

Harrow Missing Children 2023

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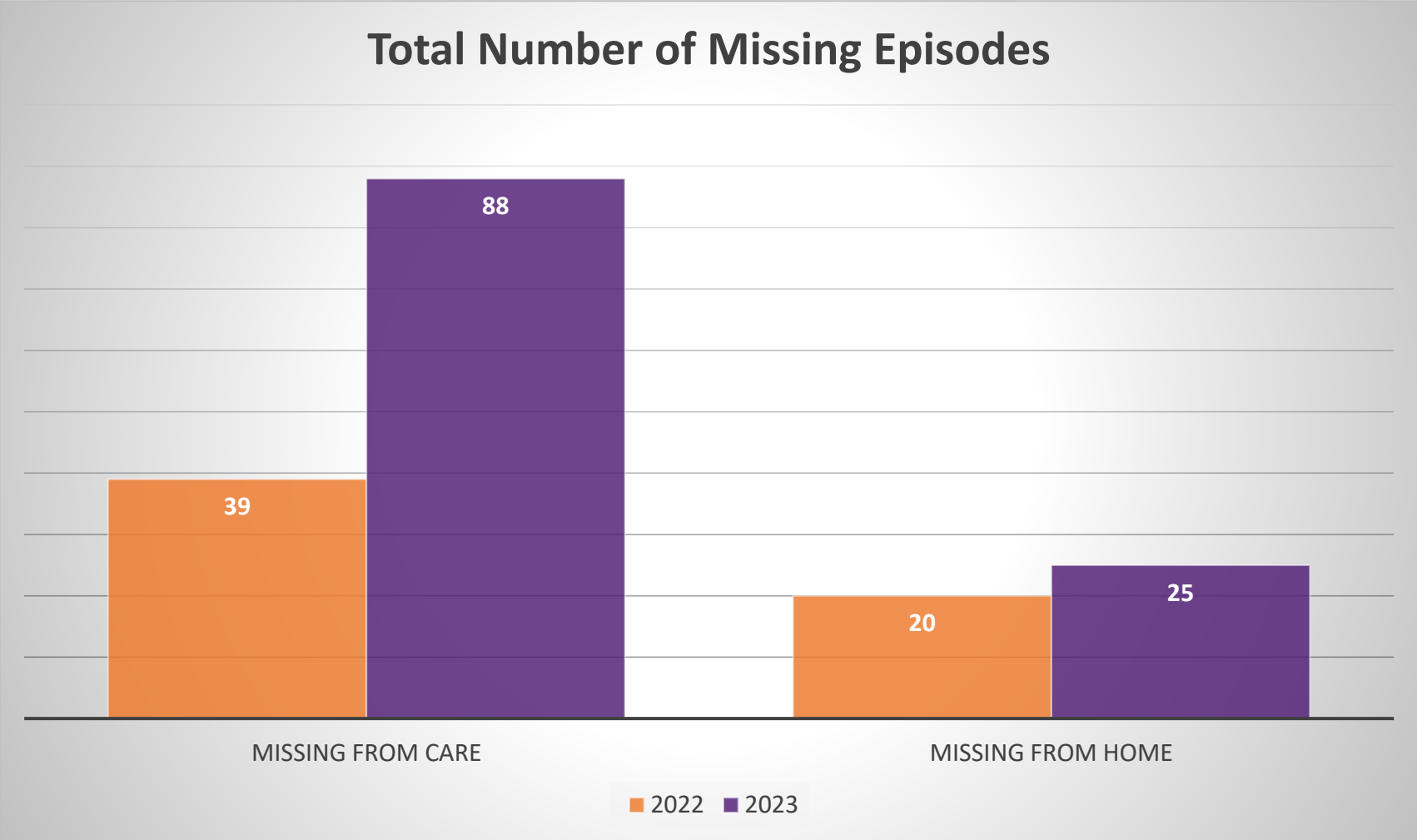


