

Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS)

Semi-Annual Independent Monitoring Report (IMR) (January–June 2023)

Prepared by:

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
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November 10, 2023



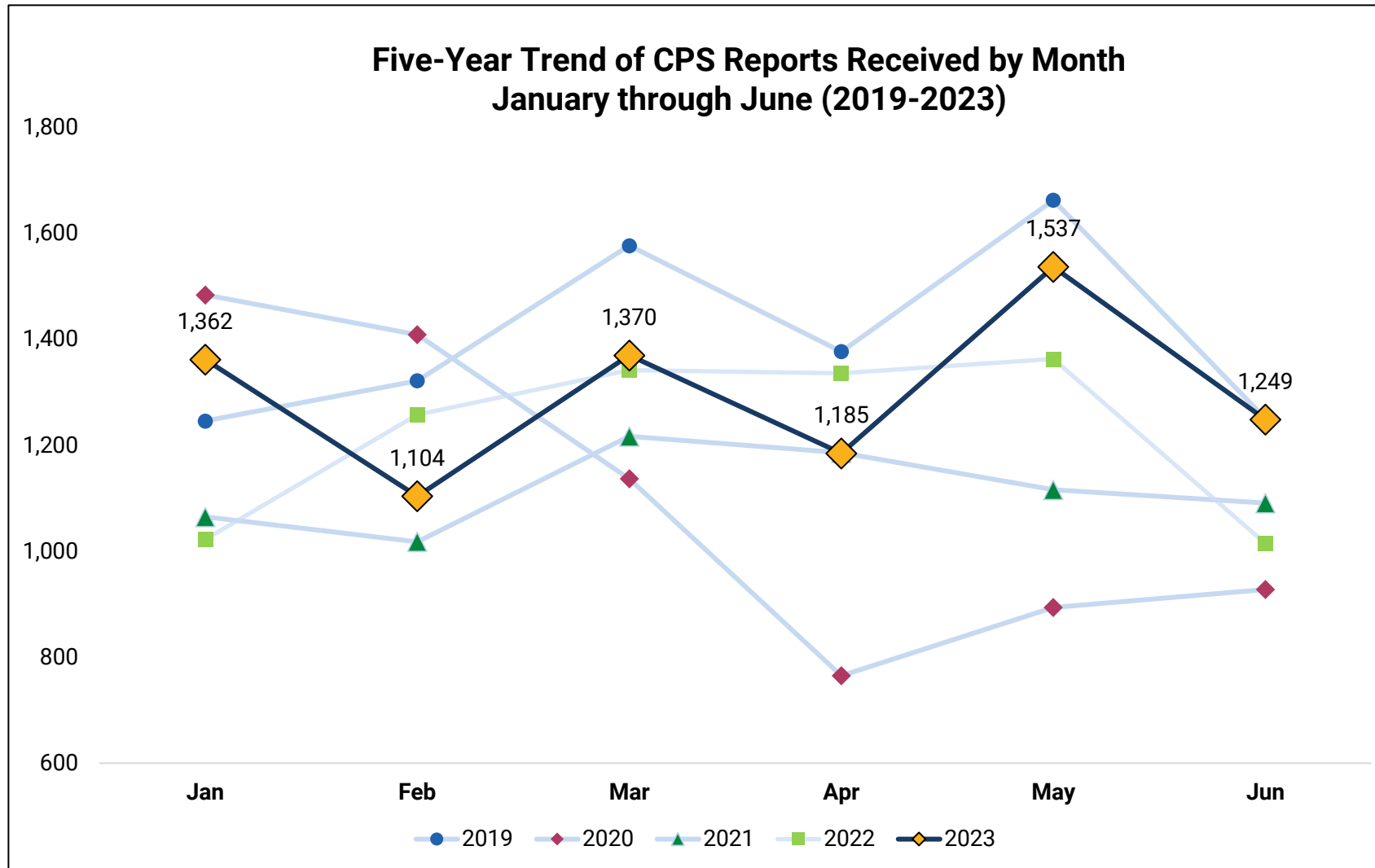
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Background and Purpose

- The Independent Monitoring Report serves as a mechanism for maintaining transparency to both internal and external stakeholders while providing information about the functioning of Milwaukee County's child welfare system. This report expands on information historically included in the Settlement Agreement and includes information about:
 - Access and Initial Assessment/Independent Investigations
 - Safety
 - Permanency
 - Well-being
 - Workforce



Access: Volume of Child Protective Service (CPS) Reports January through June (2019 through 2023)

