

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

February 13, 2023

Leadership Report

Learning Transformation and Equity - Special Education and Inclusion

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TDSB and The Ontario Human Rights Commission Right to Read Inquiry Report

During the 2022 school year, The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) released its report [Right to Read: Public inquiry into human rights issues affecting students with reading disabilities](#). The report has detailed findings and recommendations for many stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, school boards, and faculties of education. The TDSB multi-disciplinary team has reviewed the report and has provided feedback to the Ministry of Education.

In Spring 2022, the Ministry of Education released [Effective Early Reading Instruction: A Teacher's Guide](#) as an initial response to the OHRC's Right to Read report. This resource has been shared with all staff and a number of steps have been taken and are underway, to support the implementation of this resource. [Read more here.](#)

While there is more work to do, staff are already working to better understand and act on the report's recommendations. We are committed to using evidence-based reports such as this to ensure all students are being supported within our system.

Special Education and Inclusion is working collaboratively with the Early Years team and the Literacy department to support professional learning for elementary and secondary teachers on Tier 2 & 3 reading interventions for students.

Guide to Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

We are pleased to share the new Guide to Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers. This guide, along with the previously shared Guide to the Individual Education Plan (IEP) for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers, can be found on the Special Education website or in the following links:

[Guide to Identification, Placement and Review Committee for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers \(with audio\)](#)

[Guide to Identification, Placement and Review Committee \(IPRC\) for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers \(MS Word download\)](#)



Parent Engagement Sessions - #2

Special Education and Inclusion will be offering a second parent/guardian/caregiver session on Tuesday, February 28 & Wednesday, March 1. This session will focus on supporting IPRC Reviews and Transitions and will also provide an opportunity for parents/guardians/caregivers to ask questions about these processes. The sessions will be facilitated by Special Education and Inclusion Centrally Assigned Principals.

TDSB Autism Services


Autism Services is a coordinated, multidisciplinary team supporting students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The TDSB Autism Services builds capacity within schools to develop and implement effective programming strategies, based on the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis, for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Autism Services team works collaboratively with schools, parents/guardians and community agencies to build capacity, share resources and develop effective programming strategies based on the principles of ABA for students with ASD. Professional learning opportunities are also provided to the system.

All members of Autism Services offer considerable knowledge of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and extensive experience in meeting the needs of students with ASD in a variety of classroom settings. The multidisciplinary team consists of Teacher Consultants, Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Child and Youth Counselors, ABA Facilitators/Board Certified Behaviour Analysts and Training Assistants.

