

Child Protection Registry

Statistical Report

2021



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 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 2021”, consists of two parts. Part 1 is on the cases registered in 2021 and Part 2 is on a comparison of newly registered cases from 2019 to 2021. In each part, general information on the cases and descriptive data on the characteristics of the children and the perpetrators are presented.

Family and Child Welfare Branch
Social Welfare Department
May 2022

Part 1

Newly Registered Cases in 2021

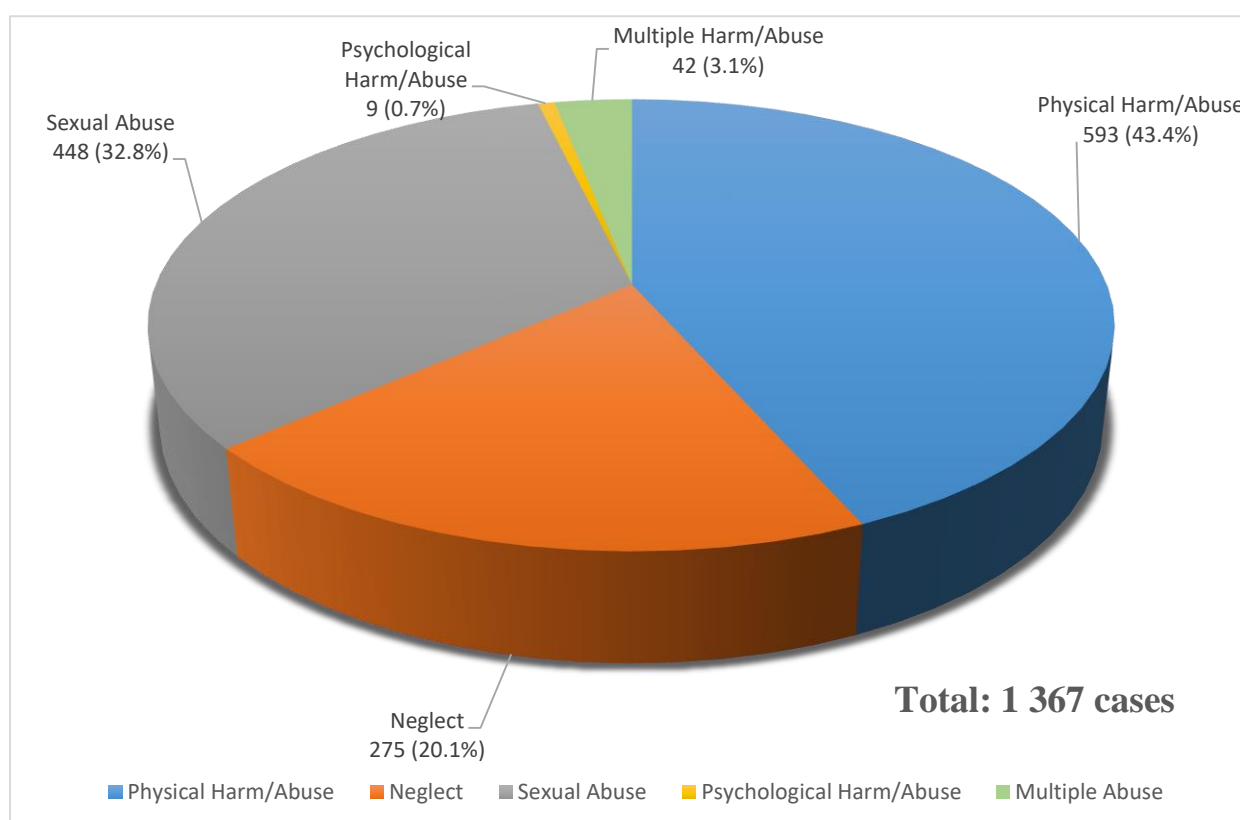
There were 1 367 newly registered cases.

1.1 General Information

1.1.1 Types of harm/maltreatment

43.4% of the newly registered cases were physical harm/abuse cases and 32.8% were sexual abuse cases. 20.1% were neglect cases. 0.7% were psychological harm/abuse cases. 3.1% were multiple harm/abuse cases.

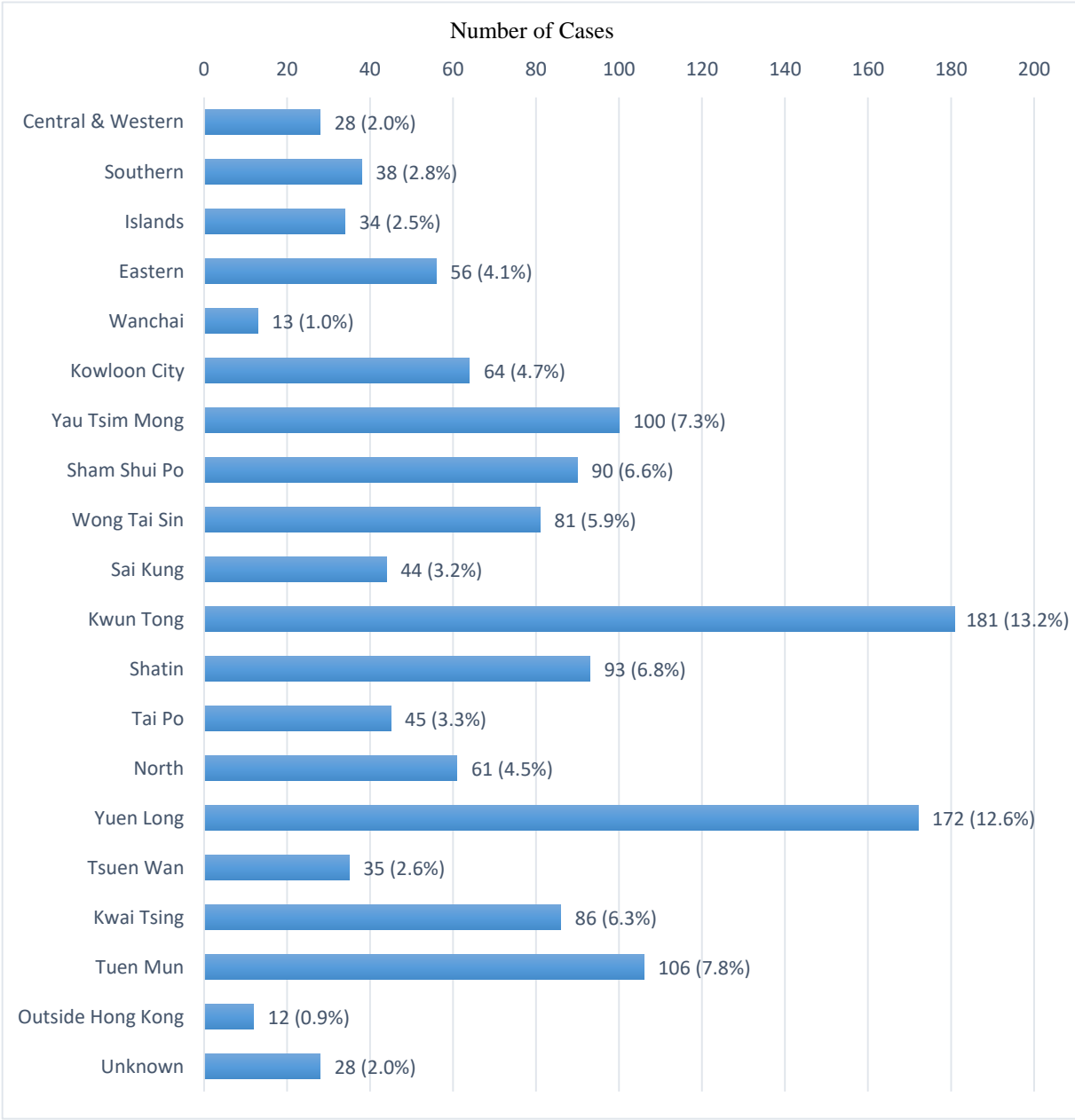
Graph 1: Distribution of Newly Registered Cases by Types of Harm/Maltreatment for 2021



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 (13.2%), Yuen Long District (12.6%), and Tuen Mun District (7.8%). 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 2021



