PRESENTATION

Oregon Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Division Updates

Senate Human Services – December 8, 2020

Rebecca Jones Gaston, MSW, CW Director

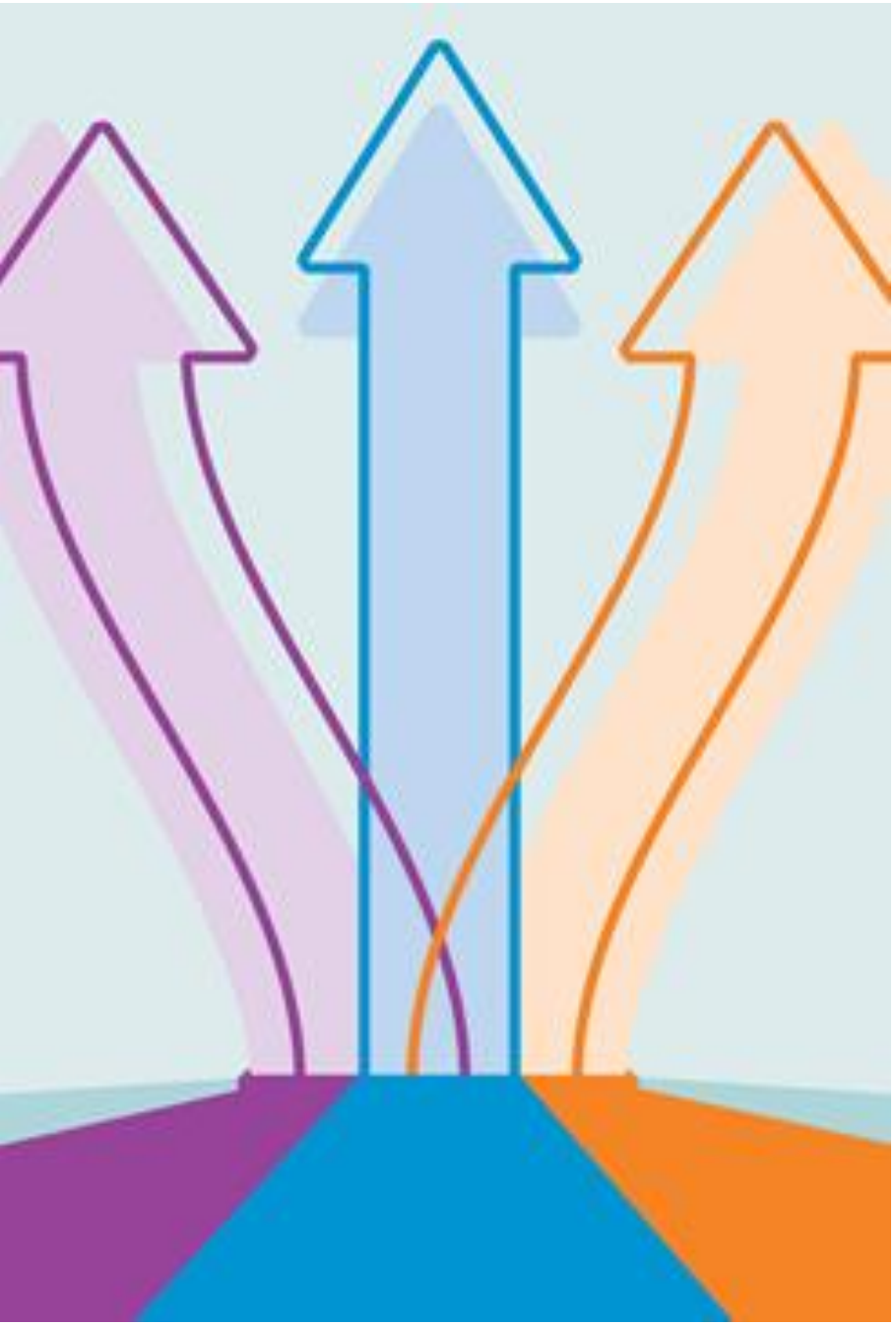
Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE

Child Welfare Division Vision for Transformation

- The Child Welfare Division Vision for Transformation is the spirit of what we believe the child welfare system can and should be in Oregon.

- We envision a child welfare system built on our mission, core values, and a belief that children do best growing up in a family and their community.

Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE



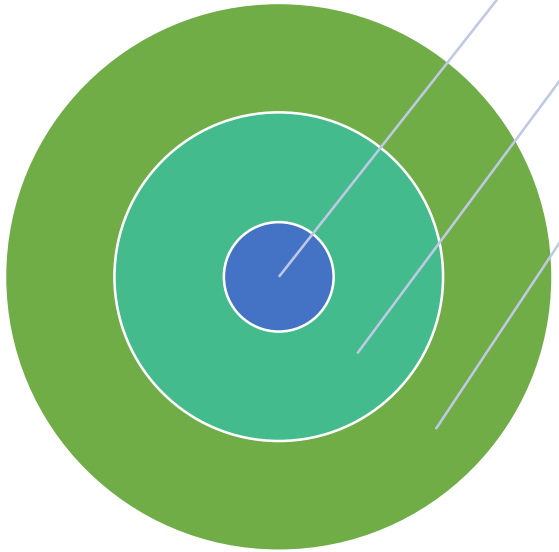
Child Welfare Division Vision for Transformation: Three guiding principles

- **Guiding Principle 1: Supporting families and promoting prevention**
  - Built on trauma-informed, family and community-centered and culturally responsive programs and services focused on engagement, equity, safety, well-being and prevention.
- **Guiding Principle 2: Enhancing our staff and infrastructure**
  - Depends on a diverse, supported, skilled, respected and engaged workforce that reflects and embraces the communities we serve.
- **Guiding Principle 3: Enhancing the structure of our system by using data with continuous quality improvement**
  - Built on data-informed practice and is supported by continuous quality improvement and modernized information technology systems and tools.

Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE

Journey to Prevention is Multi-layered

Concurrent prevention efforts



OR Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Prevention Plan – Phase 1: In-home both eligible & ineligible candidates for foster care

Continuing Prevention Services to families for example: ISRS / SPRF Services, Relief nurseries, NPP, Iron Tribe, Family Coaches, and many more

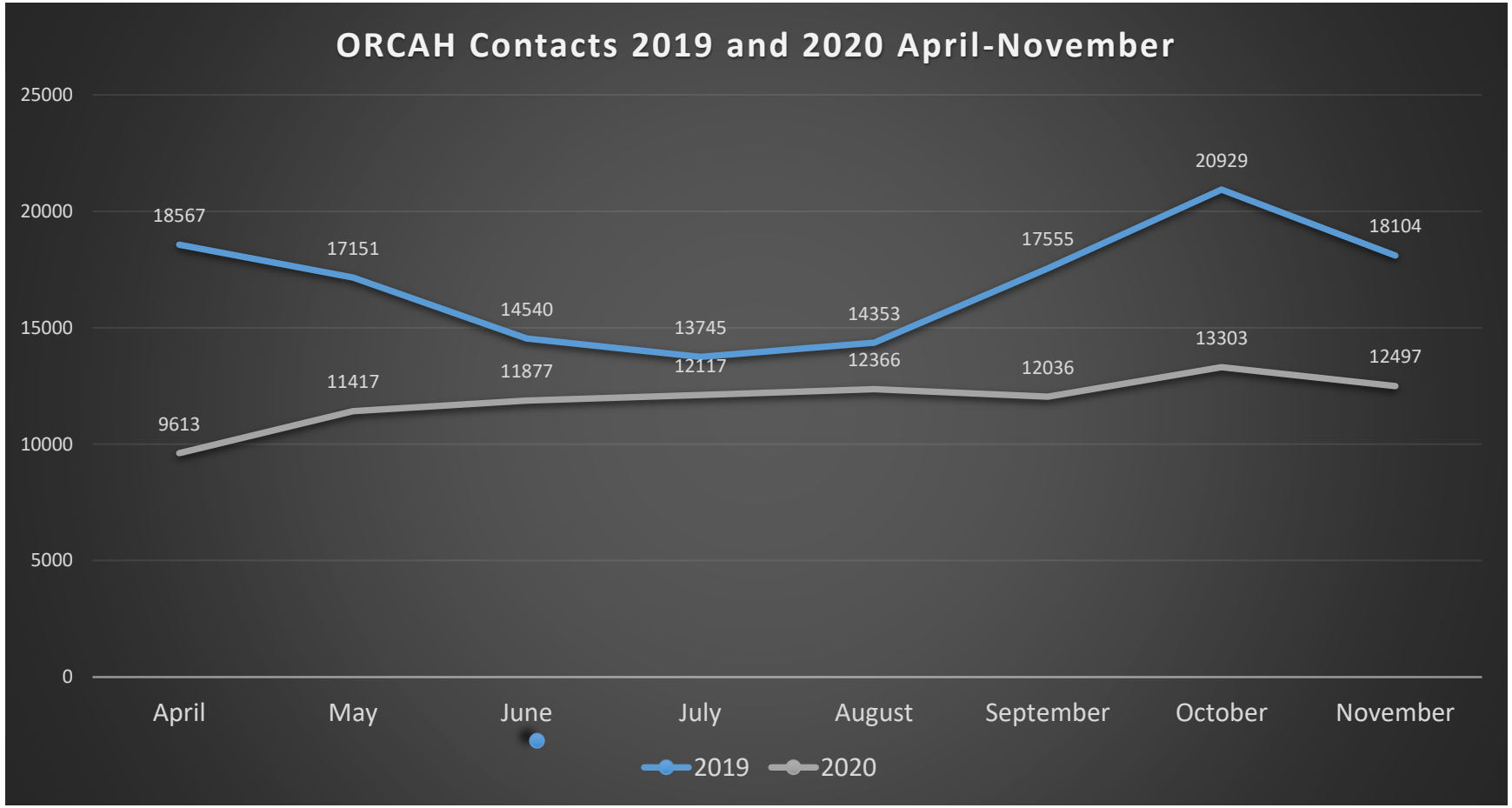
Prevention of maltreatment efforts across systems