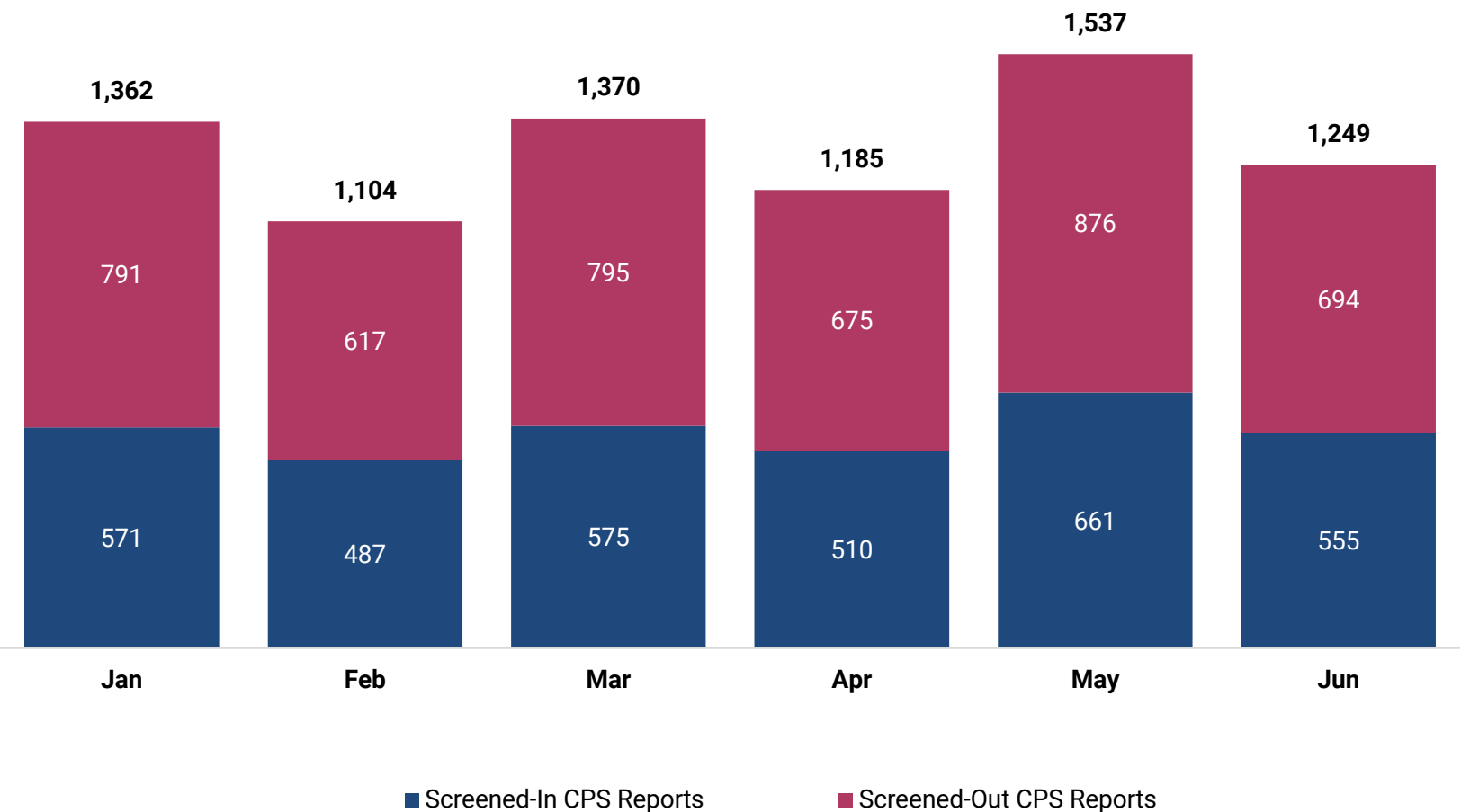


Five-Year Trend of CPS Reports by Year (2019-2023):

- A total of **7,807** CPS Reports were received from January through June 2023
- There were **471** more (**6.4% increase**) CPS Reports received in the first six months of 2023 than in the first six months of 2022
- This supports that the number of CPS Reports received is returning to pre-pandemic levels after reduced volume from 2020-2022

Access: Volume and Response Time of Child Protective Service (CPS) Reports

CPS Reports (Screened-in and Screened-out) Received by Month
January - June 2023



CPS Reports by Month (January-June 2023):

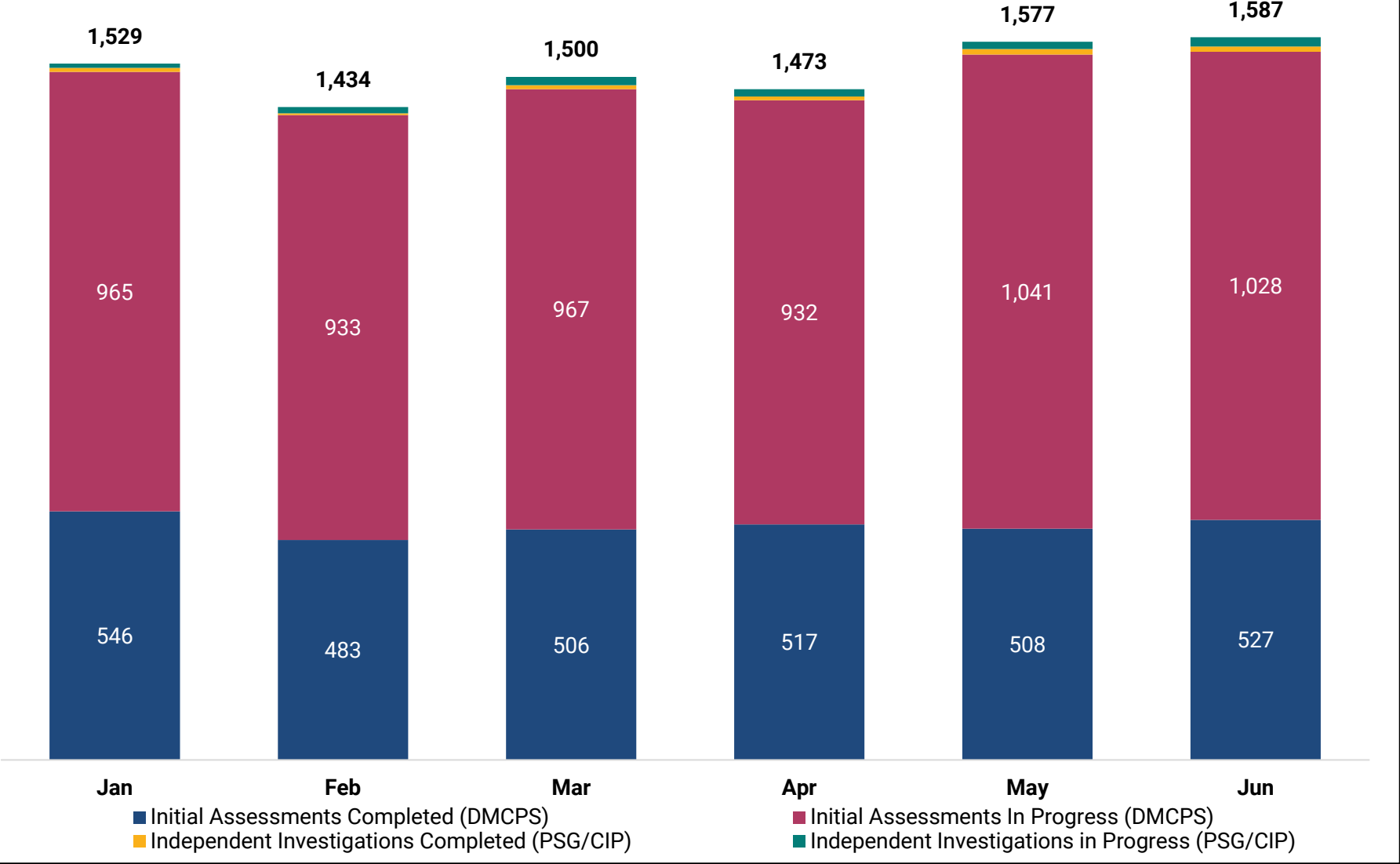
- On average, **1,301** CPS reports received per month
- On average, **560 (43.0%)** CPS Reports screened-in

Screened-In Response Times (average):

- 22.6%** Same Day
- 20.1%** within 24-48 hours
- 57.3%** within five business days

