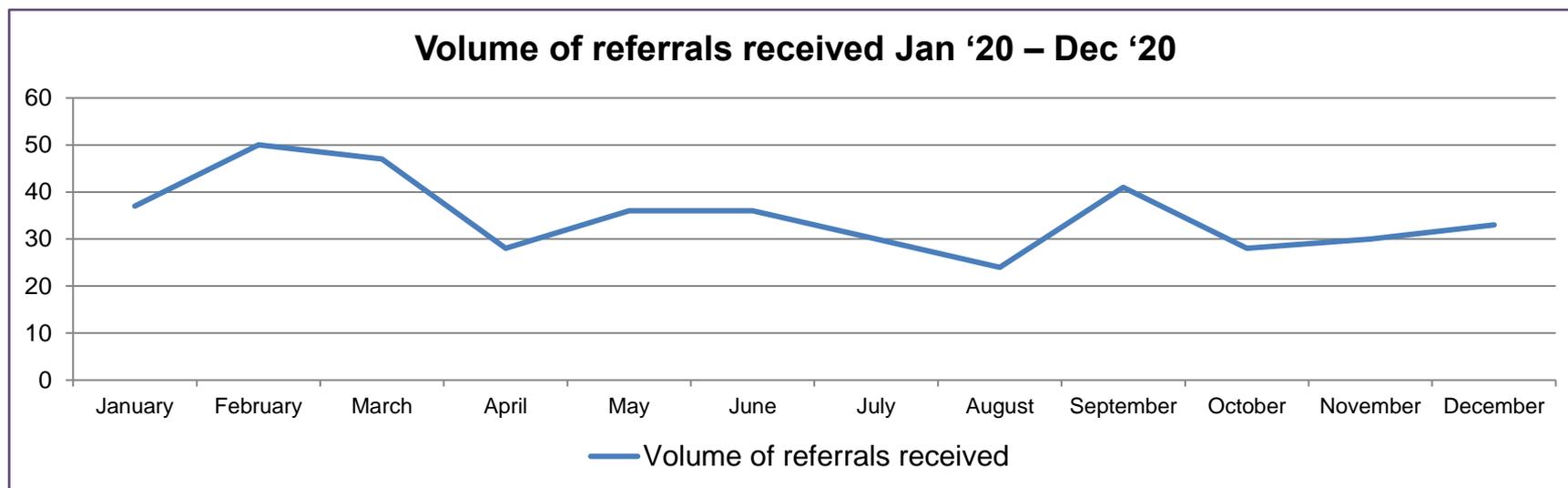


SWCU Annual Report England

January 2020 – December 2020
Data Highlights

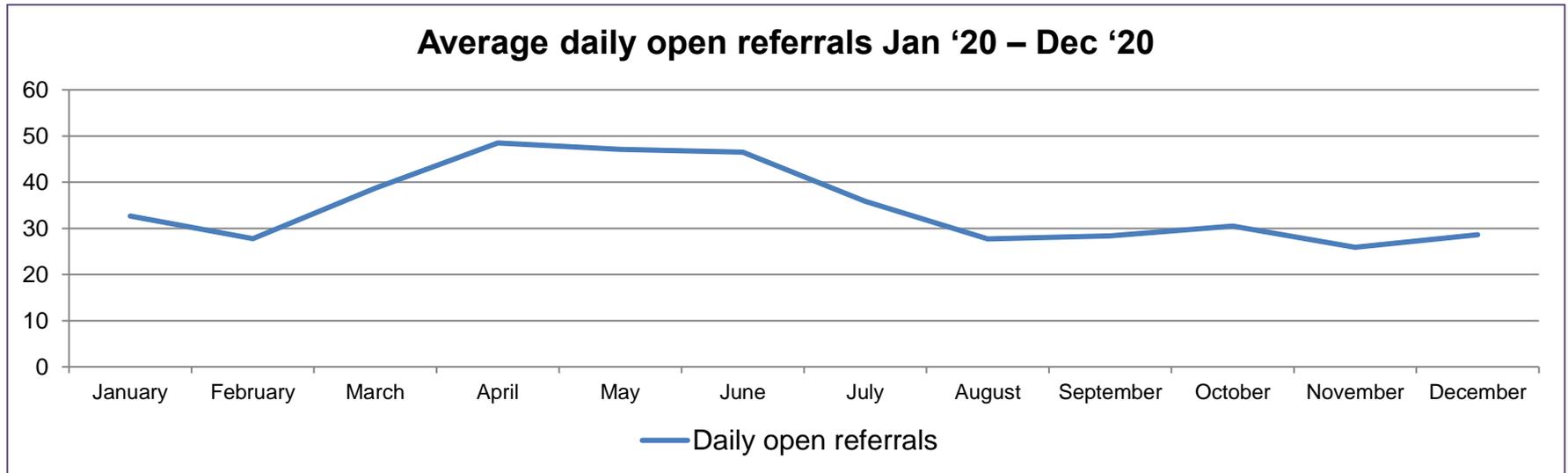
Referrals Received



The volume of referrals received from English local authorities increased during the first half of the year, then declined as the year proceeded, the unit receiving the highest volume of referrals during February, before the Covid-19 pandemic.

The overall volume of referrals for the year decreased from the previous year by 72 referrals; with the unit receiving a total of 420 referrals during 2020. The unit identified an increase in referrals during September, whereas in previous years an increase during October has been identified. 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.

Open Referrals



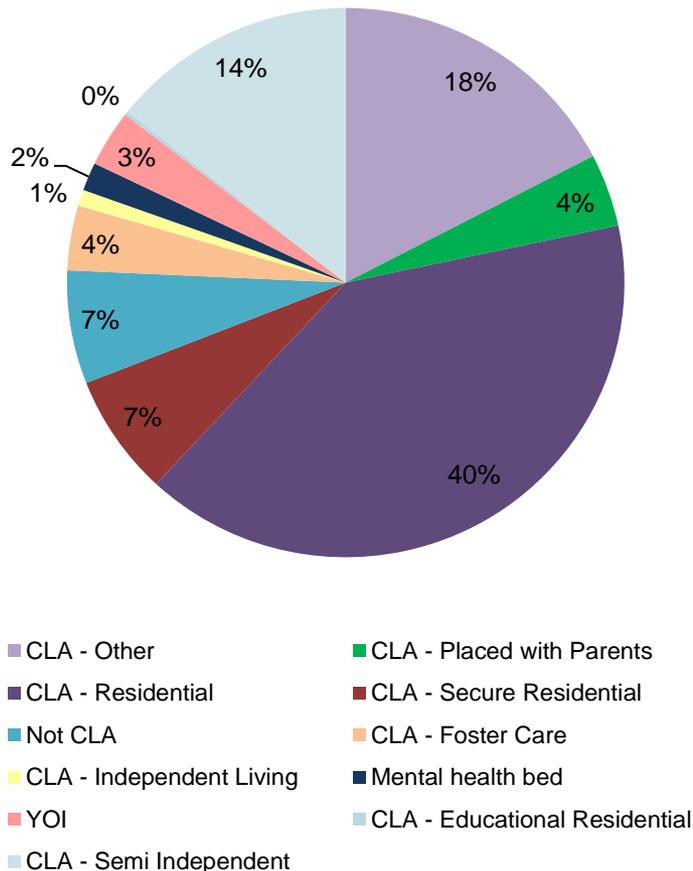
The unit identified an increase in line with the first national lockdown due to the covid-19 pandemic.

From the end of March the unit identified an increase in the volume of daily open referrals. It is recognised that at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic some SCH's were affected with lower staffing levels, therefore resulting in them being unable to declare beds. Referrals then increasing due to having no homes available to consider offering beds, therefore the unit peaking at 52 open referrals at the beginning of April. This peak remaining high over the following months and again peaking at its highest since May 2016 with 54 referrals during June.

As the year proceeded SCH's were in a position to again consider referrals therefore decreasing the volume of open referrals.

