



Out of Home Care in the Commonwealth

**Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee
Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)**

July 22, 2020

DCBS Priorities for Youth in Out of Home Care

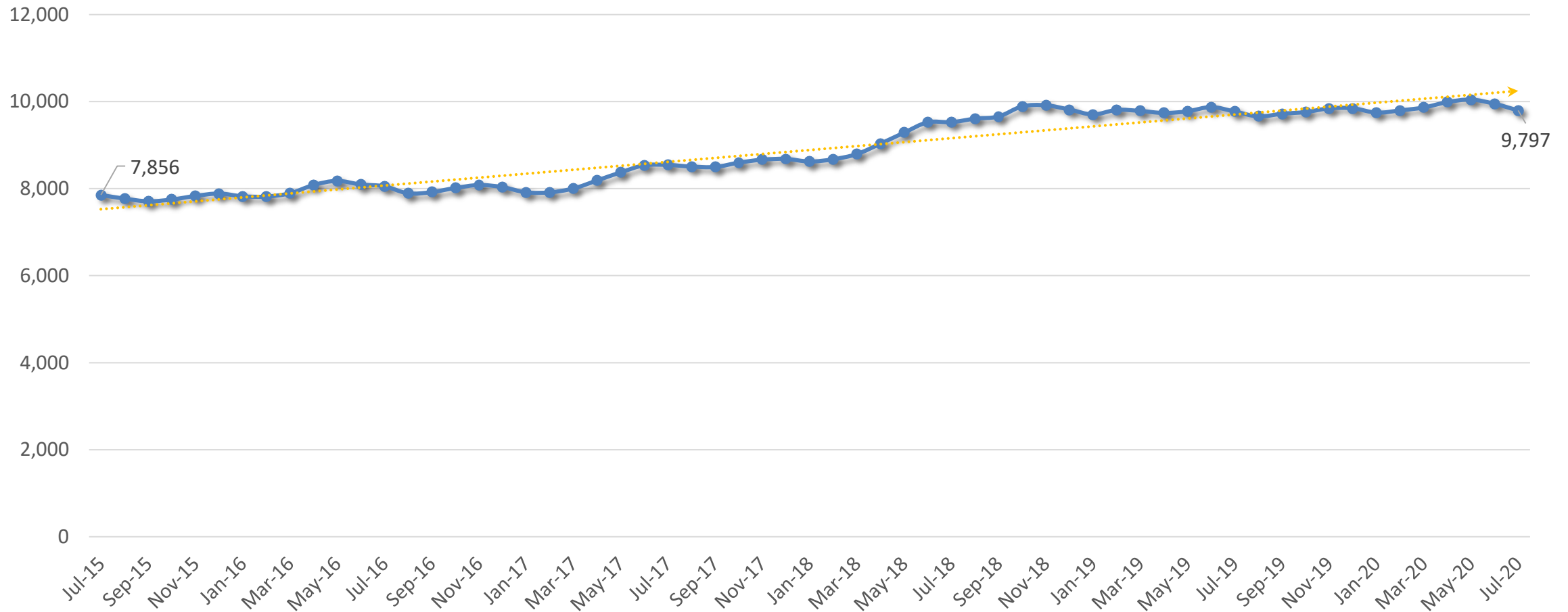
- Ensure that children are maintained safely in the least restrictive setting whenever possible.
- Children in out of home care receive quality services and achieve permanency timely.
- Improve services and outcomes for youth who transition from cabinet custody upon turning 18 or 21.

How are children kept in the least restrictive setting?

- Expansion of in-home services to prevent entry into care.
- Improved relative service array.
- Availability of quality foster homes that allow children to remain in their schools and communities.
- Increased placement stability.
- Reduced use of congregate care.