FFPSA Prevention 5 Year Plan Growth in Scope (Timeframes TBD)

Year One (early 2021) → Year Two(2021/2022) → Year 3(2022/2023) → Year 4 → Year 5

Rev. 11/2020

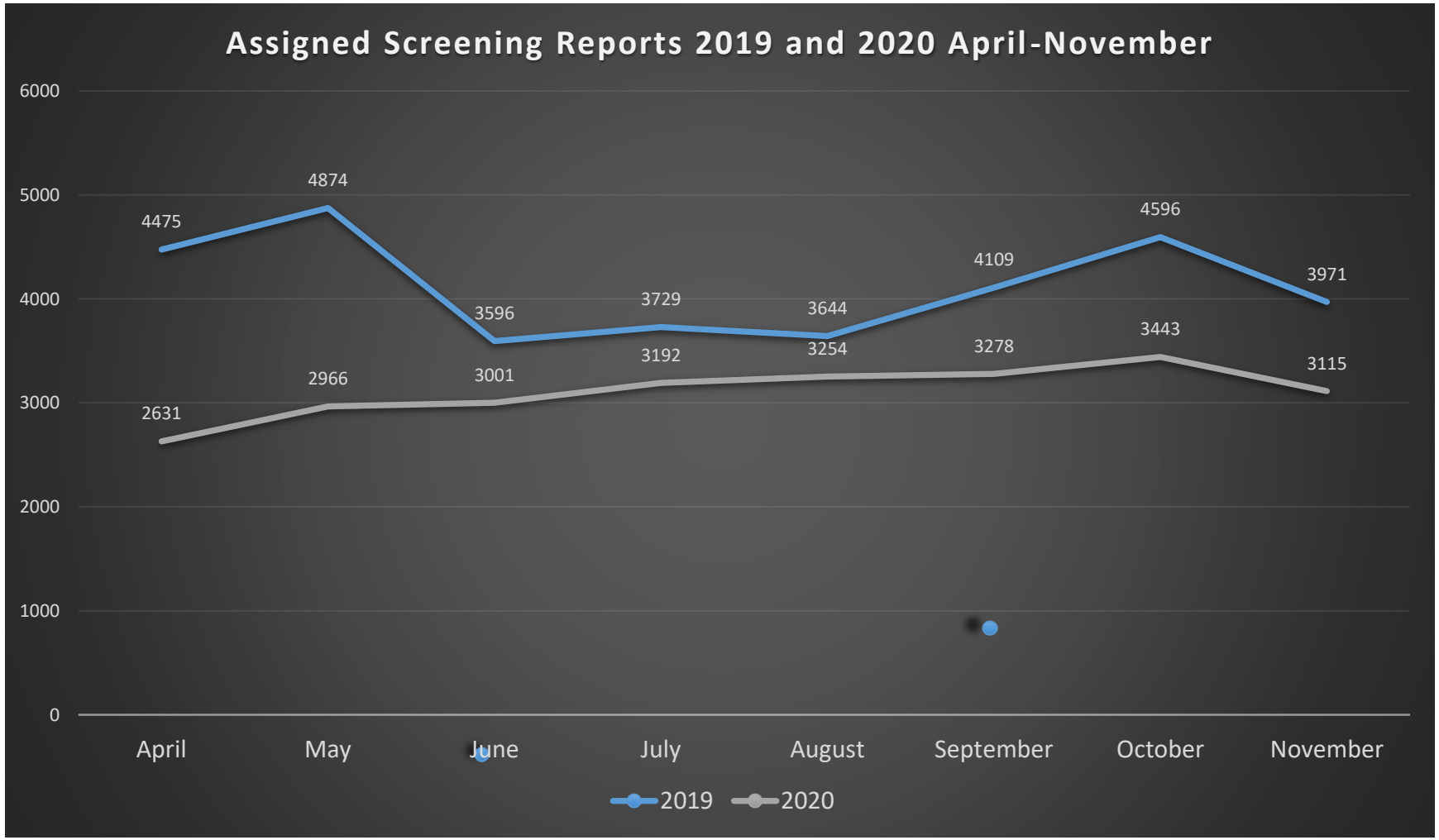
Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH)



