

ORANGA TAMARIKI STATISTICS

Covid-19 response snapshot

11 June 2020



ORANGA TAMARIKI
Ministry for Children

Background and context:

Following the nationwide move to Alert Level 4 as part of the government's response to COVID-19, Oranga Tamariki established weekly operational reporting on key statistics in order to maintain oversight of the Oranga Tamariki operating system during COVID-19.

This document contains a snapshot of those key statistics, including reports of concern, notifier groups, notifications that required further action, entries to care, and referrals to youth justice family group conferences.

The snapshot covers Oranga Tamariki operations since early March 2020 (i.e. three weeks prior to the start of Alert Level 4) until the most recent available time period for each measure. It also includes comparison to the same time last year.

The weekly monitoring of this data has enabled us as an organisation to target our efforts and plan our response and recovery.

Key Dates:

26 March 2020 – Start of Alert Level 4

28 April 2020 – Start of Alert Level 3

14 May 2020 – Start of Alert Level 2

9 June 2020 – Start of Alert Level 1

Explanatory notes on the information supplied:

- All data is **operational and subject to change** due to timeliness of data entry. Data for this report was extracted on **11 June 2020**.
- The measures presented in the graphs cover different time periods based on when data for each individual measure is likely to be less subject to significant change.
- Recent data excludes cases that are awaiting updates to be entered by social workers. This means the data for this period will change each week as more cases are updated.
- Some measures, such as entries to care, have a tendency to fluctuate over time due to the small numbers.
- Comparing data trends for Reports of Concern and entries to care for a short period of time such as the lockdown is difficult, as a Report of Concern could be made months or years before a child or young person enters care.
- Further detail around the caveats of this data is provided on the end slide.

**Data is not official and has been specifically extracted to assist monitoring of the impact of COVID-19 on operations.
These weekly numbers are subject to change over time – official data is published on the Oranga Tamariki website each quarter.**

Definitions:

Report of Concern

Reports of concern are received through our call centre from members of the public, family or whānau, the Police, schools, health professionals, or other government or community agencies about the wellbeing of a child or young person. These reports indicate children or young people who may require support. Reports of concern are assessed by a social worker to decide if further action is required.

Further Action Required (FAR)

Reports of concern which have been assessed by a social worker and deemed to require further action by Oranga Tamariki. FARs are categorised by the urgency of response required:

Urgent & Low Urgency

Requirement to complete safety and risk assessment within 20 working days.

Critical & Very Urgent

Requirement to complete safety and risk assessment within 48 hours.

Entry to Care

When a child or young person is in need of care and protection and enters the care and protection custody of the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki. Entries to care include all legal orders under the Oranga Tamariki Act, 1989:

Care Agreement ('S139','S140')

When a child enters care through a voluntary agreement with the parents, guardians or usual persons having care of the child for a specific period of time.

Planned Entry ('S101','S102','S1102A')

Wherever possible, tamariki enter care in a planned and measured way. A planned entry will usually occur after a Family Group Conference has been held. Oranga Tamariki needs to apply to the Family Court in order to gain these custody orders.

Section 78 ('S78')

Custody of child or young person pending determination of proceedings or in urgent cases.

Urgent Entry ('S39', 'S40', 'S42', 'S45', S48')

Interim orders/warrants that result in the transfer of the custody of a child to Oranga Tamariki until a final decision on the child's care can be made. These orders should only be used to secure the safety and wellbeing of tamariki when all other intervention options have been considered and there is an immediate safety concern.