* 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

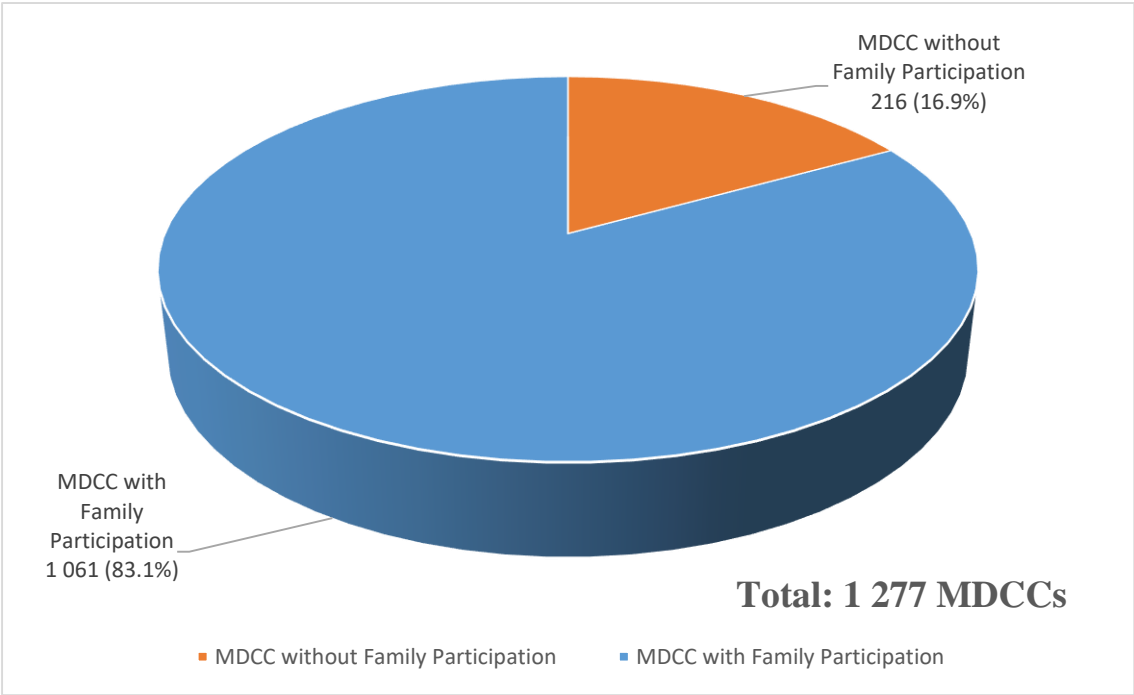
District	No. of Cases	Incidence Rate* Per 1 000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the District
Central/Western	28 (2.0%)	1.03
Southern	38 (2.8%)	1.18
Islands	34 (2.5%)	1.20
Eastern	56 (4.1%)	0.91
Wan Chai	13 (1.0%)	0.65
Kowloon City	64 (4.7%)	1.08
Yau Tsim Mong	100 (7.3%)	2.39
Sham Shui Po	90 (6.6%)	1.54
Wong Tai Sin	81 (5.9%)	1.79
Sai Kung	44 (3.2%)	0.67
Kwun Tong	181 (13.2%)	2.10
Sha Tin	93 (6.8%)	1.00
Tai Po	45 (3.3%)	1.10
North	61 (4.5%)	1.48
Yuen Long	172 (12.6%)	1.87
Tsuen Wan	35 (2.6%)	0.79
Kwai Tsing	86 (6.3%)	1.44
Tuen Mun	106 (7.8%)	1.66
Outside Hong Kong	12 (0.9%)	N.A.
Unknown	28 (2.0%)	N.A.
Total	1 367 (100%)	1.42

* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2021 conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

1.1.3 Multi-disciplinary Case Conference

Out of the 1 367 newly registered cases, multi-disciplinary case conferences (MDCCs) were conducted for 1 248 cases (91.3%). A total of 1 277 MDCCs were held for discussion about the nature of the incidents, risk level and follow-up plans for these 1 248 cases. 1 061 MDCCs (83.1%) were held with family participation.

Graph 3: Family Participation in Multi-disciplinary Case Conference for 2021



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	797 (58.3%)
Factors relating to perpetrator(s)	898 (65.7%)
Factors relating to environmental or social circumstances	701 (51.3%)
Factors relating to the precipitating incident	396 (29.0%)

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 1 367 cases in 2021.

In 2021, a larger proportion (65.7%) 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	186 (23.3%)
Behavioural problem	428 (53.7%)
Emotion / psychological problem	234 (29.4%)
Mental illness like schizophrenia, major depression, anxiety disorders, etc.	68 (8.5%)
Mental retardation including slow learning or developmental delay	61 (7.7%)
Special educational need	239 (30.0%)
Illness / physical disability	12 (1.5%)
Unwanted child / pregnancy	22 (2.8%)
Long period of separation from parents in early infancy	26 (3.3%)
Others	31 (3.9%)

Table 3b –Factors Relating to Perpetrator(s)

Factors Relating to Perpetrator(s)	No. of Newly Registered Cases with the Risk Factor
Superstitious belief	9 (1.0%)
Marital problem	197 (21.9%)
In-law relationship problem	28 (3.1%)
Emotion / psychological problem	312 (34.7%)
Mental illness / retardation	163 (18.2%)
Illness / physical disability	17 (1.9%)
Immaturity / extreme self-centredness	36 (4.0%)
Incompetence in child rearing / lack of parenting skills	451 (50.2%)
High expectation on child-in-question	131 (14.6%)
Undesirable habits (e.g. gambling, indulgence in internet surfing)	19 (2.1%)
Heavy / chronic use of drug	196 (21.8%)
Heavy / chronic use of alcohol	26 (2.9%)
Intimate partner violence	42 (4.7%)
Refuse to cooperate with professionals / evasive	85 (9.5%)
Being abuser / potential perpetrator(s) of previous child maltreatment case / case with high risk of maltreatment	61 (6.8%)
Others	29 (3.2%)

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	206 (29.4%)
Housing problem / poor living environment	119 (17.0%)
Perpetrator(s) cannot cope with Family crisis / stresses	144 (20.5%)
Lack of support system (e.g. spouse, grandparents, relatives, friends, etc.)	362 (51.6%)
Lack of community resource (e.g. day child care centre, neighbourhood support child care project, tutorial class, etc.)	69 (9.8%)
Perpetrator(s) (non-family member) can easily access to the child	183 (26.1%)
Others	13 (1.9%)

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	271 (68.4%)
Location of injury on delicate and/or extensive body parts	112 (28.3%)
Cause of injuries unknown	31 (7.8%)
Others	16 (4.0%)

1.2 Characteristics of Children

1.2.1 Distribution of Children by Sex

There were more girl (62.0%) than boy (38.0%) 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