- Roughly 40% of calls received at ORCAH are not reports of child abuse or concern for child safety.
- In October, 17% of reporters were Law Enforcement.
- In October, 61% of callers were mandatory reporters. Primary reporters are:
  - School Employee
  - Mental Health Provider
  - ODHS Staff
- Average wait time in November 2020 was 3.37 minutes.
- Abandonment rate in April 2019 was 61% and in November 2020 was 8.9%

Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE

Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH)



- ORCAH assignment rate to CPS of 54.5% in 2019 and 53.7% in 2020.
- Increased efforts for mandatory reporter education and information sharing was completed in summer-fall of 2020 which may attend to addressed over-reporting.
- ORCAH is in the process of hiring the 11 additional screener positions that were approved in the August session.

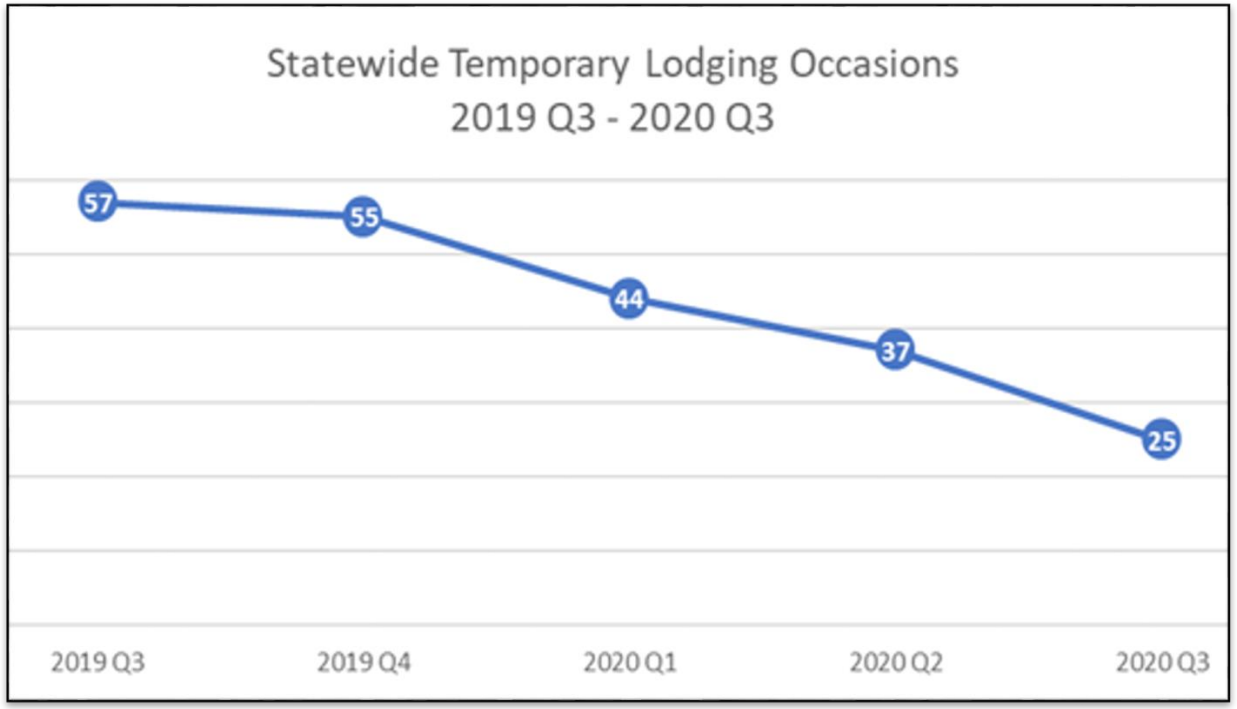
Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE

Assessments Update

- Number of assessments open over 60 days reduced by 48.3%
- Implementation of Child Protective Services (CPS) Mobile Team
- Prioritization for completion of Out-of-Home care assessments
- Developed District-specific strategic plans for reduction of overdue assessments
- Childcare investigations shifted to Office of Training, Investigation, and Safety to allow CPS workers to prioritize familial investigations

Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE

Prevention of Temporary Lodging



- The use of TL has been reduced by 58% over the last 12 months.
- There were 8 Nights in August 2020 and 17 nights in November 2020, where there were 0 children in TL.
- The TL Analytics Tool was piloted in the three branches from August 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020: Children identified by the tool and staffed with the TL team did not enter care in the months that they appeared on the tool.
- The TL Analytics Tool will be piloted in two additional branches starting December 7, 2020.
- A two-day academy kicked off in November 2020 for the leadership team in Midtown.
- Yearly Training required by Caseworkers, Supervisors, Program Managers, and District Managers is updated and monitored for compliance.

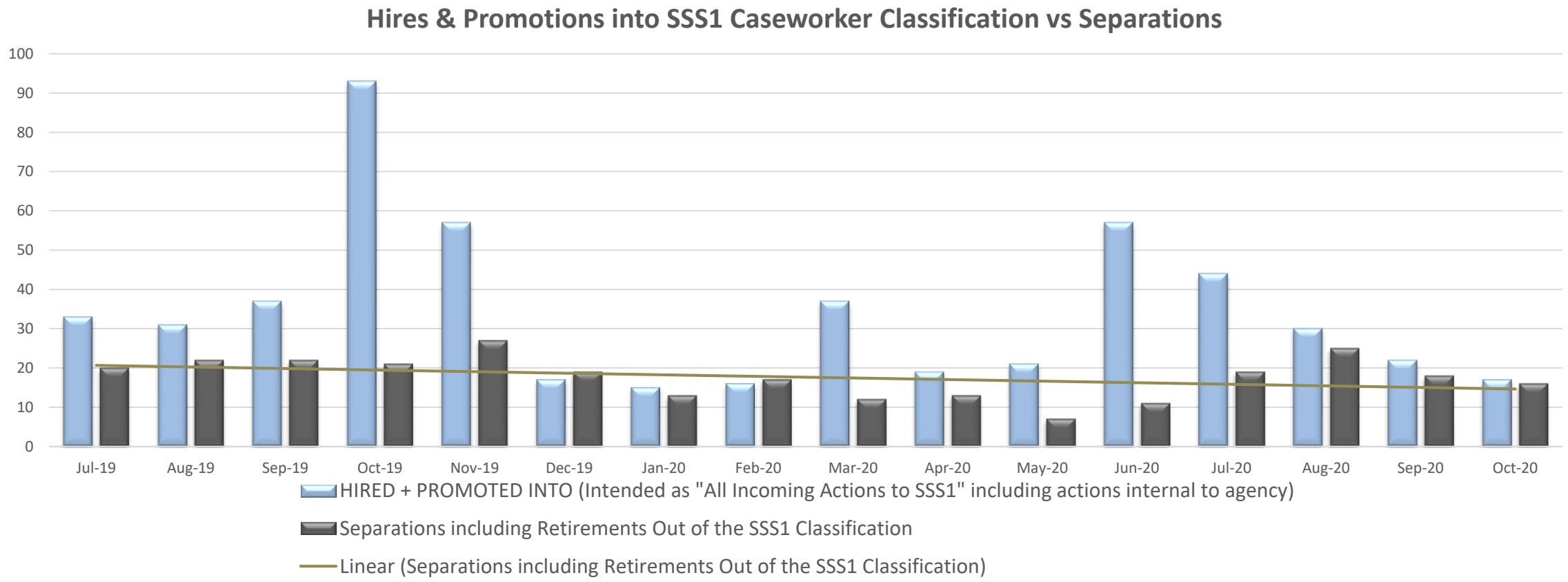
Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE

Behavior Rehabilitation Services (BRS)

Level of care	Jan-20	Nov-20	Net
BRS Proctor Foster Care*	240	240	0
BRS Shelter Residential	19	24	5
BRS Basic Residential	30	42	12
BRS ILP	25	4	-21
BRS Intensive Residential	96	73	-23
BRS Intensive Behavioral Support	51	58	7
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Services – Child Welfare dedicated	14	14	0
Supervised Independent Living (SIL)– PLUS (Care for Adults in Custody)	31	38	7
Non-BRS (Not Track previously)	80	79	-1
Total	586	572	-14

Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE

SSS1 Status Over Time



- This reflects a vacancy rate of approximately 7.3%.

Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE

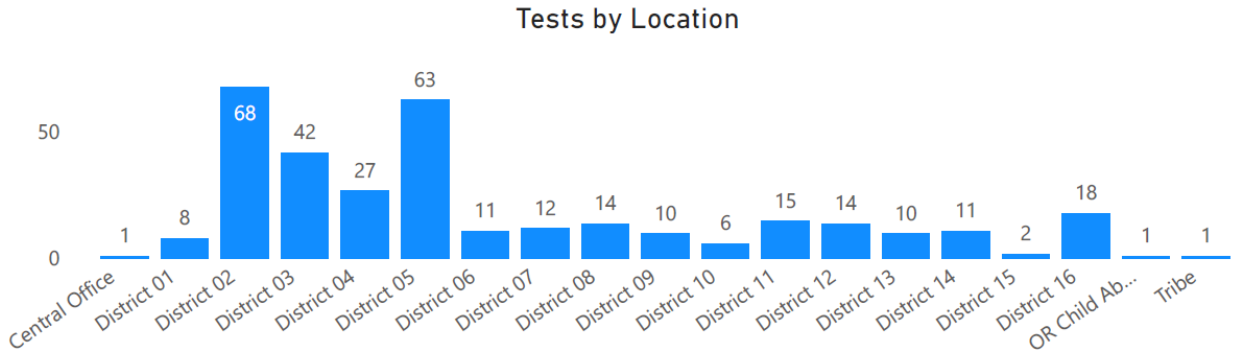
DHS Child Welfare COVID 19 Tracking - Testing for Children in DHS Custody