Initial Assessments and Independent Investigations

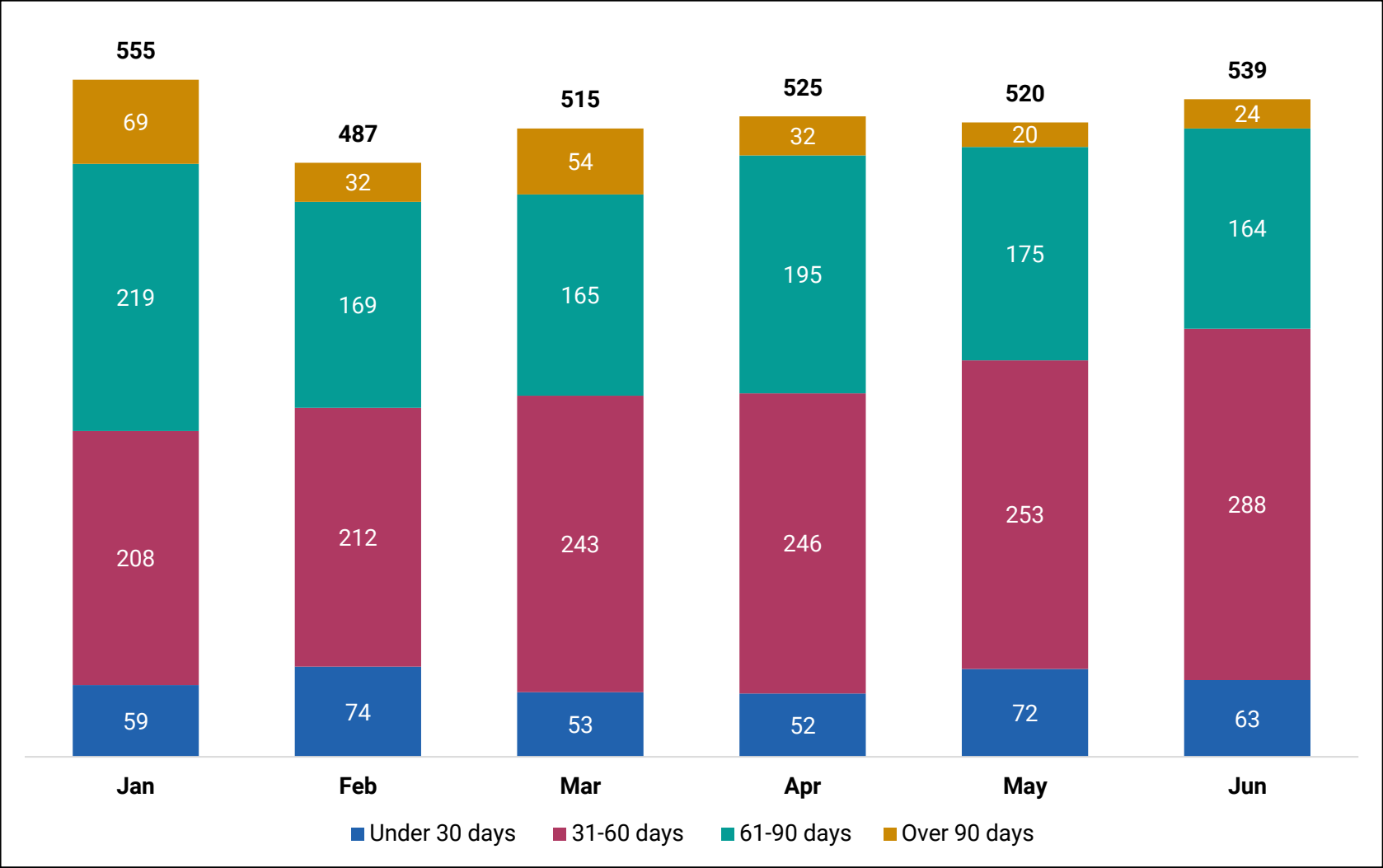
Number of Initial Assessments and Independent Investigations Completed and In Progress by Month (January - June 2023)



Initial Assessments (IA) and Independent Investigations (January–June 2023)

- **3,087** IA's completed
- **54** Independent Investigations completed
- An average of **62** staff completed an average of **515** Initial Assessments per month
- An average of **three** Professional Services Group / Community Impact Programs (PSG/CIP) staff completed an average of **nine** Independent Investigations each month

Timeliness of Completing Initial Assessments and Independent Investigations and Initial Assessment Staffing



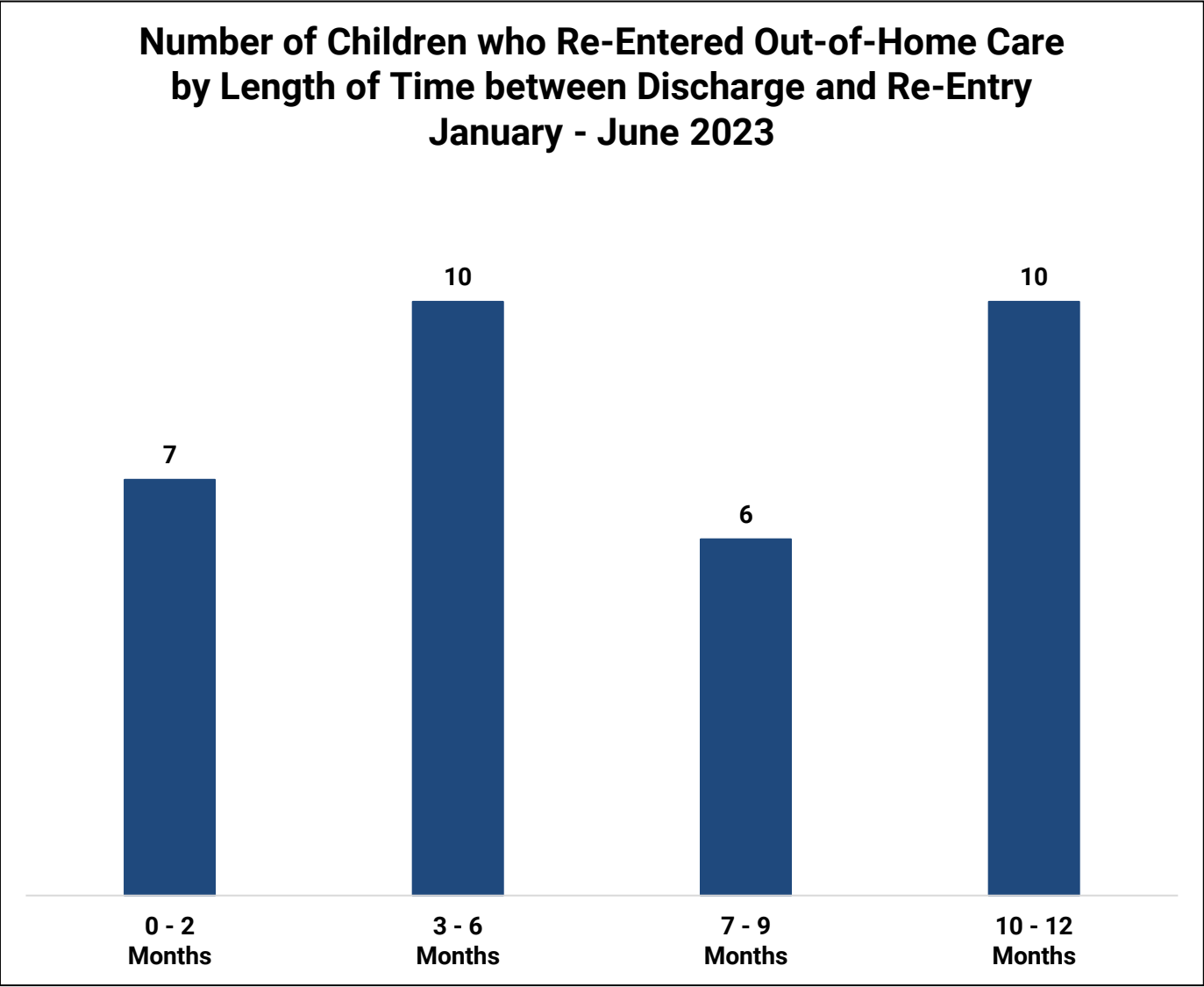
Timeliness of Completing Initial Assessments (IA) and Independent Investigations (January-June 2023):

