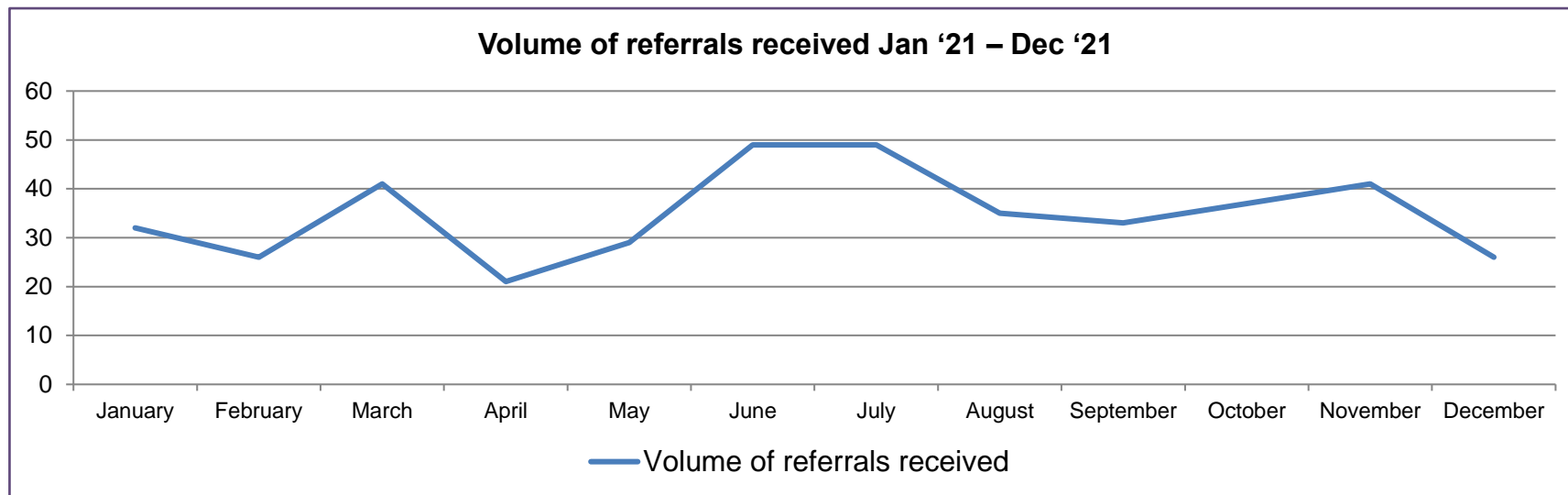


SWCU Annual Report England

January 2021 – December 2021
Data Highlights

Referrals Received

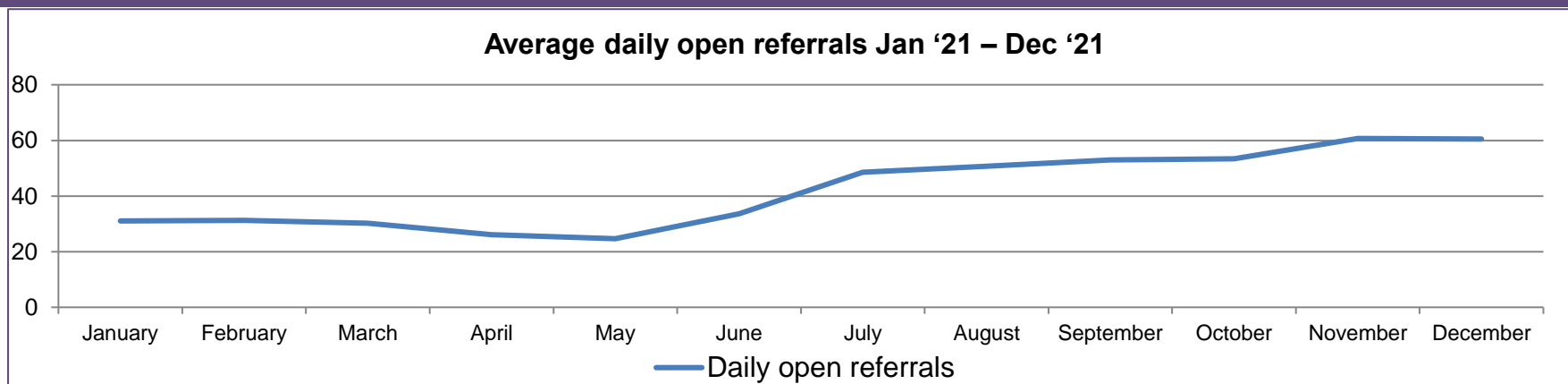


The volume of referrals received from English local authorities peaked midyear.

