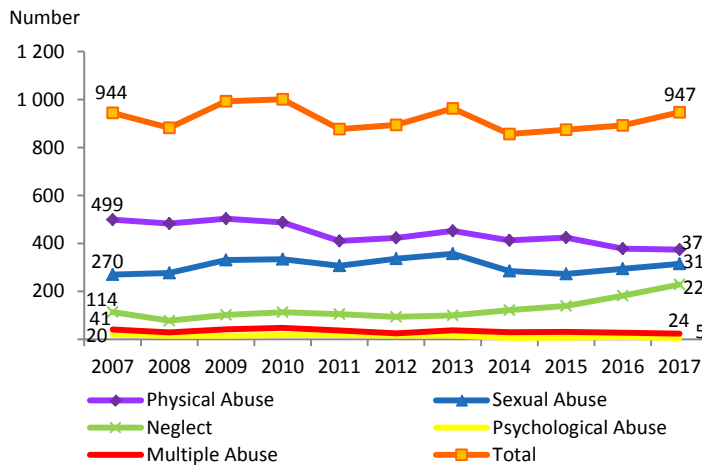


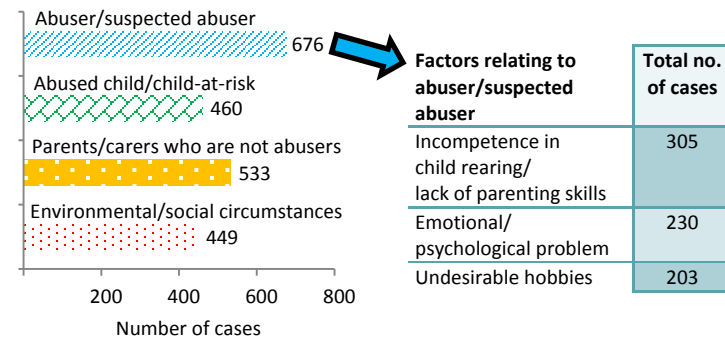


## Child protection

**Figure 1 – Newly reported child abuse cases, 2007-2017**

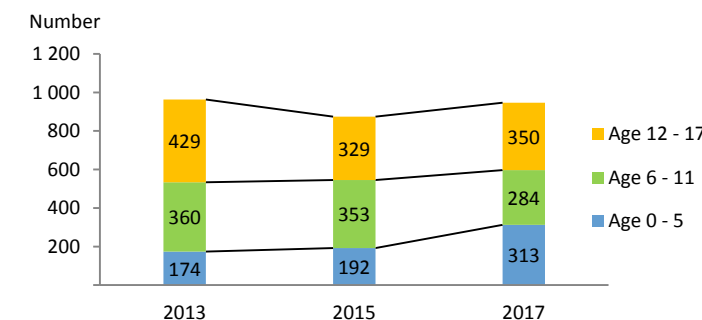


**Figure 2 – Contributing factors of newly reported child abuse cases, 2017**



Note: One case may have more than one contributing factor.

**Figure 3 – Age distribution of abused children in 2013, 2015 and 2017**



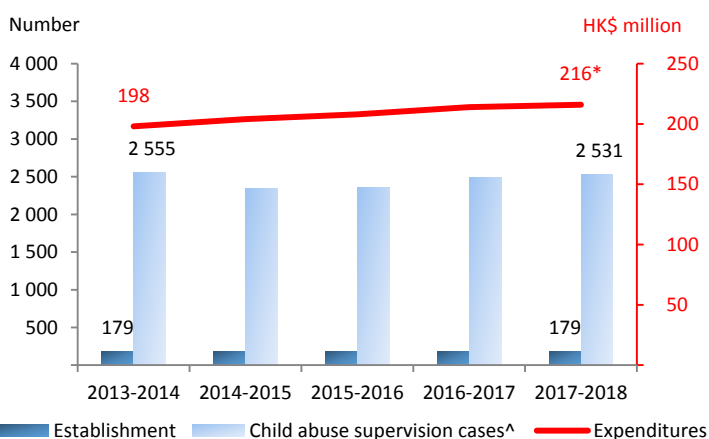
Age	Type of child abuse, 2017		
	Physical	Sexual	Neglect
0 - 5	100	18	186
6 - 11	176	63	30
12 - 17	98	234	13

