

# **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRENDS REPORT**

**DECEMBER 2025**



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## B. TECHNICAL NOTE

### GENERAL

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**Age of victim-survivor** refers to the age of the victim-survivor at the time the case was taken up by the Ministry of Social and Family Development's Protective Service (MSF's PSV) or a community agency to address safety and risk concerns.<sup>1</sup>

**Community agencies** refer to Child Protection Specialist Centres (CPSCs), Protection Specialist Centres (PSCs) (including the Integrated Services for Individual and Family Protection Specialist Centre) and Family Service Centres (FSCs). CPSCs and PSCs are community-based specialist agencies that provide services and support to families and persons who face abuse or neglect. FSCs are community-based agencies that provide social and emotional support to families in need.

**New cases of abuse in a specified year** refers to the year when the case was taken up by MSF's PSV or a community agency to address safety and risk concerns. The number of new cases may not equate to the unique number of victim-survivors. For example, if a case was closed by MSF's PSV or a community agency, and subsequently re-opened due to new incidences of abuse, it would be counted as two cases. If a case is overseen by both MSF's PSV and a community agency or if a case was overseen by MSF's PSV and subsequently transferred to a community agency for ongoing supervision and support, it would be reflected as a case each in both the Tier 1 and Tier 2 datasets.

**Primary type of abuse** refers to the type of abuse assessed to have significant impact, harm or injury on an individual, and is most likely to place the individual at risk in the short term, based on available information and evidence. An individual may be subjected to more than one type of abuse.

**Statutory intervention** refers to legal actions and measures that MSF's PSV takes to protect vulnerable persons, such as children and Vulnerable Adults, from abuse or neglect. For example, MSF's PSV can intervene under the Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA) to investigate cases, place a child under supervision, or remove a child from his/her home and place the child in alternative care such as family-based care or residential care.

**Tier 1 cases** are those overseen by community agencies. Generally, these are cases that present with low to moderate safety and risk concerns for the vulnerable person. For example, where there is infrequent occurrence of verbal abuse, such as derogatory remarks, that does not escalate to physical violence or severe psychological abuse.

**Tier 2 cases** are those that require statutory intervention, overseen by MSF's PSV. Generally, these are cases that present with high safety and risk concerns for the vulnerable person which may warrant more intrusive intervention (e.g. removal of a child or Vulnerable Adult) to keep the individual safe. For example, where severe injuries (e.g. burns, fractures) have been inflicted on a child by the parents.

### CHILD ABUSE

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**Age of child in Tier 1 and Tier 2 cases** is determined by the child's birth year. For instance, if a child was born in December 2006 and the case was taken up by a community agency or MSF's PSV in January 2024 (i.e. aged 17 years and 1 month), the child's age would be reported as 18 years, based on the child's year of birth.

**Age of child in out-of-home care cases** is determined by the child's birth year.

**Family-based care** comprises kinship care and foster care. Children under kinship care are cared for by their natural or extended family, while children under foster care are cared for by foster parents approved by MSF.

**Incidence rate of Tier 2 child abuse** is the total number of unique children (Singapore residents and non-residents) in new cases investigated by MSF's PSV per 1,000 population aged below 18 years in that year.

**Number of children under out-of-home care** is as of 31 December of the specified year, regardless of the year the child's case was opened.

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<sup>1</sup> Since May 2025, Child Protective Service, Adult Protective Service and Children in Care Service have been integrated to form Protective Service.

**Number of foster families** is as of 31 December of the specified year.

**Tier 1 child abuse cases** refer to children aged below 18 years in new cases overseen by CPSCs, PSCs and FSCs due to child safety and risk concerns.

**Tier 2 child abuse cases** refer to children aged below 18 years in new cases investigated by MSF's PSV.

**Residential care** refers to care provided by Children's Homes for children in need of out-of-home care.

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## ***SPOUSAL ABUSE***

**Number of new spousal abuse cases** refers to new cases overseen by PSCs and FSCs. This report excludes victim-survivors not known to these community agencies but who seek protection in other forms (e.g. applying for a Personal Protection Order at the Court).<sup>2</sup>

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## ***ELDER AND VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE***

**Elderly person** refers to a person aged 65 years and above.

**Incidence rate of Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse** is the total number of unique elderly Vulnerable Adults (Singapore residents and non-residents) in new cases investigated by MSF's PSV per 1,000 population aged 65 years and above who are unable to perform or who have a lot of difficulty in performing at least one basic activity (estimated based on the proportion of such residents from Census of Population 2020).<sup>3</sup>

**Incidence rate of Tier 2 non-elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse** is the total number of unique non-elderly Vulnerable Adults (Singapore residents and non-residents) in new cases investigated by MSF's PSV per 1,000 population aged 18-64 years who are unable to perform or who have a lot of difficulty in performing at least one basic activity (estimated based on the proportion of such residents from Census of Population 2020).

**Vulnerable Adult** is defined in the Vulnerable Adults Act as a person aged 18 years and above, and is by reason of mental or physical infirmity, disability or incapacity, incapable of protecting himself or herself from abuse, neglect or self-neglect.

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## ***SELF NEGLECT***

**Incidence rate of Tier 2 self-neglect cases** is the total number of unique Vulnerable Adults (Singapore residents and non-residents) in new self-neglect cases investigated by MSF's PSV per 1,000 population aged 18 years and above who are unable to perform or who have a lot of difficulty in performing at least one basic activity (estimated based on the proportion of such residents from Census of Population 2020).

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<sup>2</sup> As spousal abuse cases were overseen only by community agencies prior to the operationalisation of the family violence amendments to the Women's Charter in January 2025, there are no spousal abuse cases overseen by MSF's PSV reported for 2021 to 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Basic activities refer to seeing, hearing, mobility, remembering or concentrating, self-care and communicating.

## C. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

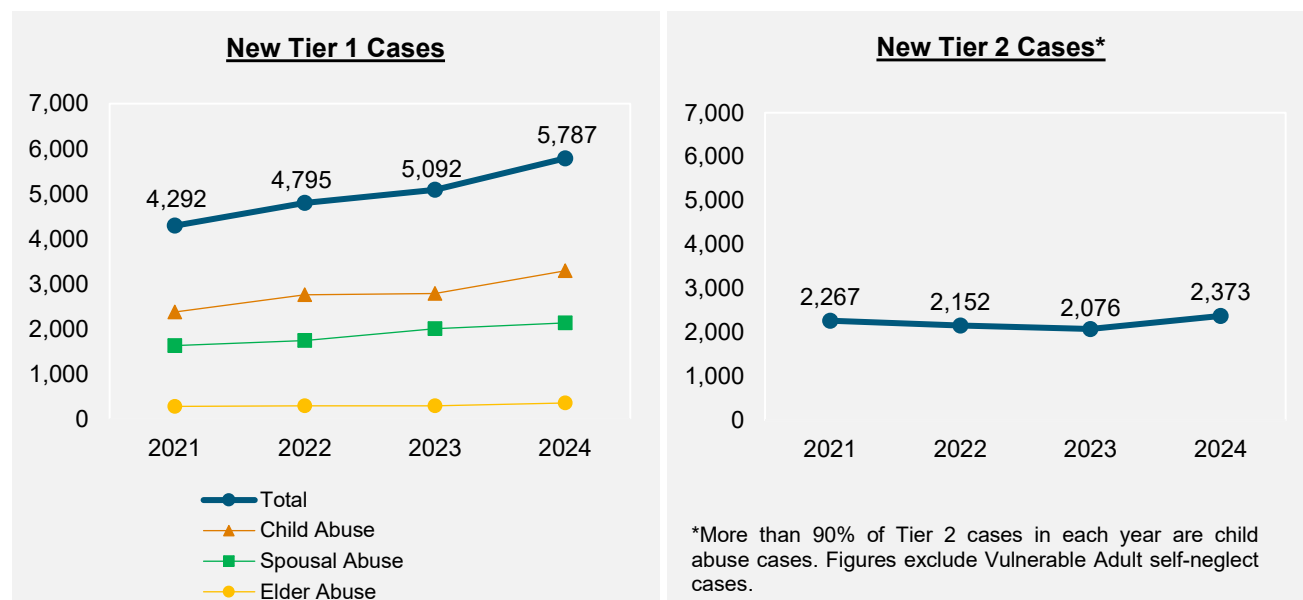
The Domestic Violence Trends Report 2025 reports key trends on child abuse, spousal abuse, elder abuse, and Vulnerable Adult abuse and self-neglect cases (from 2021 to 2024, unless specified otherwise).

Cases reported have been categorised as Tier 1 or Tier 2:<sup>4</sup>

- **Tier 1:** Cases with low to moderate safety and risk concerns for the vulnerable person. These cases are overseen by community agencies.
- **Tier 2:** Cases with high safety and risk concerns for the vulnerable person, which may warrant more intrusive statutory intervention to keep the individual safe. These cases are overseen by MSF's Protective Service (PSV).

New Tier 1 abuse cases in 2024 were about 14% higher compared to 2023. This rise was primarily driven by an increase in child abuse and spousal abuse cases. New Tier 2 abuse cases similarly increased by about 14% from 2023 to 2024, driven primarily by an increase in child abuse cases. Conversely, new Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases decreased by about 10% and new Tier 2 Vulnerable Adult self-neglect cases decreased by 50% from 2023 to 2024.

