

Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS)

Annual Independent Monitoring Report (IMR) (2024)

Prepared by:

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Division of Management Services
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Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

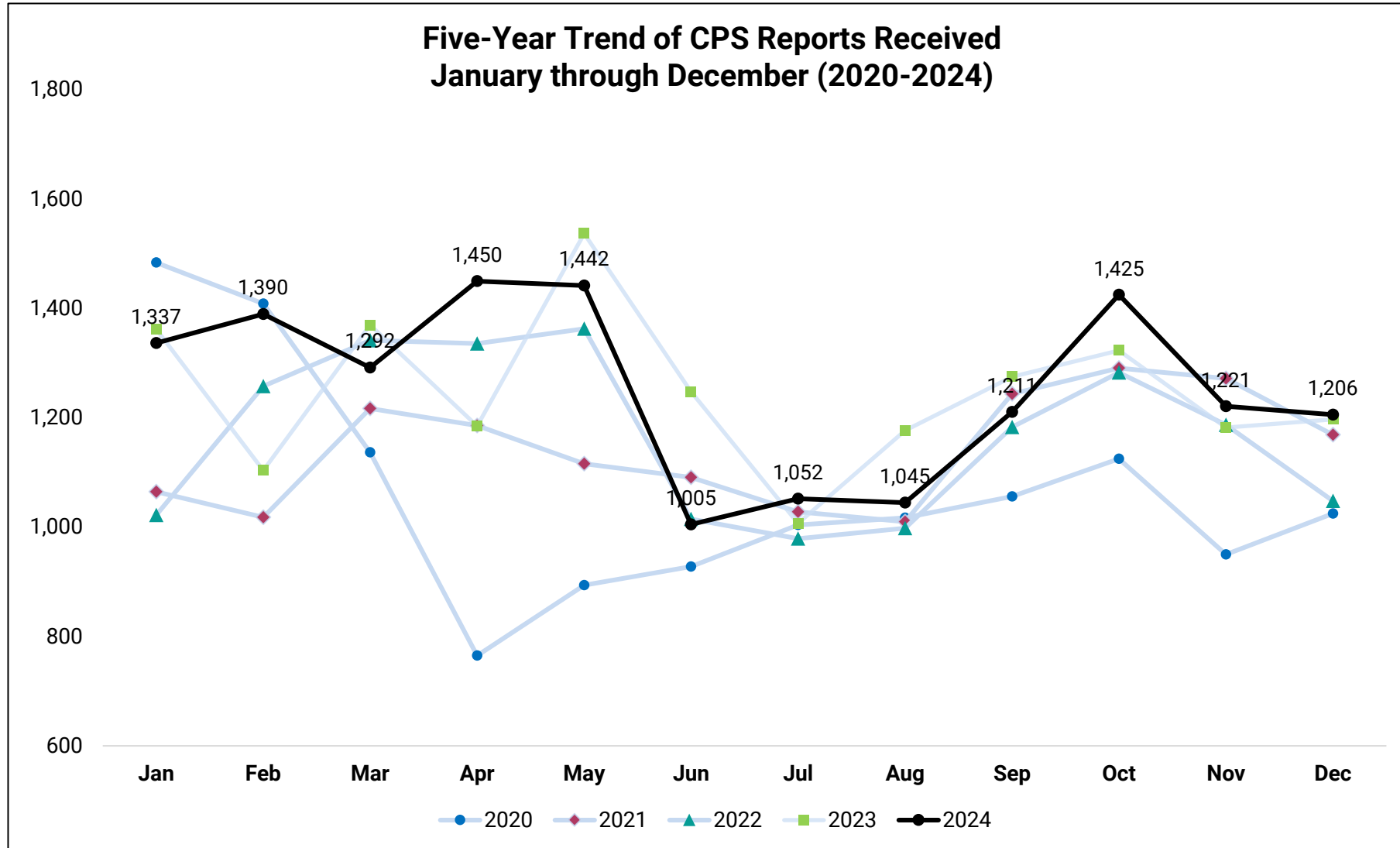
Background and Purpose

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 December (2020 through 2024)

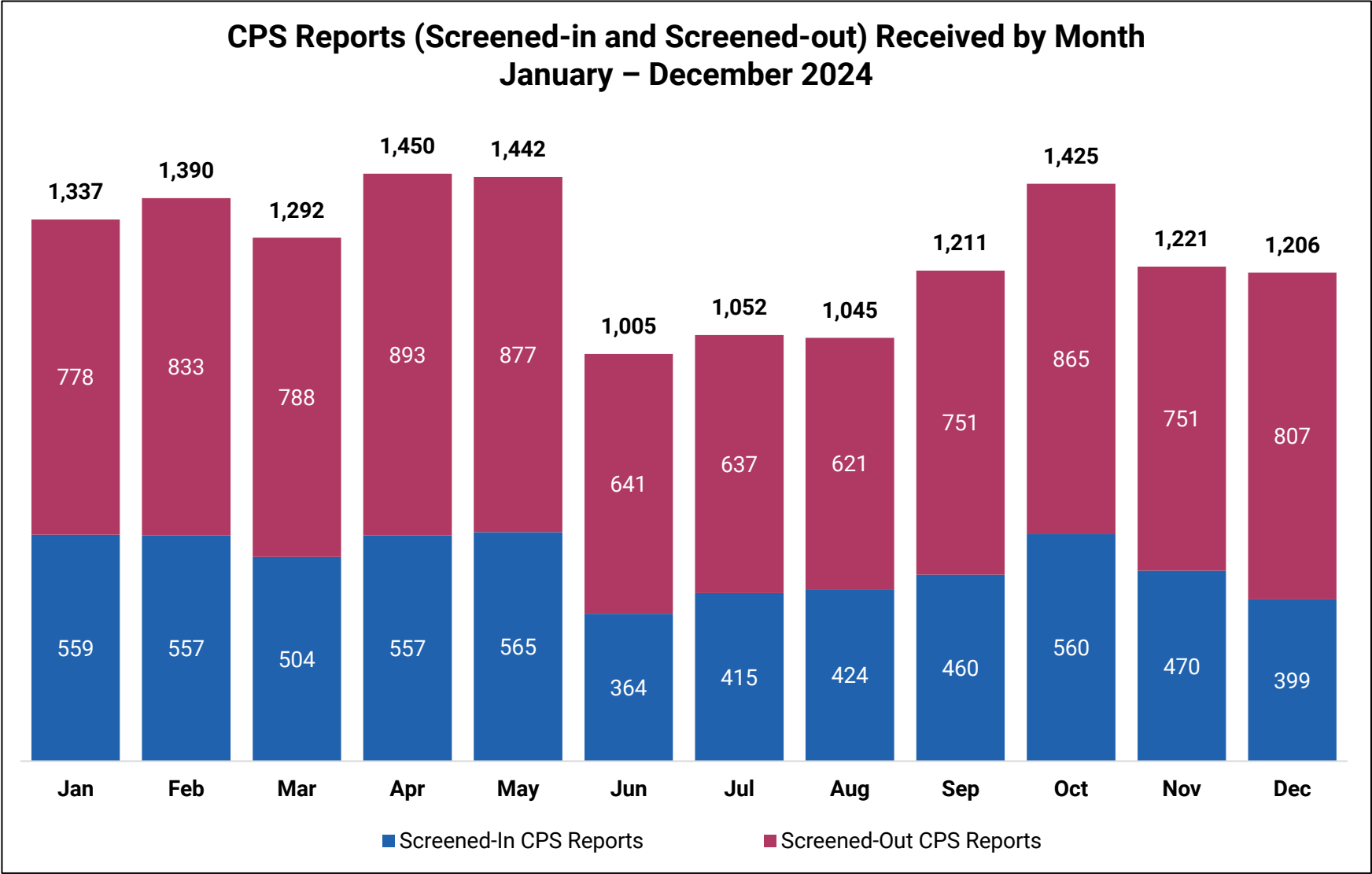


Five-Year Trend of CPS Reports by Year (2020-2024):

