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In 2018, 2,285 persons who experienced domestic violence made use of one or more services in this area. Of these, 83 per cent were females.

## Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence: 2016-2018

This news release is the result of a statistical exercise in gender-based and domestic violence, spanning three years from 2016 to 2018. When compared to 2016, in 2018 persons who experienced domestic violence and made use of the services in this area increased by 26 per cent as seen in Table 1.

Table 2 shows that in 2018 1,540 cases were reported to the Police, 1,226 cases were registered with the Domestic Violence Unit within Aġenzija Appoġġ, the national agency offering psycho-social welfare services, and smaller numbers with other services. It should be noted that cases may involve persons making use of services more than once.

Table 3 breaks down cases registered with domestic violence services into age groups. In 2018, nearly half of these cases involved persons aged 40 and over, furthermore 648 cases involved persons aged under 30. As seen from Table 4, the majority – 85 per cent – were cases involving Maltese nationals.

The Managing Abusive Behaviour Service focuses on assistance to the perpetrators of domestic violence. In 2018, as shown in Table 5, this service recorded a rise of 33 per cent in the number of perpetrators it assisted, when compared to two years earlier ■

**Table 1. Total of persons using domestic violence services by gender and number of times making use of services: 2016-2018**

Number of instances using services	Gender			
	Male	Female	Unspecified	Total
<b>2016</b>				
1	273	1,174	-	1,447
2	17	228	-	245
3+	6	118	-	124
<b>Total</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,816</b>
<b>2017</b>				
1	284	1,398	5	1,687
2	20	244	-	264
3+	8	116	-	124
<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2,075</b>
<b>2018</b>				
1	333	1,448	-	1,781
2	44	307	-	351
3+	7	146	-	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>1,901</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,285</b>

Note: Refer to methodological note 4.

**Table 2. Number of cases registered with the Police and domestic violence services by service used and gender of persons experiencing domestic violence: 2016-2018**

Gender	Emergency Health Services	Shelters <sup>1</sup>	Domestic Violence Unit, Aġenzija Appoġġ	Victim Support Malta	Police
<b>2016</b>					
Males	c	-	14	-	310
Females	c	147	785	40	1,069
Unspecified	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,379</b>
<b>2017</b>					
Males	3	-	27	4	322
Females	14	158	1,026	62	1,051
Unspecified	-	-	-	-	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1,378</b>
<b>2018</b>					
Males	5	-	69	9	360
Females	43	174	1,157	36	1,180
Unspecified	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1,540</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 1.

c - confidential figure - less than 3 reported counts in a specified category are suppressed due to confidentiality.

Note: Includes persons making use of services more than once.

**Table 3. Number of cases registered with the Police and domestic violence services by service used and age-group of persons experiencing domestic violence: 2016-2018**

Age group	Emergency Health Services	Shelters <sup>1</sup>	Domestic Violence Unit, Aġenzija Appoġġ	Victim Support Malta	Police
<b>2016</b>					
<30	11	47	151	8	432
30-39	7	45	211	17	386
40-49	7	30	199	7	287
50+	9	25	216	c	272
Unspecified	-	-	22	c	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,379</b>
<b>2017</b>					
<30	5	61	164	10	357
30-39	6	47	274	18	409
40-49	c	29	269	20	338
50+	c	21	308	17	273
Unspecified	-	-	38	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1,378</b>
<b>2018</b>					
<30	11	51	204	5	377
30-39	16	52	341	13	449
40-49	11	30	321	12	378
50+	10	39	345	14	334
Unspecified	-	2	15	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1,540</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 1.

c - confidential figure - less than 3 reported counts in a specified category are suppressed due to confidentiality.

Note: Includes persons making use of services more than once.

