



Daughters of Charity
Child and Family Service

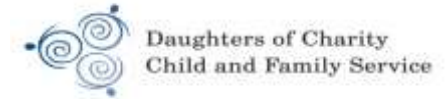
The Daughters of Charity Child & Family Services response to Family Violence

Innovative Policy & Research

In

Response to Family Violence

DoCCFS response to Family Violence



The DoCCFS has a history of being a dynamic evolving service responding to the needs of it's service users.

The primary focus of work being to support positive and healthy relationships within the family.

Mission

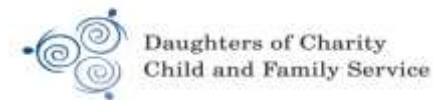
'The Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service, recognising the essential dignity and potential of every person and the right of every child to live as full a life as possible within his or her own family....'

Values

The values which underpin all the activities of the Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service are:

- *Honesty*
- * Respect*
- * Fairness*
- *Justice*
- * Compassion*

DoCCFS response to Family Violence



Who we are:

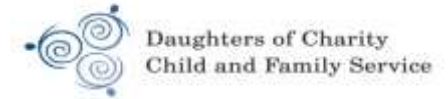
The Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service (DoCCFS) is a non-profit organisation working across the Dublin region & Meath.

The Service is funded by and work in close collaboration with Tusla (Child and Family Agency).

The service works with children and young people (from birth up to the age of 18 years) who are experiencing social and/or emotional problems and their families.

We are a needs led, solution focused service and aims to use programmes of intervention and supports that are flexible and adapted to each individual's or family's needs.

DoCCFS response to Family Violence



Who we are:

- The issues addressed by the service include: *Parenting, Behaviour difficulties, Direct Work with Children in relation to: relationship difficulties, bullying, Self-esteem, Bereavement and Loss, Effects of Separation, the impact of parent's mental health, children in care, etc.*

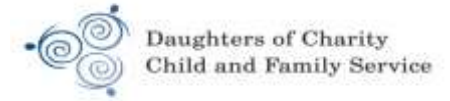
Referrals are accepted from:

- Social Work - (CFA)
- Professionals working with families in the community i.e. schools, Hospitals, Public Health Nurses, GPs., JLO.....
- Self-referrals
- (Child protection cases are prioritised)

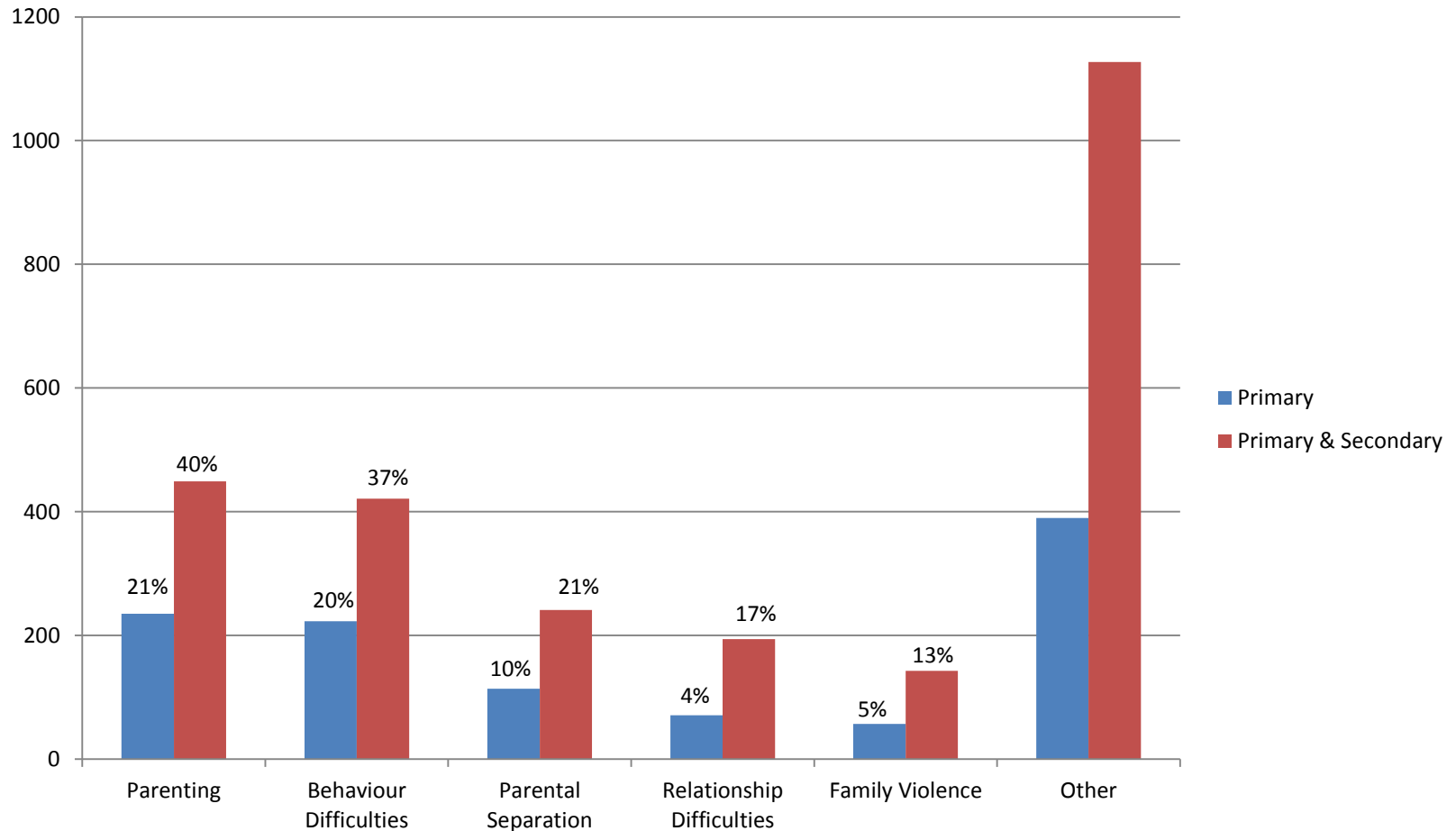
Within our work we are constantly seeing families being impacted by violence:

- *Anger Management.*
- *Child Physical Abuse.*
- *Child to Parent Violence*
- *Domestic Violence.*
- *Self-Harm.*
- *Suicide Bereavement.*
- *Violence in communities.*

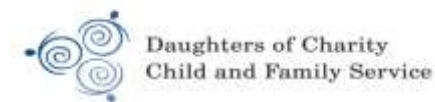
DoCCFS response to Family Violence



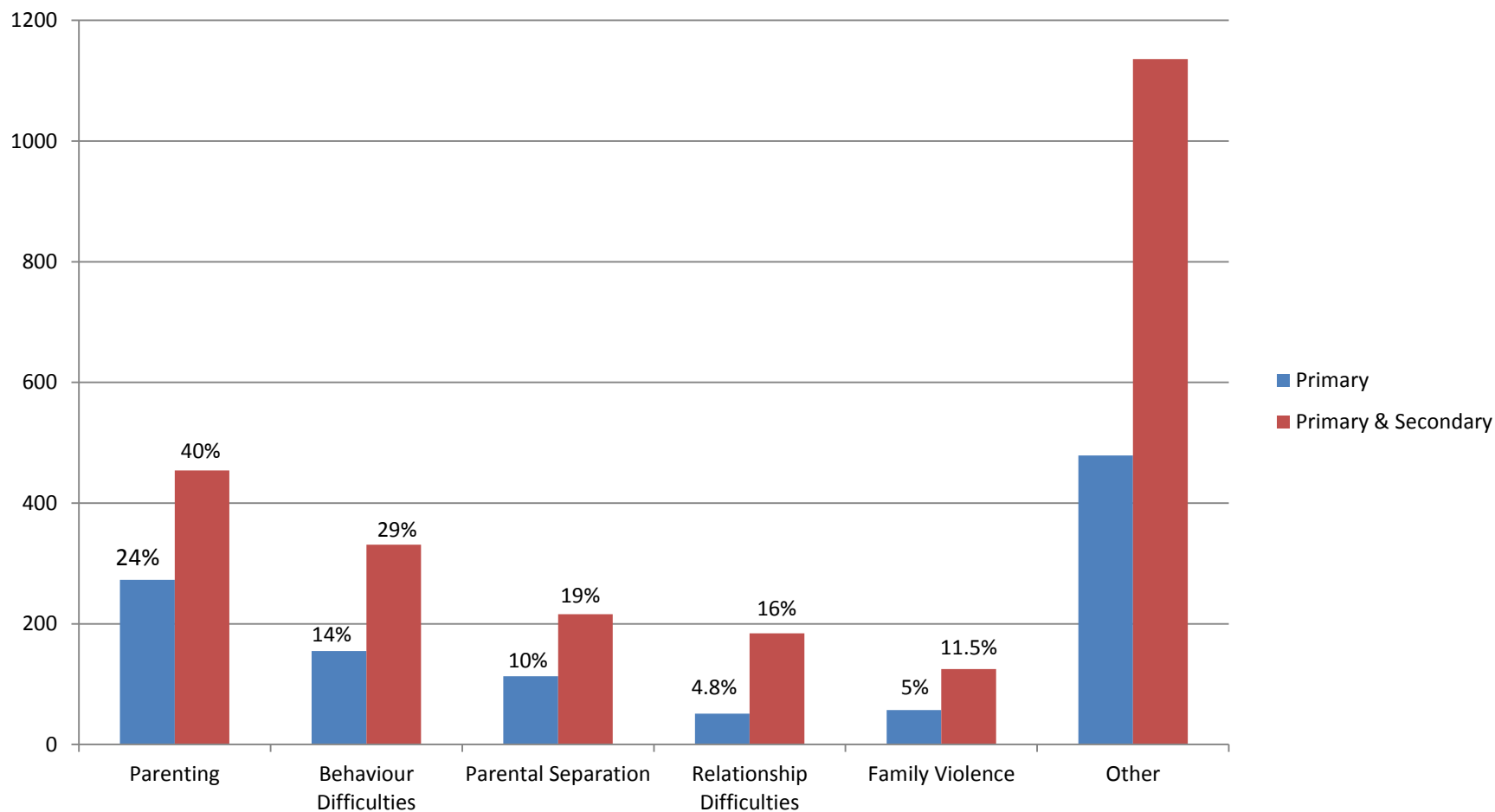
Referral Trends & 2011



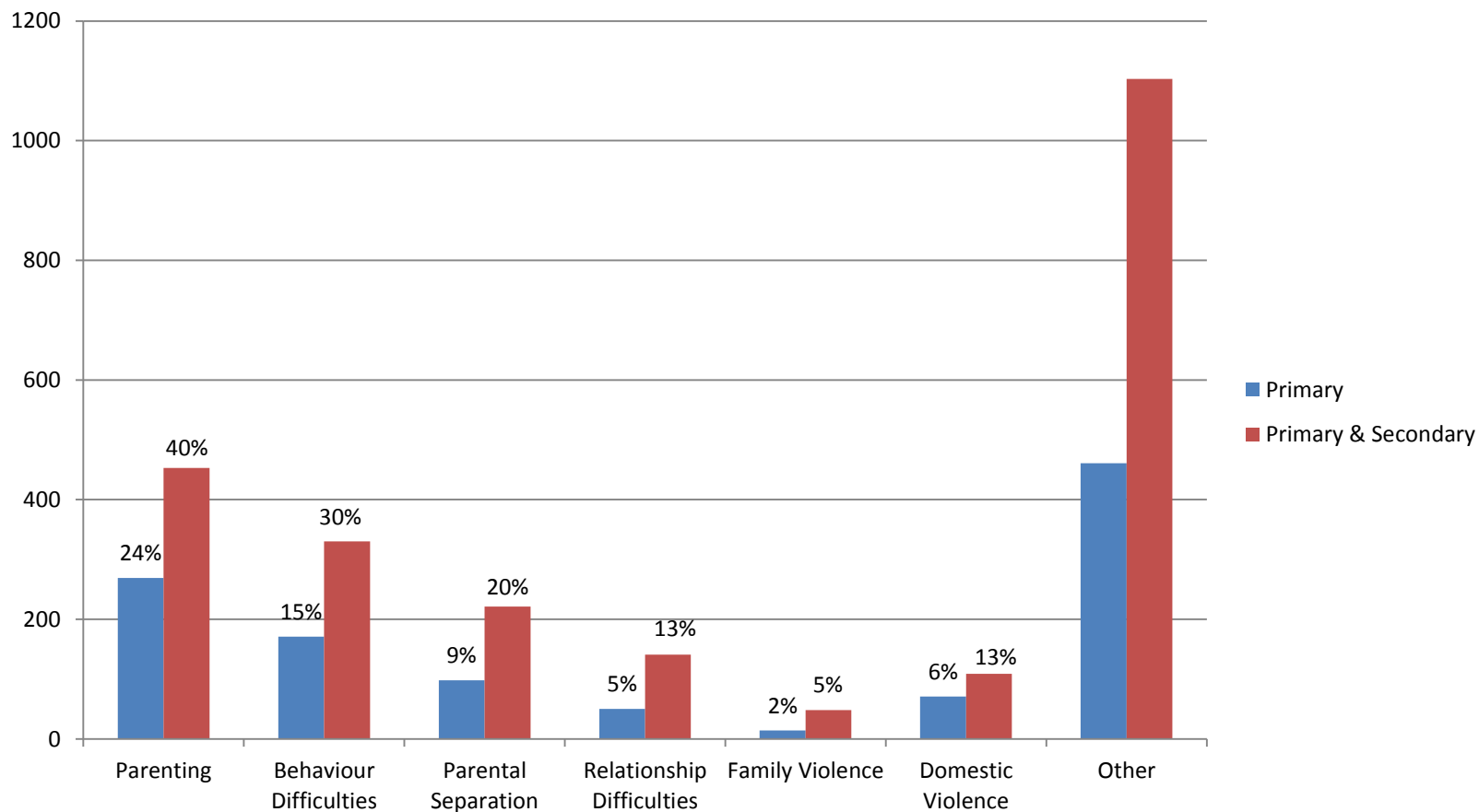
DoCCFS response to Family Violence



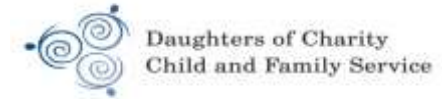
Referral Trends 2012



Referral Trends 2013



DoCCFS response to Family Violence



- Approx. 5% of current referrals to the DoCCFS have Child to Parent Violence being the primary reason for the referral; as the referral progresses we find approx. 10 % of families engaged with our service are supported in relation to child to parent violence.
- Research suggests that 18% of 2 parent & 29% of 1 parent families experience child to parent violence in the US.
- Canadian research up to 14% of parents are physically assaulted by their adolescent children.

DoCCFS – Family Violence Policy

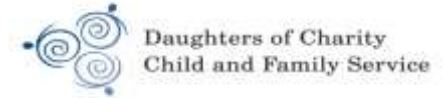
Policy Statement

- The Daughters of Charity Child & Family Service strongly believes that each person within the family setting has the right to grow and develop in all aspects of their life in a non threatening atmosphere.

Definitions within the policy