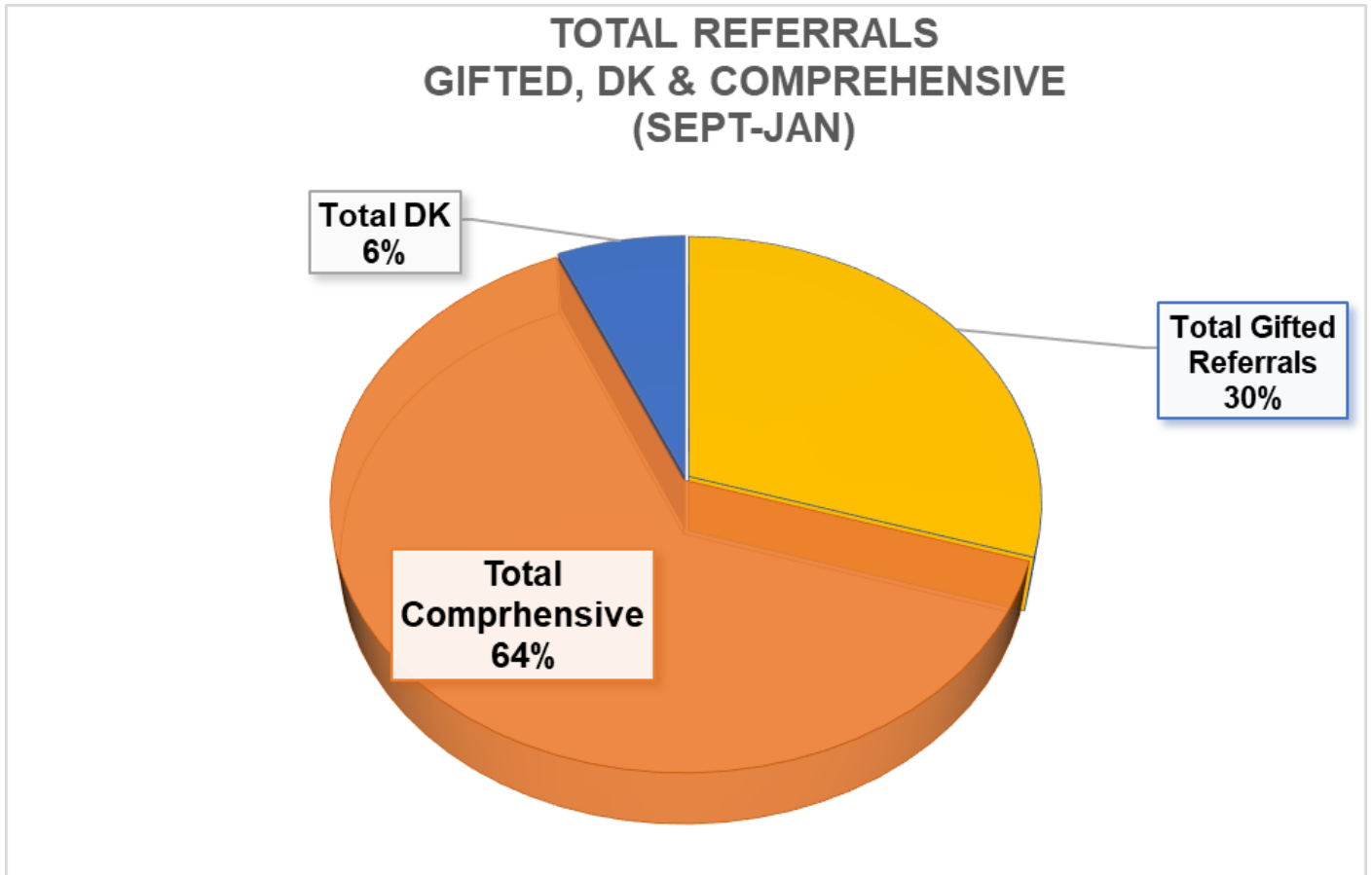
IPRC Data - January 2023

January IPRCs	
Learning Centre 1	109
Learning Centre 2	50
Learning Centre 3	38
Learning Centre 4	100
IPRCs Completed	297
IPRC Cumulative since August 2022	
IPRC Cumulative since August 2022	855

Psychological Assessment Data - January 2023

 Psychological Services Assessment Statistics					
January 2023					
Month-By-Month	LC1	LC2	LC3	LC4	Total
Completed	139	104	73	156	472
Total Referrals	206	188	162	190	746
Cumulative (since September 2022)					
Completed	324	275	218	332	1149
In Progress	231	352	241	299	1123
Waiting*	304	205	304	469	1282
Removed	43	48	50	107	248
Total Referrals**	902	880	813	1207	3802
<i>*70% of <u>total</u> waitlist are comprehensive/DK assessments, and 30% are gifted assessments</i>					
<i>**70% of <u>total</u> referrals are for comprehensive/DK assessments, and 30% are gifted assessments</i>					