The overall volume of referrals received for the year was comparable with the previous year; with the unit receiving a total of 420 referrals during 2020 and 419 referrals during 2021. The unit identified June and July as receiving a significantly higher volume of referrals than other months during the year. This is not a trend that has been identified during the previous years; with the summer months remaining relatively consistent.

It is difficult to identify any comparisons to the volume of referrals received over the previous four years, due to it being unknown how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the volume of young people requiring secure welfare placements. However, it is apparent that the volume of referrals is consistent for 2020 and 2021, during which time the country was affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Open Referrals

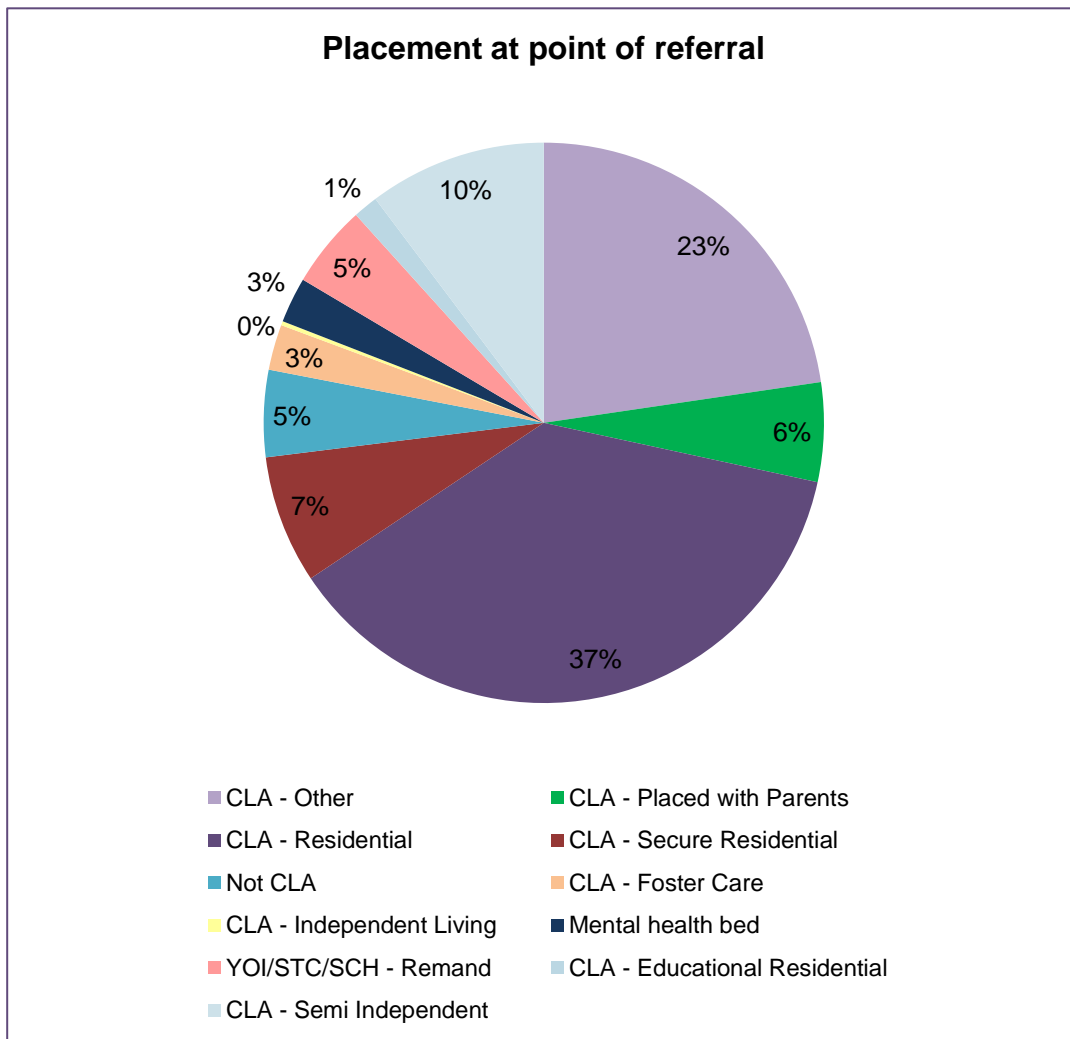


The unit identified an increase in the volume of open referrals during the second half of the year.