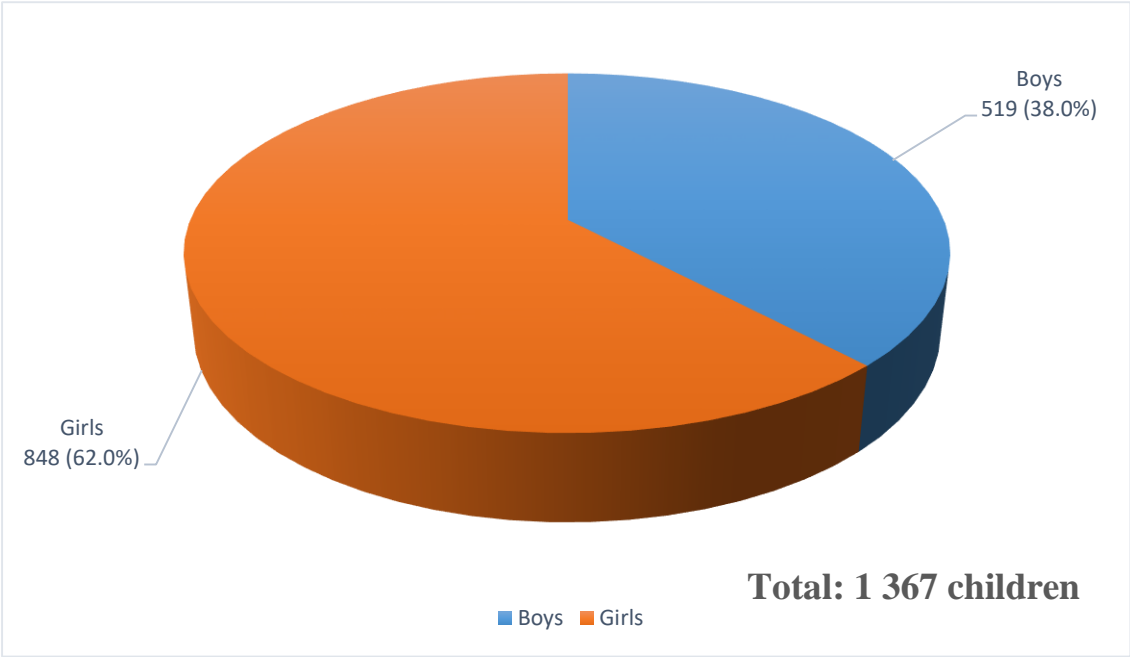


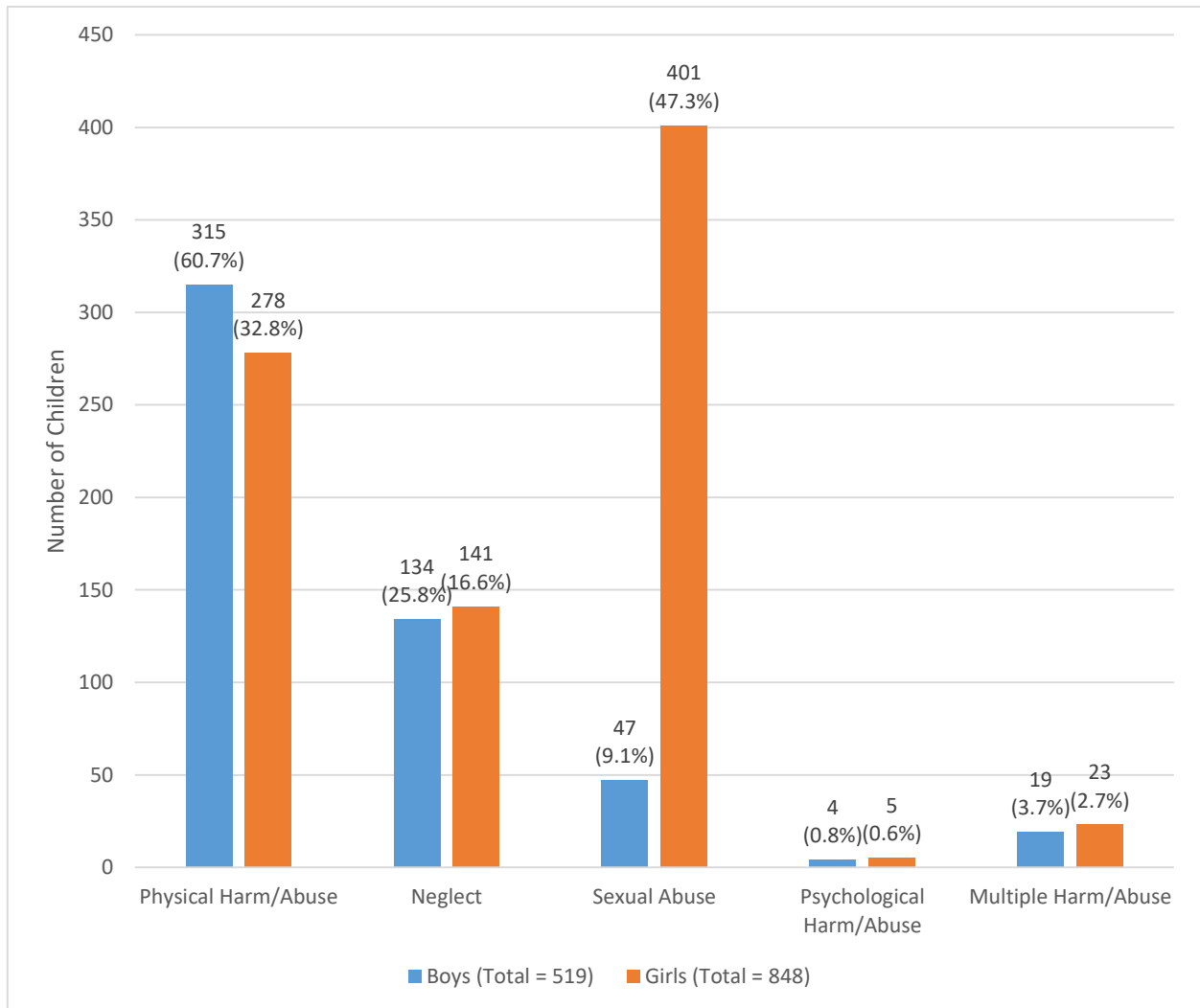
Table 4 - Distribution of Newly Registered Cases and Incidence Rate by Sex

Sex	No. of Cases	Incidence Rate* Per 1 000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the Population
Boys	519	1.05
Girls	848	1.82
Total	1 367	1.42

* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2021 conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

A breakdown of the sex of children by types of harm/maltreatment indicated that 47.3% of the girls were involved in sexual abuse cases and 32.8% were involved in physical harm/abuse cases, while 60.7% and 25.8% of the boys were respectively involved in physical harm/abuse and neglect cases.

Graph 5 - Distribution of Children by Sex and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment for 2021



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

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 (25.7%) 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 2021

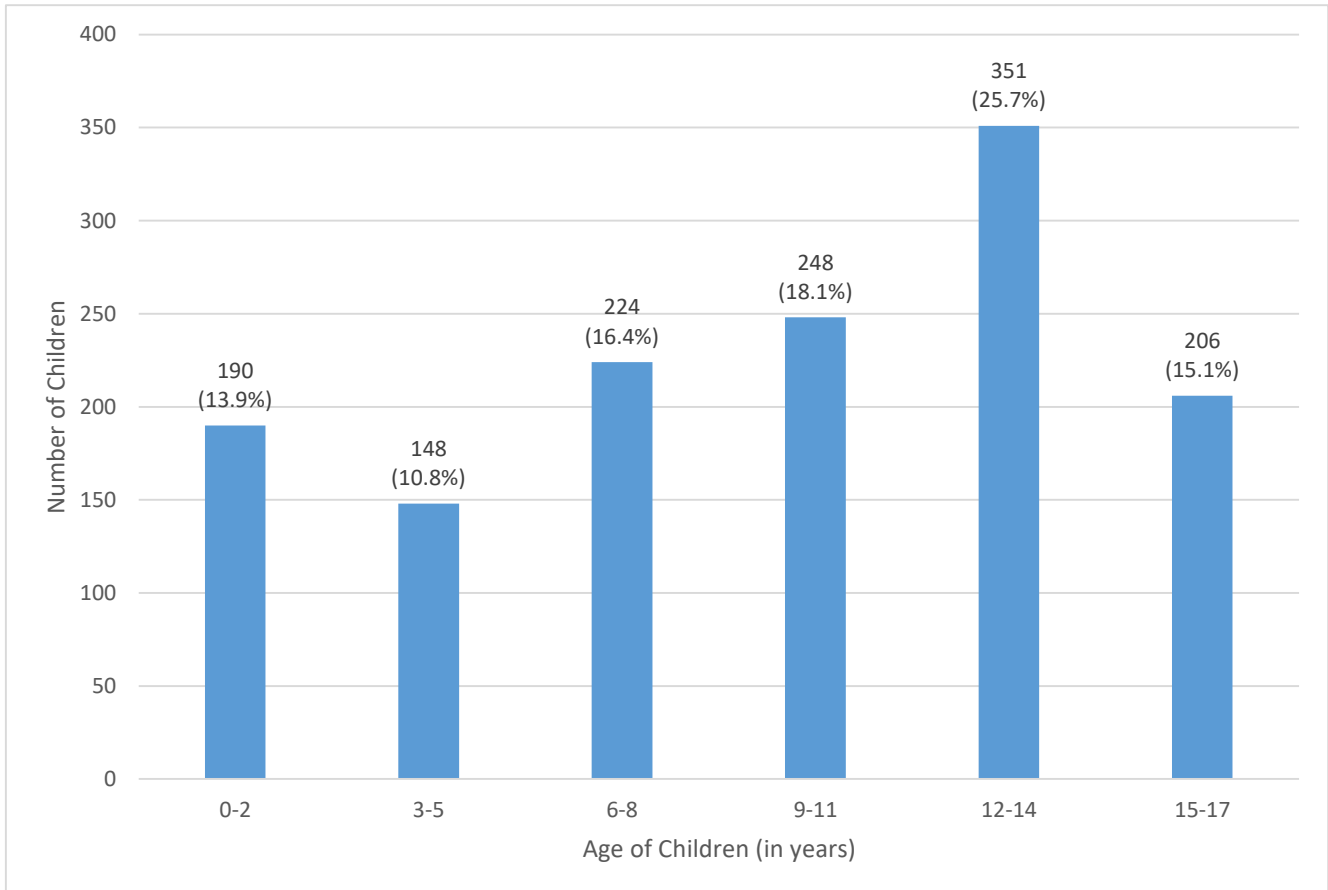


Table 5 – Distribution of Children by Age and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment

Age	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					Total
	Physical Harm/Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/Abuse	Multiple Harm/Abuse	
0 – 2	31	2	151	0	6	190
3 – 5	79	10	48	1	10	148
6 – 8	148	32	34	1	9	224
9 – 11	160	58	19	0	11	248
12 – 14	124	196	21	5	5	351
15 – 17	51	150	2	2	1	206
Total	593	448	275	9	42	1 367

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	14	2	78	0	3	97
3 – 5	36	8	24	0	6	74
6 – 8	55	30	17	0	5	107
9 – 11	72	46	11	0	5	134
12 – 14	60	175	9	4	3	251
15 – 17	41	140	2	1	1	185
Total	278	401	141	5	23	848

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	17	0	73	0	3	93
3 – 5	43	2	24	1	4	74
6 – 8	93	2	17	1	4	117
9 – 11	88	12	8	0	6	114
12 – 14	64	21	12	1	2	100
15 – 17	10	10	0	1	0	21
Total	315	47	134	4	19	519

1.2.4 Ethnicity of Children

According to the figures on the ethnicity of children newly registered, most children (95.4%) were Chinese while the total number of children of the six ethnic minorities, including Indonesian, Filipino, Indian, Pakistani, Nepalese and Thai, is 49 (3.6%) in 2021.

