

Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS)

Annual Independent Monitoring Report (IMR) (January–December 2023)

Prepared by:

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Division of Management Services
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Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

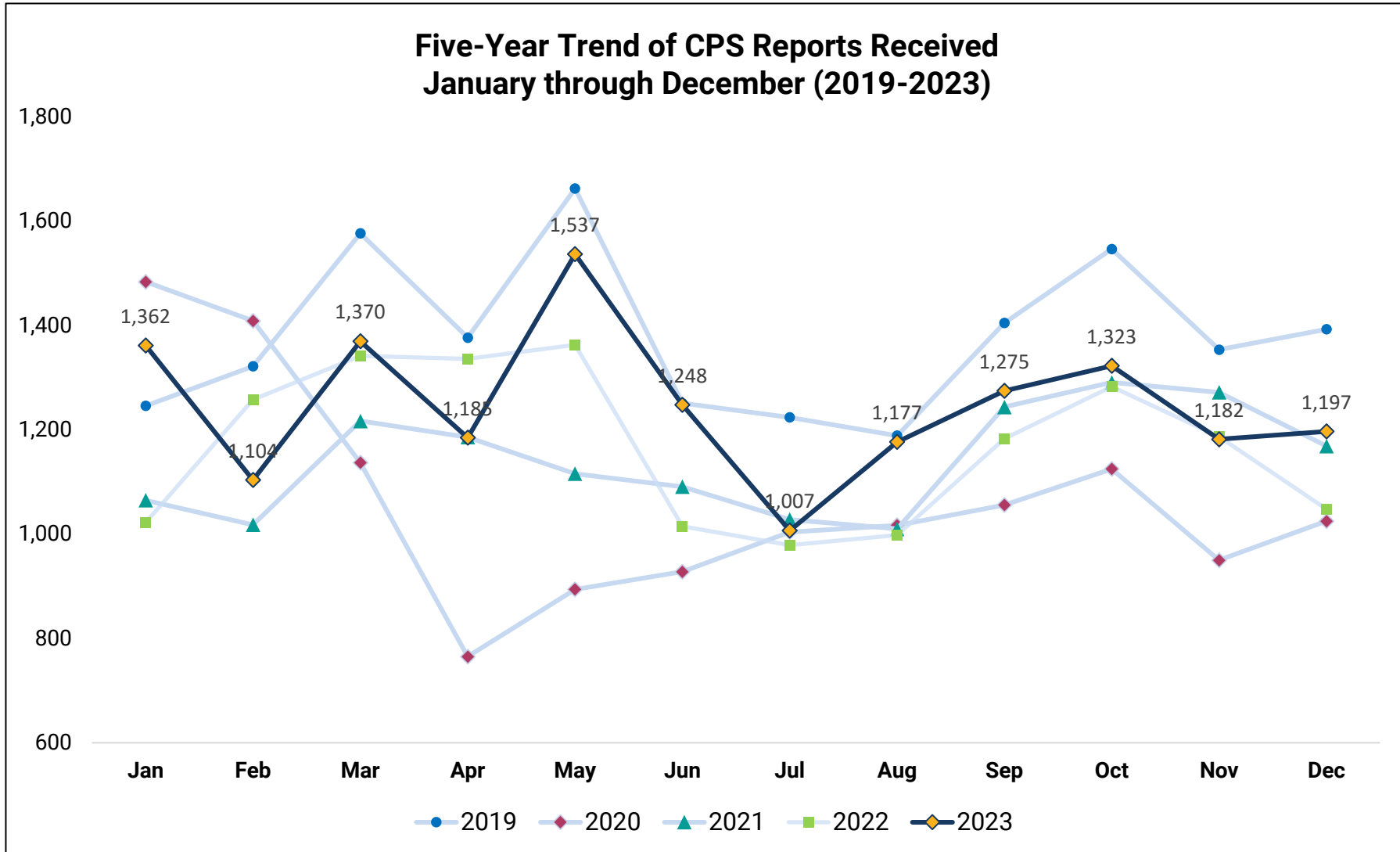
Background and Purpose

The Independent Monitoring Report serves as a mechanism for maintaining transparency to both internal and external stakeholders while providing information about the functioning of the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services' 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)