Youth Justice Family Group Conference (FGC) Referral

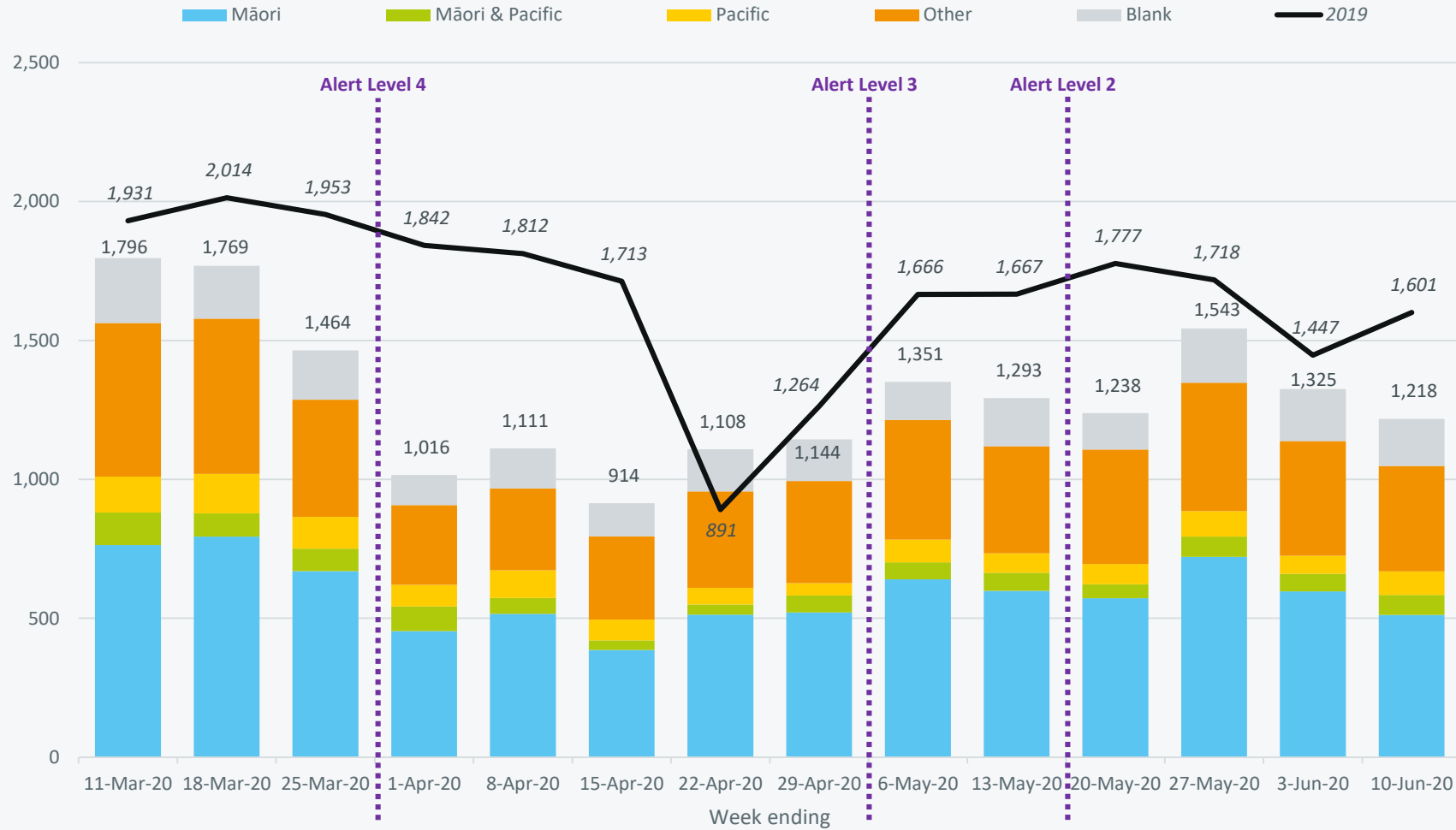
Youth Justice FGC referrals are most commonly made:

After charges have been laid, and the young person has appeared in court, providing they do not deny the offending (Court Ordered FGC), or

When the Police decide not to arrest the young person but are considering laying a charge (Intention to Charge FGC), or

When the Police have serious concern for the wellbeing of a child (10-13 years old) who has committed a serious, or multiple offences, and believe they are in need of Care and Protection (Child Offender FGC).