- 1,823 (58.0%) of 3,141 of the Initial Assessments and Independent Investigations were completed within 60 days

Initial Assessment Staffing:

- At the beginning of 2023, there were **73** initial assessment specialists (IAS)
- **12** IAS were hired and **14** IAS separated employment resulting in a turnover rate of **16.5%** for the first six months of 2023

Safety: Re-Entry, Face-to-Face Contacts, and Maltreatment



Re-Entry (January-June 2023):

- 33 children re-entered out-of-home care within 12 months

Face-to-Face Contacts (January-June 2023):

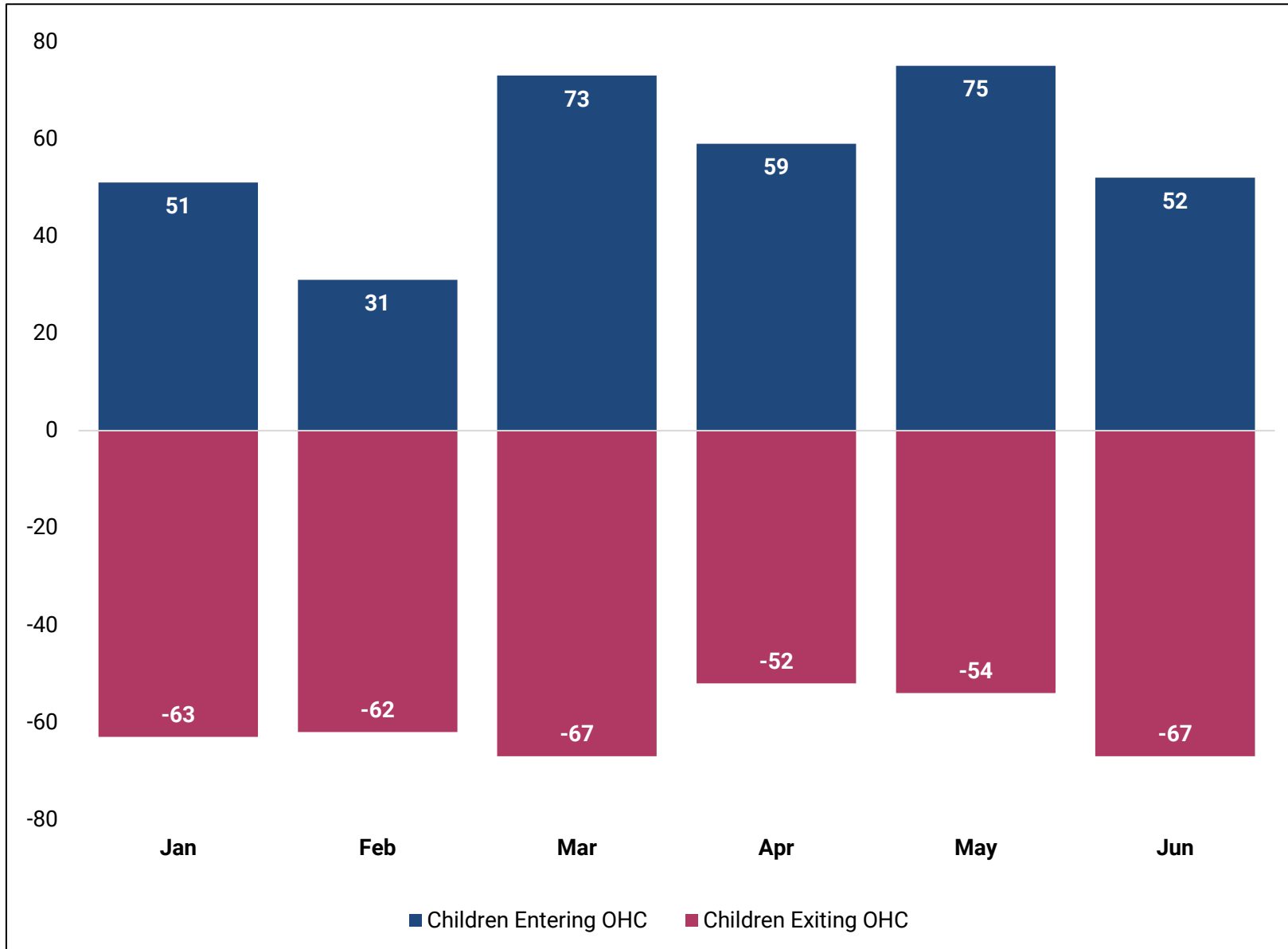
- 95.2% of 9,789 expected visits occurred

Maltreatment by Provider to Child(ren) in OHC (January-June 2023):

- 13 y/o Physical Abuse (Treatment Foster Home-NR)
- 2 y/o Physical Abuse (Court-ordered Kinship)
- 11 y/o Sexual Abuse (Treatment Foster Home-NR)
- 13 y/o Sexual Abuse (Treatment Foster Home-NR)
- 13 y/o Sexual Abuse (Treatment Foster Home-NR)

NR is Non-Relative

Permanency: Entries into Out-of-Home Care



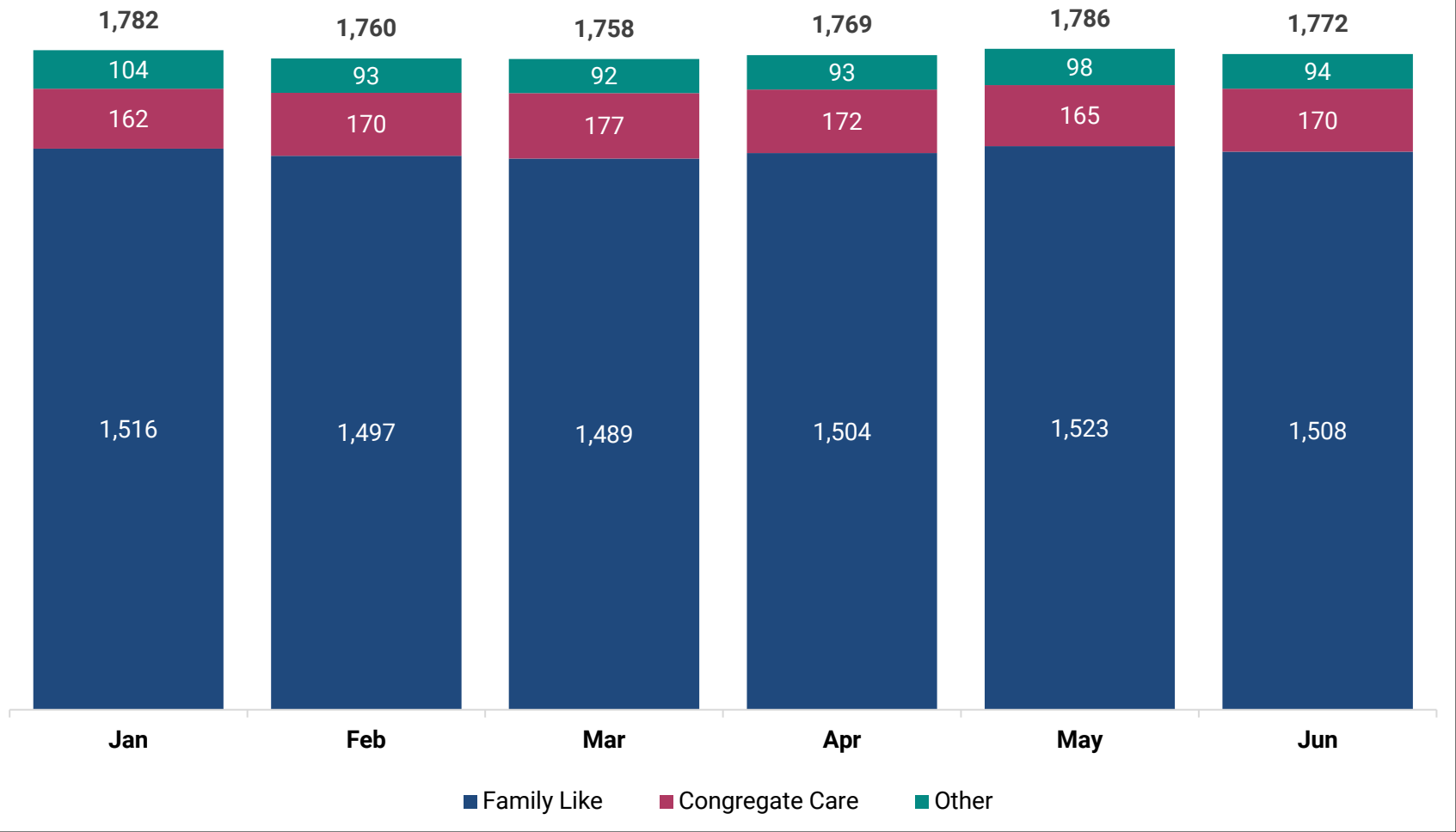
Entries in Out-of-Home Care (January-June 2023):

