The background features a dark blue gradient with several circular gauges and arrows. One large gauge on the left has numerical markings from 140 to 260. Other smaller gauges and arrows are scattered across the scene, some with dashed lines and arrows indicating a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction. The overall aesthetic is technical and modern.

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

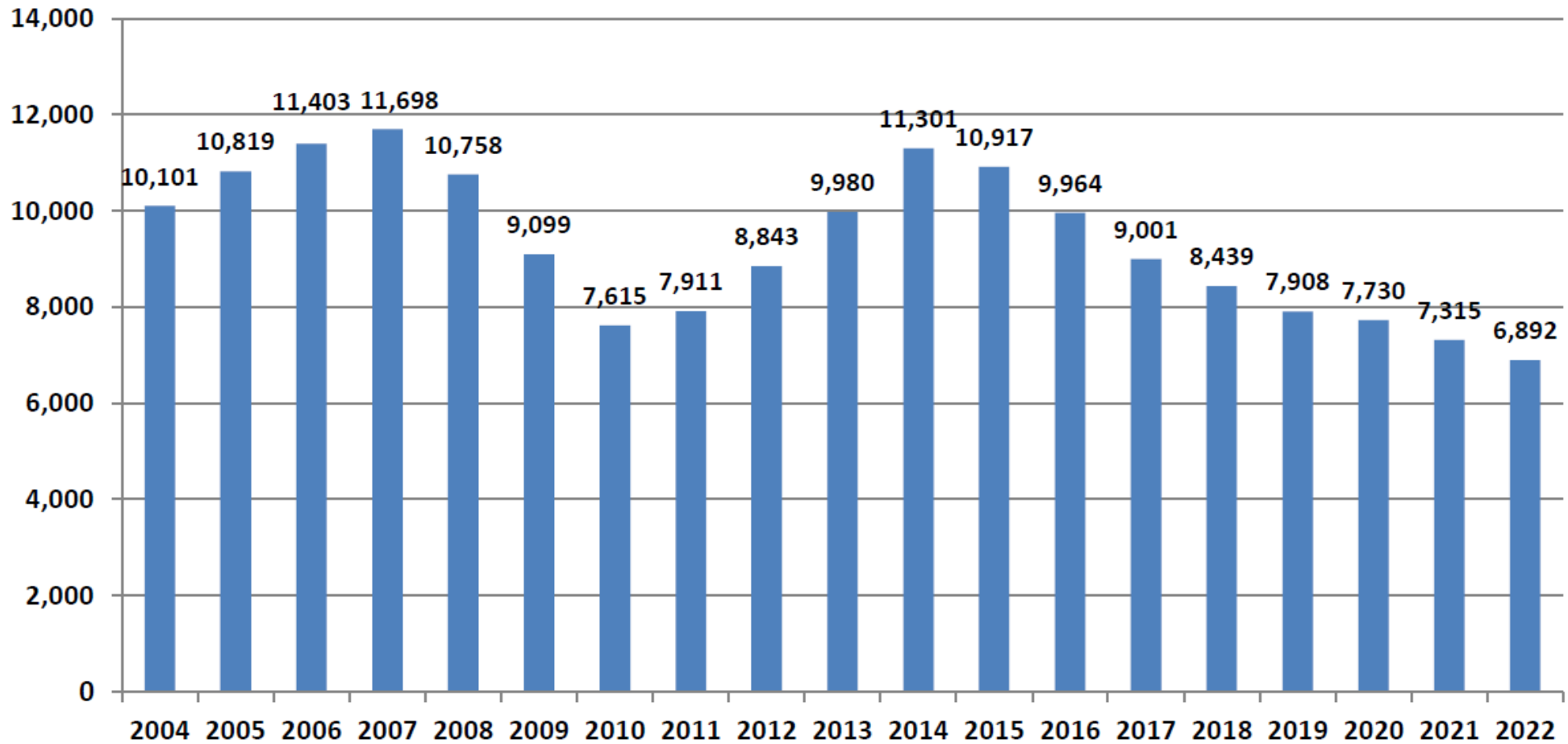
OKDHS CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

