



tion is the result of the aggregation and verification of reported cases of violence against children in the media for the month of August 2023. Since January 2023, PEaCE/ECPAT has been sharing similar information in the form of a monthly newsletter with a range of stakeholders. Sharing the information with a wider audience is to everyone's benefit.

cases of child abuse in August 2023 are concerning, with a total of 112 cases. More distressing is the fact that a staggering 231 children were affected in August. 75 were female and 35 were male. It is disheartening to see that in 90 per cent of cases, the abuser was a family member.

district of Gampaha had the highest number of reported abuse cases, accounting for 15 percent of the total. In another unfortunate incident, a fire in a factory located near three schools resulted in 102 children being hospitalised due to inhaling toxic fumes.

Child Abuse Categories

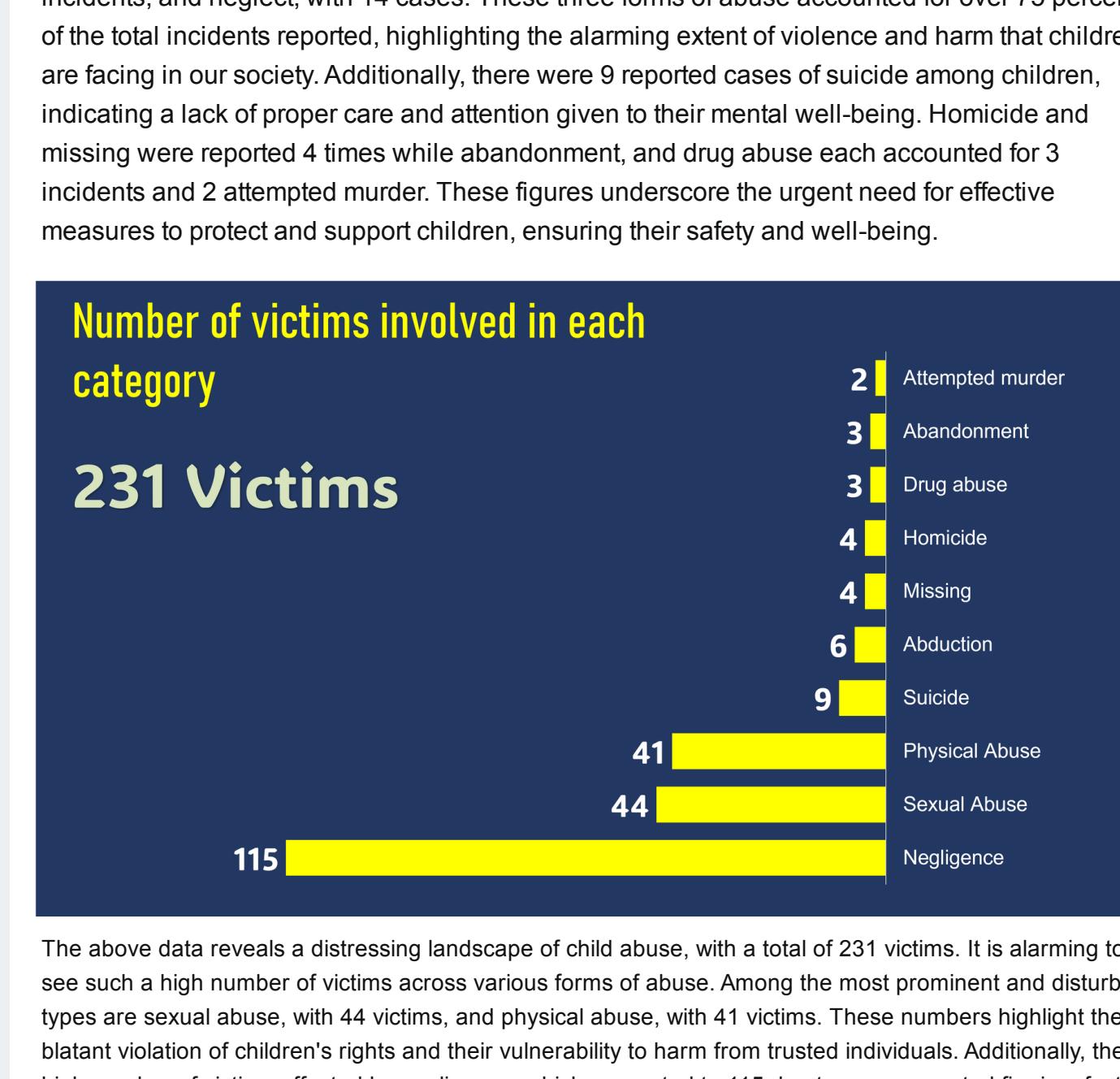
Types of child abuse incidents reported by media in August 2023



Category	Number of Incidents
Physical Abuse	44
Emotional Abuse	23
Neglect	14
Sexual Abuse	9
Other	6

112 Incident

Physical abuse	Negligence	Suicide	Abduction	Homicide	Missing	Drug abuse	Ab
112	10	1	1	1	1	1	1