Psychological Assessment Data - January 2023

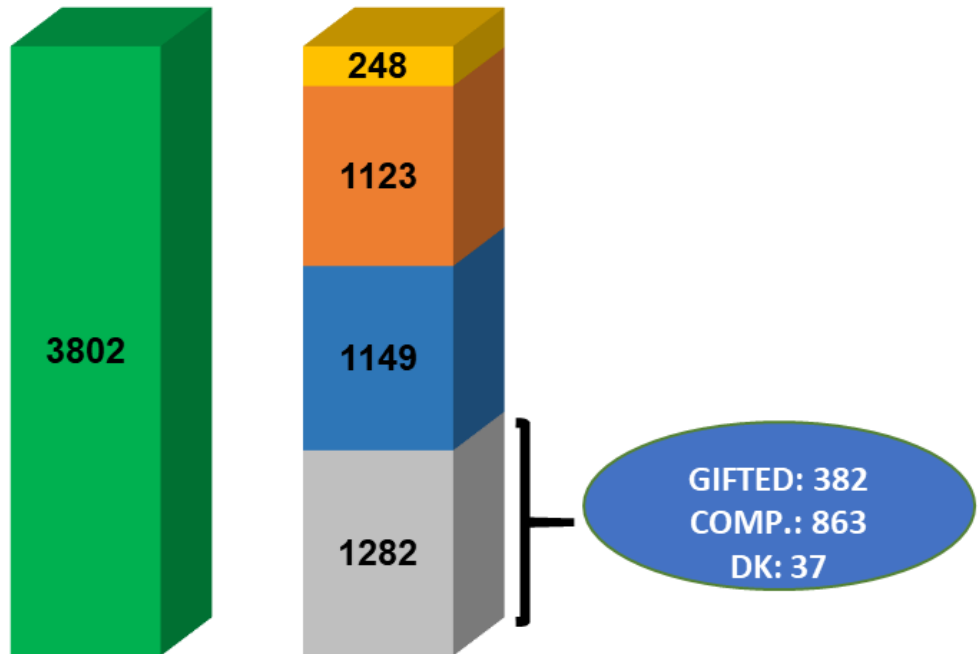


Since September 2022, the total number of referrals is **3802** (DK-246; Gifted-1134; Comprehensive-2422)

- **248 Comprehensive (incl. DK) were removed (2174) & 20 Gifted were removed (1114).**
- Gifted and DK referrals begin in late October, November and continued into January
- Not much change from last month

PSYCHOLOGICAL REFERRALS-BREAKDOWN SEPT.-NOV.

