

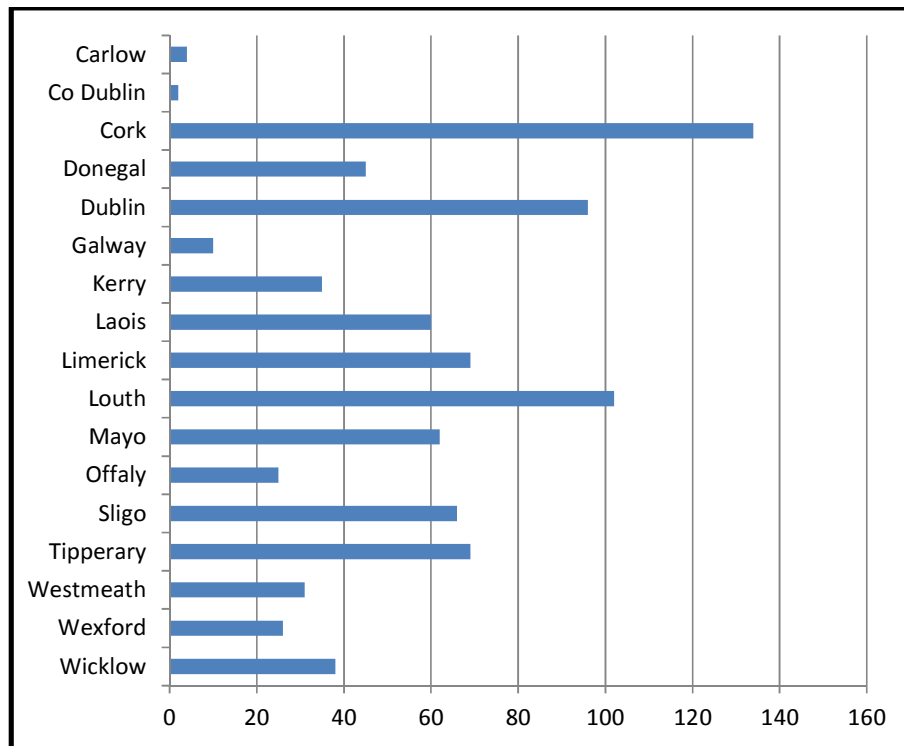
Community-based Counselling Services Annual Report



Submitted by Dorothy Thomas,
Affiliation Programme Coordinator

The Irish Cancer Society Counselling Service was set up in 2003 in order to provide free counselling to cancer patients, their families and those close to them. In 2009, The Irish Cancer Society changed the way it delivers its counselling service and moved from direct service delivery to a grant administration system. This has enabled us to increase the number of communities reached and, in turn, the number of people in Ireland who are affected by a diagnosis of cancer and require counselling.

In 2012, the service expanded to provide grants to seventeen community based cancer support services, all of whom have affiliated to the Irish Cancer Society. Arklow Cancer Support Group, Co Wicklow; Balbriggan Cancer Support Group, Co Dublin; Eist Carlow Cancer Support in Carlow and the LARCC all received first time grants for their counselling services in 2012.



The full list of services where counselling is funded by the Irish Cancer Society is below:

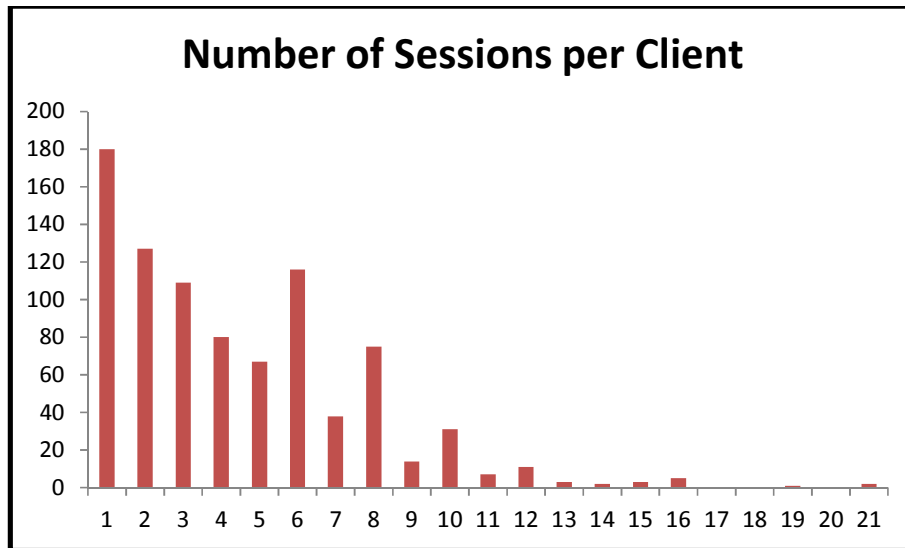
- Eist, Carlow Cancer Support Centre¹
- Cork ARC Cancer Support House
- Balbriggan Cancer Support Group²
- Donegal- administered through Sligo Cancer Support
- ARC Cancer Support Centre, Dublin
- Tuam Cancer Care Centre
- Recovery Haven Cancer Support House, Tralee
- Cúisle Centre, Portlaoise
- Cancer Information & Support, Limerick
- Gary Kelly Cancer Support, Drogheda
- Mayo Cancer Support Association, Castlebar
- Dochas Offaly Cancer Support, Tullamore
- Sligo Cancer Support Centre
- Suaimhneas Cancer Support Centre, Nenagh
- LARCC Cancer Support Centre, Mullingar
- The Hope Cancer Support Centre, Enniscorthy
- Arklow Cancer Support Group

¹ The opening of this service was delayed; therefore there is not enough data for a full report.

² Not enough data was gathered for a full report as this grant was awarded at year end.

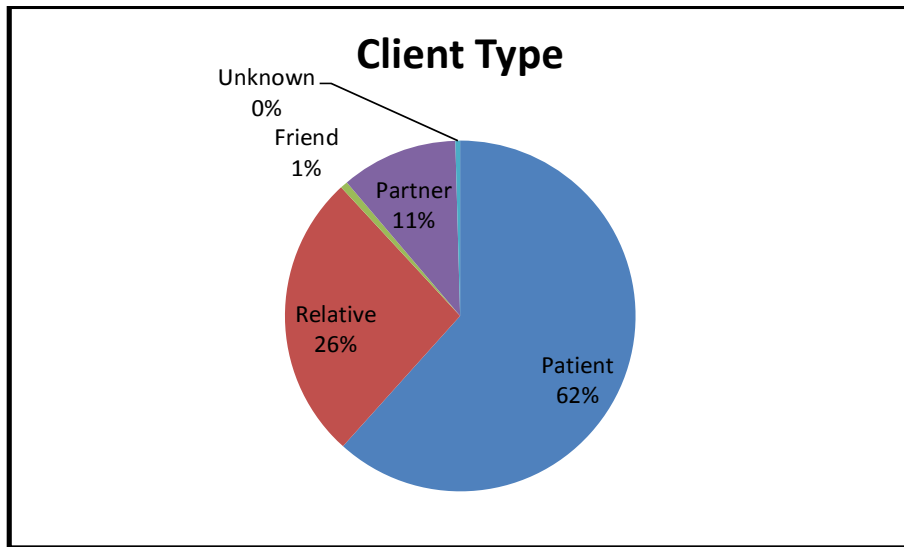
In 2012, the Society funded a total of 3879 counselling sessions which were taken up by 874 people. These grants were managed and administered by Olwyn Ryan, Patient Support Services Manager and Avril O’Sullivan, Senior Administrator.

Based on the international research regarding best practice in counselling and cancer, the counselling service uses the short term model, offering up to eight sessions per client. In many cases, a client only needs one or two sessions to help them understand that their emotional reaction to a cancer diagnosis is “normal” and to learn some new coping techniques. 78% of the clients of this service took up between one and six sessions. Only a small number of clients (8%) required more than eight sessions. Extra sessions were granted in cases where there was extreme distress or a setback in medical condition.

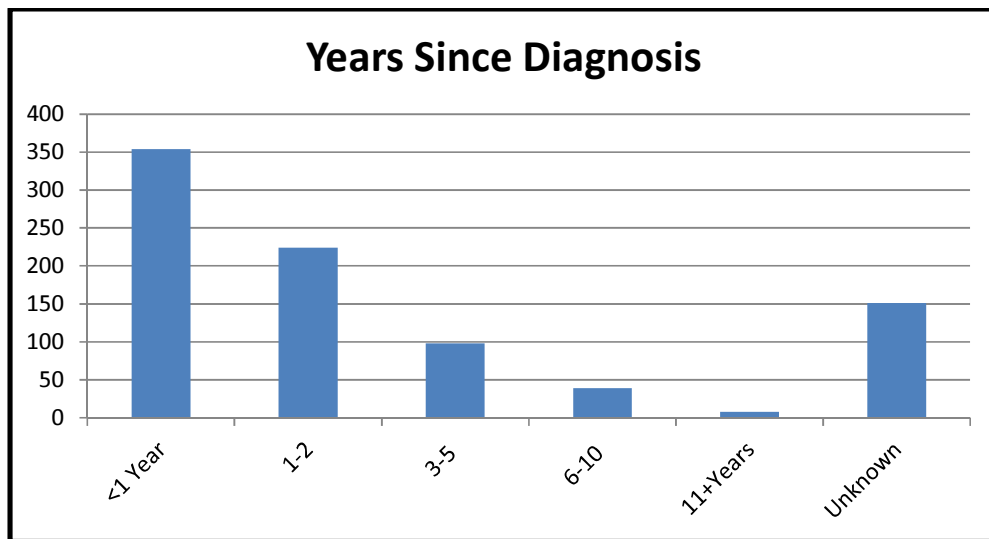


As always, we are keen to know that the sessions we are funding are being taken up. In 2012, there was an 8% rate of missed appointments. A missed appointment is recorded when the client doesn’t cancel the session and does not attend at the agreed time. A further 11% of appointments were cancelled. Unfortunately, we aren’t able to measure how many cancelled appointments were taken up by other clients; however, based on the data we have, a worst case scenario is 19% of appointments were not taken up. This is in line with national and international averages of between 18 and 24 per cent.

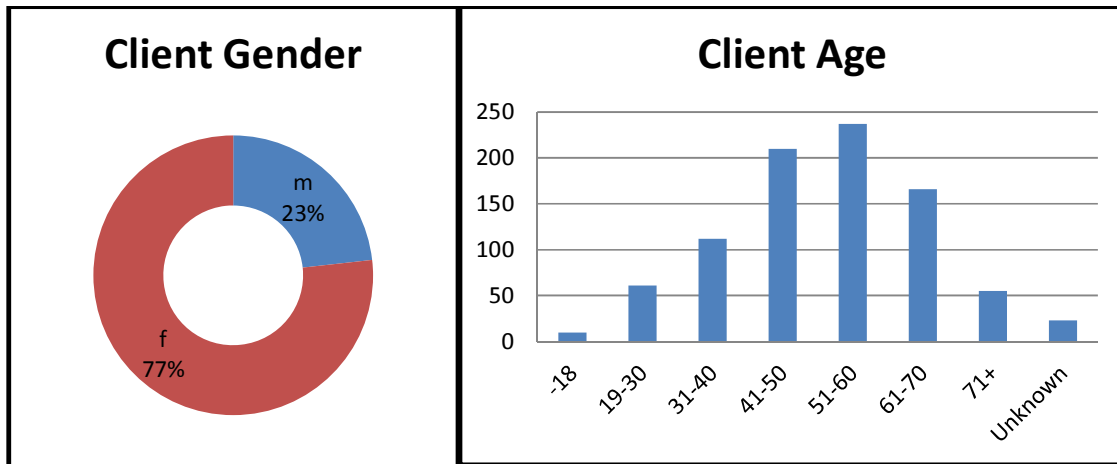
Eleven of the seventeen services reported having delivered more counselling sessions than would have been expected based on the grant agreements. Two services delivered significantly fewer sessions than expected and we have adjusted their grant amounts for 2013.



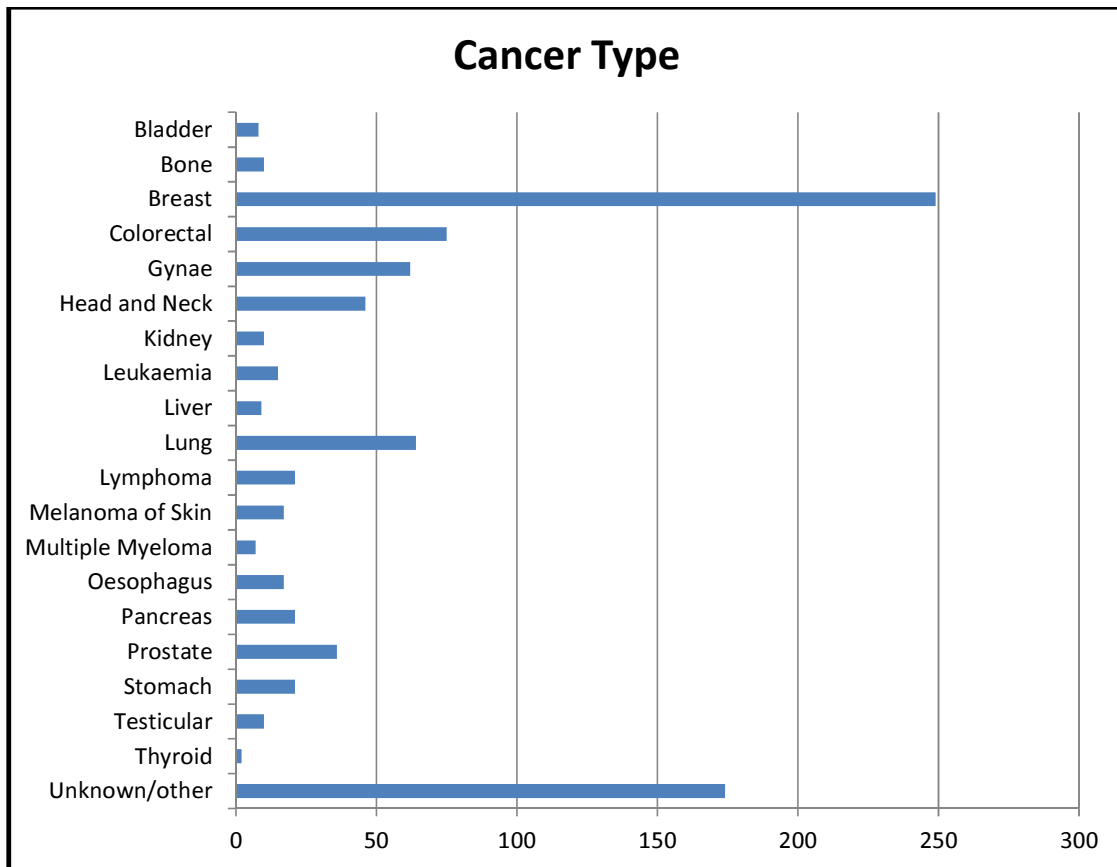
The counselling service is available to anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis at any point in the cancer journey. Sixty two per cent of clients in 2012 were people who had been diagnosed. Twenty six per cent of the clients were relatives - usually an adult child of the diagnosed person. Somewhat surprisingly, only 11% of those attending for counselling identified themselves as a partner or spouse of a person diagnosed with cancer.



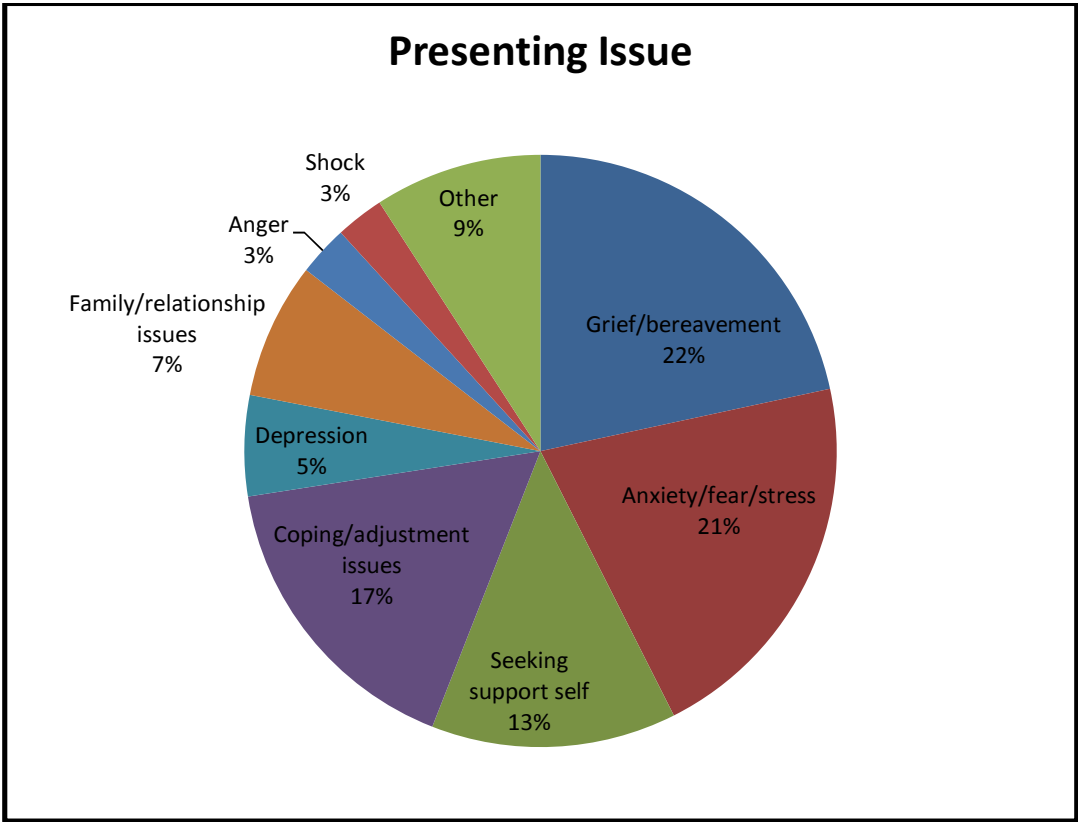
Forty one per cent of clients attended for counselling less than one year after a cancer diagnosis. Another 26% of clients came within 2 years of a diagnosis.



Seventy seven per cent of the clients were female and 23% male and 51% of people attending for counselling are between the ages of 41 and 60.

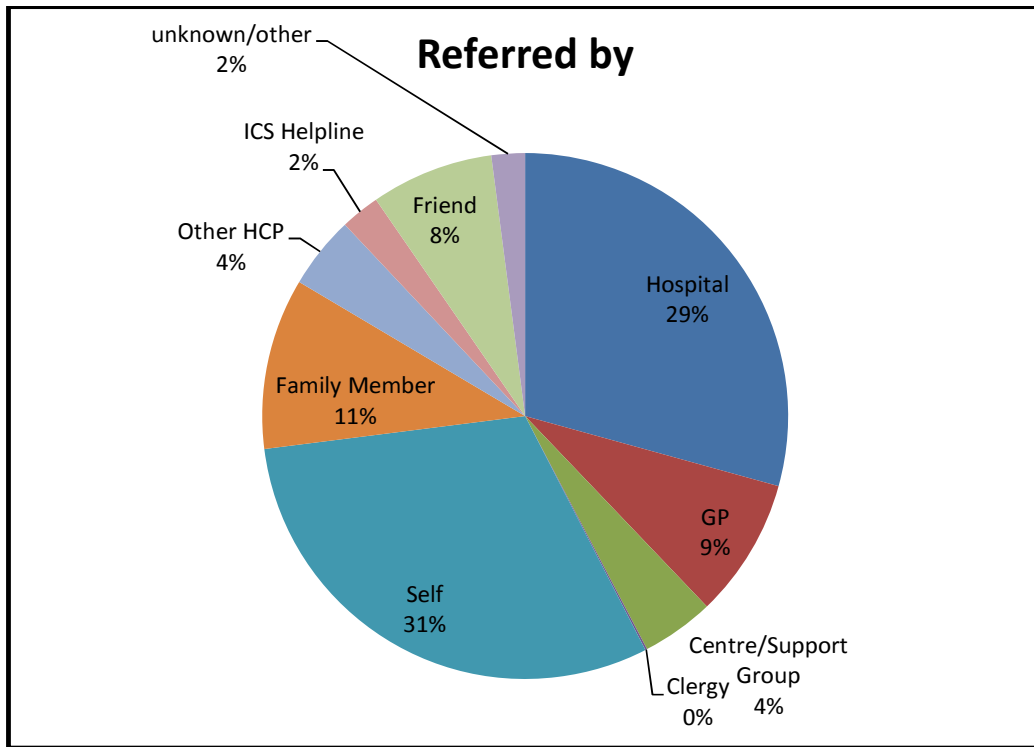


The cancer type most prevalent was breast cancer, accounting for 29% of clients. Breast cancer accounted for 3 times more uptake of the counselling service than the next highest cancer type which was colorectal. Unfortunately, 20% reported the cancer type as unknown which skews the picture somewhat.



While many of these people were dealing with issues such as anxiety and coping skills, a significant 22% of the clients who accessed the counselling service were bereaved due to cancer. More than half of those bereaved (54%) lost their loved one within two years of attending for counselling.

Thirty per cent of clients self-referred to the counselling service. Since the time of the last report on the counselling service, there has been a significant increase in the number of referrals coming from clinicians and nurses in hospitals, the national average being 32%. However, there is significant inconsistency in referrals from hospital staff throughout the country.



Most notably, 82% of the referrals for counselling in Donegal and zero referrals to the Wicklow service came from the hospitals in 2012. Also of note is that on average, only 2% of counselling clients reported being referred to the service by the Irish Cancer Society's Helpline.

Seventy six per cent of the clients accessing the service in 2012 had never been for counselling previously.

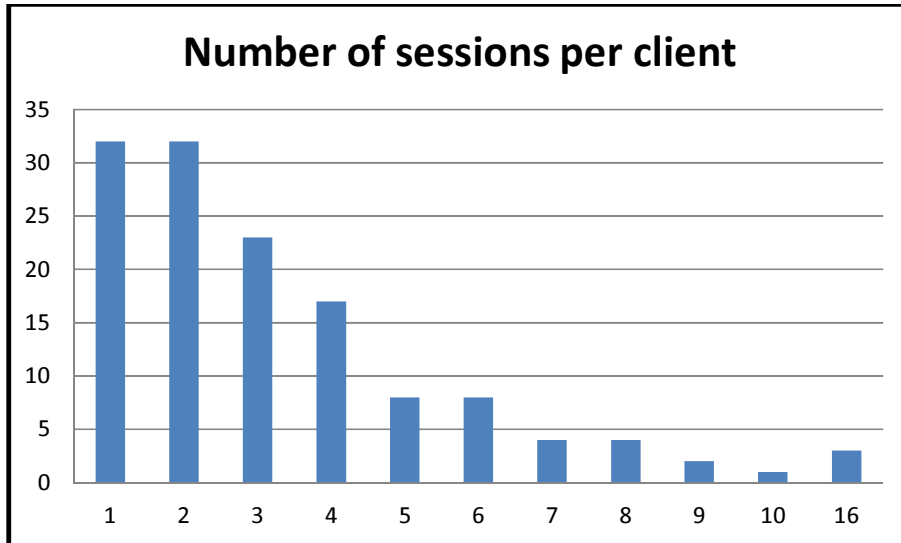
Ninety three per cent of the sessions were individual; couples, families and counselling for children combined made up the rest.

While the Irish Cancer Society grants are reaching a relatively small number of cancer patients - in the region of two per cent, counselling is very much valued by those who have availed of it. In many of the centres, there is demand far beyond what the Society has funded to date. One centre has reported a twelve week waiting list for new clients to their counselling service.

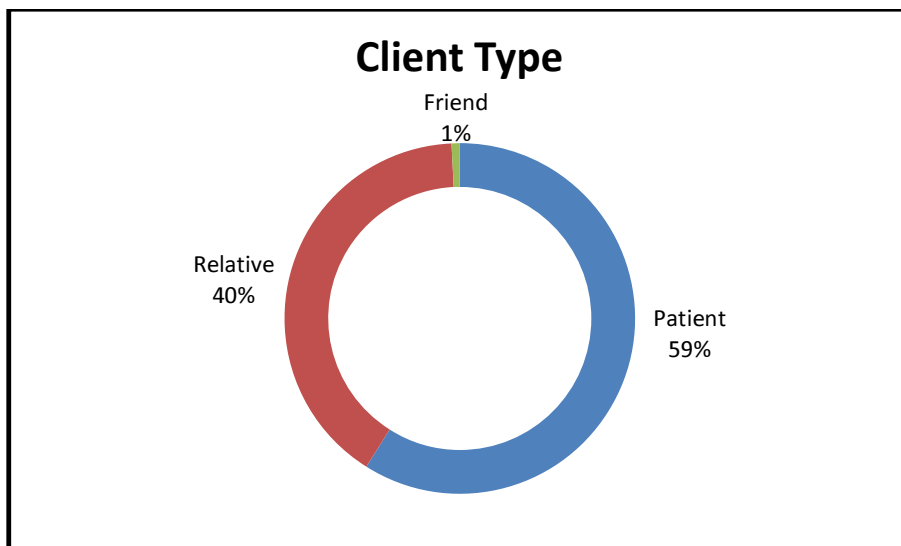
Most comments received through the client satisfaction surveys discuss how good it feels to know that one is normal and that it's okay to feel sad or angry sometimes. Some talked about how opening up to friends and family has made their relationships stronger and more satisfying. One client said that the counselling service saved their life. Another described how good it felt to say things to his Dad before he passed that he'd never been able to say before and attributed that ability to the counselling he received. No forms were received with negative or unsatisfactory ratings.

Cork ~ Cork ARC Cancer Support House

One hundred and thirty four clients were funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients availed of a total of 457 sessions. All of these clients received one to one appointments; no couples or family sessions were reported.

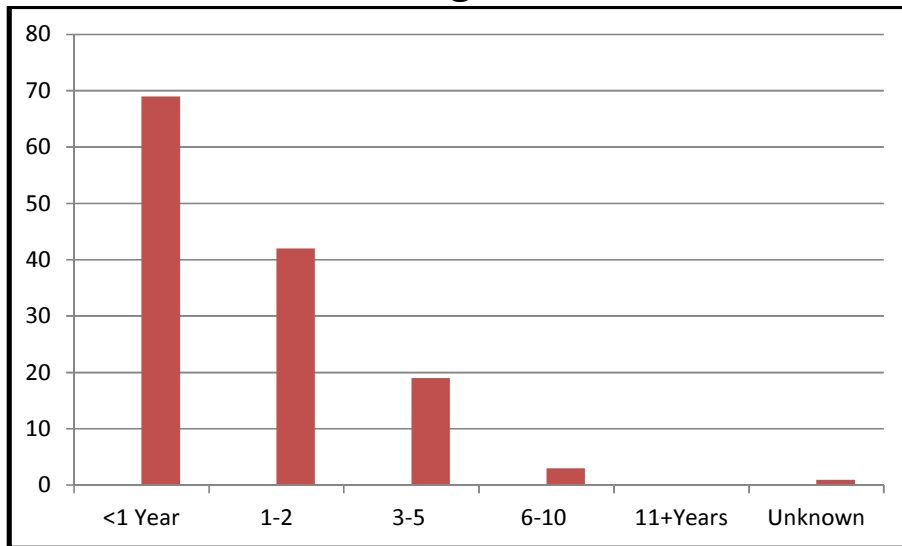


Ninety per cent of clients in Cork took up six sessions or less which is above the national average of 76%. Only 6 clients (4%) received extra sessions, however, this represents 17% of the total number of sessions for the year.



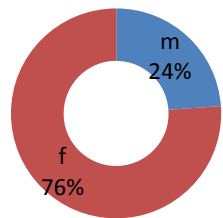
Fifty nine per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is in line with the national average of 62%. There were zero clients recorded as being partners or spouses of a cancer patient, however, it is most likely that these people were recorded as relatives.

Years Since Diagnosis

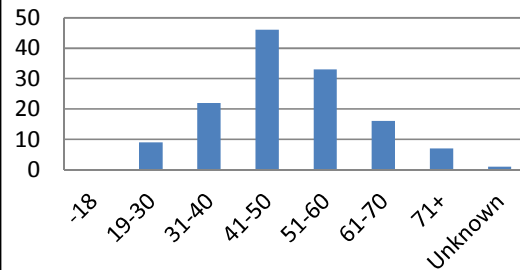


Fifty one per cent of Cork clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This represents a 10 per cent increase over the national average.