Table 8 - Ethnicity of Children

Ethnicity	Year	No. of Cases in 2021
Chinese		1 304 (95.4%)
Indonesian		5 (0.4%)
Filipino		15 (1.1%)
Indian		2 (0.1%)
Pakistani		18 (1.3%)
Nepalese		2 (0.1%)
Thai		7 (0.5%)
Vietnamese		1 (0.1%)
African		5 (0.4%)
British		2 (0.1%)
Japanese		1 (0.1%)
French		1 (0.1%)
Others		4 (0.3%)
Total		1 367 (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

Among the 1 367 newly registered cases in 2021, 32% (437 children) were reported to have one or more than one type of disability. 12.7% (173 children) were reported to have Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). 6.1% (83 children) were reported to have Specific Learning Difficulties while 5.9% (81 children) were reported to have mental illness.

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

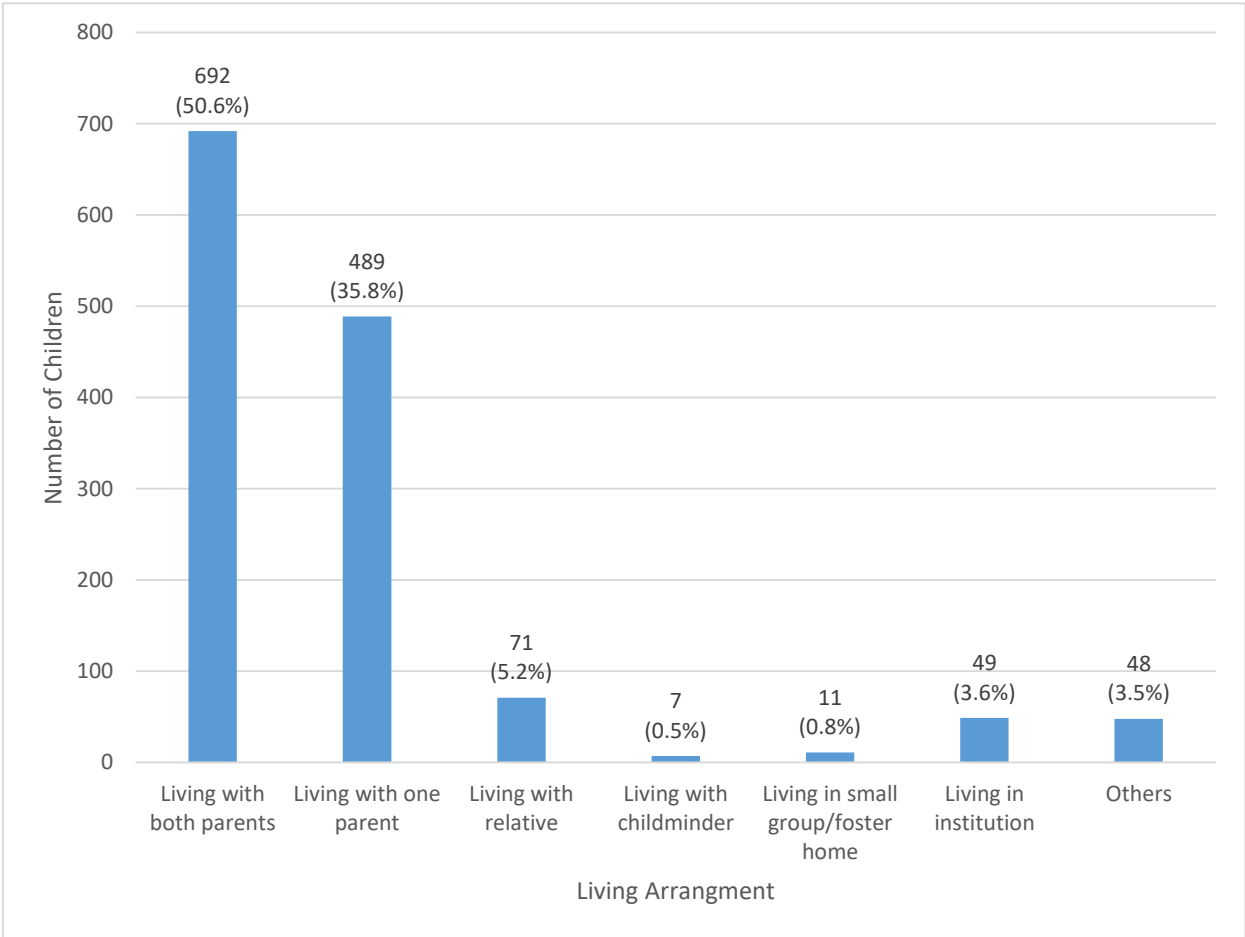
Types of Disabilities	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					Total
	Physical Harm/ Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/ Abuse	Multiple Harm/ Abuse	
Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder	115 (19.4%)	46 (10.3%)	9 (3.3%)	1 (11.1%)	2 (4.8%)	173 (12.7%)
Autism	46 (7.8%)	22 (4.9%)	5 (1.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.4%)	74 (5.4%)
Hearing Impairment	3 (0.5%)	3 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.4%)	7 (0.5%)
Intellectual Disability	26 (4.4%)	21 (4.7%)	13 (4.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	60 (4.4%)
Physical Disability	1 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (0.3%)
Mental Illness	12 (2.0%)	64 (14.3%)	1 (0.4%)	3 (33.3%)	1 (2.4%)	81 (5.9%)
Specific Learning Difficulties	39 (6.6%)	19 (4.2%)	19 (6.9%)	2 (22.2%)	4 (9.5%)	83 (6.1%)
Speech Impairment	35 (5.9%)	15 (3.3%)	20 (7.3%)	1 (11.1%)	3 (7.1%)	74 (5.4%)
Visceral Disability	1 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.1%)
Visual Impairment	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Others	9 (1.5%)	8 (1.8%)	7 (2.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.4%)	25 (1.8%)
No. of Children with Disabilities*	201 (33.9%)	134 (29.9%)	85 (30.9%)	3 (33.3%)	14 (33.3%)	437 (32.0%)
Total No. of Children by Types of harm/ maltreatment	593 (100%)	448 (100%)	275 (100%)	9 (100%)	42 (100%)	1 367 (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 593 physical harm/abuse cases, there are 201 children having one or more than one type of disability, covering 33.9% of the total number of physical harm/abuse cases. There are 115 child victims of physical harm/abuse are having ADHD, representing 19.4% of the total number of physical harm/abuse cases.

1.2.6 Living Arrangement of Children

Among the 1 367 newly registered cases, 86.4% of the children were living with either both parents or one parent whereas 4.4% 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 2021