- Family Violence is “Any act or omission committed within the framework of the family by one of its members that undermines the life, the bodily and psychological integrity or the liberty of another member of the same family, or that seriously harms the development of his or her personality” (The Council of Europe 1986).

DoCCFS response to Family Violence

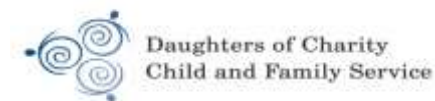


- There are ethical and practice limitations in trying to adapt conventional D.V. approaches when addressing Child to Parent Violence.
- Redefine '*Family violence*'
- Domestic Violence (D.V.) – (Adults in an intimate relationship).
- Family violence – child to parent and/or sibling

Organisations Response to Child to Parent Violence

- Staff training in NVR - 2011
- Changes in the referral process
- Collecting data on child to parent violence
- Staff supervision and support
- Contact with Social Work Department

DoCCFS response to Family Violence



Reasons for Referral

Child-in-care	Parenting	Advocacy	Family Support
Child Emotional Abuse	Parental Separation	Behaviour Difficulties	Domestic Violence
Child Neglect	Couple Separation	Relationship Difficulties	Family Violence – child to adult
Child Physical Abuse	Impact of Mental Health	Anger Management	Trauma
Child Welfare	Impact of Substance Abuse	Bullying	Emotional wellbeing/anxiety
Child out of home	Bereavement	School related	Self harm
CSA	Murder Bereavement	Emotional Support	Other
Socialization & play	Suicide Bereavement	Family Member incarceration	

ALL REFERRALS ARE SCREENED FOR THE FOLLOWING (past or present)

- Domestic Violence
- Suicidal Ideation
- Mental Health Issues
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Substance Abuse
- Alcohol Misuse
- Bereavement
- Separation
- Family Violence (Child to Parent)

Our protocols

- Safe environment – Parents don't feel judged, embarrassed or in any way to blame.
- Family Workers/Practitioners show an understanding of the issue
- Let the parents know they are not alone in what they are going through.
- Assess for child protection concerns.
- Safety planning - which may include Social Work and/or the Gardaí
- Establish how we will work with the parent / child /family.
- (Initial) Practical advice.

- We aim to Re-establish the parental authority – while at the same time respecting the child’s dignity.
 - *Based on the attitude of Martin Luther King Jr.*
‘ We shall overcome and you will’

Going Forward

- Ongoing training and supervision.
- Services to work more closely together around the issue (Meitheal/LAP).
- Joint training between services.
- Creating a greater awareness of the issue at a local and national level.