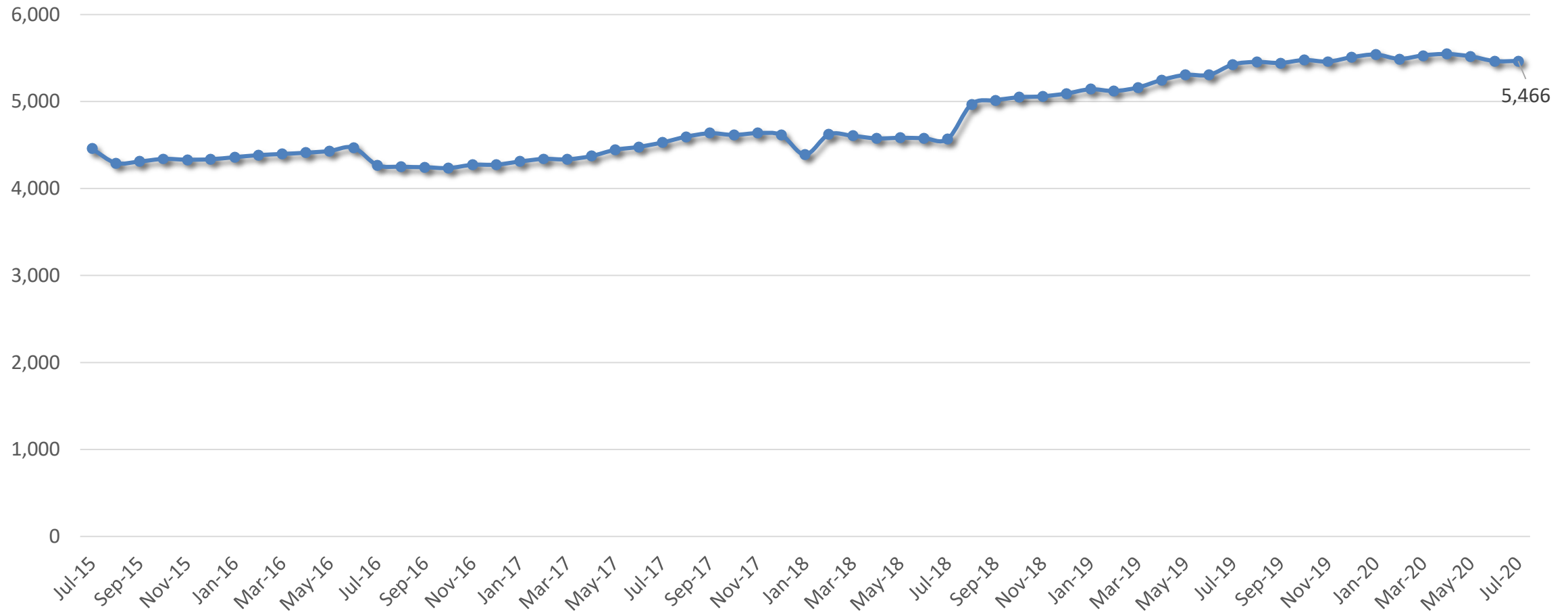
Children in the Custody of or Committed to the Cabinet

July 2015 – July 2020



Number of DCBS and PCP Foster Homes

July 2015 – July 2020

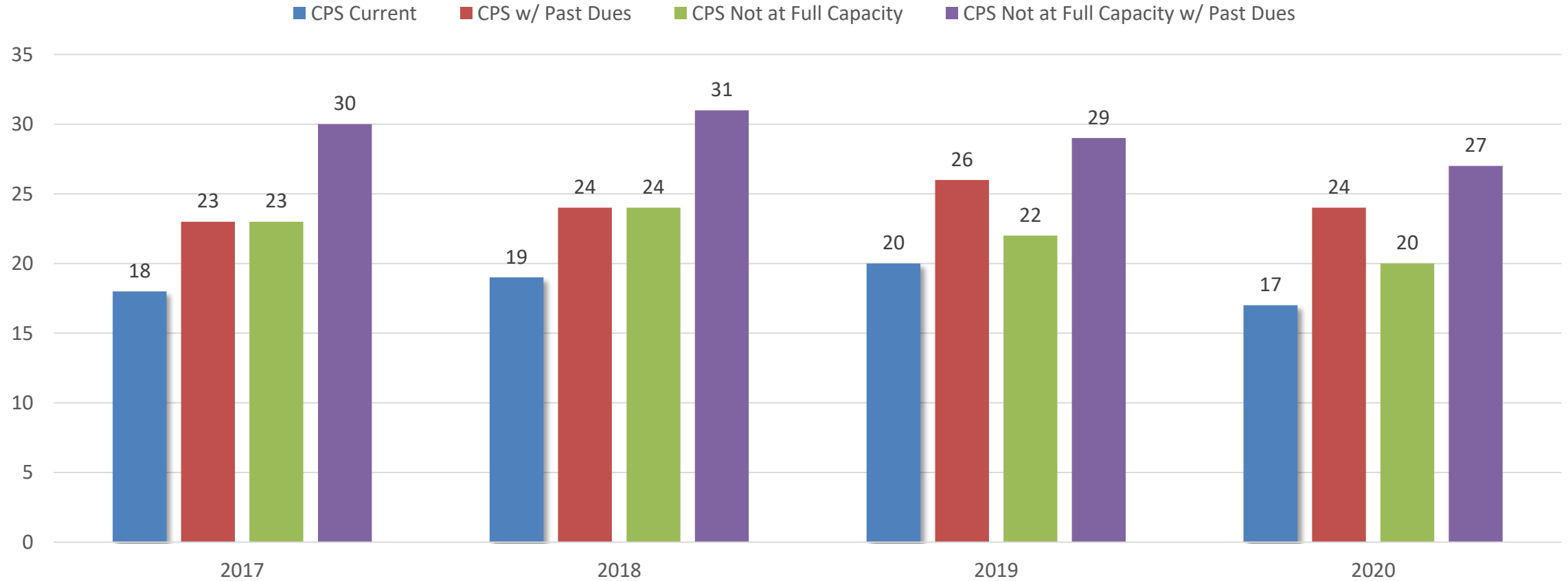


Quality Services in Care

- DCBS continues to focus on recruitment and retention of qualified staff to maintain manageable caseloads.
- Continued exploration of performance based contracting with providers.
- Focus on placement stability.
- Ensuring children in care achieve permanency timely.