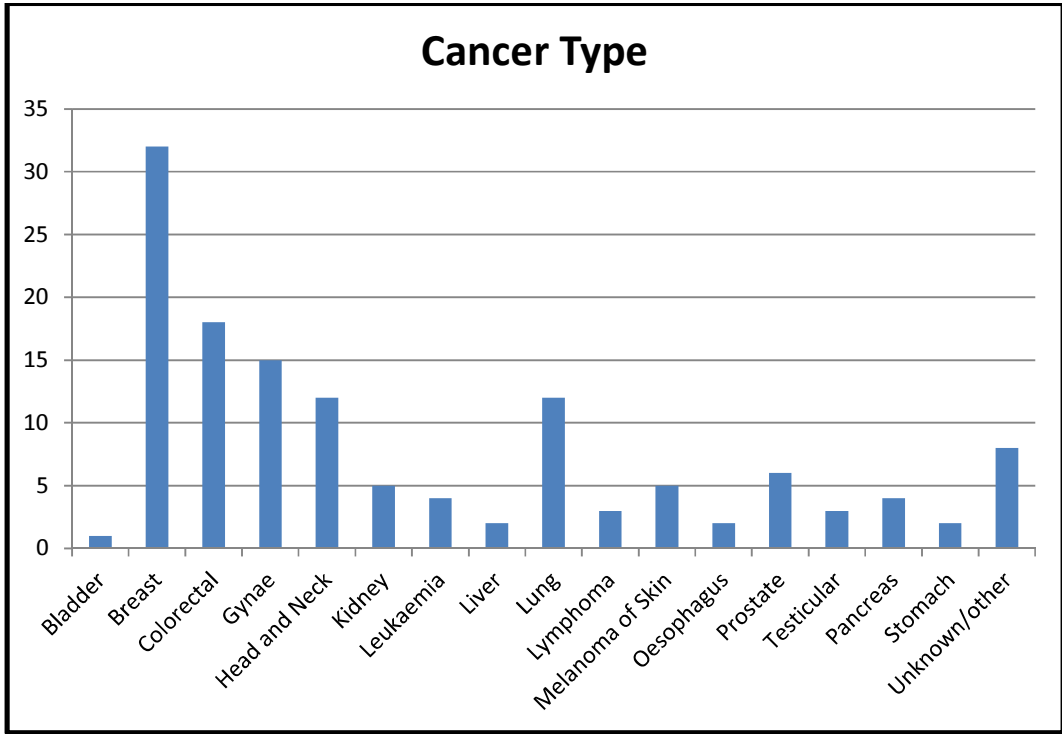
Client Gender



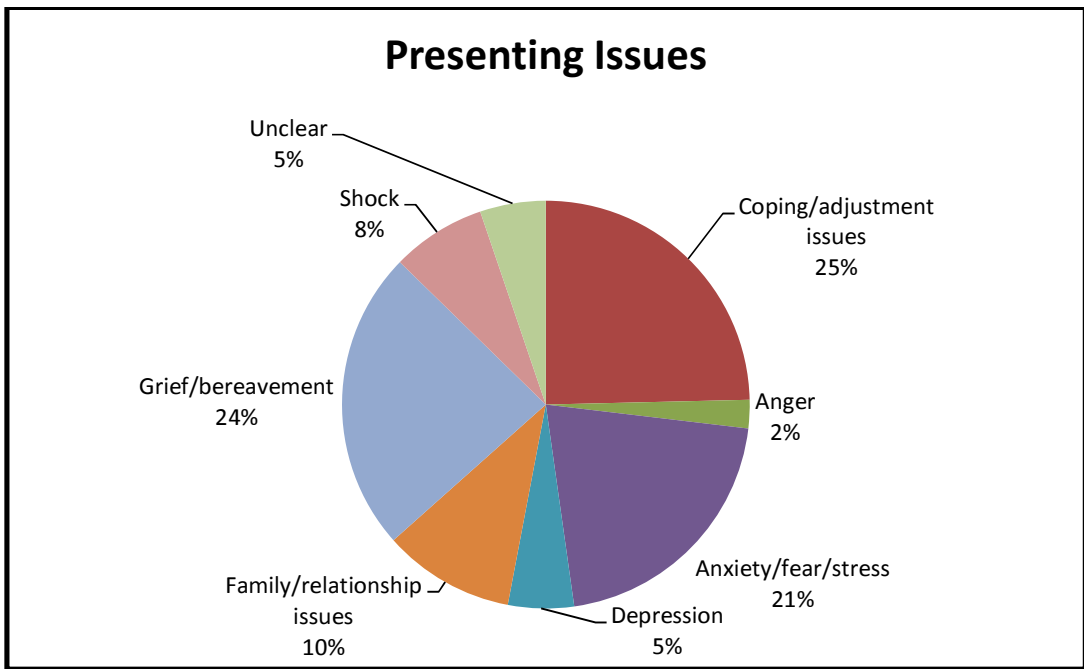
Client Age



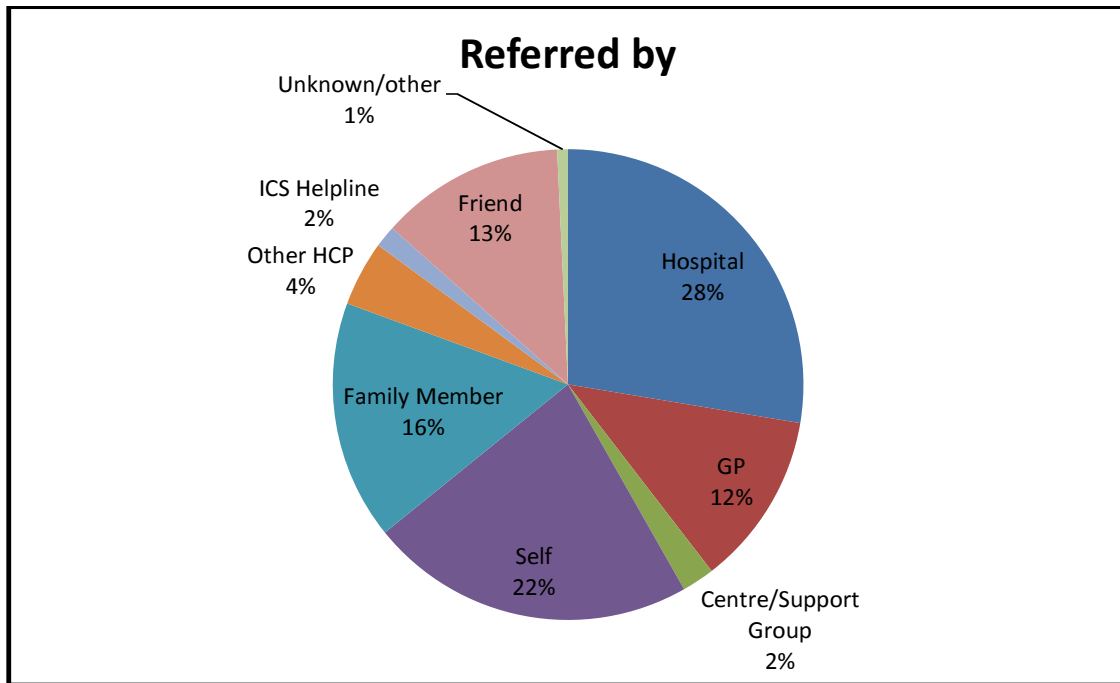
Seventy six per cent of clients were female and 59% of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60. The gender profile matches the national numbers almost exactly; however, Cork had a larger number of clients in the 41-60 range and a smaller percentage of people aged 61-70. The other cohorts matched the national averages exactly.



Breast cancer accounted for 24% of Cork clients which is 5% less than the national average. The other cancers reported generally reflected the national trends, with slightly higher numbers for colorectal, gynae, head and neck and lung cancers reported in Cork.



In Cork, bereavement counselling accounted for 24% of the presenting issues among clients. This is slightly higher than the national average of 22%.

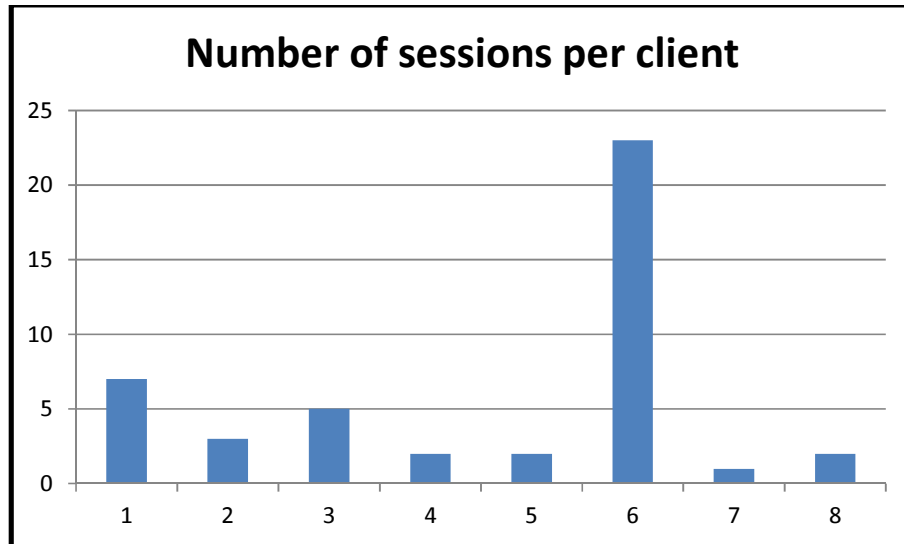


The referrals from hospital are slightly lower than the national average of 32% but it must be noted that this figure ranges from zero to 82%. Notably, there is a 5% higher rate of referral from both family members and friends to the Cork service.

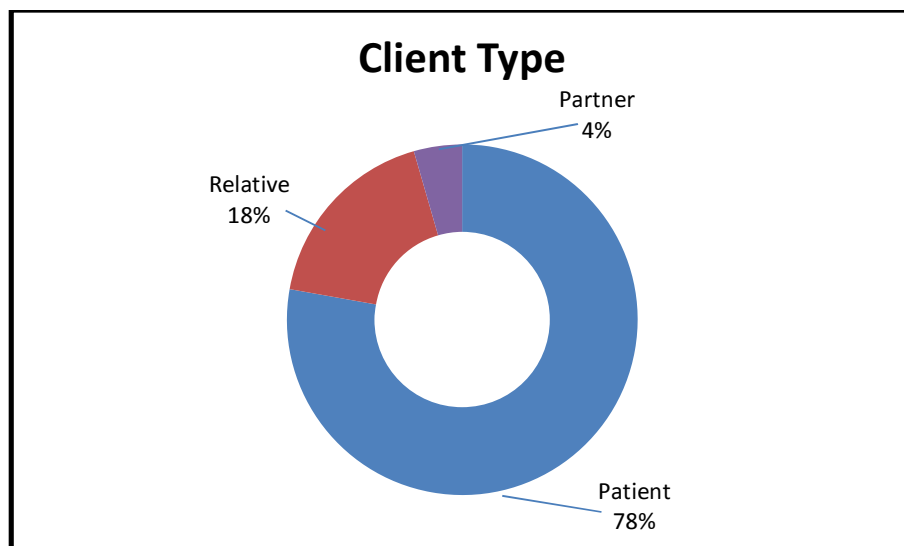
It should be noted that the grant for counselling from the Irish Cancer Society only covers a portion of the counselling provided by Cork ARC Cancer Support House.

Donegal ~ administered by Sligo Cancer Support Centre

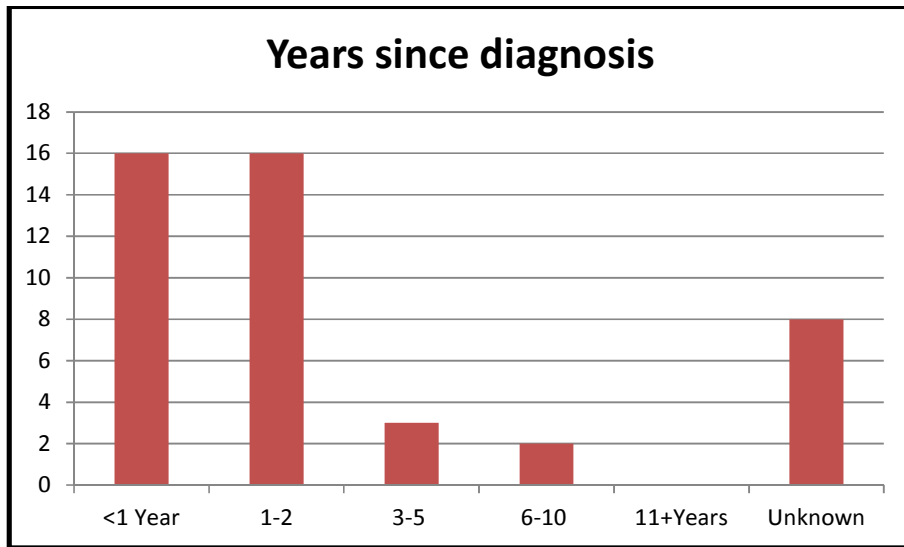
Forty five clients were funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients availed of a total of 207 sessions. Forty two of these clients received one to one appointments; and 3 couples received sessions together.



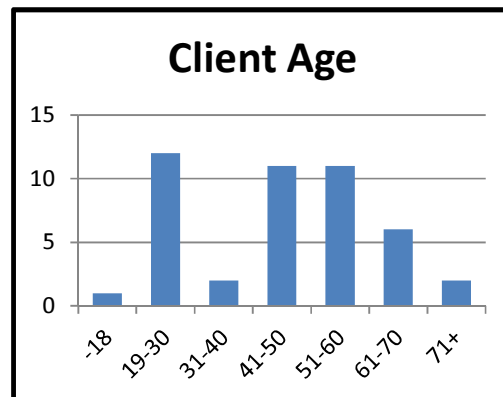
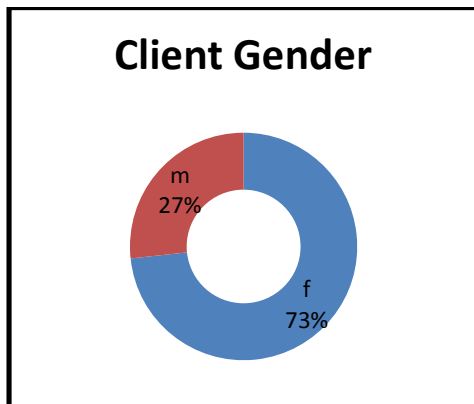
Ninety three per cent of clients in Donegal took up six sessions or less which is above the national average of 76%. No clients received extra sessions. There were very few no shows and cancellations in Donegal; there were only four appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were eleven appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 7% rate of missed appointments. This is well below the national average of nineteen per cent.



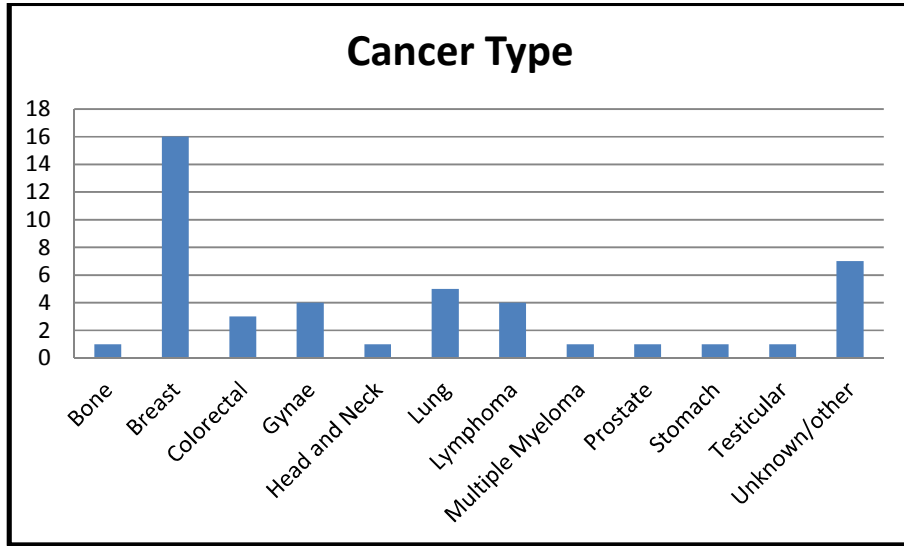
Seventy eight per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is higher than the national average of 62%. Four per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 18% were reported as being relatives.



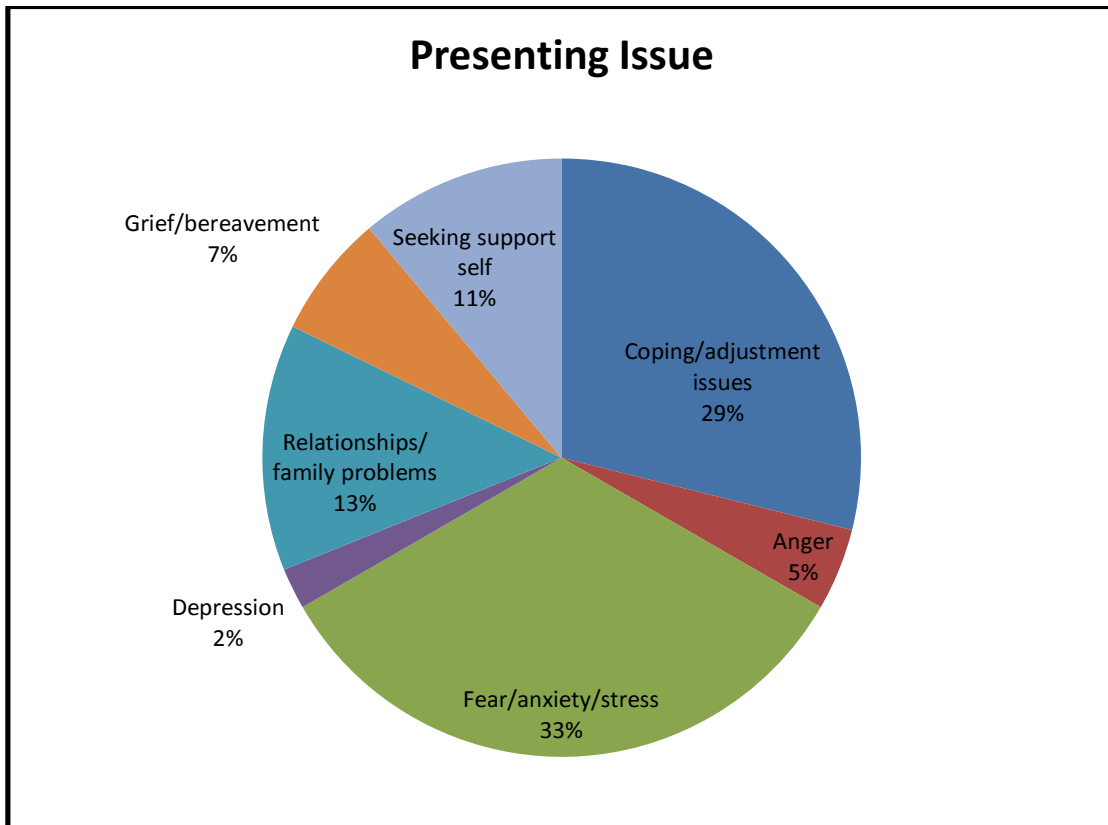
Thirty six per cent of Donegal clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is slightly below the national average of 41%. However, another 36% of clients came within 2 years of diagnosis which is higher than the national average of 26%. Therefore, 72% of Donegal clients attended for counselling within 2 years of a diagnosis, which is five per cent higher than the national average of 67%.



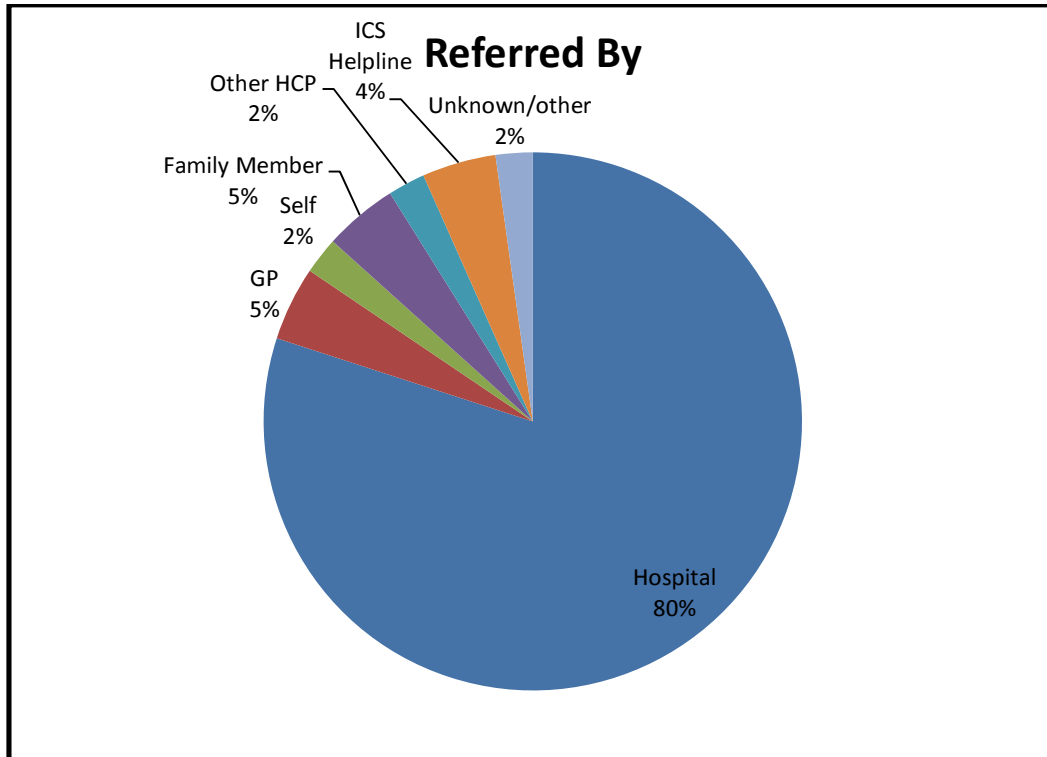
In Donegal, seventy three per cent of clients were female and 48% of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60. The gender profile matches the national numbers almost exactly; however, Donegal had a much higher number of people between 19-30 years old attending the service, 27% as against the national average of seven per cent.



Breast cancer accounted for 36% of Donegal clients which is 7% higher than the national average. Donegal had a higher number of clients who reported lung cancer and fewer testicular and prostate cancers than the national average.



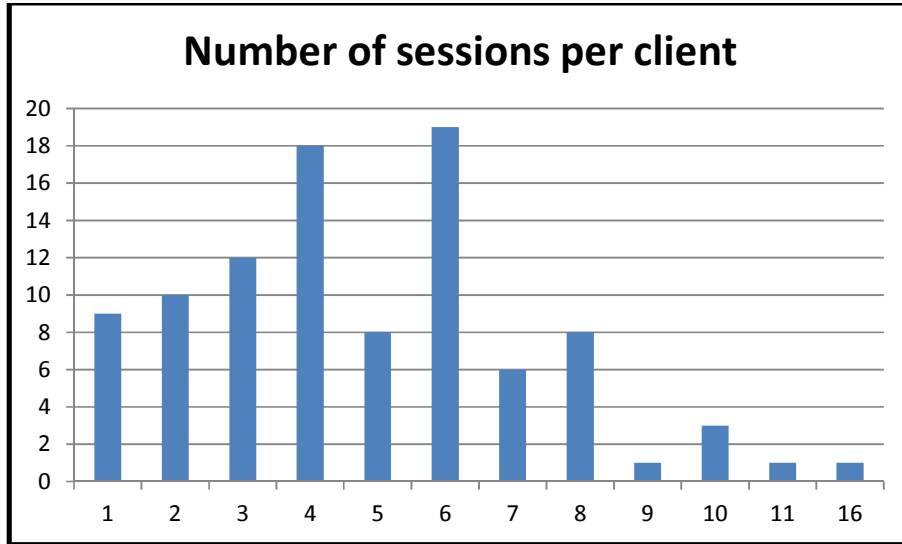
In Donegal, bereavement counselling accounted for 7% of the presenting issues among clients. This is well below the national average of 22%.



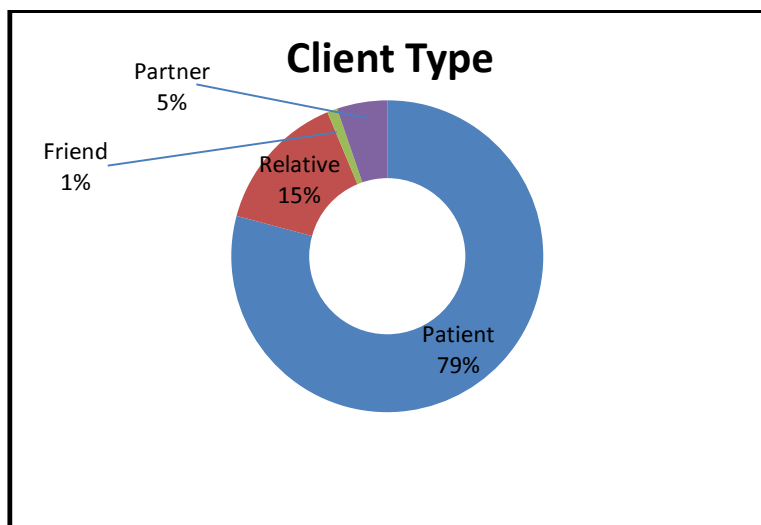
The referrals from hospital are significantly higher than the national average of 32%. This is reflective of the multi-disciplinary approach in Letterkenny General Hospital.

Dublin ~ ARC Cancer Support Centre

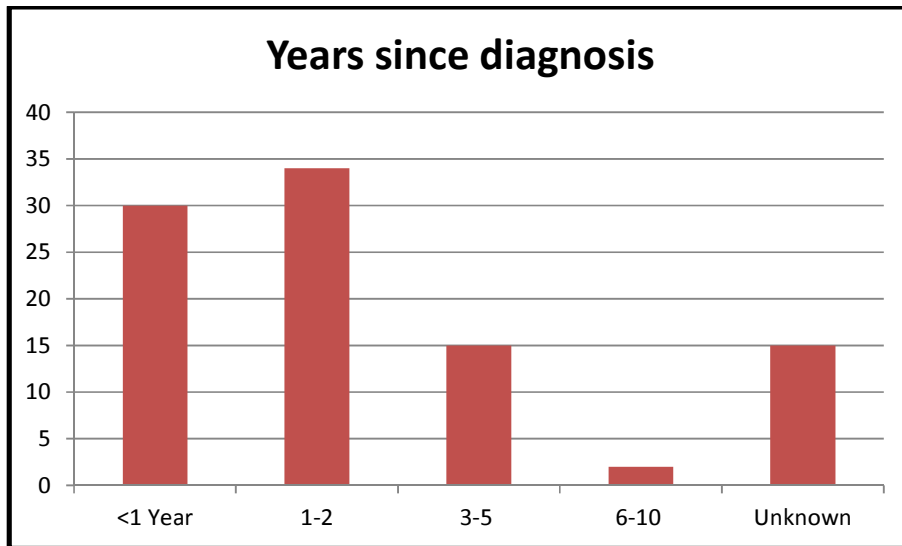
Ninety six clients were funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients availed of a total of 463 sessions. Ninety two of these clients received one to one appointments; 3 couples received sessions together and one family undertook counselling together.



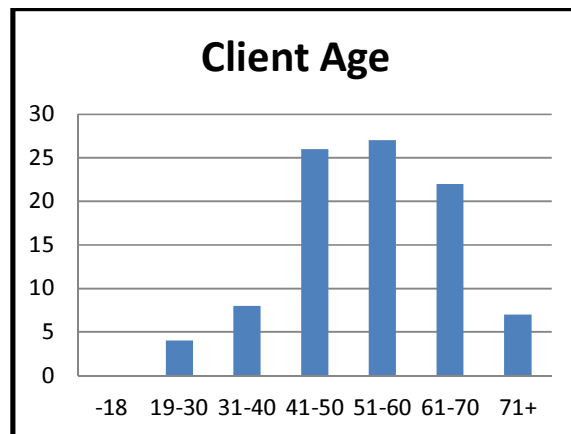
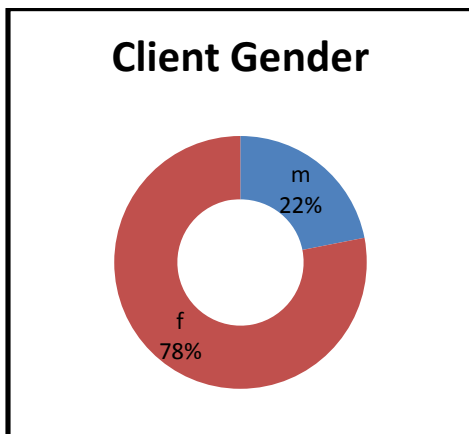
Eighty per cent of clients seen at ARC in Dublin took up six sessions or less which is slightly above the national average of 76%. Six clients received extra sessions which accounted for 17% of the overall number of sessions. There were very few no shows and cancellations; there were 13 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were twenty one appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 7% rate of missed appointments. This is well below the national average of nineteen per cent.