Reports of Concern

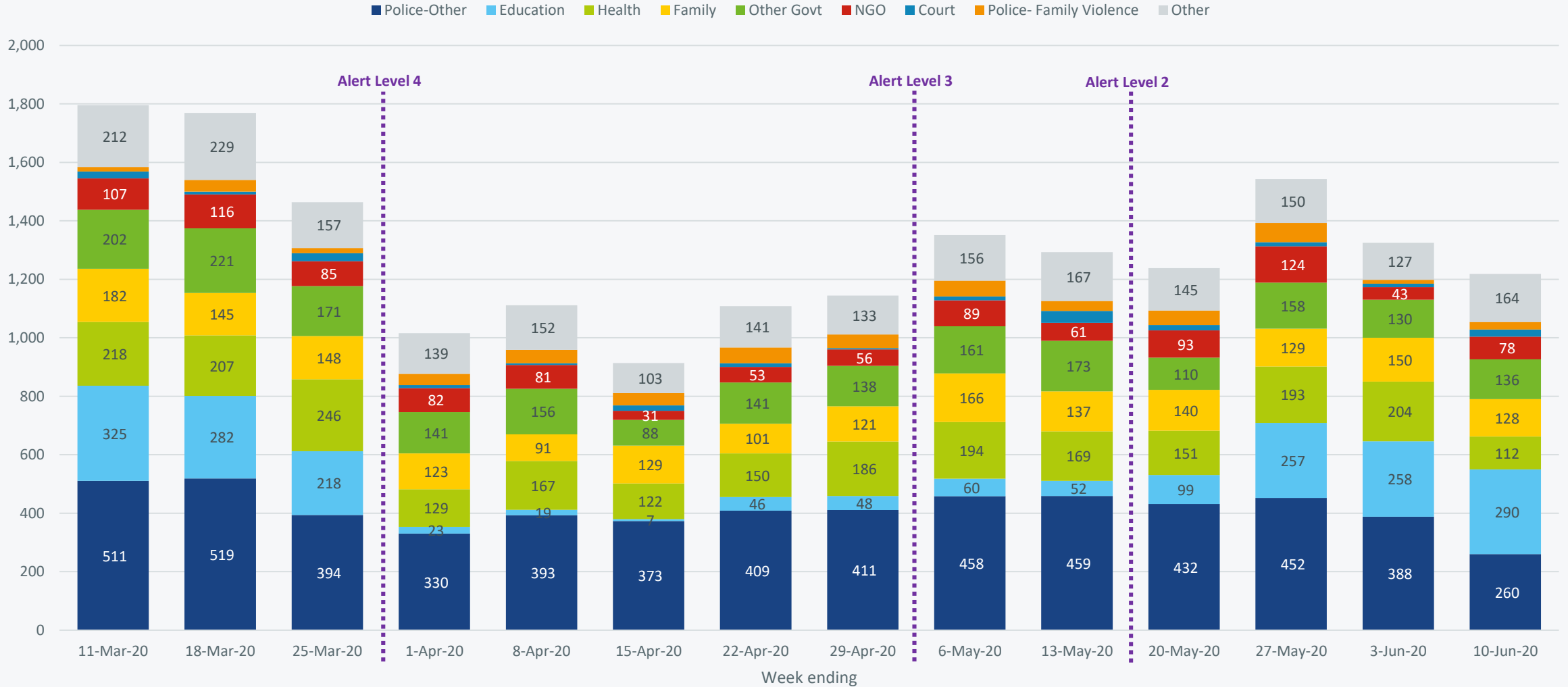


In the eleven weeks since Alert Level 4 first came into effect there have been 13,261 ROCs (from 26 March to 10 June). This equates to an average of 1,200 ROCs per week, and is a 24% decrease when compared to the same time last year. During the same period last year there were 17,398 ROCs.

In 2019 there was a noticeable drop in ROCs as a result of the Term 1 school holidays.

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Reports of Concern by Notifier Group



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Reports of Concern – Police Family Violence Notifications