Average CPS Caseloads

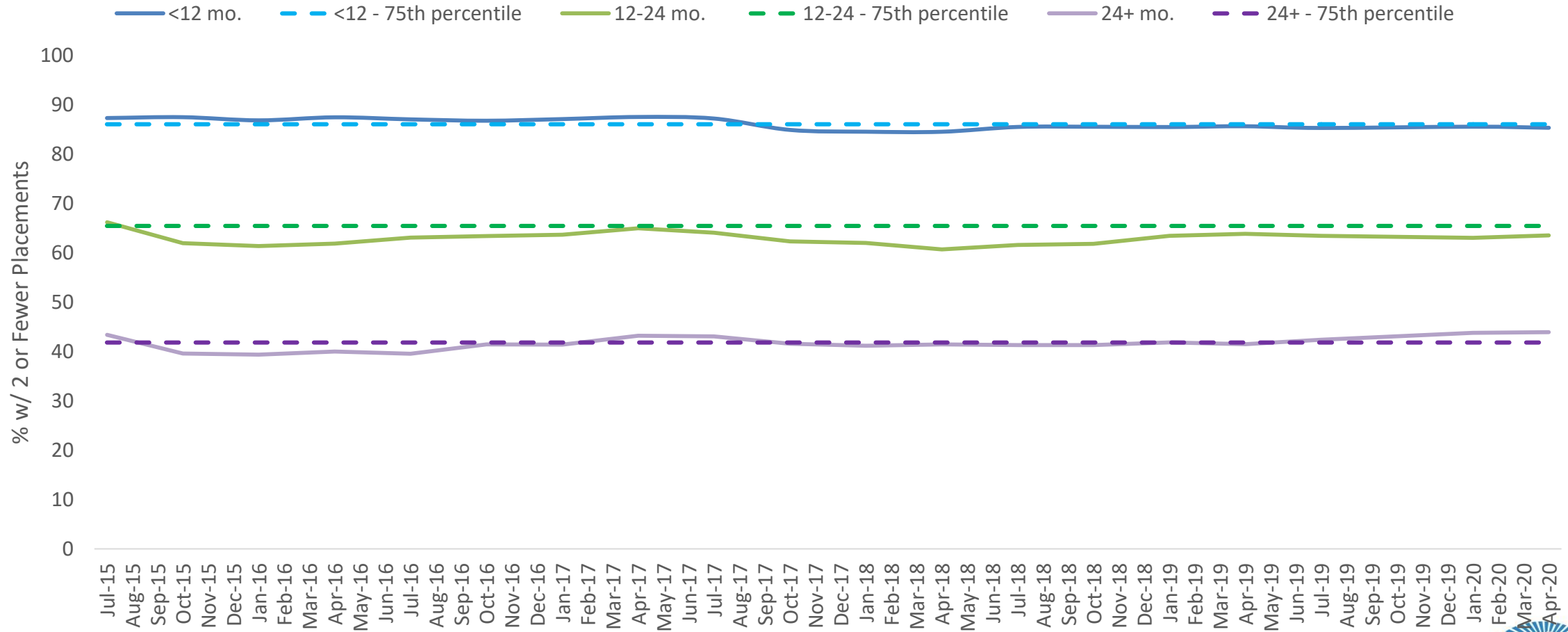
CY2017 – *CY2020



*CY2020 year to date Jan-Jul

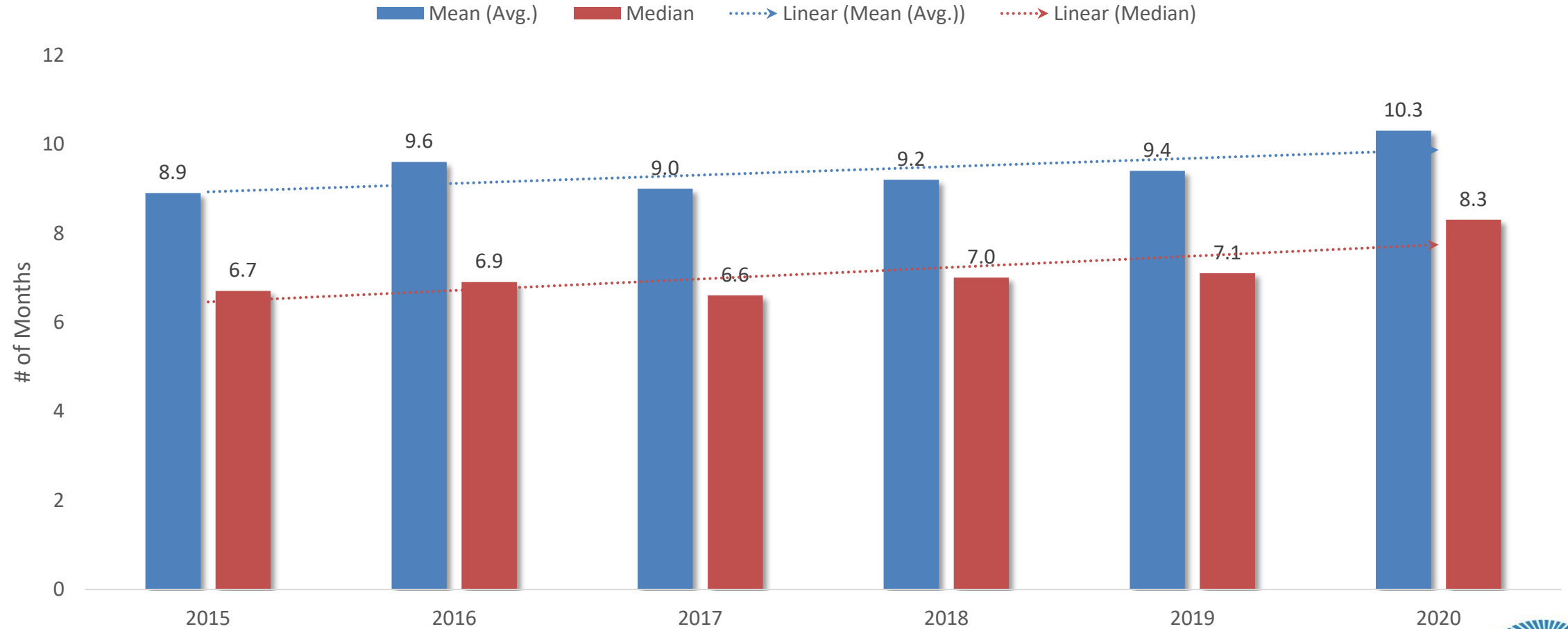
Placement Stability – % w/ 2 or Fewer Placements