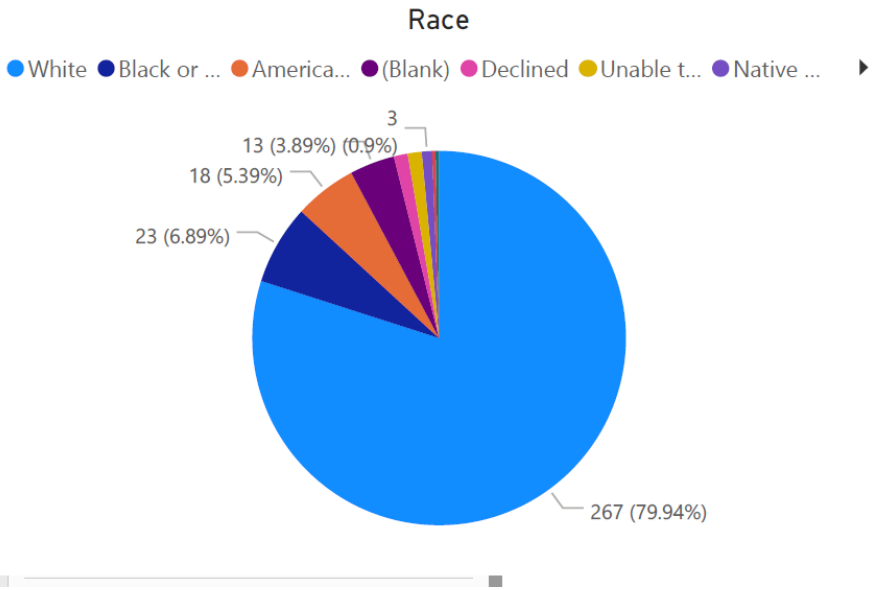
334
Number Tested*

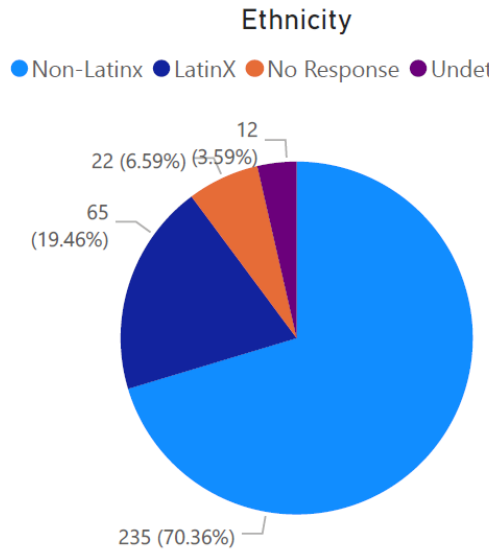
Awaiting Results
6

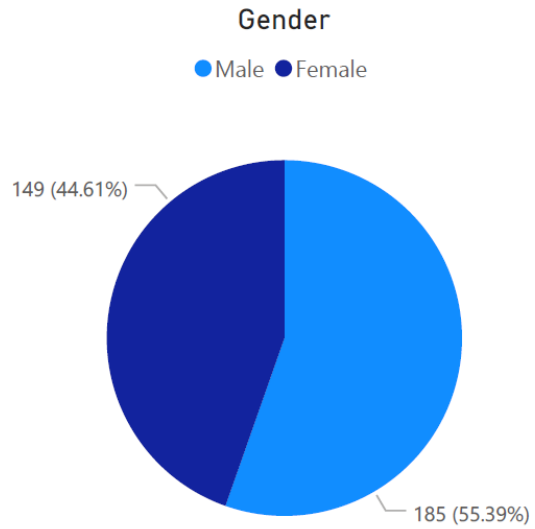
Negative
260

Positive**
68



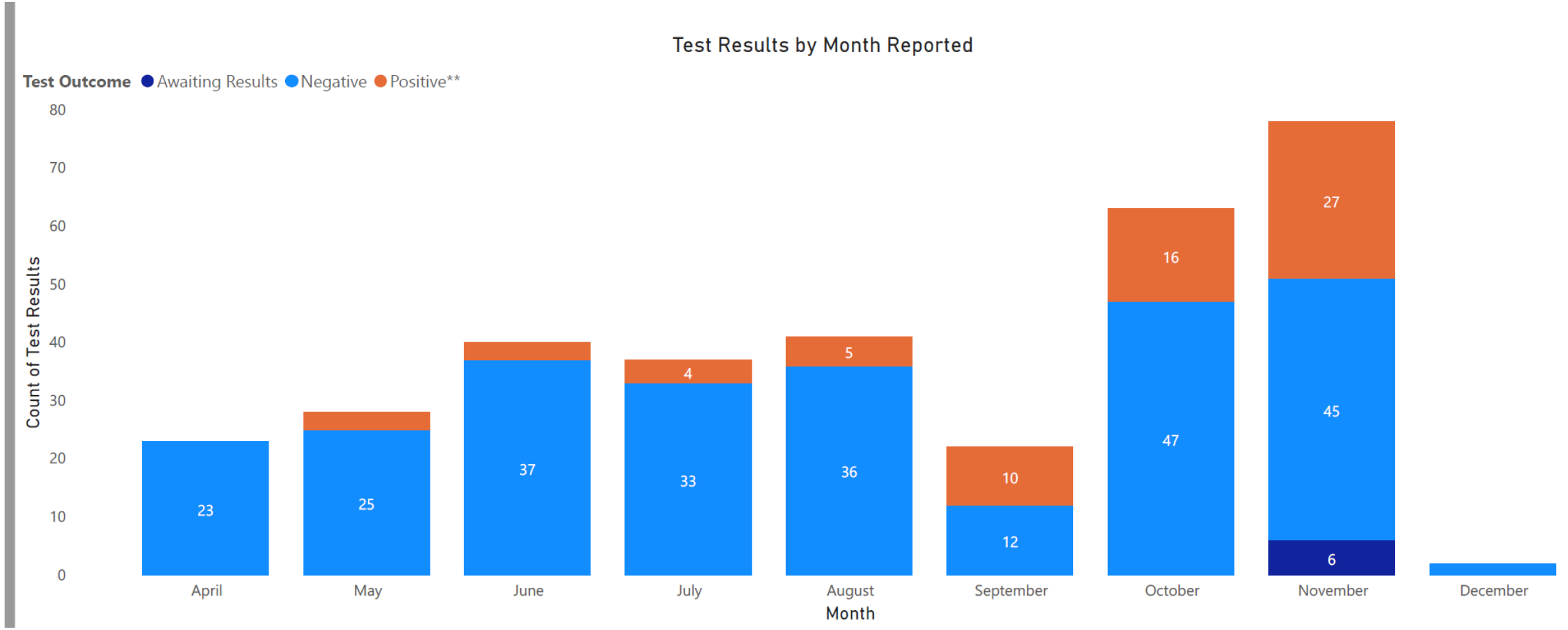






*Note Data as of 12/1/2020

Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE



*Note Data as of 12/1/2020

Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE

Status of Resource (Foster) Family expansion efforts (non-relative, recruited from community)