- A total of **15,076** CPS Reports were received from January through December 2024
- There were **109** more (**<1% increase**) CPS Reports received in 2024 than in 2023

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

CPS Reports (Screened-in and Screened-out) Received by Month
January – December 2024



CPS Reports by Month (January-December 2024):

- On average, **1,256** CPS reports received per month
- On average, **486 (39%)** CPS Reports screened-in
- A total of **5,834** CPS reports were screened-in (**8% decrease** from 2023)

Response Times (average):

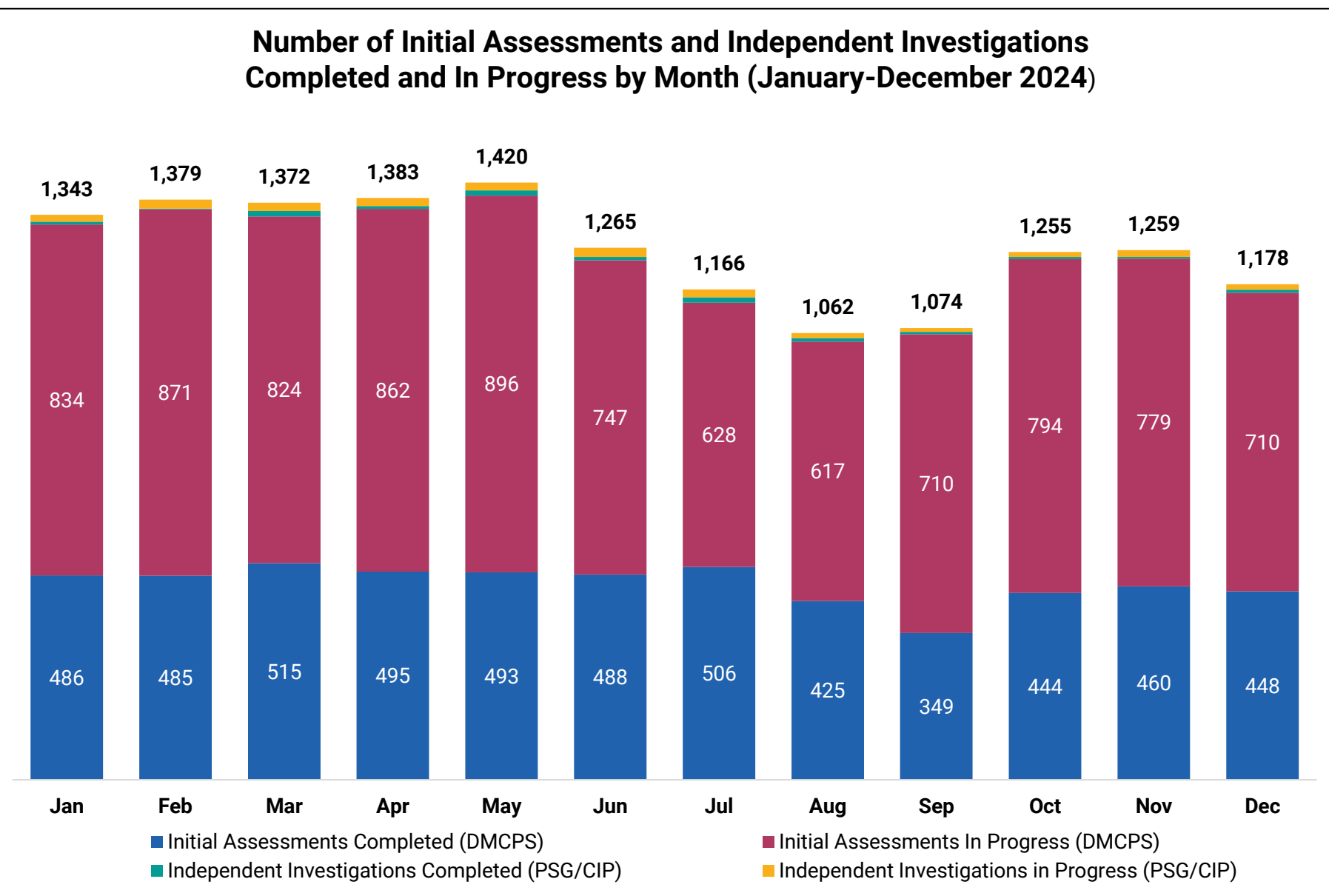
- **16%** Same Day
- **65%** within five business days

Reporters:

- **73%** of reports were received from mandated reporters

Initial Assessments and Independent Investigations

Number of Initial Assessments and Independent Investigations Completed and In Progress by Month (January-December 2024)

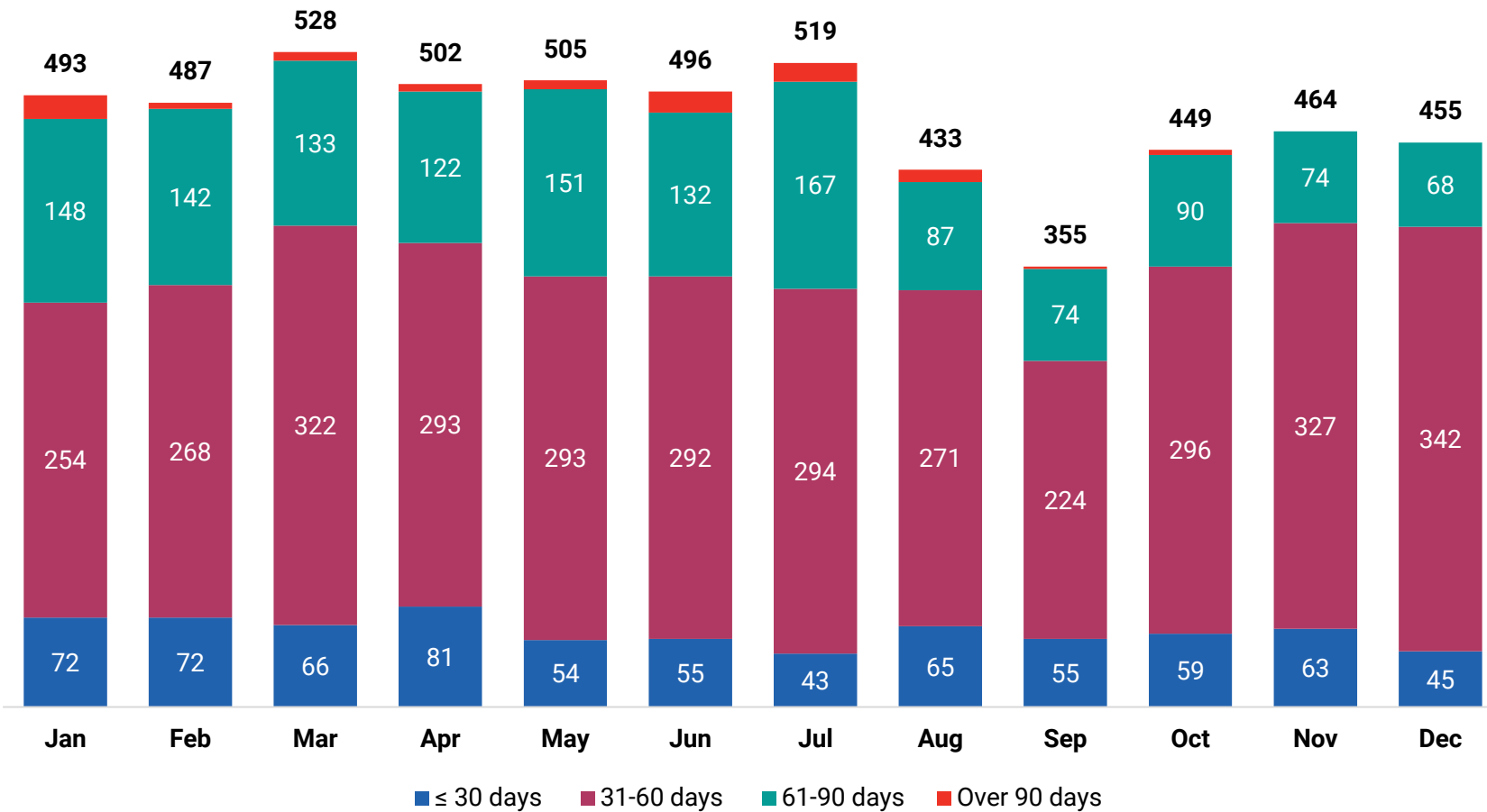


Initial Assessments (IA) and Independent Investigations (January-December 2024)