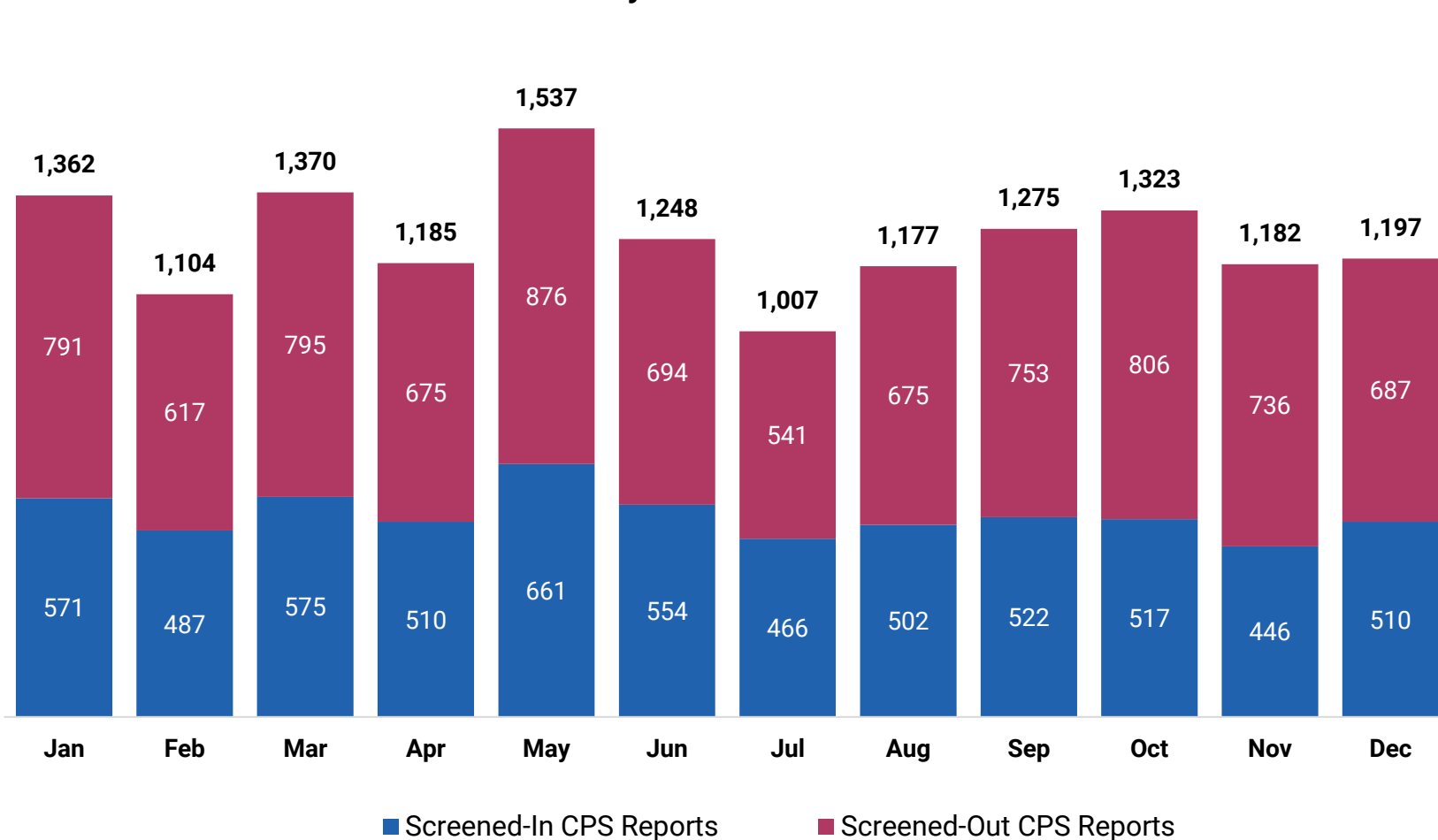


Five-Year Trend of CPS Reports by Year (2019-2023):

- A total of **14,967** CPS Reports were received from January through December 2023
- There were **953** more (**6.8% increase**) CPS Reports received in 2023 than in 2022

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

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



CPS Reports by Month (January-December 2023):

- On average, **1,247** CPS reports received per month
- On average, **527 (42.2%)** CPS Reports screened-in
- A total of **6,321** CPS reports were screened-in

Reporters:

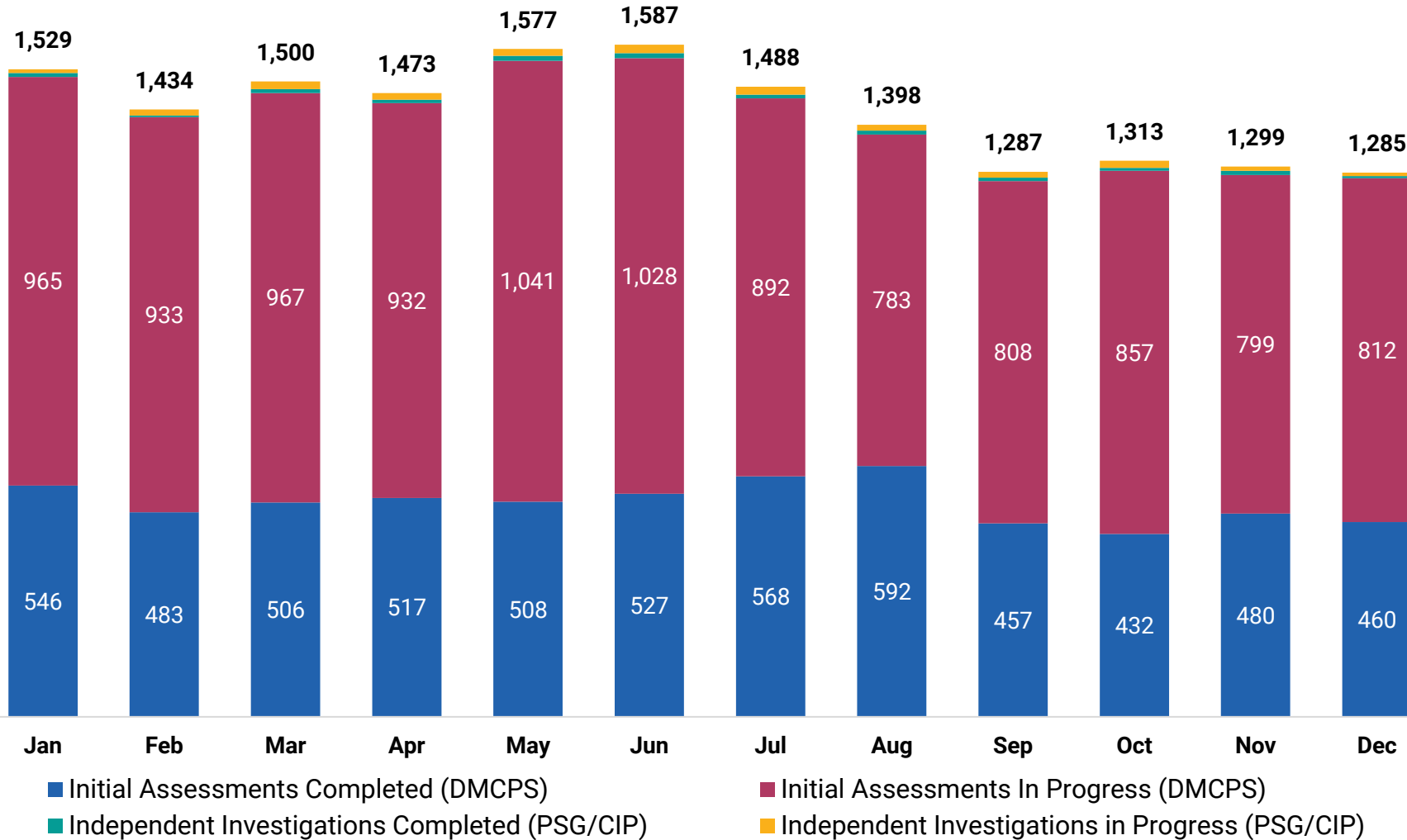
- **72.4%** of reports were received by mandated reporters

Screened-In Response Times (average):

- **22.0%** Same Day
- **19.5%** within 24-48 hours
- **58.5%** within five business days

