

**Social Affairs Department**  
**Quarterly Statistical Bulletin**  
**Quarter 4 2024**

**Introduction**

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the fourth quarter of 2024. Information is gathered from the Court adoption and Fostering Section, Community, Child Protection & Family Support Section, Parenting education programme and the Night shelter.

**Social Services Division**

**Court Adoption and Fostering Section**

The Court Adoption and Fostering Section's main responsibility is to handle cases referred by the Supreme Court and Family Tribunal for investigation and submission of reports to address children related issues of custody, access, maintenance, adoption, guardianship and mediation for reconciliation in divorce matters. The section also coordinates matters of fostering placements and pre-adoption.

**Family tribunal referrals**

- 83 children related cases of Custody, Access & Maintenance were referred by the Family Tribunal. This shows a decrease of 80 cases compared to the same period last year.

Referrals for Q4	
Issues	Total
Access	8
Custody	45
Maintenance	30
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>83</b>

**Supreme Court referrals**

- 4 adoption cases and 2 guardianship cases were referred by the Supreme Court during the quarter.

## Community, Child Protection & Family Support Section

### Child Protection Unit

The Child protection unit undertakes investigation into referrals of cases of alleged abuse. They empower children to protect themselves and protect abused children and those who are at risk of harm through clear intervention plans. As part of the investigating process and intervention plan, the unit works in partnership with stakeholders such as the Police and Ministry of Health. The unit undertakes home and school visits as well as counselling sessions and preparing victims for court.

- A total of 123 new cases were reported at the Child Protection Unit from October to December 2024 compared to 98 cases reported during the same period in 2023. This shows an increase of 25 in cases reported.
- In comparison to the previous quarter cases increase by 27, with the main increase observed in the number of physical abuse cases reported.

Categories	No of cases reported in Q4
<b>Sexual related cases</b>	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	43
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	7
<b>Other Abuse</b>	
Physical	59
Alleged physical abuse	8
Neglect	4
Alleged neglect	2
<b>Total</b>	123

### Community Social Work Unit

Community social work promotes the wellbeing of families in the community. It encompasses a variety of components focusing on economic needs, educational concerns, family challenges, collaborative and creative solutions at community level. It further emphasizes on advocacy, analysis planning and implementation of activities to support families and alleviate the difficult situation they are going through.

- 70 cases were reported at district level in Q4, showing a reduction of 22 compared to the same period in 2023.
- In comparison to the previous quarter, cases reported decreased by 6, with the most significant reduction recorded in custody cases reported.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q4
Neglect	20
Alleged physical Abuse	2
Delinquency	0
Alleged sexual abuse	1
Deviancy	12
Semi orphan benefit	3
Alleged Neglect	9
Separation agreement	4
Alcohol	2
Elderly neglect	2
Elderly housing	1
Truancy	2
Domestic violence	1
Absenteeism	1
Approved scheme	1
Sexual behavior	3
Emotional abuse	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

### Family Support Unit

The Family Support Unit also provides services to dysfunctional family and other vulnerable individuals in the society with the aim of restoring social functioning. They cater to cases related to Domestic violence, homelessness, mental health, neglect of adult with disabilities, housing issues, vagrant adult and breach of peace.

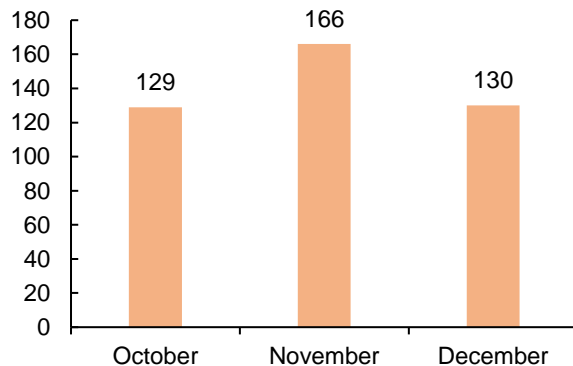
- 94 cases were reported at the family support unit during the 4th quarter of 2024. This shows an increase of 5 compared to the same period in 2023. Compared to the previous quarter, cases reported at the unit decreased by 33, with the most significant decrease observed in spousal conflict cases reported.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q4
Housing issue	1
Homeless	12
Mental health	5
Spousal conflict	22
Family Conflict	50
Breach of peace	1
Neglect of adult with Disability	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>

## Children's Helpline

In the fourth quarter of 2024 a total of 425 calls were received on the helpline. Most calls were recorded during the month of November. In comparison to the same period last year calls received on helpline increase by 195. Whilst most calls were from adult, 4 calls were received from children during the quarter..