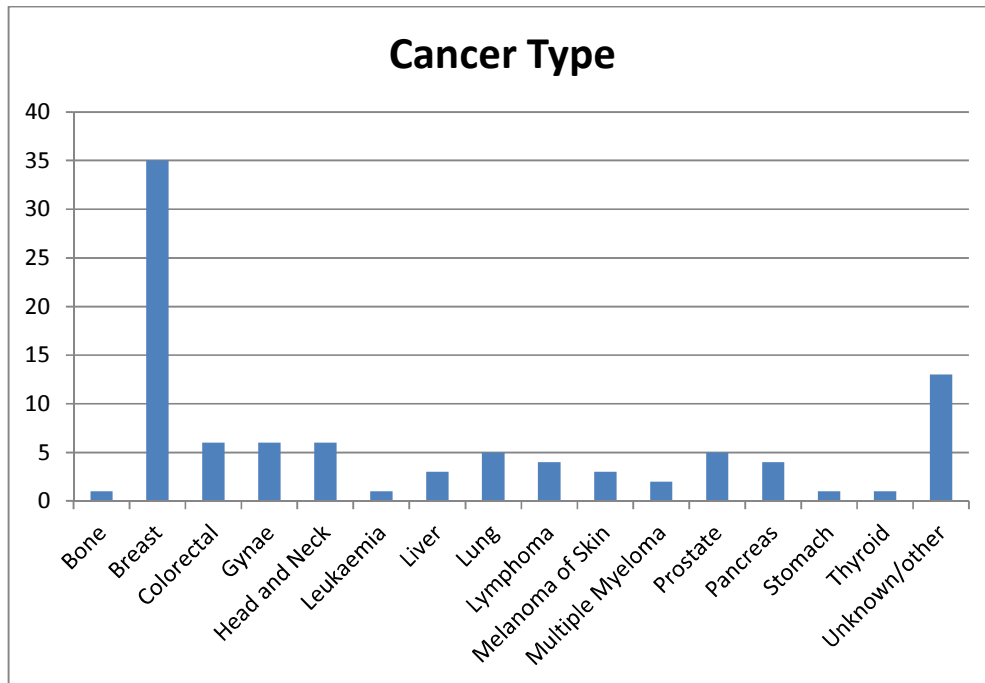
Seventy nine per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is higher than the national average of 62%. Five per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 15% were reported as being relatives.



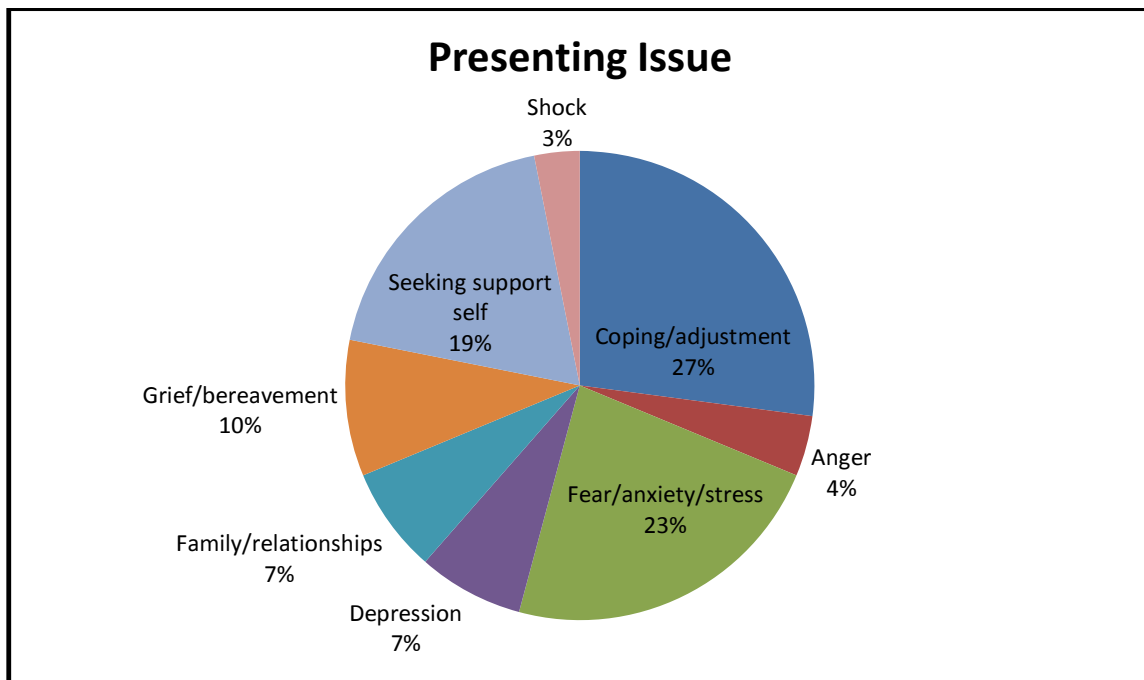
Thirty one per cent of Dublin ARC clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is slightly below the national average of 41%. However, another 35% of clients came within 2 years of diagnosis which is higher than the national average of 26%. Therefore, 67% of Dublin ARC clients attended for counselling within 2 years of a diagnosis, which is the national average.



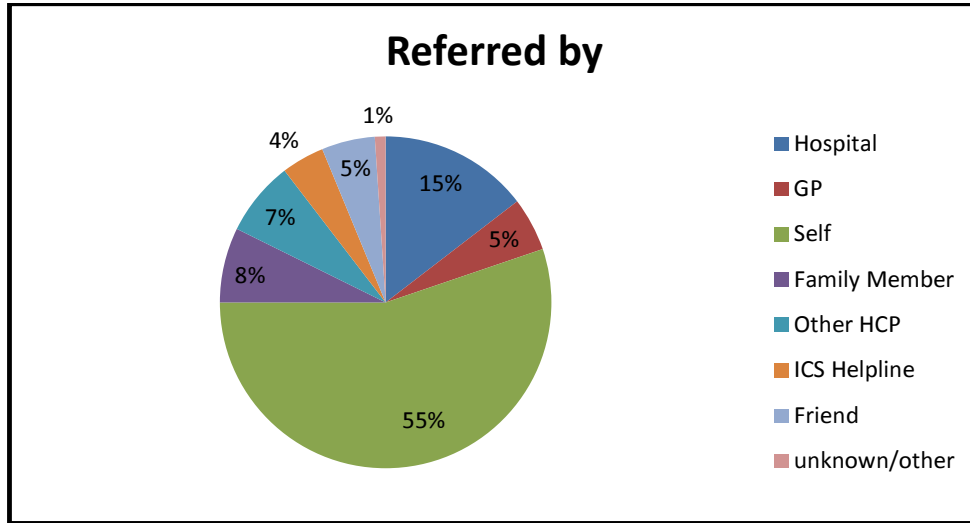
In Dublin ARC, seventy eight per cent of clients were female and 55% of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60. Both of these profiles match the national numbers almost exactly.



Breast cancer accounted for 36% of Dublin ARC clients which is 7% higher than the national average. Colorectal, Gynae and Head and Neck cancers shared the next position - all with 6% each.



In Dublin, bereavement counselling accounted for 10% of the presenting issues among clients. This is well below the national average of 22%.

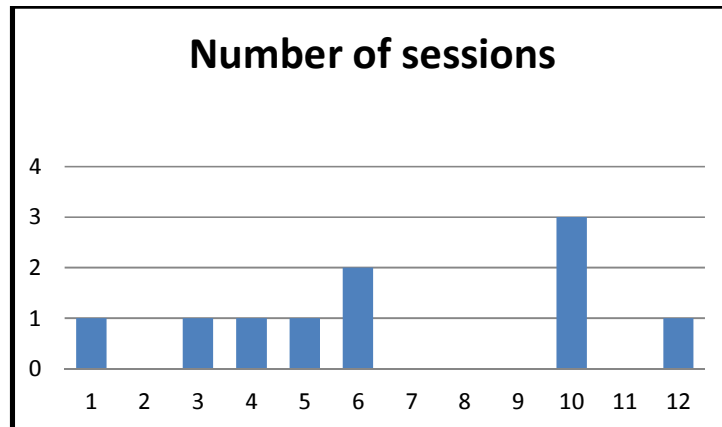


The majority of clients were reported as having self-referred to the service. As both Dublin ARC locations are situated very near national cancer centres, it was somewhat surprising that only 15% of clients were referred by the hospital.

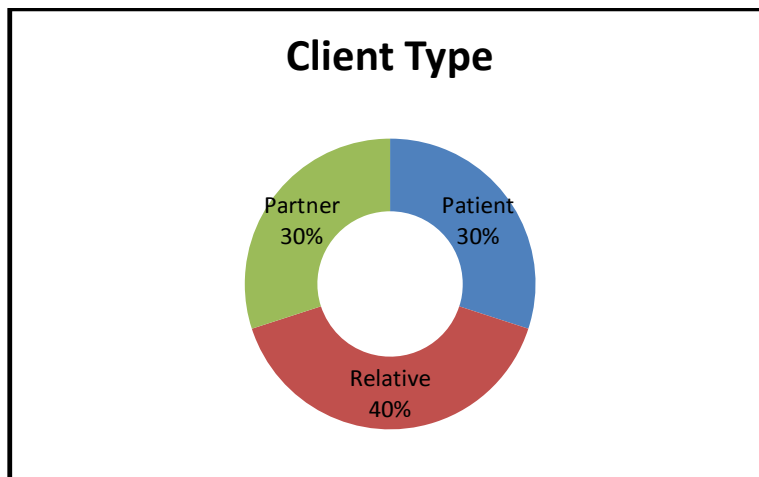
It should be noted that the grant for counselling from the Irish Cancer Society only covers a portion of the counselling provided by ARC Cancer Support Centre.

Galway ~ Tuam Cancer Care Centre

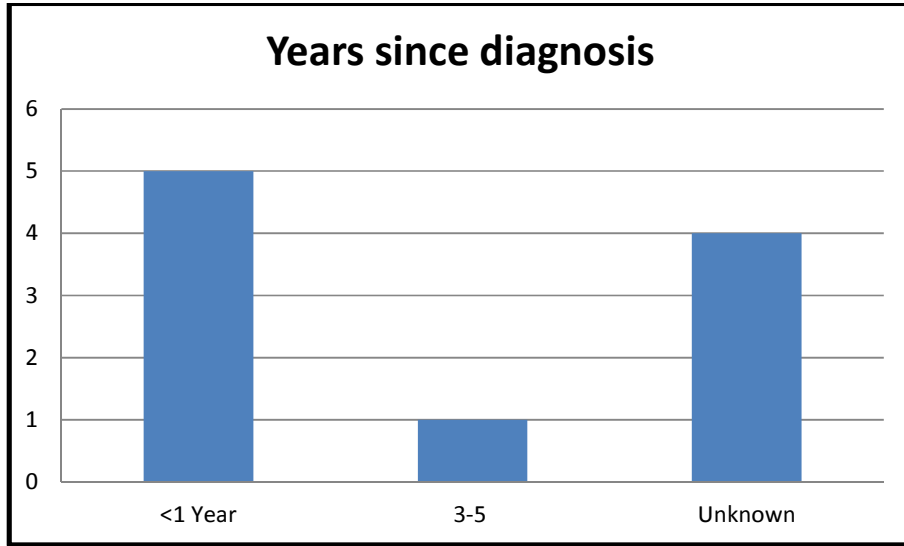
Ten clients availed of counselling in Galway funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients received a total of 67 sessions. All of these clients received one to one appointments; there were no couples or family sessions in 2012.



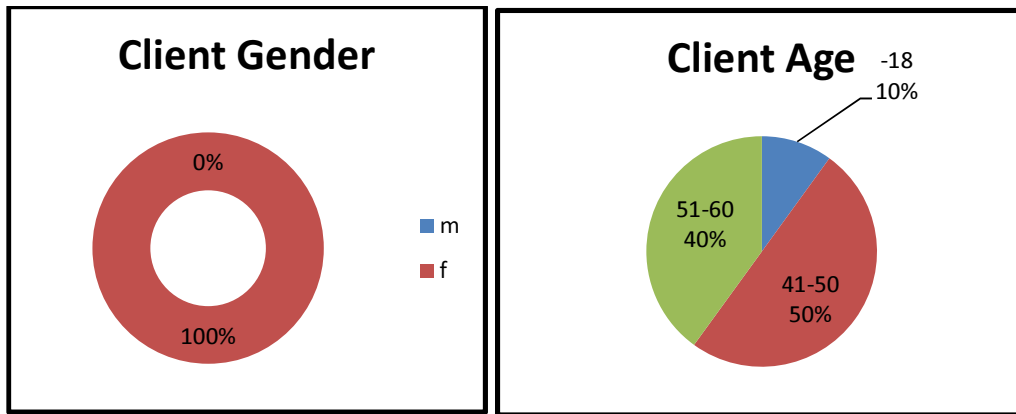
Sixty per cent of clients seen in Galway took up six sessions or less which is below the national average of 76%. Four clients received extra sessions which accounted for 63% of the overall number of sessions. There was a low rate of no shows and cancellations; there were 2 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were 3 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 7% rate of missed appointments which is well below the national average of nineteen per cent.



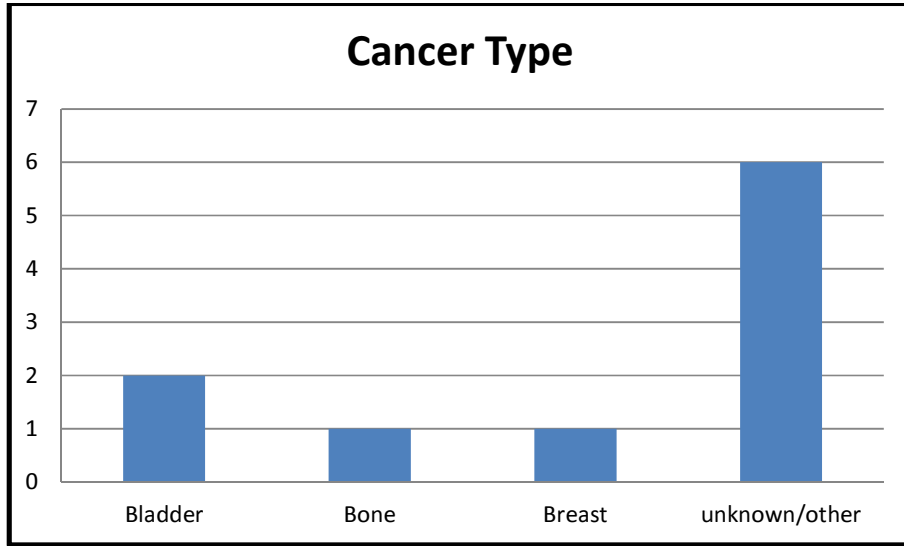
Thirty per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is lower than the national average of 62%. Thirty per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 40% were reported as being relatives.



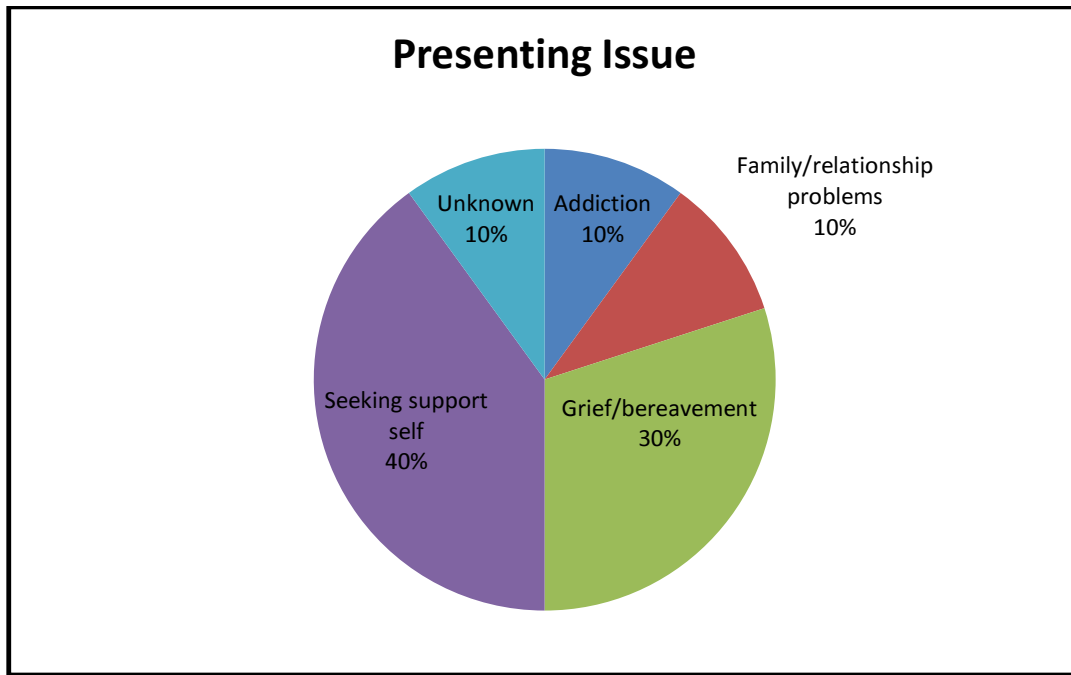
Fifty per cent of Galway clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is higher than the national average of 41%. However, no clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which is significantly different to the national average of 26%. The 40% unknown is more than twice the national average of 18%, however, it should be noted that the small total number of clients seen in Galway skews the data.



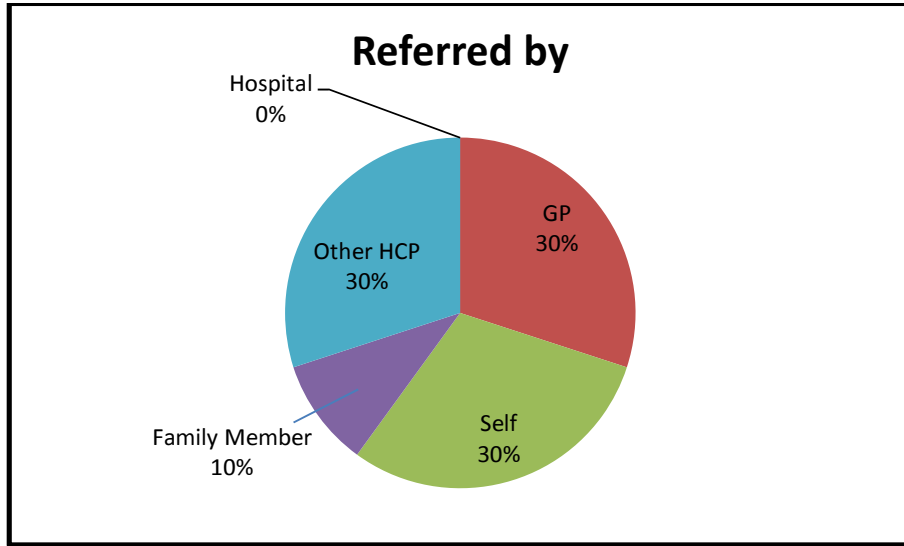
In Galway, all of the clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Ninety per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60 which is also high compared to the national rate of 51% in this age range.



Breast cancer accounted for 10% of Galway clients which is lower than the national average of 29%. Sixty per cent of reports came back with the cancer type unknown/other.



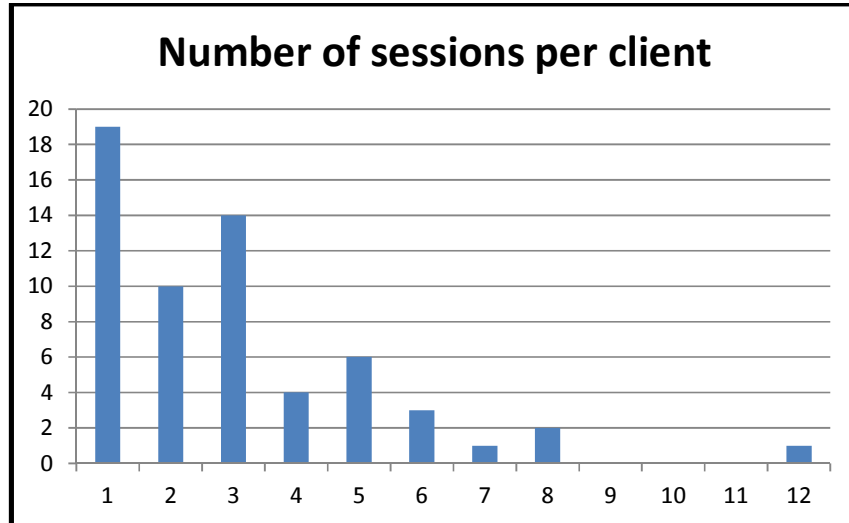
Bereavement counselling accounted for 30% of the presenting issues among clients. This is slightly higher than the national average of 22%.



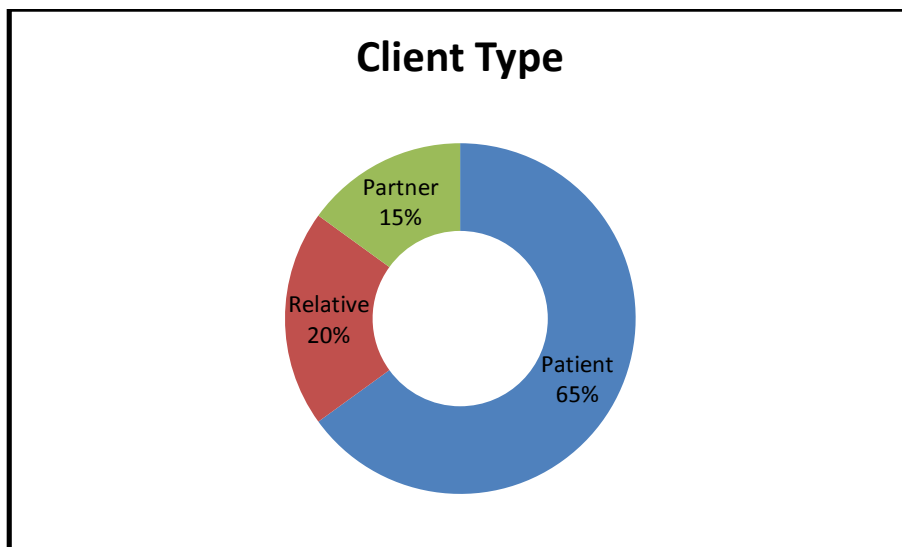
While there were no hospital referrals reported, 30% of clients were referred to the centre by their GP which is significantly higher than the national average of 9%.

Laois ~ the Cuisle Centre

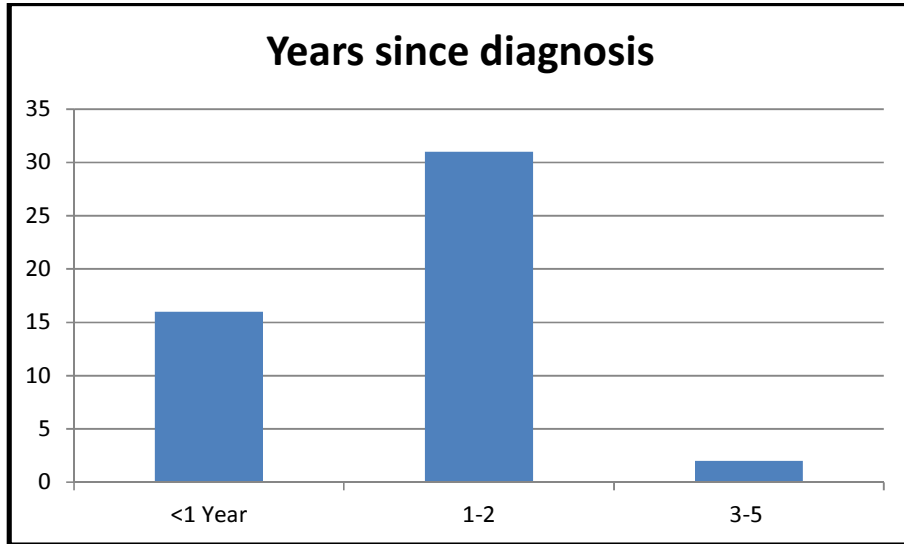
Sixty clients availed of counselling in Laois funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients received a total of 180 sessions. All of these clients received one to one appointments; there were no couples or family sessions in 2012.



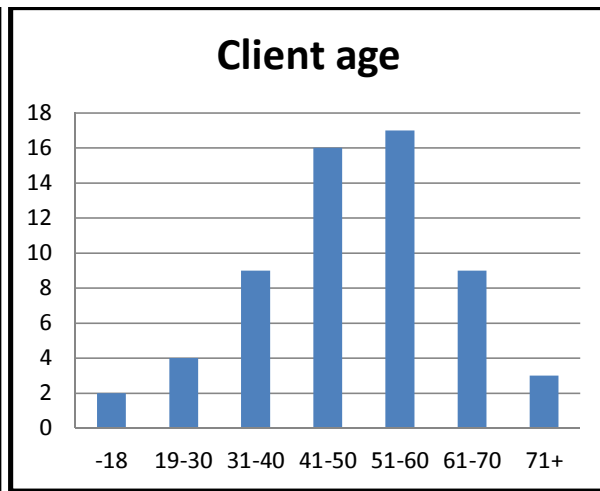
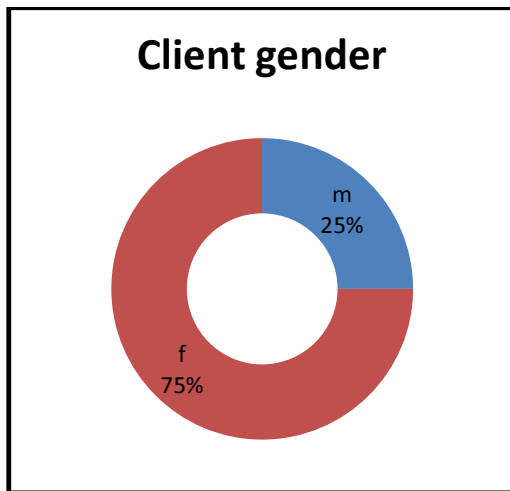
Ninety three per cent of clients seen in Laois took up six sessions or less which is well above the national average of 76%. Only one client received extra sessions. There was a relatively high rate of no shows and cancellations; there were 11 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were 34 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 24% rate of missed appointments which is six per cent higher the national average.



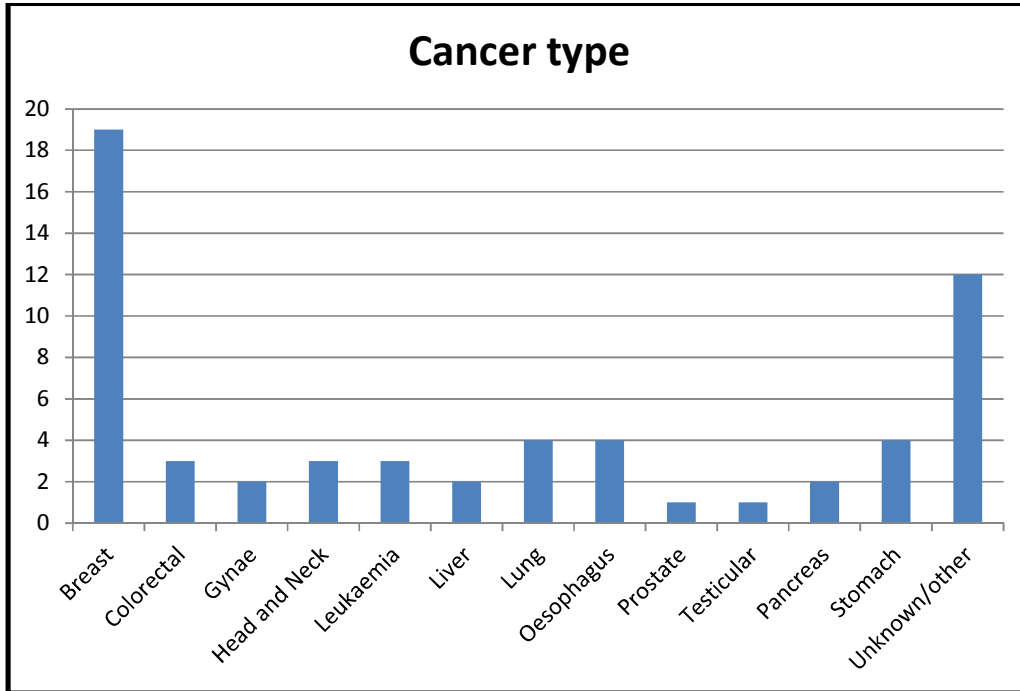
Sixty five per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is slightly higher than the national average of 62%. Fifteen per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 20% were reported as being relatives.



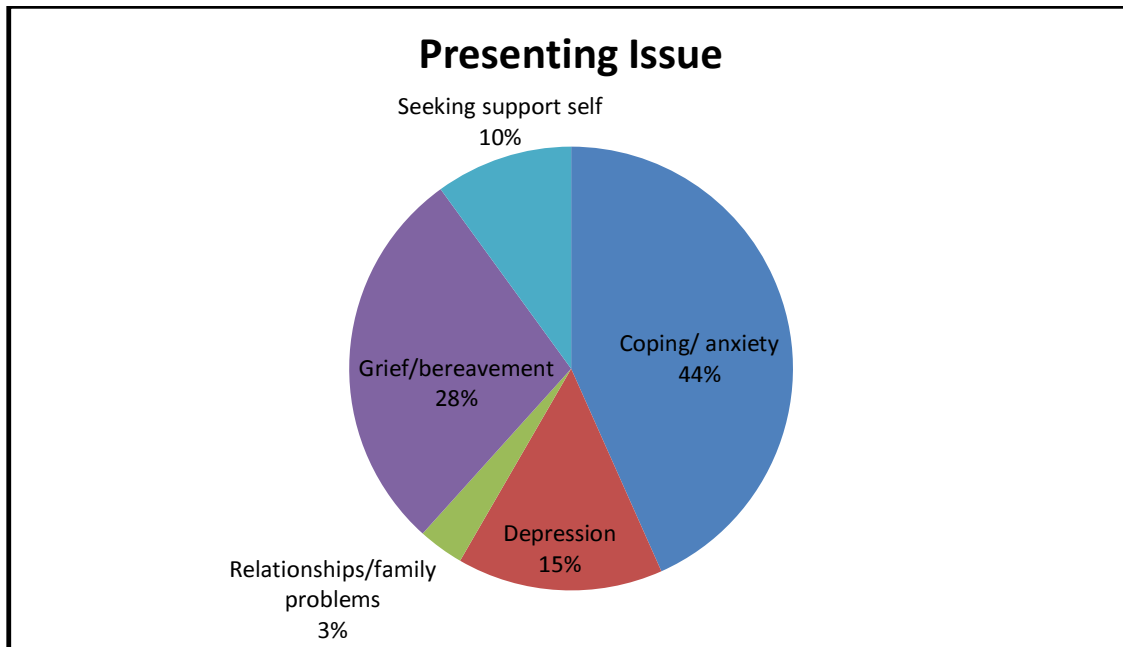
Twenty seven per cent of Laois clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is lower than the national average of 41%. However, 52% of clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which is double the national average of 26%.