Initial Assessments and Independent Investigations

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

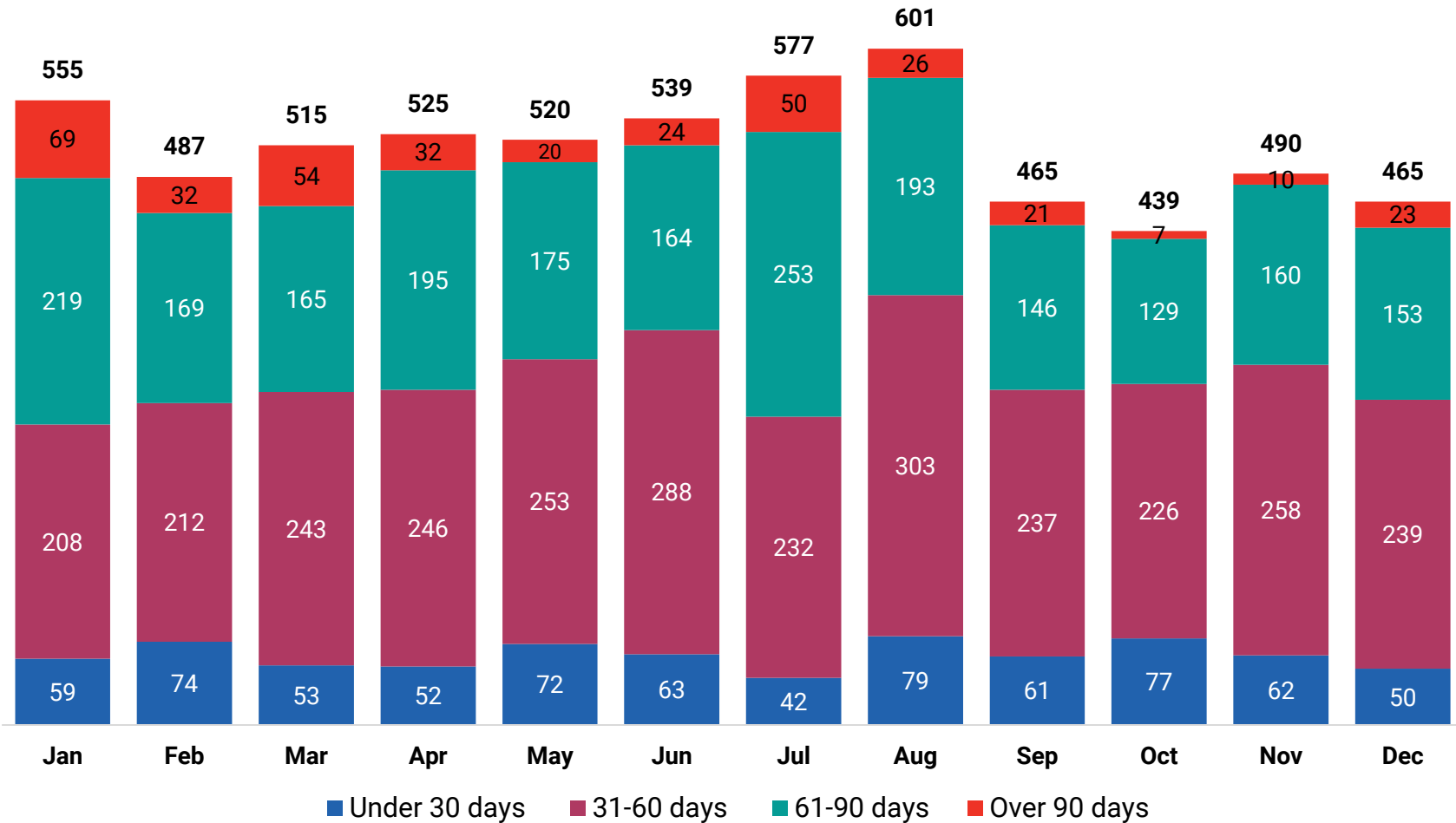


Initial Assessments (IA) and Independent Investigations (January–December 2023)

- **6,076** IAs completed
- **102** Independent Investigations completed
- An average of **65** DMCPs staff completed an average of **506** 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

Number of Days to Complete Initial Assessments and Independent Investigations by Month (January-December 2023)



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

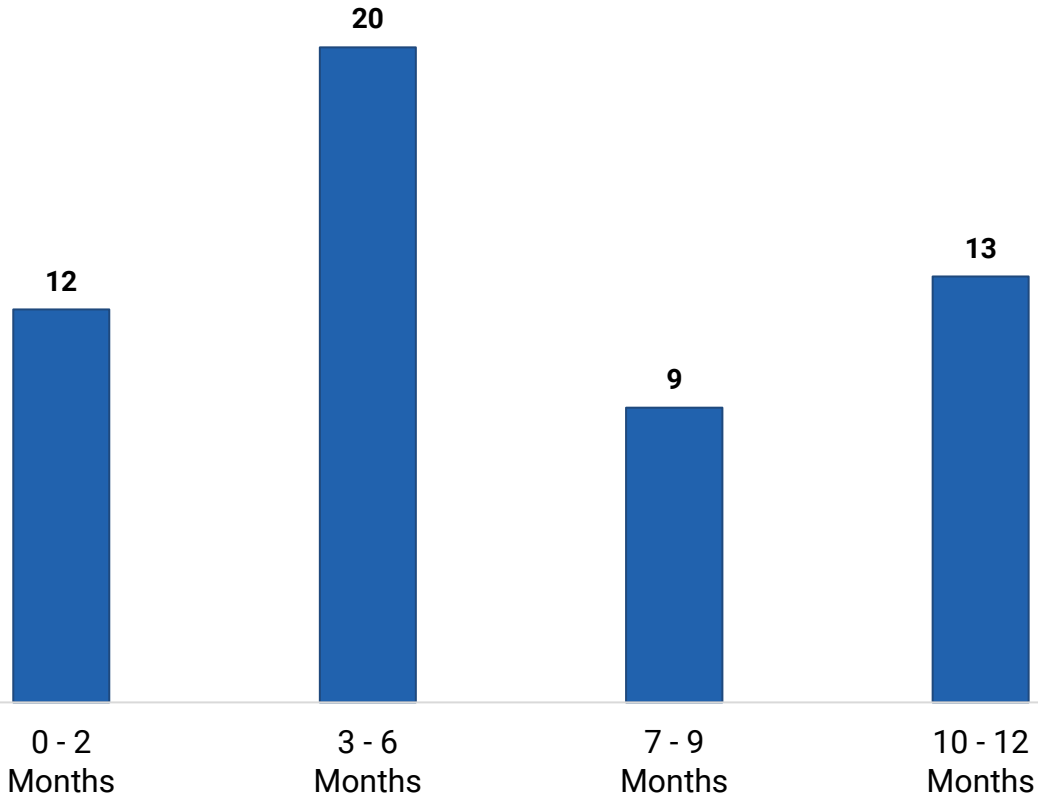
- **3,689 (59.7%)** of 6,178 of the Initial Assessments and Independent Investigations were completed within 60 days

Initial Assessment Staffing:

- At the beginning of 2023, there were **73** initial assessment specialists (IAS)
- **27** IAS were hired, and **23** IAS separated employment resulting in a turnover rate of **23.0%** for calendar year 2023

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

Number of Children who Re-Entered Out-of-Home Care by Length of Time between Discharge and Re-Entry (January - December 2023)



Re-Entry (January-December 2023):