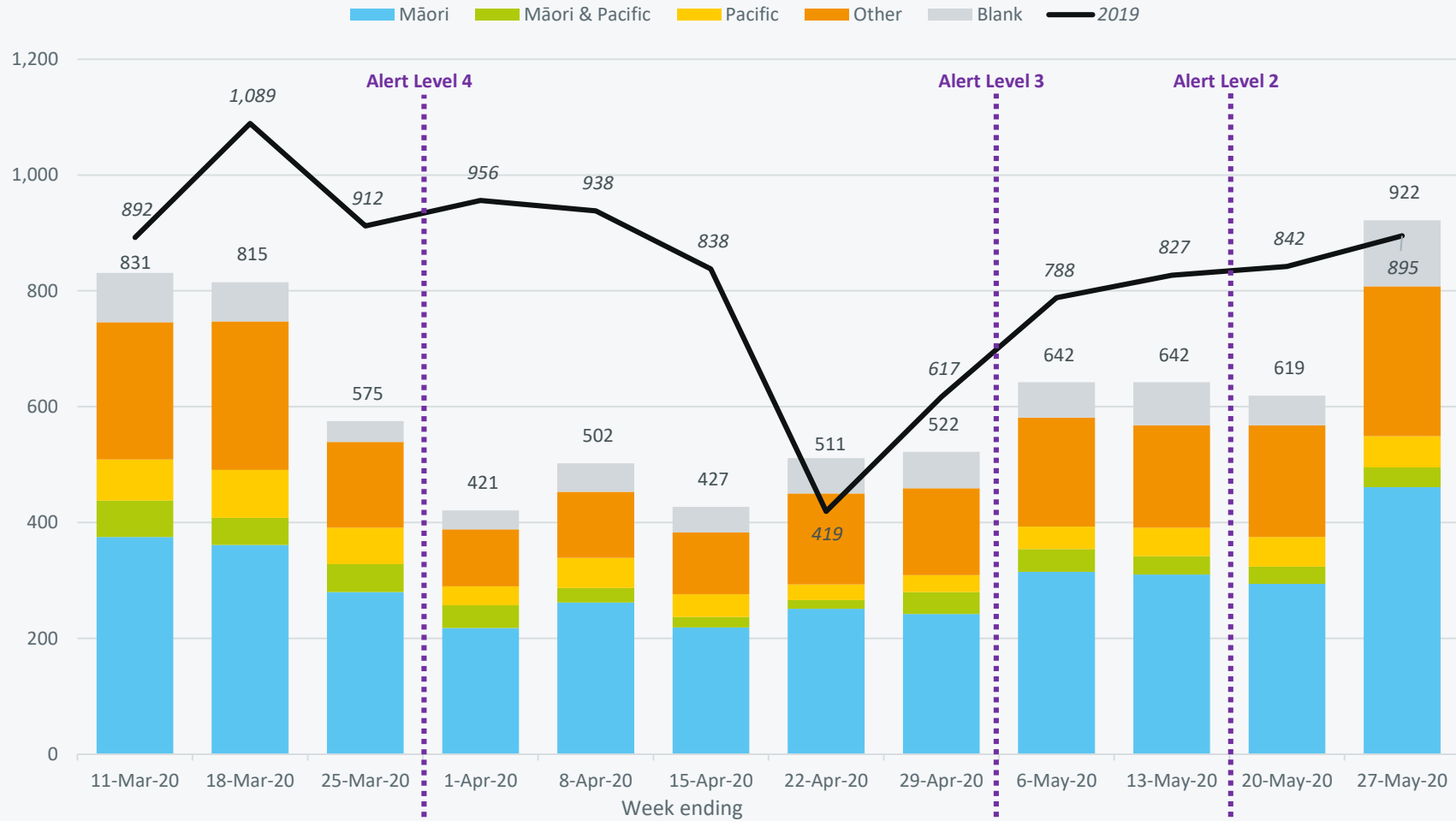


ROCs concerning family violence have generally been lower when compared to last year, however this trend existed prior to COVID-19.

In the eleven weeks since Alert Level 4 first came into effect there have been 469 Police family violence notifications (from 26 March to 10 June). During the same period last year there were 898 Police family violence notifications.

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Further Action Required (FAR)