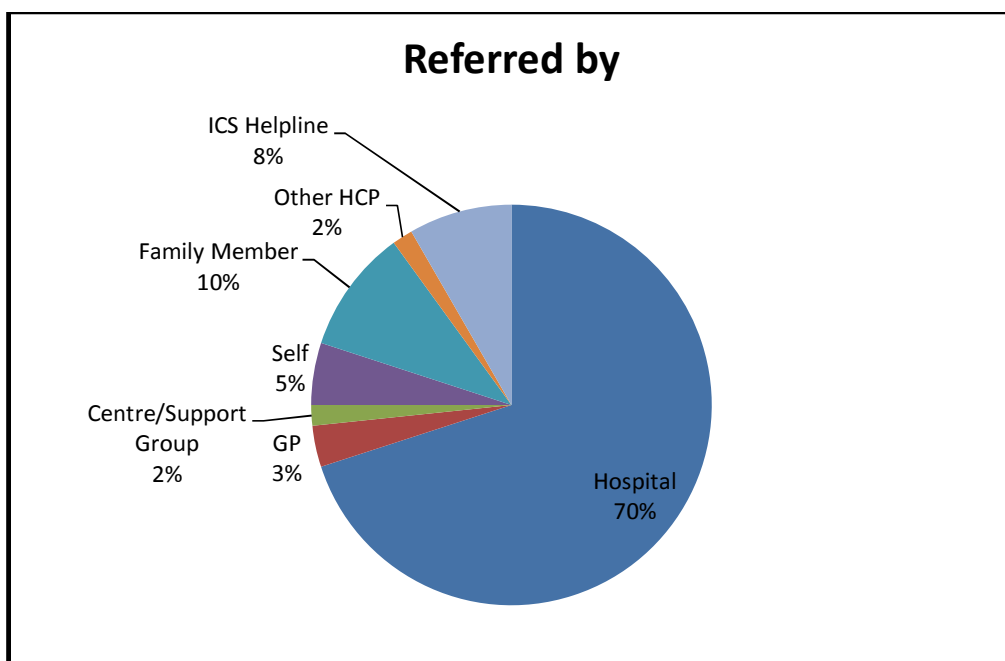
In Laois, 75% clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Fifty five per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60 which is very close to the national rate of 51% in this age range.



Breast cancer accounted for 32% of Laois's clients which is slightly higher than the national average of 29%. Twenty per cent of reports came back with the cancer type unknown/other.



Bereavement counselling accounted for 28% of the presenting issues among clients. This is higher than the national average of 22%.

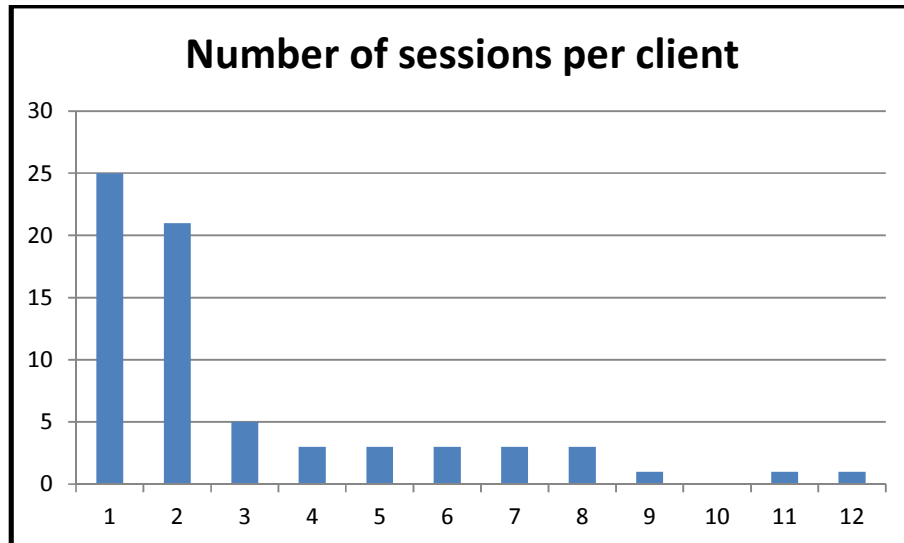


Seventy per cent of clients were referred by their hospital which is more than twice the national average of 29%. Three per cent of clients were referred to the centre by their GP which is below the national average of 9%. Only five per cent of clients were reported as having self-referred which is significantly lower than the national average of 31%.

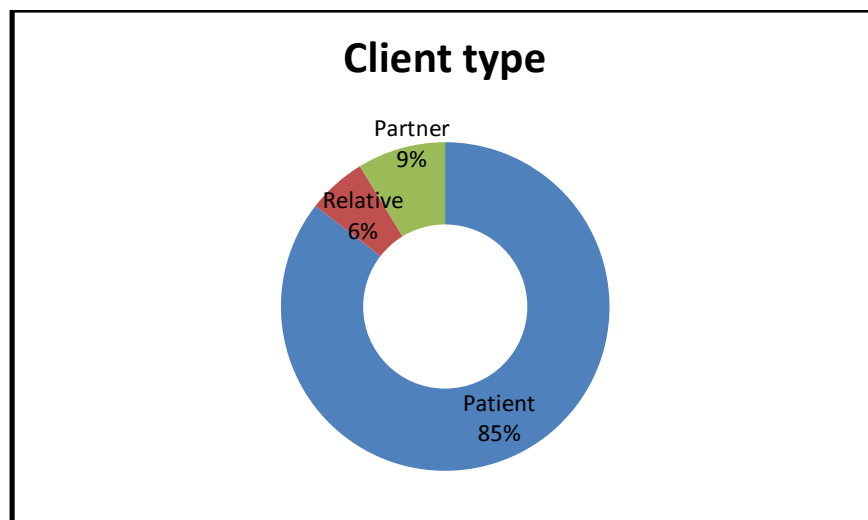
It should be noted that the grant for counselling from the Irish Cancer Society only covers a portion of the counselling provided by the Cuisse Centre.

Limerick ~ the Cancer Information & Support Centre

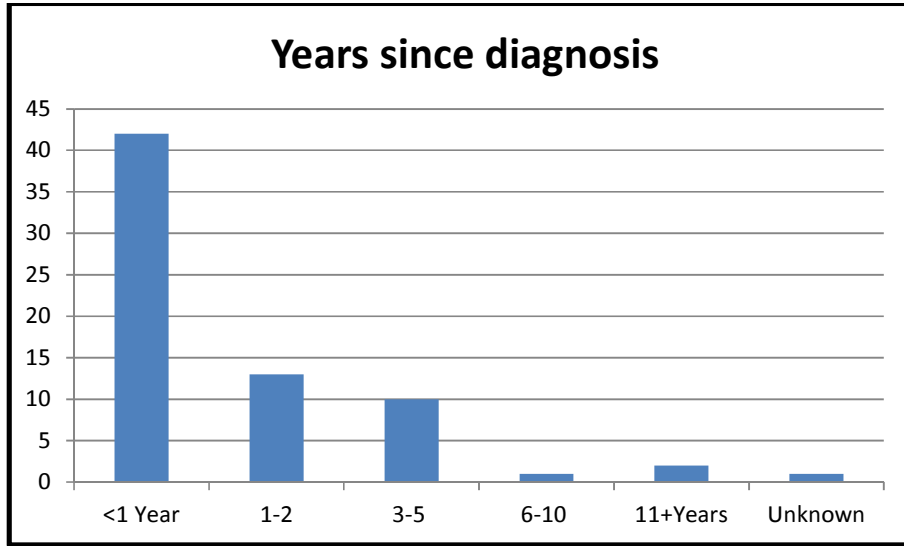
Sixty nine clients availed of counselling in Limerick funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. This grant is administered through ARC Cancer Support Centre, Dublin. These clients received a total of 204 sessions. 63 of these clients received one to one appointments. Two couples and 4 families also availed of this service in 2012.



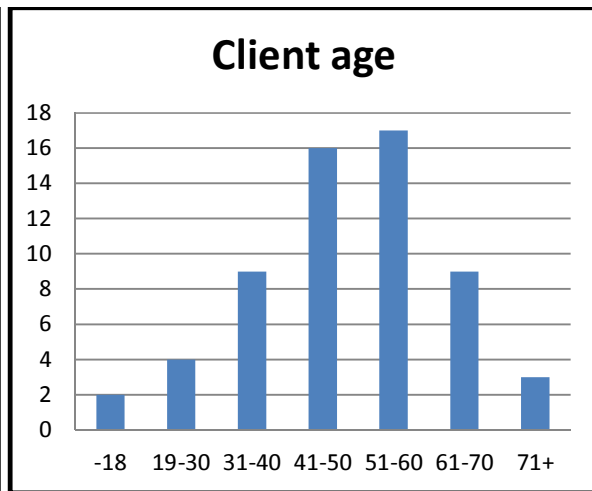
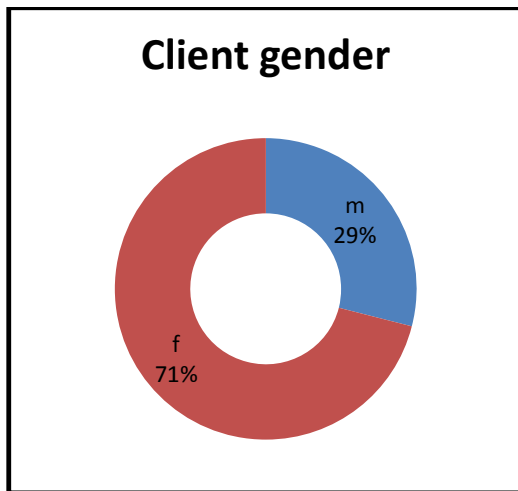
Eighty seven per cent of clients seen in Limerick took up six sessions or less which is well above the national average of 76%. Three clients received extra sessions. There was a relatively high rate of no shows and cancellations; there were 7 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were 50 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 28% rate of missed appointments which is higher the national average of 19%.



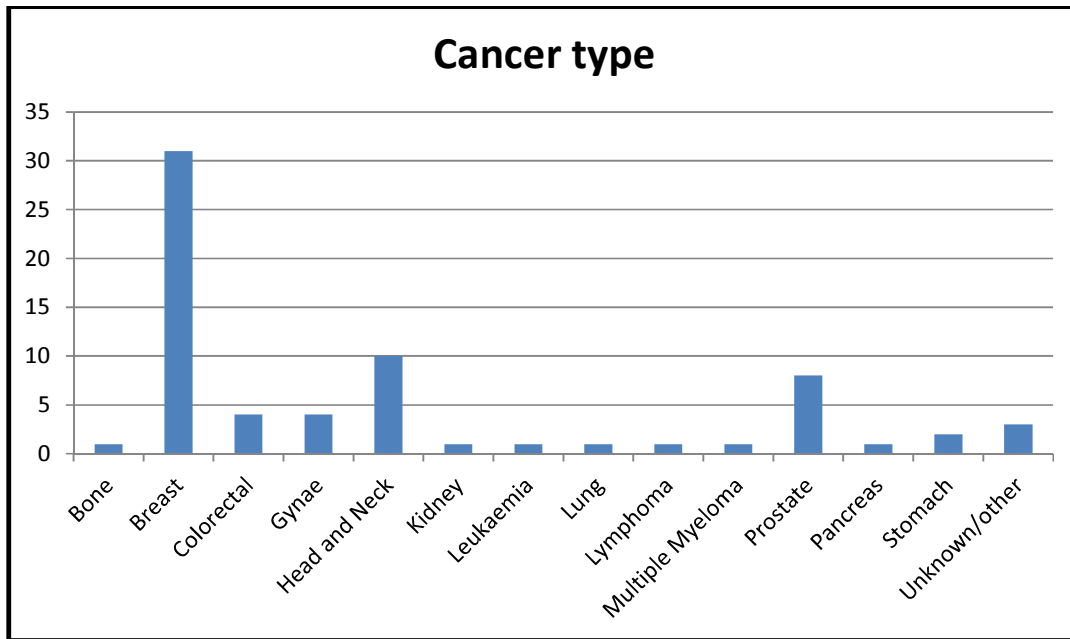
Eighty five per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is well above the national average of 62%. Nine per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 6% were reported as being relatives.



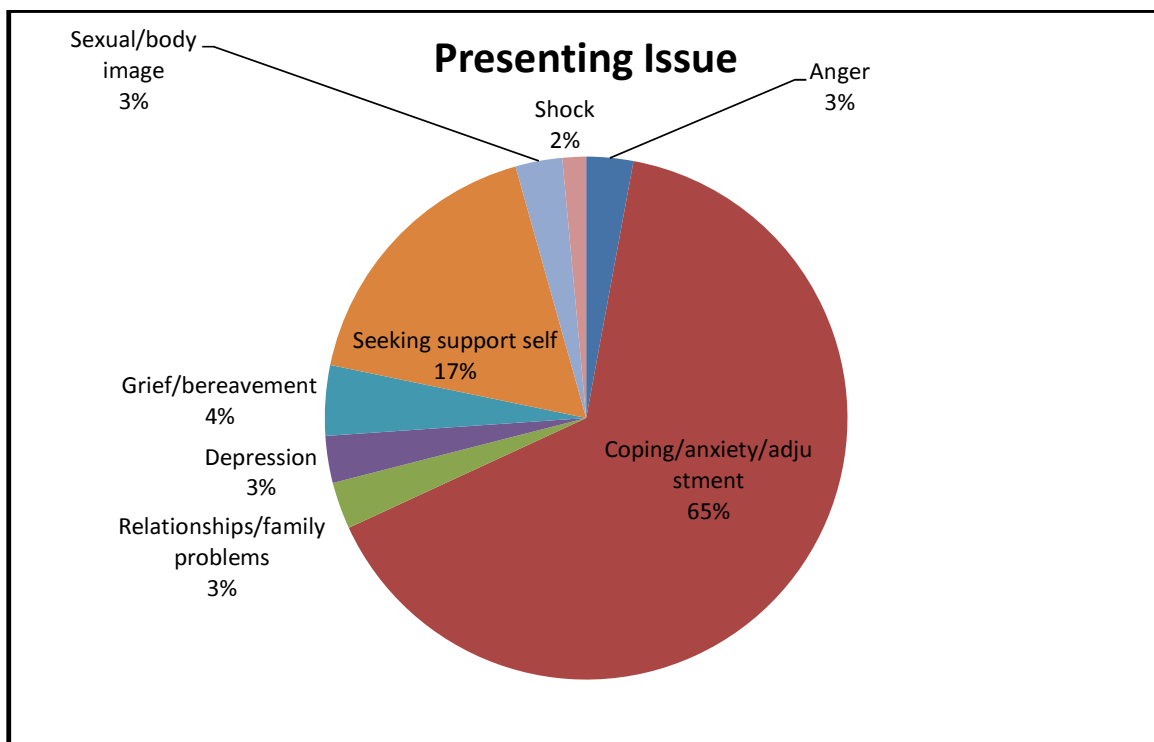
Sixty one per cent of Limerick clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is significantly higher than the national average of 41%. A further 19% of clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which is below the national average of 26%.



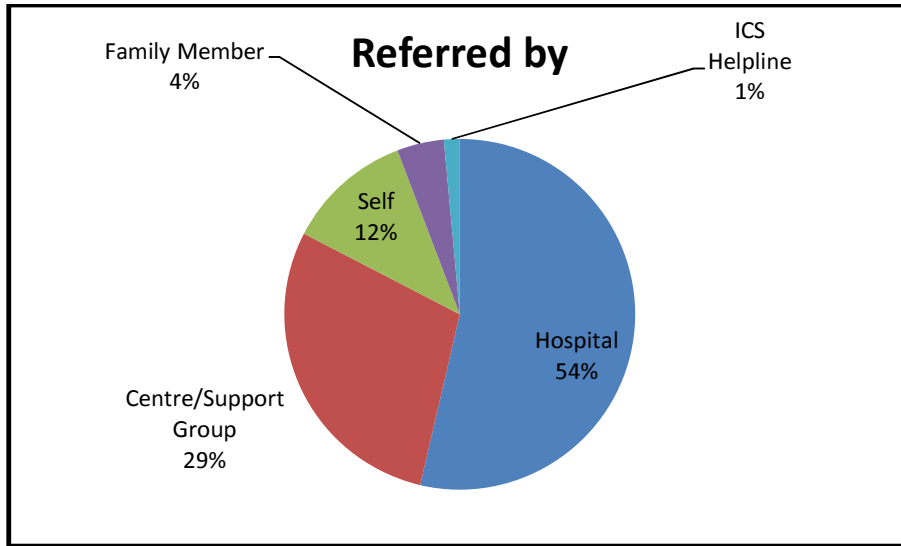
In Limerick, 71% clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Fifty five per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60 which is very close to the national rate of 51% in this age range.



Breast cancer accounted for 45% of Limerick clients which is significantly higher than the national average of 29%. There was also a notable increase in the number head and neck cancers; 14% as against 5% nationally.



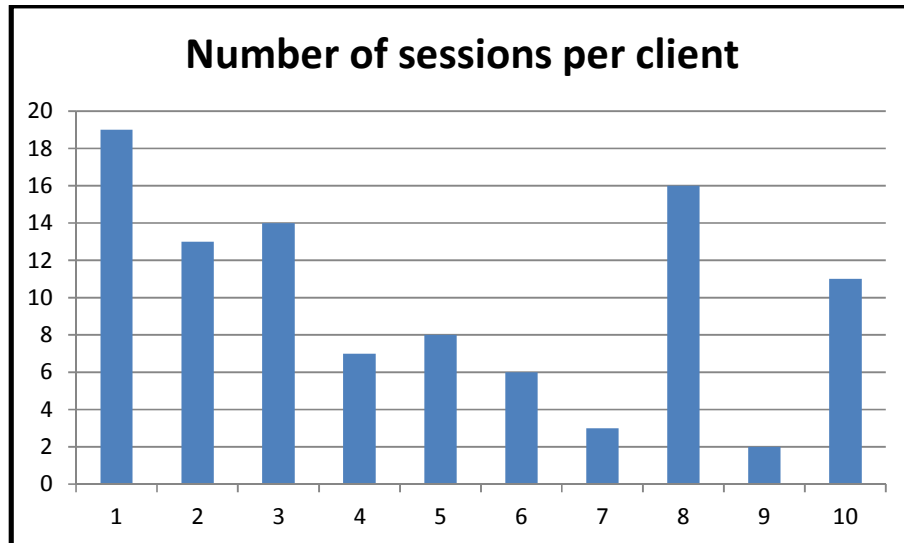
Bereavement counselling accounted for only 4% of the presenting issues among clients. This is significantly lower than the national average of 22%.



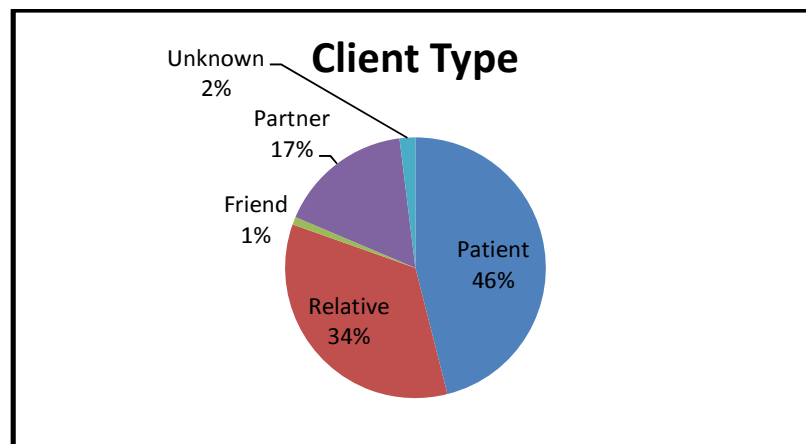
Fifty four per cent of clients were referred by their hospital which is almost twice the national average of 29%. Zero clients were referred to the centre by their GP which is below the national average of 9%. Twelve per cent of clients were reported as having self-referred which is lower than the national average of 31%. Twenty nine per cent of clients were referred by the centre which is more than seven times the national average.

Louth ~ the Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre

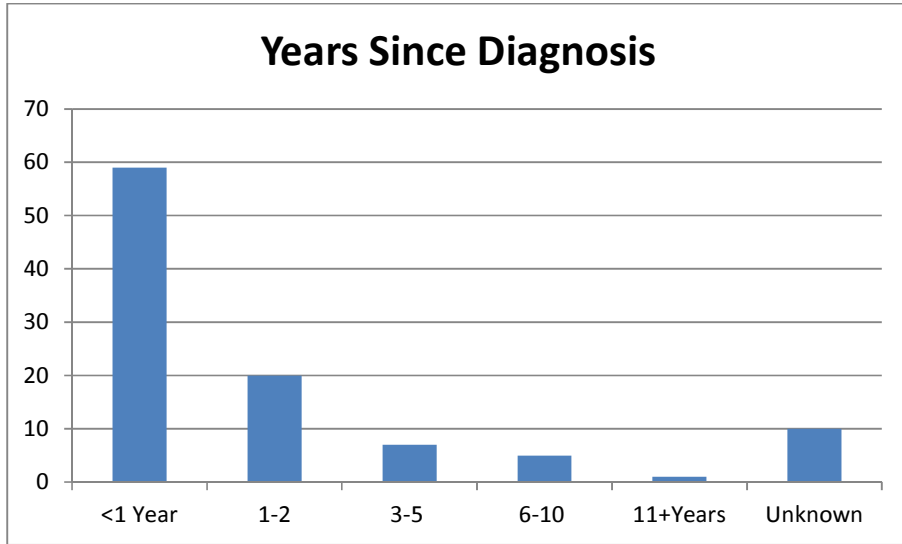
One hundred and two clients availed of counselling in Louth funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients received a total of 471 sessions. All but one of these clients received one to one appointments. One couple also availed of this service in 2012.



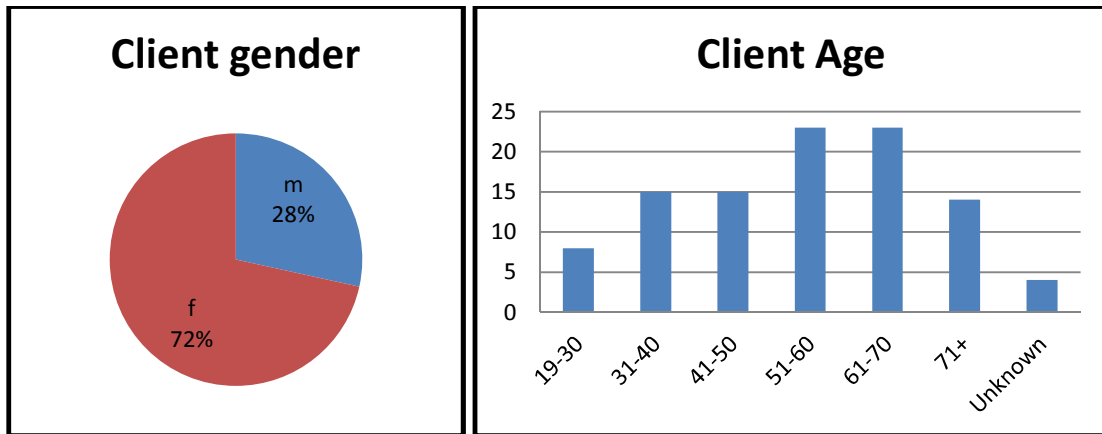
Sixty six per cent of clients seen in Louth took up six sessions or less which is below the national average of 76%. Thirteen clients received extra sessions. There was a relatively high rate of no shows and cancellations; there were 64 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were 57 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 26% rate of missed appointments which is higher the national average of 19%.



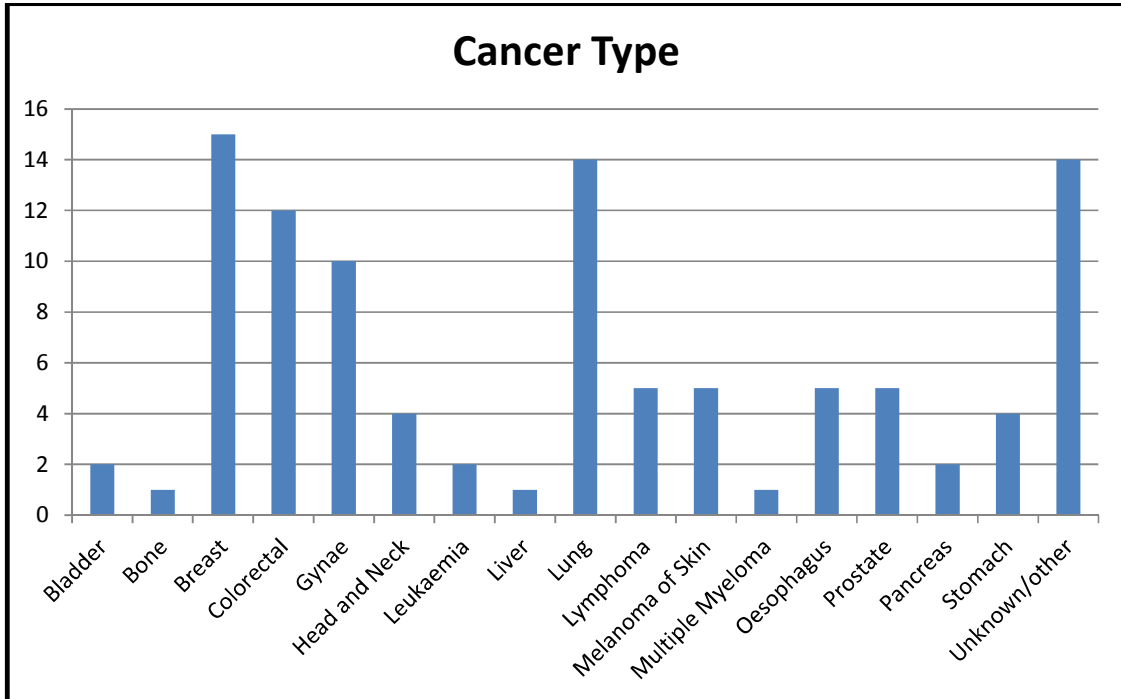
Forty six per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is below the national average of 62%. Seventeen per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 34% were reported as being relatives.



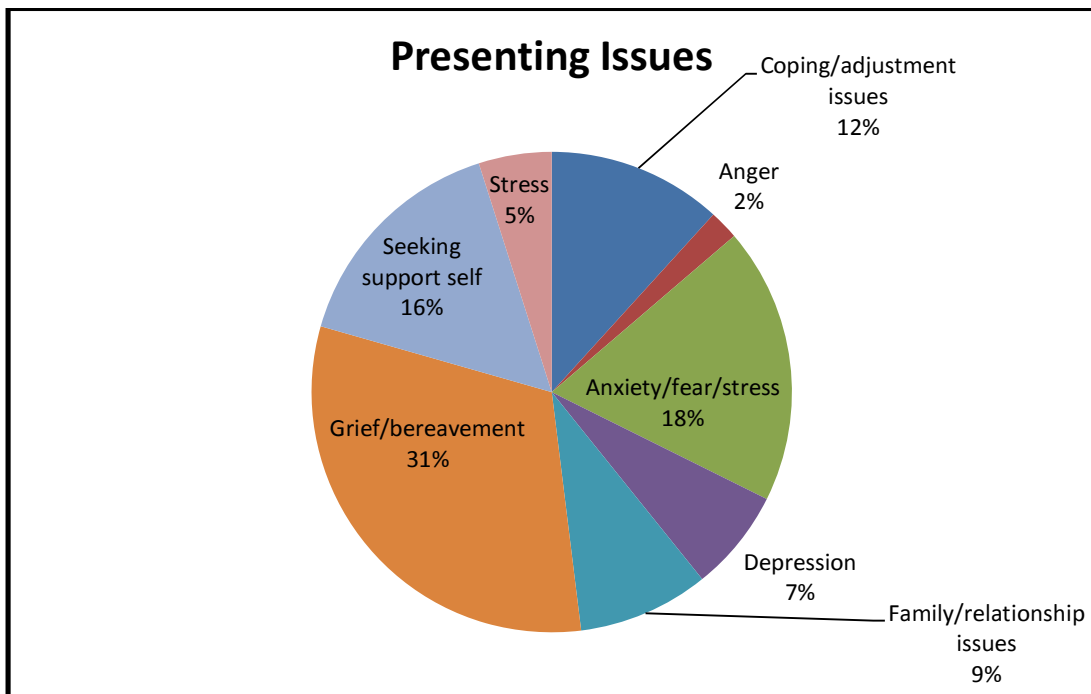
Fifty nine per cent of Louth clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is significantly higher than the national average of 41%. A further 20% of clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which is below the national average of 26%.



