

SWCU Annual Report England

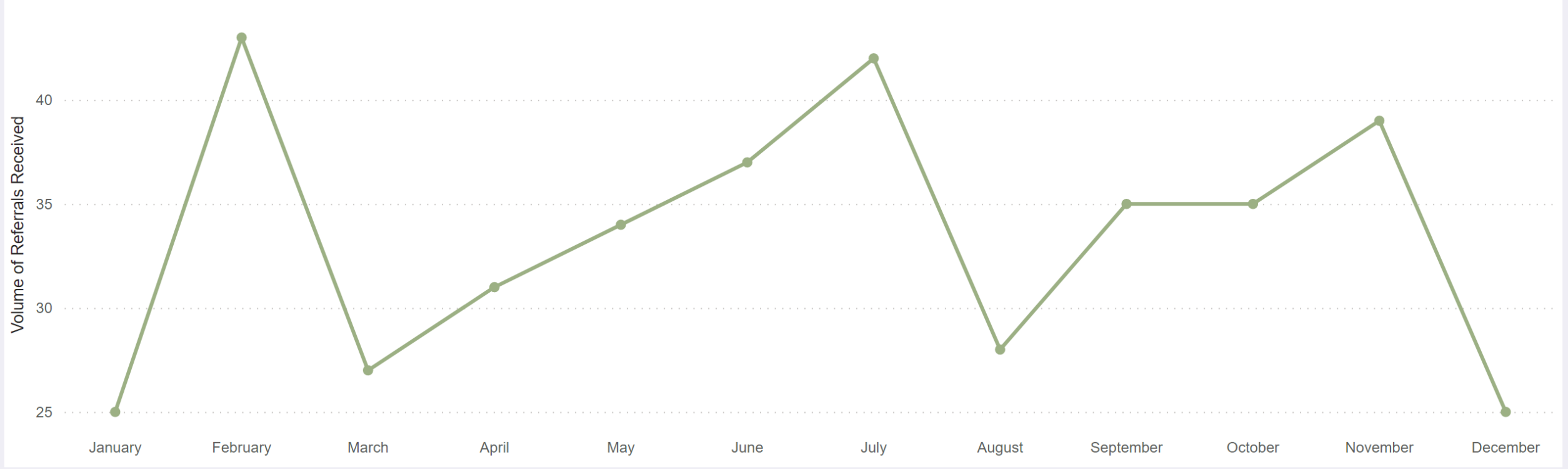
January 2022 – December 2022
Data highlights



Referrals Received



Volume of Referrals Received Jan '22 - Dec '22



The volume of referrals received from English local authorities significantly fluctuated throughout the year.

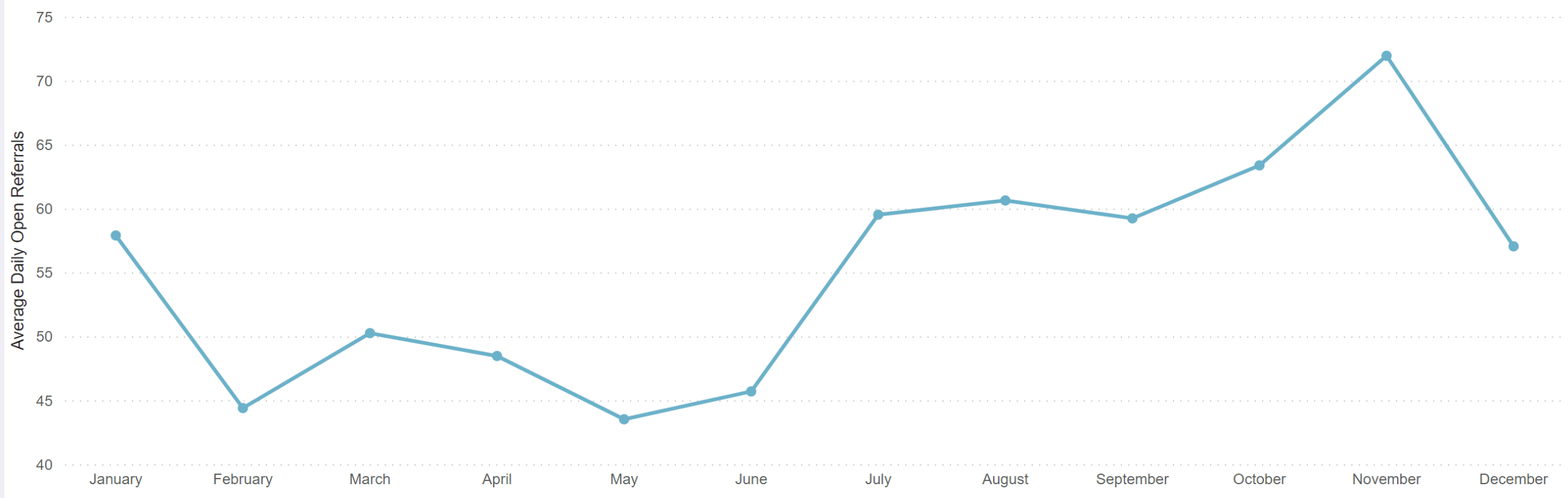
There was a slight decrease in the volume of referrals received during 2022 from the previous two years, however was relatively comparable; with the unit receiving 420 referrals during 2020, 419 during 2021 and 401 during 2022.