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

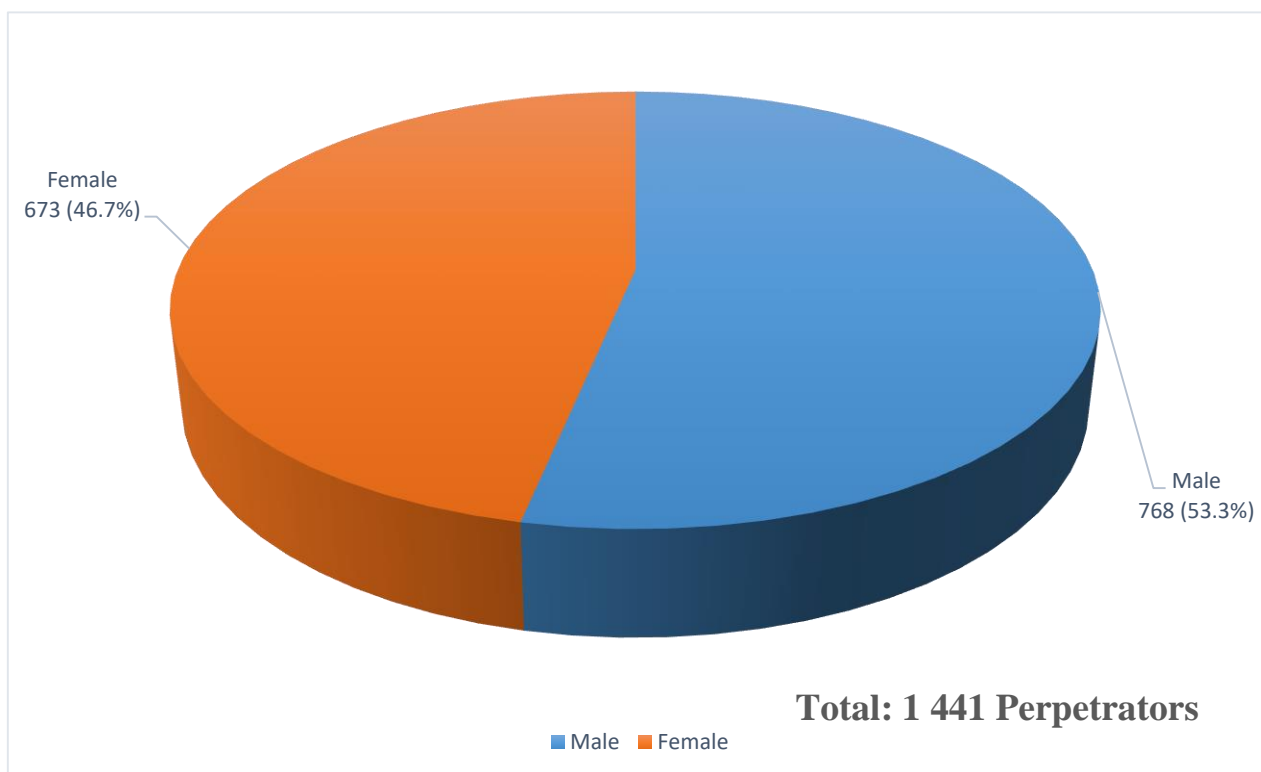
1.3 Characteristics of Perpetrators³

There were 1 367 children and 1 441 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

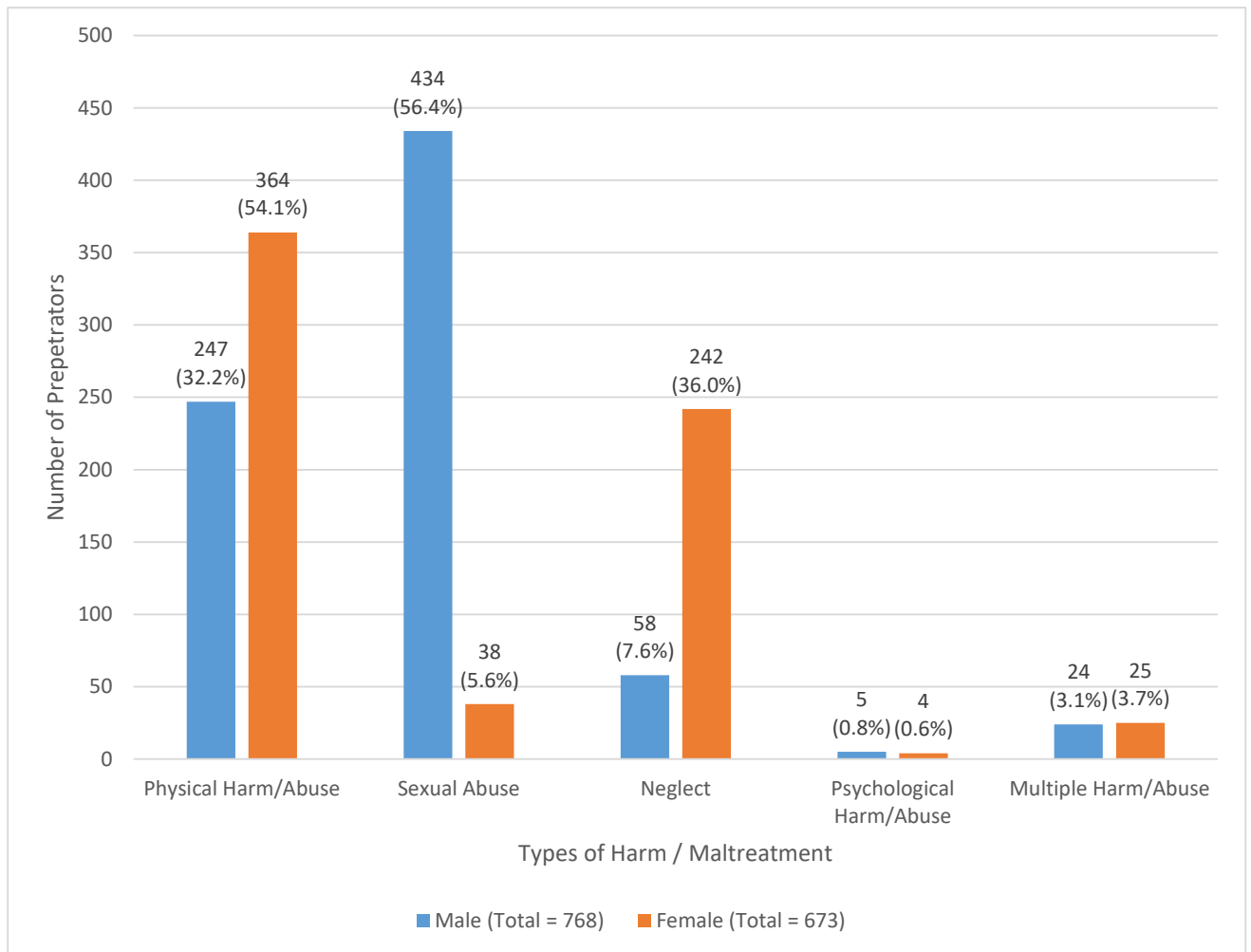
There were more male perpetrators (768 persons/53.3%) than female perpetrators (673 persons/46.7%) involved in the newly registered cases. The number of male perpetrators involved in sexual abuse cases was far more than the number of female perpetrators. For physical harm/abuse cases and neglect cases, there were more female perpetrators than male perpetrators.

Graph 8 - Distribution of Perpetrators by Sex for 2021



³ Perpetrators means perpetrator / alleged perpetrator

Graph 9 - Distribution of Perpetrators by Sex and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment for 2021



Note: Figure in brackets represents the percentage in respect of the corresponding groups (total number of male/female perpetrators).