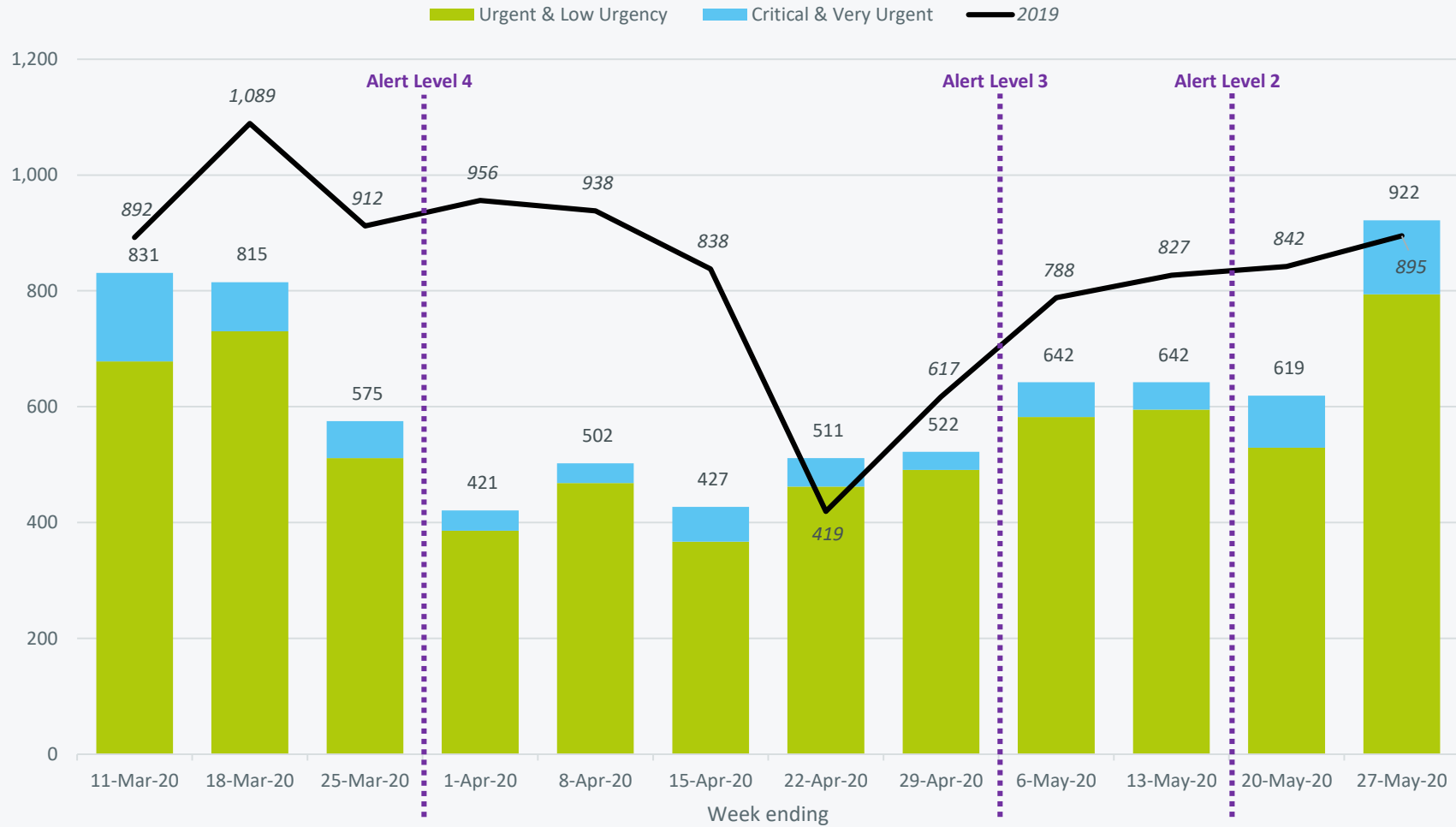


In the nine weeks since Alert Level 4 began (26 March to 27 May) 5,208 ROCs required further action. This is a 27% decrease on the same period last year, in line with an overall decrease in the number of ROCs.

FARs for the most recent two weeks are not included in this graph as these are still being assessed.

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Further Action Required by Urgency