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

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

- 95.9% of 19,451 expected visits occurred

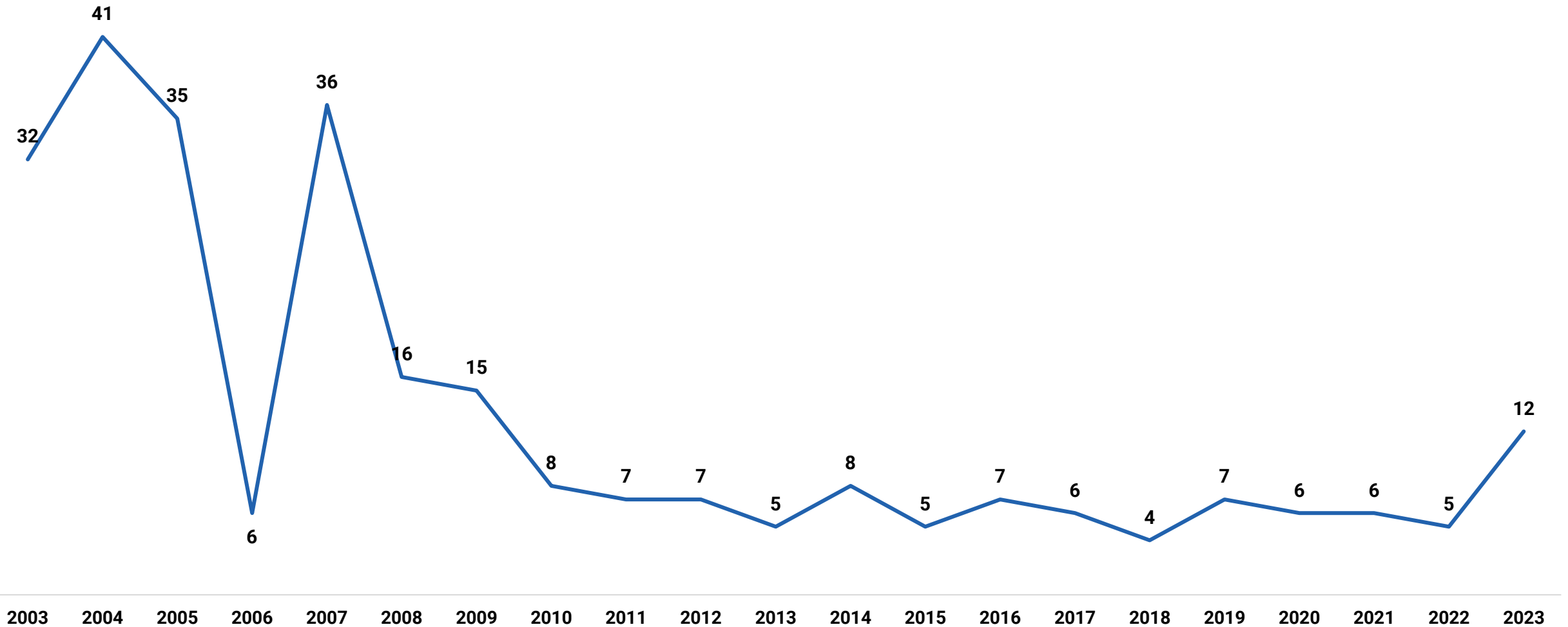
Maltreatment by Provider to Child(ren) in OHC (January-December 2023)

- 12 children were abused while in OHC
 - 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)
 - 3 y/o Physical Abuse (General Foster Home-NR)
 - 5 y/o Physical Abuse (General Foster Home-NR)
 - 4 y/o Physical Abuse (General Foster Home-NR)
 - 1 y/o Neglect (Court-Ordered Kinship)
 - 6 y/o Neglect (Unlicensed-NR)
 - 7 y/o Neglect (General Foster Home-Relative)
 - 11 y/o Neglect (Unlicensed-NR)

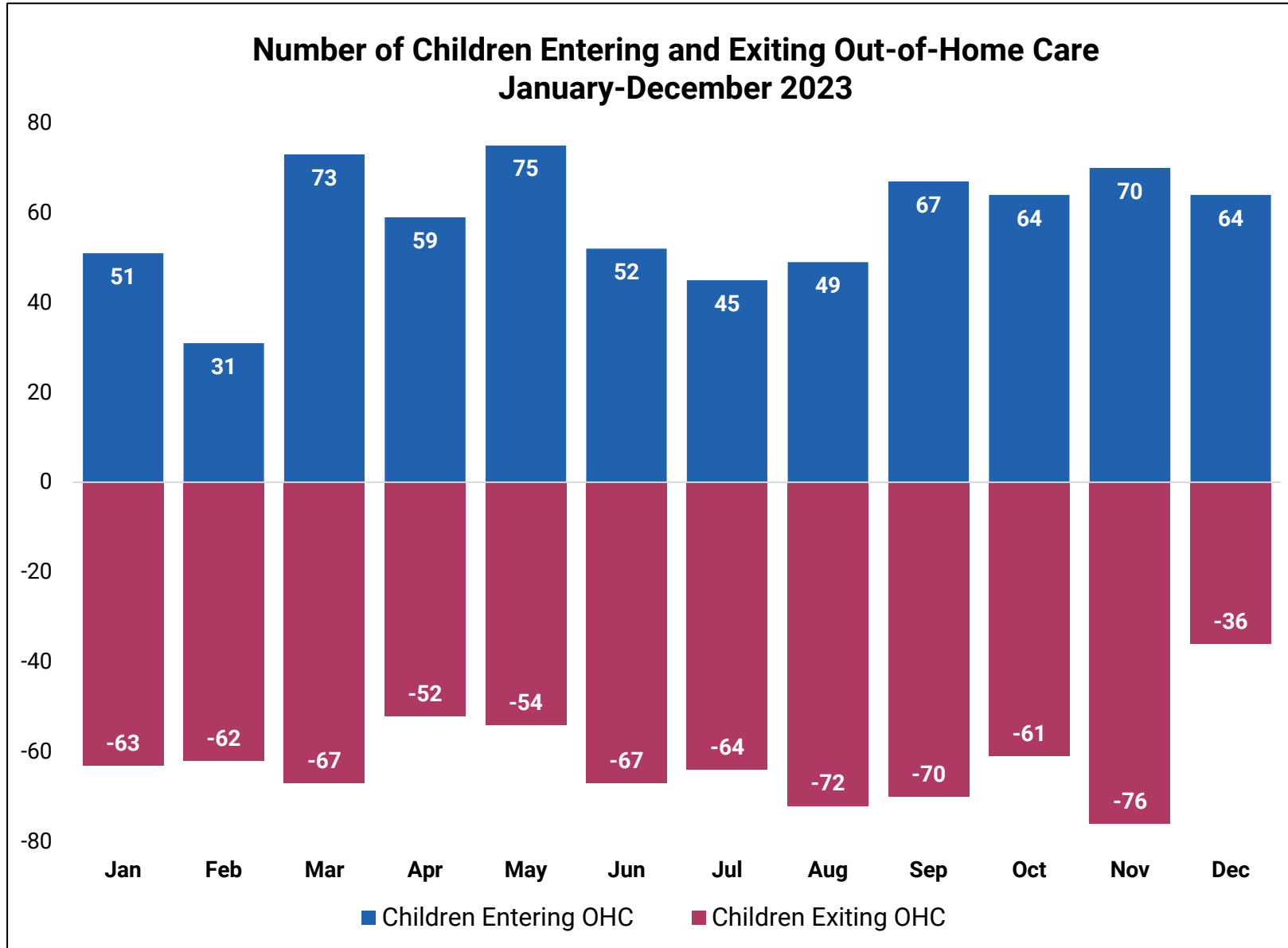
NR is Non-Relative

Safety: Maltreatment over Time

Number of Victims of Substantiated Maltreatment while in OHC
(2003-2023)



