THE NATIONAL LIFELINE
LEBANON’S EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND SUICIDE PREVENTION HELPLINE
in collaboration with the National Mental Health Program at the Ministry of Public Health

MONTHLY NATIONAL LIFELINE INDICATORS
REPORTING PERIOD
May 2022
Embrace Lifeline is the national helpline in Lebanon for emotional support and suicide prevention. Aggregate data related to the National Lifeline is captured, analyzed and disseminated on a monthly basis and annually for a yearly snapshot. The data is meant to offer a snapshot of the characteristics of callers to the helpline.

The National Lifeline’s trained operators capture anonymous data through a secure computerized system. The non-identifiable data is then analyzed and reported on a monthly basis.

The numbers in this report are meant to offer a snapshot of the population that the National Lifeline serves. Please note that while that this information is recorded as accurately as possible, not all information may always be available. Unless otherwise indicated, the frequencies and percentages reported in this document represent the percentage of observations in a given category out of the total non-missing information. The metrics in this document can be considered representative of calls received during the reported time-period.

To cite this report: Embrace Lifeline: Lebanon’s National Helpline (2022). Caller characteristics for May 2022.

www.embracelebanon.org
I. AGE OF CALLER (n=1131)

Mean Age: 29

- <18: 4%
- 18-34: 18%
- 35-49: 68%
- 50-64: 1%
- 65+: 9%

II. SEX OF CALLERS

- Female: 55%
- Male: 45%
In May of 2022, \( n = 532 \) callers informed us of how they first learned about the National Lifeline. The below chart summarizes their responses.

*Percentages may not add up to 100% because each caller may have more than one status.

- 4% of calls were from Emergency Services
- 2% from Internet search
- 2% from TV
- 10% from NGO
- 18% from Mental Health Professional
- 22% from Family/Friend
- 44% from Social Media

*Other included referrals from medical professionals

9% of calls received by the Embrace Lifeline come from self-identifying LGBTQI+ individuals.
V. NATIONALITY OF CALLERS

- Lebanese: 70%
- Syrian: 17%
- Egyptian: 11%
- Others: 1%

VI. COUNTRY OF CALLERS

- Lebanon: 99%
- Not Reported: 1%
VII. REGION OF RESIDENCE AMONG CALLERS FROM LEBANON

- Beirut: 31%
- Mount Lebanon: 26%
- Not Reported: 21%
- South: 6%
- Bekaa: 6%
- North: 5%
- Nabatiyeh: 3%
- Akkar: 1%
- Baalbek: 1%

VIII. MARITAL STATUS OF CALLERS

- Single: 42%
- Not Reported: 31%
- Married: 13%
- In a Relationship: 7%
- Divorced: 5%
- Widowed: 1%
- Separated: 1%
IX. CALLER LIVING WITH

*Percentages may not add up to 100% because each caller may endorse more than one living status.

- Nuclear Family: 56%
- Not Reported: 31%
- Alone: 9%
- Partner: 1%
- Roomate: 1%
- Extended Family: 1%

X. HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF CALLERS

- Bachelor's Degree (BS, BA, DEA): 18%
- High School (10th to 12th Grade): 19%
- Middle School (7th to 9th Grade): 9%
- Did Not Complete Primary/Elementary School: 5%
- Vocational/Technical Degree: 4%
- Not reported: 4%
- Primary/Elementary School (1st to 6th Grade): 3%
- Master's Degree Completed (MS, MA, DESS): 2%
- Operator did not ask: 35%
XI. EMPLOYMENT OF CALLERS

*Percentages may not add up to 100% because each caller may have more than one status.

XII. TYPE OF CALL

*This indicator is assessed by the operator based on their conversation with the caller. Percentages may not add up to 100% because the caller can express more than one type of concern (e.g., a caller could express both socioeconomic concerns and emotional distress).
XIII. CHANGE IN LEVEL OF DISTRESS FROM BEGINNING TO END OF CALL

92% of calls with available data for this indicator (n=402) reported a **decrease in the level of distress** from the beginning of the call to the end of the call. 7% of calls were from individuals whose **level of distress did not change** from the beginning to the end of the call and 1% of calls were from individuals whose **level of distress worsened** from the beginning to the end of the call.

XIV. CALLERS CURRENTLY SEEKING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

43% of calls with available data for this indicator (n=955) are from individuals who reported currently receiving **at least 1** mental health service.

XV. RISK FACTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Abuse</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer History of Suicidal Behavior</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced Death During the Past Year</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse Problems</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family History of Suicidal Behavior</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullying</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family History of Mental Health Issues</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Illness</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Alone</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Problems</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy Access to Means</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Isolation</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Discord</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break up/ Peer Relationship Problems</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced Major Stressor within Lifetime</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Problems</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjective Symptoms of Mental Distress</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiencing Continuous Stressor</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This indicator is assessed by the operator based on their conversation with the caller. Percentages may not add up to 100% because multiple risk factors can occur together (e.g., a caller could be both living alone and reporting experiences of bullying...)*
I. LEVEL OF SATISFACTION

Beneficiaries were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the services received during their initial call on a scale of 1 to 5 with higher numbers indicating greater satisfaction.

Across all 10 callers, the average satisfaction rating was 5.

II. CALL OUTCOME

The below figure outlines caller-reported outcomes of their initial call to the Lifeline:

- Nothing changed: 11%
- The presenting problem of the call improved: 40%
- Felt hopeful/confident about the future: 80%
- Felt less distressed: 90%
III. RECOMMENDING THE LIFELINE TO OTHERS

90% of callers with available data (n=9) reported that they would recommend the Lifeline to others in need of assistance. The remaining (n=1) reported that he cannot recommend the Lifeline to others as Mental health is still considered as a taboo topic in his region.

IV. CALLING BACK THE LIFELINE

100% reported that they would call the Lifeline again if they were experiencing emotional distress or thinking about suicide.

V. HELPFUL ORIENTATIONS

4 of the 10 callers were provided with referrals during their initial call to the Lifeline. 1 (25%) reported that the service was helpful. The remaining (75%) did not proceed with calling the referral source.
X. SOCIAL WORK

The social work department at Embrace serves both the **Embrace Mental Health Center (EMHC)** and the **National Lifeline (1564)**. It aims to provide a holistic approach to mental health care by offering psycho-social assistance to beneficiaries. The Social Work Department is resourced with comprehensive referral networks linked with governmental and non-governmental organizations that provide a wide range of psychosocial services from livelihood, shelter, basic assistance, child protection, and organizations catering to the needs of vulnerable groups such as refugees, LGBTQ community and persons affected by gender-based violence. The department is currently staff by one social worker who coordinates with a multi-disciplinary internal team of psychologists, psychologists, psychiatric nurse, hotline operators and clinical supervisors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS</th>
<th>39</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASES</th>
<th>39</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1ST CONSULT</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>FOLLOW UP*</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ZOOM IN ON FOLLOW UP CASES**

*Follow Up Consultations can be carried out with the callers directly or with the relevant party at a referred resource.*

- **38%** of follow up consultations were carried out **directly with the callers** (or their parent/legal guardian where a minor was involved).
- **62%** of follow up consultations were carried out with the **relevant party at the referred resource** (e.g., a case manager at a rehab facility).

**ZOOM IN ON NEW CASES**

**Reason for Referral (N=11)**

- GBV: 9%
- Economic Distress: 18%
- Others: 27%
- MH Services: 45%
- Child Protection: 64%

*Note that percentages for the bar charts may add up to more than 100% because the callers may be referred for several reasons; Abbreviations: GBV = Gender Based Violence, MH = Mental Health*