The volume of open referrals remained relatively consistent for the first half of the year, however from the end of June onwards, the unit identified a significant increase. On 9 September 2021, the law changed prohibiting local authorities from placing a child under the age of 16 in an unregulated placement. The unit are aware from data received that unregulated placements have frequently been recorded as a young persons current placement. While recording may be inaccurate, as any placement providing care and support is, in fact, regulated (it would come under children's homes regulations and require registration with Ofsted), the 2021 regulations could nevertheless have contributed to the increase in open referrals, through shining a light on lawful placement options.

It is recognised that during the Covid-19 pandemic some secure children's homes have been affected with lower staffing levels at different times during the year, therefore resulting in them being unable to project beds. The unit peaked at 65 open referrals during November, with the first half of the year averaging at 30 open referrals per day, with the second half averaging at 55 open referrals per day.

Placement at Point of Referral

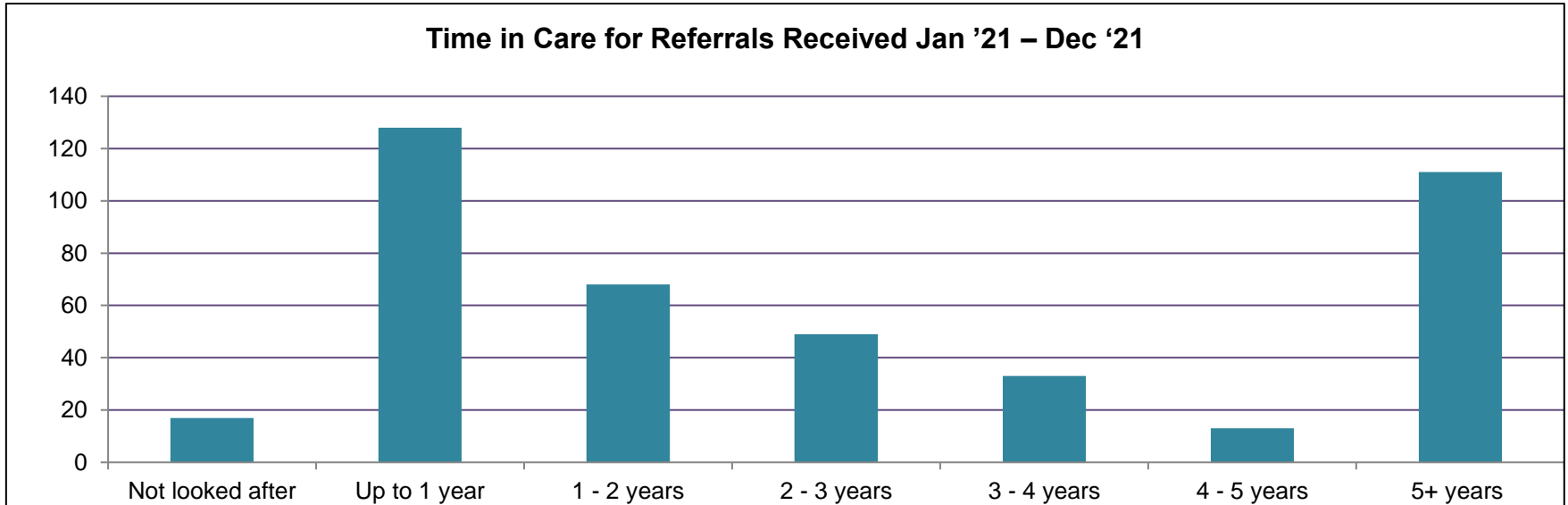


Between January and December 2021, CLA residential placements were the highest recorded placement at point of referral.

CLA residential placements have been the most common placement at point of referral for English referrals since May 2016, however, there was a slight decrease from 2020.

The unit has identified a further increase from 2020 in the volume of placements recorded as 'CLA – Other' examples are; unregulated/unregistered placements with additional staffing levels, police custody, hospital and rented accommodation.