- At the beginning of 2023, there were **1,802** children in OHC
- On average per month, **57** children entered OHC
- At the end of June 2023, there were **1,772** children in OHC

Permanency: Placement Groups



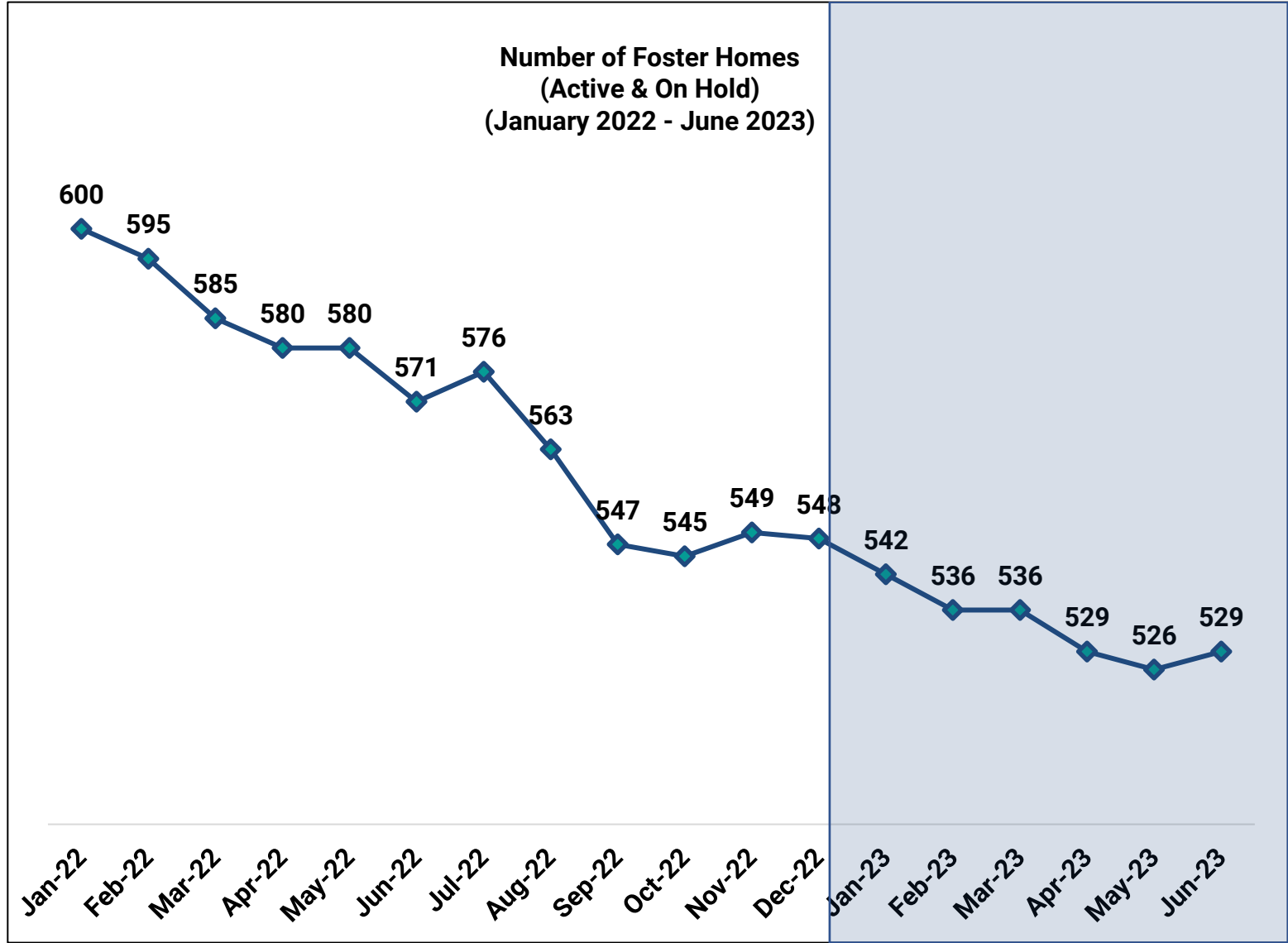
**Total Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care by Placement Group
(January - June 2023)**



**Placement Types
(January-June 2023):**

- On average, **85.0%** of children were placed in a family like settings
- On average, **9.6%** of children were placed in congregate care
- On average, **5.4%** of children were in other settings

