The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on the left side are several concentric circles and a large circular scale with degree markings from 140 to 260. Some circles have arrows indicating a clockwise direction. The text is positioned on the right side of the image.

# OKDHS CHILD WELFARE SERVICES: ONE PIECE OF A COMPLEX CHILD AND FAMILY SERVING SYSTEM

# OKLAHOMA'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

- Parents/Children
- OKDHS Child Welfare Services
- Law Enforcement officers
- District Attorneys, Parent Attorneys, Child Attorneys
- Judges
- Foster Parents, Safety Plan Monitors (prevention), Guardians, Adoptive Parents
- Service Providers/Services - (parenting, health care, counseling/therapy, housing, child care, food assistance, work, transportation, social supports)
- CASA's/GAL's
- External overseers – OKDHS Office of Client Advocacy, OCCY, Legislators/Governor's office, State Auditor, Federal Government/Children's Bureau, lawsuit monitors, advocacy groups, media

# OKDHS CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

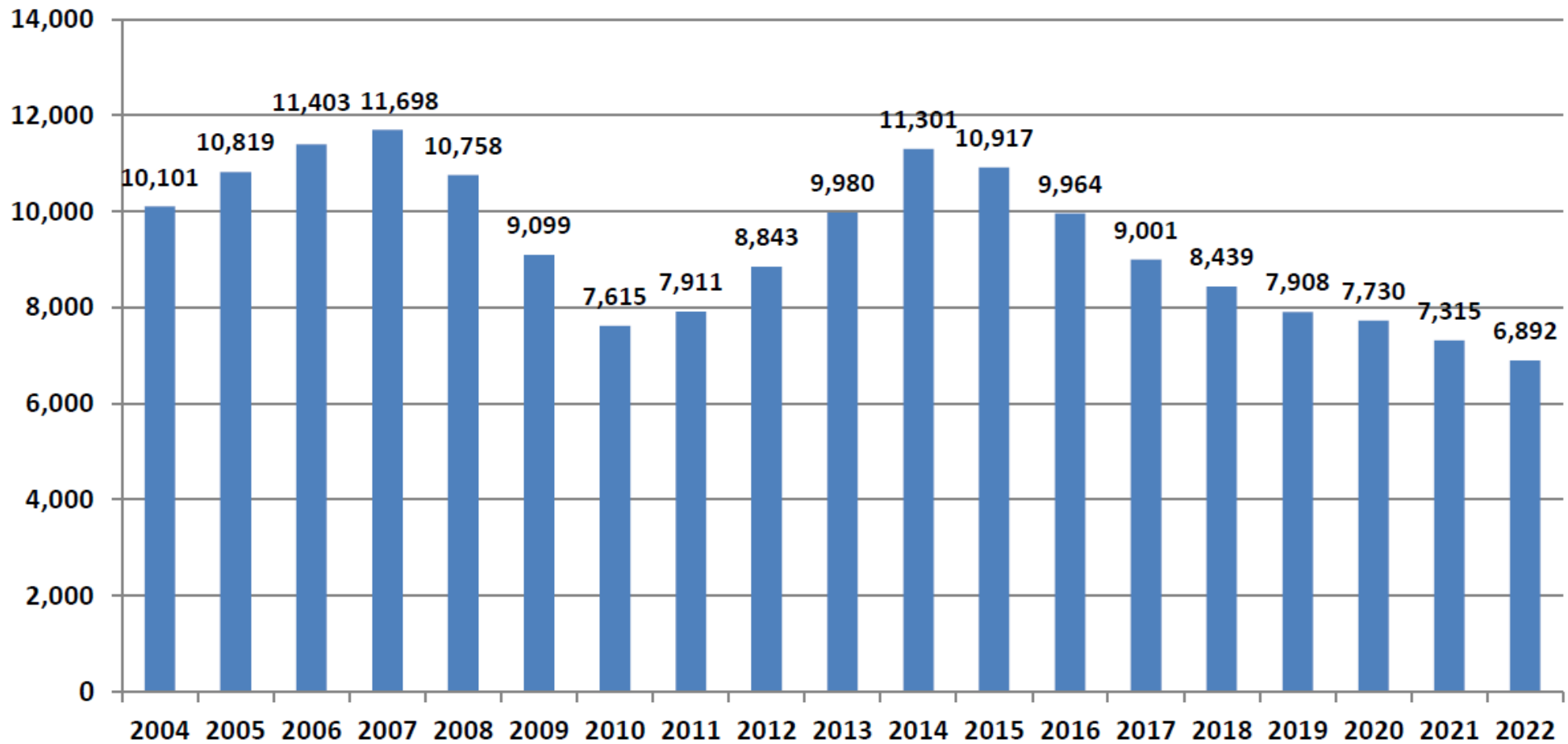
- What we are authorized to do
  - Receive and investigate child maltreatment concerns
  - Stabilize a child at home when possible
  - Operate foster care
  - Work with families and courts to move kids safely home or toward permanency (adoption or guardianship)