■ Total Referrals ■ Waiting ■ Completed ■ In Progress ■ Removed

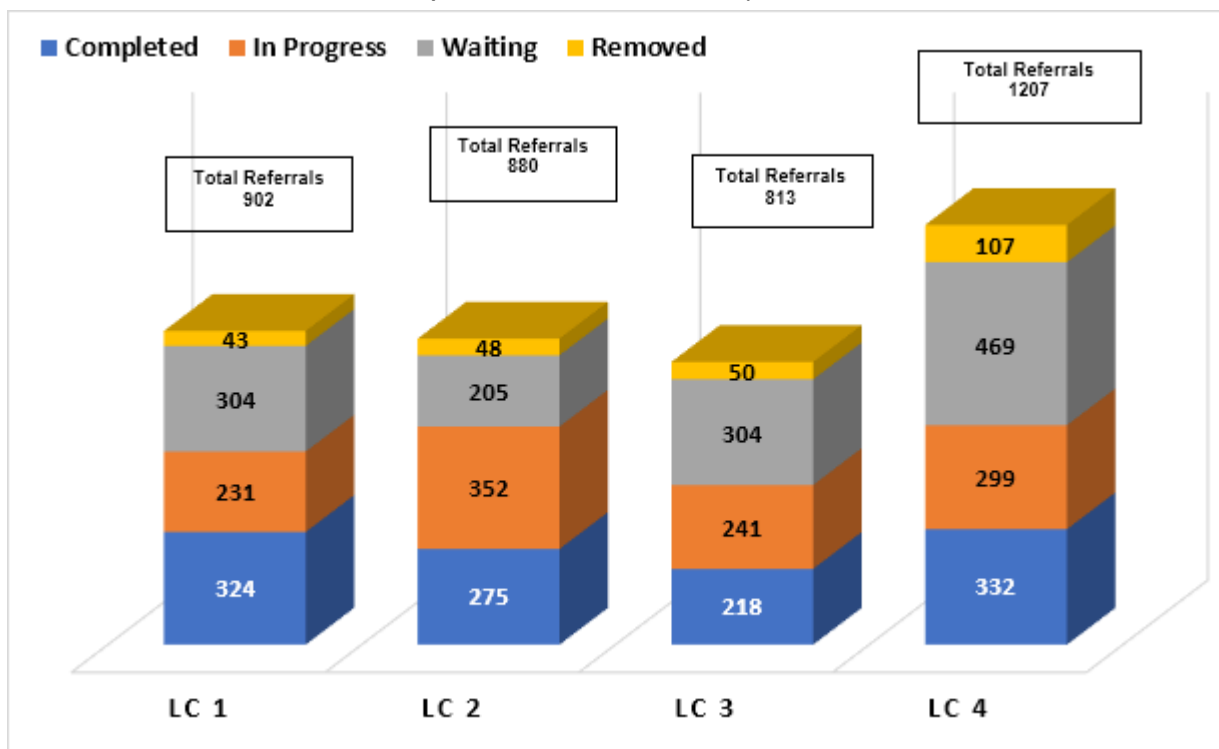


For Comprehensive/DK Assessments: October 2022 had 737 Waitlist; November 2022 has 727; December it was 824 and January it is 863. There has been an increase which we expect due to this time of year. **The Comprehensive assessments are continuing, and staff began January 2023 strong with a 5.9% reduction in the comprehensive waitlist from December 2022.**

- As the DK and Gifted get completed, this waitlist for comprehensive will decrease throughout the school year.

This chart indicates the breakdown of the **3805 psychological referrals (Gifted, Comprehensive & DK)** received since September 2022 to January 2023.

- End of January 2023, **900 Compressive & DK Assessments** are on the waitlist (*863 and 37 are Comprehensive & DK Assessments respectively*)
- We went from **755 Gifted Assessment Referrals** at the end of December 2022 to **1134 Gifted Assessment Referrals** at the end of January 2023.
- **1149 Referrals (Comprehensive & Gifted)** have been completed since September 2022.
- **1123 Referrals (Comprehensive, DK & Gifted)** are in progress
- **248 (226 Comprehensive, 2 DK & 20 Gifted referrals)** have been removed for some these following reasons:
 1. *The parent/guardian has not consented to the assessment*
 2. *The student has left the board*
 3. *The student moved out of the city/region/providence/country*
 4. *Other supports were provided that supported the initial needs which initiated the assessment (trauma therapy; outside private psycho-educational assessment by parent/guardian; supports/differential strategies provided to the educators in the classroom that have positive outcomes etc.)*