- **5,594** IAs completed
- **92** Independent Investigations completed
- An average of **74** DMCPs staff completed an average of **466** Initial Assessments per month
- An average of **three** Professional Services Group / Community Impact Programs (PSG/CIP) staff completed an average of **eight** 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 2024)



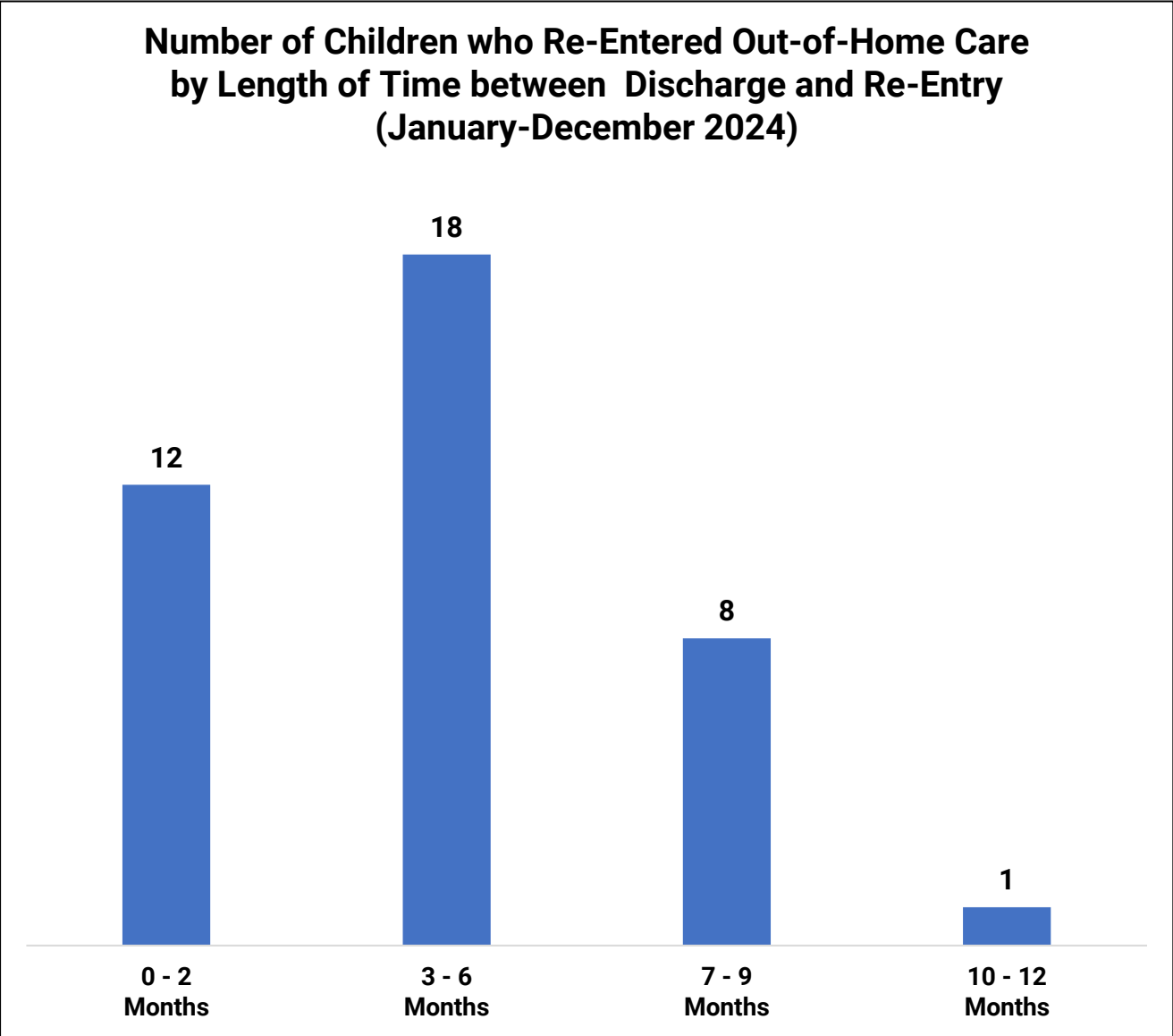
Timeliness of Completing Initial Assessments (IA) and Independent Investigations (January-December 2024):

- **4,206 (74%)** of 5,686 of the Initial Assessments and Independent Investigations were completed within 60 days

Initial Assessment Staffing:

- At the beginning of 2024, there were **77** initial assessment specialists (IAS)
- **29** IAS were hired, and **17** IAS separated employment resulting in a turnover rate of **16%** for calendar year 2024

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



Re-Entry (January-December 2024):

- 39 children re-entered out-of-home care within 12 months when their prior discharge was reunification or guardianship

Face-to-Face Contacts (January-December 2024):

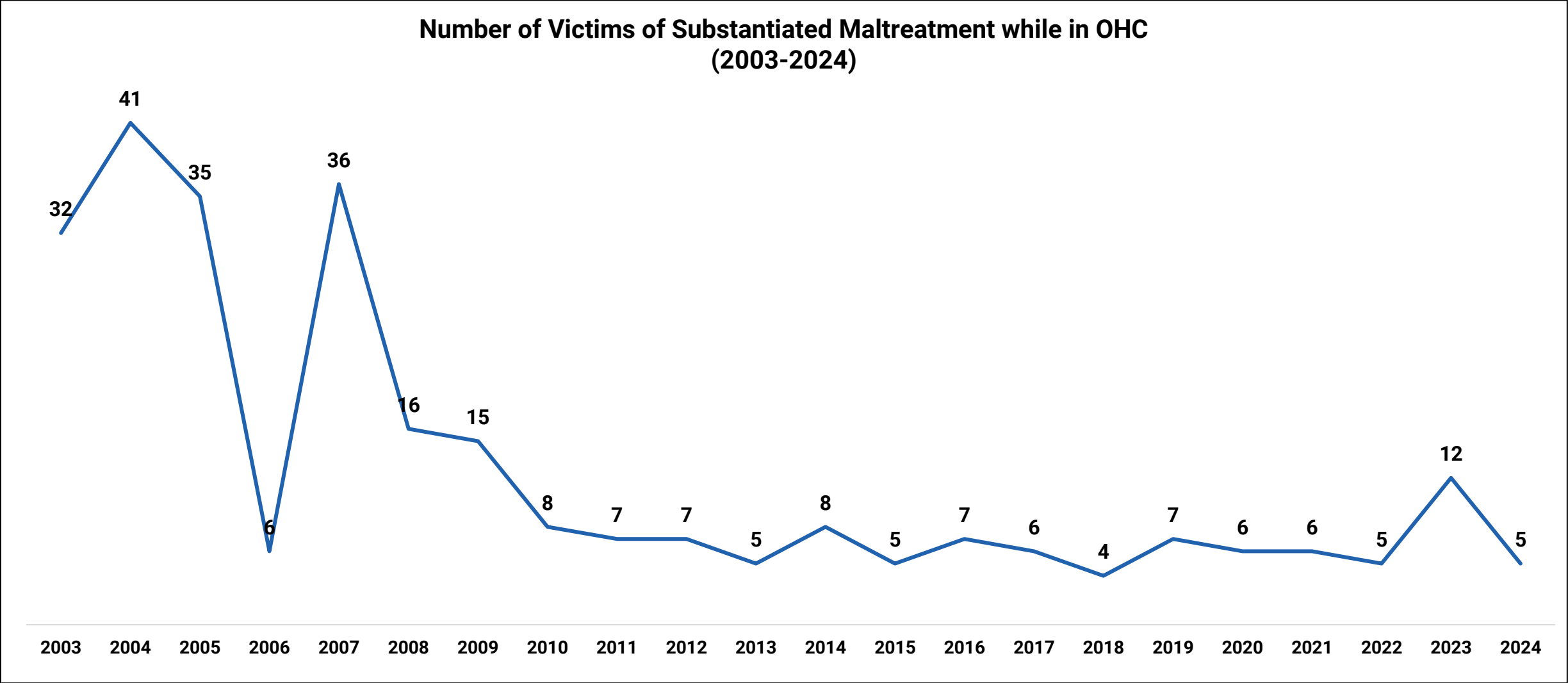
- 97% of the 20,005 expected visits occurred