July 2015 – April 2020

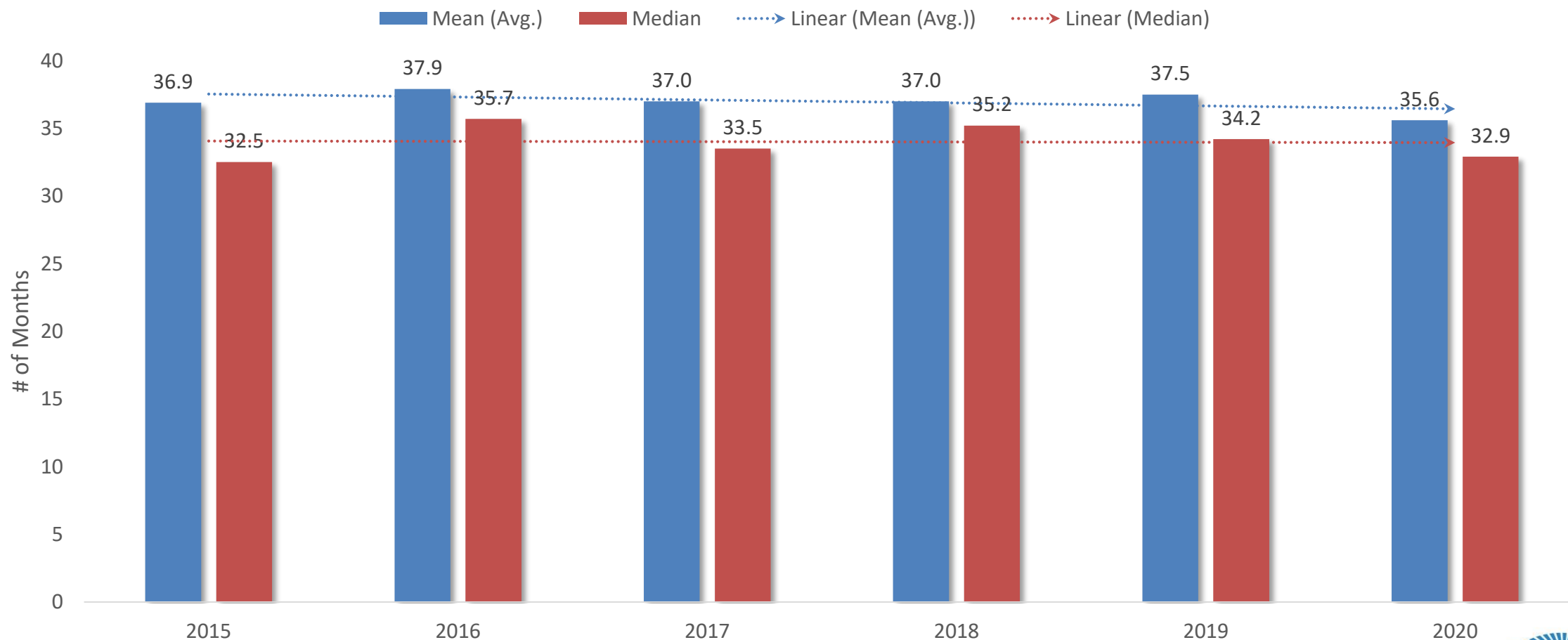


Months to Permanency - Reunifications

SFY2015 – SFY2020

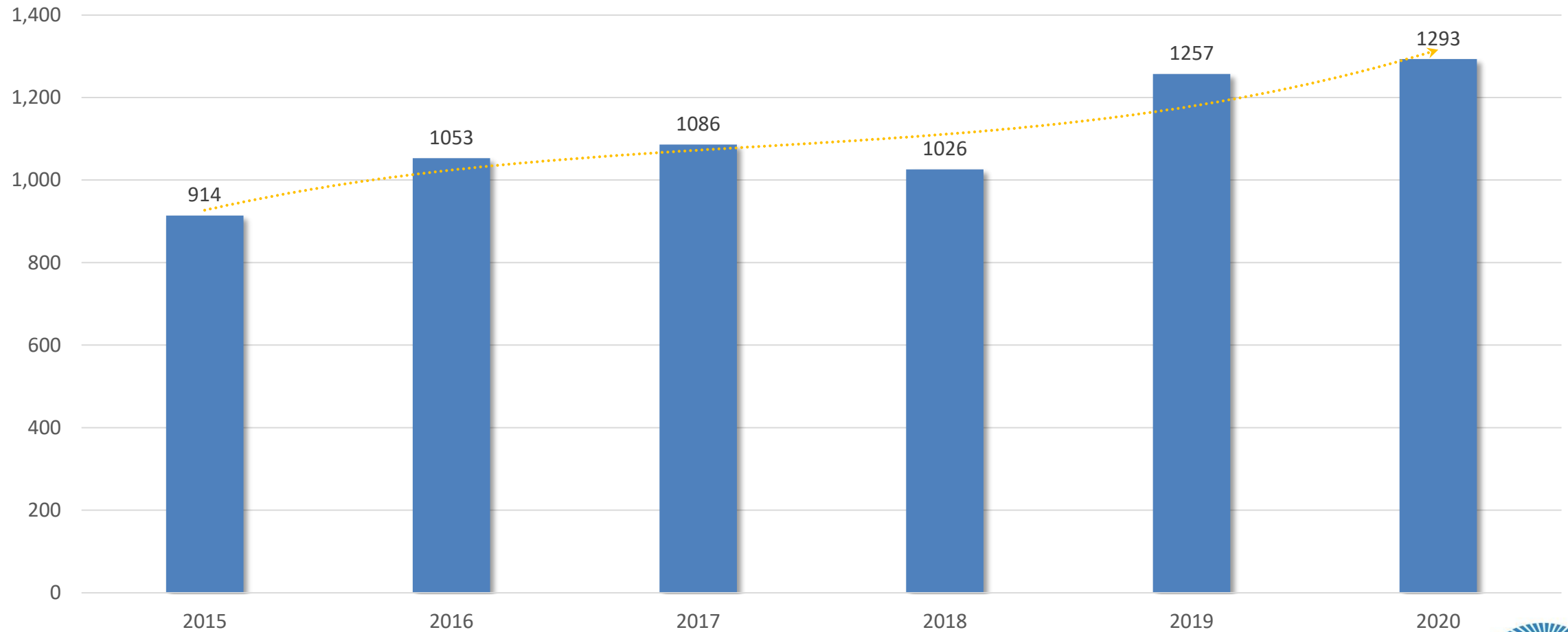


Months to Permanency - Adoptions SFY2015 – SFY2020

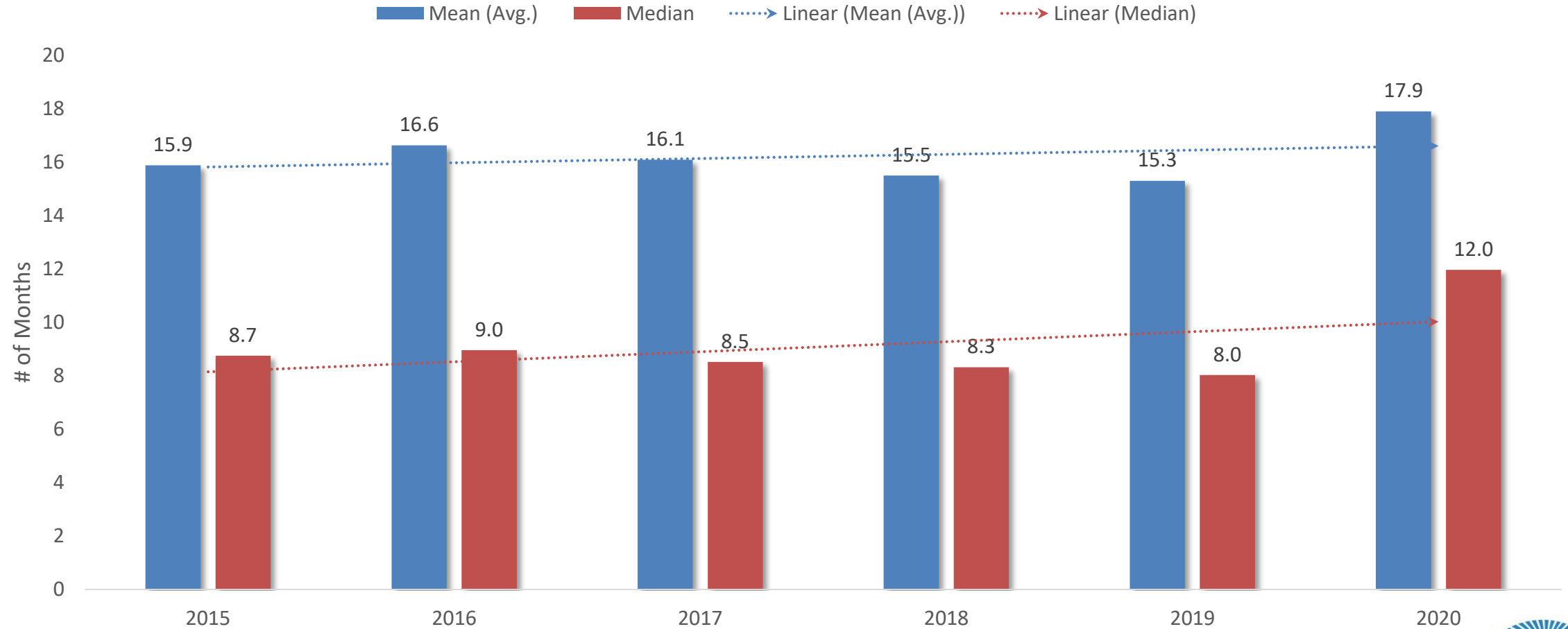