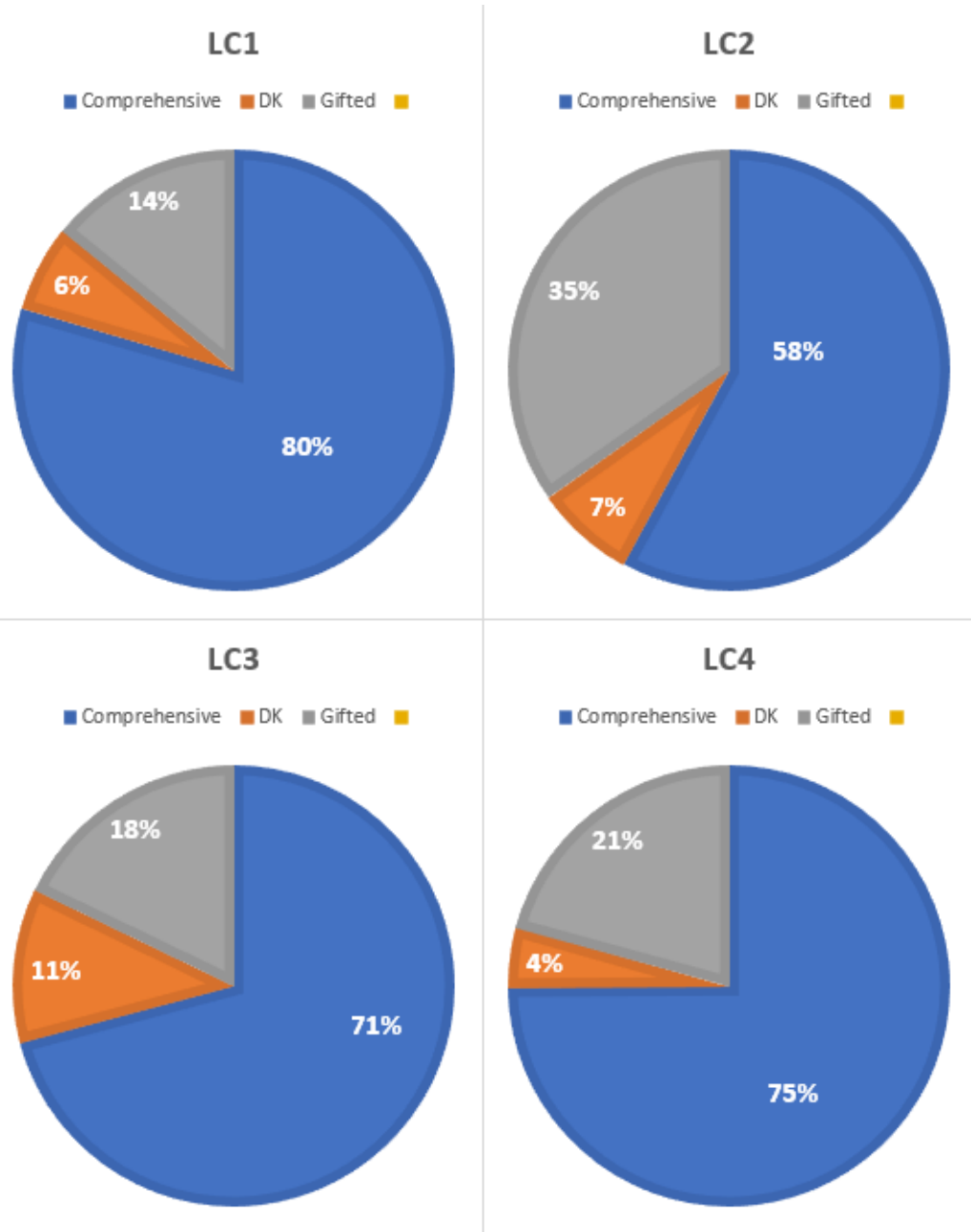


This chart showcases total referrals (Comprehensive, DK & Gifted) for each LC.

The chart below showcases the breakdown of the waitlist per LC for Comprehensive, DK and Gifted.