## Highlights

- In Hong Kong, children welfare is protected by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which sets out all different kinds of rights a child should have in order to grow up and prevent from harm. Specific abusive acts against children are dealt with under a number of Ordinances. Nevertheless, there have been reported cases from time to time of children being abused by family members, friends or a person in a position of trust.
- According to the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"), newly reported child abuse cases totalled 947 in 2017, almost unchanged from 944 a decade ago (Figure 1). Yet, the prevalence of different types of abuse had changed over the period with increased number of sexual abuse and neglect cases. In contrast, physical abuse was less frequent in recent years and reduced its lead over sexual abuse and neglect as the most common form of child abuse.
- As shown in Figure 2, a larger number of the child abuse cases was associated with contributing factors relating to the abuser/suspected abuser. Among the factors relating to the abuser/suspected abuser, incompetence in child rearing/lack of parenting skills was the most usual contributing factor.
- As to the age distribution of abused children, the recent years have seen a growing trend of children being abused at a younger age. As shown in Figure 3, the number of victims aged 0-5 increased by some 80% during 2013-2017. Moreover, victims in different age groups were abused in different forms. In 2017, neglect was the major abuse for children aged 0-5 (Figure 3), while physical abuse and sexual abuse dominated in the age groups of 6-11 and 12-17 respectively.

## Child protection (cont'd)

**Figure 4 – Establishment of FCPSUs and active child abuse cases handled, 2013-2018**



Notes: (\*) Revised estimate.  
(<sup>^</sup>) Including child abuse cases with multiple case natures.

**Figure 5 – Child abuse crime cases, 2013-2017**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total number of cases received by the Police	1 136	931	898	870	847
Prosecutions	59	66	87	92	95
Convictions	35	42	55	63	64

Note: The year in which the Police received the case may be different from the year in which the trial was concluded.

**Figure 6 – Residential child care services**

		2013-2014	2015-2016	2017-2018
Foster care	Average waiting time (day)	55	48	46
	Enrolment rate	86%	87%	83%
Residential crèche/nursery	Average waiting time (day)	78	86	139
	Enrolment rate	92%	93%	91%
Small group home	Average waiting time (day)	116	121	131
	Enrolment rate	95%	92%	91%
Children's home	Average waiting time (day)	109	163	102
	Enrolment rate	90%	90%	90%
Boys'/Girls' home/hostel	Average waiting time (day)	33	43	26
	Enrolment rate	85%	79%	78%

## Highlights

- Family and Child Protective Services Units ("FCPSUs") of SWD are responsible for, among other things, assisting families with problem of child abuse (including early intervention and statutory protection), formulating welfare plan with other professionals for the victims, etc. The number of social workers in FCPSUs had been kept at 179 throughout 2013-2018, and the number of child abuse supervision cases handled by them remained fairly stable at some 2 500 per year over the period (Figure 4).
- Meanwhile, Hong Kong Police Force handles child abuse crime cases. The number of cases received by the Police was reduced during 2013-2017 (Figure 5), whereas the number of persons prosecuted and convicted under sections 26 and 27 of the Offences Against the Person Ordinance (Cap. 212) rose steadily over the period.
- On support services for victims of child abuse, the provision of adequate and quality residential child care services enables children in need of temporary care away from homes to be cared for in a safe and healthy environment. There has been strong demand for residential child care services, as evidenced by the high enrolment rates for such services in recent years. For residential crèche/nursery, small group home and children's home, the average waiting time was three to four months in 2017-2018 (Figure 6).
- In the 2018-2019 Budget, the Government allocates an additional HK\$92 million annually to strengthen the manpower of residential child care services. An additional recurrent expenditure of HK\$42 million is also earmarked for strengthening the manpower of FCPSUs and the workforce of non-governmental organizations supporting the Educational Programme on Stopping Domestic Violence. As a further effort to enhance child protection and better serve children's needs, the Government established the Commission on Children in June 2018 to safeguard children's well-being.

Data sources: Latest figures from Social Welfare Department, Hong Kong Police Force and Labour and Welfare Bureau.

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