- 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

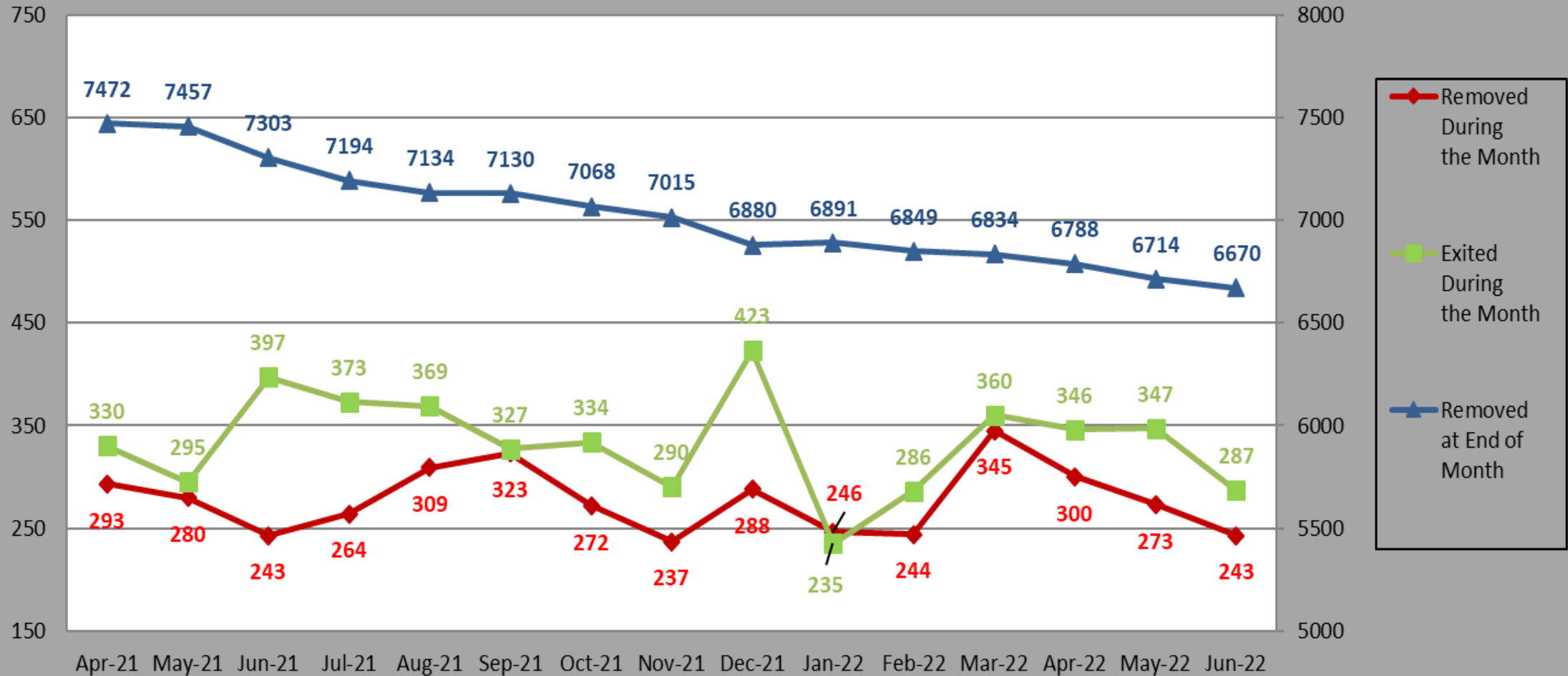
- Prevention Cases – child does NOT enter foster care
 - Substantiation of abuse/neglect
 - Able to mitigate safety threat
 - 90% complete successfully
 - 80-92% do not enter foster care within 1 year of completion