Placement at Point of Referral

Placement at point of referral

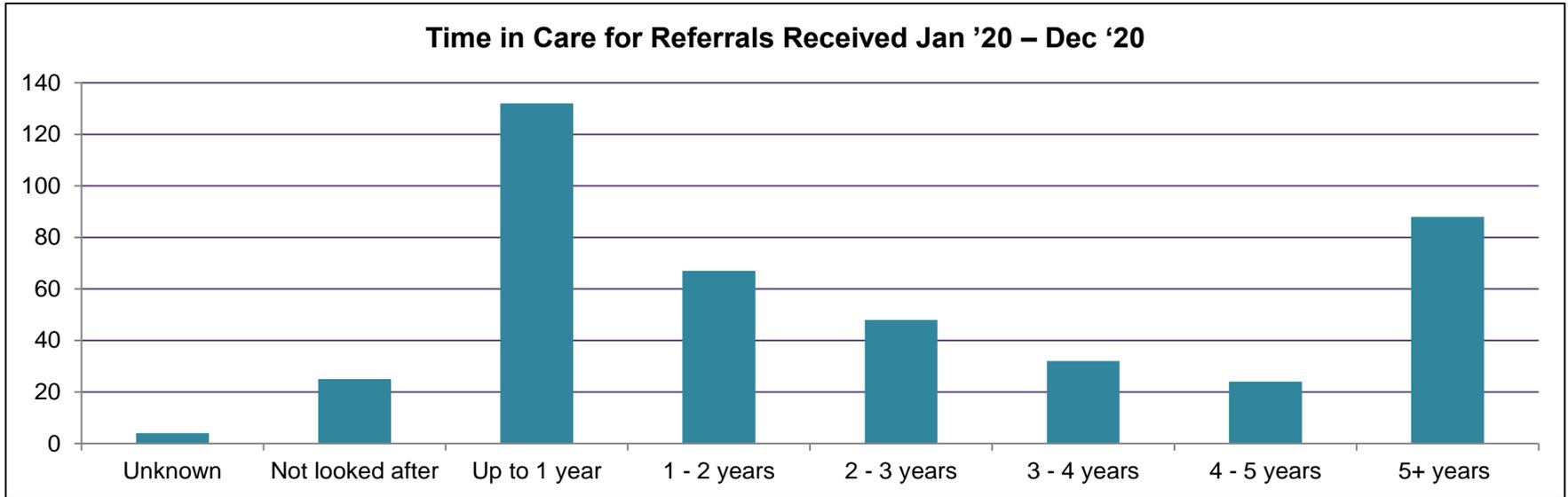


Between January and December 2020, CLA residential placements were the highest recorded placement at point of referral.

CLA residential placements have been the most common placement at point of referral for English referrals since May 2016, however, there was a slight increase from 2019.

The unit has identified an increase in the volume of placements recorded as 'CLA – Other' examples are; hospital, hotel, supported living, short break placements, family members and unregulated/unregistered placements with additional staffing levels.

Time in Care Before Referral

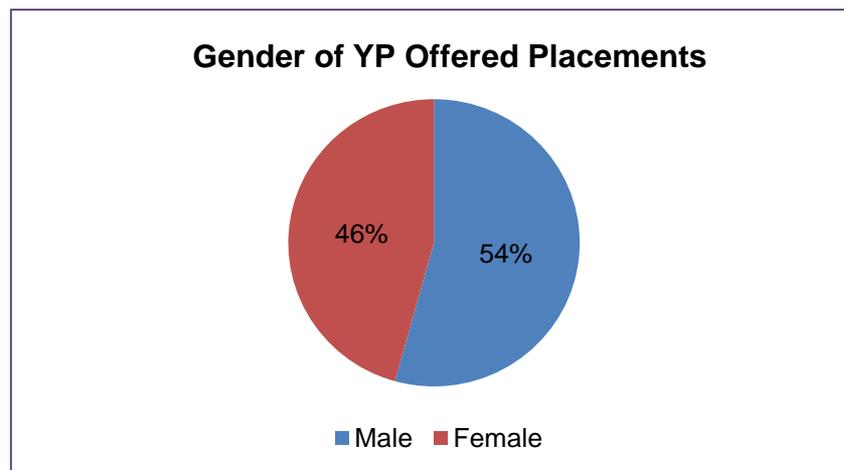
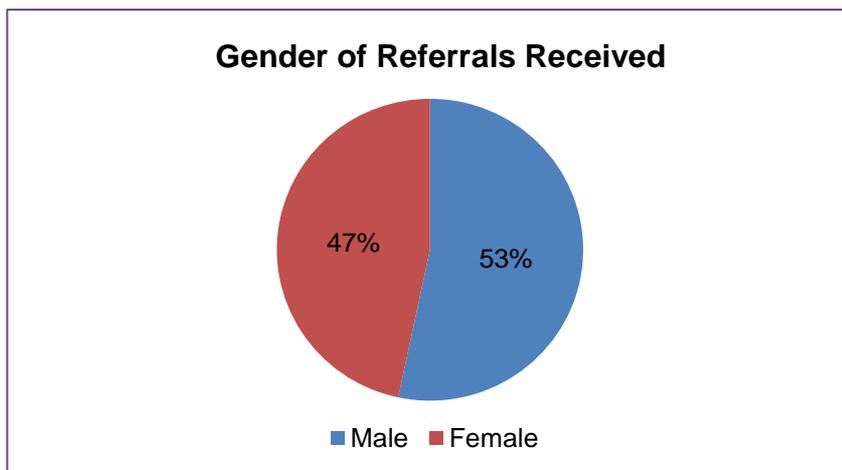