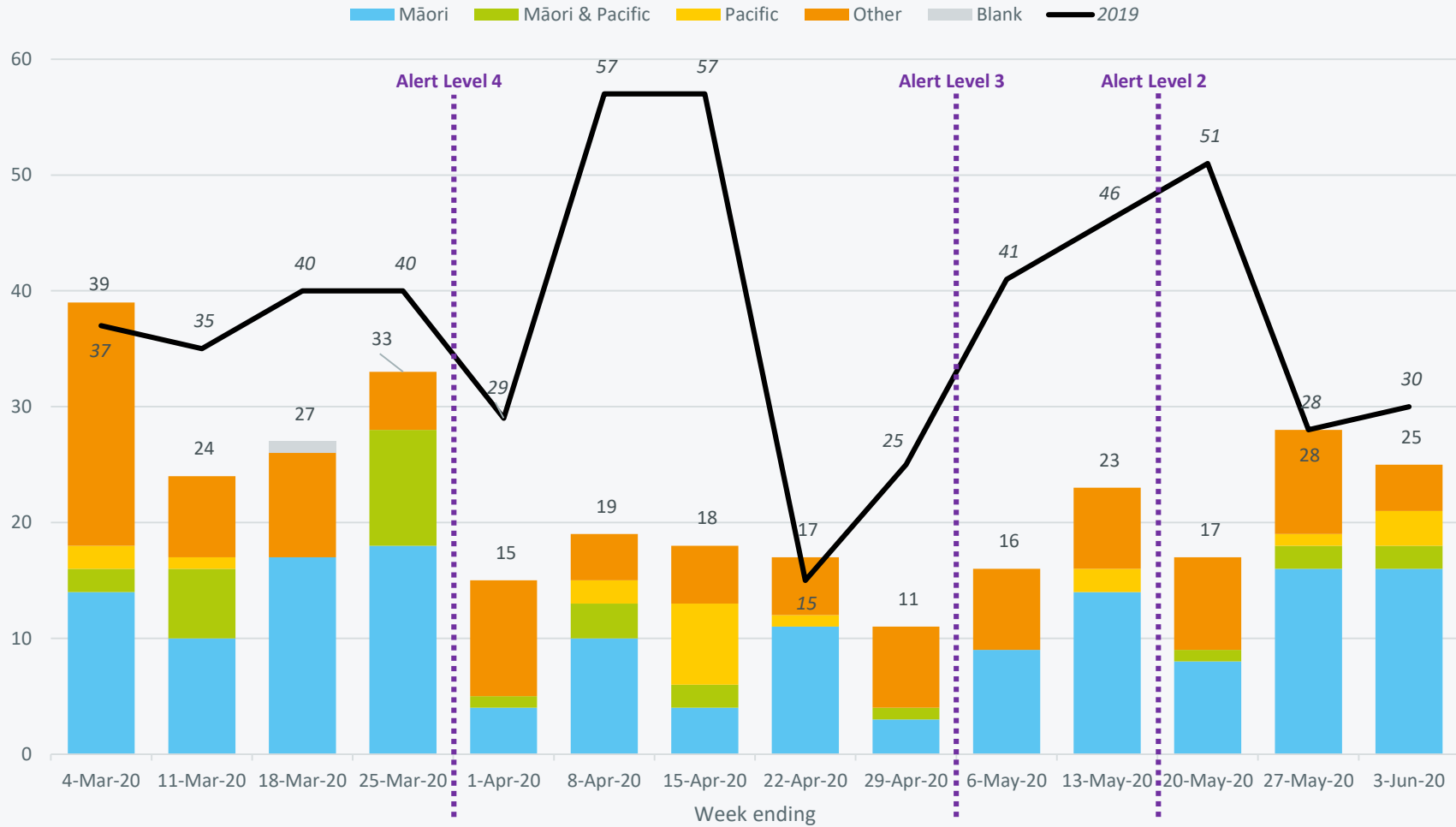
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Urgent & Low Urgency
Requirement to complete safety and risk assessment within 20 working days.

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Entries to Care



Entries to care have averaged 19 entries per week over the past ten weeks.