Permanency: Entries into Out-of-Home Care

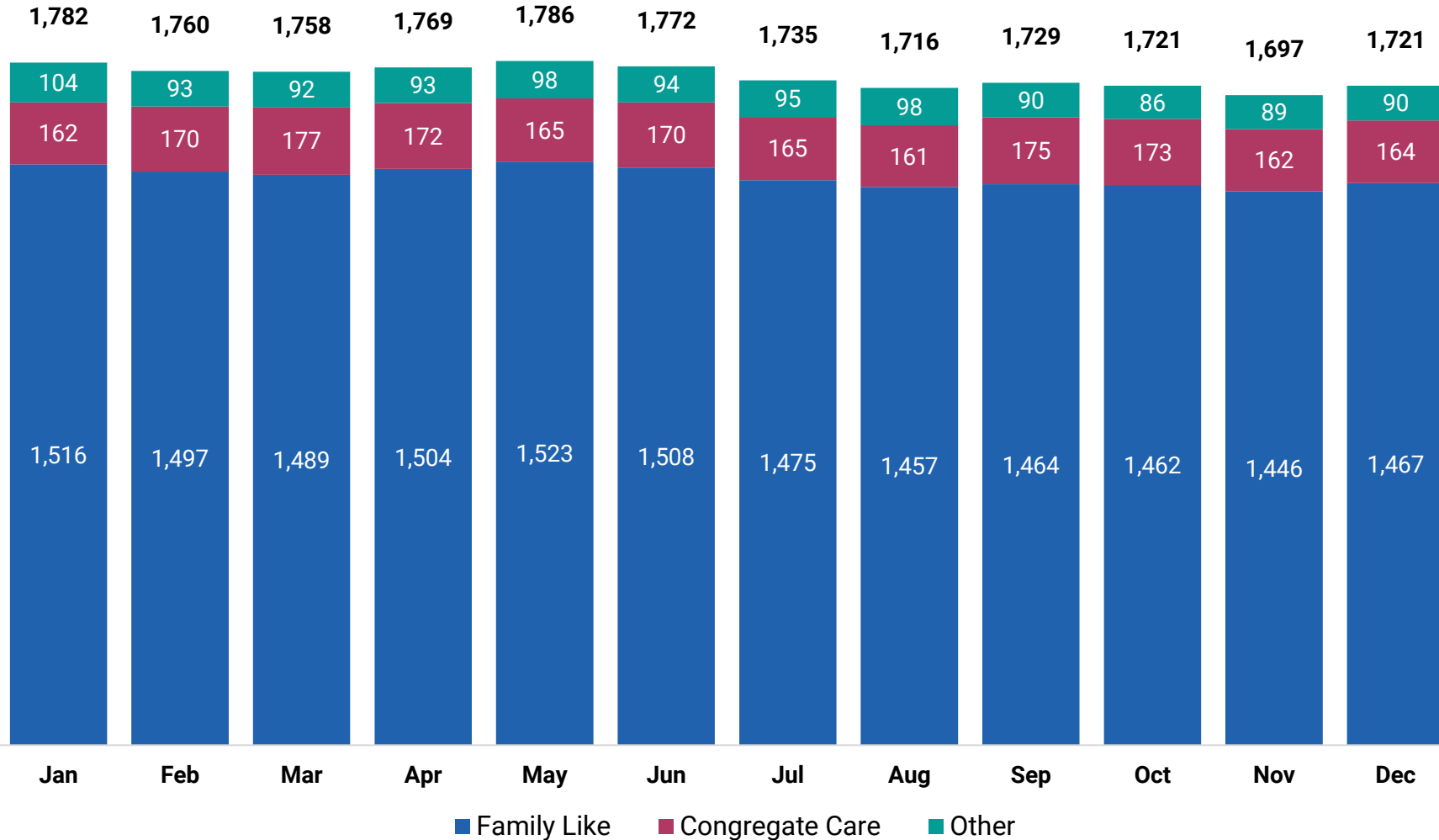


Entries in Out-of-Home Care (January-December 2023):

- At the beginning of 2023, there were **1,802** children in OHC
- On average per month, **58** children entered OHC and **62** children exited OHC
- At the end of 2023, there were **1,721** children in OHC

Permanency: Placement Groups

Number of Children in OHC by Placement Grouping and Month
January-December 2023



Placement Types

(January-December 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

Relative Placements:

(January-December 2023):