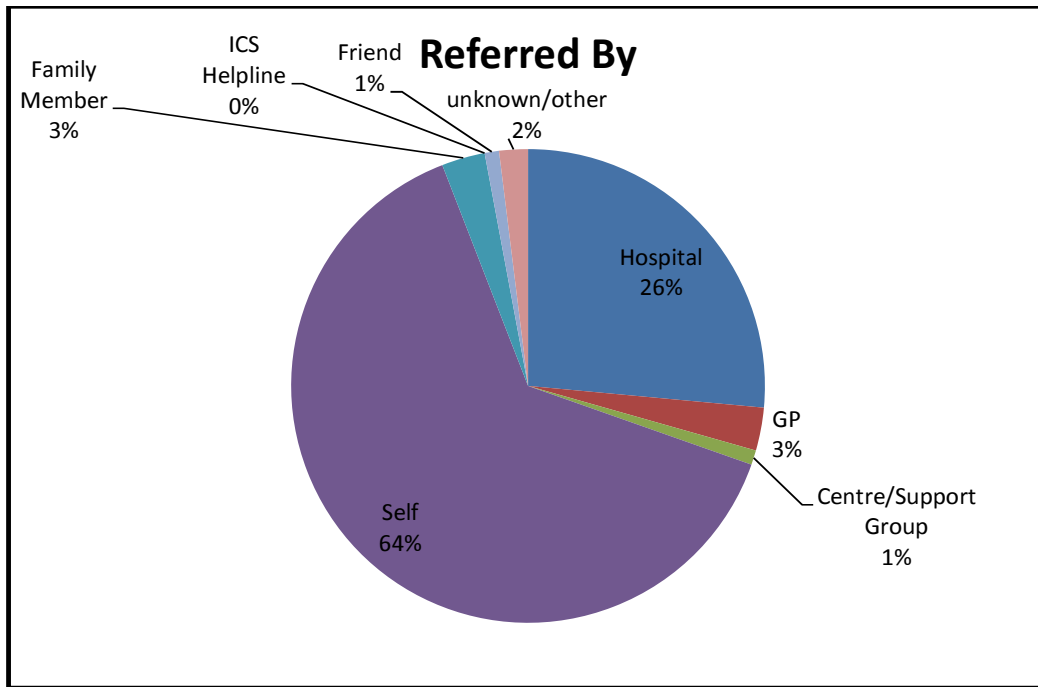
In Louth, 72% clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Thirty seven per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60 which is below the national rate of 51% in this age range. However, the cohort of clients aged 71+ is well about the national average of 6%.



Breast cancer accounted for 15% of Louth clients which is significantly lower than the national average of 29%. There was also a notable increase in the number of lung cancers over the national average.



Bereavement counselling accounted for 31% of the presenting issues among clients. This is significantly higher than the national average of 22%.

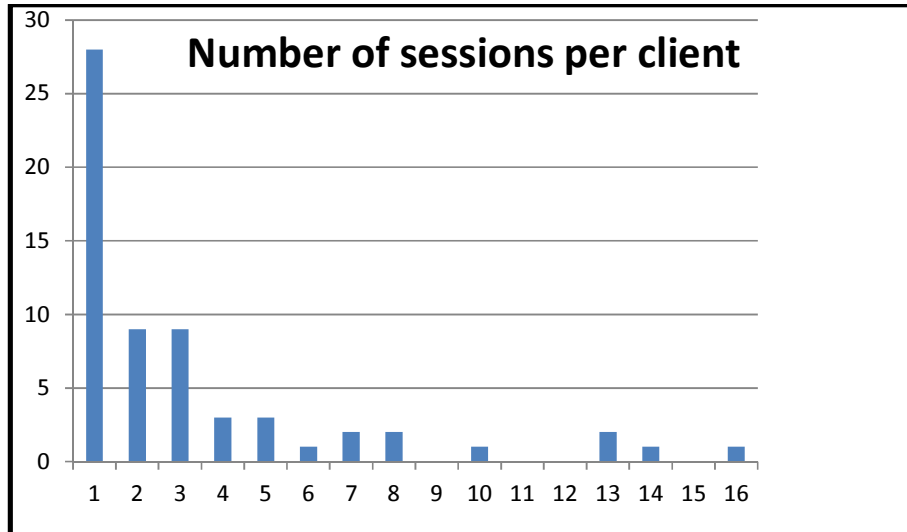


Twenty six per cent of clients were referred by their hospital which is almost the national average of 29%. Three per cent of clients were referred to the centre by their GP which is below the national average of 9%. Sixty four per cent of clients were reported as having self-referred which is more than double the national average of 31%.

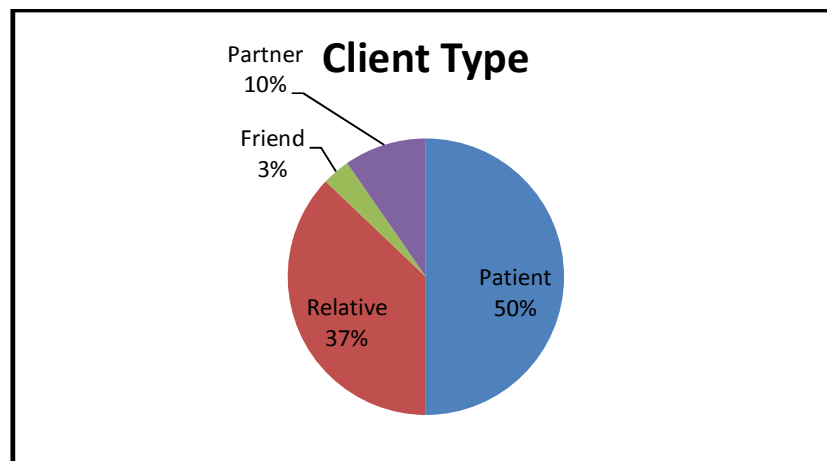
It should be noted that the grant for counselling from the Irish Cancer Society only covers a portion of the counselling provided by Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre.

Mayo ~ Mayo Cancer Support Association

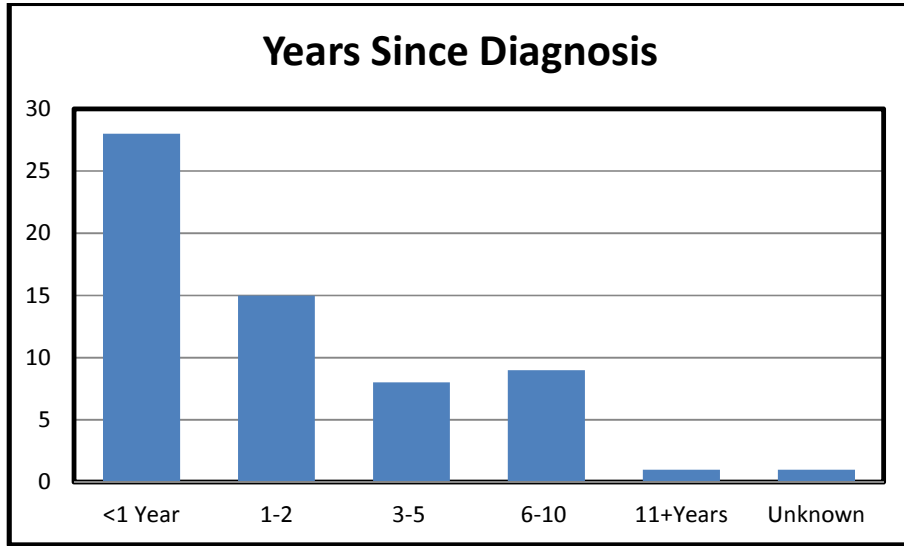
Sixty two clients availed of counselling in Mayo funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients received a total of 202 sessions. Fifty six of these clients received one to one appointments. Three couples and two families also availed of this service in 2012.



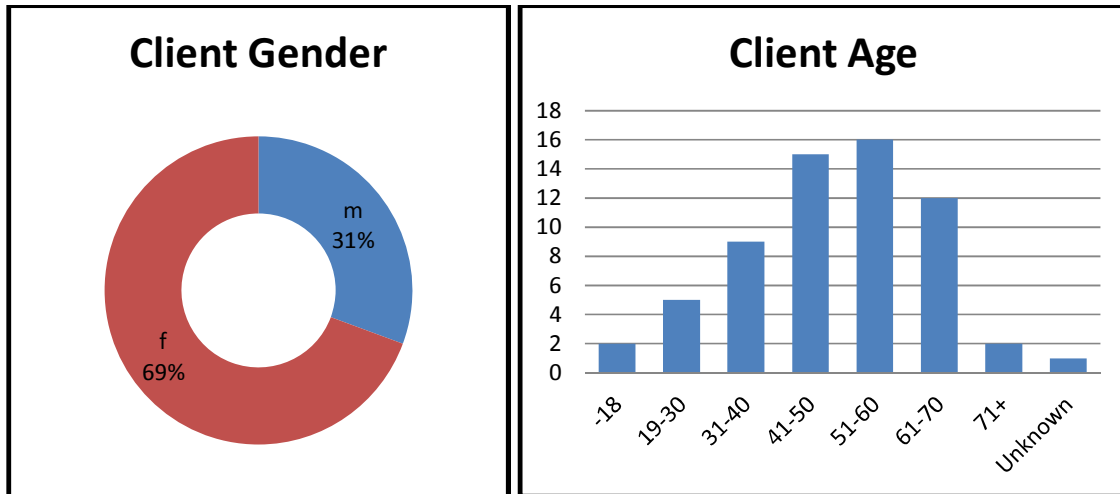
Eighty six per cent of clients seen in Mayo took up six sessions or less which is above the national average of 76%. Five clients received extra sessions which accounted for one third of the total number of sessions in Mayo. There was a relatively high rate of no shows and cancellations; there were 26 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were 22 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 24% rate of missed appointments which is higher the national average of 19%.



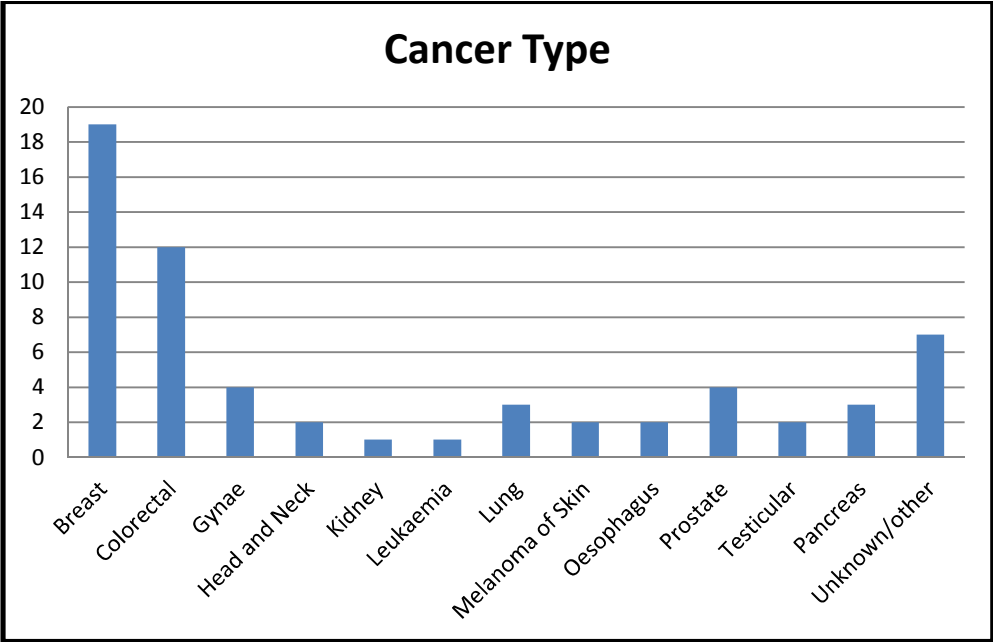
Fifty per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is below the national average of 62%. Ten per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 37% were reported as being relatives.



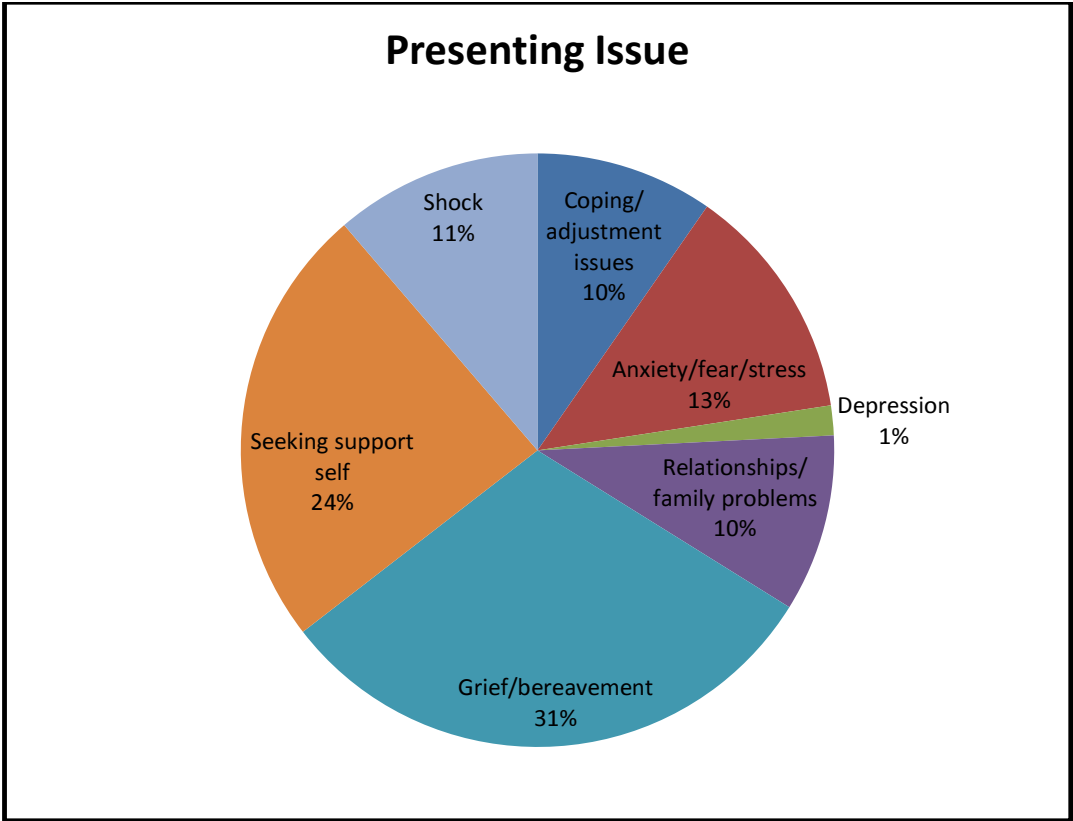
Forty five per cent of Mayo clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is slightly higher than the national average of 41%. A further 24% of clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which is just below the national average of 26%.



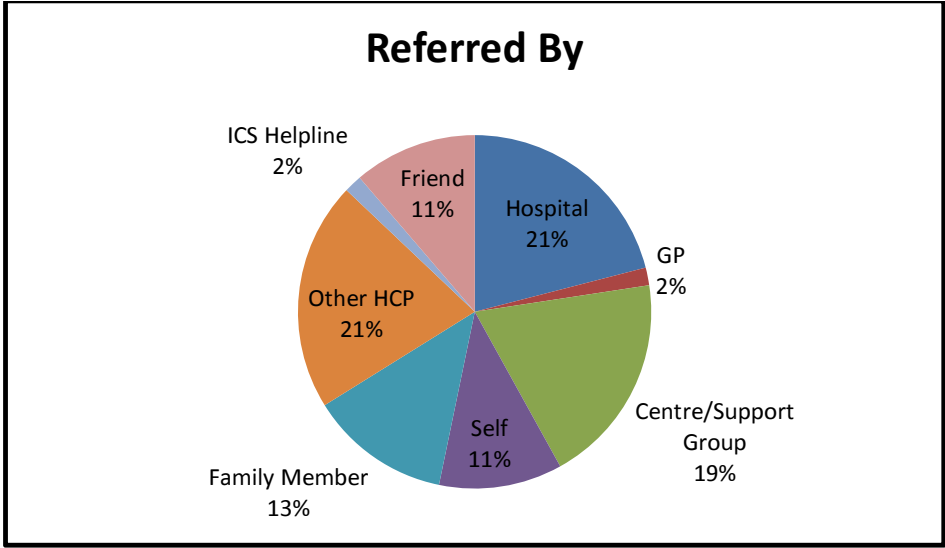
In Mayo, 69% clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Fifty per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 6. This matches the national rate of 51% in this age range.



Breast cancer accounted for 31% of Mayo clients which is very close to the national average of 29%.



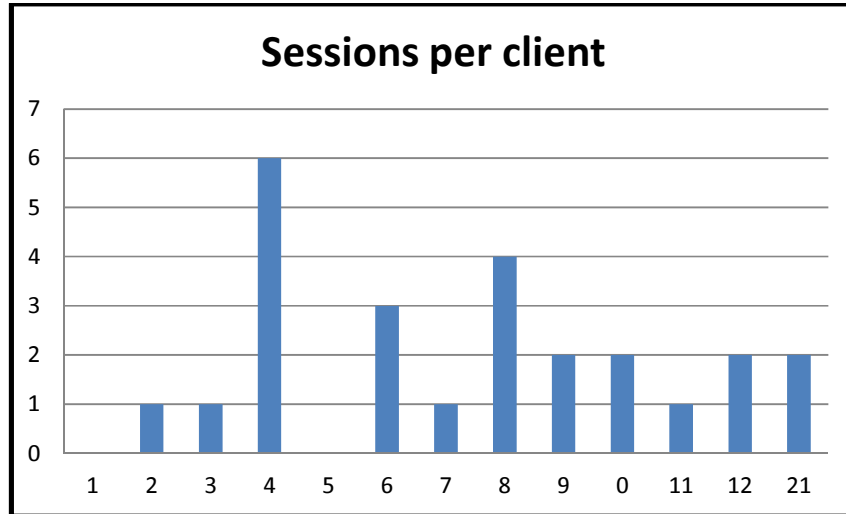
Bereavement counselling accounted for 31% of the presenting issues among clients. This is significantly higher than the national average of 22%.



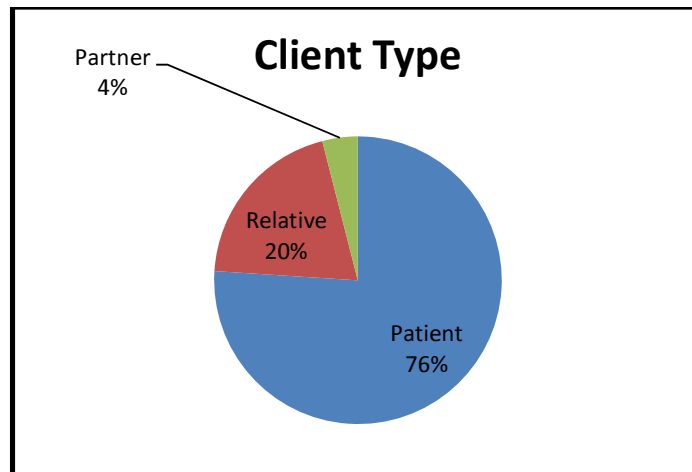
Twenty one per cent of clients were referred by their hospital which is slightly below the national average of 29%. Two per cent of clients were referred to the centre by their GP which is below the national average of 9%. Eleven per cent of clients were reported as having self-referred which is less than half the national average of 31%.

Offaly ~ Dochas Offaly Cancer Support Centre

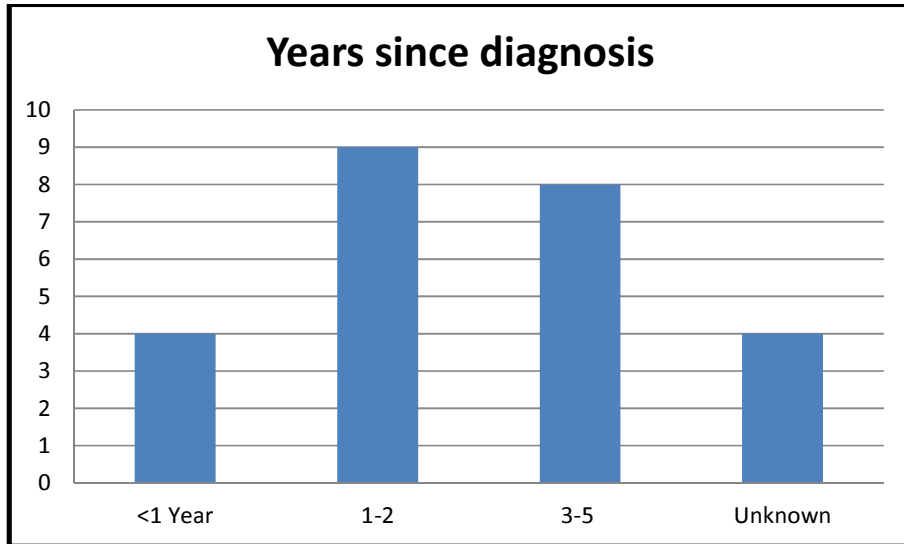
Twenty five clients availed of counselling in Offaly funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients received a total of 201 sessions. All of these clients received one to one appointments.



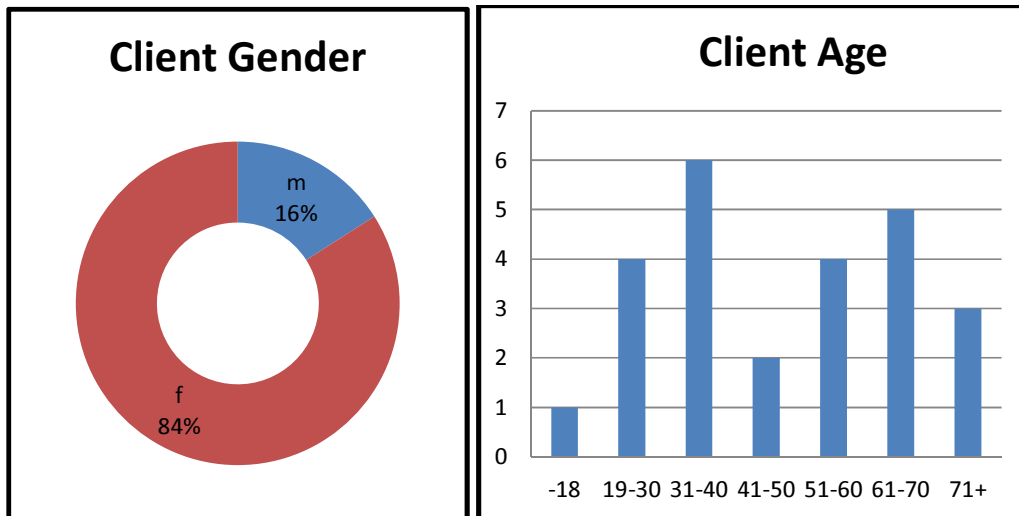
Forty four per cent of clients seen in Offaly took up six sessions or less which is below the national average of 76%. Nine clients received extra sessions which accounted for 57% of the total number of sessions in Offaly. There was a slightly higher than average rate of no shows and cancellations; there were 10 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were 34 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 22% rate of missed appointments which is higher the national average of 19%.



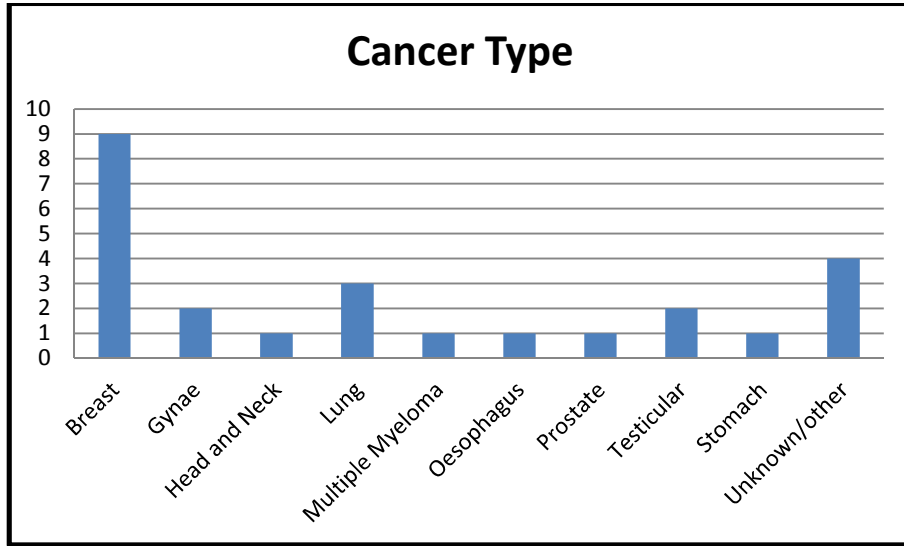
Seventy six per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is above the national average of 62%. Four per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 20% were reported as being relatives.



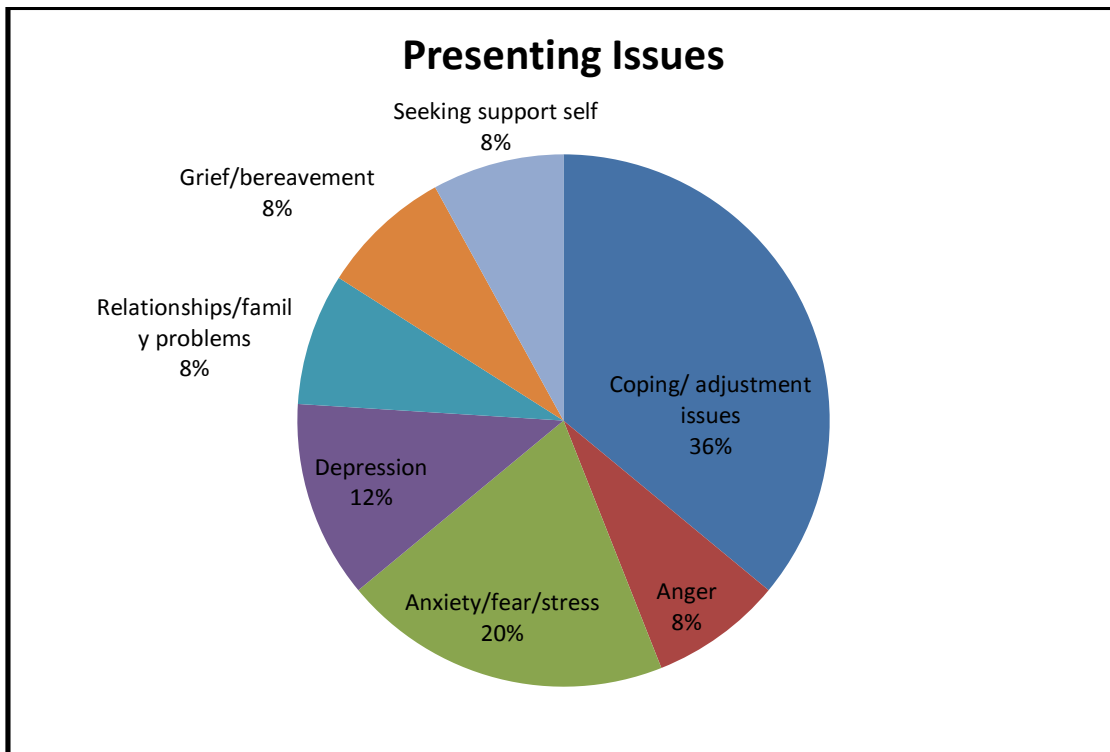
Sixteen per cent of Offaly clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is significantly lower than the national average of 41%. However, 36% of clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which is higher than the national average of 26%.



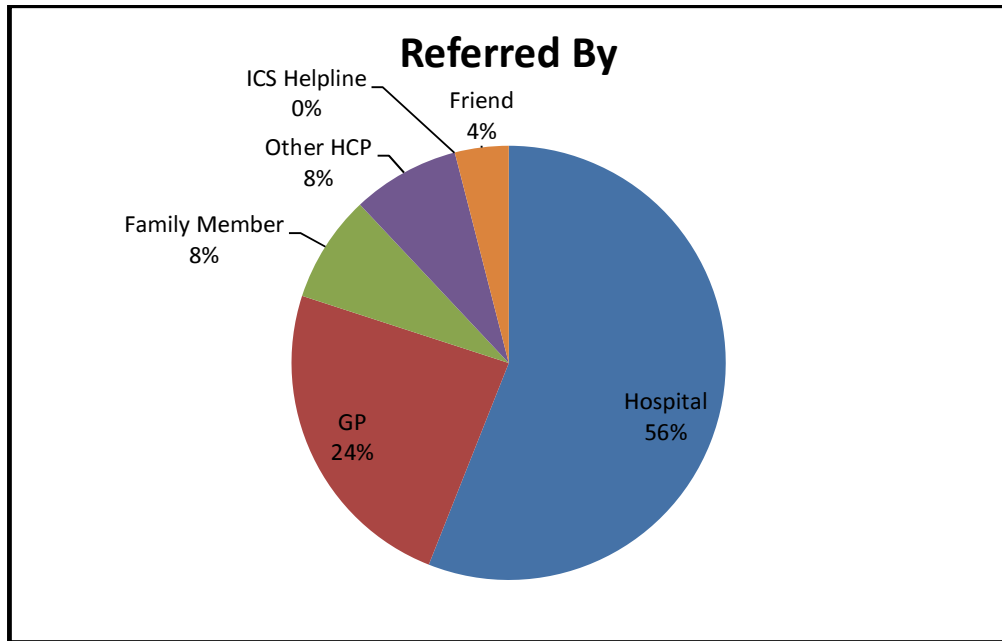
In Offaly, 84% clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Twenty four per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60. This is very different to the national rate of 51% in this age range. There were relatively more people between the ages of 19 and 40 (40% as compared to 20% nationally) attending for counselling in Offaly.