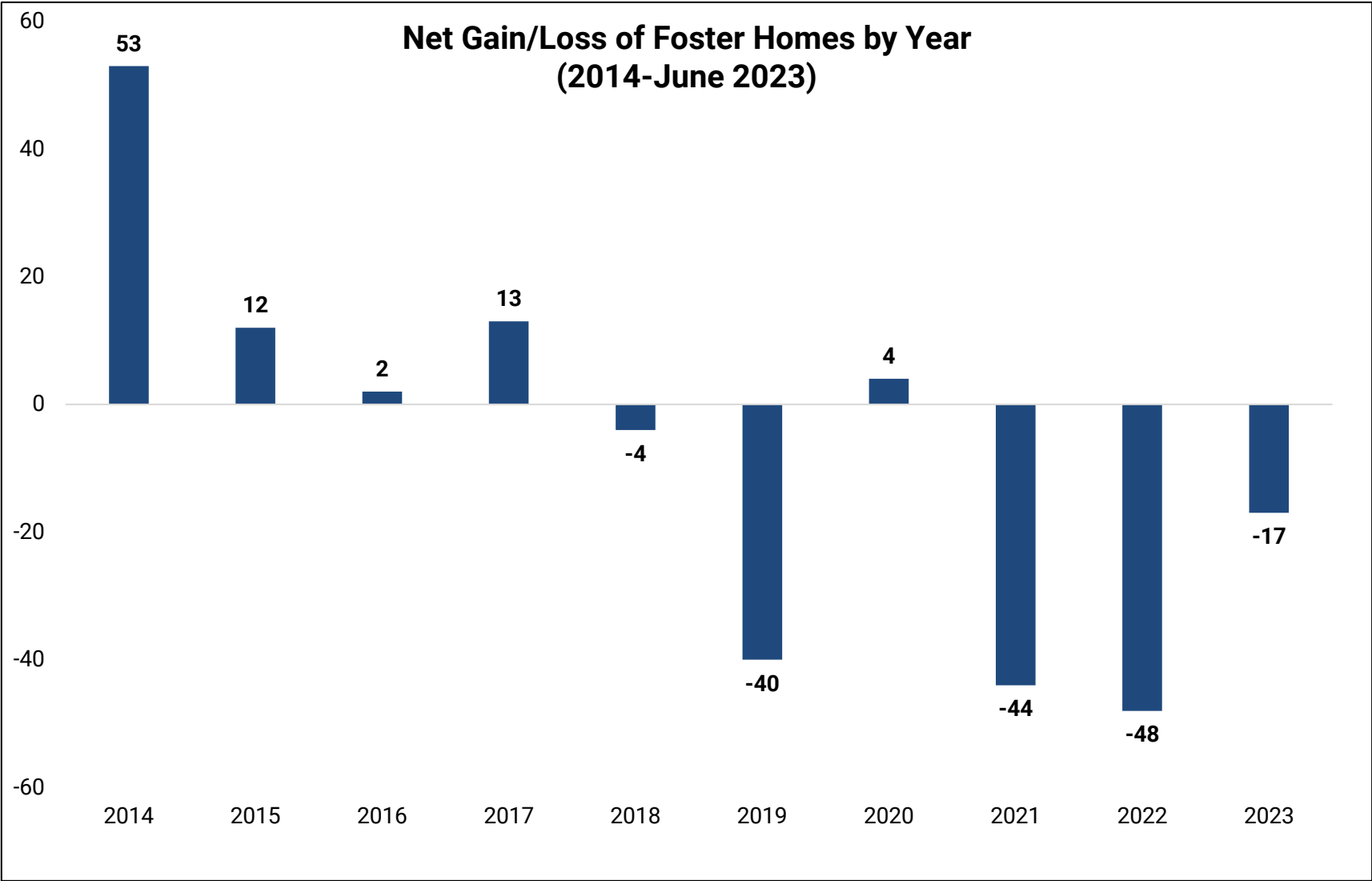
Permanency: Foster Homes



Foster Homes (January – June 2023)

- **533** foster homes (six-month average)
 - **93** providers newly licensed
 - **102** providers licenses were closed

Permanency: Foster Homes in the last ten years



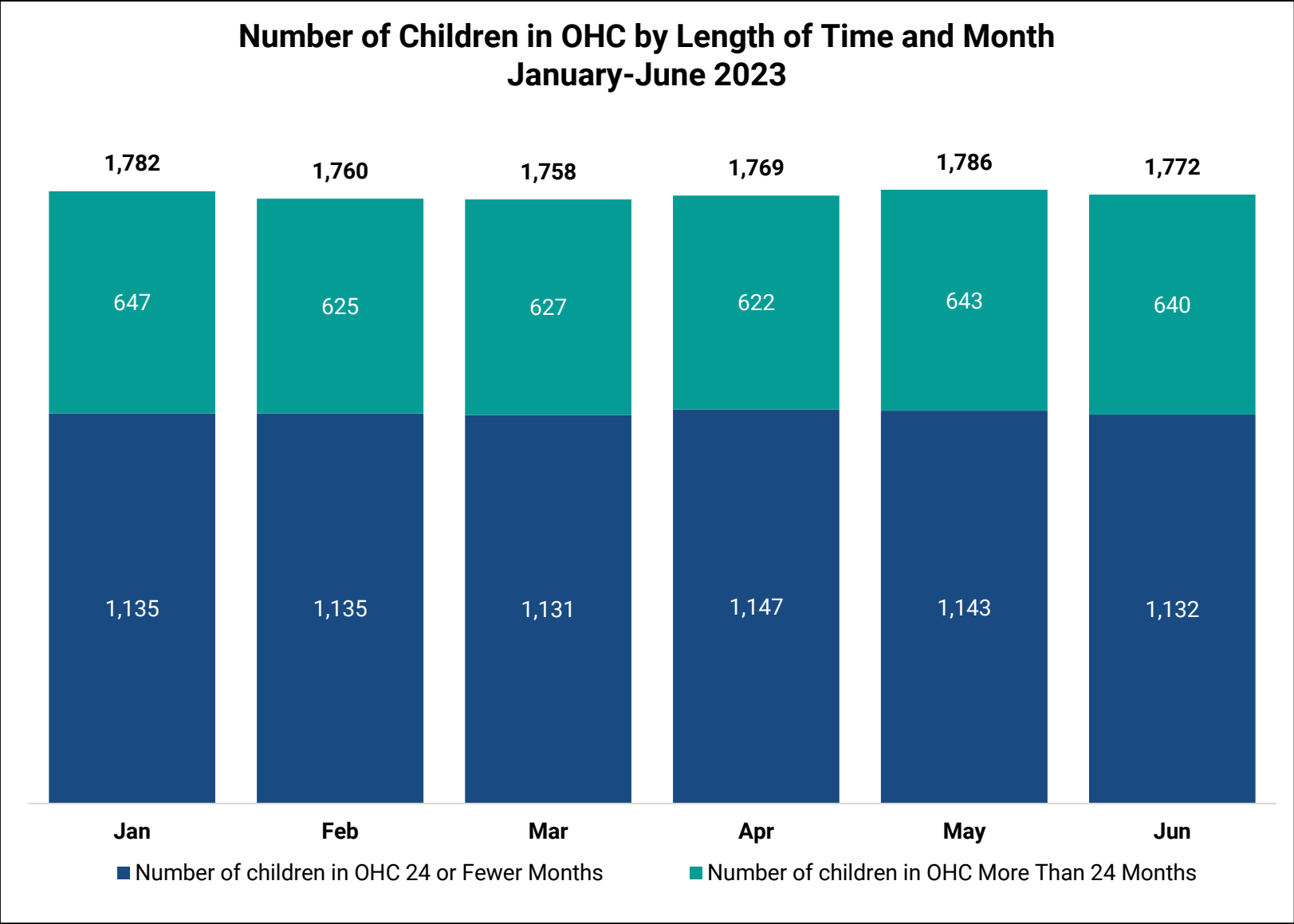
Foster Homes (January-June 2023):

- 533 foster homes (average)
- 93 providers newly licensed
- 102 providers licenses were closed

Foster Homes (2014-June 2023):

- 2014 through 2017 showed a net gain of foster homes followed with significant drops in 2019, 2021, and 2022.