The length of time young people spent in care before being referred to the secure welfare estate, between January and December, was relatively consistent month by month, with an increase during June for length in care being for '1-2 years'.

During October - December, the unit identified a decrease in the volume of referrals received where the young people had been in care for 5+years.

The data highlights the length in care being relatively consistent with 2019, with the exception of 'Not looked after' where the unit has identified an increase from 1.1% during 2017 to 8.7% during 2019, then a decrease to 5.9% during 2020. The unit identifying some young people having up to 40 placement moves at point of a secure welfare referral being submitted.

Placements Offered by Gender

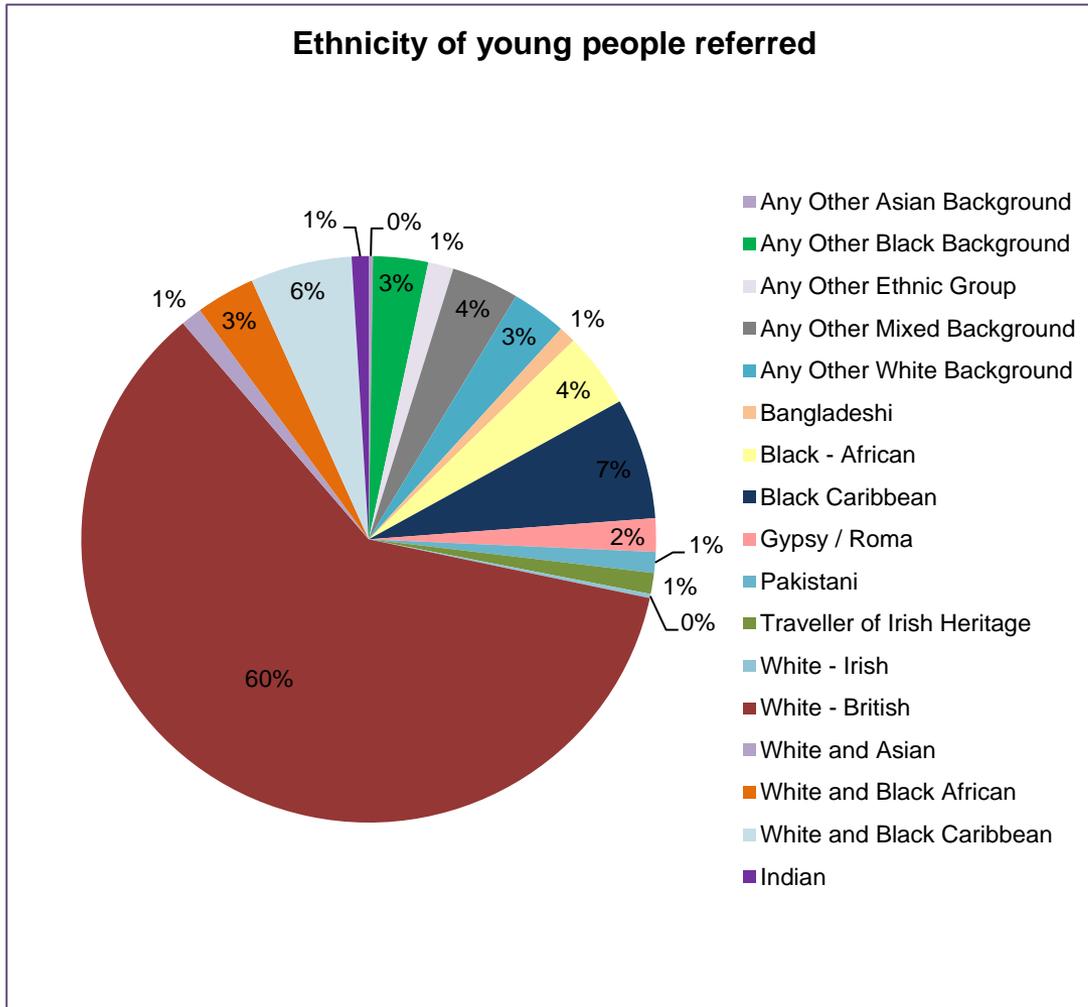


During January to December, the overall volume of male referrals received was marginally higher than female referrals.