Breast cancer accounted for 36% of Offaly clients which is slightly higher than the national average of 29%.



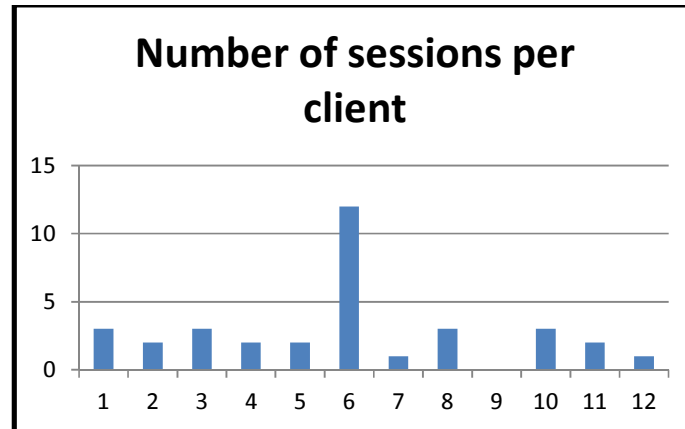
Bereavement counselling accounted for 8% of the presenting issues among clients. This is significantly lower than the national average of 22%.



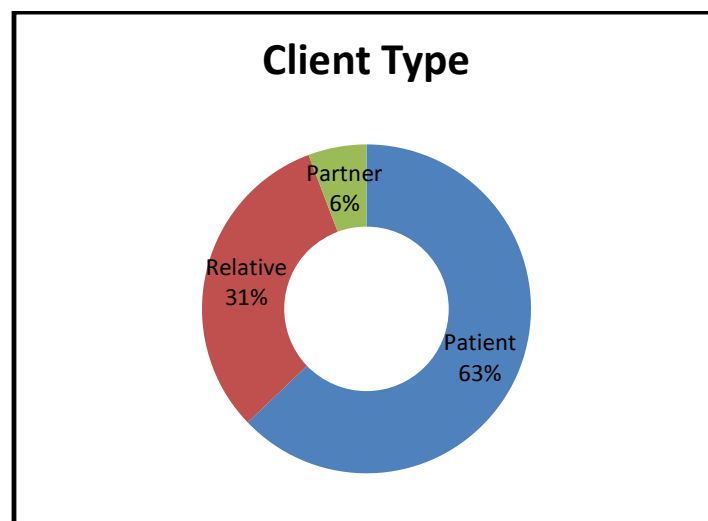
Fifty six per cent of clients were referred by their hospital which is well above the national average of 29%. Twenty four per cent of clients were referred to the centre by their GP which is also well above the national average of 9%. No clients were reported as having self-referred which is unexpected given the national average of 31%.

Kerry ~ Recovery Haven Cancer Support House

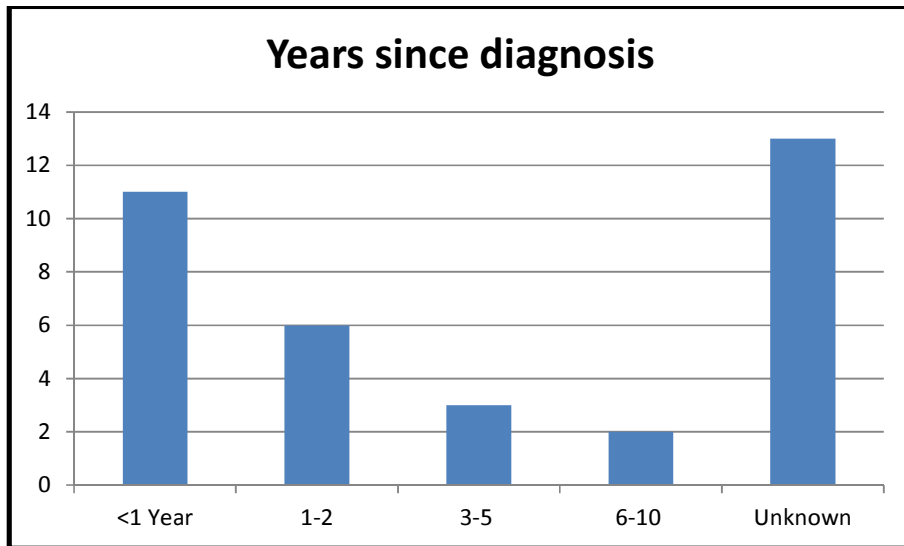
Thirty five clients availed of counselling in Kerry funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients received a total of 201 sessions. All of these clients received one to one appointments; there were no couples or family sessions in 2012.



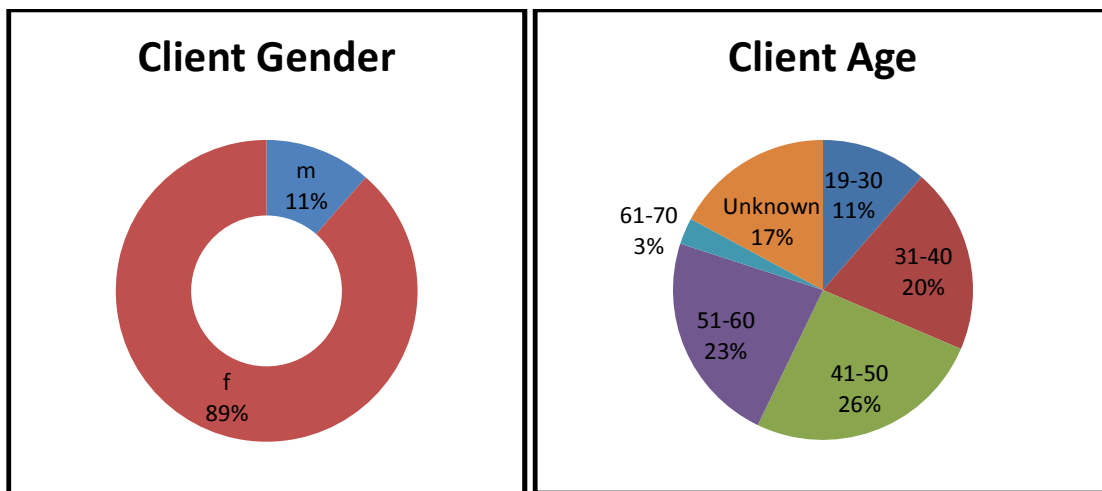
Sixty nine per cent of clients seen in Kerry took up six sessions or less which is below the national average of 76%. Six clients received extra sessions which accounted for 32% of the overall number of sessions. There was an average rate of no shows and cancellations; there were 14 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were 25 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 19% rate of missed appointments which matches the national average exactly.



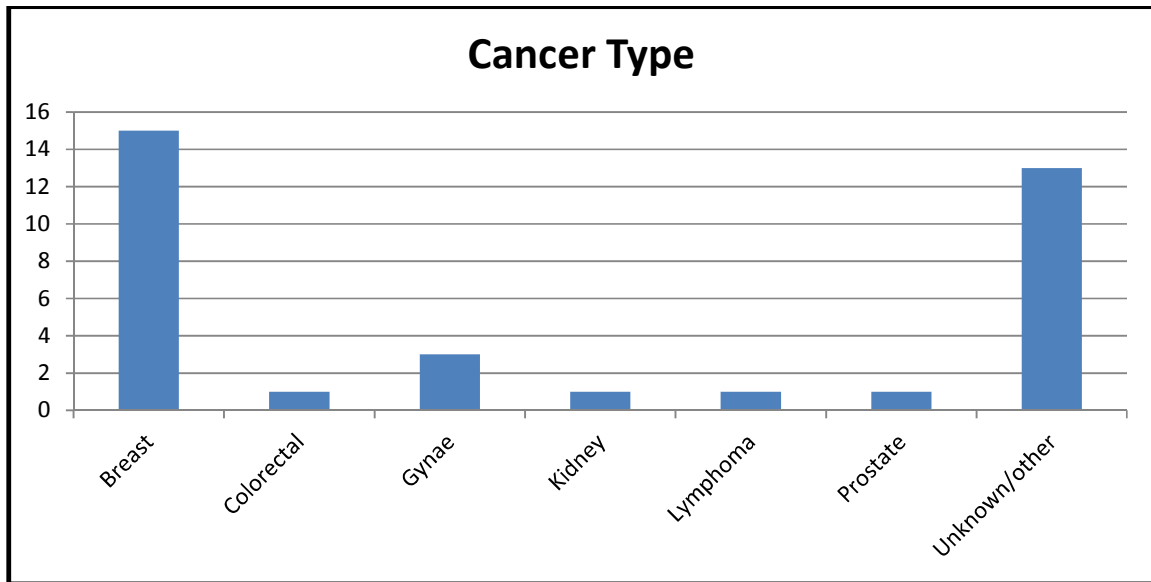
Sixty three per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is very close to the national average of 62%. Six per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 31% were reported as being relatives.



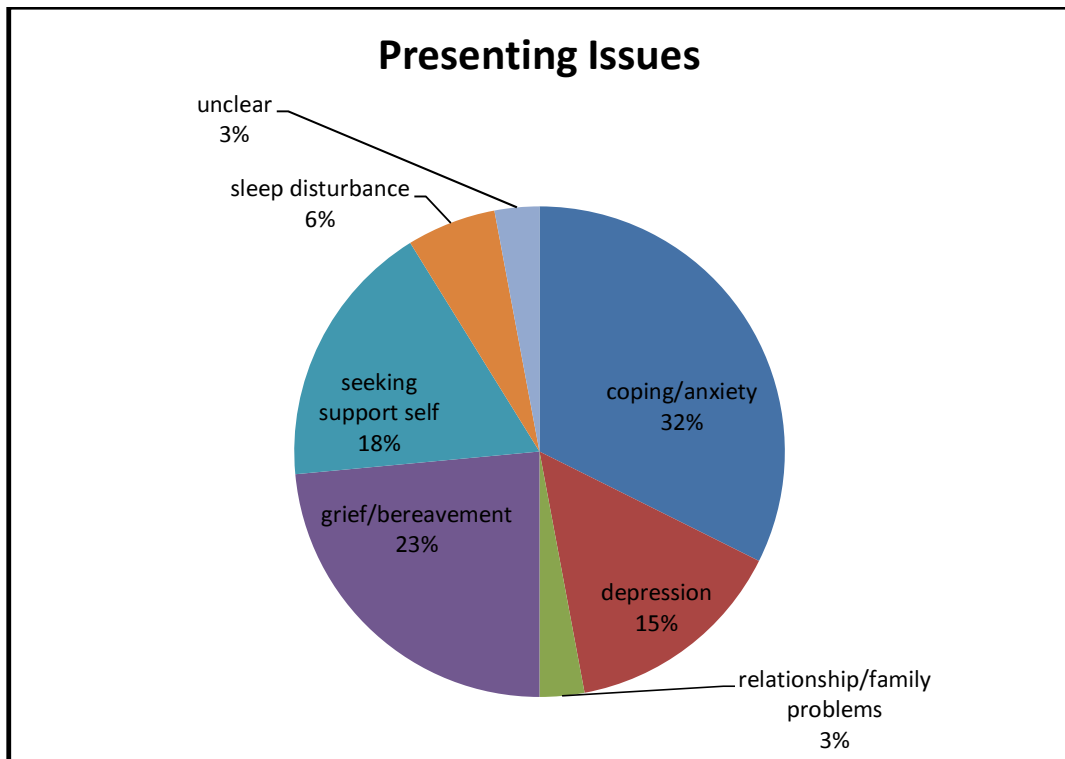
Thirty one per cent of Kerry clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is lower than the national average of 41%. Seventeen per cent of clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which is somewhat lower than the national average of 26%. The 37% reported as unknown is more than twice the national average of 18%.



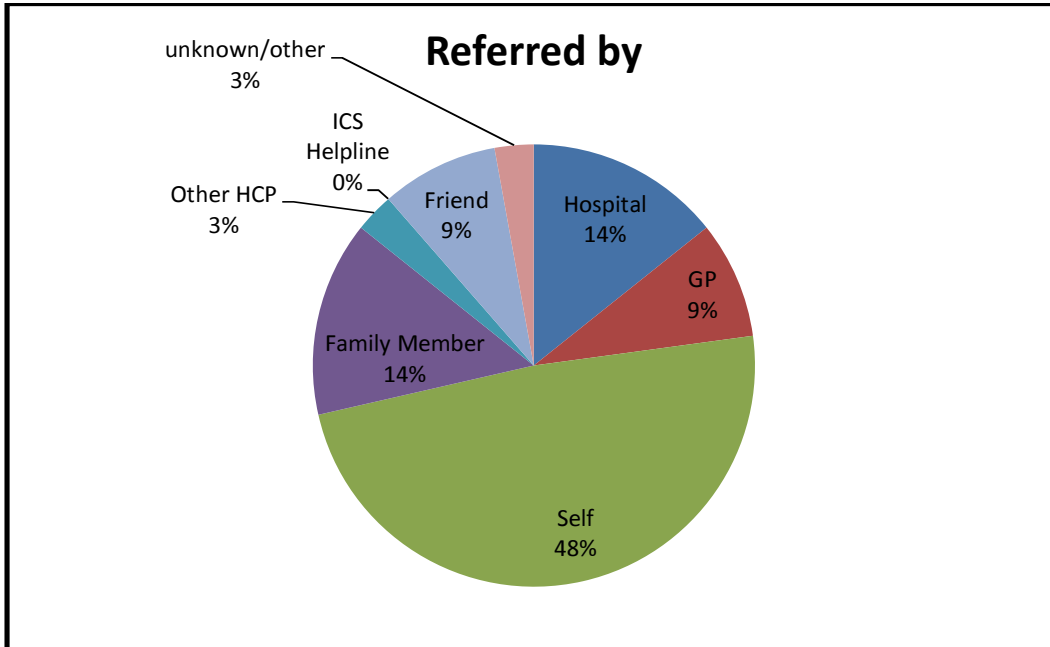
In Kerry, 89% clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Forty nine per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60 which is very close to the national rate of 51% in this age range.



Breast cancer accounted for 43% of Kerry clients which is higher than the national average of 29%. Thirty seven per cent of reports came back with the cancer type unknown/other.



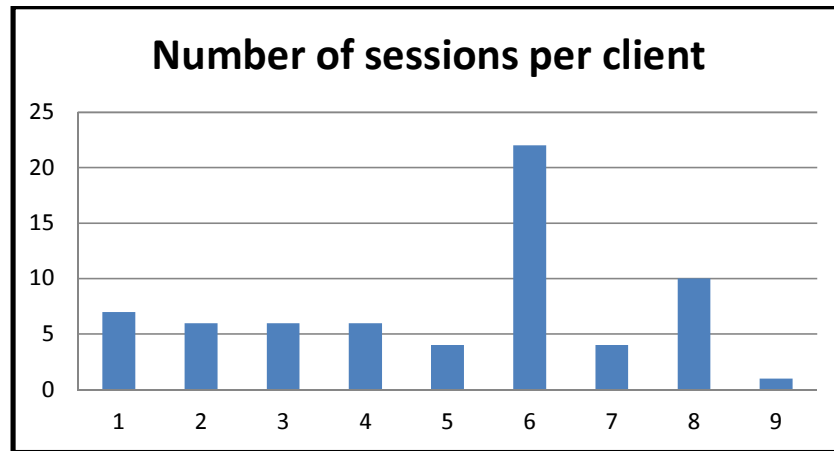
Bereavement counselling accounted for 23% of the presenting issues among clients. This matches almost exactly the national average of 22%.



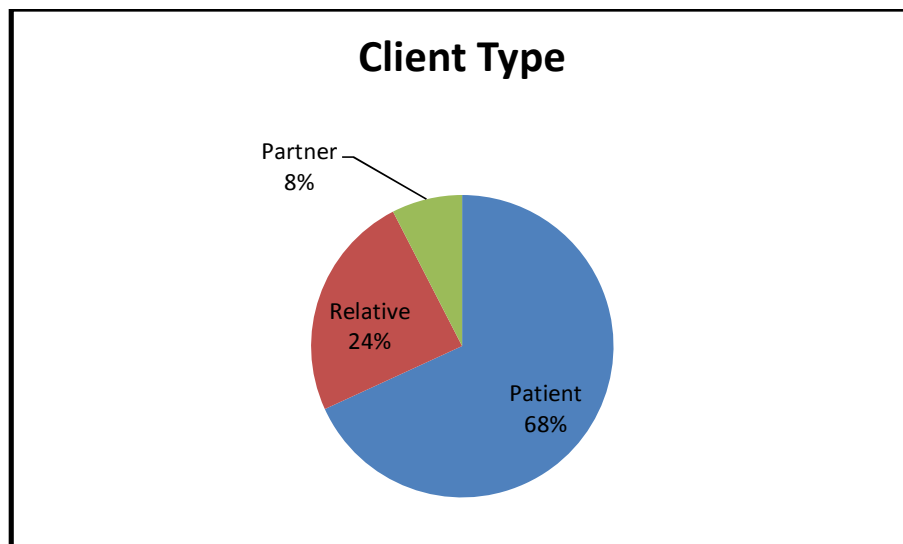
Fourteen per cent of clients were referred by their hospital which is about half the national average of 29%. Nine per cent of clients were referred to the centre by their GP which matches the national average. Forty eight per cent of clients were reported as having self-referred which is higher than the national average of 31%.

Sligo ~ the Sligo Cancer Support Centre

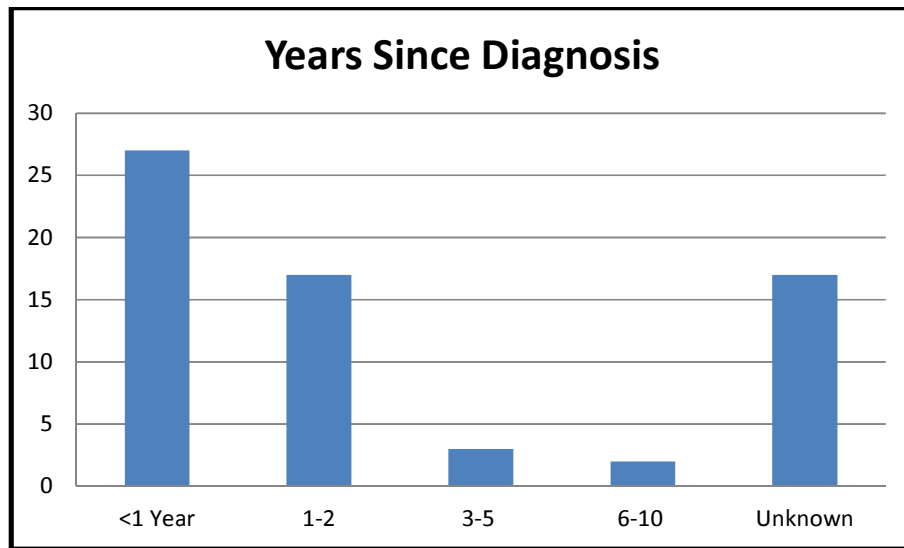
Sixty six clients availed of counselling in Sligo funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients received a total of 330 sessions. Sixty two of these clients received one to one appointments; two couples and one family also availed of this service.



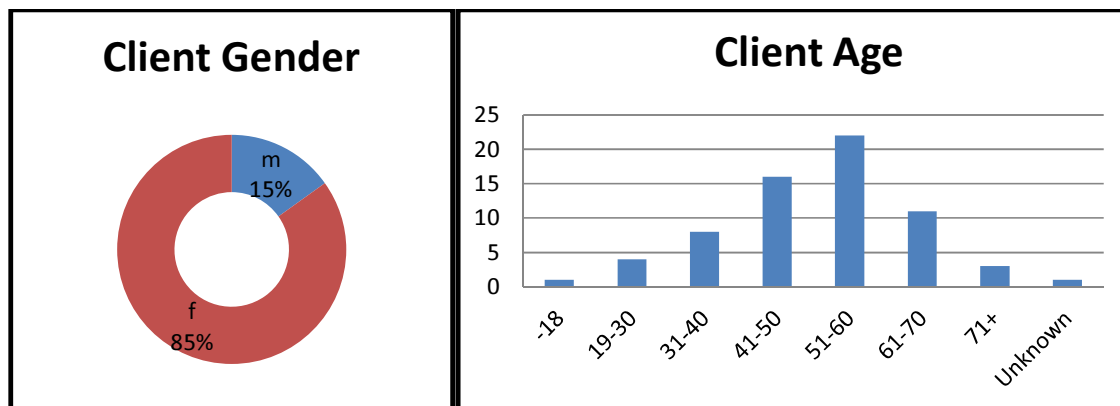
Seventy seven per cent of clients seen in Sligo took up six sessions or less which is almost exactly the national average of 76%. Only one received extra sessions which accounted for 3% of the total number of sessions in Sligo. There was a lower than average rate of no shows and cancellations; there were 10 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were 26 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was an 11% rate of missed appointments as against the national average of 19%.



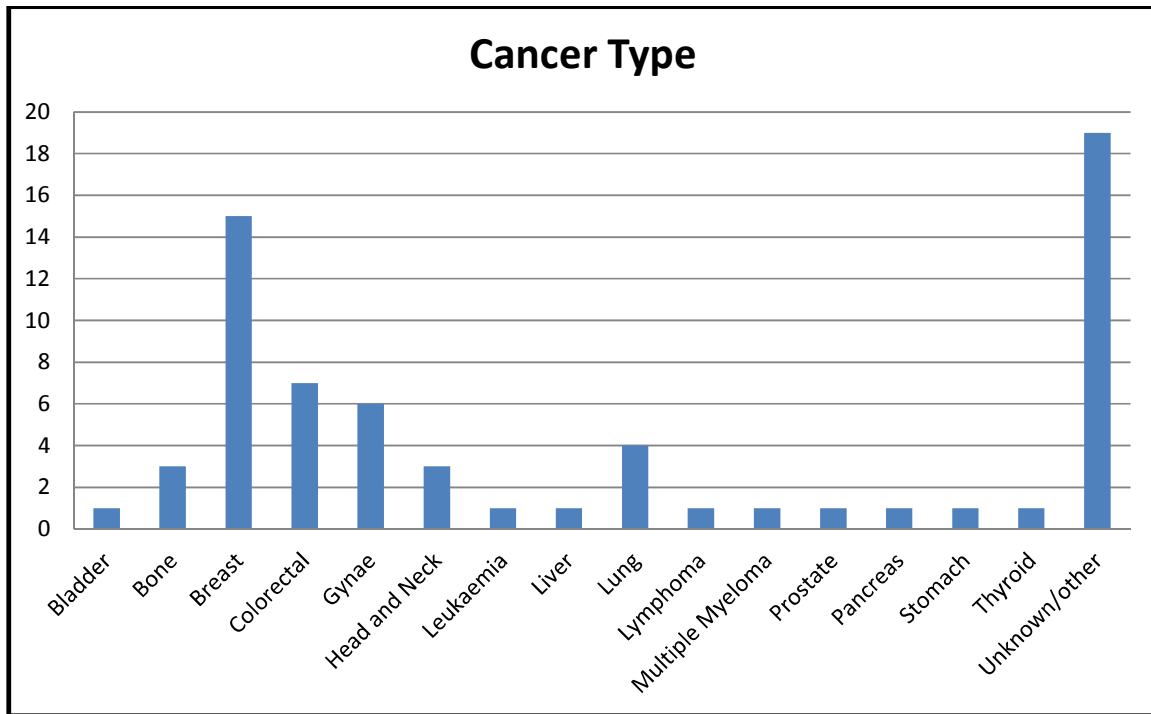
Sixty eight per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is above the national average of 62%. Eight per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 24% were reported as being relatives.



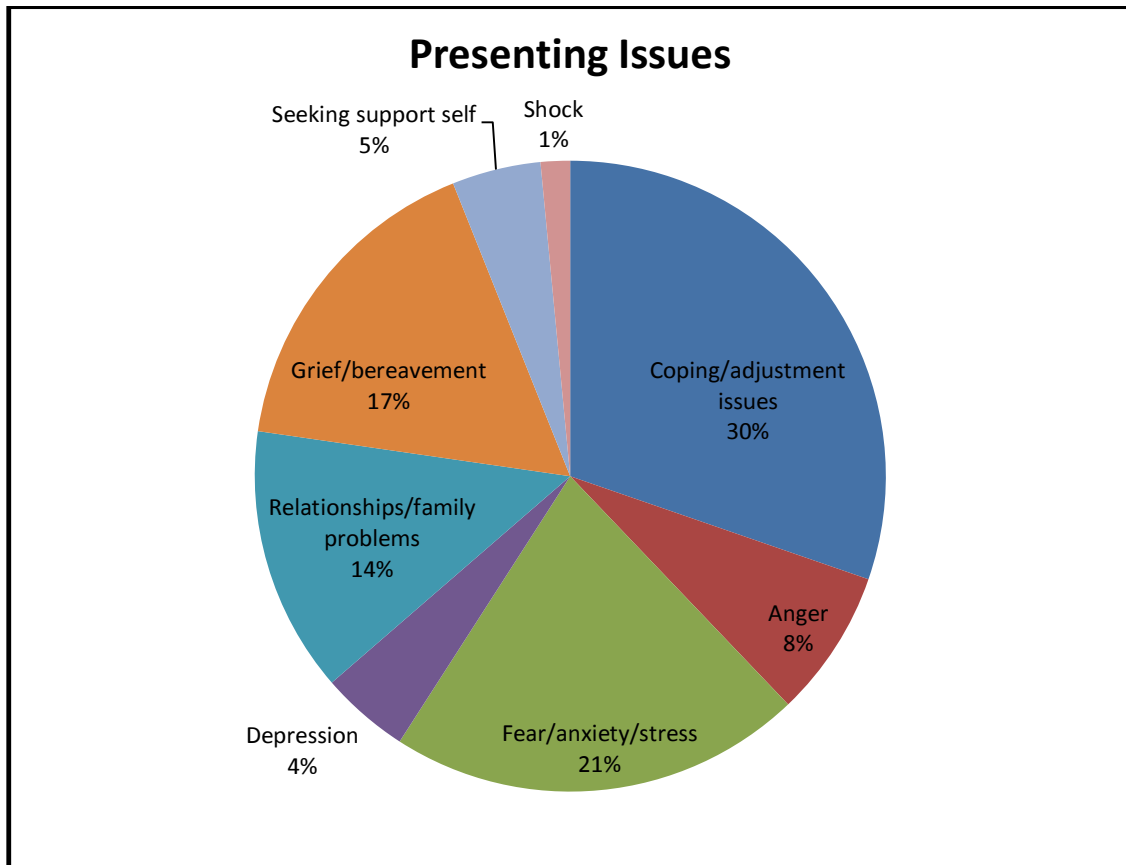
Forty one per cent of Sligo clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is an exact match to the national average. Twenty six per cent of clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which also matches the national average.



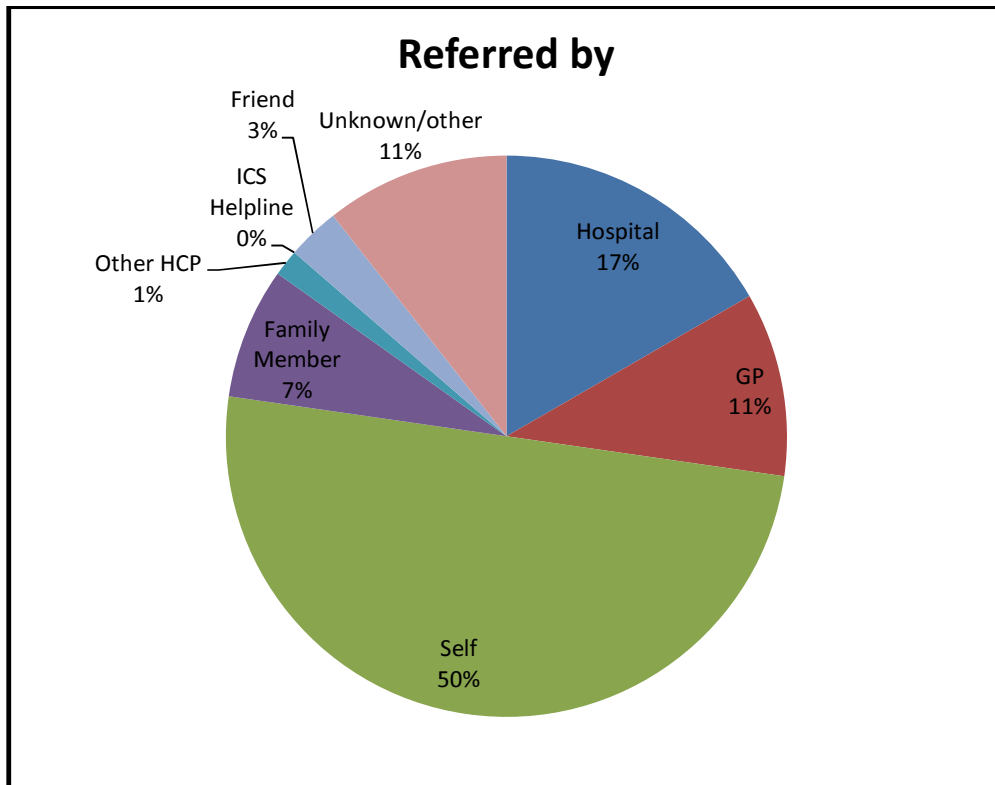
In Sligo, 85% clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Fifty eight per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60. This is quite similar to the national rate of 51% in this age range. Eighteen per cent of Sligo clients were between the ages of 19 and 40 which matches almost exactly the 20% nationally.