The unit identified several months of the year where there were peaks in referrals being received, with the summer months and November identifying similar trends to 2021.

Open Referrals



Average Daily Open Referrals Jan '22 - Dec '22



The unit identified its highest volume of open referrals during 2022, peaking at 78.

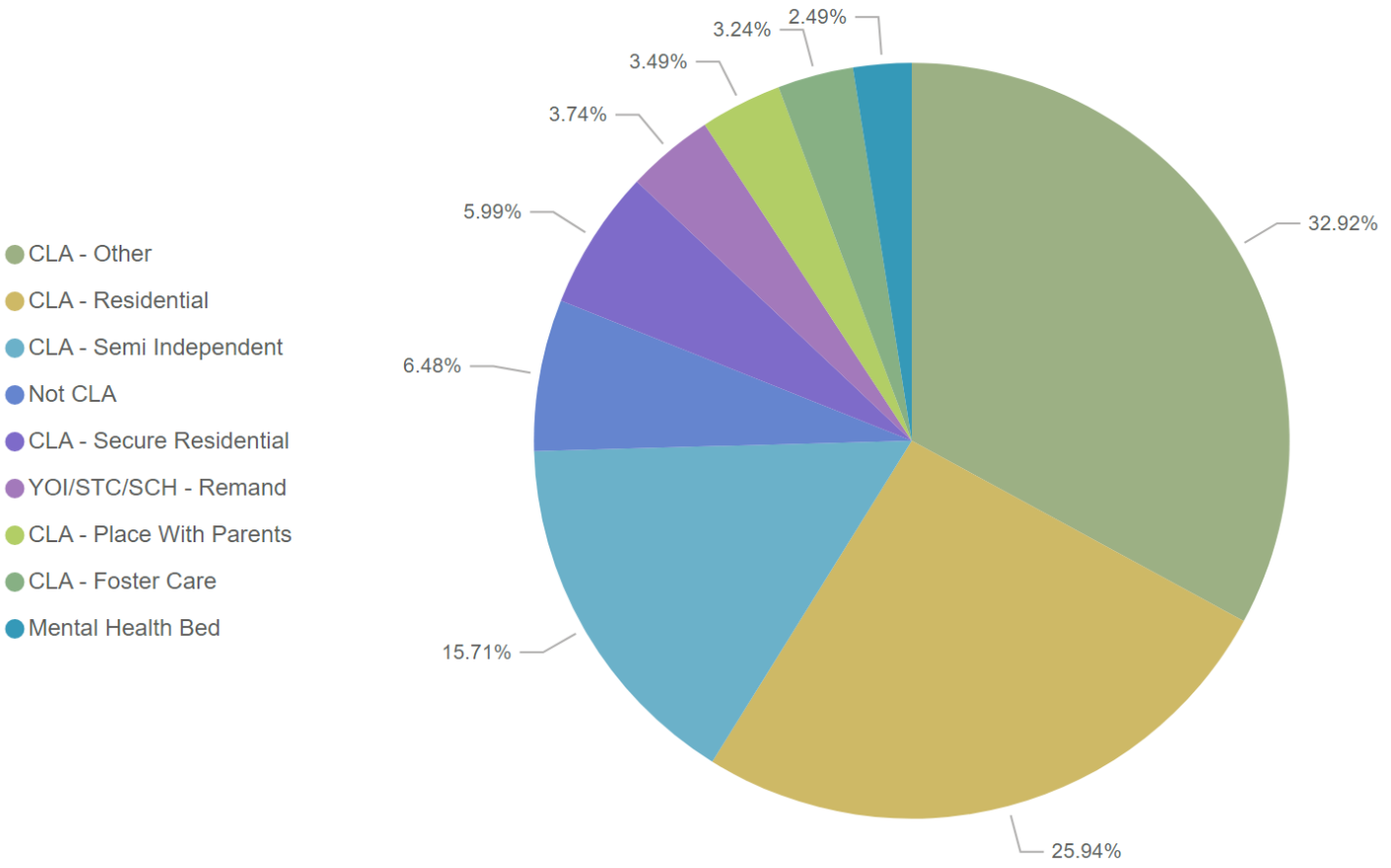
The volume of open referrals remained consistently high during 2022 in comparison to previous years, with the latter half of the year highlighting a higher volume, following a similar trend to 2021.