Maltreatment by Provider to Child(ren) in OHC (January-December 2024)

- Five children were abused while in OHC:
 - 5 y/o Physical Abuse (Treatment Foster Home-NR)
 - 2 y/o Physical Abuse (General Foster Home-NR)
 - 6 y/o Sexual Abuse (Kinship)
 - 6 y/o Sexual Abuse (Kinship)
 - 4 y/o Neglect (General Foster Home-Relative)

NR is Non-Relative

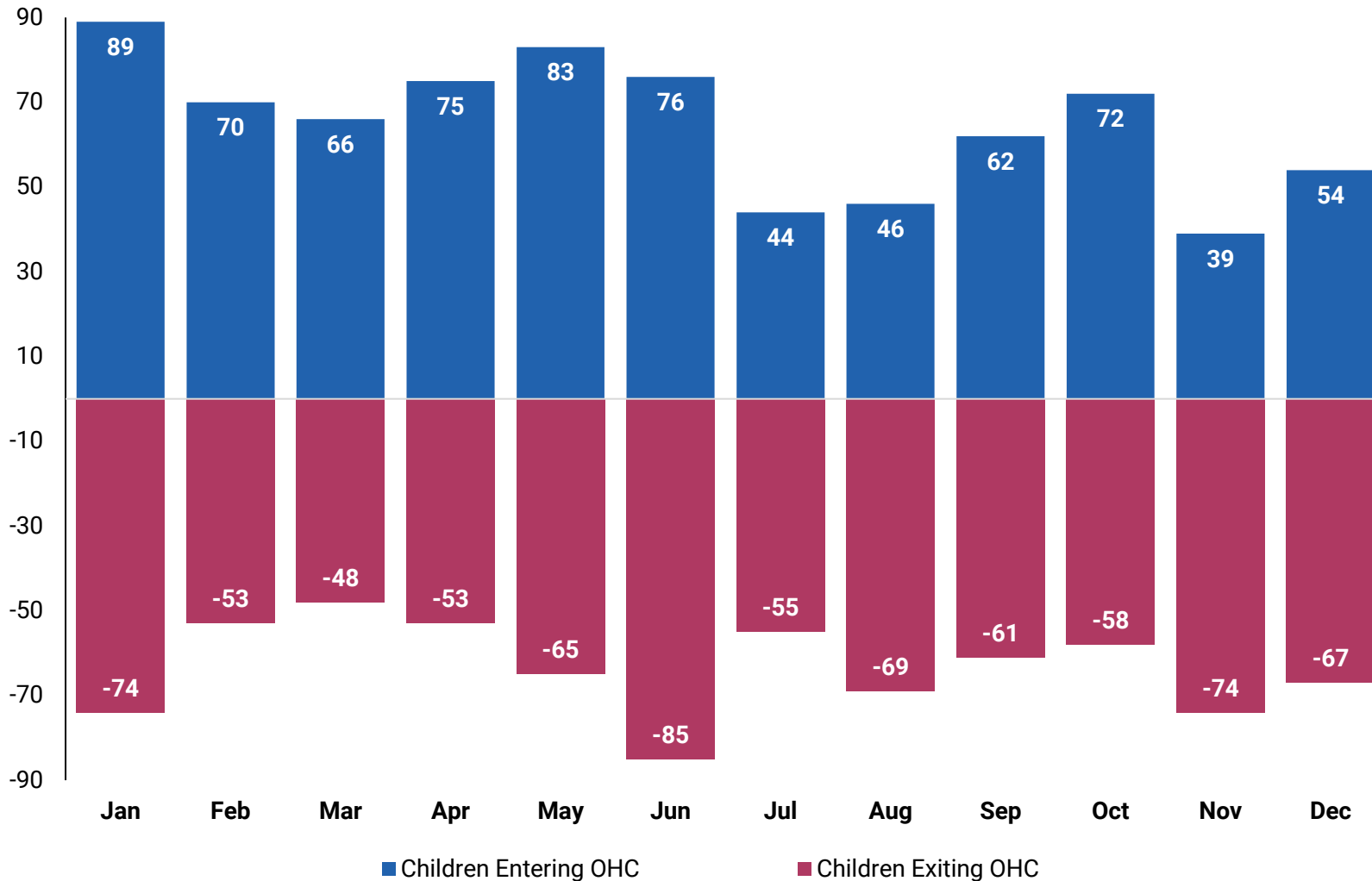
Safety: Maltreatment over Time



Source: Jeanine B. Settlement Agreement Annual Reports and Annual Independent Monitoring Reports (2003-2024)

Permanency: Entries into Out-of-Home Care

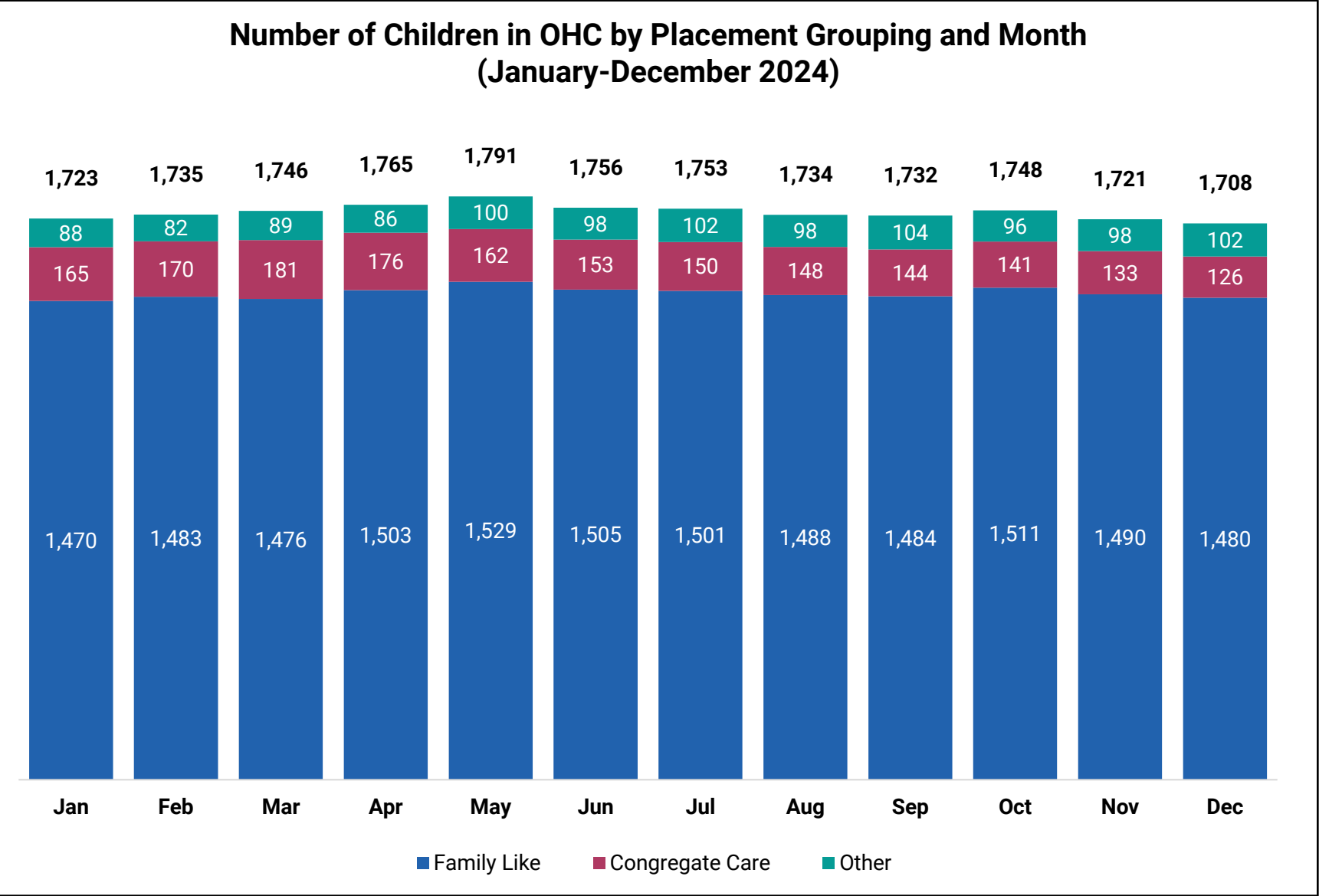
Number of Children Entering and Exiting Out-of-Home Care (January-December 2024)