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

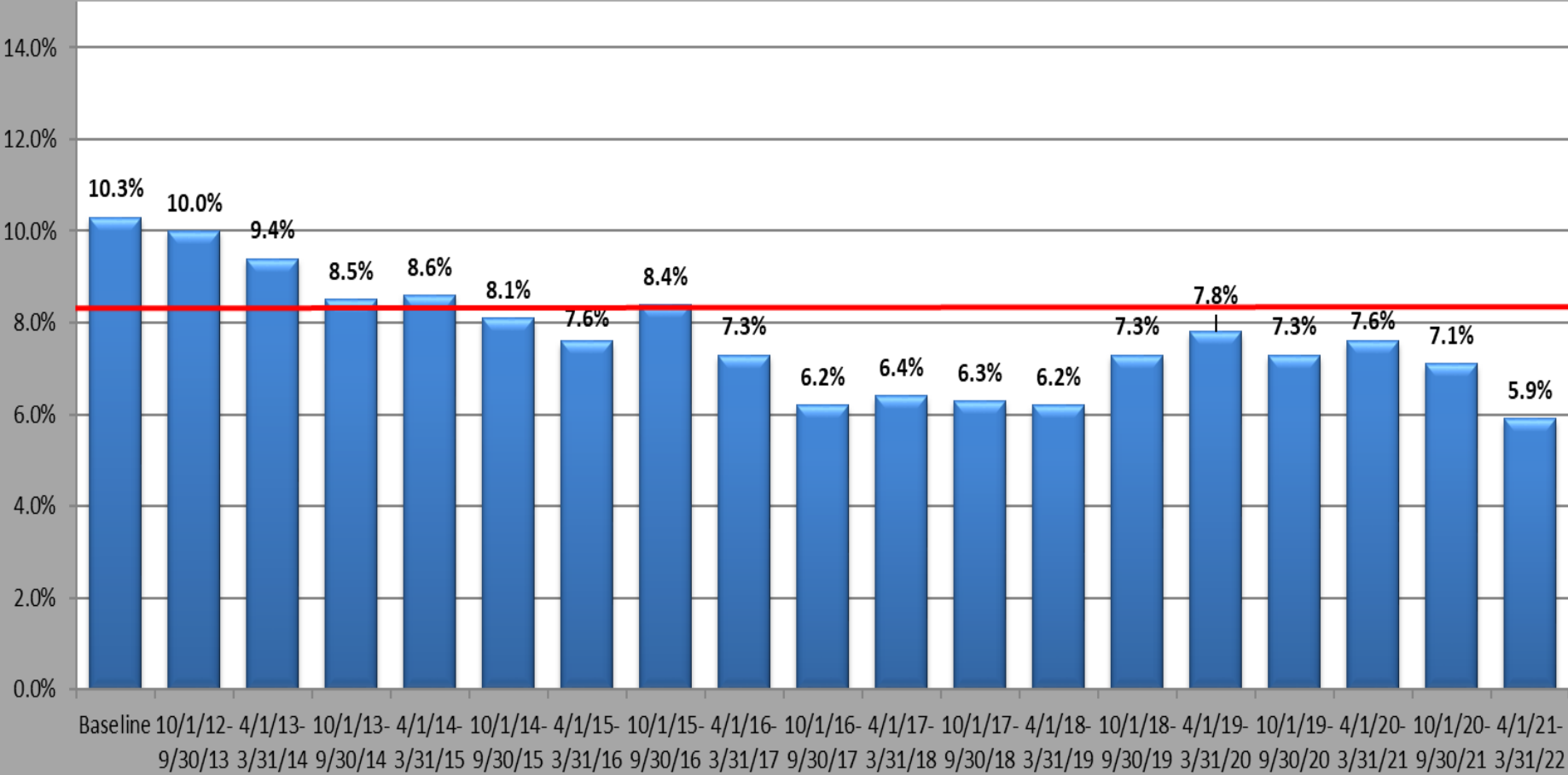
CHILD WELFARE CASE OUTCOMES

- **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)

