5%)
17 - 21	17 (1.9%)	18 (1.9%)	17 (1.6%)
22 - 26	46 (5.0%)	50 (5.2%)	37 (3.5%)
27 - 31	75 (8.2%)	114 (11.9%)	93 (8.8%)
32 - 36	138 (15.1%)	122 (12.7%)	151 (14.2%)
37 - 41	109 (12.0%)	107 (11.2%)	154 (14.5%)
42 - 46	82 (9.0%)	72 (7.5%)	125 (11.8%)
47 - 51	48 (5.3%)	49 (5.1%)	71 (6.7%)
52 - 56	27 (3.0%)	25 (2.6%)	33 (3.1%)
57 or above	38 (4.2%)	32 (3.3%)	43 (4.1%)
Unknown	307 (33.7%)	338 (35.3%)	309 (29.2%)
Total	911 (100%)	957 (100%)	1 060 (100%)

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 Gender

Table 17 - Gender of Abusers

Gender \ Year	2016	2017	2018
Male	500 (54.9%)	511 (53.4%)	560 (52.8%)
Female	411 (45.1%)	446 (46.6%)	500 (47.2%)
Total	911 (100%)	957 (100%)	1 060 (100%)

2.3.3 Marital Status of Abusers

Table 18 - Marital Status of Abusers

Year	2016	2017	2018
Marital Status			
Single	156 (17.1%)	196 (20.5%)	159 (15.0%)
Married	305 (33.5%)	326 (34.1%)	398 (37.5%)
Cohabited	93 (10.2%)	94 (9.8%)	95 (9.0%)
Separated/divorced	150 (16.5%)	126 (13.2%)	201 (19.0%)
Widowed	9 (1.0%)	10 (1.0%)	18 (1.7%)
Unknown	198 (21.7%)	205 (21.4%)	189 (17.8%)
Total	911 (100%)	957 (100%)	1 060 (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		
	2016	2017	2018
No schooling/below primary	11 (1.2%)	9 (0.9%)	7 (0.7%)
Primary (P.1 - P.6)	74 (8.1%)	74 (7.7%)	80 (7.5%)
Lower secondary (F.1 - F.3)	269 (29.5%)	253 (26.4%)	292 (27.5%)
Upper secondary (F.4 - F.5)	157 (17.2%)	154 (16.1%)	219 (20.7%)
Matriculation (F.6 - F.7)	12 (1.3%)	24 (2.5%)	12 (1.1%)
Tertiary	57 (6.3%)	60 (6.3%)	80 (7.5%)
Unknown	331 (36.3%)	383 (40.0%)	370 (34.9%)
Total	911 (100%)	957 (100%)	1,060 (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 Abused Children

Table 20 - Abusers' Relationship with Abused Children

Relationship	Year		
	2016	2017	2018
Parent	534 (58.6%)	568 (59.4%)	684 (64.5%)
Family member	28 (3.1%)	18 (1.9%)	38 (3.6%)
Step-parent	46 (5.0%)	46 (4.8%)	42 (4.0%)
Relative	21 (2.3%)	23 (2.4%)	12 (1.1%)
Family friend/ Friend	94 (10.3%)	89 (9.3%)	94 (8.9%)
Caregiver	23 (2.5%)	31 (3.2%)	19 (1.8%)
Teacher/Tutor/Coach	35 (3.8%)	23 (2.4%)	41 (3.9%)
Co-tenant/Neighbour/ Inmate of residential service	14 (1.5%)	21 (2.2%)	11 (1.0%)
Unrelated person/Stranger	79 (8.7%)	107 (11.2%)	79 (7.5%)
Unidentified person/ Others	37 (4.1%)	31 (3.2%)	40 (3.8%)
Total	911 (100%)	957 (100%)	1060 (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 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 as a reward, 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 in 2018 Child abuse and at-risk of abuse cases newly registered with the Child Protection Registry in 2018.