Time in Care Before Referral

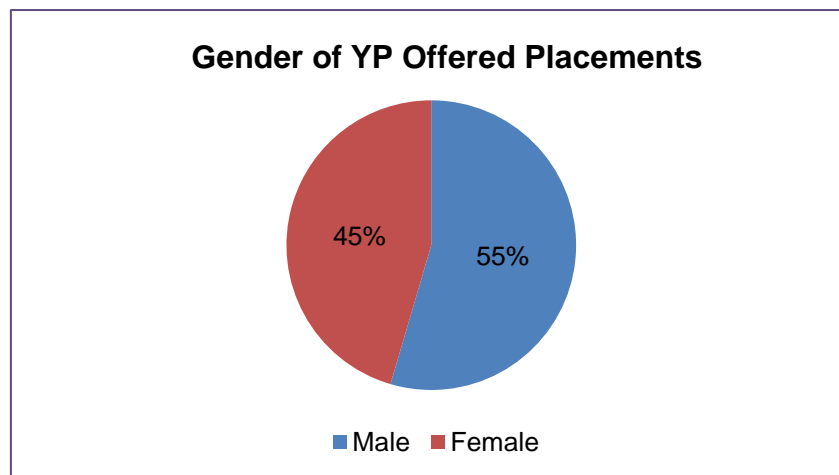
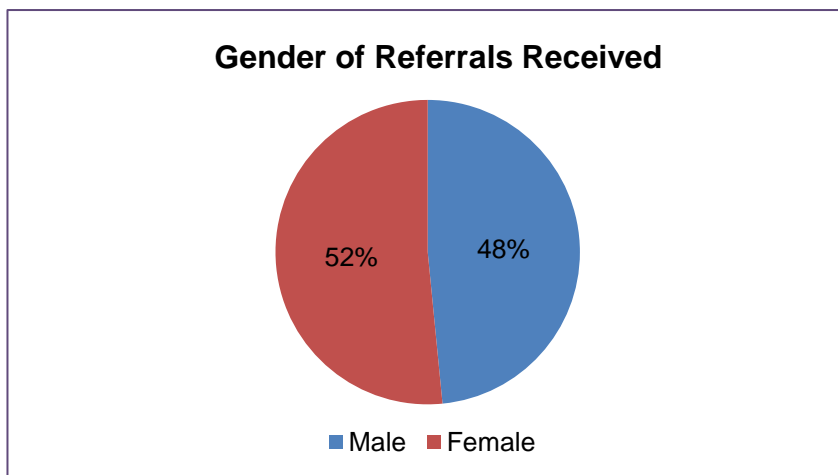


The length of time young people spent in care before being referred to the secure welfare estate, between January and December, was relatively consistent month by month. With the exception of 'Up to 1 year' which was considerably higher during Q1 and Q4 and '5+ years' during Q2 and Q3.

The unit identified a slight decrease from 2020 in the volume of young people referred that were 'Not looked after' from 5.9% to 4%. There was an overall increase in the young people referred that has been in care for 5+ years from 21% during 2020 to 26% during 2021.

The unit identifying some young people having over 40 placement moves at point of a secure welfare referral being submitted.

Placements Offered by Gender



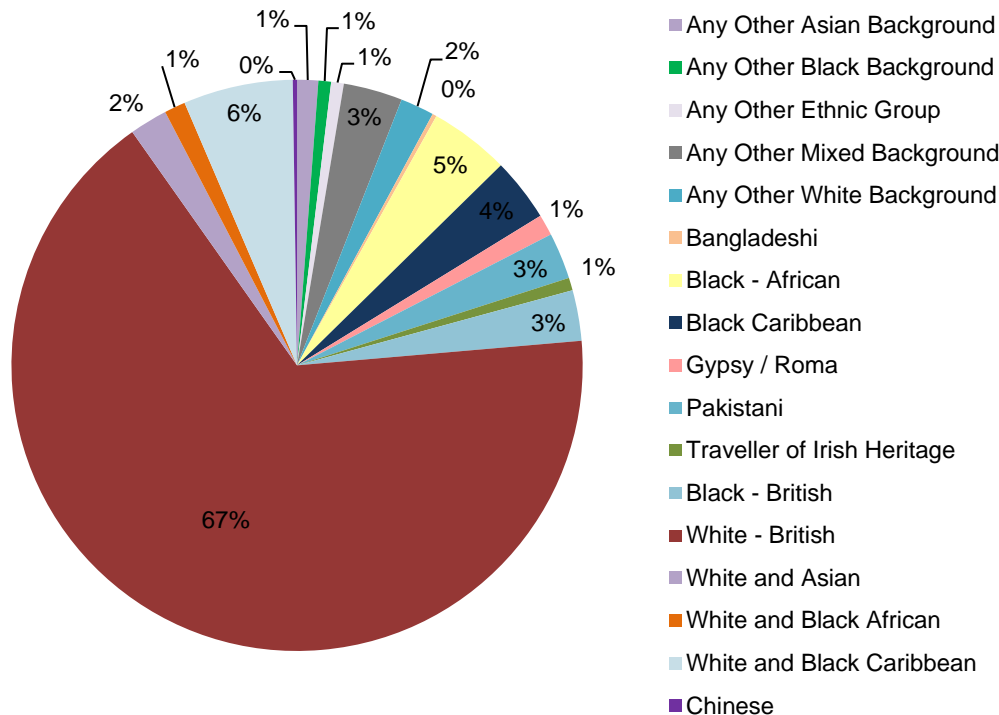
During January to December, the overall volume of female referrals received was marginally higher than male referrals.