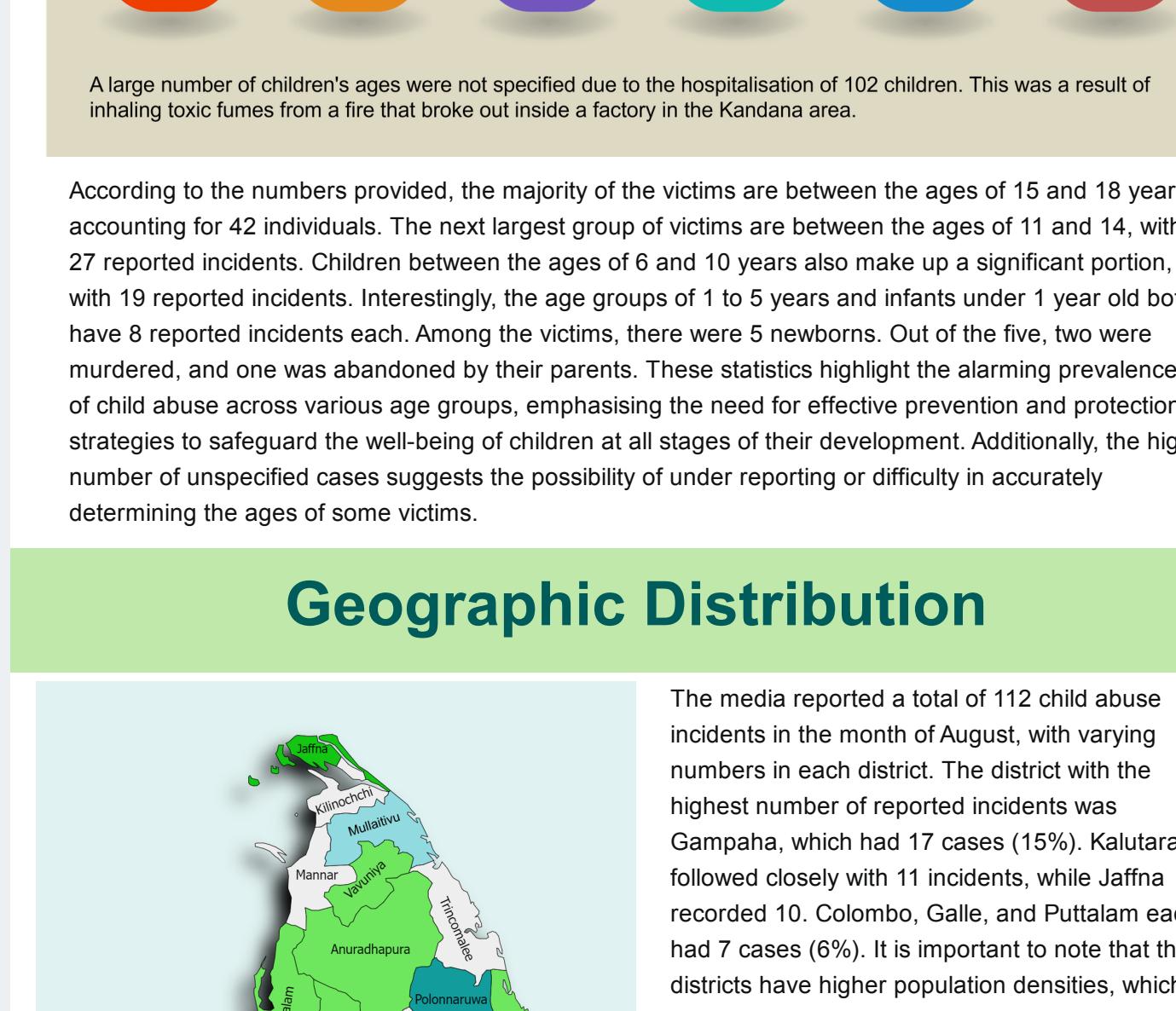
where children were forced to inhale toxic fumes. The fact that 9 children committed suicide is a deeply concerning matter. The inclusion of other abuses, such as attempted murder, abandonment, drug abuse, homicide, missing and abduction, further accentuates the gravity of the situation.

The number of individuals responsible for the abuse of children falls into each category

54 Abusers responsible for Sexual Abuse of 44 children	21 People involved in Physical Abuse of 41 children	3 Murderous committed Homicide of 4 children	3 Criminals responsible for Drug Abuse of 3 children	5 Individuals behind the Abduction of 6 children	2 Mothers are the reason for Abandoning 3 of their own children	2 Father moth... Attempted Mur... of the childr...
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08	0 - 12 Months old Infants
08	01 - 05 Year old children
19	06 - 10 Year old children
27	11 - 14 Year old children
42	15 - 18 Year old children
109	Age of the children Un-specified



Factors such as urbanization, social issues, and poverty could also play a role in these numbers. It is concerning to see that even smaller districts like Matara and Nuwara Eliya had 6 reported cases each. This indicates that child abuse is a widespread issue that needs to be addressed across the country, regardless of district size.



In the majority of cases, child abusers are known to their victims. As per the media reports of August 2019, approximately 42 percent of child abusers are acquaintances or individuals known to the children, while 28 percent are relatives or family members. However, it is alarming to note that 24 percent of child abusers unknown to the children, 4 percent of child abusers are complete strangers to the victims. These statistics highlight the importance of educating children about personal safety and implementing measures to protect them from potential harm, both from known and unknown individuals.

home, charging them Rs. 2,000 and forcing her daughter to with them. It was revealed during

the family had been subjected to sexual exploitation within her own home.

Events involving children



A large, billowing orange and yellow plume of smoke rising from a chemical factory fire. The smoke is thick and billowing, filling the sky above the factory building.

102 students were hospitalised after toxic smoke inhalation

Over a hundred students were hospitalised on August 8 after inhaling toxic smoke from a fire that broke out at a chemical factory in Kandap



that broke out at a chemical factory in Kandapura. The smoke spread across a wide area surrounding the factory, causing several students from three nearby schools to become ill from smoke inhalation. Reports indicate that students from St. Sebastian's Balika Maha Vidyalaya, St. Sebastian's Girls' Primary School, and St.

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