Breast cancer accounted for 23% of Sligo clients which is slightly lower than the national average of 29%. There was a relatively high rate of unknown reported.



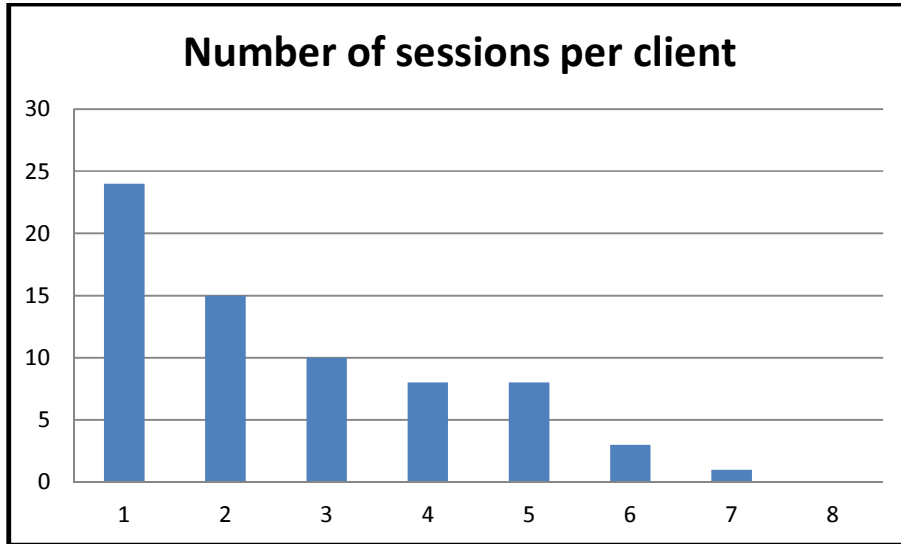
Bereavement counselling accounted for 17% of the presenting issues among clients. This is slightly lower than the national average of 22%.



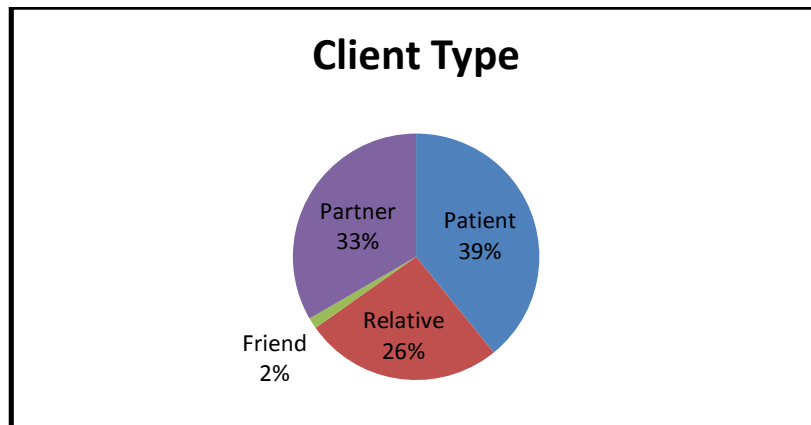
Seventeen per cent of clients were referred by their hospital which is well below the national average of 29%. Eleven per cent of clients were referred to the centre by their GP which matches the national average of 9%. A full 50% of Sligo clients were reported as having self-referred which is much higher than the national average of 31%.

Tipperary ~ Suaimhneas Cancer Support Centre

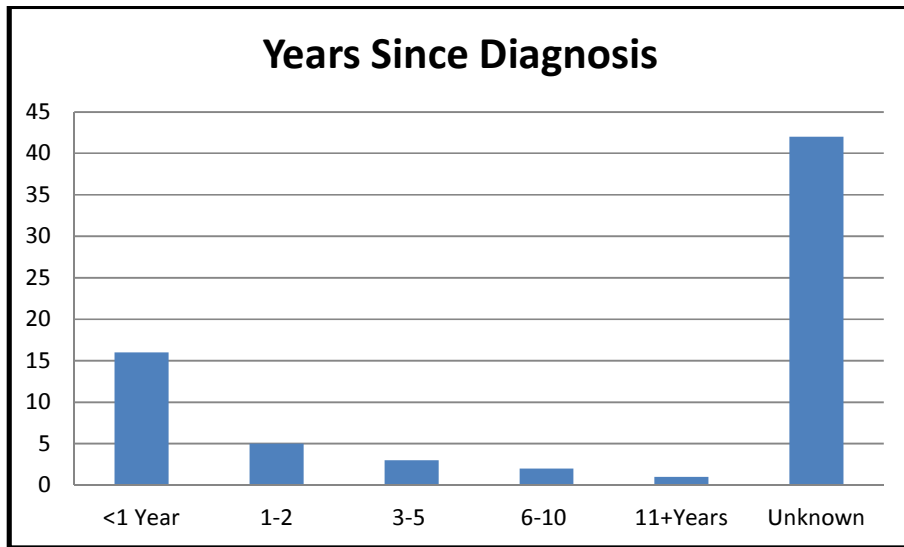
Sixty nine clients availed of counselling in Tipperary funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients received a total of 189 sessions. All of these clients received one to one appointments.



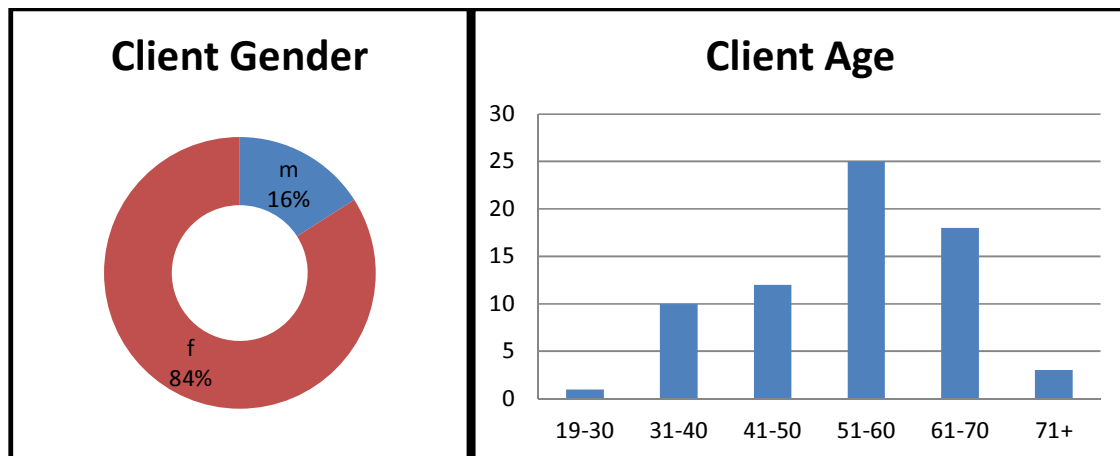
Ninety nine per cent of clients seen in Tipperary took up six sessions or less which is well above the national average of 76%. No clients received extra sessions. There was a lower than average rate of no shows and cancellations; there were 7 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were only 5 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 6% rate of missed appointments as against the national average of 19%.



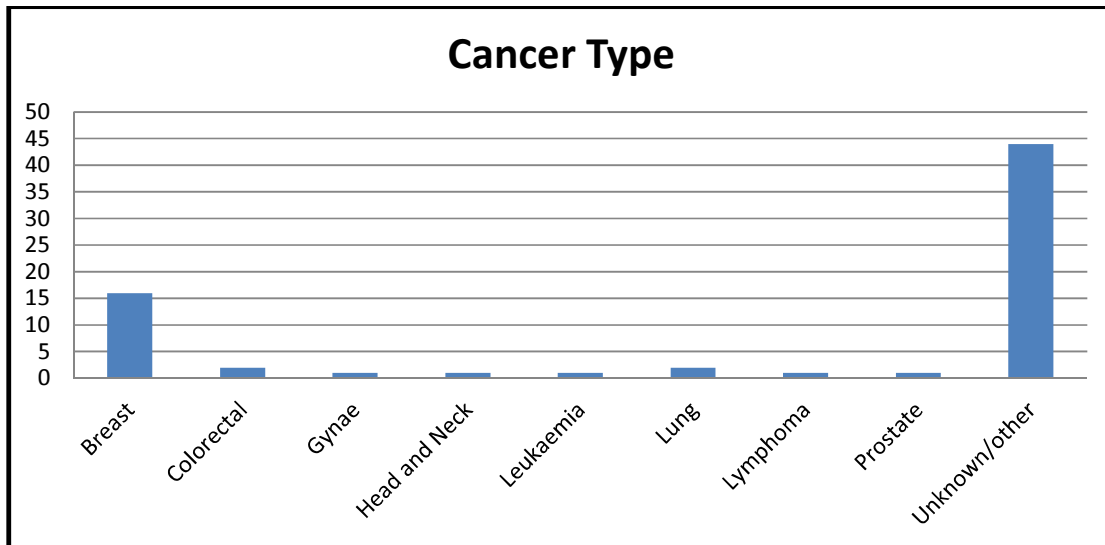
Thirty nine per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is above the national average of 62%. Thirty three per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 26% were reported as being relatives.



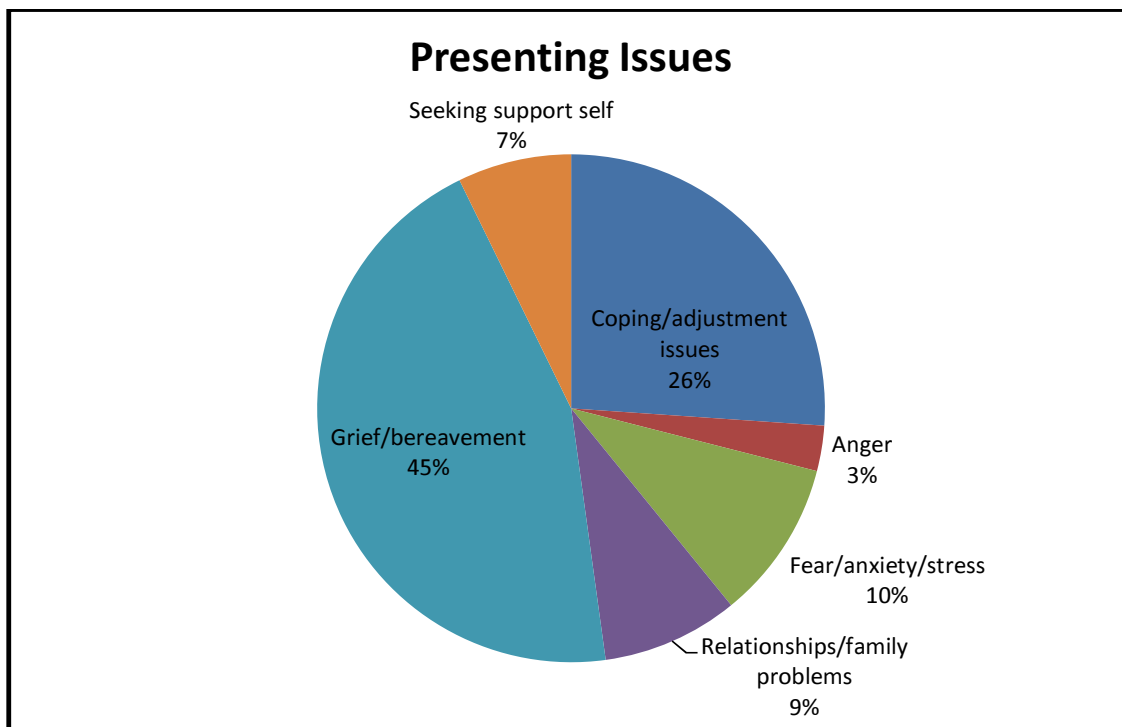
Twenty three per cent of Tipperary clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is well below the national average of 41%. Seven per cent of clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which also is below the national average of 26%. Unusually high rates of unknown were reported - sixty one per cent as against the national average of 17%.



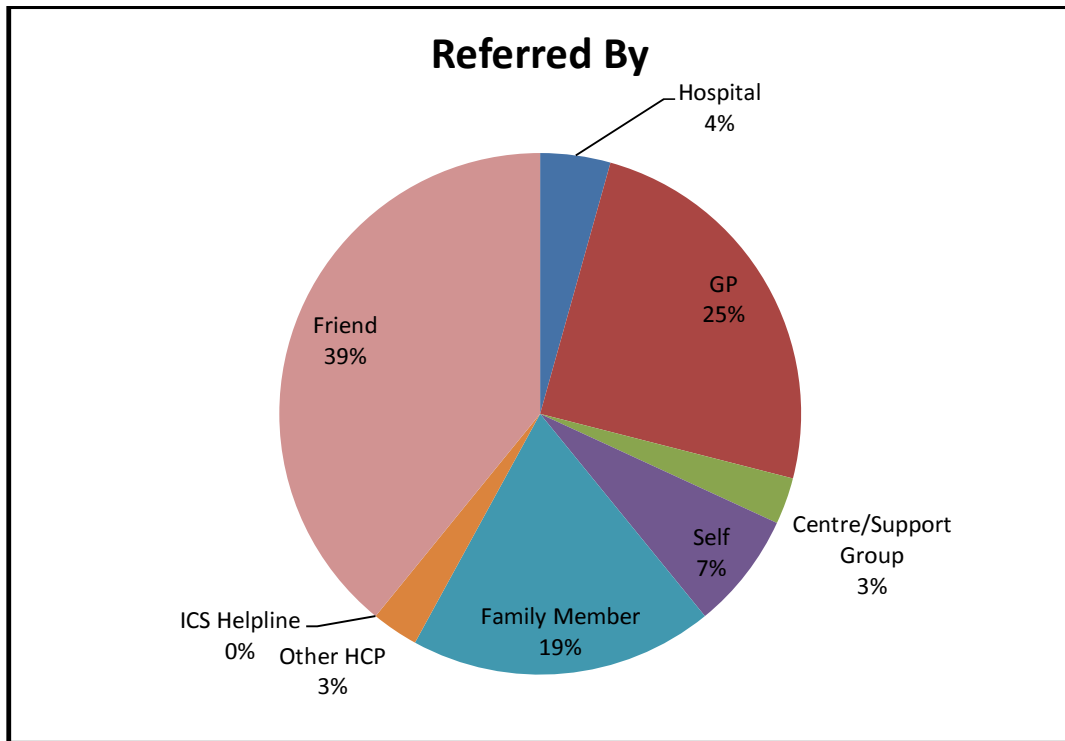
In Tipperary, 84% clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Fifty four per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60. This is quite similar to the national rate of 51% in this age range. There were slightly fewer people between the ages of 19 and 40 (16% as compared to 20% nationally) attending for counselling in Tipperary.



Breast cancer accounted for 23% of Tipperary clients which is slightly lower than the national average of 29%. There was a high rate of unknown reported.



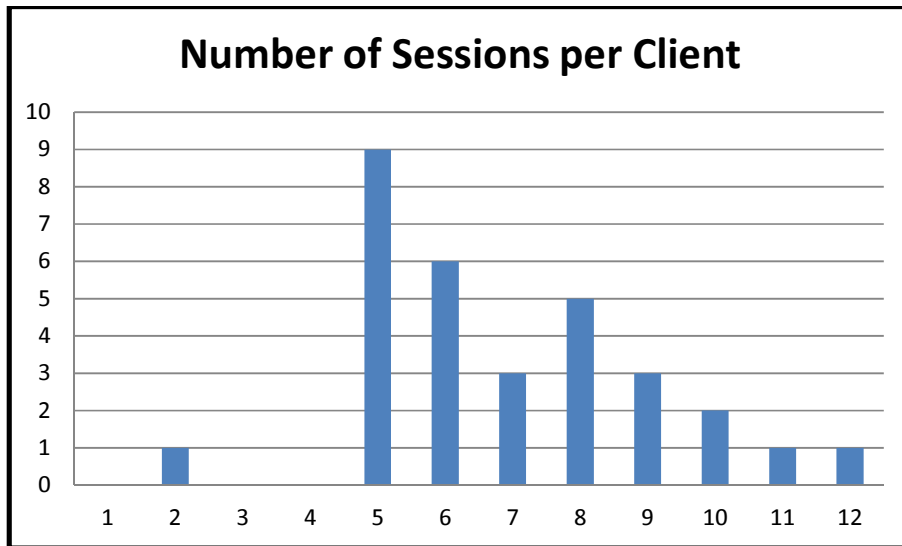
Bereavement counselling accounted for 45% of the presenting issues among clients. This is much higher than the national average of 22%.



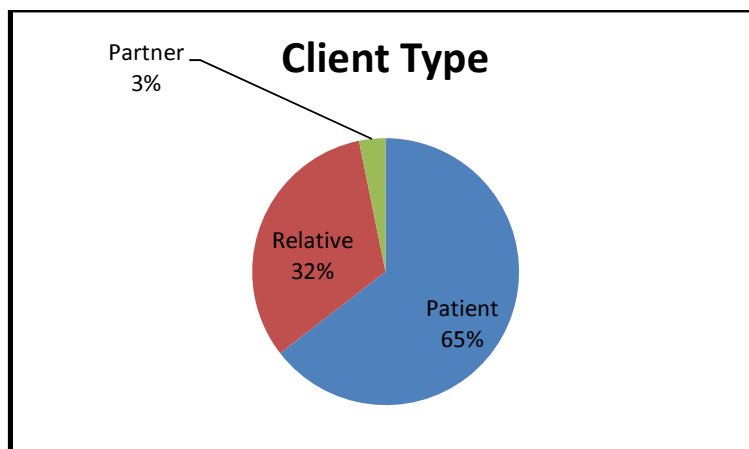
Four per cent of clients were referred by their hospital which is well below the national average of 29%. Twenty five per cent of clients were referred to the centre by their GP which is much higher than the national average of 9%. Thirty nine per cent of Tipperary clients were reported as having self-referred which is somewhat higher than the national average of 31%.

Westmeath ~ LARCC Cancer Support Centre

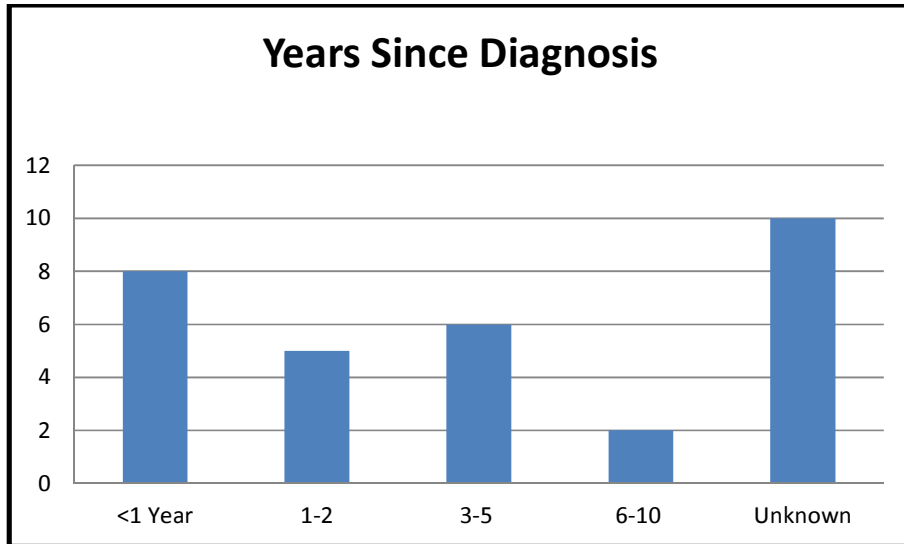
Thirty one clients availed of counselling in Westmeath funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients received a total of 214 sessions. All of these clients received one to one appointments.



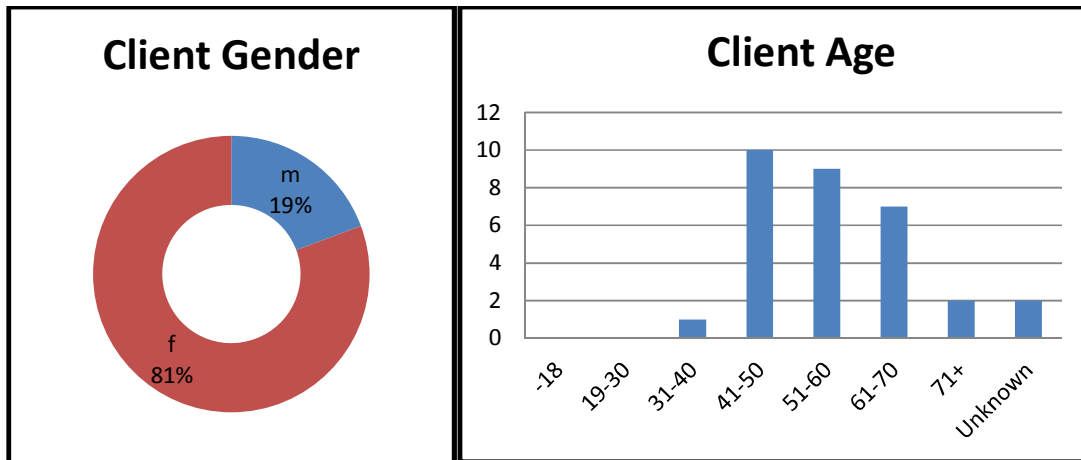
Fifty two per cent of clients seen in Westmeath took up six sessions or less which is well below the national average of 76%. 7 clients received extra sessions. There was a higher than average rate of no shows and cancellations; there were 30 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were another 26 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 26% rate of missed appointments as against the national average of 19%.



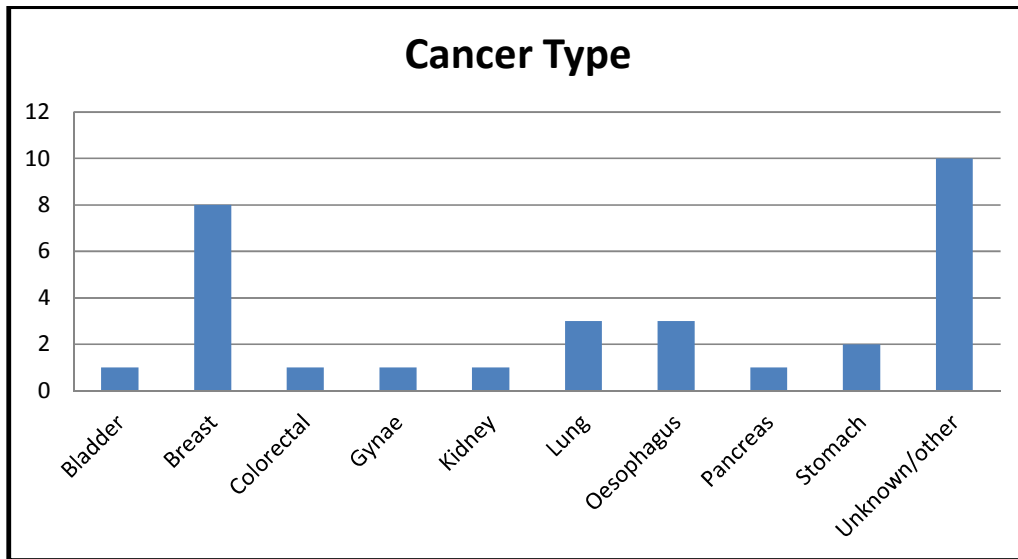
Sixty five per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is slightly above the national average of 62%. Three per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 32% were reported as being relatives.



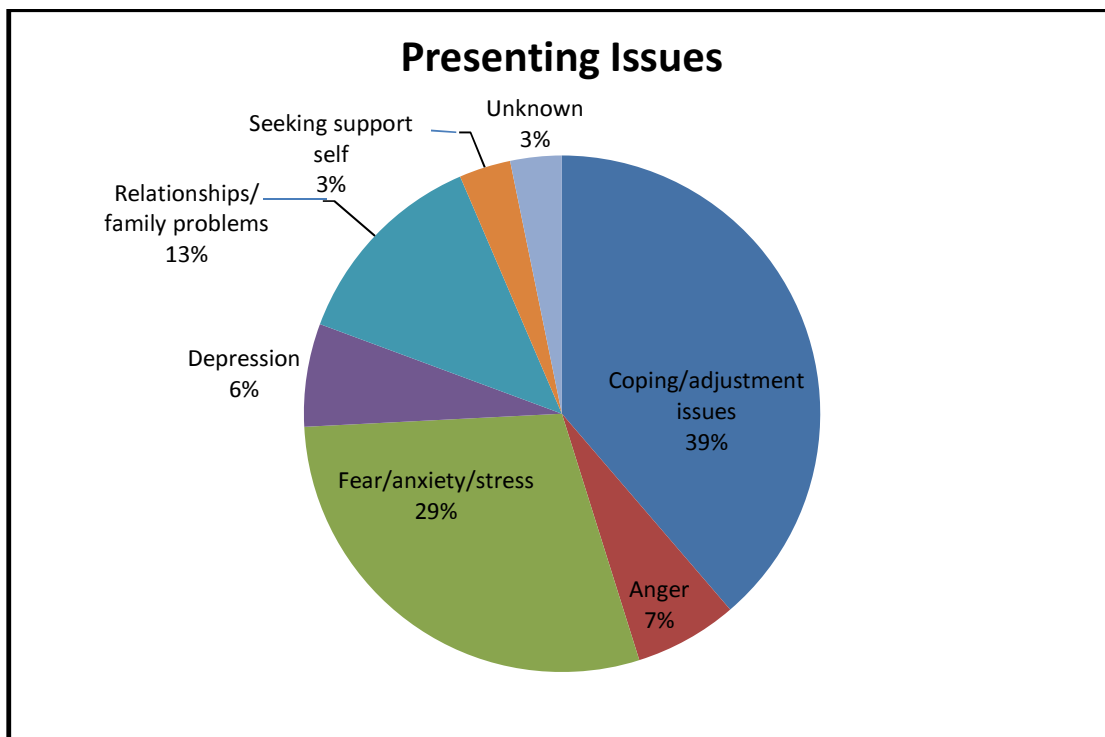
Twenty five per cent of Westmeath clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is well below the national average of 41%. Sixteen per cent of clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which also is below the national average of 26%. A high rate of unknowns were reported - thirty two per cent as against the national average of 17%.



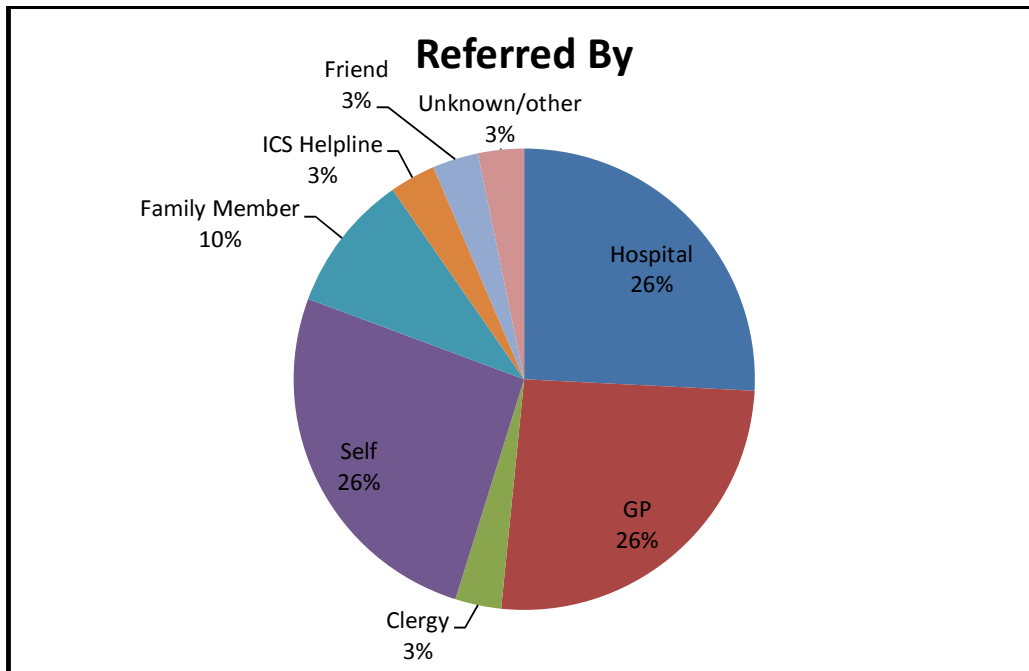
In Westmeath, 81% clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Sixty one per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60. This is higher the national rate of 51% in this age range. There were significantly fewer people between the ages of 19 and 40 (3% as compared to 20% nationally) attending for counselling in Westmeath.