Entries in Out-of-Home Care (January-December 2024):

- At the beginning of 2024, there were **1,721** children in OHC
- On average per month, **65** children entered OHC, and **64** children exited OHC
- At the end of 2024, there were **1,708** children in OHC

Permanency: Placement Groups



Placement Types

(January-December 2024):

- On average, **86%** of children were placed in a family-like settings
- On average, **9%** of children were placed in congregate care
- On average, **5%** of children were in other settings

Relative Placements:

(January-December 2024):

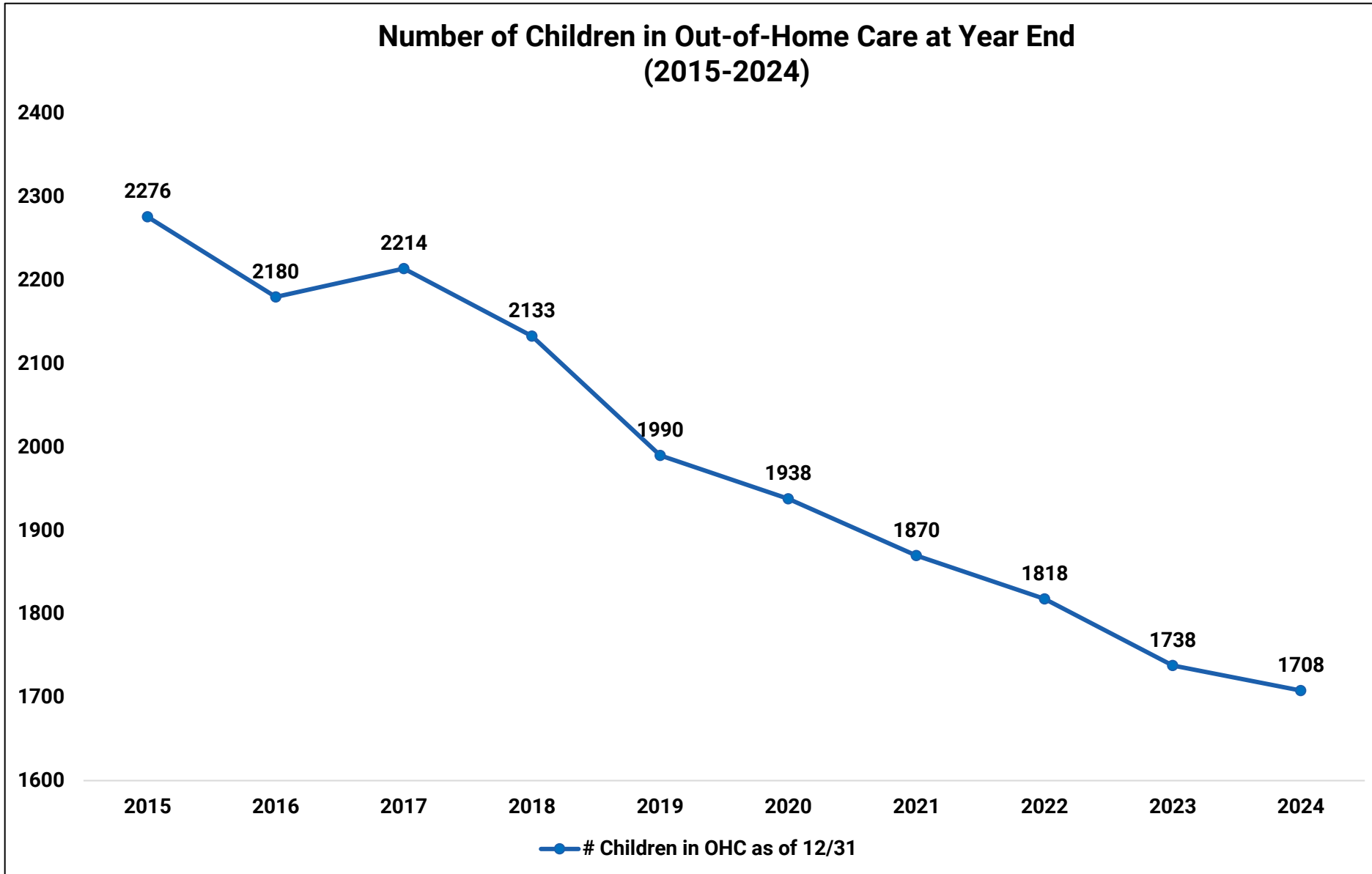
- On average, **39%** of children were placed with relatives

Youth 12 years and older

(January-December 2024):

- On average, **515** children
- Of these children, **53%** were placed in a family setting