During June data highlighted 38 open referrals being the lowest for the year, with an average of 51 referrals being open throughout 2022.

Due to the high volume of young people requiring secure welfare placements, referral searches were open for longer periods due to the secure homes' bed availability not meeting the demand for placements.

Placement at Point of Referral

Placement at Point of Referral



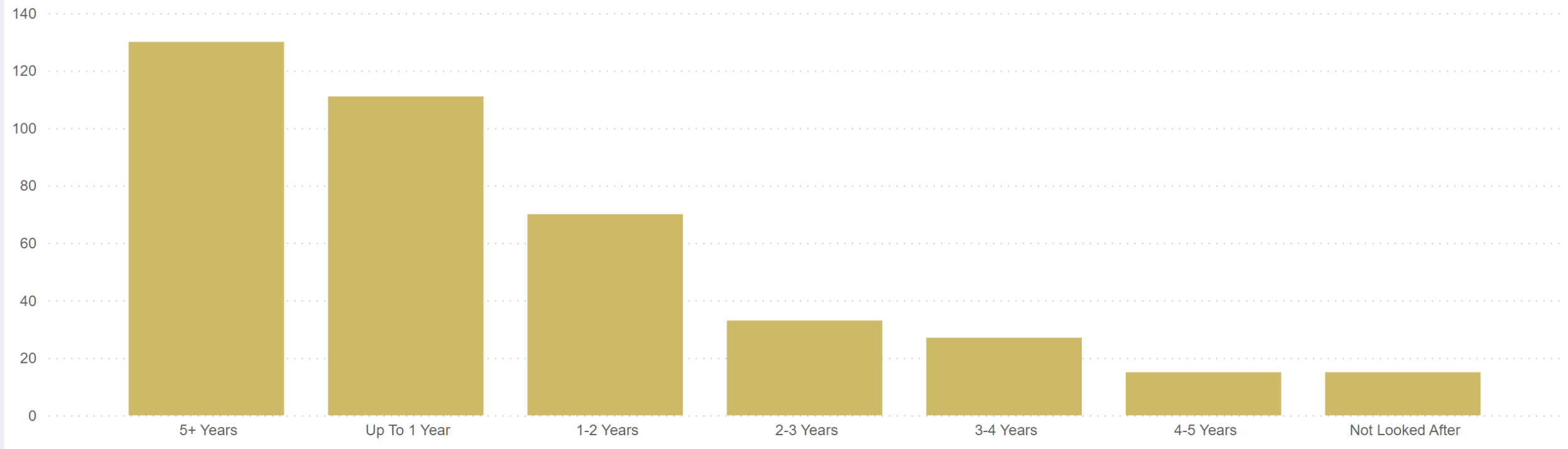
During 2022, the unit identified 'CLA – Other' placements as the highest recorded placement at point of referral. Since 2017 'CLA – Residential' placements have been the highest recorded placement, therefore 2022 highlights a change in the trend.

A high volume of 'CLA – Other' placements consisted of unregulated and unregistered placements, where local authorities were creating bespoke placements.

A high volume of young people were also placed in 'CLA – Semi Independent' placements at point of referral, however it was recognised that many of the young people residing in these provisions were requiring 24/7 care or higher staffing levels to support the placement.

Time in Care Before Referral

Time in Care for Referrals Received Jan '22 - Dec '22



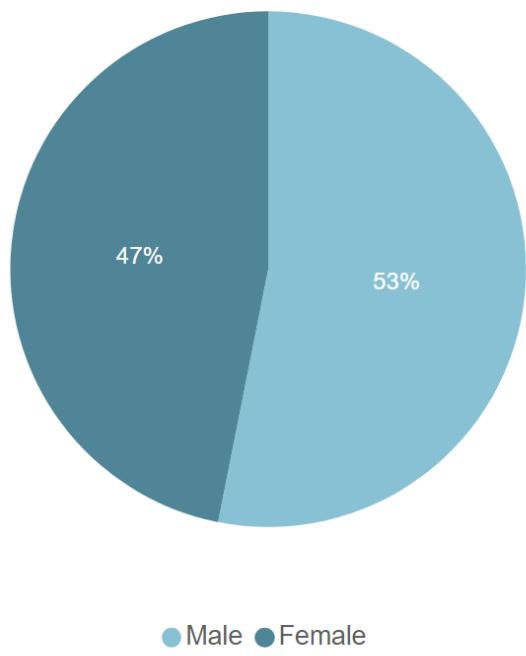
The length of time young people spent in care before being referred to the secure welfare estate, differed slightly from previous years, where the majority were in care for '5+ years'. Previous years' data highlights the majority of young people being referred had been in care for 'Up To 1 year'.