# OKDHS CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

- Prevention Cases – child does NOT enter foster care
  - Substantiation of abuse/neglect
  - Able to mitigate safety threat
  - 90% complete successfully
  - 80-92% do not enter foster care within 1 year of completion

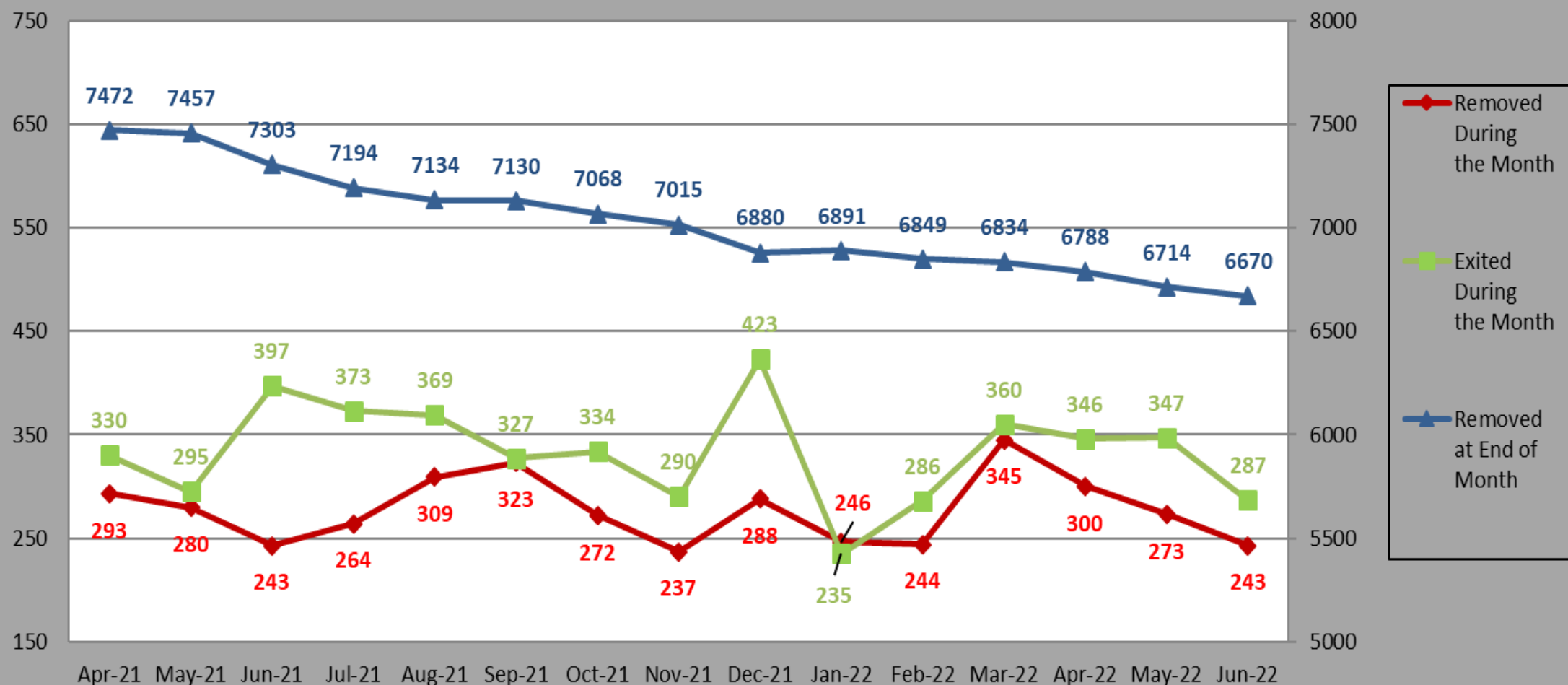


**FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN DHS CUSTODY AT THE END OF SFY - 2004 TO 2022**



Source: DHS Data

## Removals and Exits by Month - Statewide



Data Source: KIDS Data \*Run Date for the report is the 5th of the month for prior month's data. This data is subject to change due to the short lag time.

# CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

- What we are NOT authorized to do
  - Investigate concerns that don't represent immediate danger
  - Make unilateral decisions to remove children: removal can only occur through law enforcement or a court
  - Order reunification
  - File motions to terminate parent rights

# CHILD WELFARE CASE OUTCOMES

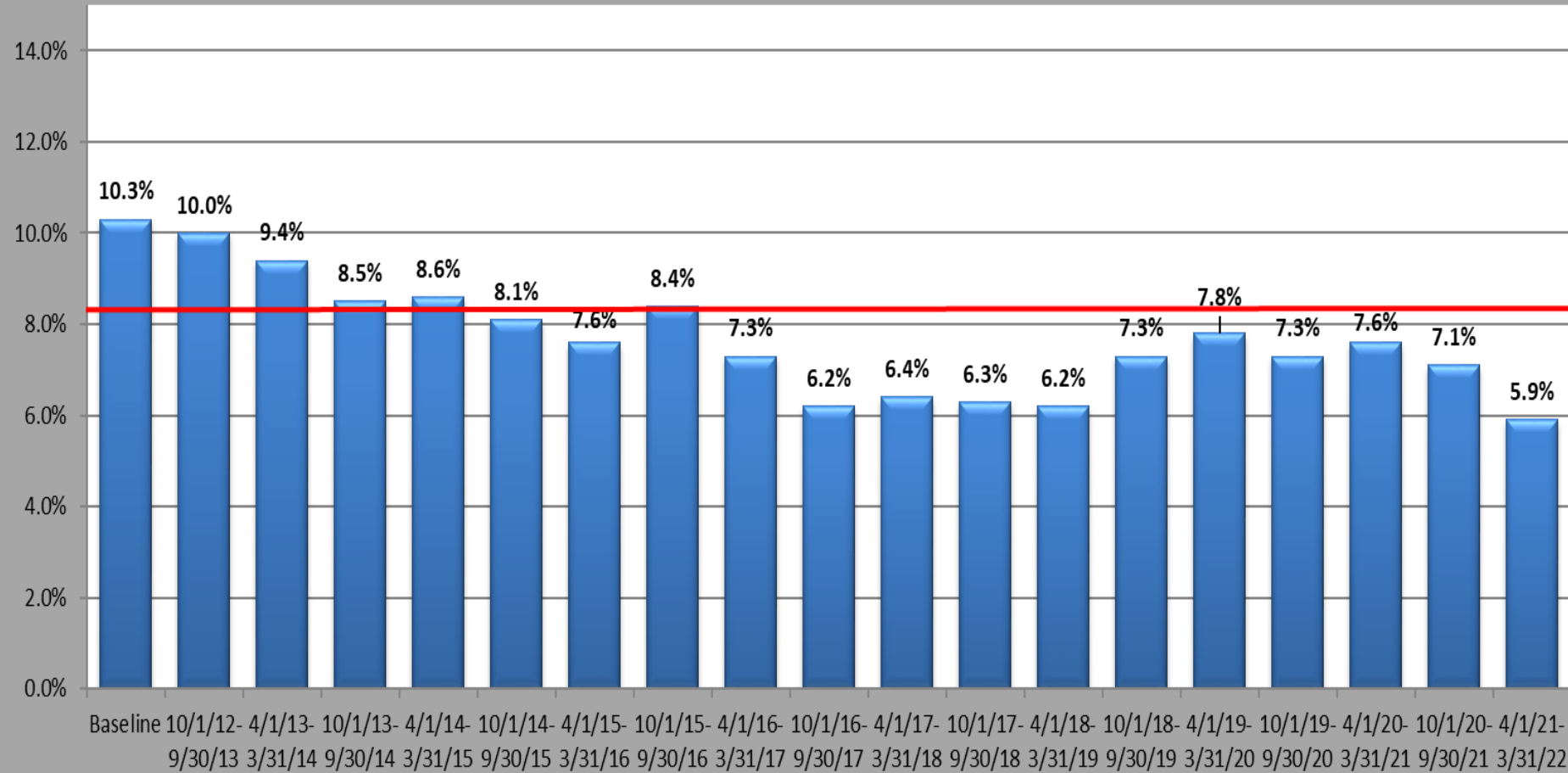
- Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997
  - Requires that states move to terminate parents' rights for children who have been in foster care for 15 of the last 22 months. Exceptions include:
    - Kinship foster care
    - Determination that adoption is NOT in the child's best interest
    - State has failed to provide the services necessary for reunification



# CHILD WELFARE CASE OUTCOMES

- 44% reunification, 39% adoption, 9% guardianship
- Average length of stay for reunification is 18 months, for adoption is 29 months
- DHS Function: Time from removal to entering a case goal of adoption averages 9-11 months across the state
- DHS and Court: Time from case plan goal is adoption to termination of parent rights (all parents): varies widely across the state (10-19 month average)
- Average days from removal to adoption also varies (27-36 month average)