Breast cancer accounted for 26% of Westmeath clients which is slightly lower than the national average of 29%. There was a high rate of unknown reported.



Bereavement counselling was not reported as a presenting issue for Westmeath clients. This is unusual considering the national average of 22%.

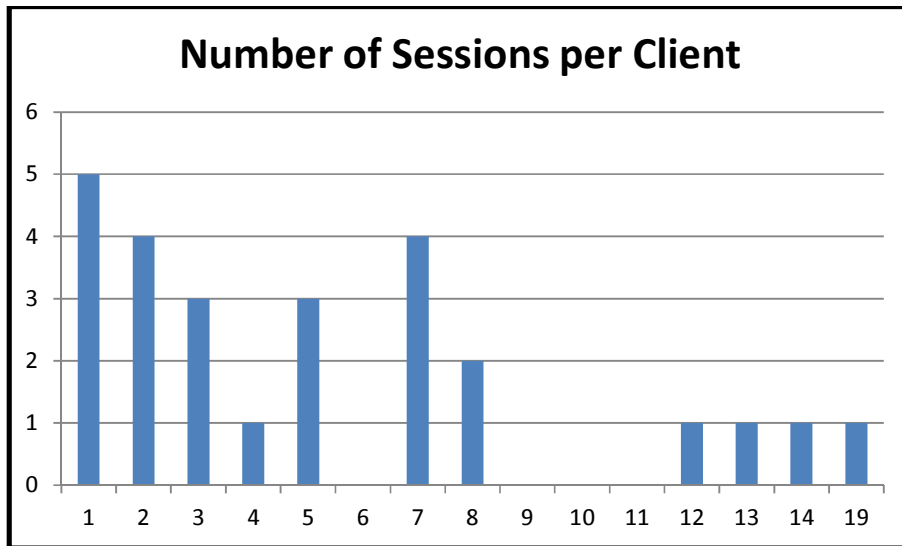


Twenty six per cent of clients were referred by their hospital which is just below the national average of 29%. Twenty six per cent of clients were referred to the centre by their GP which is much higher than the national average of 9%. A further 26% of Westmeath clients were reported as having self-referred.

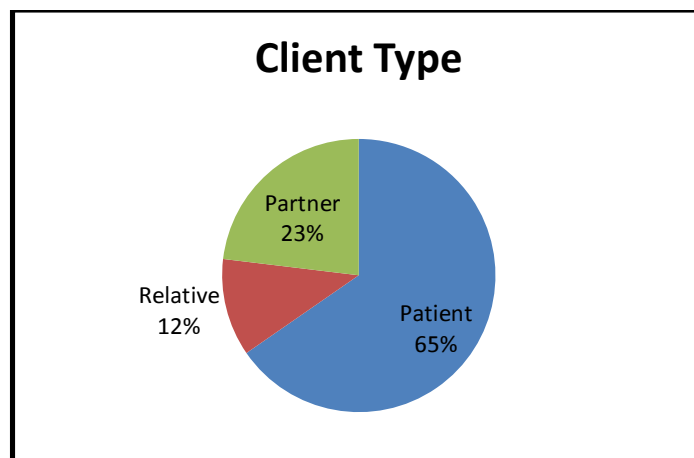
It should be noted that the grant for counselling from the Irish Cancer Society only covers a portion of the counselling provided by LARCC.

Wexford ~ Hope Cancer Support Centre

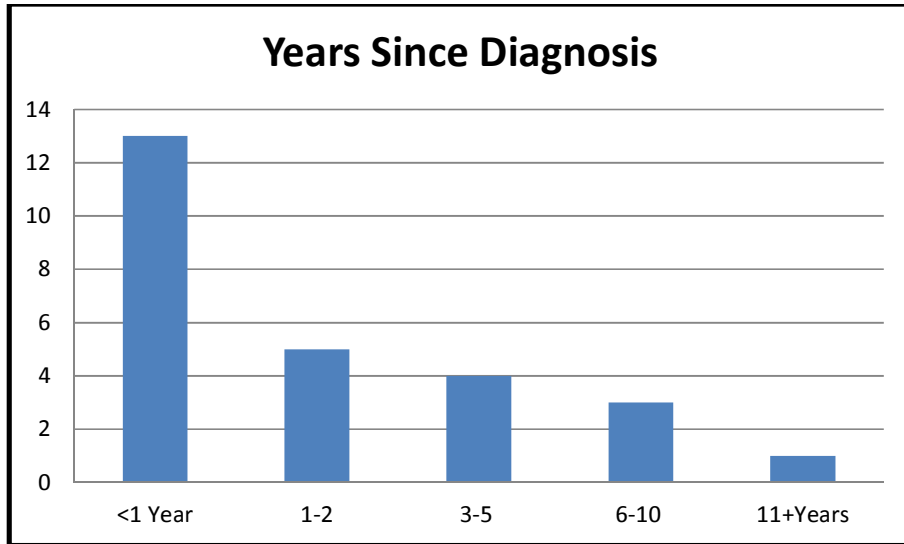
Twenty six clients availed of counselling in Wexford funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients received a total of 143 sessions. Twenty five of these clients received one to one appointments and one couple also availed of the service.



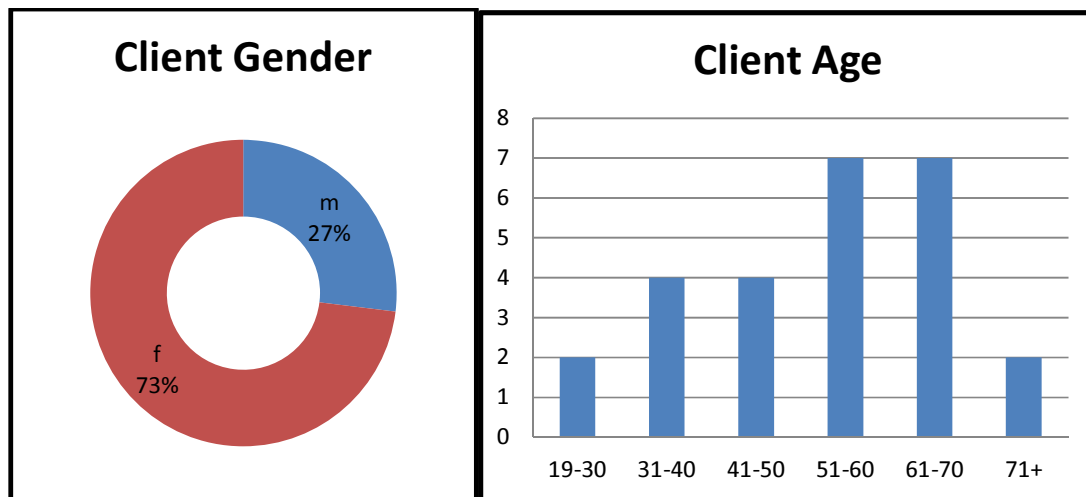
Sixty two per cent of clients seen in Wexford took up six sessions or less which is below the national average of 76%. Four clients received extra sessions which accounted for 41% of the total number of sessions delivered. There was a lower than average rate of no shows and cancellations; there were only 2 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were another 21 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 16% rate of missed appointments as against the national average of 19%.



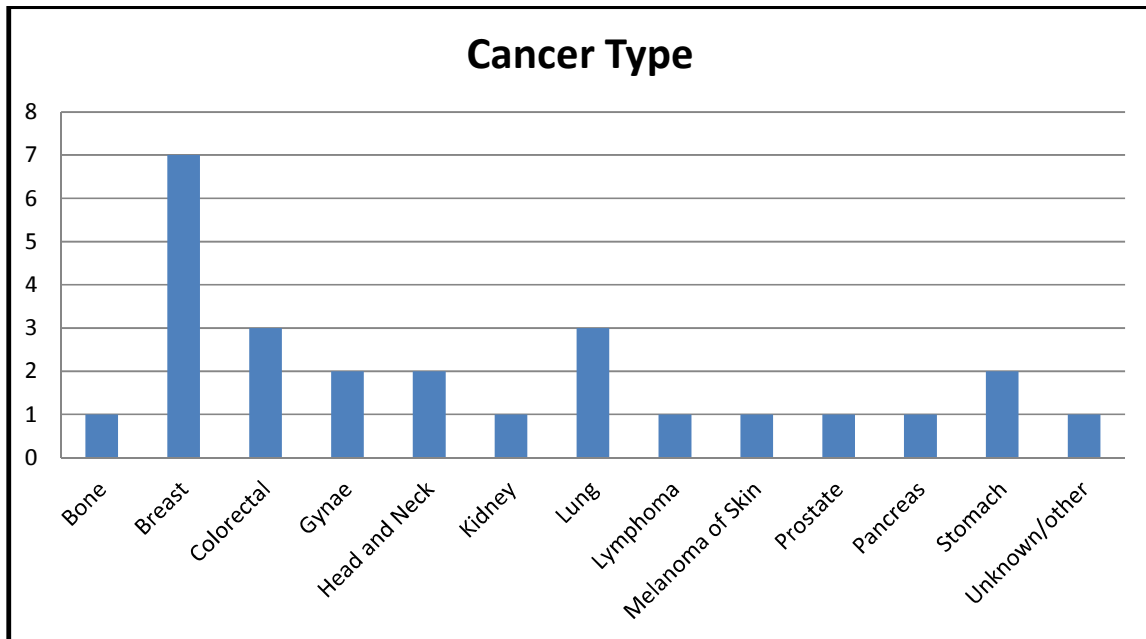
Sixty five per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is slightly above the national average of 62%. Twenty three per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 12% were reported as being relatives.



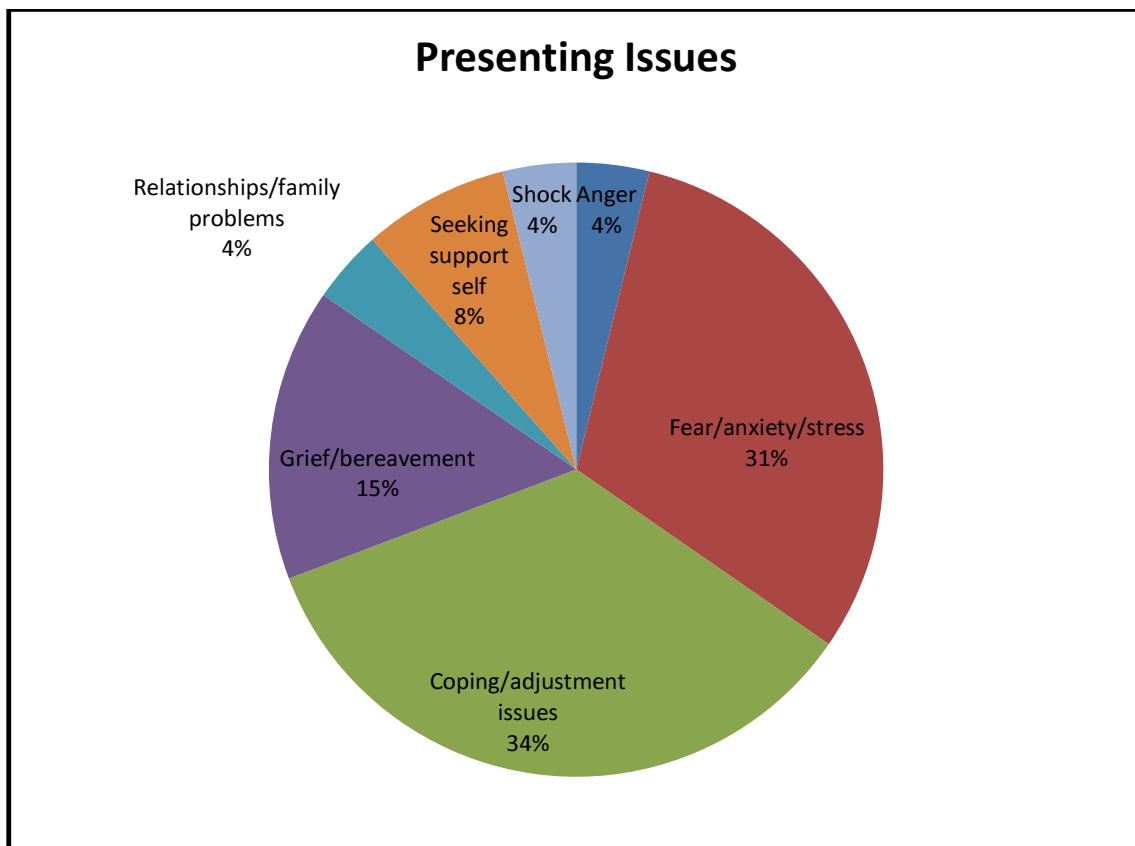
Fifty per cent of Wexford clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is above the national average of 41%. Nineteen per cent of clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which below the national average of 26%.



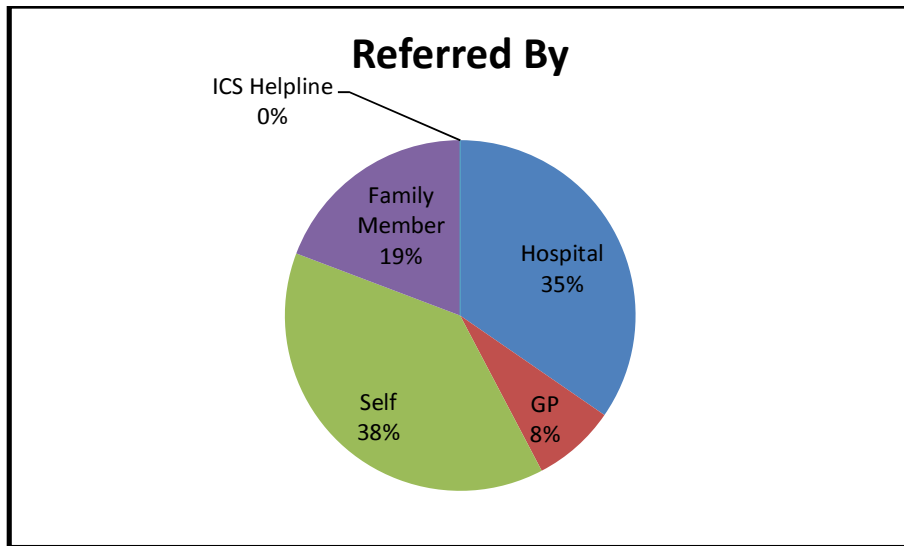
In Wexford, 73% clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Sixty one per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60. This is higher the national rate of 51% in this age range. There were significantly fewer people between the ages of 19 and 40 (3% as compared to 20% nationally) attending for counselling in Wexford.



Breast cancer accounted for 23% of Wexford clients which is slightly lower than the national average of 29%. There was a high rate of unknown reported.



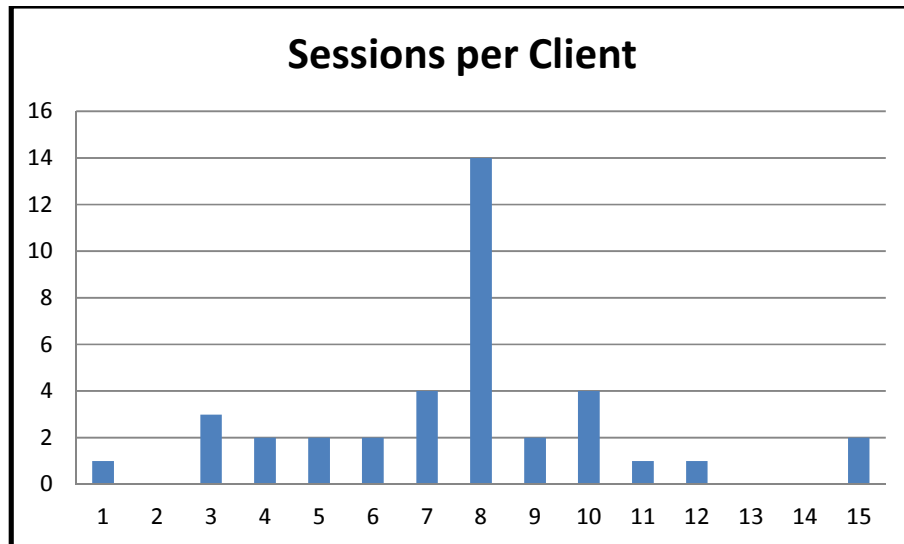
Bereavement counselling accounted for 15% of Wexford clients. This is somewhat below the national average of 22%.



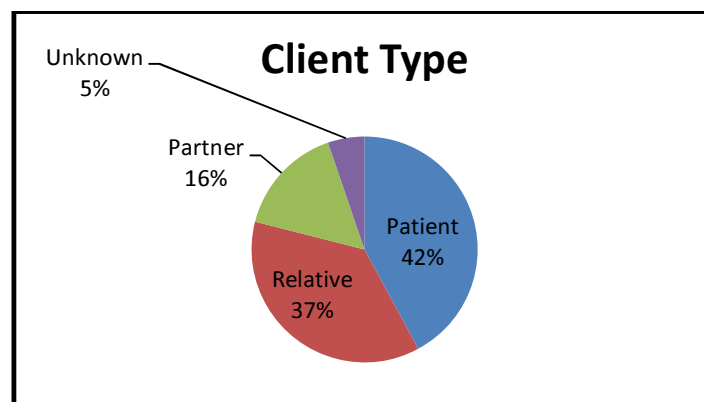
Thirty five per cent of clients were referred by their hospital which is higher than the national average of 29%. Eight per cent of clients were referred to the centre by their GP which matches almost exactly the national average of 9%. A further 38% of Wexford clients were reported as having self-referred.

Wicklow ~ Arklow Cancer Support Group

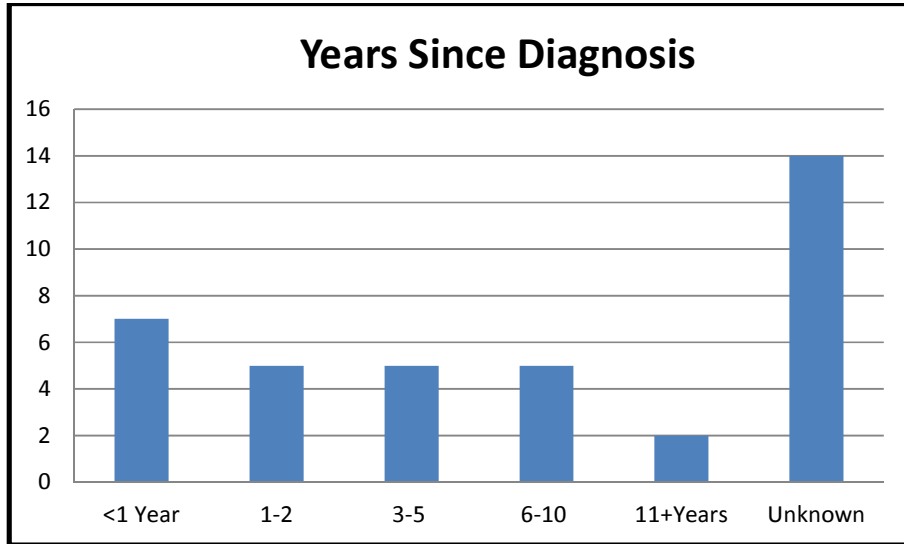
Thirty eight clients availed of counselling in Wicklow funded by the Irish Cancer Society grant in 2012. These clients received a total of 291 sessions. Thirty six of these clients received one to one appointments; one couple and one child also availed of the service.



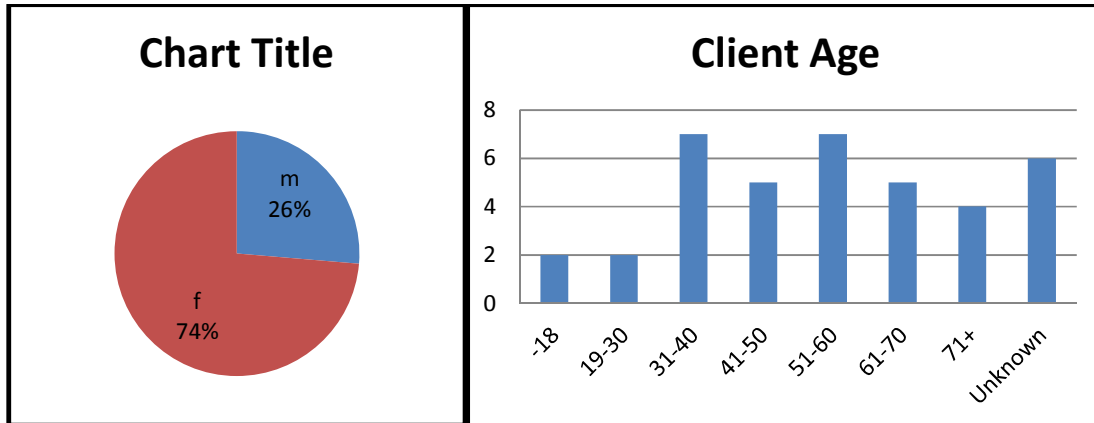
Twenty six per cent of clients seen in Wicklow took up six sessions or less which is significantly below the national average of 76%. Ten clients received extra sessions which accounted for 38% of the total number of sessions delivered. There was a much lower than average rate of no shows and cancellations; there were 4 appointments where clients did not attend and did not cancel. There were another 13 appointments cancelled and although we cannot measure whether these appointments were taken up by other clients, we can say that at worst, there was a 6% rate of missed appointments as against the national average of 19%.



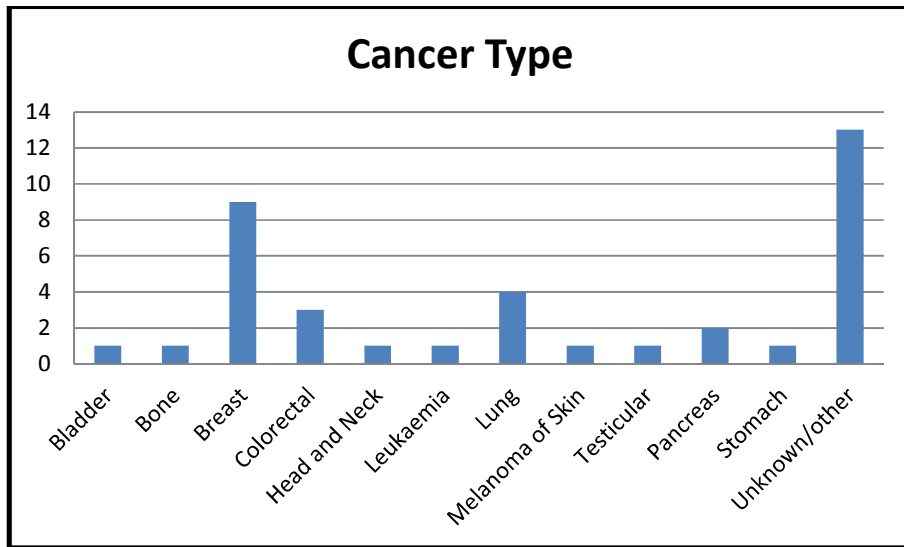
Forty two per cent of clients were people who had been diagnosed with cancer which is below the national average of 62%. Sixteen per cent of clients were partners or spouses of a cancer patient and 37% were reported as being relatives.



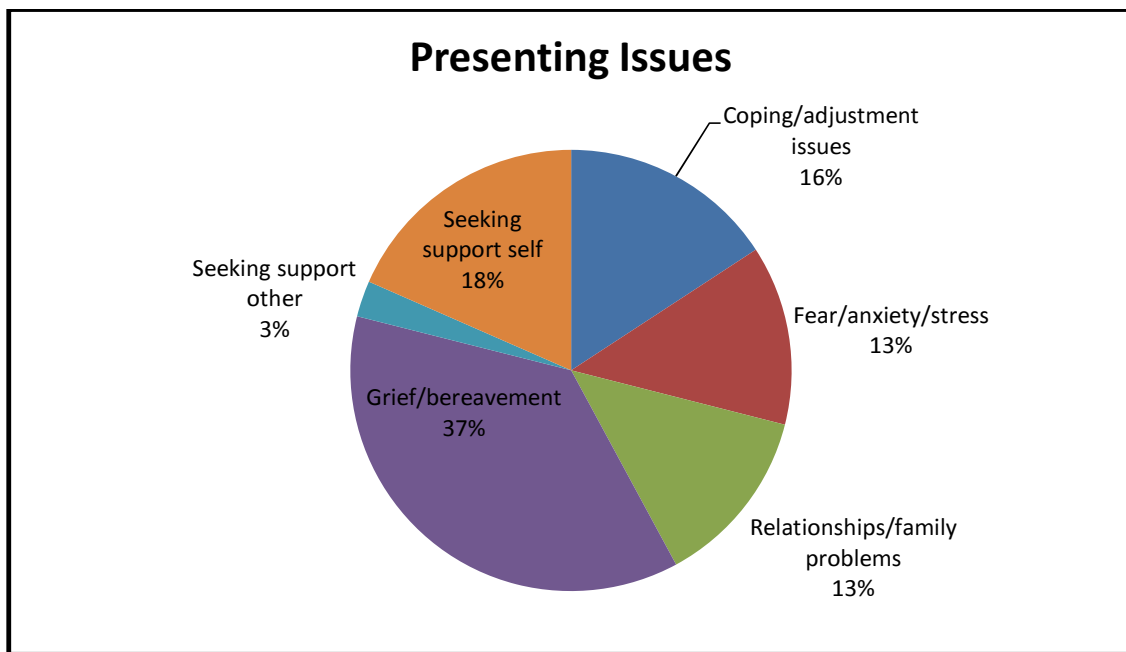
Eighteen per cent of Wicklow clients attended the service less than one year after diagnosis. This is well below the national average of 41%. Thirteen per cent of clients came between 1 and 2 years of diagnosis which below the national average of 26%. A high rate of unknowns were reported - 37% as against a national average of 17%.



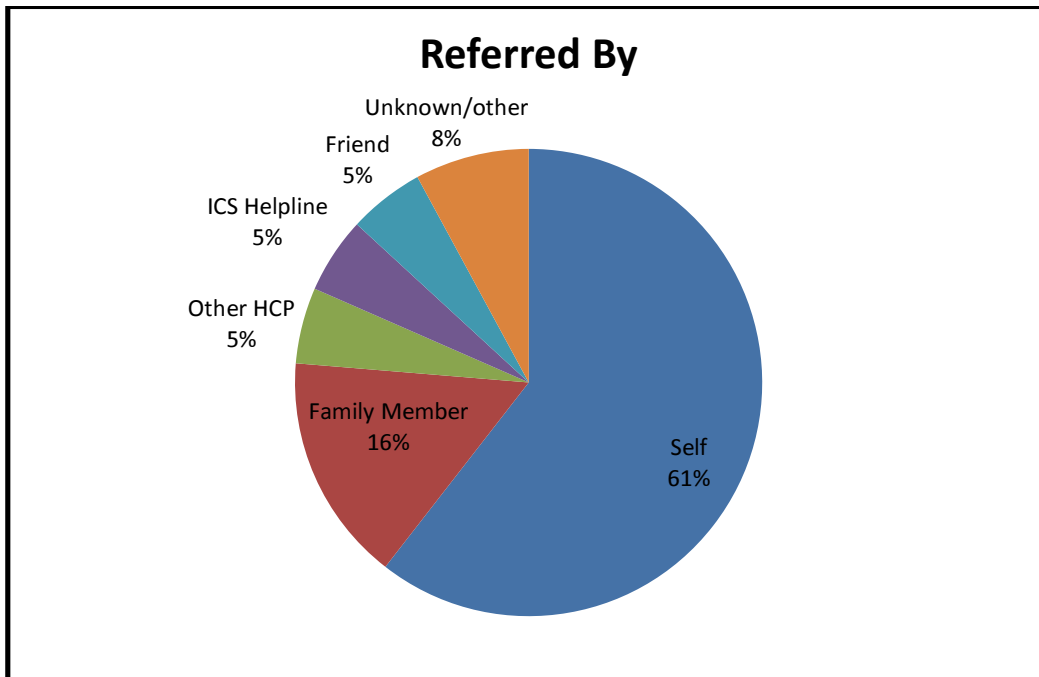
In Wicklow, 74% clients were female where there was generally a 77% female rate. Thirty two per cent of all clients were between the ages of 41 and 60. This is lower than the national rate of 51% in this age range. There were slightly more people between the ages of 19 and 40 (24% as compared to 20% nationally) attending for counselling in Wicklow.



Breast cancer accounted for 24% of Wicklow clients which is slightly lower than the national average of 29%. There was a high rate of unknown reported.



Bereavement counselling accounted for 37% of Wicklow clients. This is much higher than the national average of 22%.



No clients of the Wicklow service were referred by their hospital which is unusual as the national average was 29%. There were also no GP referrals reported. Sixty one per cent of Wicklow clients were reported as having self-referred.

Conclusion

The Irish Cancer Society recognises that in many cases, the funding that this grant provides covers only a portion of the counselling being provided in affiliated cancer support services. It is hoped, however, that the information contained in this report will help affiliates to evaluate their services and plan for the future. The Society is committed to working with its affiliates to ensure that no matter where one lives in Ireland, the quality of service received by those on a cancer journey is of the highest standard possible.