The unit identified a further decrease from 2020 and 2021 in the volume of young people referred that were 'Not looked after' from 5.9% to 3.7%.

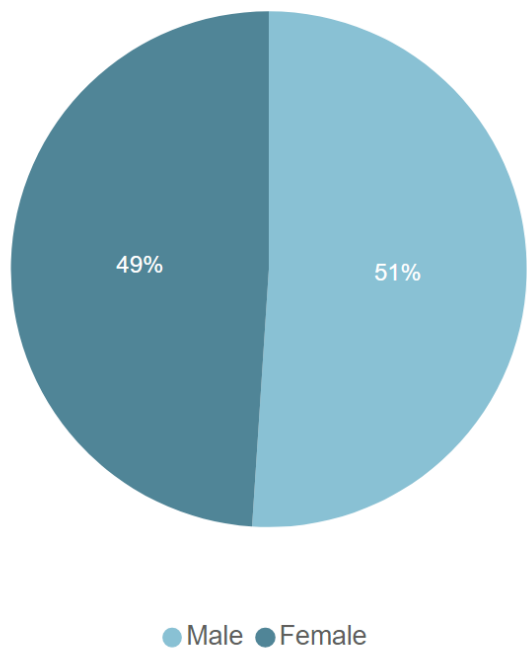
The unit identified some young people having over 30 placement moves at point of a secure welfare referral being submitted.

Placements Offered by Gender

Gender of Referrals Received



Gender of Young People Offered Placements



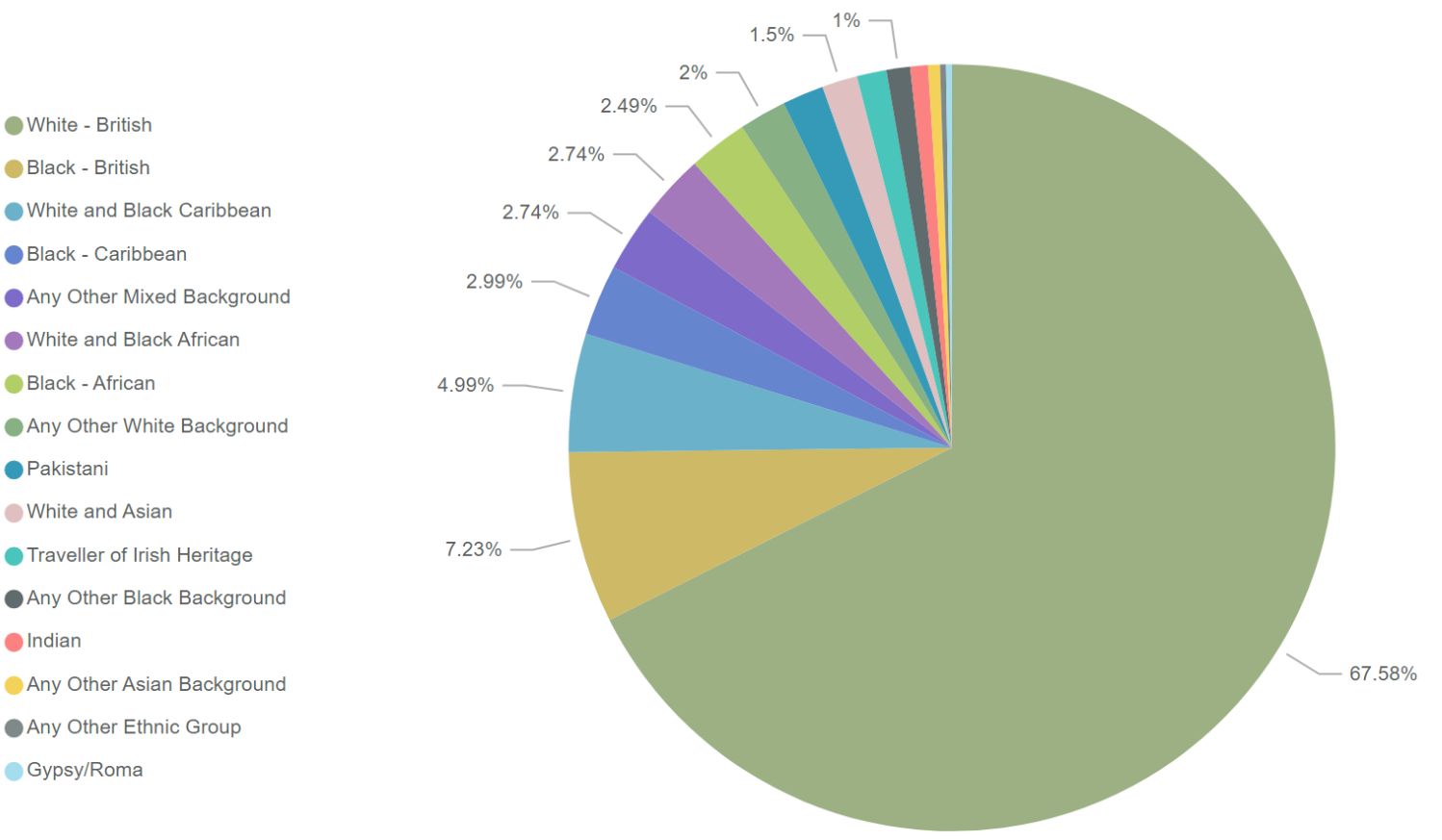
During 2022 the overall volume of male referrals received was marginally higher than female referrals. The volume of male referrals has increased from 48% during 2021 to 53% during 2022. The volume of male referrals received has fluctuated between 48% and 55% between 2017 – 2022 with the female referrals corresponding. 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 settling in their current placement, a secure welfare placement identified in a Scottish secure childrens home and the young person no longer meeting threshold.