- On average, **39.1%** of children were placed with relatives

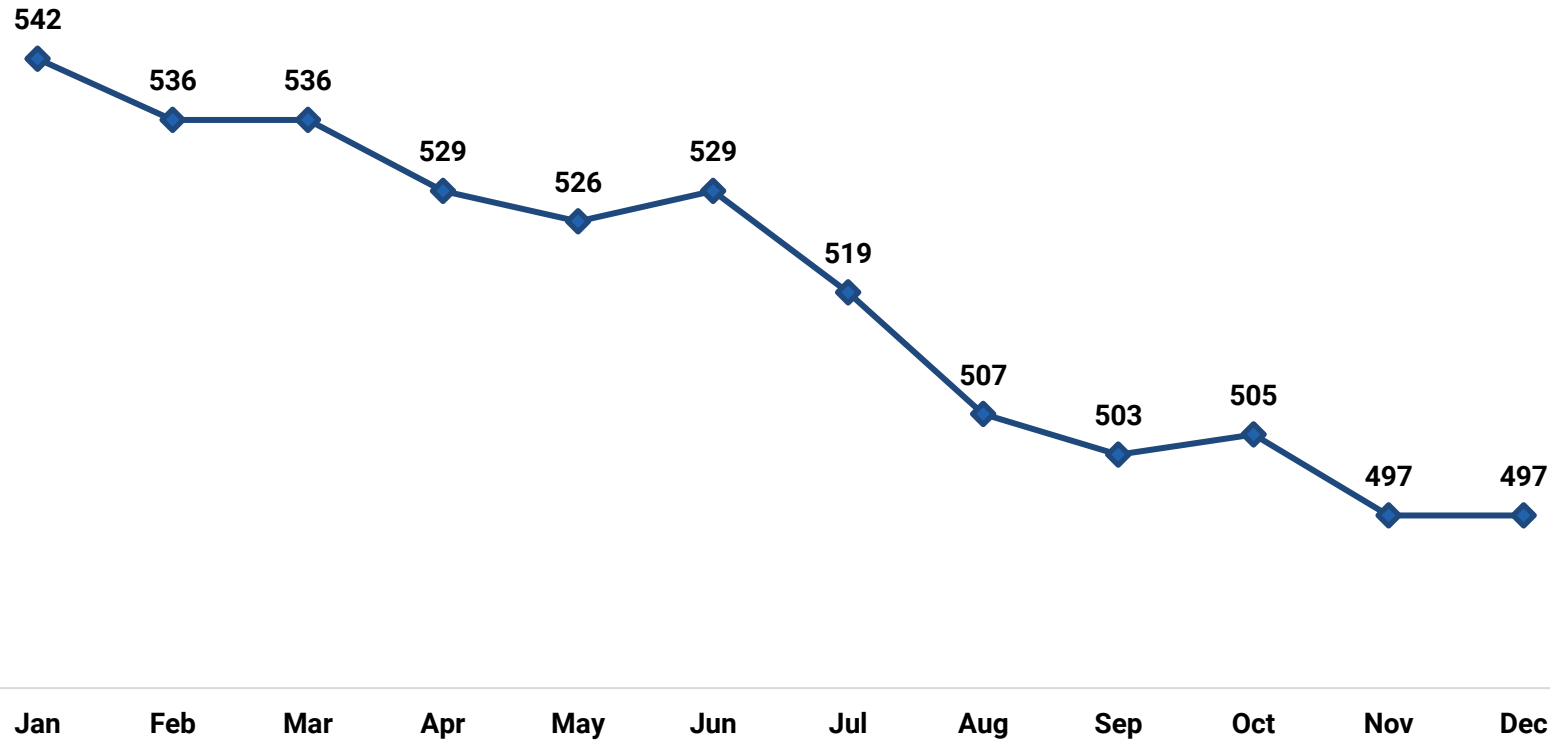
Youth 12 years and older

(January-December 2023):

- On average, **533** children
- Of these children, **53.3%** were placed in a family setting

Permanency: Foster Homes

Number of Foster Homes (Active & On Hold)
(January - December 2023)

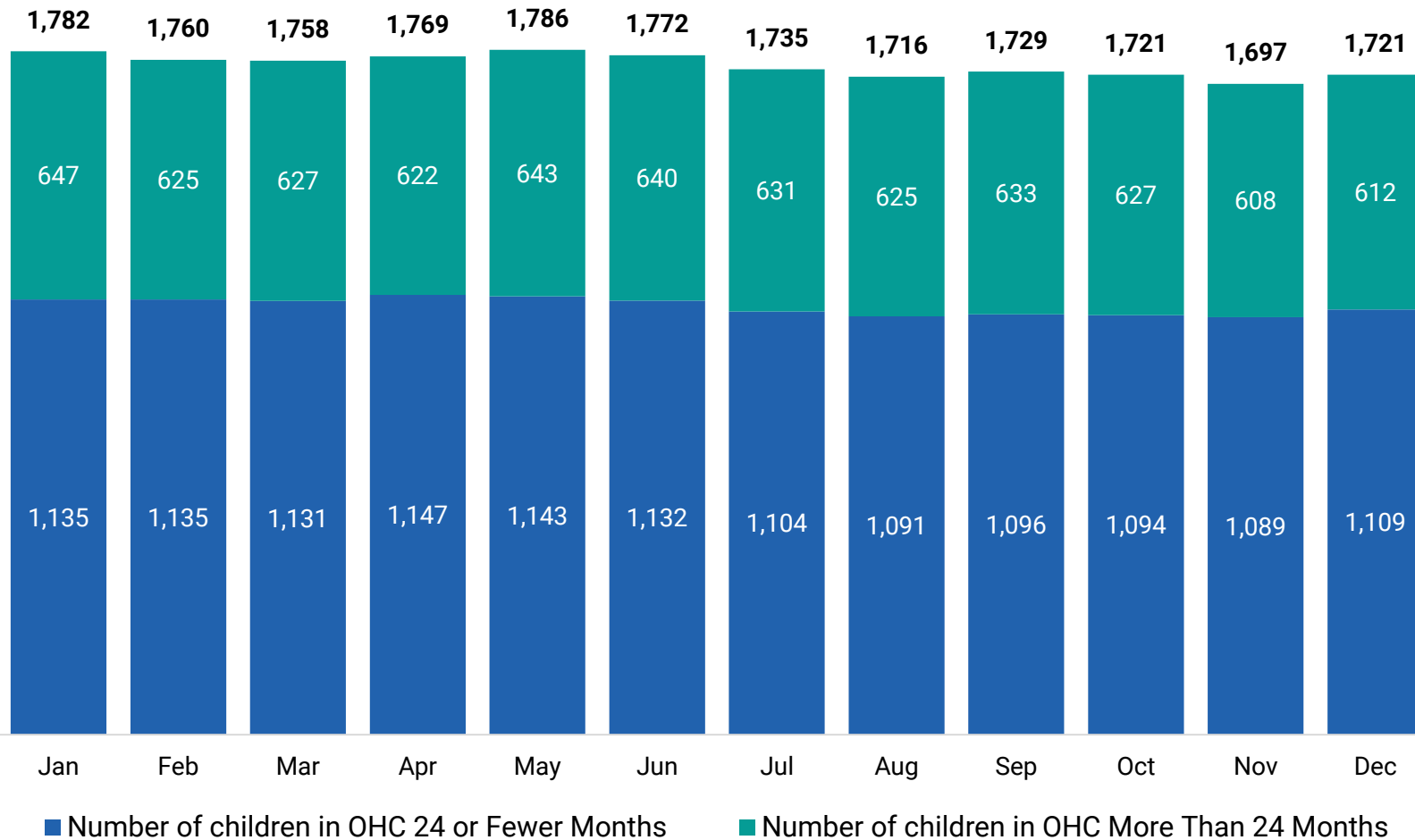


Foster Homes (January – December 2023)

- **519** foster homes (annual average)
- **167** providers newly licensed
- **211** providers licenses were closed