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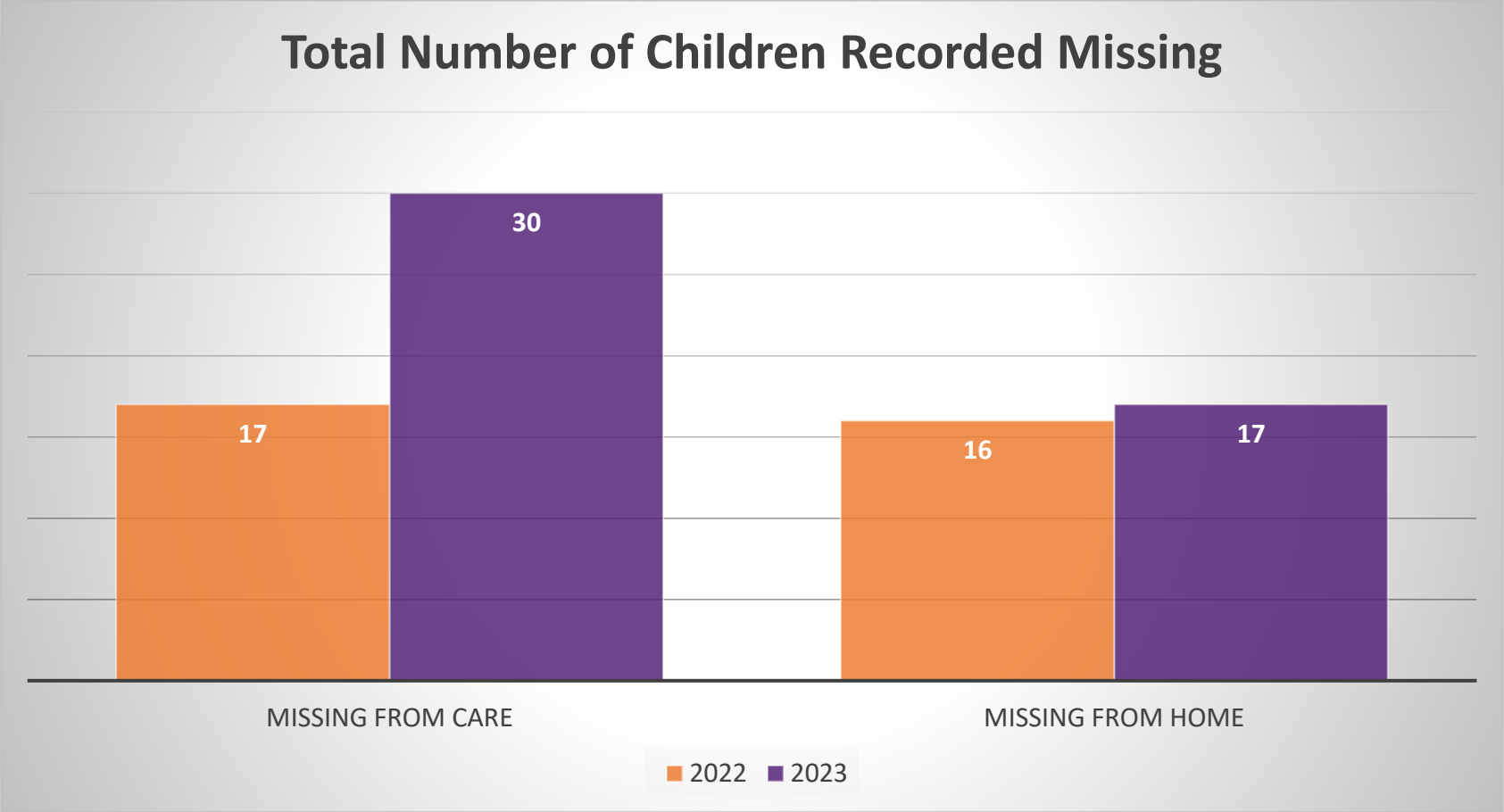
Introduction

- This presentation captures missing children activity for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st December 2023.
- There is data in the presentation for comparison which covers the same time period for the previous year (April – December 2022).
- The data has been obtained from the Children's Services Electronic Database (Mosaic), the weekly Missing Children meeting with police, the monthly MACE meeting, and Return Home Interviews.