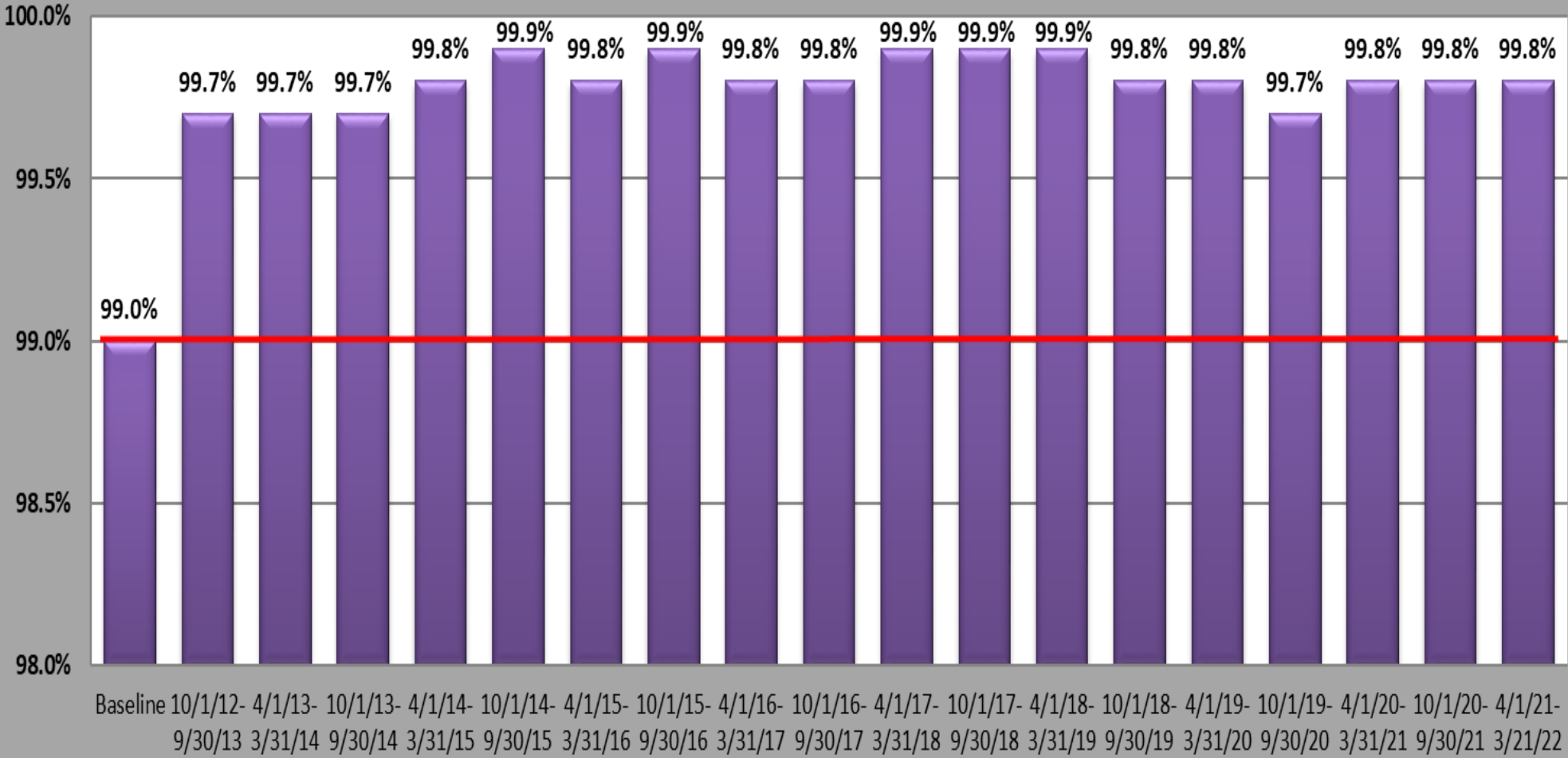
### Measure 6.3: Re-entry within 12 Months of Exit



Target  
Below 8.2%

Data Source: KIDS Data Measure 6.3

# Measure 6.7: Adoption Dissolutions



Target:  
99.0%

Data Source: KIDS Data Measure 6.7

# OUR TRUE NORTH

## CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

- We will continue to build pathways to support, liberate, empower and celebrate staff to allow them to have a creative and innovative voice in how we serve Oklahoma families
- We will champion the development of a collaborative family strengthening system that equips and empowers families to provide a safe home for their children
- We will work to understand and meet the specific needs of each child we serve, including their need for safety and well-being, connections with family, community and culture
- We will tirelessly pursue every child's right to connect to a stable and loving family and the supports they need to grow and develop into healthy adults



# CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

- What we are imagining/building
  - Strengthening families before things go badly
  - Investing time and resources to keep kids IN their own homes
  - Building therapeutic services AROUND a foster home or adoptive home instead of moving kids
  - Eliminating long stays and non-therapeutic congregate care
  - Extending support of youth until their 20's
  - Elevating the voices of youth and parents who have survived this and have better ideas than we do