Children in OHC in the last ten years

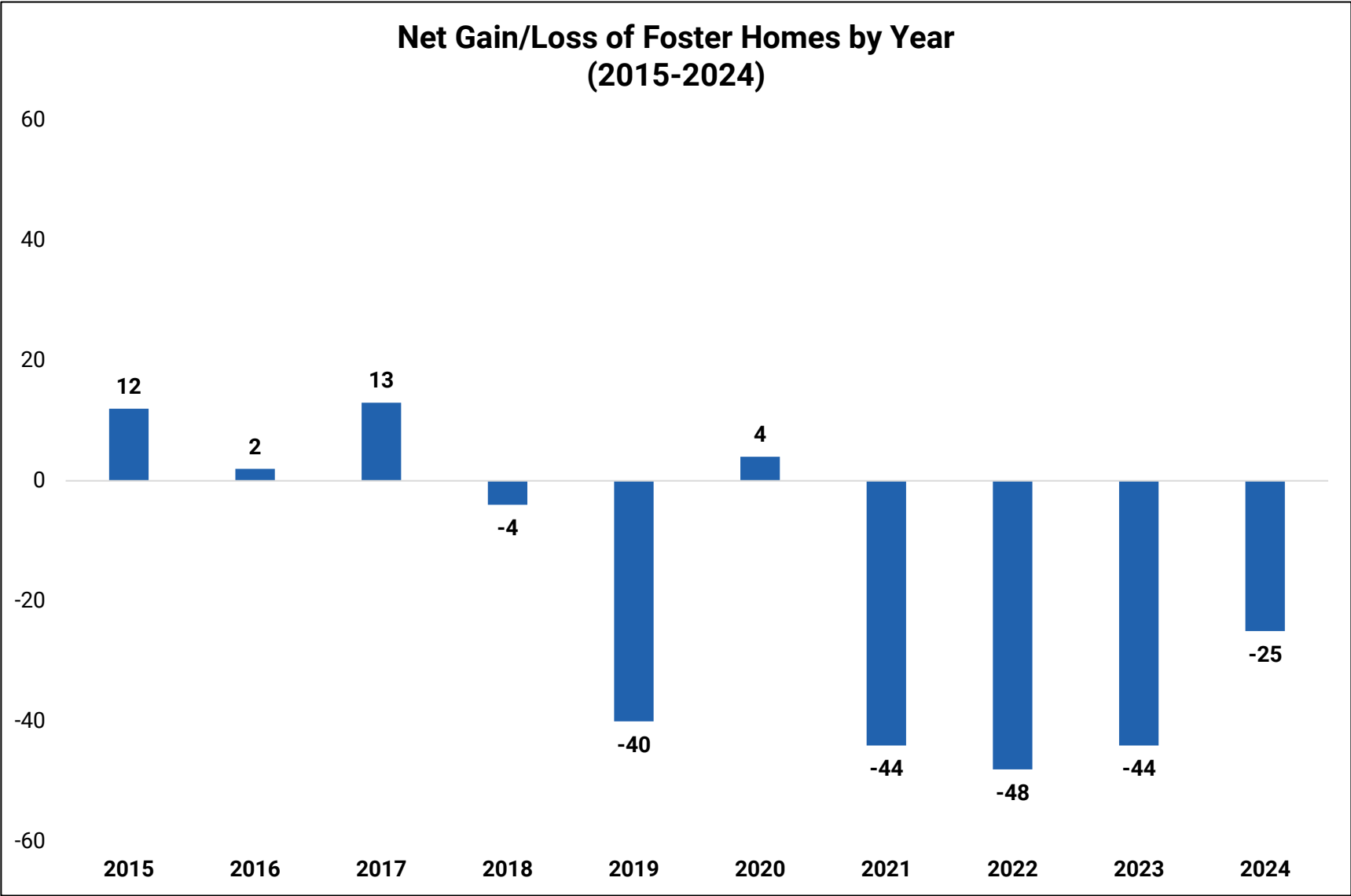


Children in Out-of-home care (2015-2024)

- At the end of 2015, there were 2276 children in OHC
- At the end of 2024; there were 1708 children in OHC
- **(25% decrease)**

Sources: Historical data (2015-2023) was obtained through OHC Dashboard (accessed 5/2/2025); 2024 data accessed using the SM10A113 Placement Count Milwaukee (monthly batch)

Permanency: Foster Homes in the last ten years

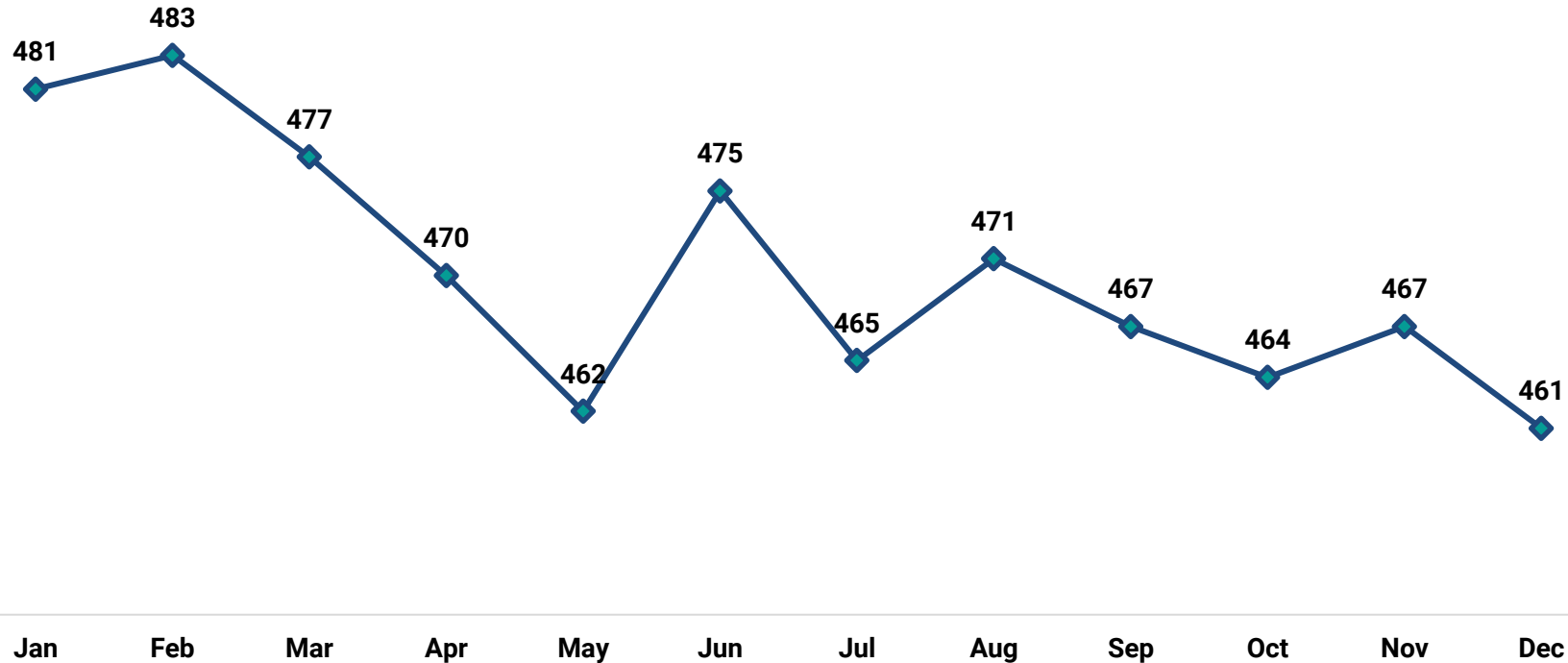


Foster Homes (2015-2024):

- At the beginning of 2015, there were 649 foster homes
- From 2015 through 2017 there was a net gain of foster homes
- In the last four years there were net losses of at least 25 licensed homes per year

Permanency: Foster Homes

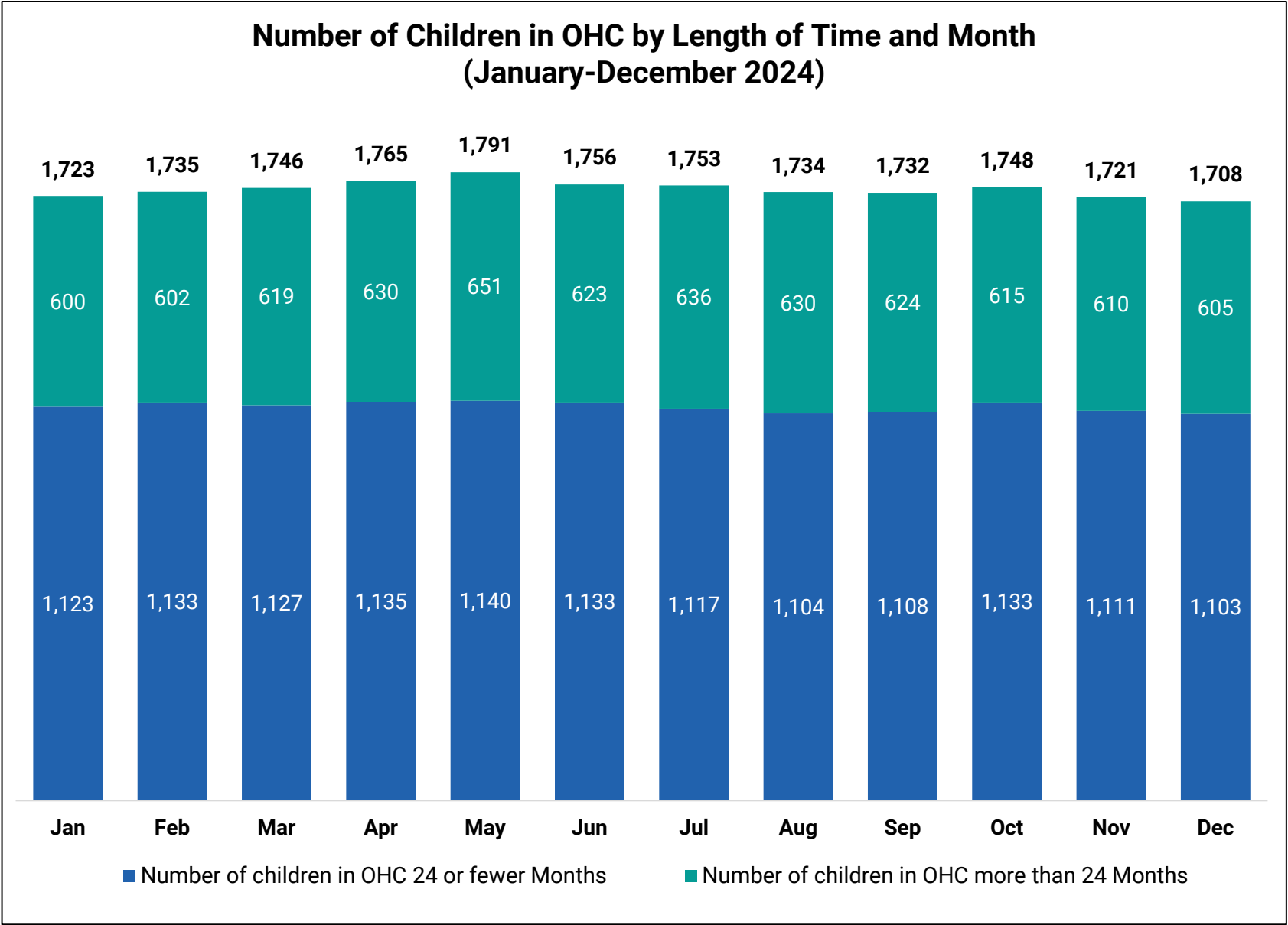
Number of Foster Homes (Active & On Hold)
(January-December 2024)