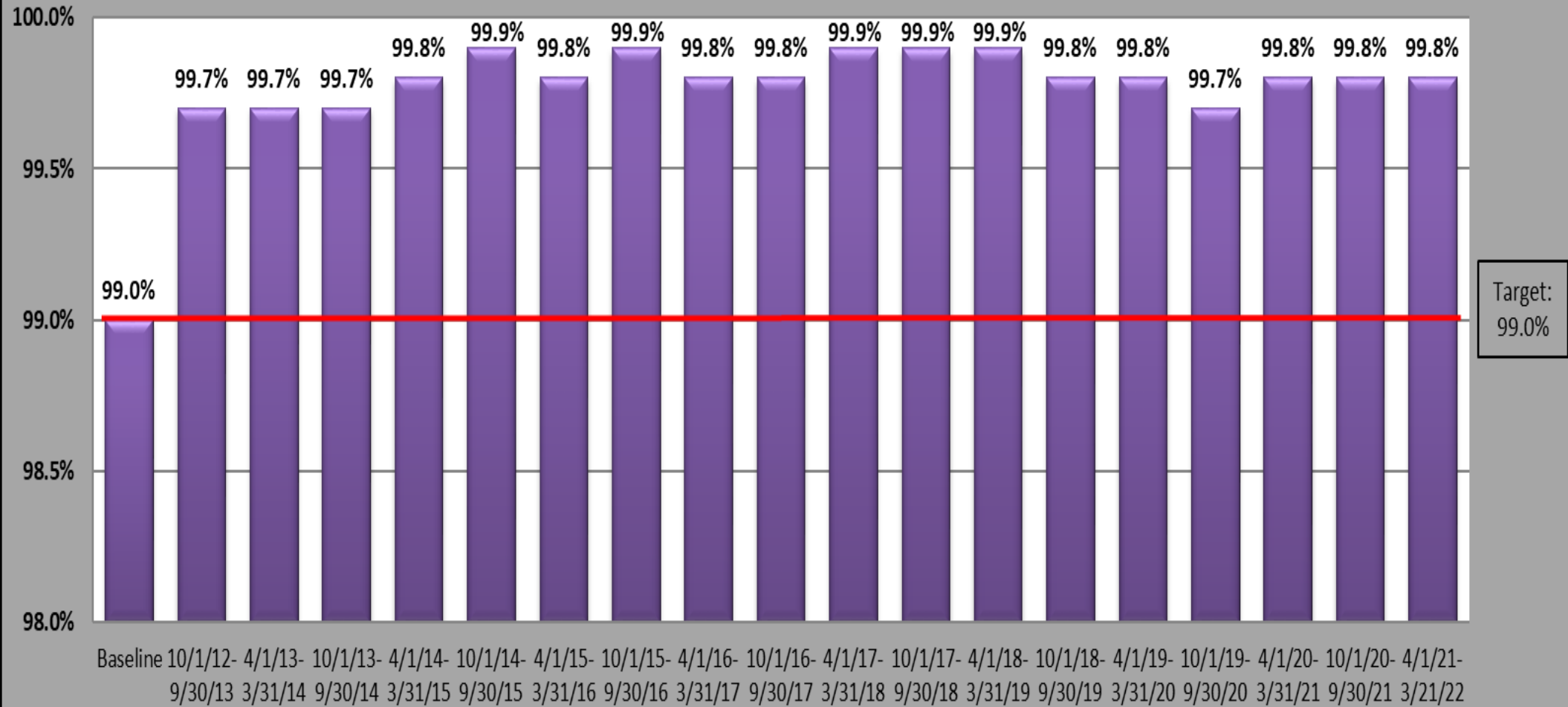
Measure 6.3: Re-entry within 12 Months of Exit



Target
Below 8.2%

Data Source: KIDS Data Measure 6.3

Measure 6.7: Adoption Dissolutions



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