The increase in overall new Tier 1 and Tier 2 cases reflects greater awareness and a growing willingness by victim-survivors, their families and the public to report domestic violence. This has enabled more individuals to access support earlier, reducing the likelihood of cases remaining hidden or escalating in risk severity. Sustained awareness efforts, stronger legal protection, and comprehensive support services have likely contributed to this trend. Reported cases are expected to remain elevated in the medium term, in line with ongoing improvements in detection and reporting, before stabilising over the longer-term.



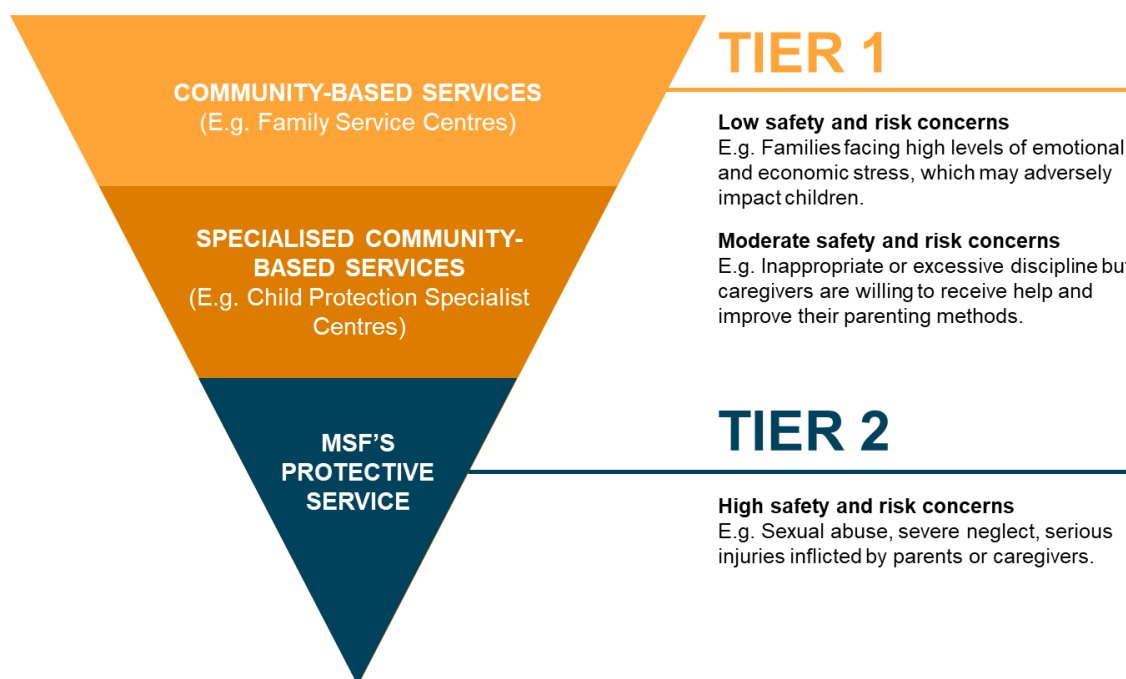
The Government does not condone domestic violence and remains strongly committed to protecting victim-survivors of domestic violence and rehabilitating perpetrators. We will continue to act decisively to prevent and address such incidents. Through our collective effort as a society, we will strengthen families and break the cycle of violence.

<sup>4</sup> If a case is overseen by both MSF and a community agency, it would be reflected as a case each in both the Tier 1 and Tier 2 datasets. Therefore, Tier 1 and Tier 2 cases should not be aggregated to determine the total number of cases, as there would be double-counting.

## D. CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse is any action or inaction by an individual (e.g. parent or caregiver) that endangers or damages a child's physical or emotional well-being. This may take the form of physical abuse, emotional & psychological abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect. The Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA) protects any person under the age of 18 years from abuse or neglect. This report refers to such individuals as "child" or "children".

Child abuse can be understood in terms of a range of child protection concerns. Tier 1 cases are overseen by community agencies such as the Child Protection Specialist Centres (CPSCs), Protection Specialist Centres (PSCs) and Family Service Centres (FSCs), while Tier 2 cases are overseen by MSF's Protective Service (PSV) for statutory intervention. Under the CYPA, MSF is empowered to investigate child abuse cases, place a child under supervision, or remove a child from his/her home and place the child in alternative care such as family-based care or residential care.

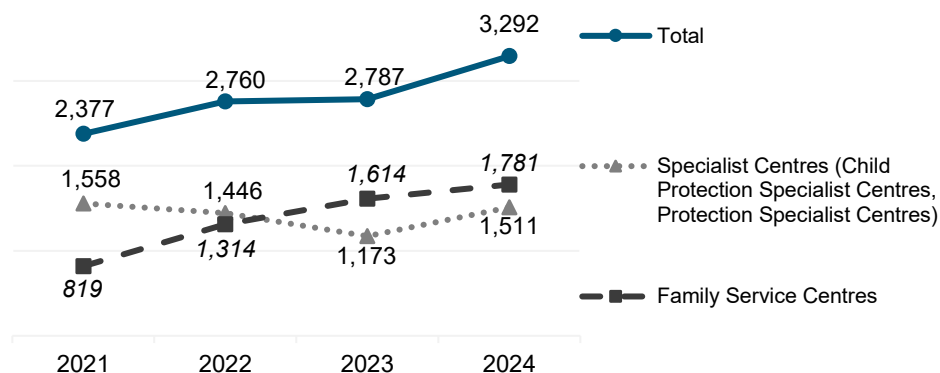


## D1. NEW TIER 1 CHILD ABUSE CASES

### *Upward trend in new Tier 1 child abuse cases*

The number of new Tier 1 cases increased from 2,787 in 2023 to 3,292 in 2024, continuing the upward trend since 2021 (Chart 1). These include (a) Tier 2 cases that were subsequently assessed by MSF to have lower risk and safety concerns and therefore referred to community agencies for follow-up services or monitoring, and (b) new cases where FSCs had identified child protection concerns (e.g. harmful discipline practices or isolation of the child) in families that had initially sought support from FSCs for other issues (e.g. financial, marital or parenting issues).

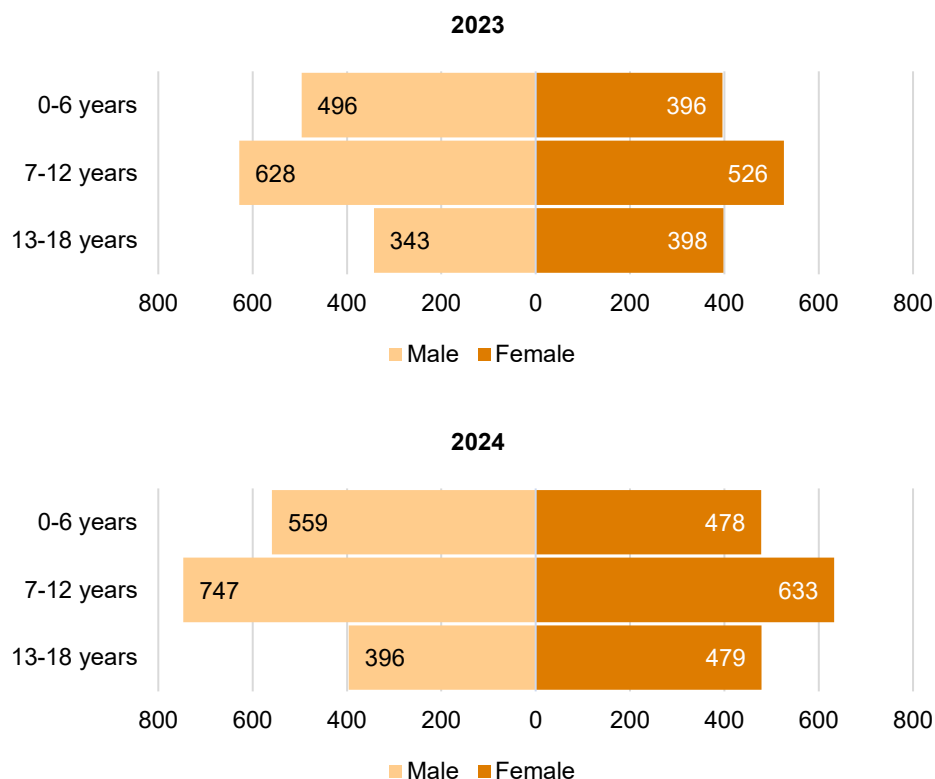
**CHART 1: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 1 CHILD ABUSE CASES**



### *Children aged 7-12 years made up the largest group of new Tier 1 cases*

The age and sex breakdown of new Tier 1 cases in 2024 remain similar to 2023 (Chart 2).

**CHART 2: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 1 CHILD ABUSE CASES BY AGE AND SEX (2023, 2024)<sup>5</sup>**



<sup>5</sup> 2023 data has been updated in this edition of the report, to reflect updated sex data.

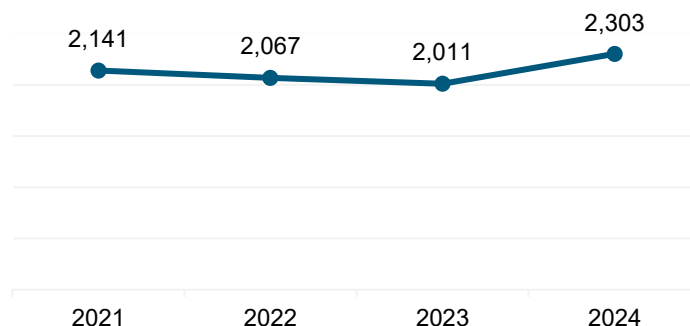


## D2. NEW TIER 2 CHILD ABUSE CASES

### *Increase in new Tier 2 child abuse cases from 2023 to 2024*

The number of new Tier 2 cases increased from 2,011 in 2023 to 2,303 in 2024 (Chart 3). This rise can be partly attributed to members of the public and schools being more vigilant in identifying and reporting more incidents involving potentially high safety and risk concerns, leading to more cases being uncovered. An increase in physical abuse cases also contributed to the overall increase in new Tier 2 cases.

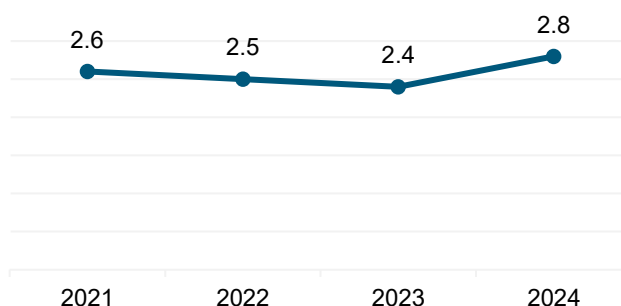
**CHART 3: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 CHILD ABUSE CASES**



### *Incidence rate of new Tier 2 child abuse cases remained relatively low*

The incidence rate of new Tier 2 cases rose to 2.8 per 1,000 children in 2024 (Chart 4). This remained lower compared to other countries; for example, the incidence rate in Australia was 21 per 1,000 children in 2022-2023.<sup>6</sup>

**CHART 4: INCIDENCE RATE OF NEW TIER 2 CHILD ABUSE CASES (PER 1,000 CHILDREN)**

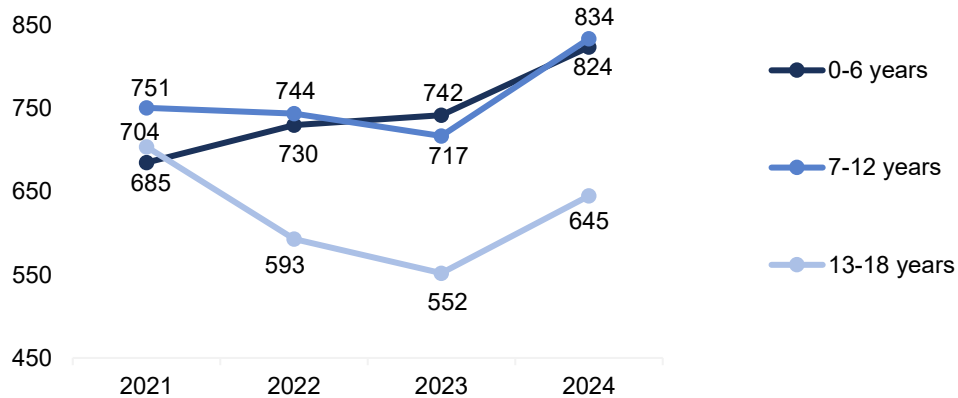


<sup>6</sup> Refers to children for whom notifications were made to a child protection department alleging child maltreatment or harm to a child and were subjected to subsequent investigations as the notification met the threshold for further action. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2025). Child Protection Australia 2022-2023, AIHW, Australia Government. Australia's child abuse incidence rate was the closest approximation to the Tier 2 child abuse incidence rate.

### ***Children aged 7-12 years were the largest contributor to the overall increase in new Tier 2 cases***

The number of new Tier 2 cases across all three age categories increased from 2023 to 2024. The main contributor to the overall increase were cases involving children aged 7-12 years, which accounted for the largest share of new cases in 2024 at 834 cases, followed by children aged 0-6 years at 824 cases (Chart 5). Educating primary school students on personal safety and protection from abuse, and continued training and vigilance of professionals could have contributed to more cases reported.

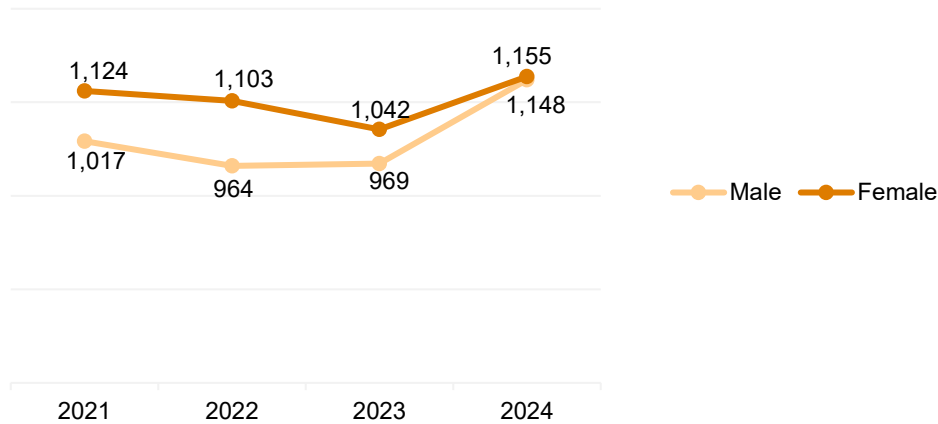
**CHART 5: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 CHILD ABUSE CASES BY AGE<sup>7</sup>**



### ***Number of male and female children in new Tier 2 cases were comparable***

From 2021 to 2024, female children in new Tier 2 cases were consistently higher than that of male children (Chart 6). In 2024, male children in new Tier 2 cases rose to almost the same level as female children.

**CHART 6: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 CHILD ABUSE CASES BY SEX**

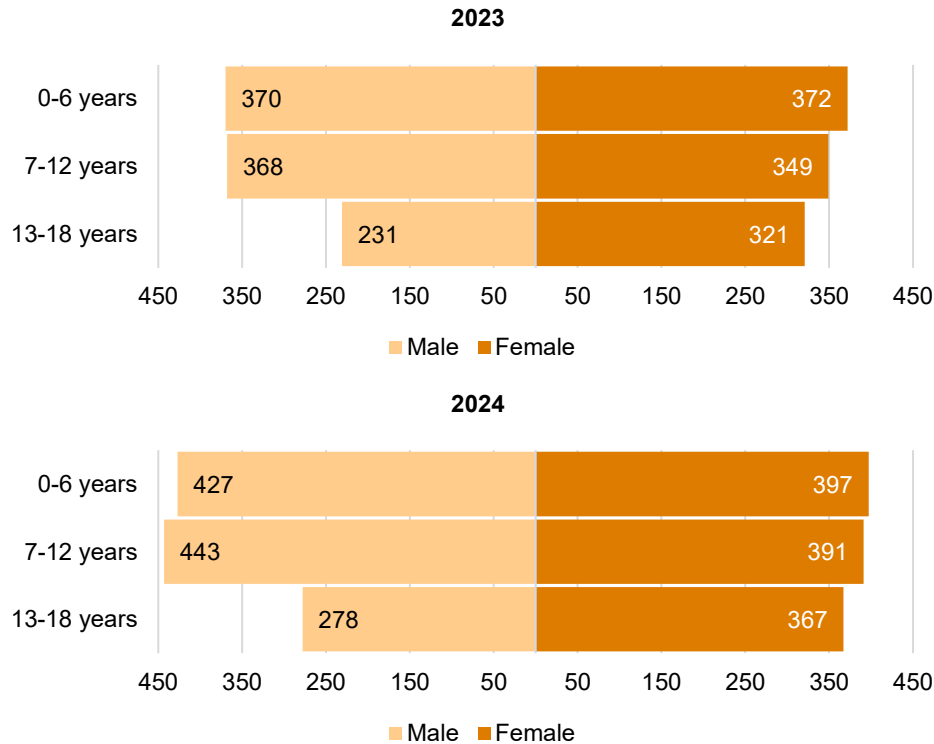


<sup>7</sup> Data excludes one case of a young person initially screened in as aged 18 but subsequently ascertained to be aged 19 (by birth year). The case was closed after ascertaining that there were no further safety concerns. The figures for 2021–2023 have been updated in this edition of the report, to reflect the age of the child based on the child's year of birth.

### Male children aged 7-12 years saw the largest increase in new Tier 2 cases

In 2024, amongst new Tier 2 cases involving female children, those aged 0-6 years continued to form the largest group, consistent with the proportions observed in 2023. Among new Tier 2 cases involving male children, those aged 7-12 years were the largest group in 2024, which differs from 2023, where male children aged 0-6 years constituted the largest group (Chart 7).

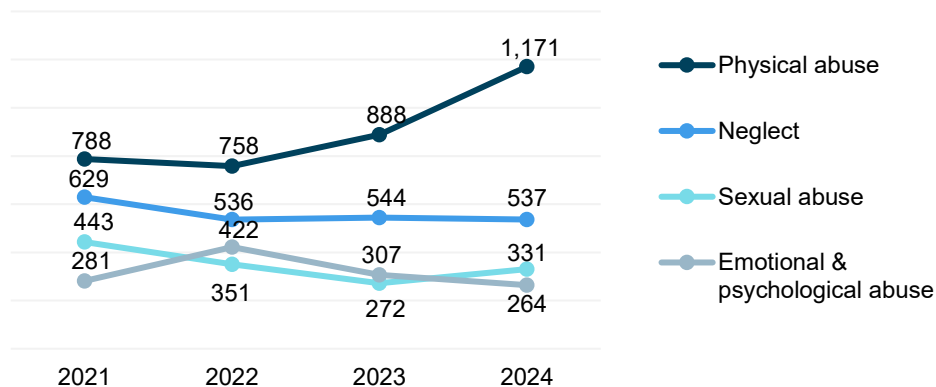
**CHART 7: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 CHILD ABUSE CASES BY AGE AND SEX (2023, 2024)<sup>8</sup>**



### Increase in new Tier 2 physical abuse cases

The increase in new Tier 2 cases in 2024 was primarily driven by an increase in cases where physical abuse was the primary type of abuse, alongside a slight increase in cases where sexual abuse was the primary type of abuse (Chart 8). Although sexual abuse cases increased in 2024, the total number remained lower compared to 2022. In contrast, cases where emotional & psychological abuse or neglect were the primary types of abuse showed a decline.

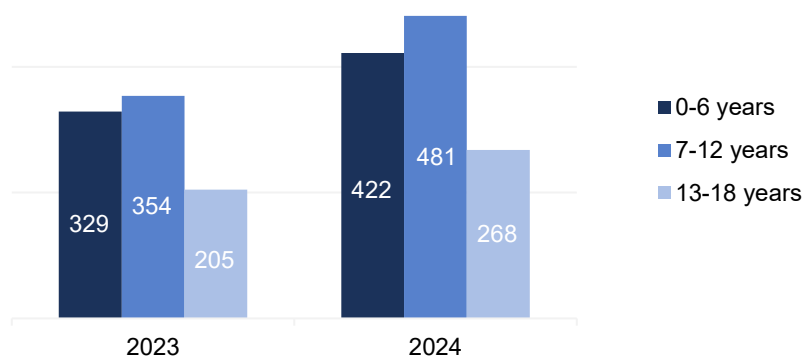
**CHART 8: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 CHILD ABUSE CASES BY TYPE OF ABUSE**



<sup>8</sup> The figures for 2023 have been updated in this edition of the report, to reflect the age of the child based on the child's year of birth.

***Most significant increase in new Tier 2 physical abuse cases came from children aged 7-12 years***

The increase in new Tier 2 cases involving physical abuse as the primary type of abuse was driven by an increase in physical abuse cases across all three age groups, with the most significant increase observed among children aged 7-12 years (Chart 9). In 2024, children aged 7-12 years still accounted for the largest share of cases, followed by those aged 0-6 years, and those aged 13-18 years.

**CHART 9: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE CASES BY AGE (2023, 2024)<sup>9</sup>**

<sup>9</sup> The figures for 2023 have been updated in this edition of the report, to reflect the age of the child based on the child's year of birth.

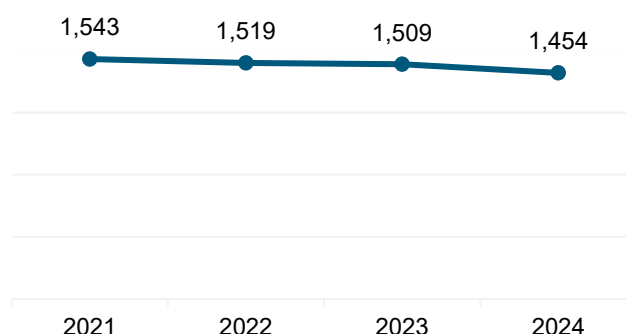
### D3. CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

#### *Slight downward trend in children in out-of-home care*

As of 2024, there were a total of 1,454 children in out-of-home care (Chart 10). When the home environment remains unsafe for the child, even with support from MSF and community agencies, removal may be necessary as a last resort. These children are temporarily placed in out-of-home care, such as family-based care or residential care, until it is safe for them to return to their families.

Despite an increase in Tier 2 child abuse cases, the total number of children in out-of-home care declined. This is partly due to a lower proportion of Tier 2 child abuse cases resulting in the child being removed after MSF's investigation in 2024 (23%) as compared to 2021 (31%). A possible reason for the decrease in out-of-home placement is the introduction and ramping up of safety checks by safety check officers in 2024, who assist protection officers through home visits and video calls to monitor the safety of children at home. This additional safeguard has enabled MSF to step up safety checks for families, which allowed more children to remain at home, while interventions are provided to address the risks.

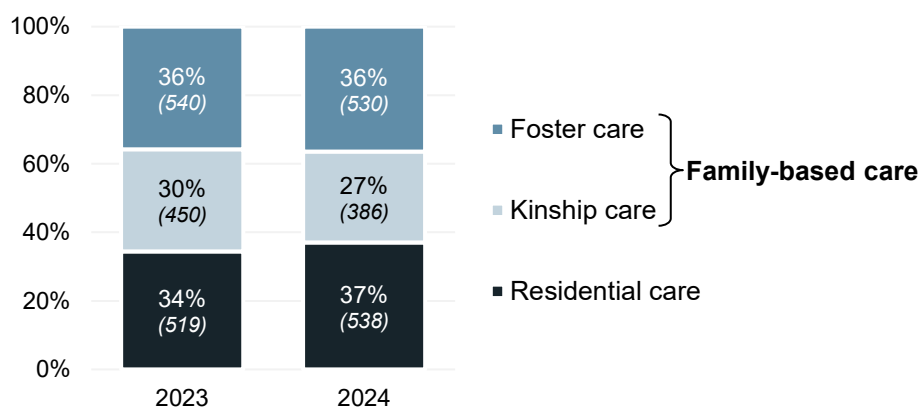
**CHART 10: NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE**



#### *Almost two out of three children requiring out-of-home care placed in family-based care*

Similar to 2023, in 2024, almost two out of three children requiring out-of-home care were placed in family-based care (Chart 11). The proportion of children in family-based care was 63% in 2024. Studies have shown that family-based care offers more personalised, stable, and responsive caregiving – factors that are vital for a child's social, emotional, and mental well-being. MSF will continue to work with our partners to engage and recruit more foster families.

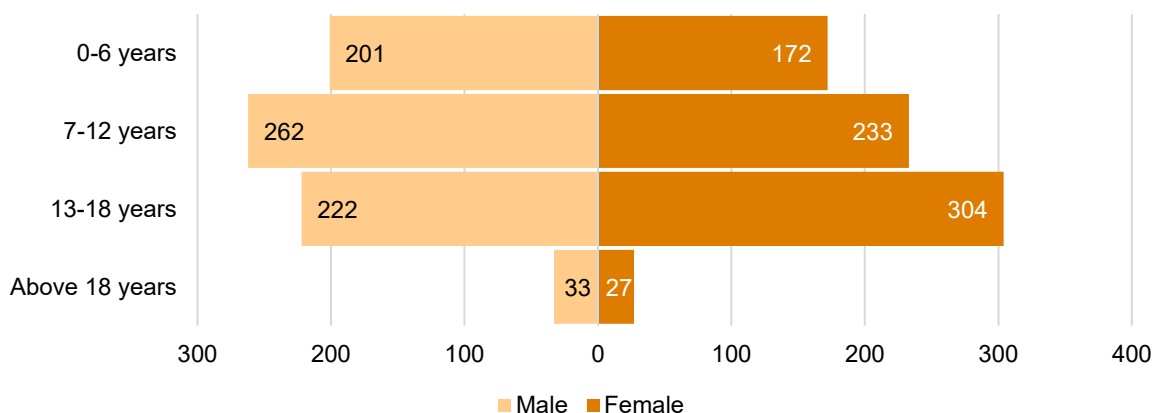
**CHART 11: PROPORTION OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY TYPE OF CARE (2023, 2024)**



## Children aged 13-18 years made up the largest age group of children in out-of-home care

In 2024, children aged 13-18 years made up the largest age group of those in out-of-home care (Chart 12). Within this group, about 3 in 5 were in residential care, while only 1 in 5 were in foster care and 1 in 5 were in kinship care. Like younger children, older children and teenagers also benefit from growing up in a loving and nurturing family-based environment. MSF continues to review and strengthen efforts to place more children, including teenagers, into family-based care. In August 2025, MSF announced the increase in monthly fostering allowance for foster parents of teenagers. MSF will also partner closely with Fostering Agencies to strengthen casework support and provide enhanced training to equip foster parents with the knowledge and skills to better understand adolescents' needs.

**CHART 12: NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY AGE AND SEX (2024)<sup>10</sup>**



### ENHANCED AFTERCARE SUPPORT FOR YOUTHS

Youths who have been discharged from out-of-home care (such as foster care or residential care) often face challenges, including securing stable housing, continuing their education, and achieving financial security. This is why MSF provides enhanced aftercare support for youths aged 17 to 21 years who are transitioning to independent living after being discharged from out-of-home care.

Through the enhanced aftercare support, these youths receive casework support and financial assistance via the ComCare Short-to-Medium Term Assistance scheme to cover their housing and daily living expenses. This support is provided until the youths complete their education, training, internship, or National Service. Youths who have already secured full-time employment at the point of discharge are also provided with casework support for one year.

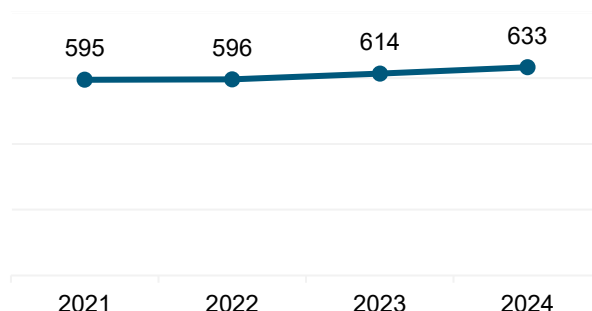
This initiative empowers these youths to pursue their aspirations, maximise their potential, and progress meaningfully in life.

<sup>10</sup> Youths aged 18 years old and above may remain in out-of-home care as their Court Order can remain in force until they reach 21 years of age. Some youths can also be under Voluntary Care Agreements, signed between their parents/lawful guardians and MSF, until they reach 21 years of age.

### ***Increase in foster families***

There were more foster families (633) in 2024 (Chart 13). Each foster family may care for more than one child. MSF will continue to work with Fostering Agencies, community organisations, religious groups and private organisations to raise awareness about fostering and recruit more foster families. MSF continues to build a diverse pool of foster parents to ensure the best possible match for the varying needs of profiles of children entering care.

**CHART 13: NUMBER OF FOSTER FAMILIES**



#### **FOSTERING TEENAGERS**

Mdm Peri and Mr Bhaskar first learnt about fostering on social media and attended a sharing session to find out more. They began fostering in 2018 and described their journey as fulfilling, marked by many memorable milestones. One instance was their sense of pride when their first foster child became a class prefect – a result of their efforts to support her academic growth and character development.

They are now fostering a 14-year-old teenager and have learnt to embrace the unique experiences in caring for a teenager. The couple focuses on giving her the space she needs while still guiding her through various important life decisions and encouraging her to pursue her passions. They enjoy spending time with their foster daughter and make a conscious effort to understand her needs as a growing teenager. A key lesson they have shared with her is to always bounce back from every setback and to celebrate both big and small wins.

## E. SPOUSAL ABUSE

The Women's Charter protects both men and women from family violence, including spousal abuse. Victim-survivors of spousal abuse can seek help through various channels. They can call the Police, seek assistance from family members, friends, PSCs, FSCs, and/or apply for a Personal Protection Order under the Women's Charter.

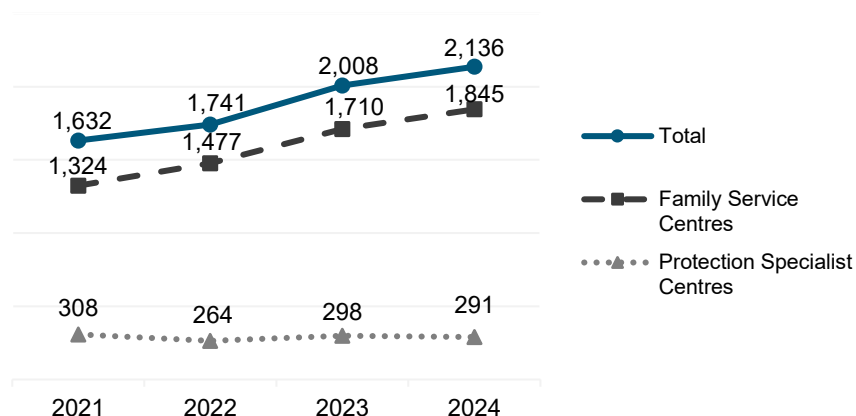
MSF provides support to victim-survivors of spousal abuse through FSCs (cases with low safety and risk concerns) and PSCs (cases with moderate to high safety and risk concerns). Unlike child and Vulnerable Adult abuse cases, spousal abuse cases are mainly overseen by community agencies, as adults are generally better able to decide how to keep themselves safe with the community's support. With the operationalisation of the family violence amendments to the Women's Charter in January 2025, the Government can now intervene in egregious cases where the victim-survivor's safety is seriously threatened.

### E1. NEW SPOUSAL ABUSE CASES

#### *Upward trend in new spousal abuse cases*

New spousal abuse cases rose from 2,008 cases in 2023 to 2,136 cases in 2024, continuing the upward trend observed from 2021 to 2023 (Chart 14). Self-referrals constituted a significant proportion of cases managed by FSCs, where clients sought help on their own. While some were seeking support primarily related to domestic violence, others initially presented with issues such as financial difficulties or parenting challenges, with abuse concerns emerging after the FSCs' engagement with the clients. FSCs and PSCs also observed an increase in referrals from the Police and the Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team (DVERT) following the DVERT's launch in April 2023.

CHART 14: NUMBER OF NEW SPOUSAL ABUSE CASES





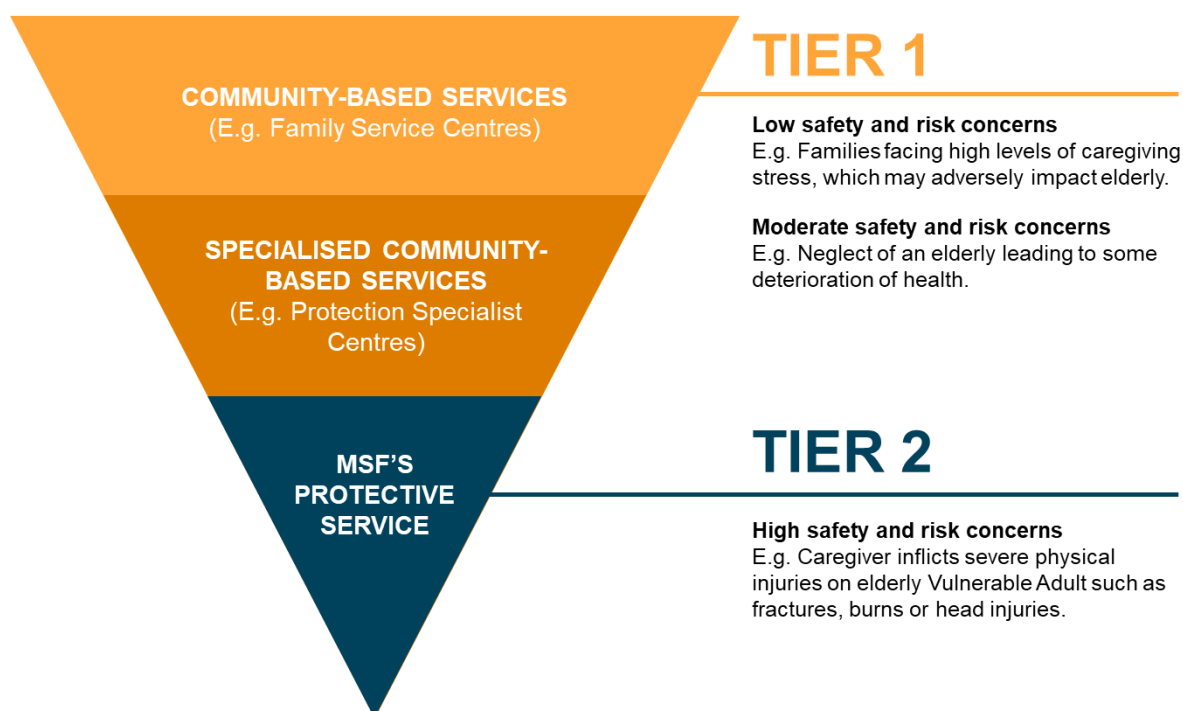
## F. ELDER ABUSE AND ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE

Elder abuse refers to any action or inaction that puts the safety or well-being of an elderly person at risk. The abuse is often carried out by a family member or caregiver whom the victim-survivor trusts. An elderly person in this report is defined as someone who is aged 65 years and above.

Elder abuse can be understood in terms of a range of elder protection concerns. Some elderly are considered Vulnerable Adults under the Vulnerable Adults Act. A Vulnerable Adult is defined in the Vulnerable Adults Act as a person aged 18 years and above, and is by reason of mental or physical infirmity, disability or incapacity, incapable of protecting himself or herself from abuse, neglect or self-neglect.

Tier 1 cases are overseen by community agencies such as PSCs and FSCs, while Tier 2 cases are overseen by MSF's Protective Service (PSV).

The number of Vulnerable Adults is expected to increase in the future due to our ageing population, and it is projected that 1 in 2 healthy Singaporeans aged 65 today could become severely disabled in their lifetime.<sup>11</sup> As such, the Government is working to ensure that legal protection and social services are relevant and sufficient for this group.



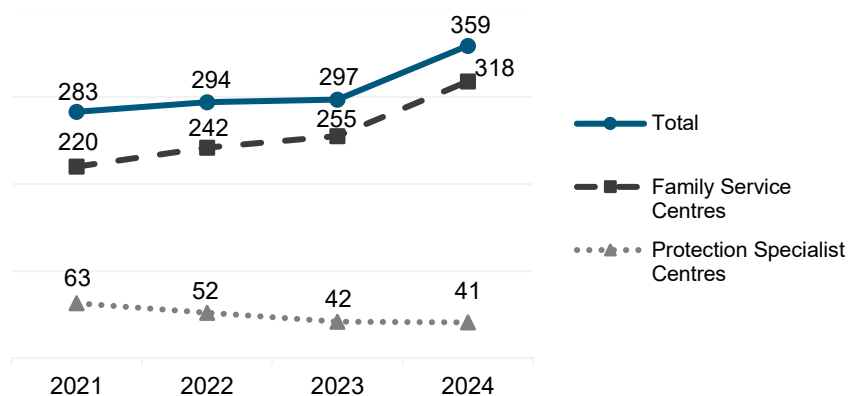
<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Health Singapore, "CareShield Life", accessed July 10, 2025.

## F1. NEW TIER 1 ELDER ABUSE CASES

### *Upward trend in new Tier 1 elder abuse cases*

New Tier 1 cases increased from 297 cases in 2023 to 359 cases in 2024, continuing the upward trend from 2021 to 2023 (Chart 15). The increase could be partly attributed to an ageing society, alongside greater awareness of abuse involving elderly persons.

**CHART 15: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 1 ELDER ABUSE CASES<sup>12</sup>**



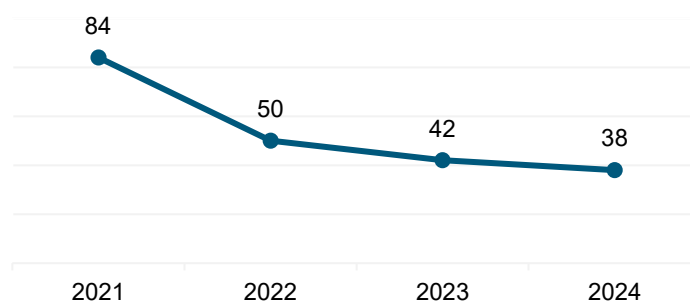
<sup>12</sup> The figures exclude cases managed by eldercare agencies (e.g. eldercare centres, home-based services for elders, nursing homes) and healthcare agencies.

## F2. NEW TIER 2 ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE CASES

### ***Downward trend in new Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases***

The number of Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases has been declining over the years. In 2024, the new Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases fell to 38 cases, from 42 cases in 2023, continuing the downward trend from 2021 to 2023 (Chart 16). The decrease may be attributed to community, eldercare and healthcare agencies working with elderly Vulnerable Adults and their families to address the root causes of abuse or neglect, thereby preventing cases from escalating in risk.

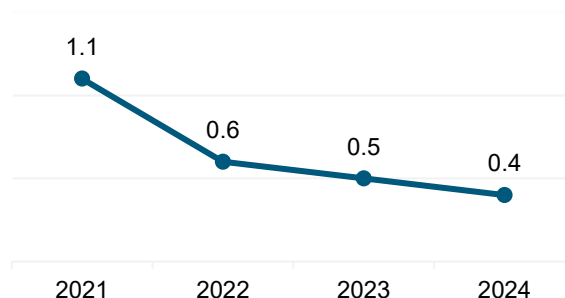
**CHART 16: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE CASES**



### ***Incidence rate of new Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases remained low***

The incidence rate of new Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases further decreased to 0.4 per 1,000 vulnerable elderly, continuing the downward trend seen from 2021 to 2023. The incidence rate remained low in 2024, at less than 1 per 1,000 vulnerable elderly (Chart 17).

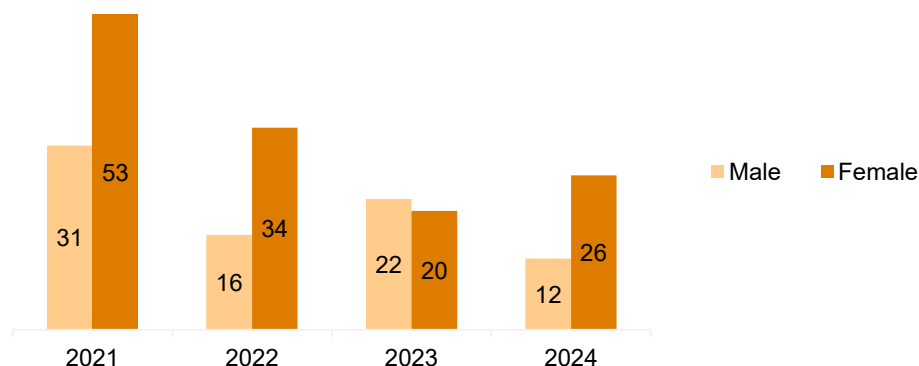
**CHART 17: INCIDENCE RATE OF NEW TIER 2 ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE CASES (PER 1,000 VULNERABLE ELDERLY)**



### ***More females than males in new Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases***

The number of new female Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases increased from 20 cases in 2023 to 26 cases in 2024, while the number of new male Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases decreased from 22 cases in 2023 to 12 cases in 2024 (Chart 18).

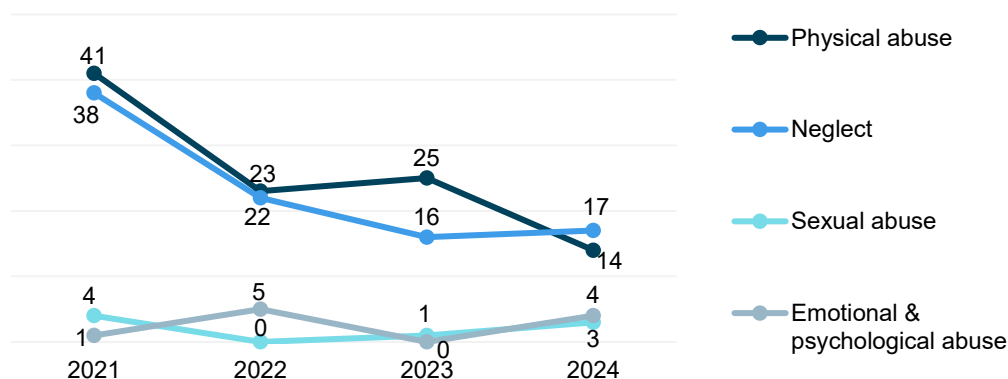
**CHART 18: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE CASES BY SEX**



### ***Neglect was the most common among new Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases***

In 2024, neglect was the most common primary type of abuse among new Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases, surpassing physical abuse, which had previously been more prevalent (Chart 19). Neglect occurs in various ways, such as a caregiver's failure to provide adequate food, medical care, clothing, or other necessities, which negatively affects the physical and/or mental well-being of the Vulnerable Adult. Physical abuse cases declined, while there were slight increases in cases of sexual abuse and emotional & psychological abuse. Vulnerable Adults who experience emotional & psychological abuse may suffer from low self-esteem, depression, trauma and anxiety. Some may also have suicidal thoughts, feel isolated, helpless or confused, and live in a state of fear.

**CHART 19: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE CASES BY TYPE OF ABUSE**



## G. NON-ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE

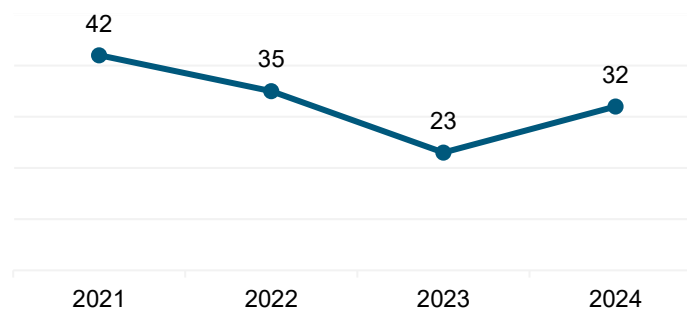
In addition to elderly Vulnerable Adults (i.e. 65 years and above), there are also non-elderly Vulnerable Adults (i.e. 18-64 years) who have disabilities or impairments that prevent them from protecting themselves. They are protected under the Vulnerable Adults Act and MSF's Protective Service (PSV) oversees these cases (i.e. Tier 2 cases).

### G1. NEW TIER 2 NON-ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE CASES

#### *Increase in new Tier 2 non-elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases*

New Tier 2 non-elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases increased slightly to 32 cases in 2024 from 23 cases in 2023, after a downward trend from 2021 to 2023 (Chart 20).

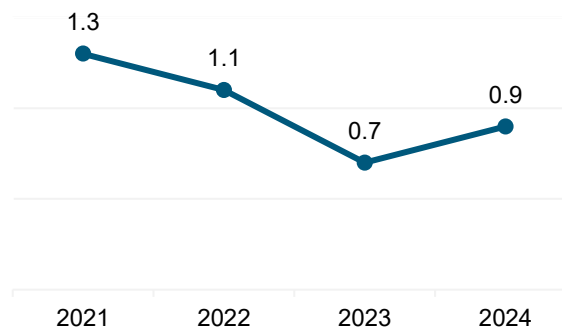
**CHART 20: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 NON-ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE CASES<sup>13</sup>**



#### *Incidence rate of new Tier 2 non-elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases remained low*

The incidence rate of new Tier 2 non-elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse increased to 0.9 per 1,000 vulnerable population aged 18-64 years in 2024, following a decline from 2021-2023 (Chart 21).

**CHART 21: INCIDENCE RATE OF NEW TIER 2 NON-ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE CASES (PER 1,000 VULNERABLE POPULATION AGED 18-64 YEARS)**

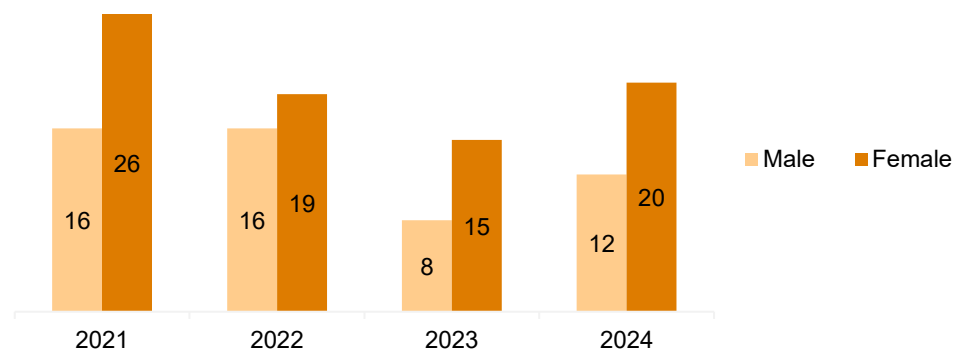


<sup>13</sup> Only Tier 2 figures are reported. There may be Tier 1 cases overseen by FSCs and PSCs or cases managed solely by disability or healthcare agencies, which have not been included in the report as data on these cases is currently unavailable.

### ***More females among new Tier 2 non-elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases***

In 2024, both the number of new Tier 2 non-elderly Vulnerable Adult male and female abuse cases increased as compared to 2023. From 2021-2024, there were more females in new Tier 2 non-elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse than males (Chart 22).

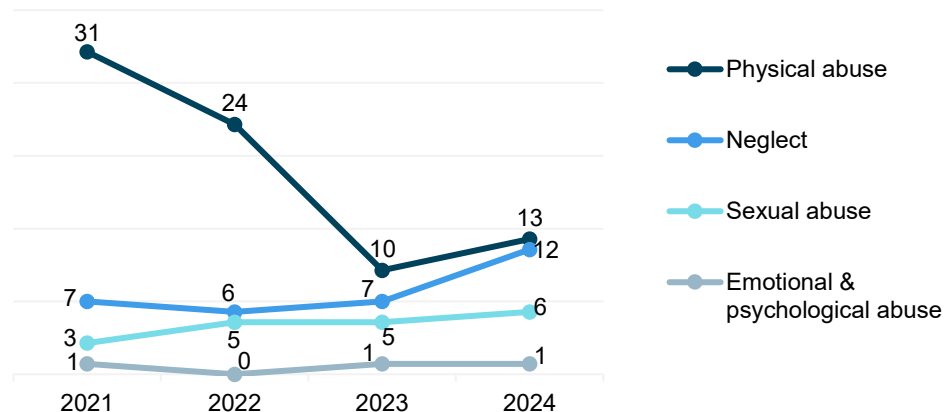
**CHART 22: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 NON-ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE CASES BY SEX**



### ***Physical abuse was the most common among new Tier 2 non-elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases***

Physical abuse remained the most common primary type of abuse among new Tier 2 non-elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases in 2024. However, cases involving neglect also increased over the past year (Chart 23).

**CHART 23: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 NON-ELDERLY VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE CASES BY TYPE OF ABUSE**



## H. VULNERABLE ADULTS WHO NEGLECT THEMSELVES

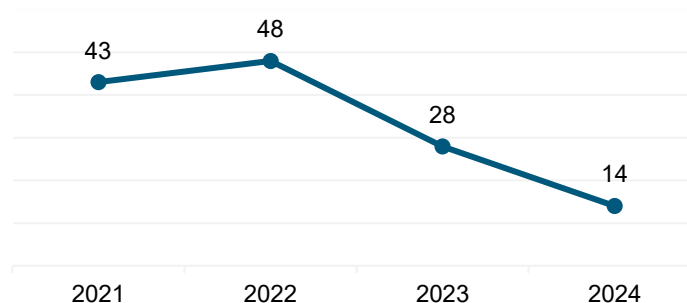
Cases of self-neglect involving Vulnerable Adults may lead to them living in extremely unsanitary or hazardous conditions, suffer from malnutrition or dehydration, or endure untreated physical or mental illness or injury. These Vulnerable Adults are unable to perform essential tasks of daily living or care for themselves, which impact their safety and well-being. MSF's Protective Service (PSV) oversees such cases (i.e. Tier 2 cases). Cases of self-neglect are usually surfaced to MSF by community outreach workers or social workers who observe signs of neglect in Vulnerable Adults. Some are also identified when Vulnerable Adults are hospitalised for urgent medical care. The community plays a pivotal role in identifying such cases, as their regular interactions with at-risk individuals enable them to spot warning signs.

### H1. NEW TIER 2 VULNERABLE ADULT SELF-NEGLECT CASES

#### *Downward trend in new Tier 2 Vulnerable Adult self-neglect cases*

The number of new Tier 2 Vulnerable Adult self-neglect cases continued to decline, from 28 cases in 2023 to 14 cases in 2024 (Chart 24). This decrease may be attributed to improved community support for individuals at risk of self-neglect, such as Home-based Services like Meals-on-Wheels and Home Personal Care, which provide vulnerable individuals with meal deliveries and assistance with personal care in their own homes.

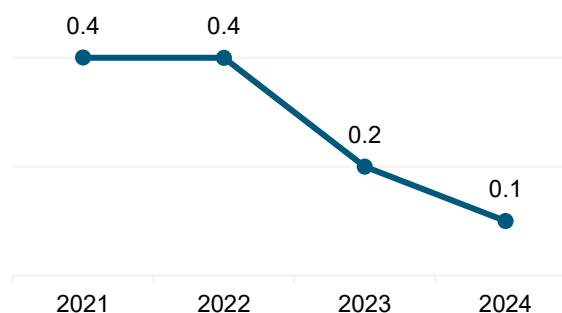
**CHART 24: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 VULNERABLE ADULT SELF-NEGLECT CASES<sup>14</sup>**



#### *Incidence rate of new Tier 2 Vulnerable Adult self-neglect cases remained low*

The incidence rate of new Tier 2 Vulnerable Adult self-neglect cases decreased further to 0.1 per 1,000 vulnerable population aged 18 years and above (Chart 25).

**CHART 25: INCIDENCE RATE OF NEW TIER 2 VULNERABLE ADULT SELF-NEGLECT CASES (PER 1,000 VULNERABLE POPULATION AGED 18 YEARS AND ABOVE)**

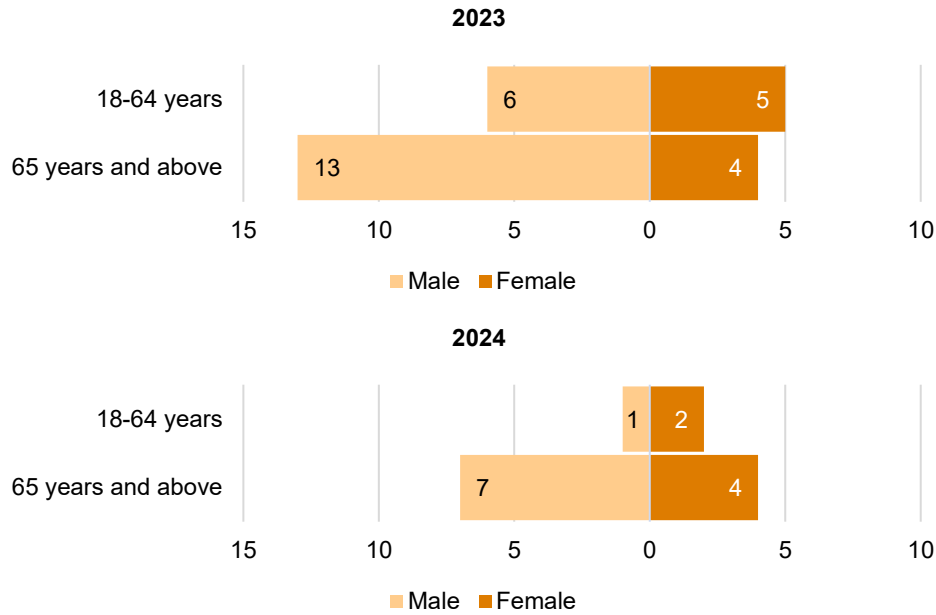


<sup>14</sup> Only Tier 2 figures are reported. There may be Tier 1 cases overseen by FSCs and PSCs or cases managed solely by healthcare agencies, which have not been included in the report as data on these cases is currently unavailable.

### ***Among new Tier 2 Vulnerable Adult self-neglect cases, most were elderly***

The fall in the total number of Tier 2 self-neglect cases may be attributed to a decrease in cases involving males, from 19 cases in 2023 to 8 cases in 2024 (Chart 26). In both 2023 and 2024, elderly Vulnerable Adults formed majority of the new Tier 2 self-neglect cases. MSF will continue to work with community agencies to stay vigilant to detect and respond to early signs of self-neglect.

**CHART 26: NUMBER OF NEW TIER 2 VULNERABLE ADULT SELF-NEGLECT CASES BY AGE AND SEX (2023, 2024)**





## I. CONCLUSION

Our families are the bedrock of society. We want families to be strong and safe. The Government is committed to protect our families and individuals. We will continue to raise awareness and strengthen societal attitudes against violence, make it easier to report abuse and access immediate help, strengthen protection and support for victim-survivors and expand rehabilitation for perpetrators. While these efforts are expected to lead to an increase in the number of new cases in the medium term, our longer-term goal is to stabilise and reduce these numbers as we continue to fight against domestic violence.

The Government cannot do this alone. A network of community agencies and services is needed to safeguard the interests and welfare of vulnerable individuals, families, and victim-survivors of domestic violence. Our social service professionals and community partners play a crucial role, as their tireless efforts and dedication in early detection and intervention have been instrumental in keeping families safe.

Domestic violence is not a private matter. It is unacceptable and must not be condoned. We call on family members, neighbours, community partners and members of the public to keep a lookout for individuals who may be most at risk of abuse, such as children, elderly and Vulnerable Adults. These individuals may not have the ability or means to report abuse or to seek help due to their vulnerabilities. Reporting abuse does not break up families; it can save lives and help families to heal relationships and reconcile.

Preventing domestic violence is a collective responsibility. Everyone has a part to play to tackle domestic violence. Through our collective efforts, we can help build a stronger Singapore with stronger families.

## J. ANNEX

Table A: New Tier 1 child abuse cases by age and sex<sup>15</sup>

	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>2,787</b>	<b>3,292</b>
<b>Age and sex of child</b>				
- <b>0-6 years</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>1,037</b>
o Male	369	448	496	559
o Female	370	413	396	478
- <b>7-12 years</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>1,380</b>
o Male	508	573	628	747
o Female	421	517	526	633
- <b>13-16 years</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>690</b>
o Male	272	273	291	316
o Female	322	379	322	374
- <b>17-18 years</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>185</b>
o Male	56	74	52	80
o Female	59	83	76	105

Table B: New Tier 2 child abuse cases by age, sex and type of abuse<sup>16</sup>

	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,141<sup>17</sup></b>	<b>2,067</b>	<b>2,011</b>	<b>2,303</b>
<b>Age and sex of child</b>				
- <b>0-6 years</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>824</b>
o Male	351	371	370	427
o Female	334	359	372	397
- <b>7-12 years</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>834</b>
o Male	381	360	368	443
o Female	370	384	349	391
- <b>13-16 years</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>530</b>
o Male	231	185	195	226
o Female	347	301	264	304
- <b>17-18 years</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>115</b>
o Male	53	48	36	52
o Female	73	59	57	63
<b>Type of abuse</b>				
- <b>Physical abuse</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>1,171</b>
<i>Age of child</i>				
▪ 0-6 years	304	292	329	422
▪ 7-12 years	302	317	354	481
▪ 13-16 years	152	119	178	224
▪ 17-18 years <sup>18</sup>	30	30	27	44
<i>Sex of child</i>				
▪ Male	408	403	462	631
▪ Female	380	355	426	540
- <b>Neglect</b>	<b>629<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>536</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>537</b>
<i>Age of child</i>				
▪ 0-6 years	199	205	214	208
▪ 7-12 years	192	157	162	164
▪ 13-16 years	188	140	140	139
▪ 17-18 years	49	34	28	26

<sup>15</sup> The figures for 2021 – 2023 have been updated in this edition of the report, to reflect updated sex data.

<sup>16</sup> The figures for 2021 – 2023 have been updated in this edition of the report, to reflect the age of the child based on the child's year of birth.

<sup>17</sup> Data includes one case of a young person initially screened in as aged 18 but subsequently ascertained to be aged 19 (by birth year). The case was closed after ascertaining that there were no further safety concerns.

<sup>18</sup> CYPA was amended in 2019 to extend protection to children from aged below 16 years, to below 18 years.

<sup>19</sup> Data includes one case of a young person initially screened in as aged 18 but subsequently ascertained to be aged 19 (by birth year). The case was closed after ascertaining that there were no further safety concerns.

<i>Sex of child</i>					
▪ Male		311	246	259	265
▪ Female		318	290	285	272
- <b>Sexual abuse</b>		<b>443</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>331</b>
<i>Age of child</i>					
▪ 0-6 years		80	63	55	79
▪ 7-12 years		165	125	104	109
▪ 13-16 years		163	132	90	110
▪ 17-18 years		35	31	23	33
<i>Sex of child</i>					
▪ Male		159	116	105	110
▪ Female		284	235	167	221
- <b>Emotional &amp; psychological abuse</b>		<b>281</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>264</b>
<i>Age of child</i>					
▪ 0-6 years		102	170	144	115
▪ 7-12 years		92	145	97	80
▪ 13-16 years		75	95	51	57
▪ 17-18 years		12	12	15	12
<i>Sex of child</i>					
▪ Male		139	199	143	142
▪ Female		142	223	164	122

Table C: Children in out-of-home care<sup>20</sup>

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Children in foster care	309	335	362	430	509	535	545	543	541	540	540	530
Children in kinship care <sup>21</sup>	207	221	192	354	229	295	288	338	485	467	450	386
Children in residential care	749	691	680	643	631	631	597	554	517	512	519	538

Table D: Foster families<sup>22</sup>

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	243	282	357	420	456	498	530	564	595	596	614	633

Table E: New Tier 2 elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases by sex and type of abuse

	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Sex of elderly Vulnerable Adult</b>				
- Male	31	16	22	12
- Female	53	34	20	26
<b>Type of abuse</b>				
- <b>Physical abuse</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>Sex of elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ Male	17	8	14	4
▪ Female	24	15	11	10
- <b>Neglect</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Sex of elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ Male	13	6	7	6
▪ Female	25	16	9	11
- <b>Sexual abuse</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Sex of elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ Male	1	0	1	1
▪ Female	3	0	0	2
- <b>Emotional &amp; psychological abuse</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Sex of elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ Male	0	2	0	1
▪ Female	1	3	0	3

<sup>20</sup> Represents all children in out-of-home care as of 31 December of the specified year, regardless of the year the child's case was opened.<sup>21</sup> Number of cases placed in kinship care from 2013-2020 is an estimate based on the total number of open child abuse investigation and intervention cases as of 31 December of each year, multiplied by the percentage of children placed in kinship care. Actual figures are reported for 2021-2024.<sup>22</sup> Represents the number of foster families as of 31 December of the specified year.

Table F: New Tier 2 non-elderly Vulnerable Adult abuse cases by age, sex and type of abuse

	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Age and sex of non-elderly Vulnerable Adult</b>				
- <b>18-29 years</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
o Male	6	6	4	2
o Female	8	4	3	6
- <b>30-39 years</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
o Male	1	4	2	4
o Female	2	3	3	6
- <b>40-49 years</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
o Male	0	2	1	2
o Female	4	2	2	2
- <b>50-64 years</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
o Male	9	4	1	4
o Female	12	10	7	6
<b>Type of abuse</b>				
- <b>Physical abuse</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>
<i>Age of non-elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ 18-29 years	10	8	5	4
▪ 30-39 years	3	3	2	4
▪ 40-49 years	3	4	1	1
▪ 50-64 years	15	9	2	4
<i>Sex of non-elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ Male	11	13	3	6
▪ Female	20	11	7	7
- <b>Neglect</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Age of non-elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ 18-29 years	1	0	1	0
▪ 30-39 years	0	2	2	3
▪ 40-49 years	1	0	1	3
▪ 50-64 years	5	4	3	6
<i>Sex of non-elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ Male	4	3	5	6
▪ Female	3	3	2	6
- <b>Sexual abuse</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Age of non-elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ 18-29 years	3	2	1	3
▪ 30-39 years	0	2	1	3
▪ 40-49 years	0	0	1	0
▪ 50-64 years	0	1	2	0
<i>Sex of non-elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ Male	1	0	0	0
▪ Female	2	5	5	6
- <b>Emotional &amp; psychological abuse</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Age of non-elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ 18-29 years	0	0	0	1
▪ 30-39 years	0	0	0	0
▪ 40-49 years	0	0	0	0
▪ 50-64 years	1	0	1	0
<i>Sex of non-elderly Vulnerable Adult</i>				
▪ Male	0	0	0	0
▪ Female	1	0	1	1

Table G: New Tier 2 Vulnerable Adult self-neglect cases by age and sex

	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Age and sex of Vulnerable Adult</b>				
- <b>18-29 years</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
o Male	0	0	0	0
o Female	1	0	1	0
- <b>30-39 years</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
o Male	1	0	0	0
o Female	0	1	1	0
- <b>40-49 years</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
o Male	2	2	2	0
o Female	3	1	0	0
- <b>50-64 years</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
o Male	10	9	4	1
o Female	3	5	3	2
- <b>65 years and above</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>
o Male	12	18	13	7
o Female	11	12	4	4