- Foster Homes
(January–December 2024)**
- **470** foster homes (annual average)
 - **191** providers newly licensed
 - **216** providers licenses were closed

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

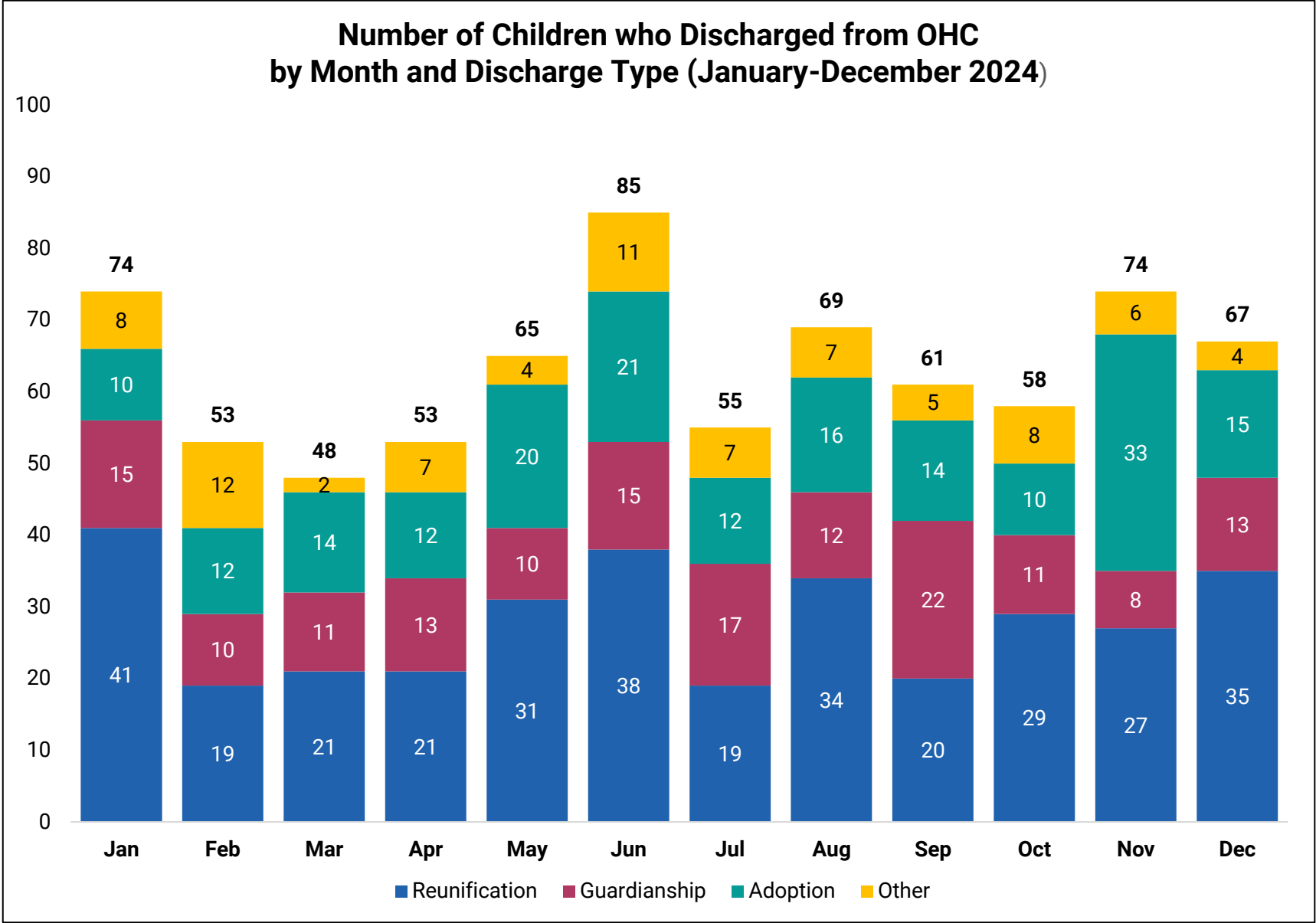
Number of Children in OHC by Length of Time and Month
(January-December 2024)



Length of Stay (January-December 2024):

- **1,743** is the annual average number of children in out-of-home care (OHC)
- **620 (36%)** is the annual average number of children in OHC greater than 24 months.

Permanency: Discharge Reasons



Discharge Reasons (January-December 2024):

- **762** children discharged from Out-of-home Care
 - **335** to reunification
 - **157** to guardianship
 - **189** to adoption
 - **81** to other