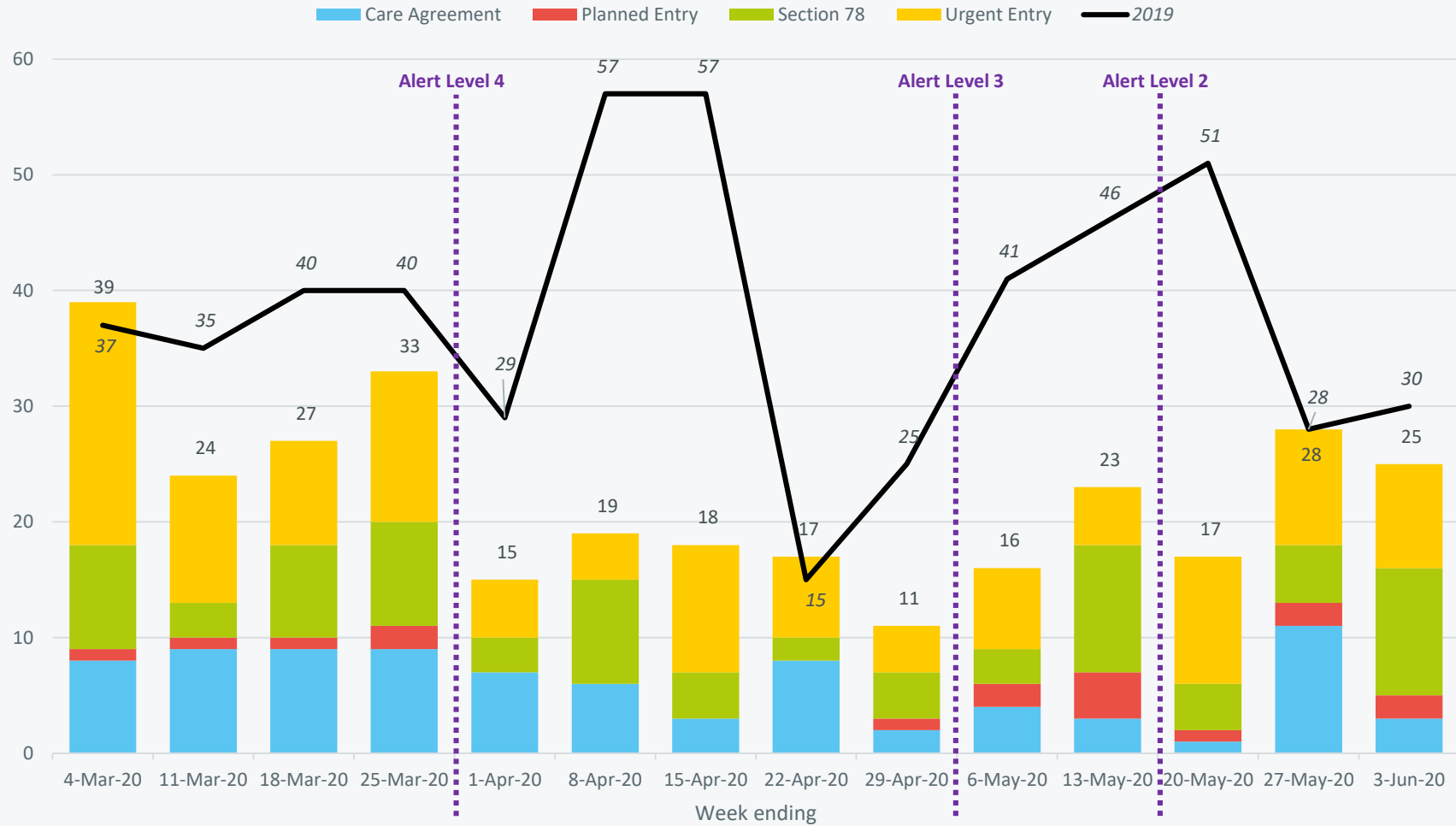
Throughout the year there are often peaks and troughs to the number of children coming into care – a lot of the time children come into our care when we’ve been working with the family for weeks, months or years after receiving the first Report of Concern.

The number of weekly entries to care during 2019 ranged from a minimum of 7 to a maximum of 56, with an average of 27. There were 17 weeks where the number of entries was lower than 20.

In the ten weeks since Alert Level 4 first came into effect there have been 189 entries to care (from 26 March to 3 June). During the same period last year there were 379 entries to care.

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Entries to Care by Pathway



Care Agreement
When a child enters care through a voluntary agreement with the parents, guardians or usual persons having care of the child for a specific period of time.