The volume of male referrals has decreased from the previous years with the unit receiving 52% - 55% of referrals being male between 2017 – 2020 with a decrease to 48% during 2021, therefore identifying an increase in female referrals. The unit identified a fluctuation month on month with the volume of female to male referrals varying.

The volume of male to female bed offers during the year, was comparable with 2020. Not all offered placements resulted in the young person residing in a secure children's home, predominantly due to; the young person being settled in their current placement, a court order not being granted, the young person no longer meeting the secure threshold or an alternative provision being identified.

Ethnicity of Young People Referred

Ethnicity of young people referred

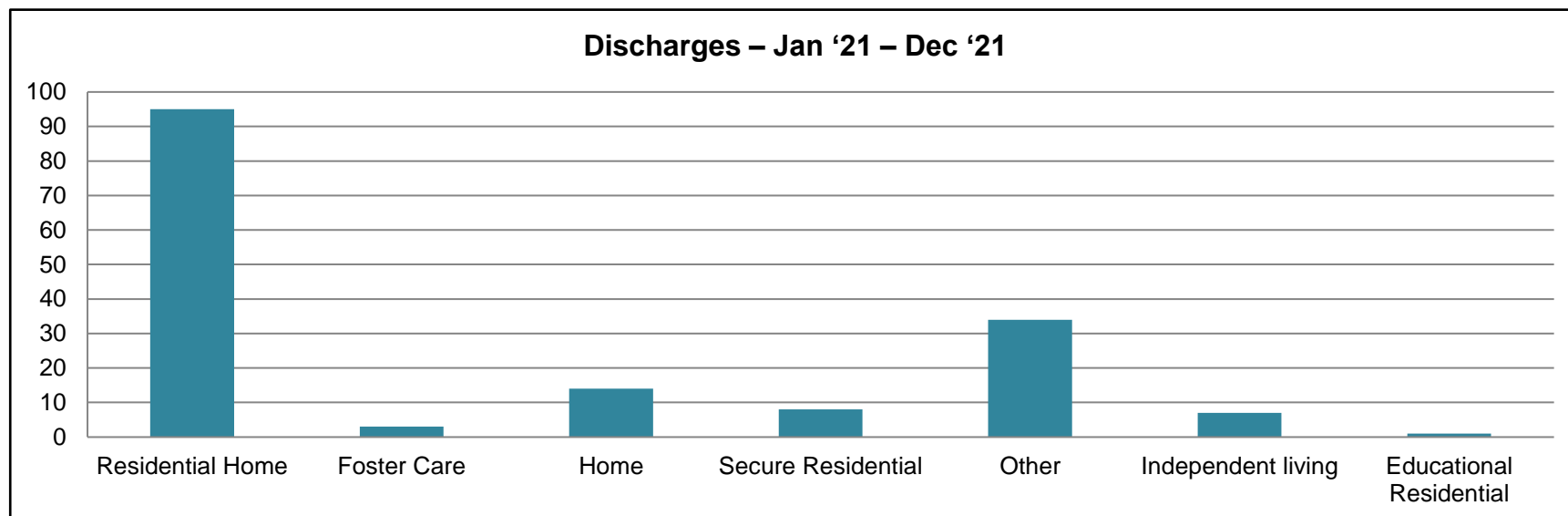


During January to December the majority of referrals received were for White British young people.

The unit has identified a significant increase in referrals for White British young people; 60% during 2020 increasing to 67% in 2021. From April 2021 Black British ethnicity was separated within the data collection; with 3% of young people recorded as Black British since its introduction.

Of the White British referrals received 57% identified as female and 43% male. Of the further ethnicity referrals received 41% identified as female and 59% male.

Discharges



During January to December, the majority of English young people discharged from a secure children's home were placed within a residential setting.

Data collected by the unit since May 2016 has identified that English young people are most commonly discharged to a residential provision. The second highest discharge destination was 'Other', examples of these were; semi independent, supported accommodation, police custody and hospital.

The unit identified a fluctuation in the volume of discharges, with there being between ten – 19 discharges per month.