Adoption Data

SFY2015 – SFY2020



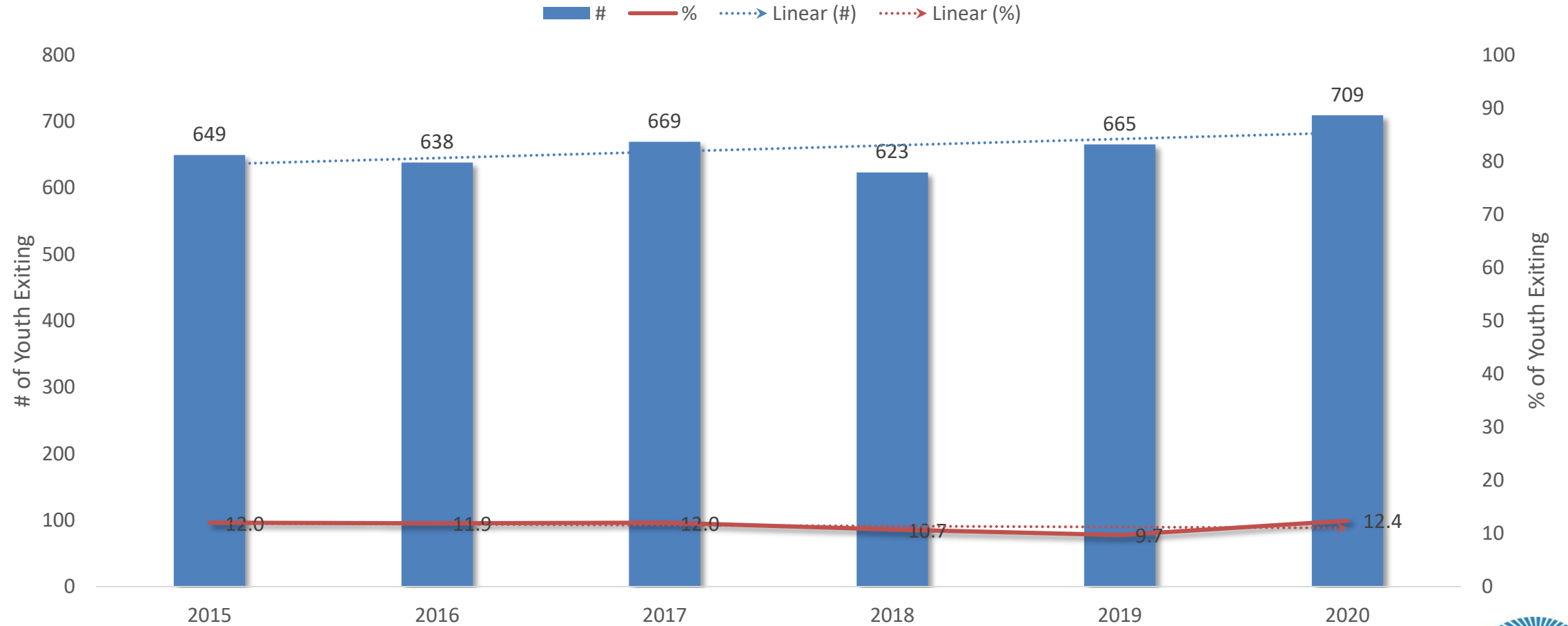
Months to Permanency – All Exit Reasons SFY2015 – SFY2020



Transition Age Youth

- DCBS is focused on reducing the number of youth who leave cabinet custody without achieving permanency.
- Transition planning for older youth in care to ensure needs are met.
- DCBS staff identify committed lifelong supports for youth who leave care.
- Implementation of Lifeset in Kentucky July 1, 2020.
- Youth Engagement Summit.