*Number of calls per month*



*Top 5 districts recording the highest number of calls in Q4*

Address	Total
Children's Home	37
Anse Aux Pins	17
Anse Royale	17
Port Glaud	16
Grand'Anse Mahe	11

- The main issues reported through the helpline are neglect and absconding home.
- 296 calls were made during the weekdays, with a majority of calls being made during the hours of 4.00pm- 8.00pm (106 calls) and between 8.00pm-11.00pm (74 calls).

## Monitoring and Compliance Section

### Suitability Check of Childminders and Assistant Childminders

- The Suitability Check Panel conducted only 2 working sessions in the fourth quarter and a total of 12 child minders and 10 assistant childminders were interviewed.
- The panel issued 16 suitability check outcome letters to 8 childminders and 8 assistant childminders during the quarter.

## Parenting Education programme

The Parenting Education programme developed by the Department of Social Affairs was introduced in 2013 as a direct response to calls by the public for structures that empower parents to undertake their roles, responsibilities and tasks from conception, pregnancy and early childhood. The Department of Social Affairs works in partnership with the Ministry of Health to deliver the programme.

- During the fourth quarter, 23 antenatal sessions and 25 post-delivery sessions was conducted. The attendance per region can be seen in the tables below.

### Antenatal

Regions	1st Session		2nd Session		Total No of sessions conducted	Breakdown No of sessions conducted
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		
Perseverance	10	12	6	9	6	3 session 1 3 session 2
Anse Royale	4	11		4	3	2 session 1 1 session 2
Beau Vallon	9	12	2	6	5	3 session 1 2 session 2
Anse Boileau	3	8	1	6	4	2 session 1 2 session 2
Les Mamelles	9	12	2	5	2	1 session 1 1 session 2
High risk(Victoria)		1			1	1 session 1
Praslin		8			1	1 session 1
Teenagers	2	2			1	1 session 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>	

### Post delivery

Regions	1st Session		2nd Session		Total No of sessions conducted	Breakdown No of sessions conducted
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		
English River	6	13	3	10	5	2 session 1 3 session 2
Anse Royale	1	2	2	7	3	1 session 1 2 session 2
Beau Vallon	1	8	1	3	4	3 session 1 1 session 2
Anse Boileau	0	3	1	2	3	2 session 1 1 session 2
Beoliere	0	1	0	1	2	1 session 1 1 session 2
Les Mamelles	2	5	2	8	5	3 session 1 2 session 2
Takamaka		1			1	1 session 1
Praslin	2	8			1	1 session 1
La Digue		3			1	1 session 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	

## Night Shelter

The mission of the night shelter is to cater for those individuals identified as being homeless due to their dysfunctionalities. The main aim is to provide psychosocial support and skills thus promote reintegration within their families and society.

- At the beginning of the fourth quarter, there were 12 service users at the Night Shelter and;
- 7 new admissions were recorded during the quarter, of which six were repeated admission. The breakdown by age group of new admissions can be seen in the table below

Table 1: Night shelter admissions by age group (Q4 2024)

Age group	No of Admission
30-39	3
40-49	1
60+	3
<b>Total admission</b>	<b>7</b>

- 10 service users moved out the shelter during the quarter

Nature of exit	No. of service users
<b>Reintegrated</b>	2
<b>Voluntary discharge</b>	4
<b>Involuntary discharge</b>	2
<b>Temporary (Medical treatment at Les Canelles Hospital)</b>	2