The volume of male referrals has decreased slightly from 2019, however is comparable with previous years; 53% during 2017, 52% during 2018 to 55% during 2019. The unit identified a fluctuation month on month with the volume of female to male referrals varying, however there was a significant disparity during August, where the unit received 5 female referrals to 19 male referrals.

There was a slight increase in the volume of male to female bed offers during the year, this differs slightly from 2019 where an equitable volume of beds were offered. Not all offered placements resulted in the young person residing in a SCH, 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

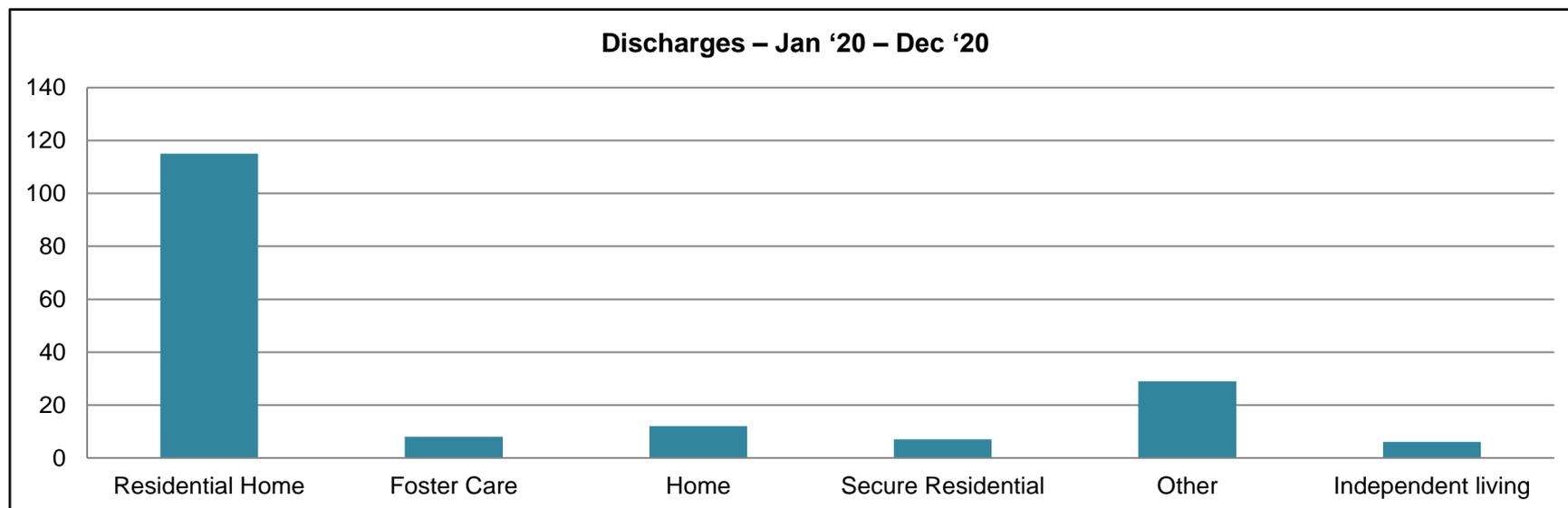


During January to December the majority of referrals received were for White British young people.

The ethnicity of referrals fluctuated slightly throughout the year with April – June identifying with under 50% being White British. It is unknown if the Covid-19 pandemic affected an increase in BAME referrals.

Of the White British referrals received 55% identified as female and 45% male. Of the BAME referrals received 34% identified as female and 66% 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 found 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, mental health placement, solo short breaks, remanded, unregistered and supported accommodation placements.

The unit identified consistency in the volume of discharges each month with on average there being 12, with the exception of January, September and October where there were on average 22 discharges each month.