Ethnicity of Young People Referred



Ethnicity of Young People Referred

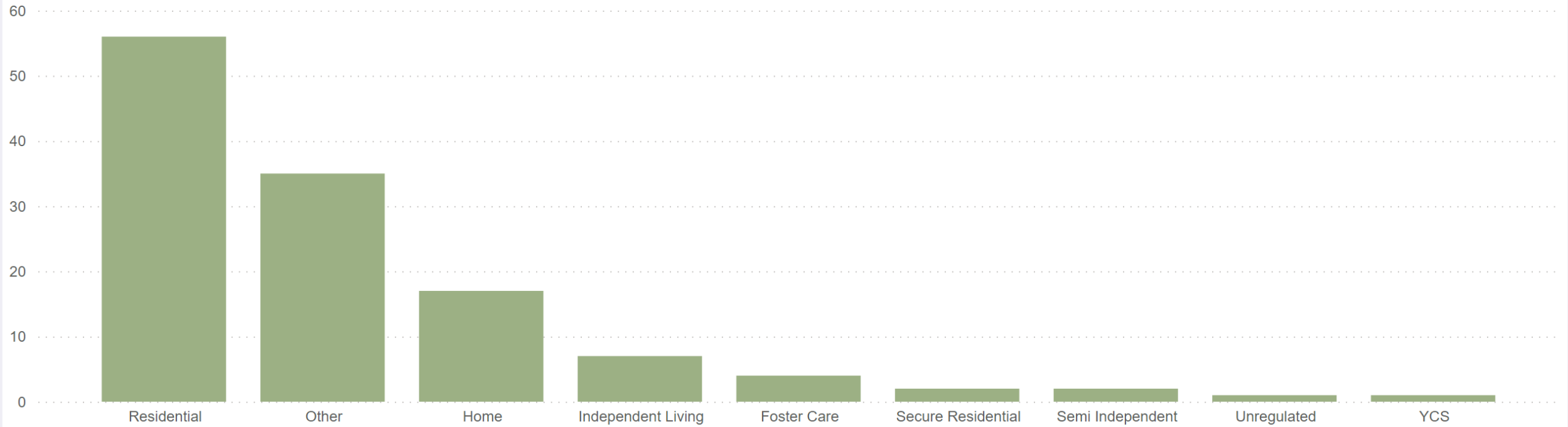


Throughout the year the majority of referrals were for White British young people, identified in 67% of referrals, this is consistent with 2021.

Of the White British referrals received 54% identified as female and 46% male. Of the further ethnicity referrals received 32% identified as female and 68% male.

Discharges

Discharges - Jan'22 - Dec'22



During 2022, 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 2017 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, unregulated placements, holiday lets, hospital and family members.

The unit identified a significant reduction in discharges during 2022 in comparison to previous years, this correlates with an increase in placement length since 2017.