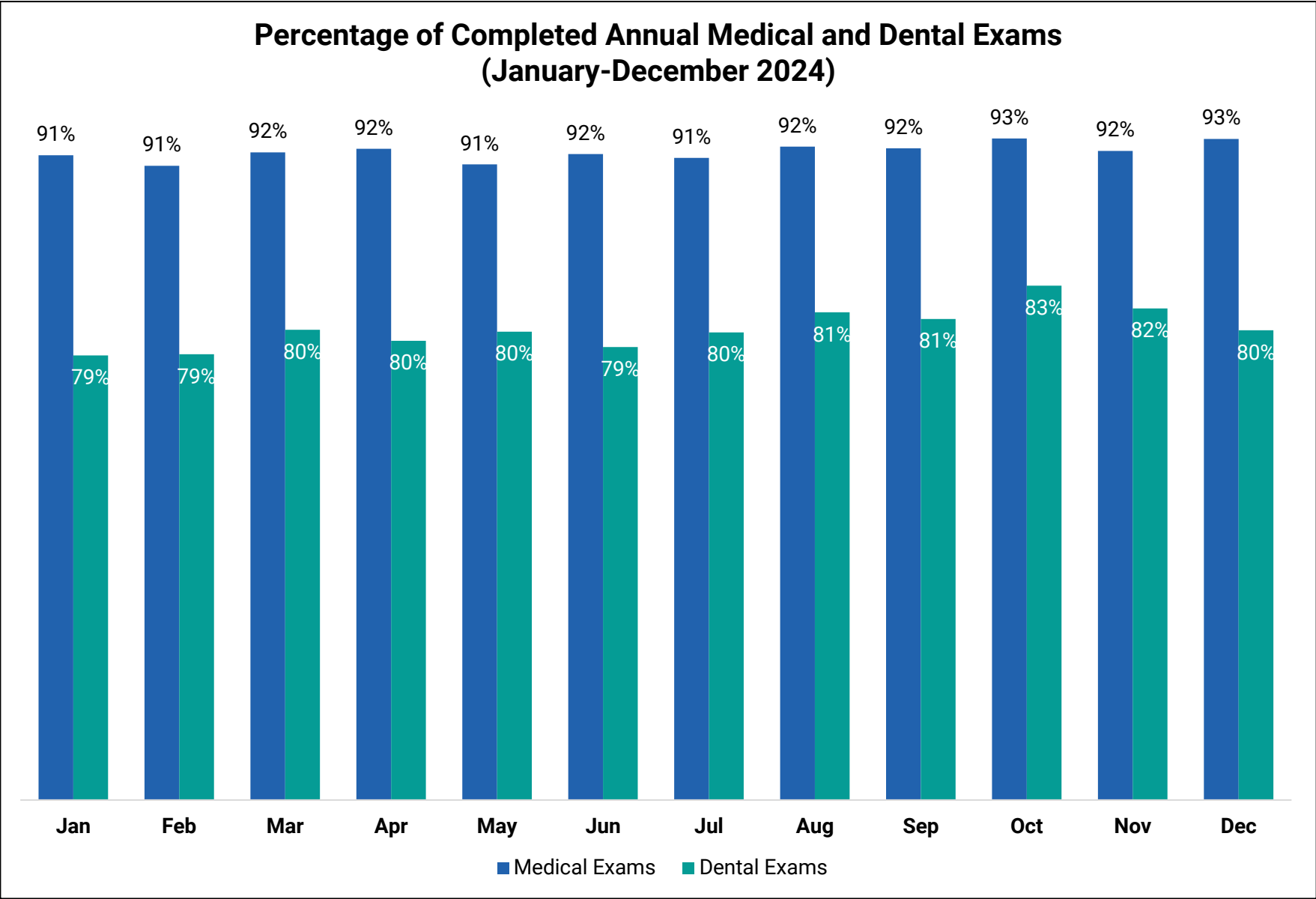
Timeliness to Permanency (January-December 2024):

- **141 of 335 (42%)** reunified within 12 months
- **66 of 157 (42%)** had a guardianship within 24 months
- **60 of 189 (32%)** children were adopted within 24 months

Source: SM10A114 Permanency Outcomes Milwaukee (monthly batch), agency verification, and Children’s Court reporting (adoption finalization report, Transfer of Guardianship caseload report, Termination of Parental Rights caseload report)

Well-being: Annual Medical and Dental Exams

Percentage of Completed Annual Medical and Dental Exams
(January-December 2024)



Medical (January-December 2024):

- On average per month, **1,605** of **1,751** children (**92%**) were current and documented their annual medical exams

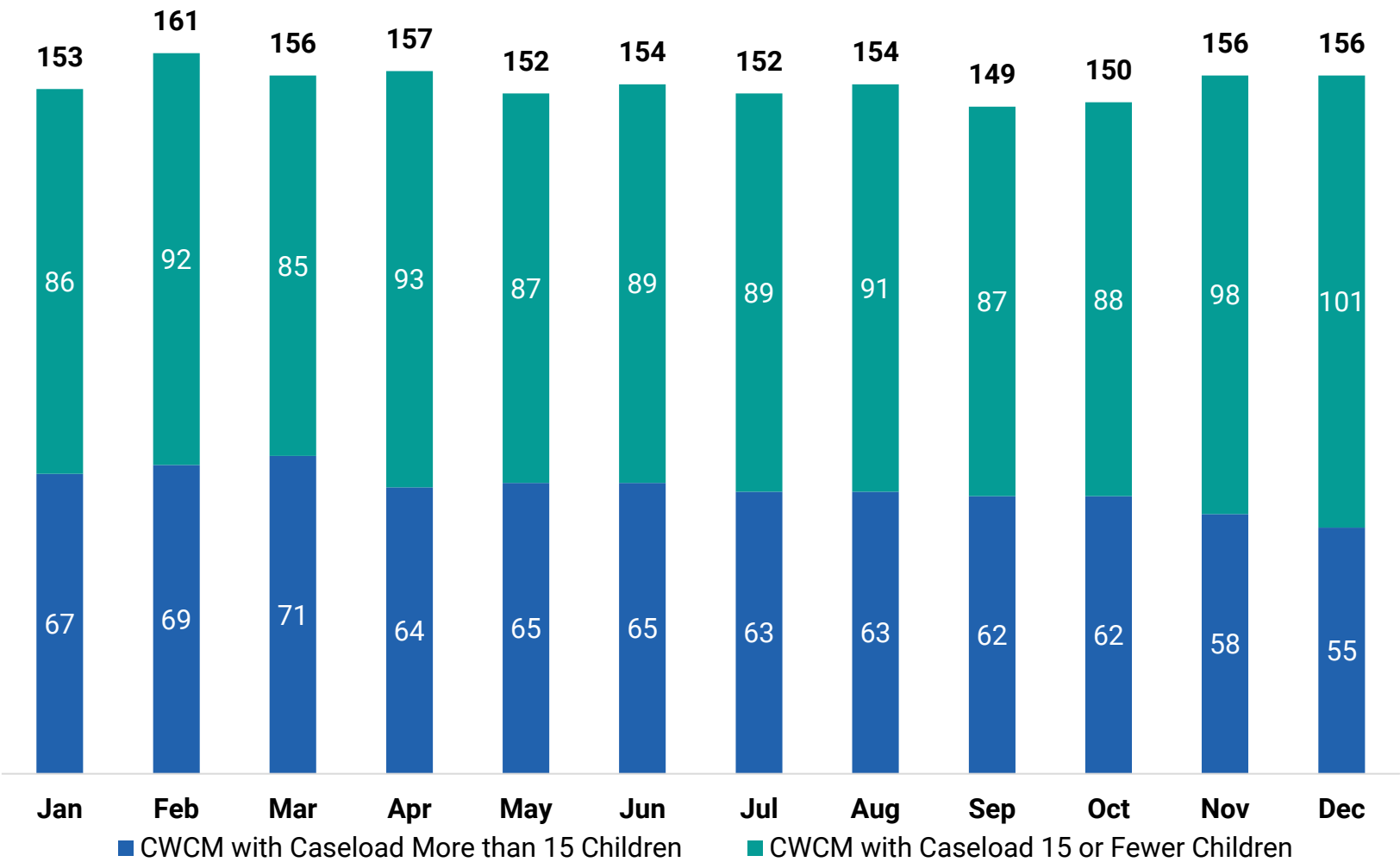
Dental (January-December 2024):

- On average per month, **1,159** of **1,443** children (**80%**) 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 2024)



Child Welfare Case Manager Staffing (January-December 2024):

- At the beginning of 2024, there were **164** child welfare case managers
- **53** staff were hired
- **55** staff separated employment
- At the end of 2024, there were **162** child welfare case managers
- **25%** staff turnover rate

Caseloads for Child Welfare Case Managers (January-December 2024):

- On a yearly average, **64** of **154** (**41%**) case carrying child welfare case managers (CWCM) had more than 15 children on their caseload

Summary of Performance – Key Takeaways

- The volume of CPS Reports appears to have stabilized from the pandemic. The screen-in rate for 2024 was 39%. This continues the downward trend and is the lowest rate reported dating back to 2007 (consistent with the statewide trend)
- Significant improvements were made in the timeliness of completing Initial Assessments – this measure improved from 60% in 2023 to 74% in 2024
- Thirty-nine children re-entered OHC within 12 months (15 less than 2023)
- Five children were victims of maltreatment by their provider while in OHC
- The total number of children in OHC continues to decrease (1,708 children at the end of 2024)
- The number of foster homes is also decreasing, and at a higher rate than the number of children in OHC
- Medical and dental performance continues to improve
- Staffing of initial assessment specialists (IAS) and child welfare case managers (CWCMs) improved significantly



***Any
questions?***



Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services

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(January through December 2024)

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