Youth Exiting to Emancipation SFY2015 – SFY2020



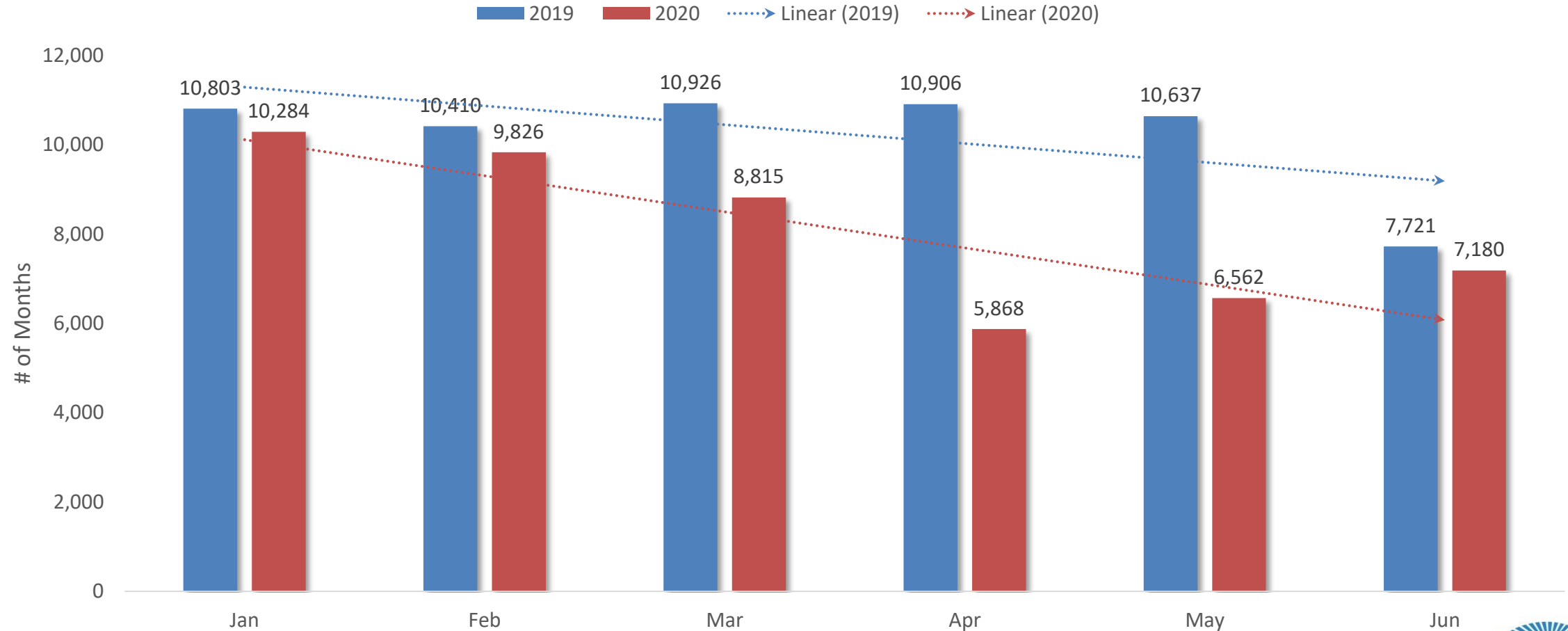
Impacts of COVID-19

- Monthly caseworker visits conducted via videoconferencing platforms.
- Face to face visits required if any safety concerns or in crisis.
- Parent/child visitation via videoconferencing for several months.
- Face to face visitation resumed in phased approach at end of May.
- Additional health and safety measures in place.