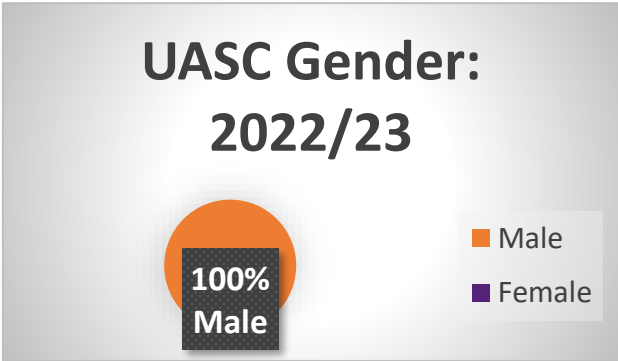
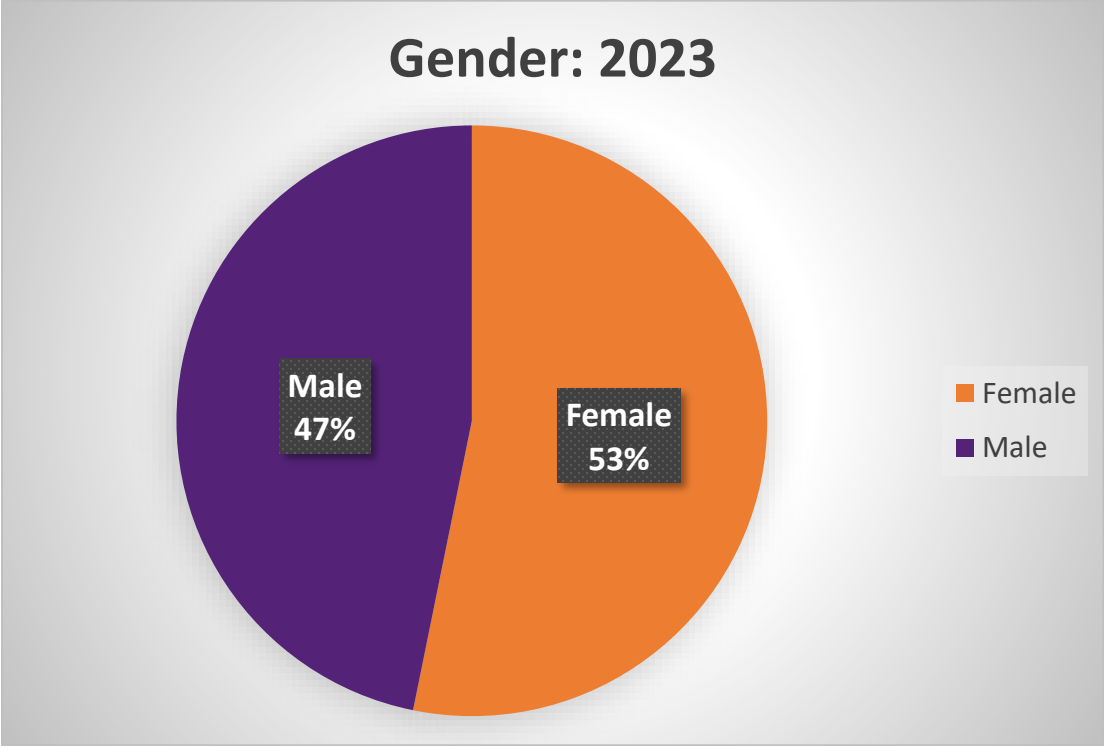
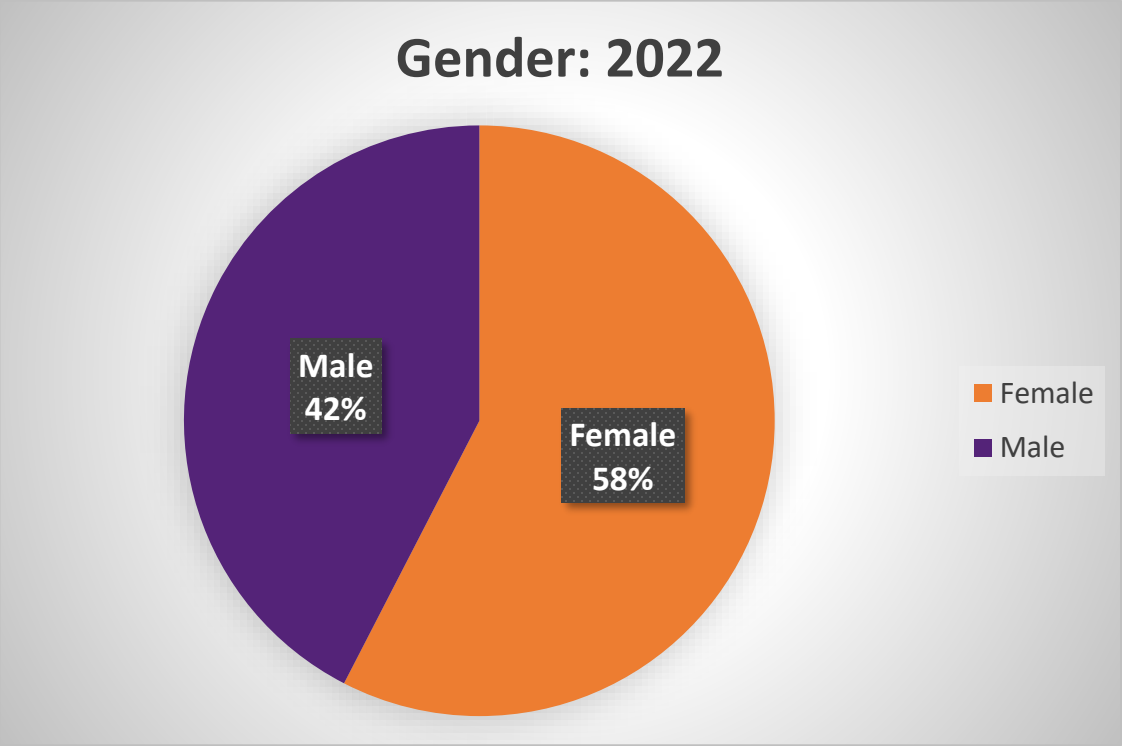
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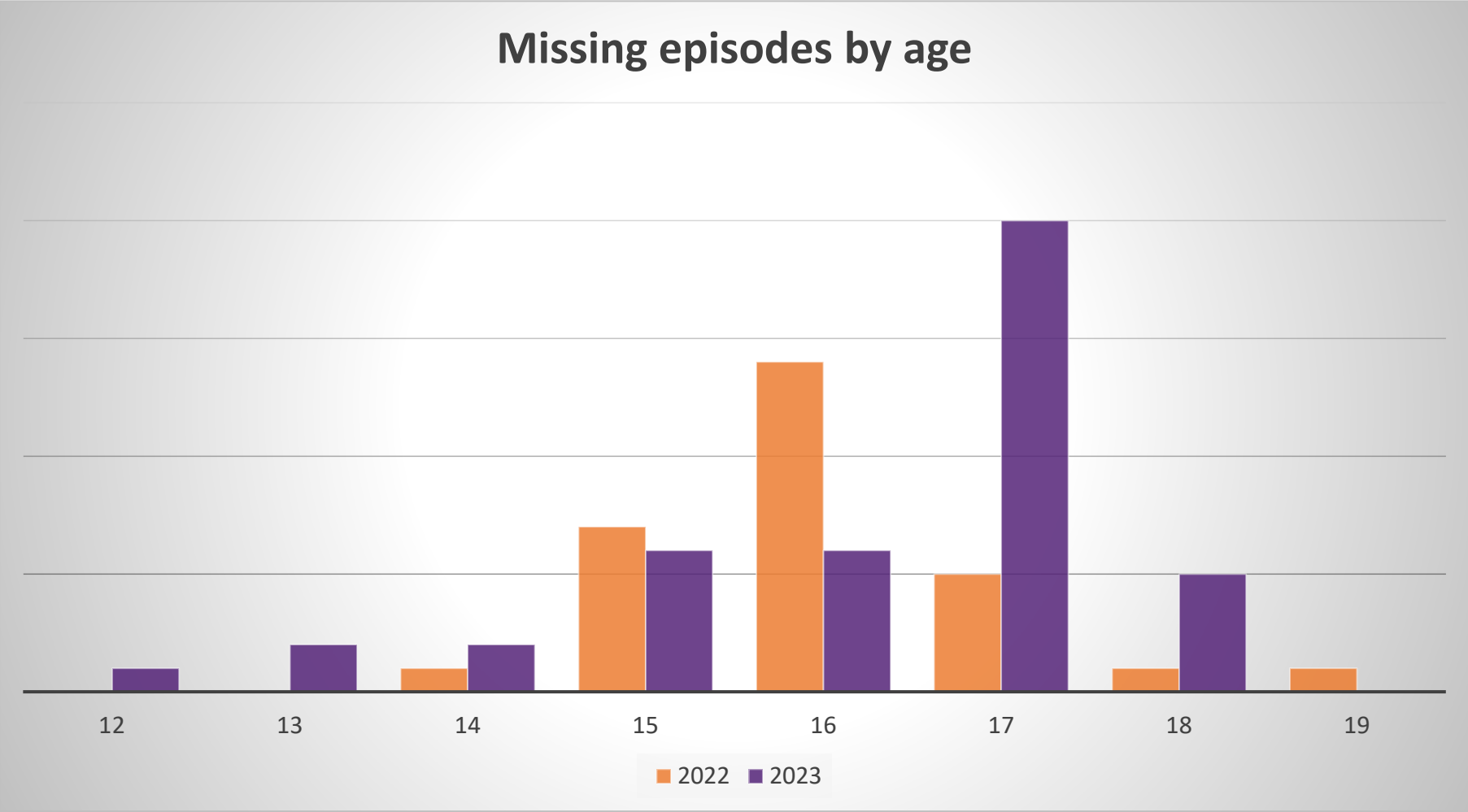
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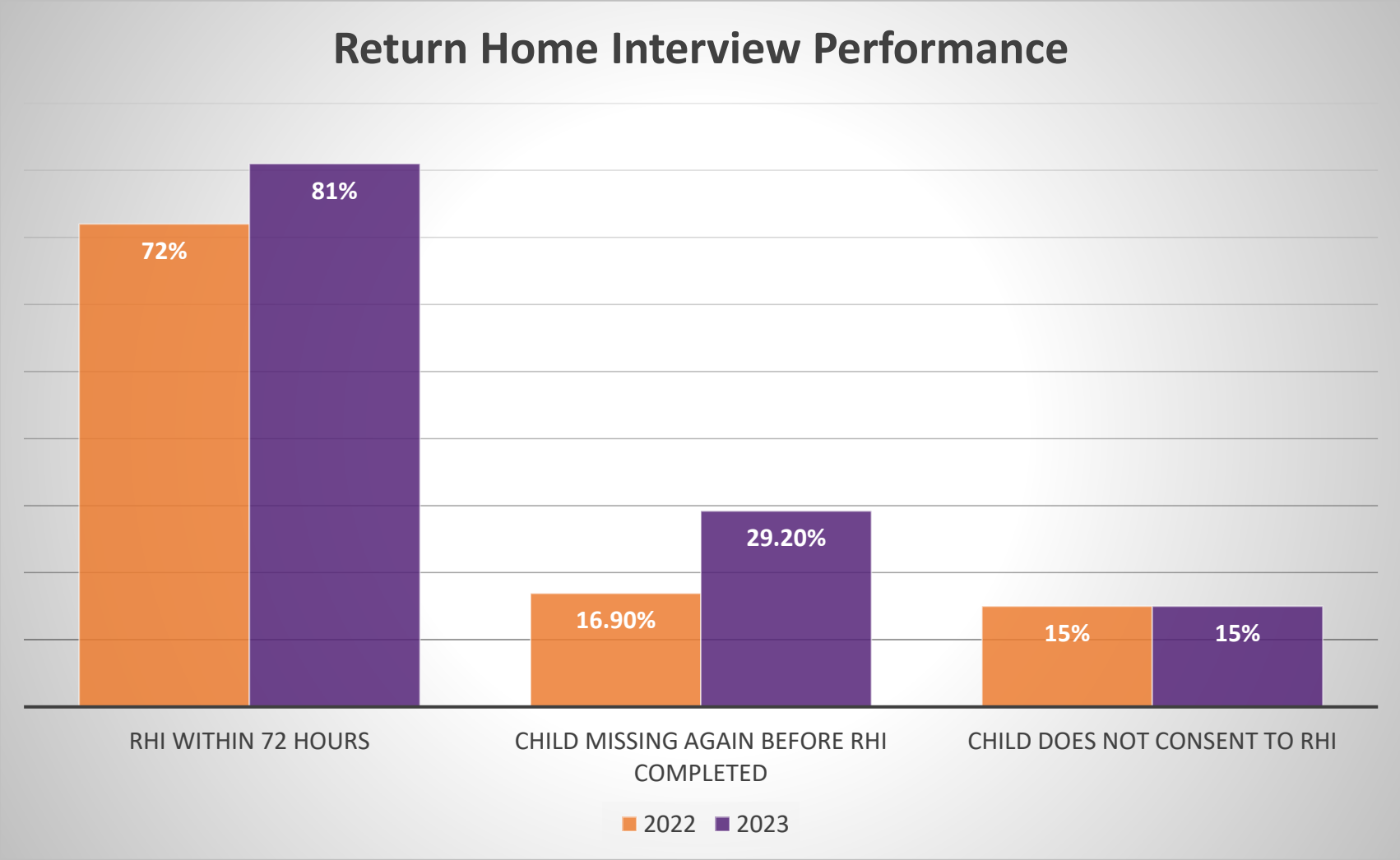
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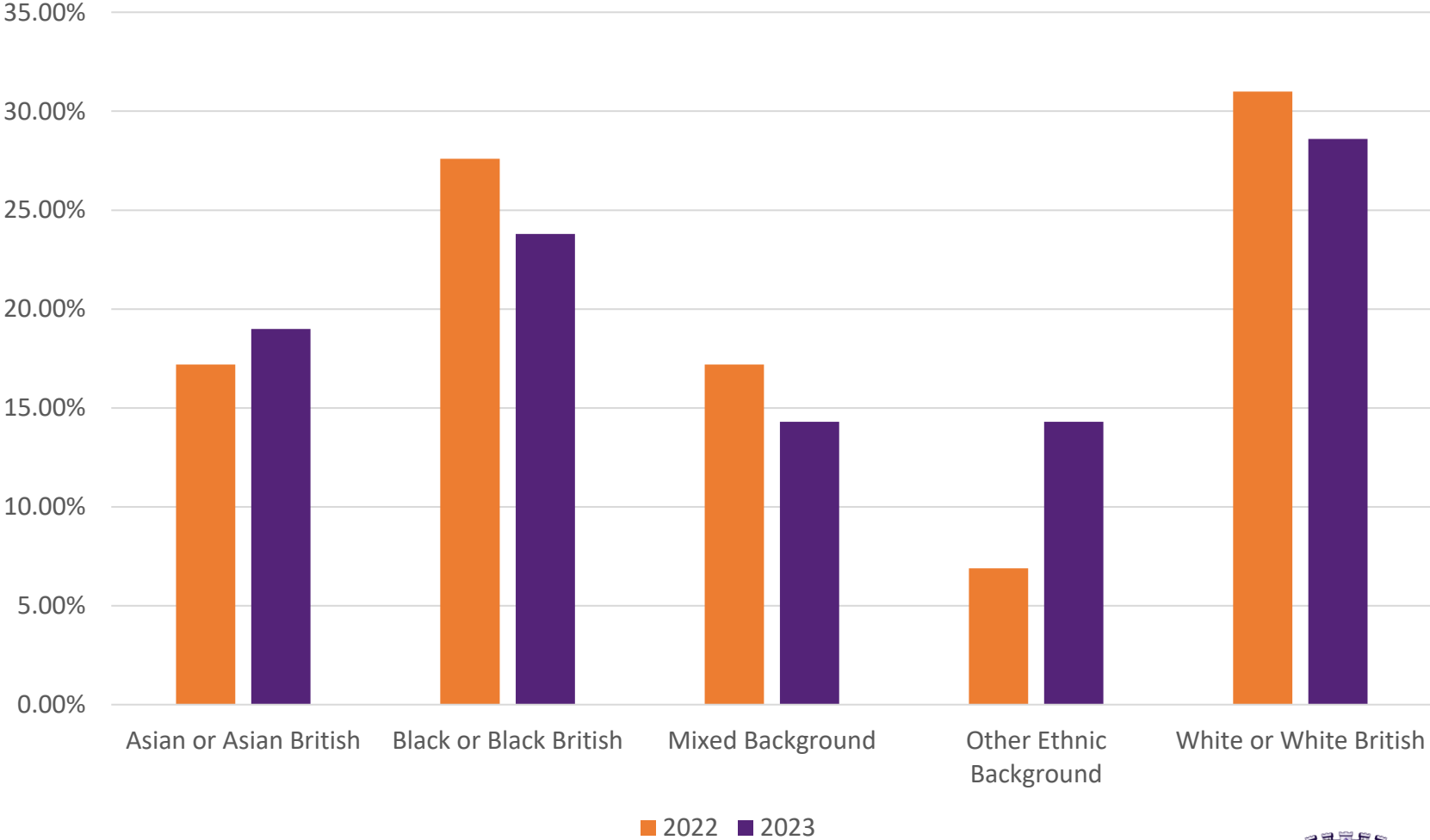
Children with repeat missing episodes: Ten most frequently missing children 2022					Children with repeat missing episodes: Ten most frequently missing children 2023				
Number of Missing Episodes	Gender	Age at 31st Dec 2022	Case Status	Ethnicity	Number of Missing Episodes	Gender	Age at 31st Dec 2023	Case Status	Ethnicity
7	Female	16	CLA	Other Ethnic Background	9	Female	17	CLA	White or White British
7	Male	16	CLA	White or White British	9	Female	15	CLA	Mixed background
4	Female	15	CLA	Black or Black British	8	Female	17	CLA	Asian or Asian British
4	Female	17	CLA	Asian or Asian British	8	Female	18	CLA	Mixed background
4	Male	16	CLA	Other Ethnic Background	7	Female	17	CLA	White or White British
4	Female	15	CLA	Mixed Background	6	Male	17	CLA	White or White British
4	Male	16	CLA	Asian or Asian British	6	Male	17	CLA	Other Ethnic Background
2	Female	16	CLA	White or White British	6	Female	17	CLA	Black or Black British
2	Female	16	CLA	White or White British	5	Female	17	CIN	Black or Black British
2	Female	17	CIN	Mixed Background	5	Male	16	CLA	White or White British