**Table 4. Number of cases registered with the Police and domestic violence services by service used and broad citizenship of person experiencing domestic violence: 2016-2018**

Broad citizenship	Emergency Health Services	Shelters <sup>1</sup>	Domestic Violence Unit, Aġenzija Appoġġ	Victim Support Malta	Police
<b>2016</b>					
Maltese	27	118	667	36	1,200
Foreign	4	29	132	4	144
Unspecified	3	-	-	-	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,379</b>
<b>2017</b>					
Maltese	-	114	881	54	1,189
Foreign	-	44	172	6	156
Unspecified	17	-	-	6	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1,378</b>
<b>2018</b>					
Maltese	31	140	1,040	36	1,336
Foreign	17	33	186	9	185
Unspecified	-	1	-	-	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1,540</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 1.

Note: Includes persons making use of services more than once.

**Table 5. Cases registered with the Managing Abusive Behaviour Service by gender of perpetrator: 2016-2018**

Gender of perpetrator	2016	2017	2018
Males	87	108	120
Females	3	3	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>120</b>

## Methodological Notes

1. The sources of data referenced in this news release are:

- **Aġenzija Appoġġ:** The national agency for children and families which promotes their well-being through psycho-social welfare services. Information about both parents and children who make use of the service is recorded. Furthermore, cases of minors receiving child protection interventions by the Child Protection Services offering protection to vulnerable children and adolescents under the age of eighteen years may be recorded as a Child Protection case and not included in this data.
- **Dar Merħba Bik:** A shelter that works with and helps women and children who have experienced domestic violence. Data on children accompanying their guardians and using this service is not collected and only data on adult users is provided.
- **Dar Qalb ta' Ġesu:** A second stage shelter which supports and helps women and children with independent living after suffering domestic violence. Data for this shelter was not provided for 2016, and therefore is only included in the figures for 2017 and 2018. Data on children accompanying their guardians and using this service is not collected and only data on adult users is provided.
- **Emergency Health Services:** Data on patient injuries is collected and provided by emergency departments across Malta and Gozo. This includes information from Mater Dei Hospital and Gozo General Hospital and excludes Primary Health Care, private hospitals/clinics and private health practitioners.
- **Għabex:** An emergency shelter for women and children suffering from violence within the family, in intimate relationships or from human trafficking. Both adults and children who attend the shelter are recorded as separate service users.
- **Managing Abusive Behaviour Service:** A service set up to assist the abusive partner in intimate relationships to become aware, understand and change their behaviour.
- **Police:** Malta Police Force statistics section collects and provides data on all reports of domestic violence that have been made with them and registered in the National Police System (NPS). Individuals, including children, involved in a domestic violence report are recorded separately as victims.
- **Victim Support Malta:** A non-governmental organisation which provides support and assistance to victims of crime. Information provided in this regard covers those persons benefiting from services provided by Victim Support Malta for reasons of domestic violence. Currently service is provided to victims over the age of 18.

2. **Measuring unit:**

**Persons** (Table 1): Figures provided for each reference period may include persons who have been included as victims during previous years.

**Cases** (Tables 2-5): Includes cases registered at the respective service and refers to persons who make use of services in this area more than once.

3. **Coverage:** Data within this news release is produced in calendar years, i.e. from the 1st January to the 31st December.
4. **Harmonisation:** To compute the total number of persons experiencing domestic violence, the data provided from the different stakeholders is analysed and harmonised to identify unique persons who have been found to make use of one or more services in the area of domestic violence.
5. **Confidentiality:** As with all the data collected and processed by the NSO, data is governed by the provisions of the Malta Statistics Authority Act (XXIV of 2000). This Act emphasises both the NSO's right to collect and process private and personal information for statistical purposes, while binding the NSO from providing any identifiable information to third parties. To prevent risk of identification from the data, counts of less than 3 are suppressed and denoted by a 'c'.
6. The **National Statistics Office** collaborates with the **Commission for Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence** in collecting, analysing and stream-lining data collections in the area of domestic violence and gender based violence.
7. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
8. A detailed news release calendar is available on:  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)