1.3.2 Distribution of Perpetrators by Age

39.1% 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 2021

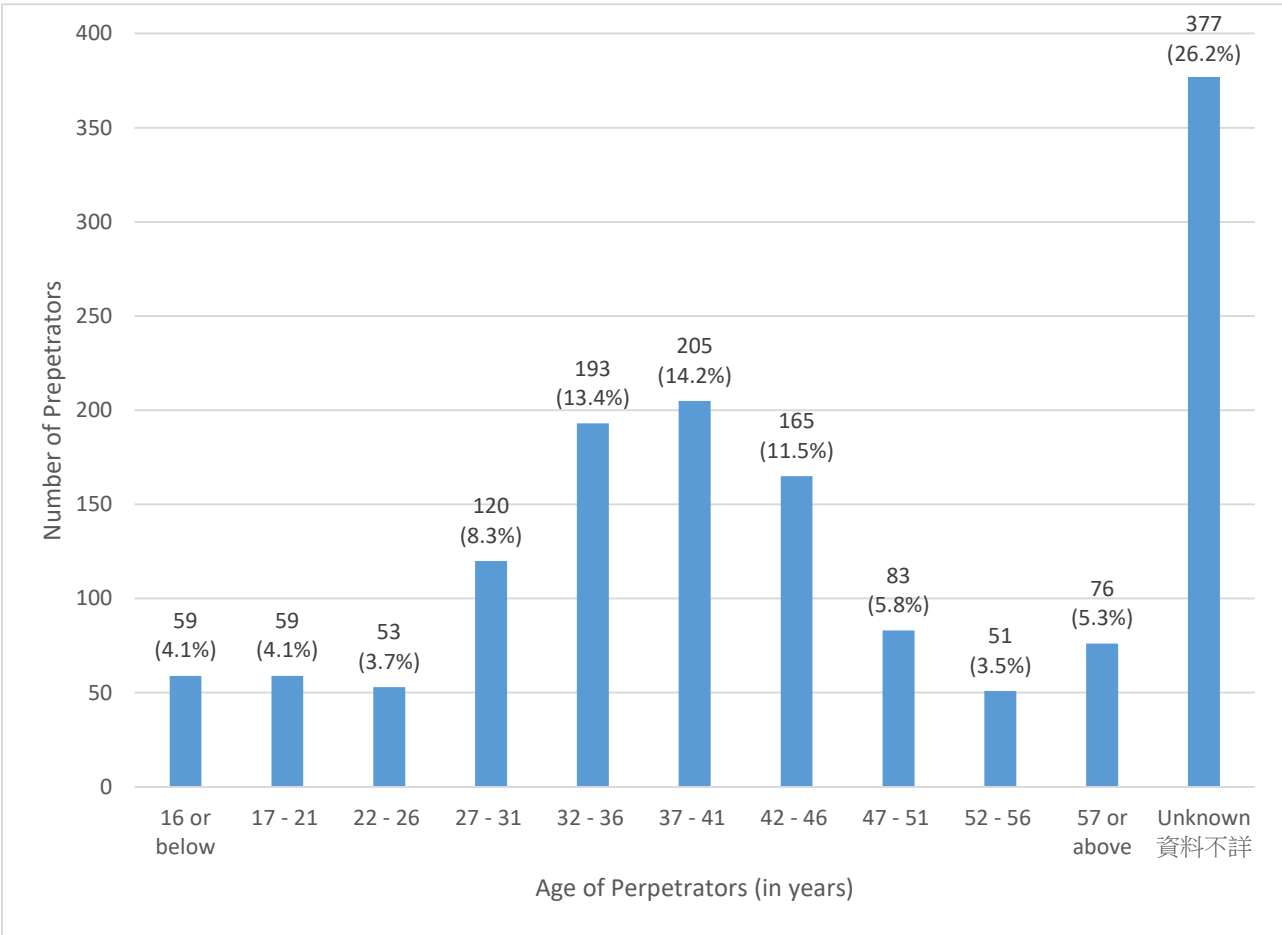


Table 10 –Distribution of Perpetrators by Age and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment for 2021

Age	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					Total
	Physical Harm/Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/Abuse	Multiple Harm/Abuse	
16 or below	0	56	3	0	0	59
17 – 21	4	46	7	0	2	59
22 – 26	13	13	26	0	1	53
27 – 31	52	9	52	1	6	120
32 – 36	92	12	76	1	12	193
37 – 41	135	11	54	1	4	205
42 – 46	107	9	38	0	11	165
47 – 51	58	5	12	3	5	83
52 – 56	37	6	7	0	1	51
57 or above	48	12	12	3	1	76
Unknown	65	293	13	0	6	377
Total	611	472	300	9	49	1 441

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	3	3	0	0	6
17 – 21	3	0	7	0	2	12
22 – 26	9	0	23	0	0	32
27 – 31	29	1	49	0	5	84
32 – 36	69	0	63	1	7	140
37 – 41	95	0	42	0	3	140
42 – 46	66	0	27	0	4	97
47 – 51	31	0	7	2	1	41
52 – 56	8	3	2	0	0	13
57 or above	13	0	8	1	0	22
Unknown	41	31	11	0	3	86
Total	364	38	242	4	25	673

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:

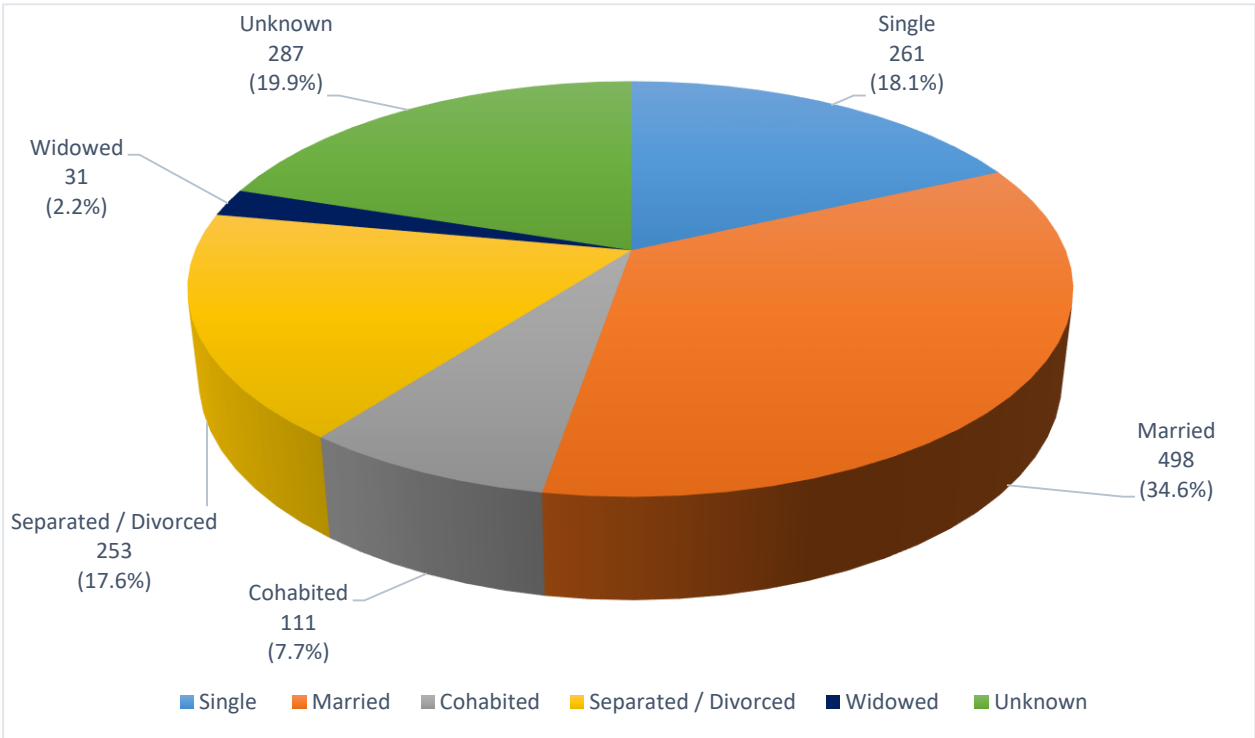
Table 12 – Distribution of Male Perpetrators by Age and by Types of Harm/Maltreatment

Age	Types of Harm/Maltreatment					Total
	Physical Harm/Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/Abuse	Multiple Harm/Abuse	
16 or below	0	53	0	0	0	53
17 – 21	1	46	0	0	0	47
22 – 26	4	13	3	0	1	21
27 – 31	23	8	3	1	1	36
32 – 36	23	12	13	0	5	53
37 – 41	40	11	12	1	1	65
42 – 46	41	9	11	0	7	68
47 – 51	27	5	5	1	4	42
52 – 56	29	3	5	0	1	38
57 or above	35	12	4	2	1	54
Unknown	24	262	2	0	3	291
Total	247	434	58	5	24	768

1.3.4 Marital Status of Perpetrators

34.6% of the 1 441 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.

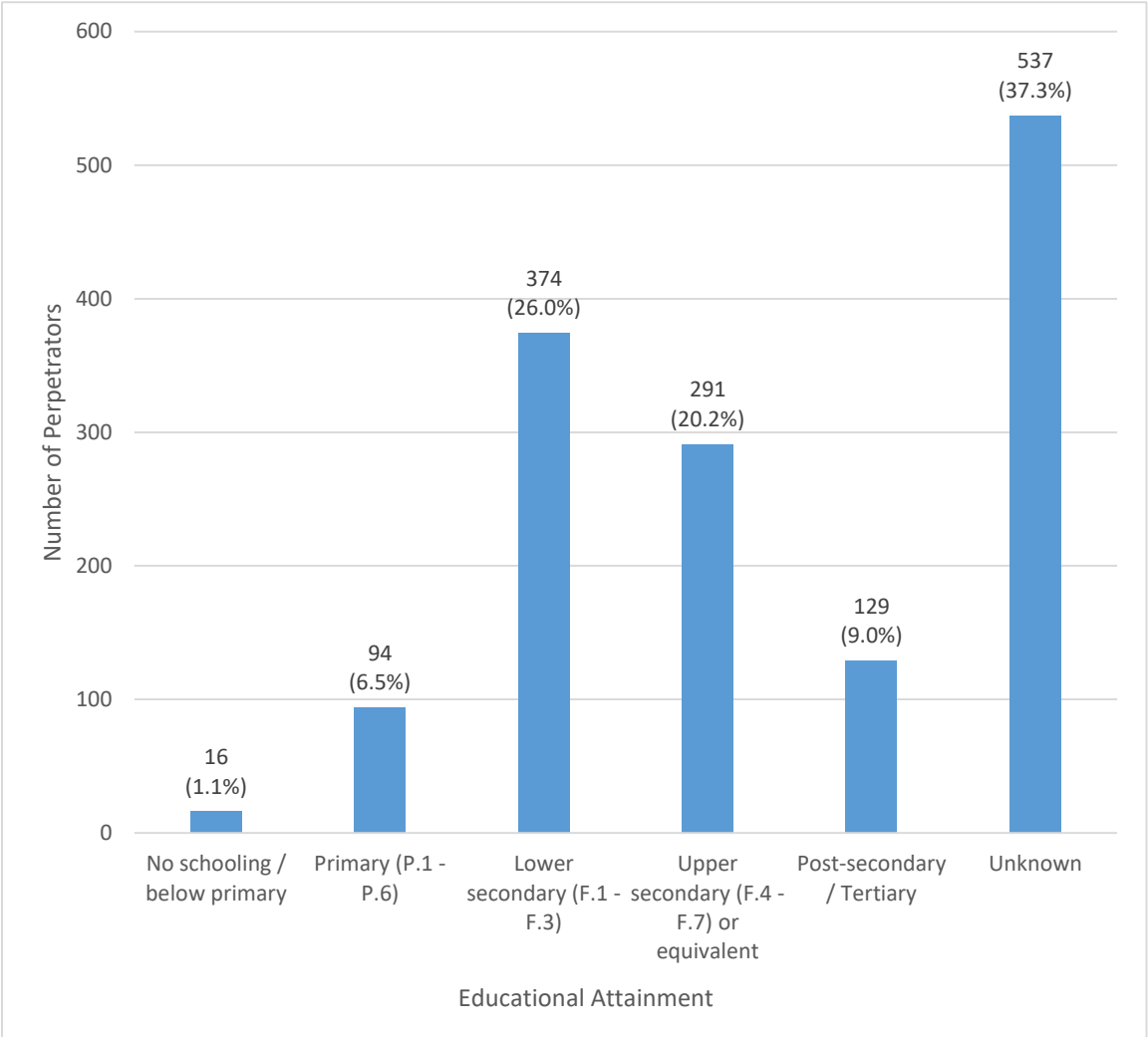
Graph 11 - Distribution of Perpetrators by Marital Status for 2021



1.3.5 Educational Attainment of Perpetrators

33.6% 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 2021

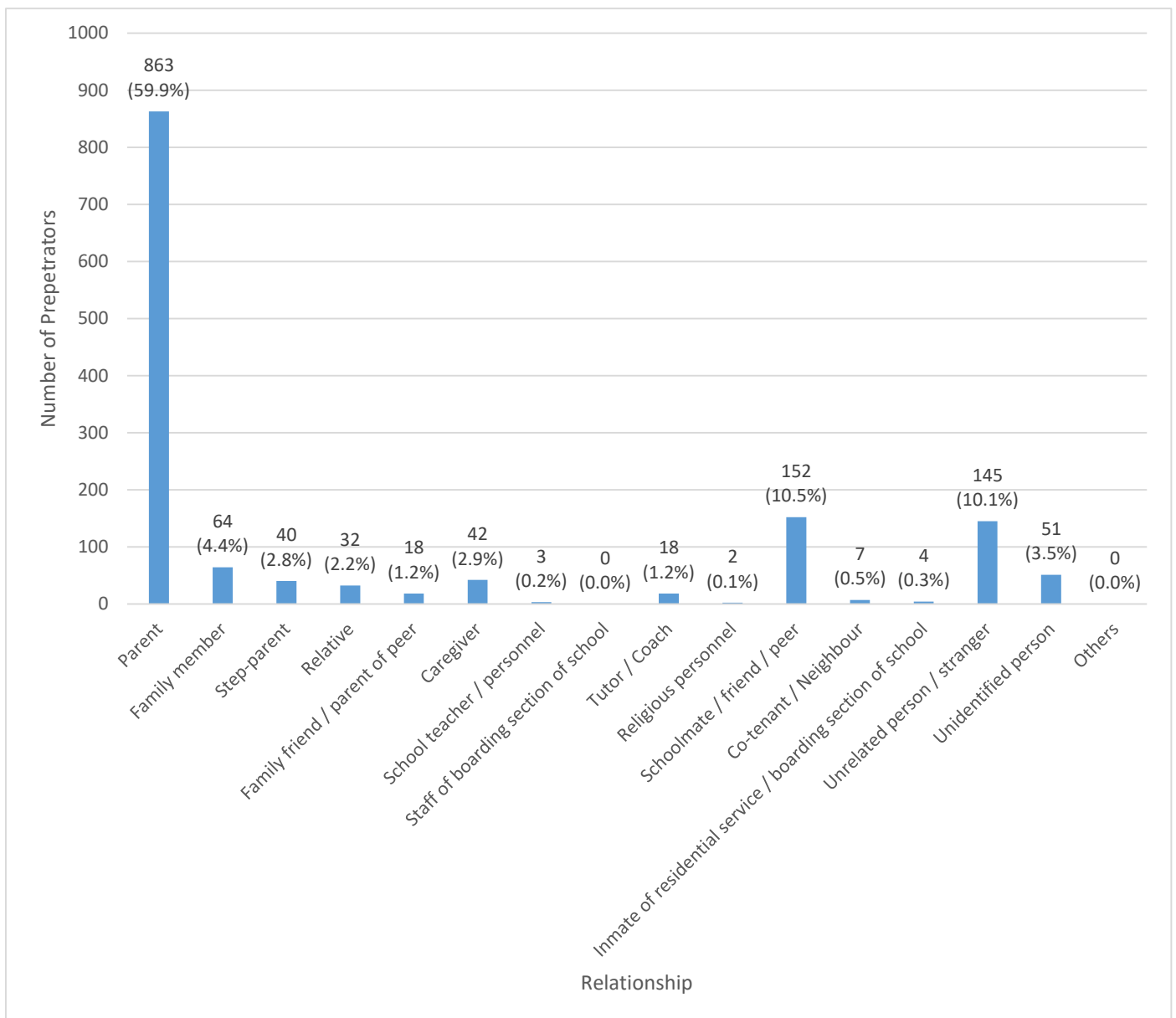


Owing to rounding effect, the total percentage may not add up to 100 as shown in the table.

1.3.6 Relationship of Perpetrators and Children

59.9% of the perpetrators involved in the newly registered cases were parents of the children. Among the 472 perpetrators involved in sexual abuse, 31.8% of them were schoolmate / friend / peer 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 2021



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					Total
	Physical Harm/ Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Psychological Harm/Abuse	Multiple Harm/ Abuse	
Parent	490	36	285	8	44	863
Family member	29	28	6	1	0	64
Step-parent	29	9	1	0	1	40
Relative	17	13	2	0	0	32
Family friend / parent of peer	6	12	0	0	0	18
Caregiver	31	8	2	0	1	42
School teacher / personnel	0	3	0	0	0	3
Staff of boarding section of school	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tutor / Coach	3	13	0	0	2	18
Religious personnel	0	2	0	0	0	2
Schoolmate / friend / peer	1	150	0	0	1	152
Co-tenant / Neighbour	0	7	0	0	0	7
Inmate of residential service / boarding section of school	0	4	0	0	0	4
Unrelated person / stranger	0	145	0	0	0	145
Unidentified person	5	42	4	0	0	51
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total*	611	472	300	9	49	1 441

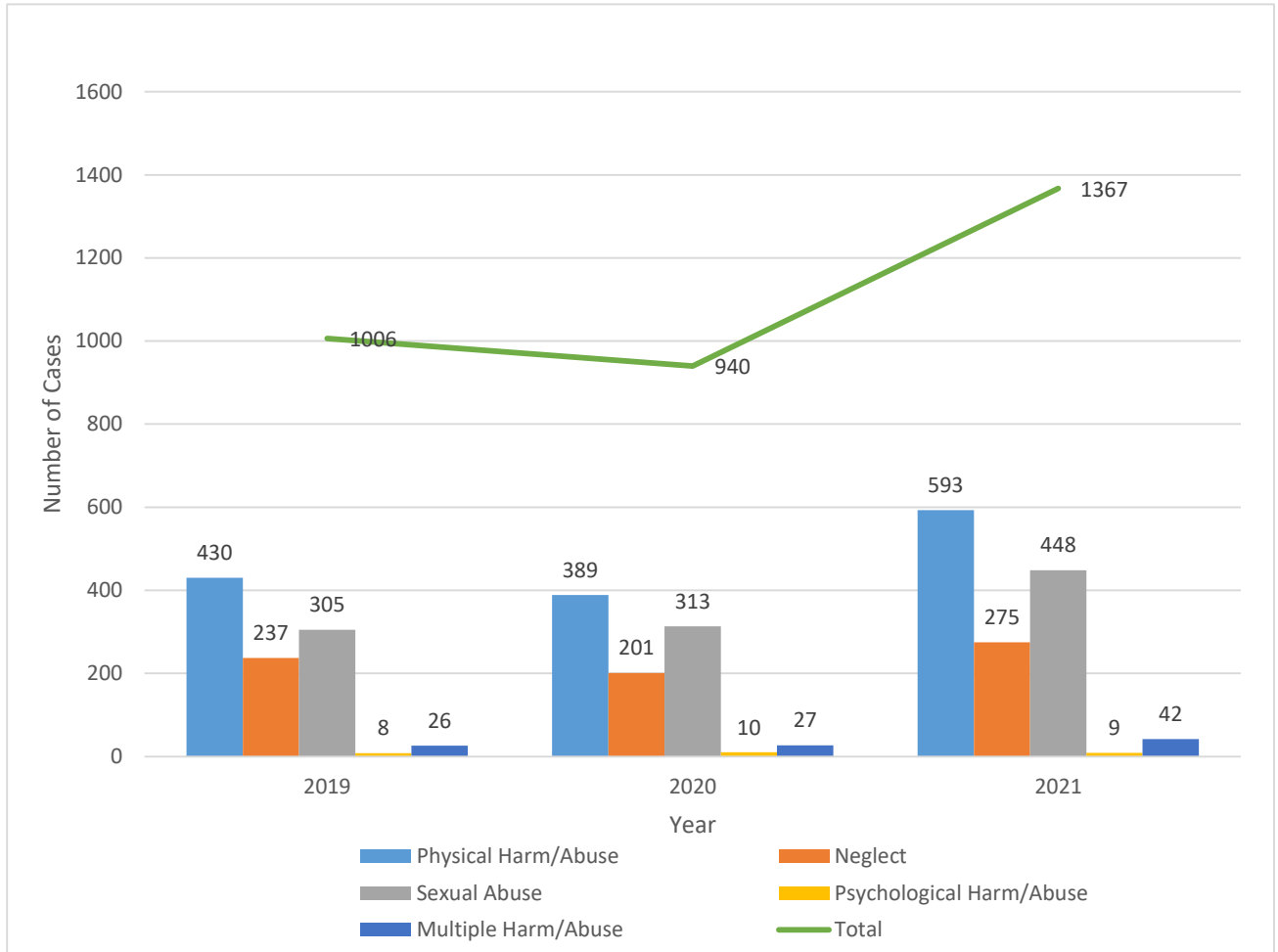
* The total number of perpetrators did not equal to the total number of children in child protection cases as one perpetrator might have harmed/maltreated more than one child whereas one child could be harmed/maltreated by more than one perpetrator.

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 2019 to 2021

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	Year		
	2019	2020	2021
0 - 2	170 (16.9%)	173 (18.4%)	190 (13.9%)
3 - 5	98 (9.7%)	96 (10.2%)	148 (10.8%)
6 - 8	180 (17.9%)	143 (15.2%)	224 (16.4%)
9 - 11	181 (18.0%)	138 (14.7%)	248 (18.1%)
12 - 14	239 (23.8%)	245 (26.1%)	351 (25.7%)
15 - 17	138 (13.7%)	145 (15.4%)	206 (15.1%)
Total	1 006 (100%)	940 (100%)	1 367 (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 Types of Harm/Maltreatment and by Sex

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

Types of Harm/ Maltreatment	2019		2020		2021	
	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	No. of Girls
Physical harm/abuse	253 (25.1%)	177 (17.6%)	240 (25.5%)	149 (15.9%)	315 (23.0%)	278 (20.3%)
Neglect	129 (12.8%)	108 (10.7%)	101 (10.7%)	100 (10.6%)	134 (9.8%)	141 (10.3%)
Sexual abuse	43 (4.3%)	262 (26.0%)	52 (5.5%)	261 (27.8%)	47 (3.4%)	401 (29.3%)
Psychological harm/abuse	6 (0.6%)	2 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)	9 (1.0%)	4 (0.3%)	5 (0.4%)
Multiple harm/abuse	10 (1.0%)	16 (1.6%)	10 (1.1%)	17 (1.8%)	19 (1.4%)	23 (1.7%)
Sub-total	441 (43.8%)	565 (56.2%)	404 (43.0%)	536 (57.0%)	519 (38.0%)	848 (62.0%)
Total	1 006 (100%)		940 (100%)		1 367 (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	2019	2020	2021
16 or below	35 (3.4%)	40 (4.1%)	59 (4.1%)
17 - 21	32 (3.1%)	35 (3.6%)	59 (4.1%)
22 - 26	44 (4.3%)	47 (4.8%)	53 (3.7%)
27 - 31	79 (7.7%)	98 (10.0%)	120 (8.3%)
32 - 36	131 (12.8%)	114 (11.7%)	193 (13.4%)
37 - 41	136 (13.3%)	137 (14.0%)	205 (14.2%)
42 - 46	104 (10.1%)	92 (9.4%)	165 (11.5%)
47 - 51	80 (7.8%)	63 (6.4%)	83 (5.8%)
52 - 56	37 (3.6%)	27 (2.8%)	51 (3.5%)
57 or above	41 (4.0%)	52 (5.3%)	76 (5.3%)
Unknown	306 (29.9%)	272 (27.8%)	377 (26.2%)
Total	1 025 (100%)	977 (100%)	1 441 (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 Perpetrators by Sex

Table 17 - Sex of Perpetrators

Sex \ Year	2019	2020	2021
Male	563 (54.9%)	542 (55.5%)	768 (53.3%)
Female	462 (45.1%)	435 (44.5%)	673 (46.7%)
Total	1 025 (100%)	977 (100%)	1 441 (100%)

2.3.3 Marital Status of Perpetrators

Table 18 - Marital Status of Perpetrators

Year	2019	2020	2021
Marital Status			
Single	199 (19.4%)	171 (17.5%)	261 (18.1%)
Married	347 (33.9%)	319 (32.7%)	498 (34.6%)
Cohabited	110 (10.7%)	108 (11.1%)	111 (7.7%)
Separated/divorced	173 (16.9%)	163 (16.7%)	253 (17.6%)
Widowed	13 (1.3%)	18 (1.8%)	31 (2.2%)
Unknown	183 (17.9%)	198 (20.3%)	287 (19.9%)
Total	1 025 (100%)	977 (100%)	1 441 (100%)

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	2019	2020	2021
Educational Attainment			
No schooling/below primary	8 (0.8%)	8 (0.8%)	16 (1.1%)
Primary (P.1 - P.6)	101 (9.9%)	59 (6.0%)	94 (6.5%)
Lower secondary (F.1 - F.3)	273 (26.6%)	267 (27.3%)	374 (26.0%)
Upper secondary (F.4 - F.7) or equivalent	229 (22.3%)	198 (20.3%)	291 (20.2%)
Post-secondary / Tertiary	82 (8.0%)	94 (9.6%)	129 (9.0%)
Unknown	332 (32.4%)	351 (35.9%)	537 (37.3%)
Total	1 025 (100%)	977 (100%)	1 441 (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 Perpetrators with Children

Table 20 - Perpetrators' Relationship with Children

Relationship \ Year	2019	2020	2021
Parent	648 (63.2%)	583 (59.7%)	863 (59.9%)
Family member	38 (3.7%)	39 (4.0%)	64 (4.4%)
Step-parent	35 (3.4%)	46 (4.7%)	40 (2.8%)
Relative	18 (1.8%)	17 (1.7%)	32 (2.2%)
Family friend/ parent of peer	9 (0.9%)	10 (1.0%)	18 (1.2%)
Caregiver	14 (1.4%)	15 (1.5%)	42 (2.9%)
School teacher/ Personnel	18 (1.8%)	16 (1.6%)	3 (0.2%)
Staff of boarding section of school	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Tutor/ Coach	22 (2.1%)	19 (1.9%)	18 (1.2%)
Religious personnel	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)
School-mate/ Friend/ peer	111 (10.8%)	89 (9.1%)	152 (10.5%)
Co-tenant/Neighbour/	7 (0.7%)	7 (0.7%)	7 (0.5%)
Inmate of residential service/ boarding section of school	3 (0.3%)	5 (0.5%)	4 (0.3%)
Unrelated person/Stranger	75 (7.3%)	104 (10.6%)	145 (10.1%)
Unidentified person	22 (2.1%)	25 (2.6%)	51 (3.5%)
Others	3 (0.3%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	1 025 (100%)	977 (100%)	1 441 (100%)

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

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	[* 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 Abuse
(In Procedural Guide 2015)**

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

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

child to receive innumerable 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**

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

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

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.]

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

various means for gaining his/her 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

**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

fails to receive treatment for drug /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

**Child Abuse
(In Procedural Guide 2015**

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

immune deficiency syndrome
(commonly known as “AIDS”)]

(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.

• **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 Abuse**

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

• **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 Newly registered cases include cases involving children having been harmed/maltreated or currently at risk of harm/maltreatment.