

Family Protection Unit (FPU)



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A Statistical Analysis

The Family Protection Unit (FPU) was established in August 2005 as a collaborative effort between the then Ministry of Gender and Family and the Ministry of Health, with the support of UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO.



What is abuse?

Abuse takes many forms, including: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional / psychological abuse and neglect.

“Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in the case of violence against women is a matter of concern to all States and should be addressed. In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture.”
- *Beijing Platform for Action, 1995, para.112*

In the Maldives, research has shown that 1 in 3 women between the age of 15 – 49 reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lives, including childhood sexual abuse.

(Maldives Study of Women’s Health and Life Experiences, 2007)

FPU Facts

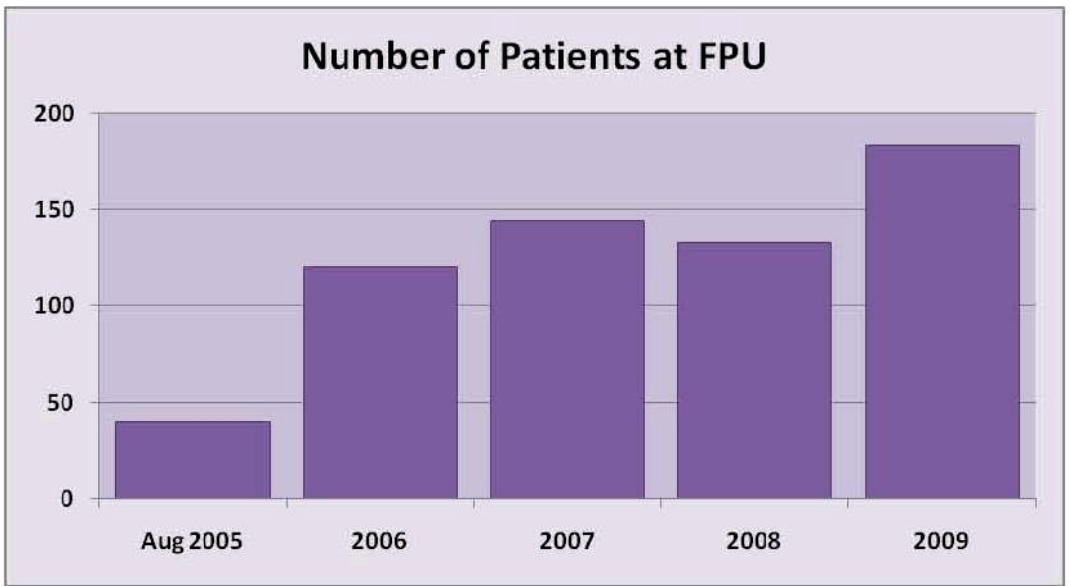
A statistical analysis of case records at the FPU at IGMH shows that :

- 87% of patients are female
- the most common form of abuse is sexual abuse
- in 83% of cases, the perpetrator of abuse is a friend or family member, and known to the victim
- half of all abuse victims reported that the perpetrator is a boyfriend or husband
- 42% of all cases of child abuse, is sexual abuse, and includes children less than 1 year old

Among the male patients at FPU, the majority of cases relate to children between 1 – 9 years. The most commonly received cases relate to neglect, followed by physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Over a period of nearly 4.5 years, the FPU has attended to 121 cases of unmarried pregnancy. The majority of unmarried pregnancy cases are among the age group 18 – 24 years. The FPU has attended to 43 cases of rape of women and girls, 22 of which are girls under 18 years. More than half of all rape cases on under 18’s were cases of gang rape.

Number of Patients at FPU



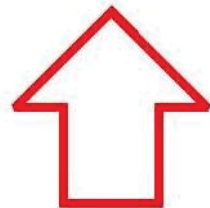
From August 2005 to 2009,
620 victims of abuse have
received care at the FPU.

620

145/year

Since 2006, the FPU has
attended to an average of **145**
patients per year.

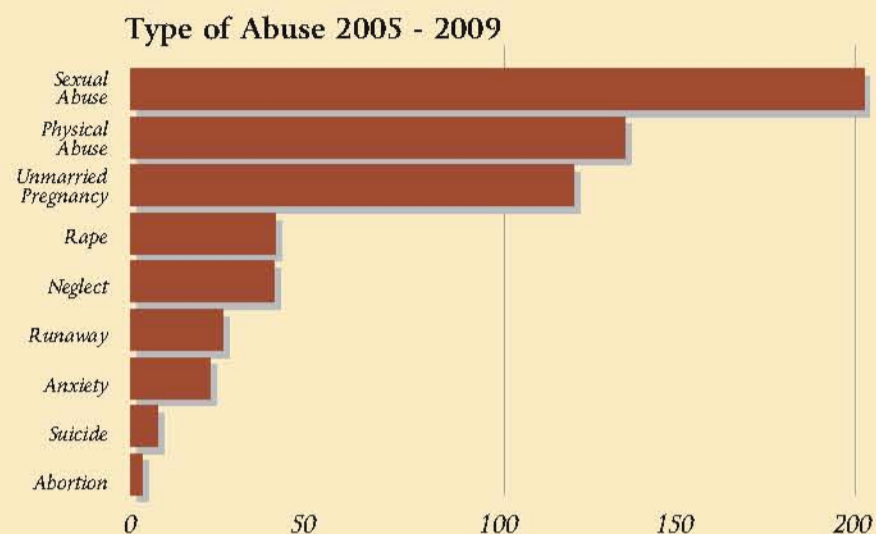
There is a noticeable
upward trend in number of
cases attended by the FPU
per month, since the Unit
opened in August 2005.



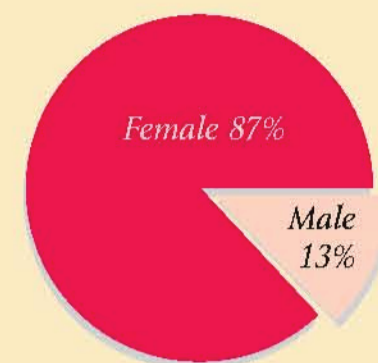
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"The Family, being the natural and fundamental unit of society, is entitled to special protection by society and the state."

Article 34(a), Constitution of the Republic of Maldives, 2008

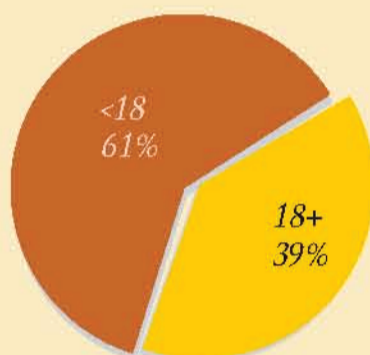


Sexual abuse is the **most common** form of abuse suffered by patients who received care at the FPU



the vast **majority** of cases presented at the FPU are **female**

61% of all cases presented at the FPU are **children, under 18 years**



20% of all cases are **unmarried pregnancies**
Over a period of nearly **4.5 years**, the FPU has attended to **121 cases** of **unmarried pregnancy**.



In **83% of cases**, the **perpetrator of abuse** is a **friend or family** member, and **is known to the victim...** **half of all abuse victims** reported that the **perpetrator** is a **boyfriend or husband**



The Family Protection Unit (FPU) represents the first model of integrated care for abused women and children, offering services for victims of physical, sexual and emotional violence. The FPU is located in the Outpatients Department of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Male', Maldives.

Aim:

Improve the health sector responsiveness to cases of GBV and child abuse.

Achievements:

More than 620 patients have received care at the FPU since its establishment in 2005.

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