- Foster Care Strategic Plan
- Resource Family Inquiry Module
- Retention and Recruitment Champions
- Every Child Program
- Resource Family Recruitment Data Trends

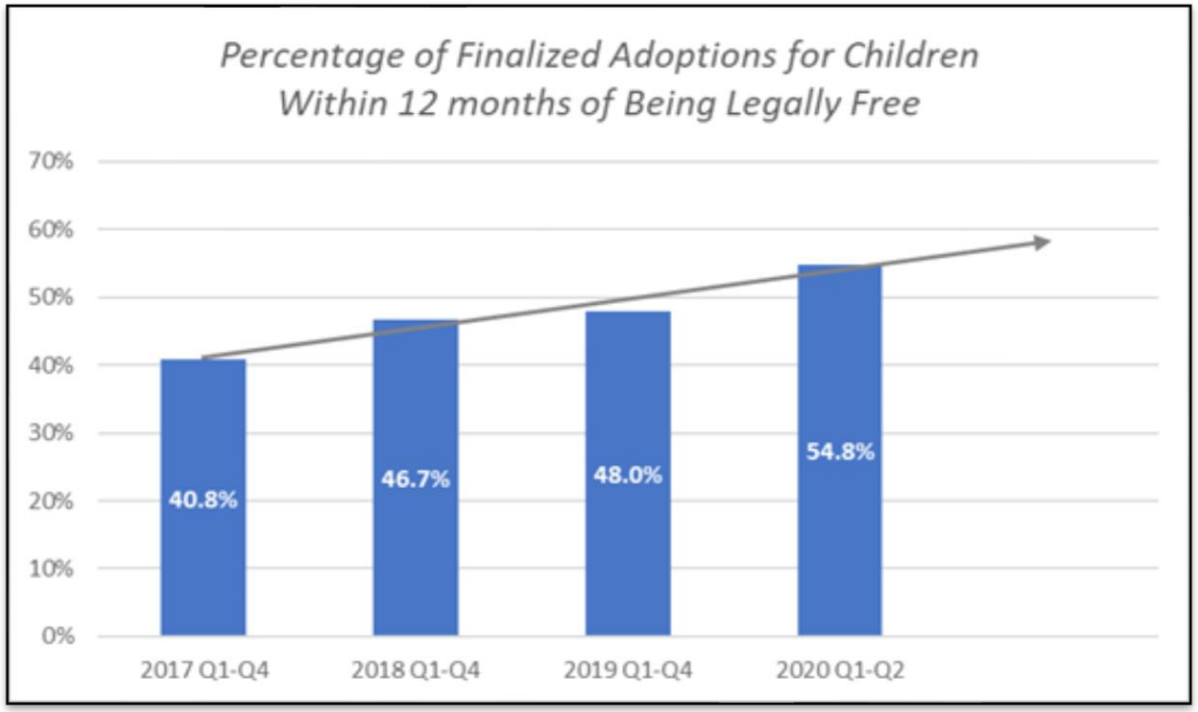
Streamlining Adoption Finalizations

Since 2017, the agency has steadily increased the percentage of adoptions finalized within 12 months of child being legally free.

Steps taken:

- Two Adoption and Guardianship Facilitator FTE job rotations created in Central Office. These positions work closely with caseworkers to identify and remove barriers as well as track progress towards finalization.
- Adoption case mapping and process improvement: The agency continues mapping all adoption steps and removing barriers wherever possible.
- “Quick Wins Cases”: Targeted adoption finalization processes for children legally free in their designated adoptive placements resulted in:
  - August 2019-July 2020: Of 531 children, 526 achieved
  - August 2020-Oct. 2020: Of 458 children, 123 legally finalized; 167 pending legal finalization.
- Joint Program Improvement Planning with Juvenile Court Improvement Project: Development and use of adoption tracking report, training for court, Citizens Review Board and CW staff on adoption process and use of tracking report
- Encouraging increased use of electronic records and processing for Child Welfare and courts

Streamlining Adoption Finalizations



Percentage of adoptions finalizing within 12 months of legally free:

- 2017: 40.8%
- 2018: 46.7%
- 2019: 48.0%
- 2020 Q1 & Q2: 54.8%-in the first 6 months of 2020 have **already exceeded** 2019.

Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE

Questions?

Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE