

Child Protection Registry

Statistical Report

2012

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Foreword

The Child Protection Registry (CPR) has been computerized 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. Both the service units of SWD and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) can register child abuse cases handled by them with the CPR. Following the review of the CPR and the revision of the data input forms adopted for reporting child abuse cases to the CPR, the CPR was enhanced in January 2003 to capture more information on the 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 2012”, consists of two parts. Part 1 is on cases newly registered in 2012 [new cases 2012] and Part 2 comprises comparison tables on cases newly registered from 2010 to 2012 [comparison of new cases from 2010 to 2012]. 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
November 2013

Part 1

New Cases 2012

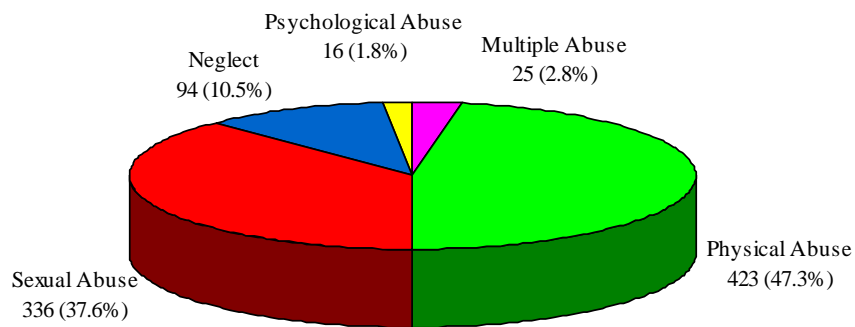
There were 894 newly registered cases.

1.1 General Information

1.1.1 Type of Abuse

47.3% of the newly registered cases were physical abuse cases and 37.6% were sexual abuse cases.

Graph 1 - Distribution of Newly Registered Cases by Type of Abuses for 2012

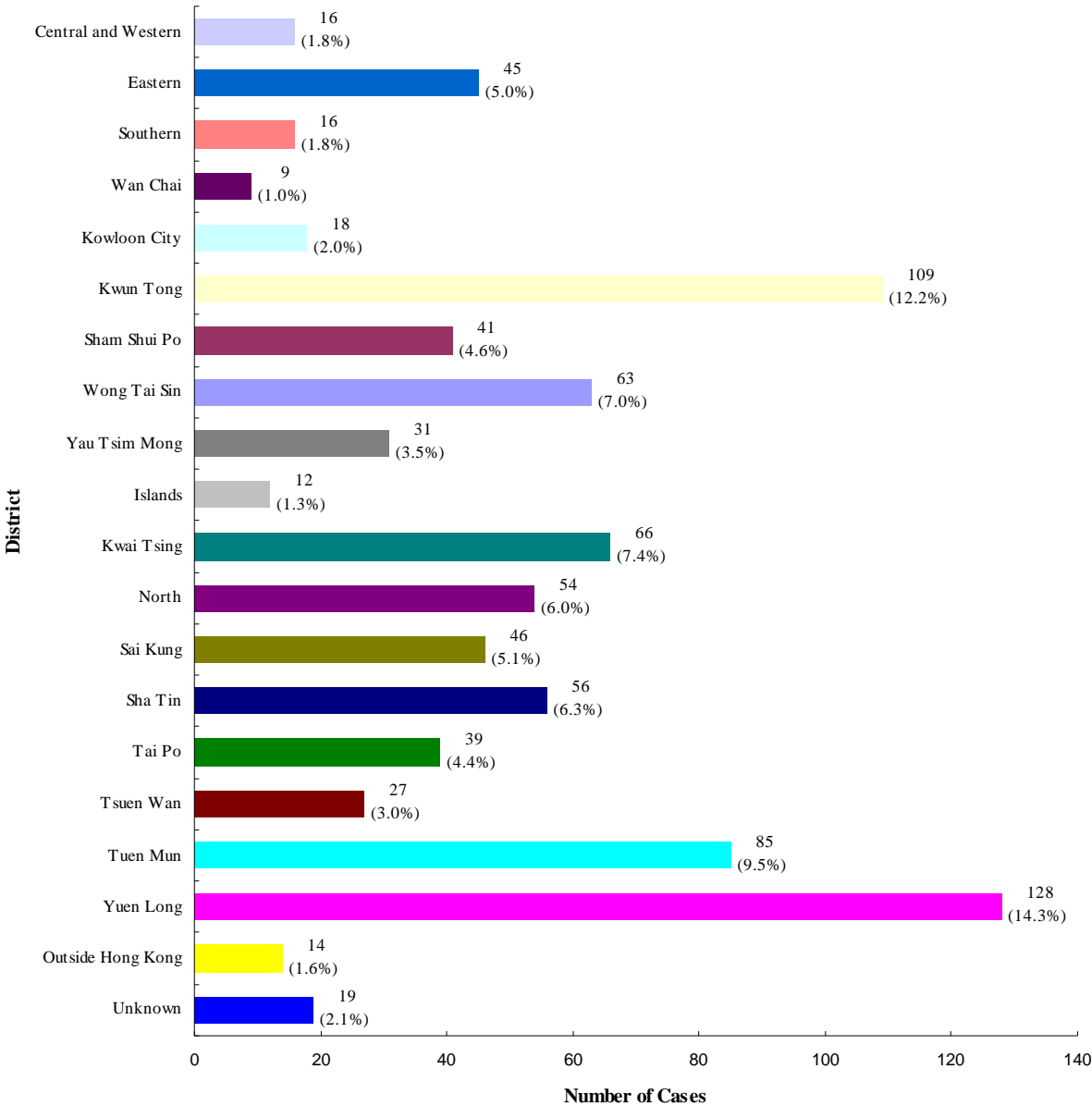


Total: 894 cases

1.1.2 District Distribution*

The three districts with the highest percentage of the newly registered cases were Yuen Long District (14.3%), Kwun Tong District (12.2%) and Tuen Mun District (9.5%). 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 2012



* District distribution refers to cases captured according to the district where the abuse incidents took place.

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

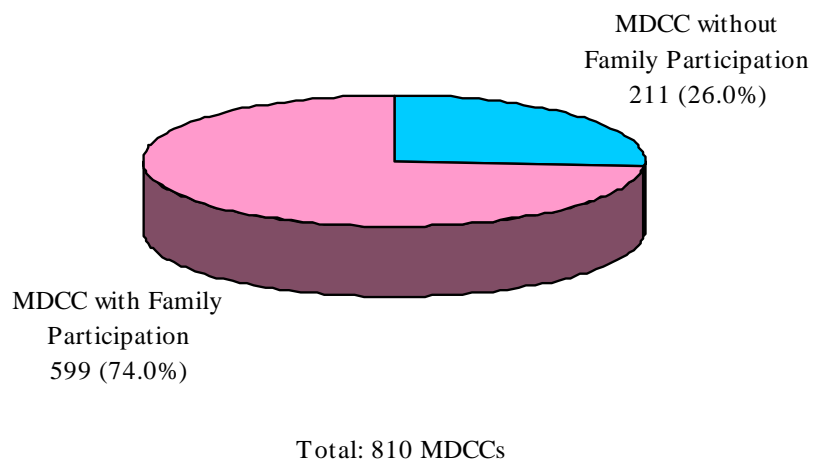
District	No. of Cases	Incidence Rate* Per 1,000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the District
Central/Western	16	0.46
Eastern	45	0.57
Southern	16	0.40
Wan Chai	9	0.46
Kowloon City	18	0.32
Kwun Tong	109	1.15
Sham Shui Po	41	0.72
Wong Tai Sin	63	1.09
Yau Tsim Mong	31	0.66
Islands	12	0.44
Kwai Tsing	66	0.90
North	54	1.11
Sai Kung	46	0.65
Sha Tin	56	0.64
Tai Po	39	0.98
Tsuen Wan	27	0.57
Tuen Mun	85	1.20
Yuen Long	128	1.24
Outside Hong Kong	14	NA
Unknown	19	NA
Total	894	0.85

* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2012 conducted by Census and Statistics Department.

1.1.3 Multi-disciplinary Case Conference

Out of the 894 newly registered child abuse cases, multi-disciplinary case conferences (MDCCs) had been conducted for 794 cases (88.8%). A total of 810 MDCCs were held for discussion about the nature of the incidents, risk level and welfare plans of these 794 cases. 74.0% of the 810 MDCCs were held with the participation of the victims' family members.

Graph 3 - Family Participation in Multi-disciplinary Case Conference for 2012



1.1.4 Contributing Factors of Abuse

Child abuse cases were associated with a number of contributing factors. These contributing factors were categorized 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. The list of contributing factors under each subgroup is appended below :

- a) Factors relating to the abused child/child-at-risk
 1. School performance problem
 2. Behaviour problem
 3. Emotional/psychological problem
 4. Mental illness/retardation including slow learning or developmental delay
 5. Illness/physical disability
 6. Unwanted child/pregnancy
 7. Long period of separation from parents in early infancy

- b) Factors relating to abuser/suspected abuser
 1. Superstitious belief
 2. Marital problem
 3. In-law relationship problem
 4. Emotional/psychological problem
 5. Mental illness/retardation including slow learning or developmental delay
 6. Illness/physical disability
 7. Immaturity/extreme self-centredness
 8. Incompetence in child rearing/lack of parenting skills
 9. High expectation on child-in-question
 10. Undesirable hobbies

- c) Factors relating to environmental or social circumstances
 1. Financial difficulty/unemployment
 2. Housing problem
 3. Family crisis/stresses not coped with by abuser/suspected abuser/potential abuser
 4. Lack of support system
 5. Lack of community resources

- d) Factors relating to parent(s)/carer(s) where parent(s)/carer(s) is/are not abuser
 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

Contributing Factors	No. of Newly Registered Cases Associated with the Contributing Factors (Note)
Factors relating to abused child/child-at-risk	525 (58.7%)
Factors relating to abuser/suspected abuser	625 (69.9%)
Factors relating to environmental or social circumstances	372 (41.6%)
Factors relating to parent(s)/carer(s) where parent(s)/carer(s) is/are not abuser	437 (48.9%)

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 the total 894 cases.

A larger proportion of the child abuse cases was associated with contributing factors relating to the abuser/suspected abuser. Among the ten factors relating to the abuser/suspected abuser, incompetence in child rearing/lack of parenting skills was the most usual contributing factor (331 cases, 53.0% of the total 625 cases), followed by emotional/psychological problem (234 cases, 37.4%) and marital problem (144 cases, 23.0%). Among the seven factors relating to the abused child/child-at-risk, behaviour problem was the most frequent contributing factor (363 cases, 69.1% of the total 525 cases), followed by school performance problem (145 cases, 27.6%) and emotional/psychological problem (82 cases, 15.6%).

1.2 Child Characteristics

1.2.1 Distribution of Children by Gender

There were more girl victims (63.4%) than boy victims (36.6%) among the newly registered cases. A breakdown of the gender of the children by type of abuse indicated that 34.6% of the girl victims were involved in physical abuse cases and 54.0% were involved in sexual abuse cases, while 69.4% and 9.2% of the boy victims were involved in physical abuse and sexual abuse cases respectively.

Graph 4 - Distribution of Children by Gender for 2012

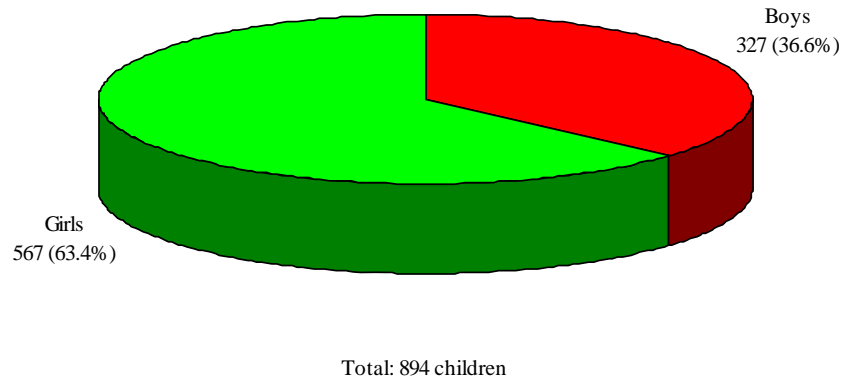
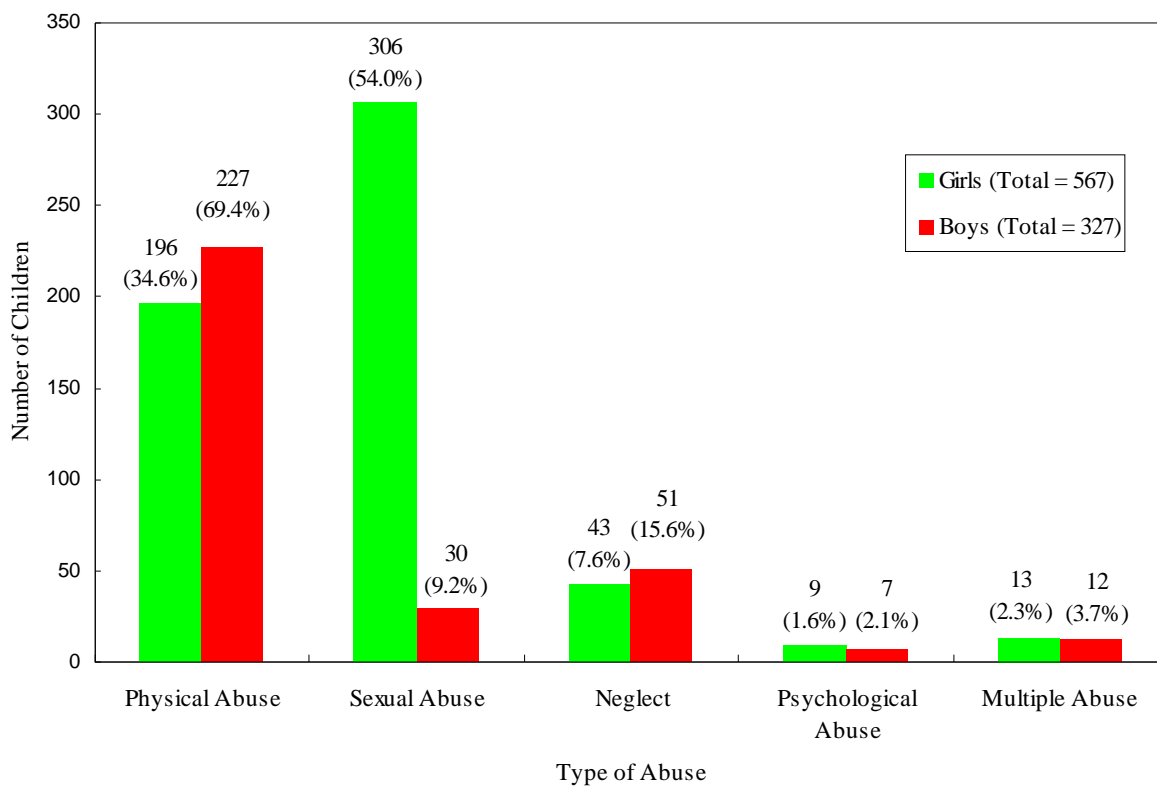


Table 3 - Distribution of Newly Registered Cases and Incidence Rate by Gender

Gender	No. of Cases	Incidence Rate* Per 1,000 Children Aged 0 – 17 in the Population
Boys	327	0.60
Girls	567	1.12
Total	894	0.85

* Statistics are compiled using the land-based non-institutional population figures obtained from the General Household Survey in 2012 conducted by Census and Statistics Department.

Graph 5 - Distribution of Children by Gender and by Type of Abuse for 2012



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

1.2.2 Distribution of Children by Age

The highest percentage (28.5%) 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.

Graph 6 - Distribution of Children by Age for 2012

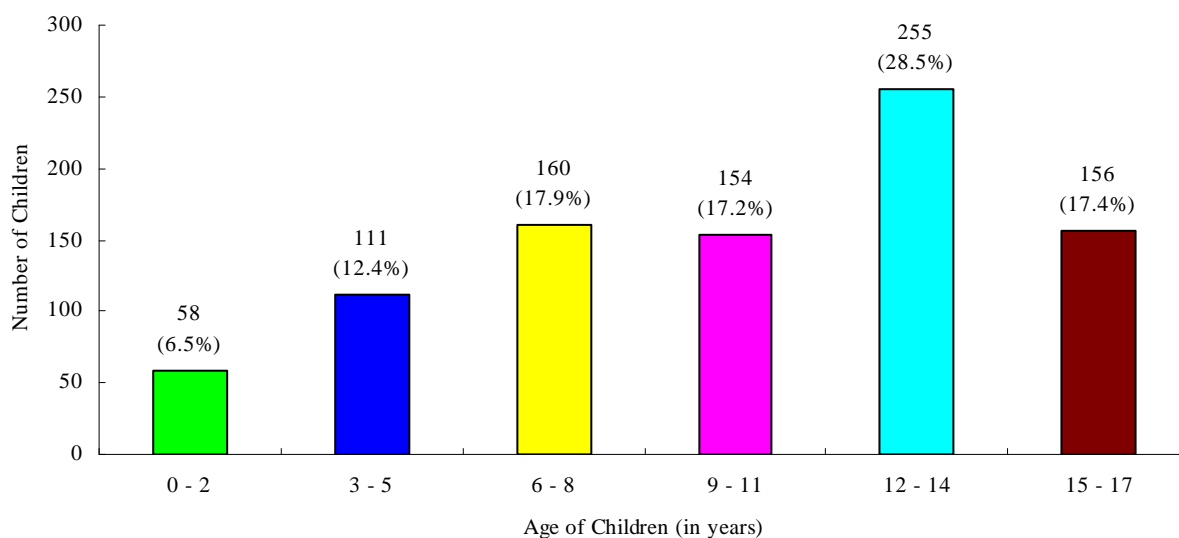


Table 4 – Distribution of Children by Age and by Type of Abuse

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
0 – 2	42	3	12	0	1	58
3 – 5	54	29	21	0	7	111
6 – 8	100	28	24	3	5	160
9 – 11	89	40	20	3	2	154
12 – 14	91	137	14	4	9	255
15 – 17	47	99	3	6	1	156
Total	423	336	94	16	25	894

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

On Girls

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

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

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
0 – 2	19	3	6	0	1	29
3 – 5	25	23	11	0	1	60
6 – 8	35	24	12	1	4	76
9 – 11	39	35	5	1	1	81
12 – 14	44	130	8	2	5	189
15 – 17	34	91	1	5	1	132
Total	196	306	43	9	13	567

On Boys

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

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

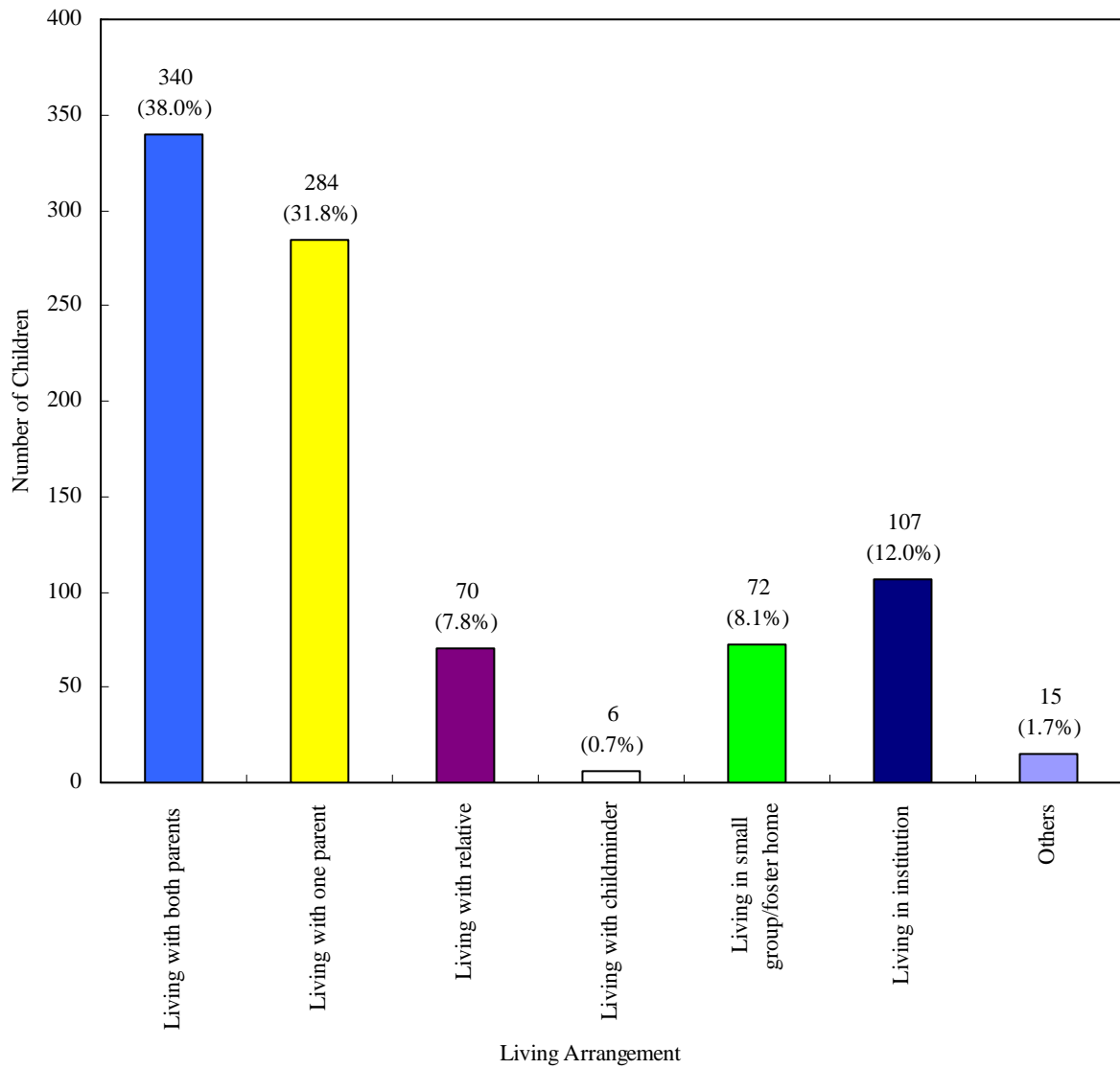
Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
0 – 2	23	0	6	0	0	29
3 – 5	29	6	10	0	6	51
6 – 8	65	4	12	2	1	84
9 – 11	50	5	15	2	1	73
12 – 14	47	7	6	2	4	66
15 – 17	13	8	2	1	0	24
Total	227	30	51	7	12	327

1.2.4 Living Arrangement of Children

Among the 894 newly registered cases, 69.8% of the abused children were either living with both parents or one of them ~~at the time of abuse~~.

*at the time of reporting to CPR

Graph 7 - Distribution of Children by Living Arrangement for 2012



* There was an error during the process of revamping of the computer system.

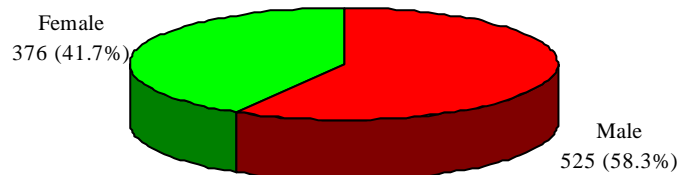
1.3 Abuser Characteristics

There were 894 children and 901 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

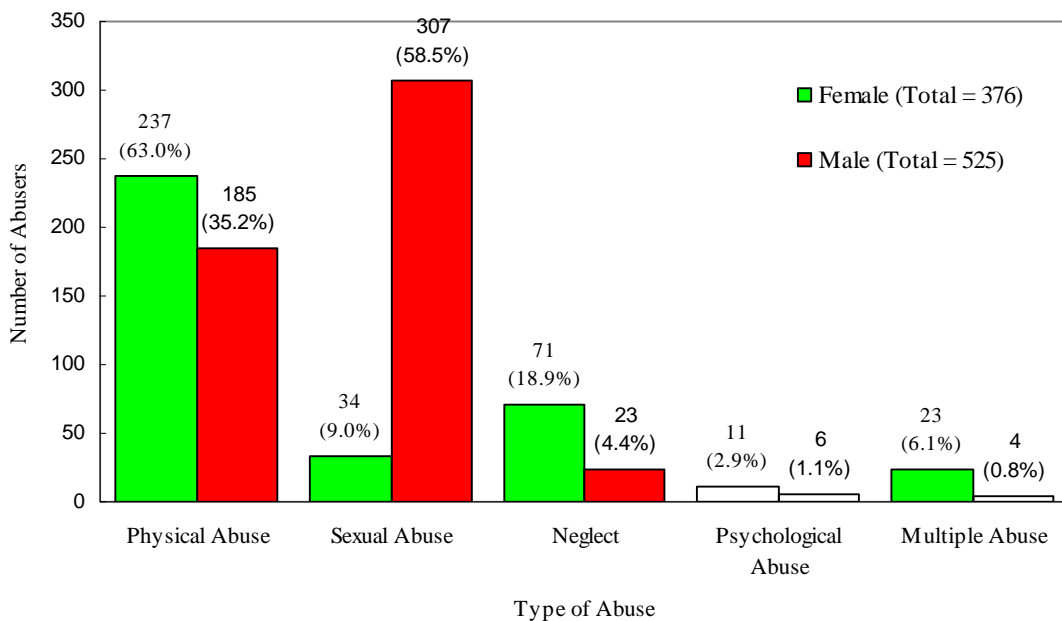
There were more male abusers (525, 58.3%) than female abusers (376, 41.7%) involved in the newly registered cases. The number of male abusers involved in sexual abuse case was far greater than that of female abusers. However, apart from sexual abuse cases, there were more female abusers than male abusers involved in other types of abuse.

Graph 8 - Distribution of Abusers by Gender for 2012



Total: 901 abusers

Graph 9 - Distribution of Abusers by Gender and by Type of Abuse for 2012



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

1.3.2 Distribution of Abusers by Age

27.0% of the abusers involved in the newly registered cases were aged between 32 and 41. Table 7 shows the distribution of abusers of different age groups by type of abuse with the highest numbers highlighted. As some of the abusers, particularly for sexual abuse cases, could not be identified or were unrelated persons, the age of a certain proportion of the abusers was unknown.

Graph 10 - Distribution of Abusers by Age for 2012

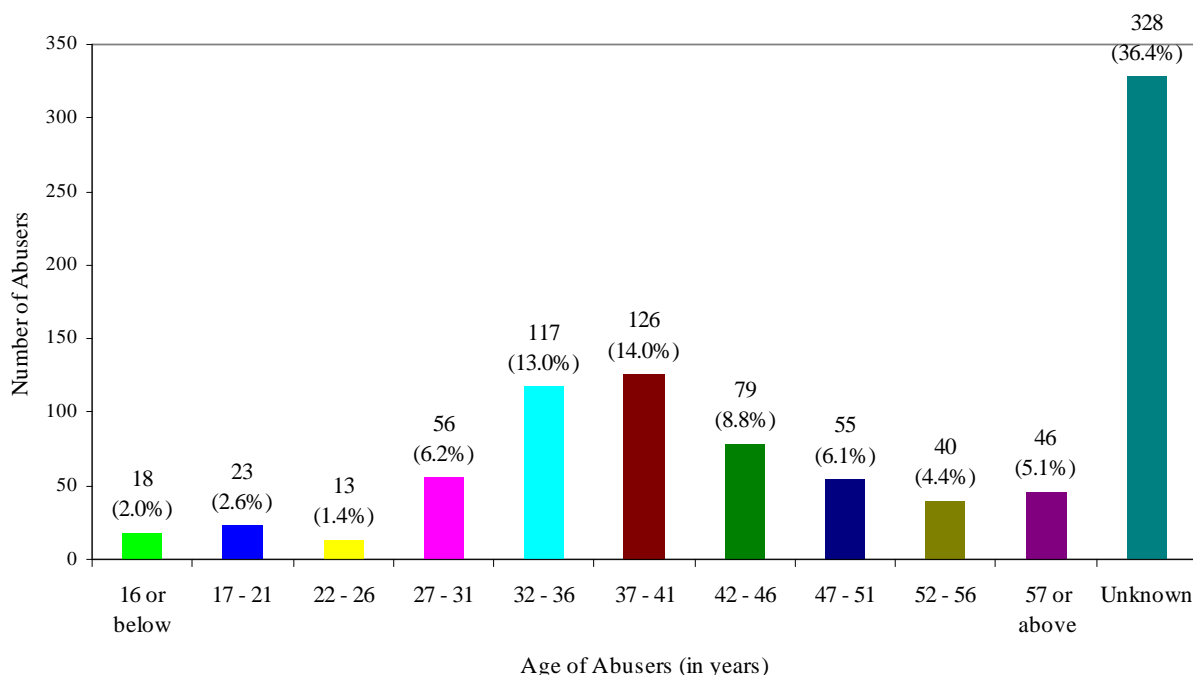


Table 7 – Distribution of Abusers by Age and by Type of Abuse

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
16 or below	4	14	0	0	0	18
17 – 21	5	17	0	1	0	23
22 – 26	8	2	3	0	0	13
27 – 31	32	2	18	0	4	56
32 – 36	77	5	25	6	4	117
37 – 41	98	5	18	2	3	126
42 – 46	54	8	10	3	4	79
47 – 51	33	11	4	2	5	55
52 – 56	29	8	2	1	0	40
57 or above	29	6	8	2	1	46
Unknown	53	263	6	0	6	328
Total	422	341	94	17	27	901

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

On Female Abusers

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

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

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
16 or below	2	1	0	0	0	3
17 – 21	4	1	0	0	0	5
22 – 26	7	1	2	0	0	10
27 – 31	23	0	15	0	4	42
32 – 36	58	0	22	5	4	89
37 – 41	65	0	16	1	3	85
42 – 46	21	1	7	3	3	35
47 – 51	12	0	2	1	4	19
52 – 56	8	0	1	0	0	9
57 or above	1	1	1	1	1	5
Unknown	36	29	5	0	4	74
Total	237	34	71	11	23	376

On Male Abusers

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

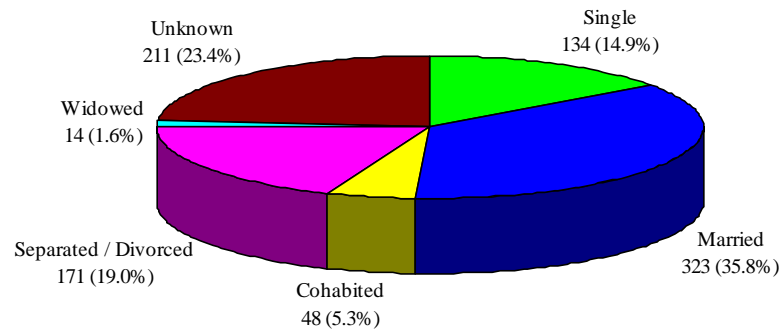
Table 9 – Distribution of Male Abusers by Age and by Type of Abuse

Age	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
16 or below	2	13	0	0	0	15
17 – 21	1	16	0	1	0	18
22 – 26	1	1	1	0	0	3
27 – 31	9	2	3	0	0	14
32 – 36	19	5	3	1	0	28
37 – 41	33	5	2	1	0	41
42 – 46	33	7	3	0	1	44
47 – 51	21	11	2	1	1	36
52 – 56	21	8	1	1	0	31
57 or above	28	5	7	1	0	41
Unknown	17	234	1	0	2	254
Total	185	307	23	6	4	525

1.3.4 Marital Status of Abusers

35.8% of the abusers of the newly registered cases were married. As some of the abusers, particularly for sexual abuse cases, could not be identified or were unrelated persons, the marital status of a certain proportion of the abusers was unknown.

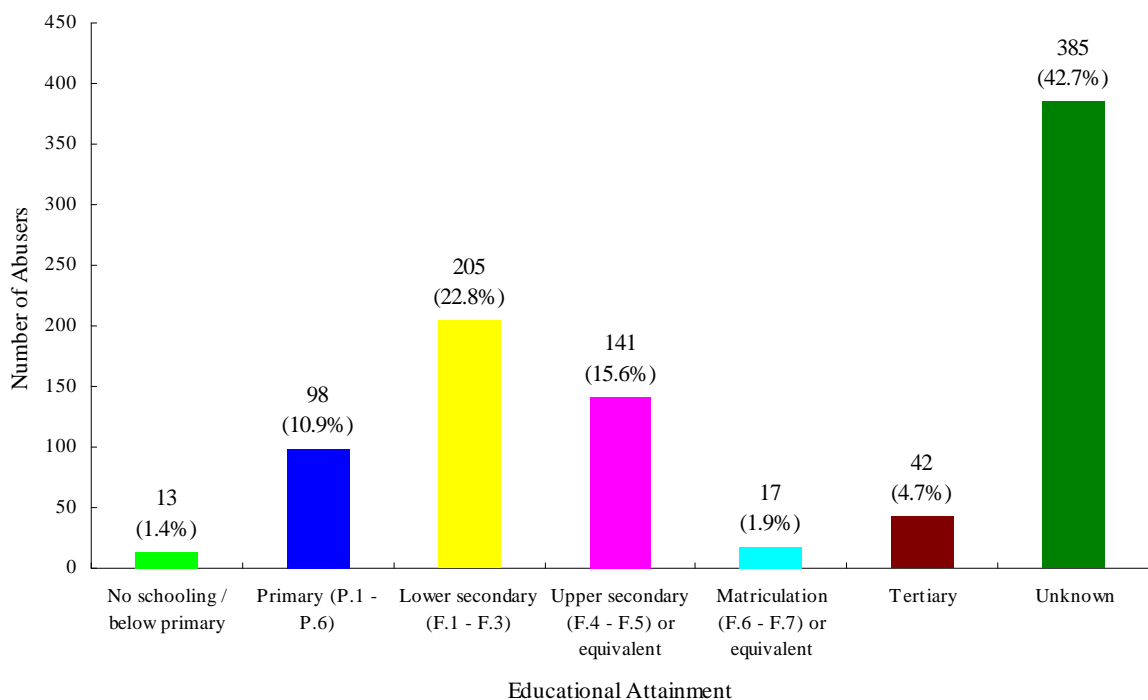
Graph 11 - Distribution of Abusers by Marital Status for Jan 2012 to Dec 2012



1.3.5 Educational Attainment of Abusers

22.8% of the abusers of the newly registered cases were of lower secondary education standard. As some of the abusers, particularly for sexual abuse cases, could not be identified or were unrelated persons, the educational attainment of a certain proportion of the abusers was unknown.

Graph 12 - Distribution of Abusers by Educational Attainment for 2012



1.3.6 Relationship of Abusers with the Abused Children

56.4% of the abusers involved in the newly registered cases were parents of the victims. The breakdown by type of abuse, in Table 10, indicated that quite a large number of abusers in sexual abuse cases were friends or family's friends and unrelated persons, while the majority of abusers were parents of the victims in the other four types of child abuse cases. The types of abusers with the highest numbers of cases of each type of abuse are highlighted.

Graph 13 - Distribution of Abusers' Relationship with the Abused Children for 2012

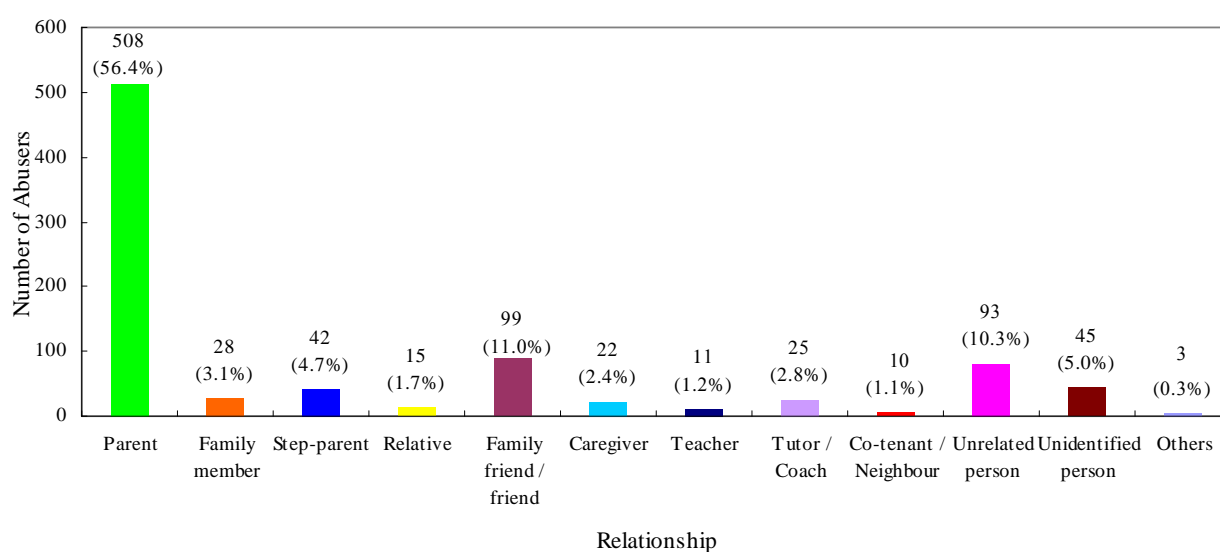


Table 10 – Distribution of Abusers' Relationship with the Abused Children by Type of Abuse

Relationship	Type of Abuse					Total
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Psychological	Multiple	
Parent	351	31	91	14	21	508
Family member	14	12	1	1	0	28
Step-parent	17	22	2	1	0	42
Relative	6	9	0	0	0	15
Family friend/friend	3	95	0	0	1	99
Caregiver	14	6	0	1	1	22
Teacher	3	6	0	0	2	11
Tutor/coach	5	19	0	0	1	25
Co-tenant/neighbour	0	10	0	0	0	10
Unrelated person	1	92	0	0	0	93
Unidentified person	7	37	0	0	1	45
Others	1	2	0	0	0	3
Total	422	341	94	17	27	901

2.3.2 Distribution of Abusers by Gender

Table 14 - Gender of Abusers

Year	2010	2011	2012
Gender			
Male	599 (60.0%)	549 (61.8%)	525 (58.3%)
Female	399 (40.0%)	339 (38.2%)	376 (41.7%)
Total	998 (100%)	888 (100%)	901 (100%)

2.3.3 Marital Status of Abusers

Table 15 - Marital Status of Abusers

Year	2010	2011	2012
Marital Status			
Single	135 (13.5%)	136 (15.3%)	134 (14.9%)
Married	436 (43.7%)	357 (40.2%)	323 (35.8%)
Cohabited	48 (4.8%)	38 (4.3%)	48 (5.3%)
Separated/divorced	151 (15.1%)	127 (14.3%)	171 (19.0%)
Widowed	20 (2.0%)	17 (1.9%)	14 (1.6%)
Unknown	208 (20.8%)	213 (24.0%)	211 (23.4%)
Total	998 (100%)	888 (100%)	901 (100%)

2.3.4 Educational Attainment of Abusers

Table 16 - Educational Attainment of Abusers

Educational Attainment	Year	2010	2011	2012
No schooling/below primary		24 (2.4%)	19 (2.1%)	13 (1.4%)
Primary (P.1 - P.6)		143 (14.3%)	97 (10.9%)	98 (10.9%)
Lower secondary (F.1 - F.3)		241 (24.1%)	226 (25.5%)	205 (22.8%)
Upper secondary (F.4 - F.5)		140 (14.0%)	125 (14.1%)	141 (15.6%)
Matriculation (F.6 - F.7)		6 (0.6%)	12 (1.4%)	17 (1.9%)
Tertiary		51 (5.1%)	48 (5.4%)	42 (4.7%)
Unknown		393 (39.4%)	361 (40.7%)	385 (42.7%)
Total		998 (100%)	888 (100%)	901 (100%)

2.3.5 Relationship of Abusers with the Abused Children

Table 17 - Abusers' Relationship with the Abused Children

Relationship \ Year	2010	2011	2012
Parent	580 (58.1%)	494 (55.6%)	508 (56.4%)
Family member	28 (2.8%)	21 (2.4%)	28 (3.1%)
Step-parent	43 (4.3%)	36 (4.1%)	42 (4.7%)
Relative	28 (2.8%)	37 (4.2%)	15 (1.7%)
Family friend/Friend	66 (6.6%)	57 (6.4%)	99 (11.0%)
Caregiver	25 (2.5%)	25 (2.8%)	22 (2.4%)
Teacher/Tutor/Coach	24 (2.4%)	23 (2.6%)	36 (4.0%)
Co-tenant/Neighbour	8 (0.8%)	7 (0.8%)	10 (1.1%)
Unrelated person	101 (10.1%)	90 (10.1%)	93 (10.3%)
Unidentified person/Others	95 (9.5%)	98 (11.0%)	48 (5.3%)
Total	998 (100%)	888 (100%)	901 (100%)

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 strangers to the child; (Child sexual abuse differentiates from casual sexual relationship that does not include any sexual exploitation e.g. between a boy and a girl, though the boy can be liable for offences like indecent assault or unlawful sexual intercourse with an under aged girl.)

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

- **Neglect**

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

- ❖ Physical (e.g. failure to provide necessary food, clothing or shelter, failure to prevent physical injury or suffering, lack of appropriate supervision or 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.

New Cases 2012 Child abuse and at-risk of abuse cases newly registered with the Child Protection Registry in 2012.