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

**Number of Children in OHC by Length of Time and Month
January-December 2023**

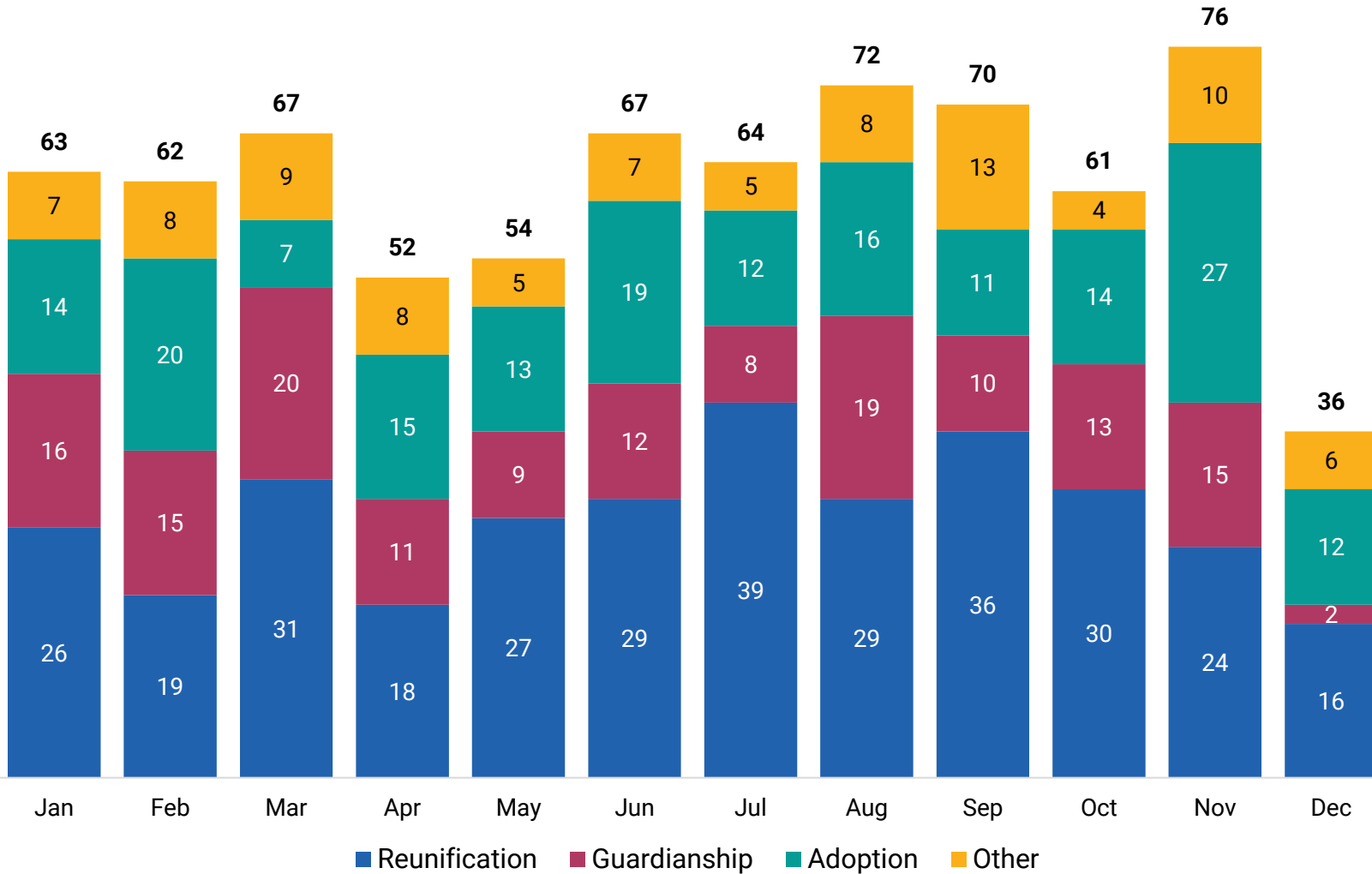


Length of Stay (January-December 2023):

- **1,746** is the semi-annual average number of children in out-of-home care (OHC)
- **628 (36.0%)** is the semi-annual average number of children in OHC longer than 24 months.

Permanency: Discharge Reasons

Number of Children who Discharged from OHC
by Month and Discharge Type (January-December 2023)



Discharge Reasons (January-December 2023):

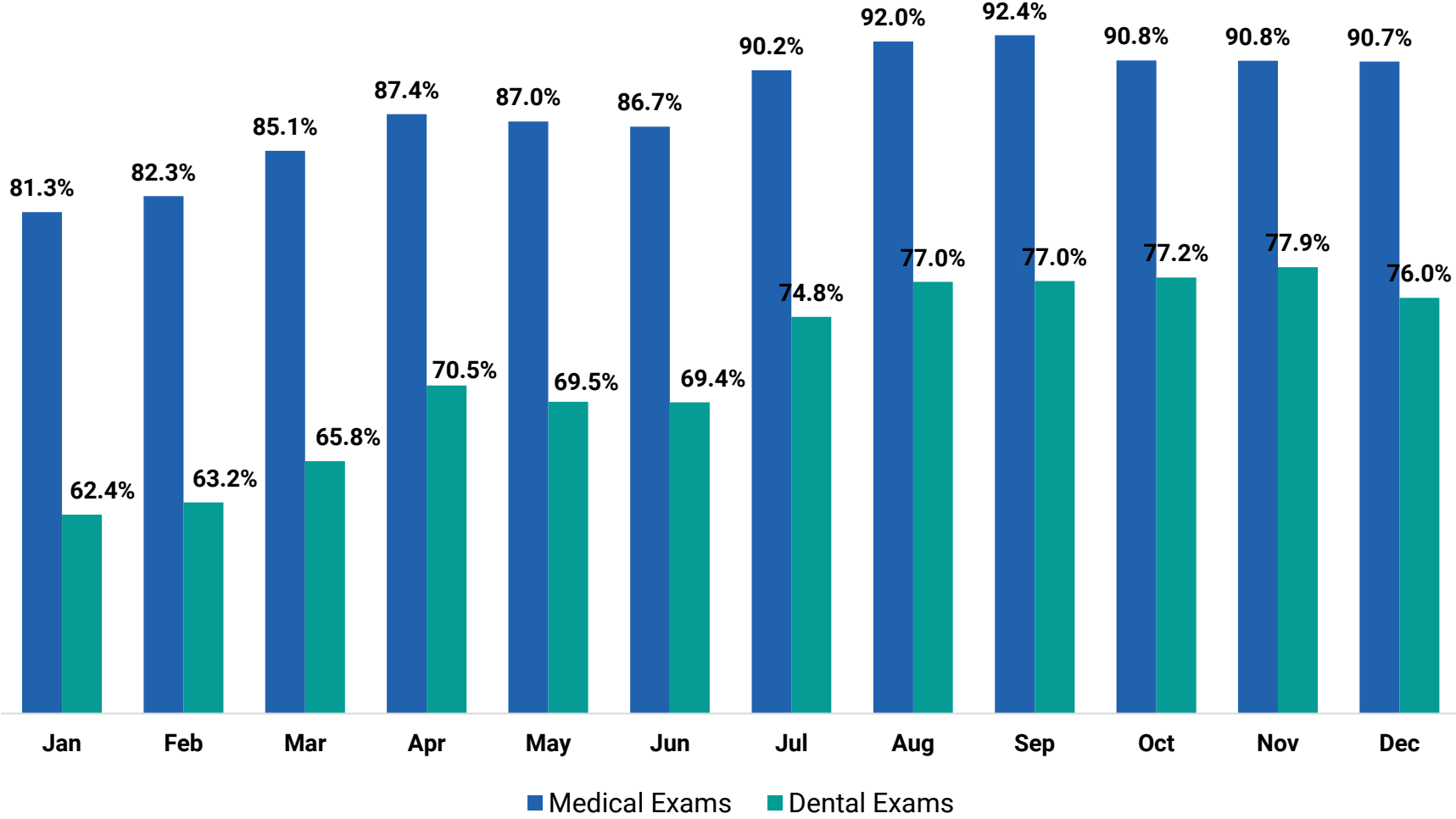
- **744** children discharged from Out-of-home Care
 - **324** to reunification
 - **150** to guardianship
 - **180** to adoption
 - **90** to other