Assessment Type Waitlist Including “Aged” Statistics Per Learning Centre



****The waitlists do vary, and part of this variance includes the following (2021 numbers)**

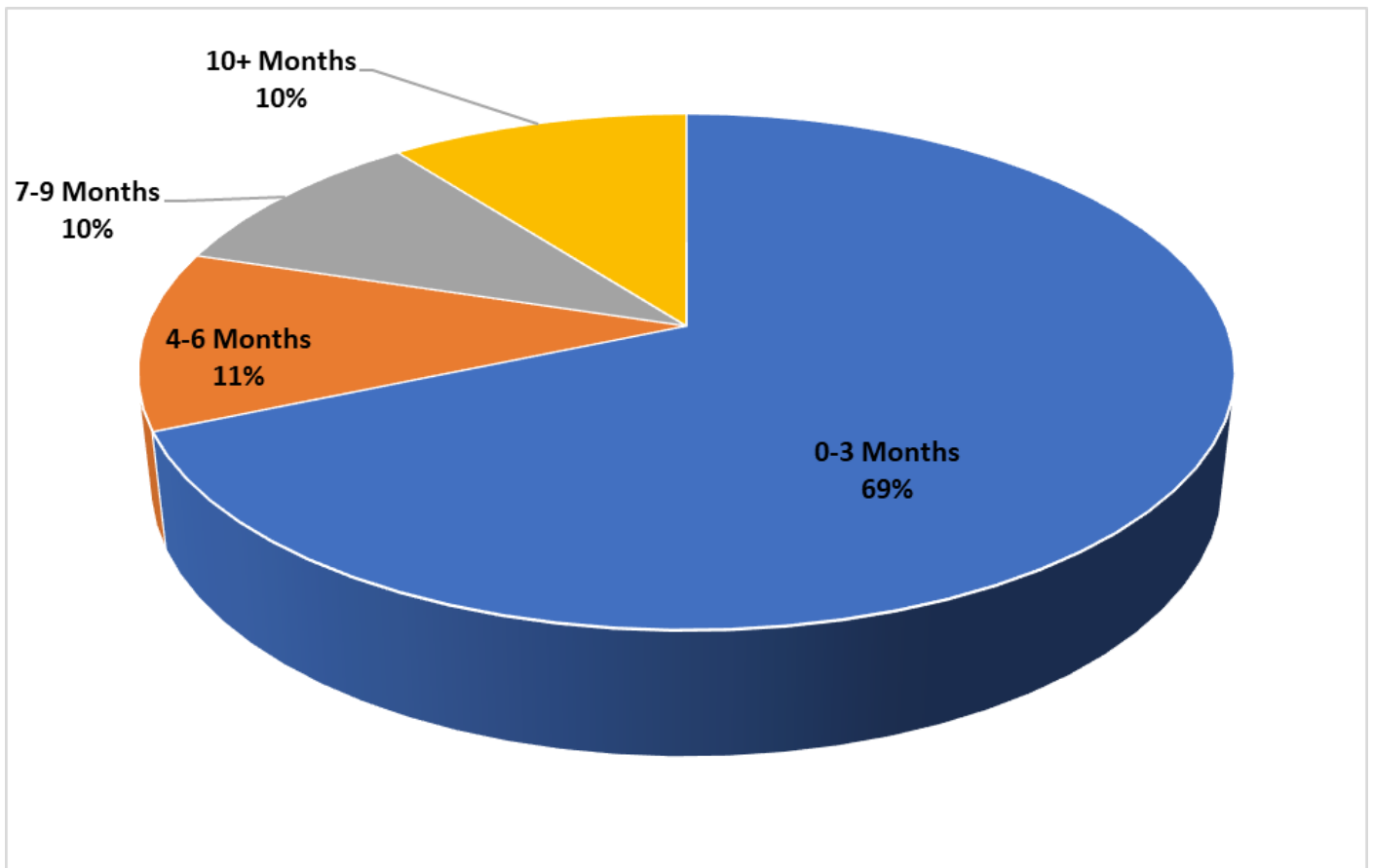
Learning Centre	Number of Schools	*Elementary Student Population	*Secondary Student Population	*TOTAL Student Population
1	134	42, 430	20, 258	62, 688
2	136	41, 428	16, 877	58, 305
3	133	40, 878	15, 589	56, 467
4	157	49, 445	17, 837	67, 277



Higher referral numbers in LC4 are attributed to:

- LC4 has 20 plus schools more than the other LC's
- LC4 has 5000-10,000 more students than the other LC's

Comprehensive/ DK Assessments Aged Waitlist	0-3 Months	4-6 Months	7-9 Months	10+ Months	TOTAL
January 2023	617	101	88	94	900



Psychological staff are continuing to put effort into comprehensive assessments, that are 6 plus months plus.

Below are some rationales why 6-month comprehensive referrals remain on the waitlist:

- 1) Parent/Guardian want to continue with the assessments and the students are in virtual school where only a portion of psychoeducational assessments can be completed virtually. These students and parents/guardians are being offered local school spaces and administrative buildings to support the completion of in person testing but have declined.**
- 2) Students who left, in between testing, to go out of the country/city/province and want to remain on the waitlist.**
- 3) Students who enrolled into virtual school in between testing and want to remain on the waitlist.**

4) Student and parents/guardians who are not responding to the staff and staff are working with the school and Attendance Counselors to locate

Gifted Assessments Aged Waitlist	0-3 Months	4-6 Months	7-9 Months	10+ Months	TOTAL
January 2023	378	4	0	0	382