Permanency: Length of Stay in Out-of-Home Care



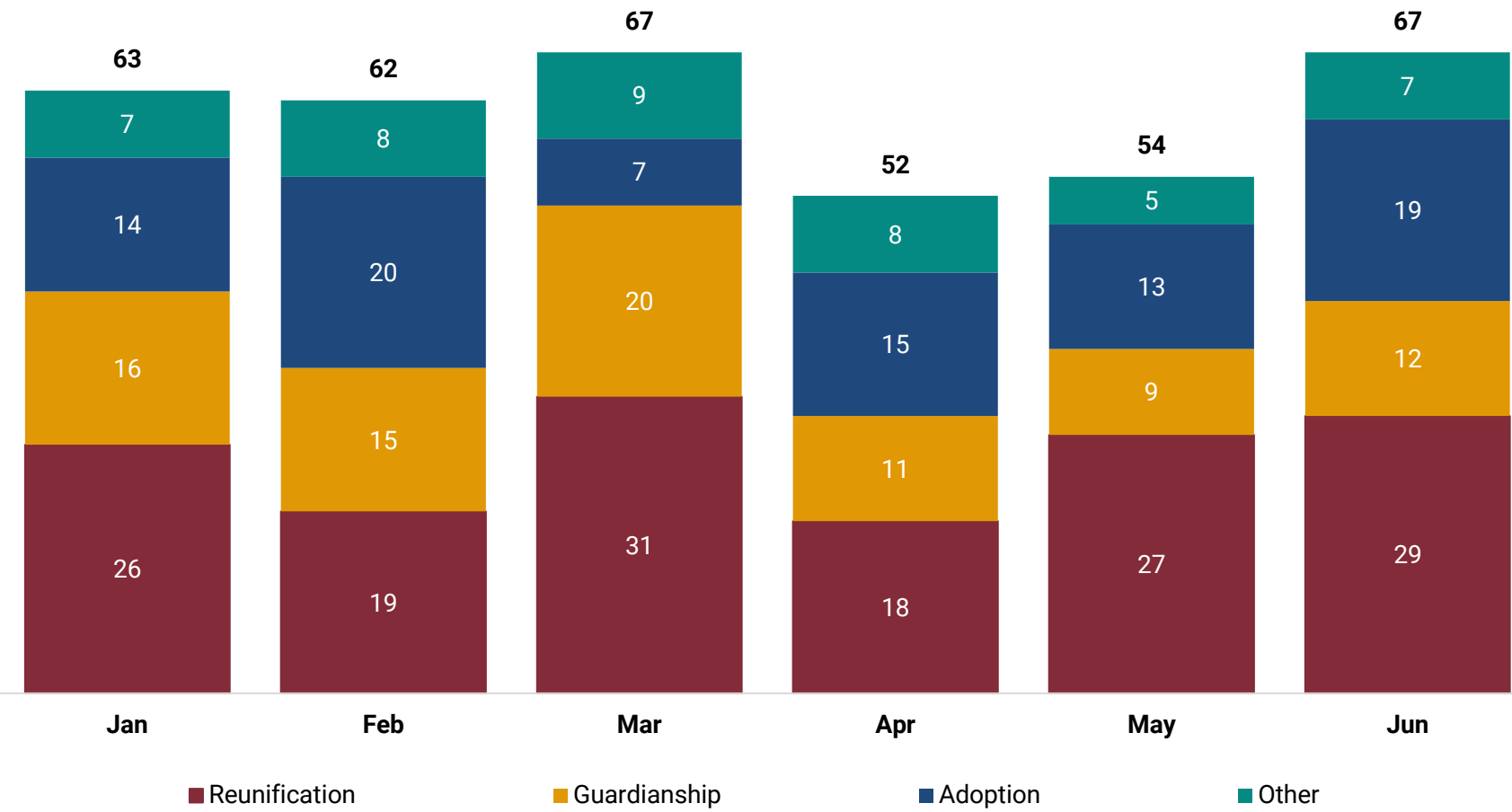
Length of Stay (January-June 2023):

- **1,771** is the semi-annual average number of children in out-of-home care (OHC)
- **634 (35.8%)** is the semi-annual average number of children in OHC longer than 24 months.

Permanency: Discharge Reasons



Number of Children who Discharged from Out-of-Home Care by Month and Discharge Type (January – June 2023)



Discharge Reasons (January-June 2023):

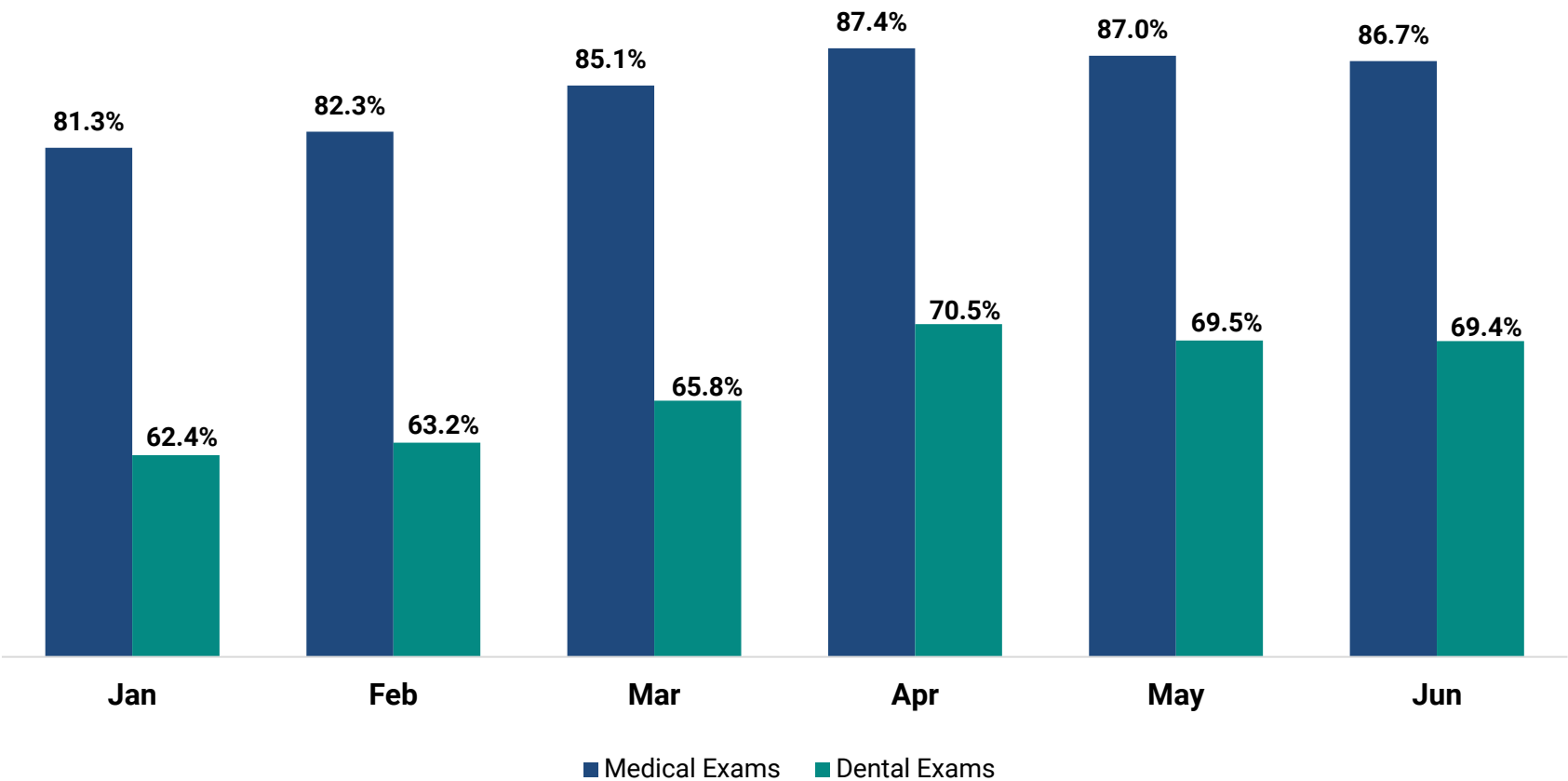
- **365** Children discharged from Out-of-home Care
 - **150** to reunification
 - **83** to guardianship
 - **88** to adoption
 - **44** to other