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Ethnicity of Missing Children



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Risk Factors Reported within RHI episodes – Known <u>or</u> Suspected	Count
Concerns with family/friends contact	40
Drugs	40
Involved in criminality	39
Alcohol Misuse	37
Child Sexual Exploitation	32
Victim of criminal activity	23
Trafficked	16
Child Criminal Exploitation	14
Gangs	13
Mental Health	11
Criminal activity while missing	10
Forced Marriage	10
Child poses risk to others	6
Bullied	5
Harmful Sexual Behaviour	3



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Summary and Conclusions

- There was an increase in the number of missing episodes for CLA in 2023
- This could be due to improvements made to the quality of recording of missing CLA by EDT and MASH
- The data also reflects that the number of repeat missing episodes for CLA significantly increased
- The 10 most frequently missing children account for more than three quarters (77%) of all missing episodes.
- The most common age for young people to go missing was 17 years old.

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Summary and Conclusions

- There is an over representation of Black or Black British children with missing episodes. This remains consistent with data from previous years.
- The top 5 risk factors identified within Return Home Interviews are concerns with family / friends contact, drugs, criminality, alcohol misuse and child sexual exploitation.
- The reasons given for children and young people going missing from home have remained mostly consistent, that is, staying with friends or relatives, desiring more freedom, being at risk of child sexual and criminal exploitation through county lines or gang affiliation, not being in employment or education.

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Safeguarding Actions

- Missing children continue to be discussed weekly at the Missing Children's Meeting. In addition to this oversight, several children who go missing are also discussed at the MACE and SWARM panels.
- Strategy meetings are held within 72 hours of a child going missing and action planning may include police publicity, the use of CAWNs and Recovery Orders, and a referral to the NRM where there is evidence of exploitation and modern-day slavery
- Response to the JTAI – Missing training delivered to the multi-agency network by Police and Adolescent Services Team, Missing Children data circulated to the MACE panel, and Police provided with Return Home Interview write up

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Safeguarding Actions

- Harrow Children's Services is presently undergoing a transformation to ensure that services are more joined up, and this includes more robust joint working between Adolescent Services and the Youth Justice Service with a focus on Early Intervention and prevention.
- Harrow utilizes a Contextual Safeguarding approach to children at risk because of exploitation and extra-familial harm. The My Safety Plan model which incorporates this approach was developed in 2022. The Adolescent Services Team continue to support children at risk because of extra-familial harm, including children who are Looked After.
- The Missing, Vulnerable and Exploited Children's Coordinators will utilise their relationship with a missing child and attempt contact with them in order to persuade them to return to a place of safety.

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Safeguarding Actions

- Referral and signposting to appropriate agencies, e.g. Rescue and Response / Catch 22 where there is County Lines



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