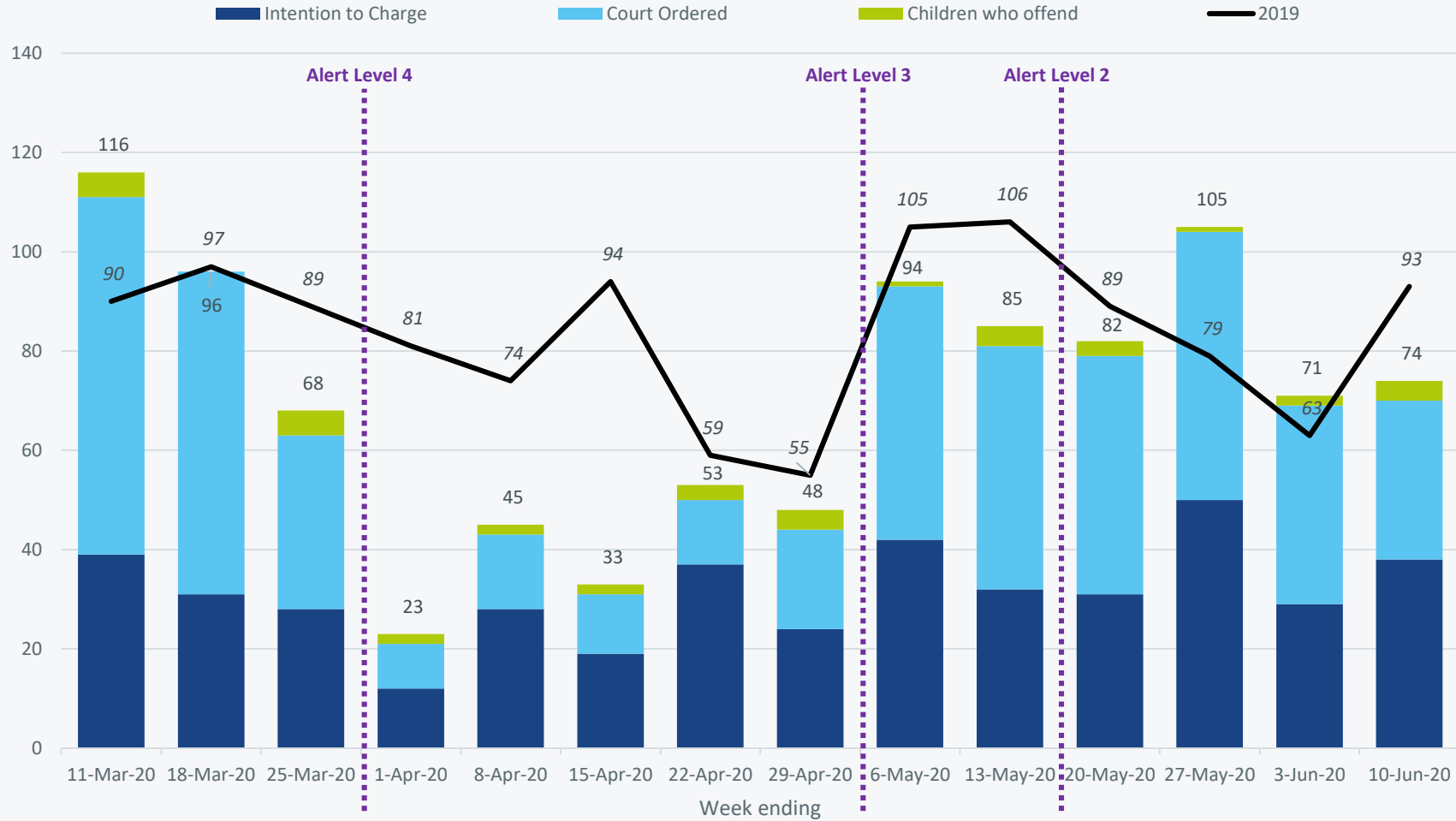
Planned Entry
Wherever possible, tamariki enter care in a planned and measured way. A planned entry will usually occur after a Family Group Conference has been held. Oranga Tamariki needs to apply to the Family Court in order to gain these custody orders.

Section 78
Custody of child or young person pending determination of proceedings or in urgent cases.

Urgent Entry
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Youth Justice Family Group Conference (YJ FGC) Referrals



The number of YJ FGC referrals for the latest week will increase in subsequent reports once more recent referrals have had time to be processed.

During Alert Level 4 there was a decrease in the number of YJ FGC referrals. Since the move to Alert Level 3, this has increased again to be more in line with 2019 referrals.

In the eleven weeks since Alert Level 4 first came into effect there have been 713 YJ FGC referrals (from 26 March to 10 June). During the same period last year there were 898 YJ FGC referrals.

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- Recent data excludes cases that are awaiting updates to be entered by social workers. This means the data for this period will change each week as more cases are updated.
- Ethnicity for ROCs and FARs is often based on information from the notifier and cannot be verified until we have made contact with the family.
- 'Further Action Required' data has a two-week lag and 'entries to care' data has a one-week lag. This is to allow enough time for social workers to update their records as it often takes some time for most changes to be recorded.
- Dates provided in the graphs indicate the week up to the given date. Comparisons to last year apply to the closest equivalent week.

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