Timeliness to Permanency (January-June 2023):

- 73 of 150 (**48.7%**) reunified within 12 months
- 38 of 83 (**45.8%**) had a guardianship within 24 months
- 21 of 88 (**23.9%**) children were adopted within 24 months

Well-being: Annual Medical and Dental Exams

Percentage of Completed Annual Medical / Dental Exams
(January - June 2023)



Medical (January-June 2023):

- On average per month, **1,509** of **1,776** children (**85.0%**) were current with their annual medical exams

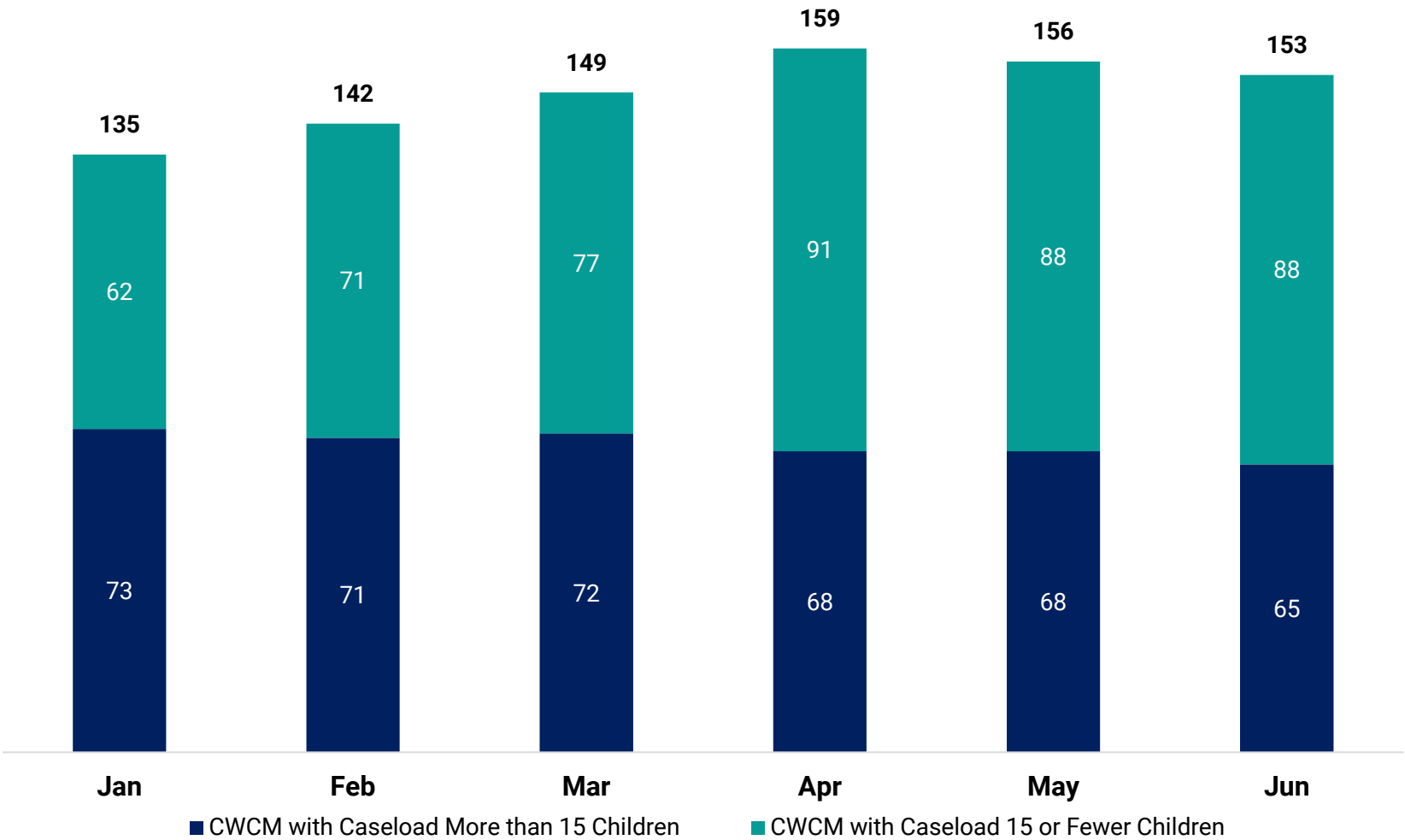
Dental (January-June 2023):

- On average per month, **959** of **1,435** children (**66.8%**) were current with their annual dental exams

Workforce: Child Welfare Case Manager Staffing and Caseload



Child Welfare Case Managers with More than 15 Children by Month
(January-June 2023)



Caseloads for Child Welfare Case Managers (January-June 2023):

- On a yearly average, 70 of 149 (47.0%) case carrying child welfare case managers (CWCM) had more than 15 children on their caseload

Child Welfare Case Manager Staffing (January-June 2023):

- At the beginning of 2023, there were 143 ongoing case management staff

Hires and Separations (January-June 2023):

- 54 staff were hired
- 29 staff separated employment
- 14.7% staff turnover rate

Summary of Performance – Key Takeaways

- The number of CPS Reports appears to be returning to pre-pandemic levels.
- Staffing of initial assessment specialists (IAS) and child welfare case managers (CWCMs) showed improvement and stabilized from the prior two years.
- The number of CWCMs with more than 15 children on their caseload has decreased.
- The number of foster homes continued to decline.



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<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/mcps/data>