Timeliness to Permanency (January-December 2023):

- **135 of 324 (41.7%)** reunified within 12 months
- **64 of 150 (42.7%)** had a guardianship within 24 months
- **49 of 180 (27.2%)** children were adopted within 24 months

Well-being: Annual Medical and Dental Exams

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



Medical (January-December 2023):

- On average per month, **1,547** of **1,757** children (**88.0%**) were current and documented their annual medical exams

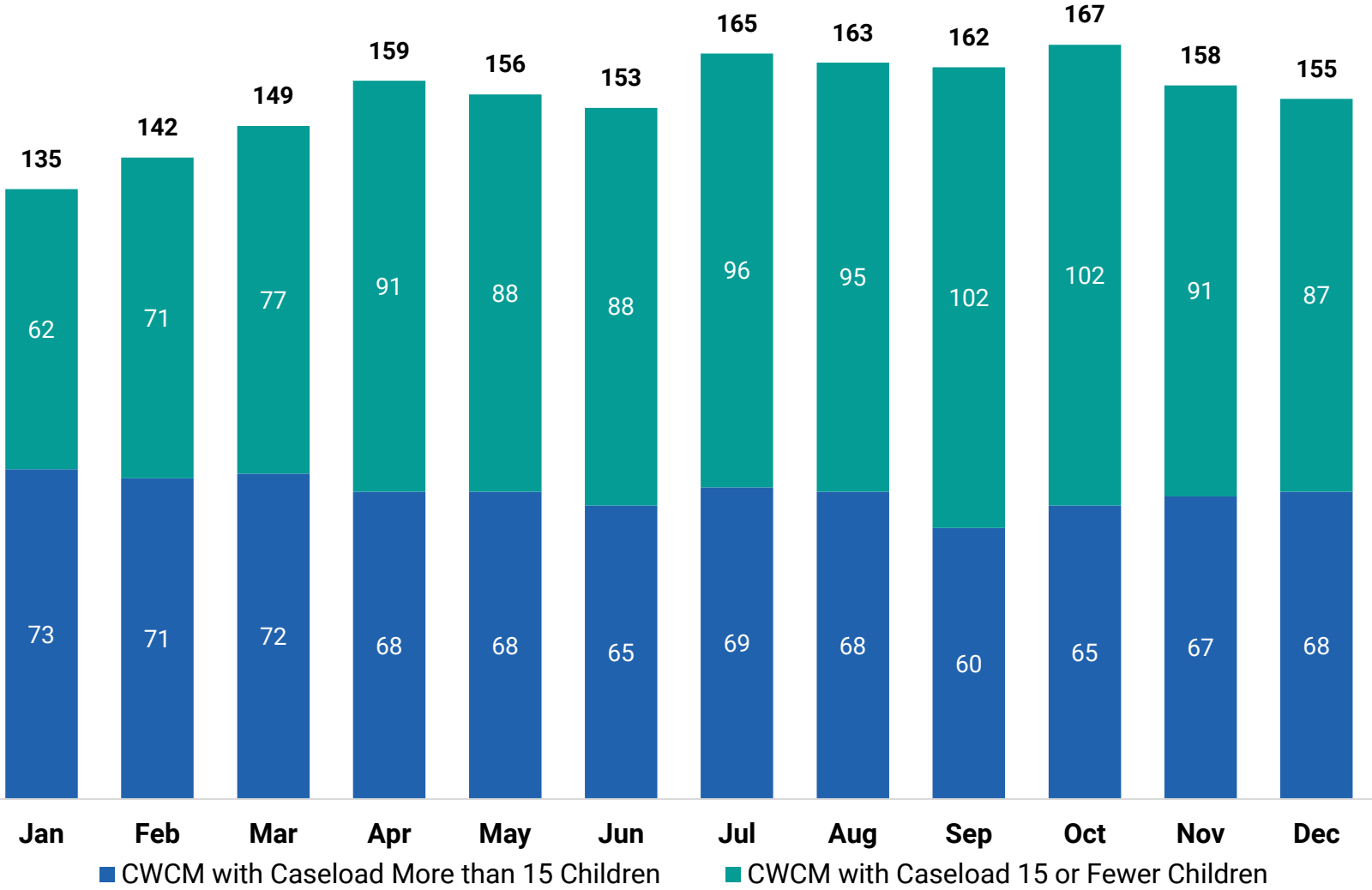
Dental (January-December 2023):

- On average per month, **1,031** of **1,437** children (**71.7%**) were current and documented their annual dental exams

Workforce: Child Welfare Case Manager Staffing and Caseload



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



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

- At the beginning of 2023, there were **143** child welfare case managers
- **80** staff were hired
- **59** staff separated employment
- At the end of 2023, there were **164** child welfare case managers
- **26.5%** staff turnover rate

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

- On a yearly average, **67.8** of **155.3** (**43.7%**) case carrying child welfare case managers (CWCM) had more than 15 children on their caseload

Summary of Performance – Key Takeaways

- The screen-in rate for 2023 was 42.2%. This is the lowest rate reported dating back to 2007 (consistent with the statewide trend)
- Fifty-four children re-entered OHC within 12 months (19 more than 2022)
- Twelve children were victims of maltreatment while in OHC
- The total number of children in OHC continues to decrease (1,721 children at the end of 2023)
- Staffing of initial assessment specialists (IAS) and child welfare case managers (CWCMs) showed significant improvement and stabilized from the prior two years
- Caseloads improved and the number of CWCMs with more than 15 children on their caseload decreased significantly from last year



***Any
questions?***



Upcoming Changes for the next Independent Monitoring Report

- Propose eliminating decimal points throughout the report (round to the nearest integer)
- Report (and presentation) will be easier to read



Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services

2023 Annual Independent Monitoring Report

(January through December 2023)

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