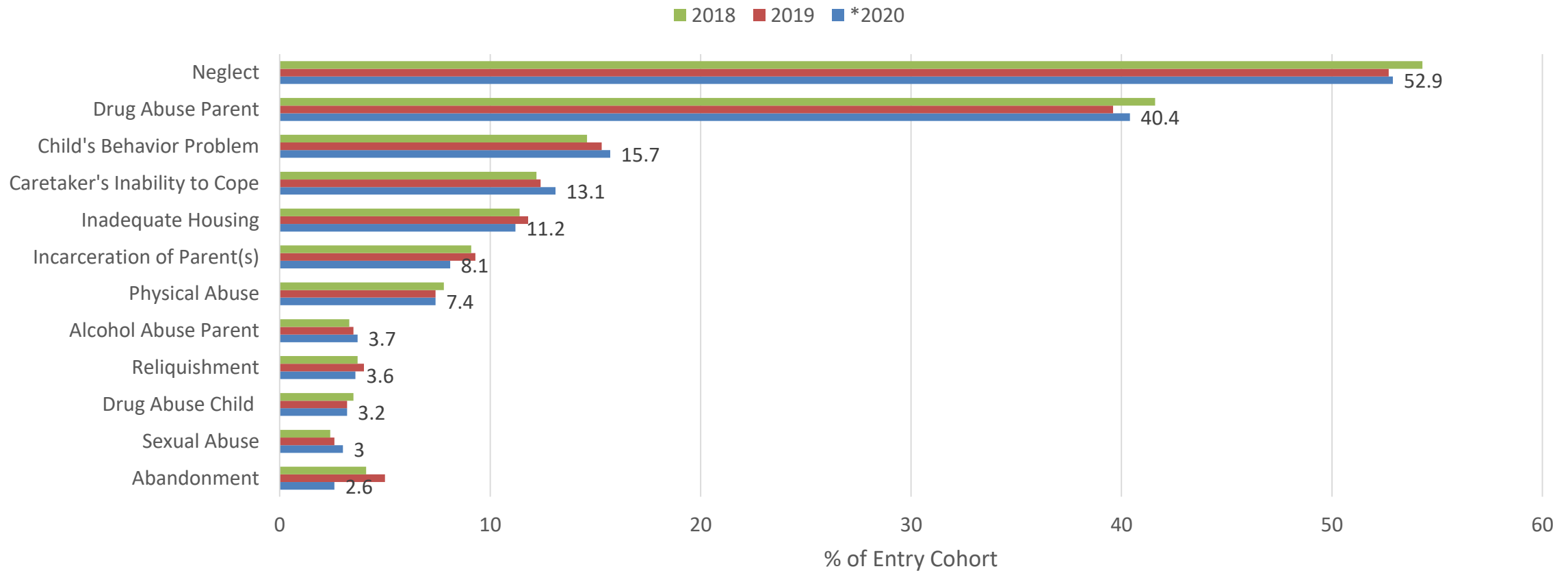
Impacts of COVID-19

- Reduced entries into out of home care.
- Reduced exits from out of home care.
- Reopening of courts and increased use of virtual hearings has increased achievement of permanency.
- Kentucky requested and received federal waiver for fingerprinting in order to continue approval of foster families.
- Foster parent training conducted via videoconferencing platforms.
- Efforts to ensure no youth has to leave care at age 18 or 21 during the state of emergency.

Intakes w/ Allegations of Child Abuse and/or Neglect January – June 2019 vs. 2020



Conditions Present at Removal (Removal Reasons) by Entry Cohort, 2018 – *2020



*Jan. – Jun. 2020. Conditions Present at Removal are not mutually exclusive.

Maltreatment in Foster Care

- Recent programming changes will allow more accurate reporting of maltreatment in care to federal level and legislature.
- Incidents of maltreatment in out of home care have decreased over past two years utilizing federal formula for calculation.
- Department staff monitor reports of maltreatment and substantiations among DCBS homes, private child placing (PCP), and private child caring (PCC) providers.

Reports of Maltreatment in PCP/PCC Placements

- In state fiscal year 2020, 310 reports were accepted for investigation for youth in a PCP/PCC placement.
- Of these, 27 were substantiated and 38 are still open investigations.
- 245 were unsubstantiated.

Prevention of Maltreatment in Care

- Background checks, which will be expanded as a result of SB40.
- Assessment of ability to meet the needs of children through home studies that go beyond a friendly biography.
- High quality preservice training that adequately prepares foster parents.
- Provision of other training and information that supports a family's ability to meet the needs of a child who has experienced complex trauma.
- Supportive services to foster families.

Assessment of Foster Parents

- Private agencies now have ability to receive FBI rap sheet.
- Model foster home standards and HB1 (2018 RS) have improved home study quality.
- Foster parent registry, expanded by HB312 (2020 RS), helps prevent approval of homes where concerns have been identified.

Foster Parent Training

- Training in trauma-informed care and caring for a sexually abused child is mandatory for all foster parents.
- Professional development/training for foster parents can be tailored to the specific needs of the family and children in the home.
- Relationship between high quality foster parent training and outcomes for youth, such as placement stability.
- Youth with lived experience wish their foster parents had more or better training.

Just In Time

- Kentucky's Just in Time training is a web based service program designed to connect foster parents and kinship or other caregivers with online training, peer experts, and other resources.
- The website launched March 16, 2020.
- The website has been an excellent support for foster parents.
 - Since launch 2,210 training certificates have been issued to foster parents (both DCBS and private agency).
 - There have been 12,984 page views to the site in just three months.
 - There have been 10,480 unique page views to the site.
- Currently there are 137 trainings available for foster parent training credit on Just in Time Kentucky.

Other Supports for Foster Families

- Resource Parent Mentor Program
- Adoption Support for Kentucky
- Foster/Adoptive Training Support Network
- Local and regional foster parent associations



Questions?

