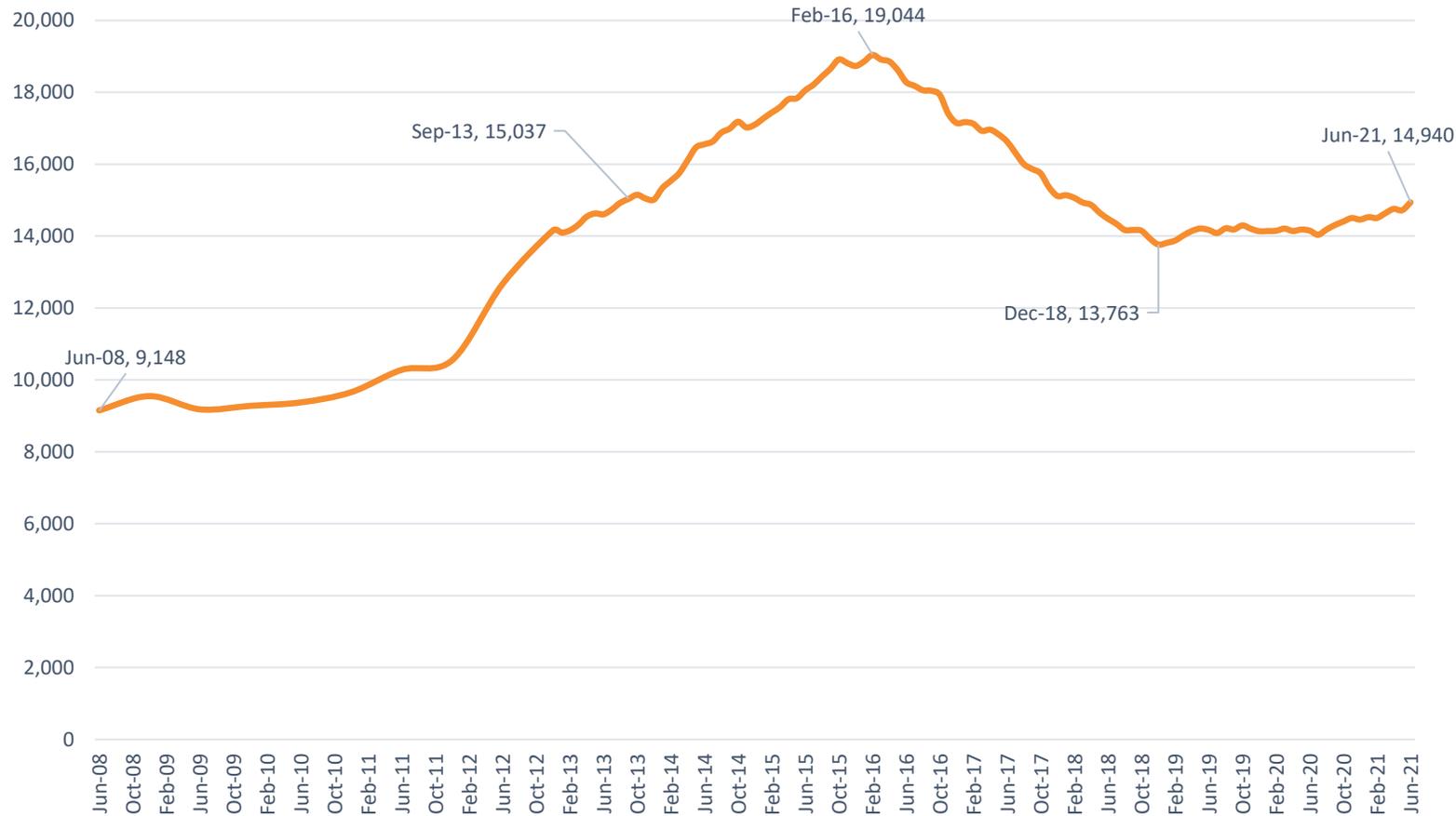# Measures of Child Safety
Monthly Report July 2021

Children's
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CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE: Arizona's foster care population has dropped by 22% since its historic high in February 2016

Feb-16, 19,044

Sep-13, 15,037

Jun-21, 14,940

Dec-18, 13,763

Jun-08, 9,148

20,000
18,000
16,000
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0

Jun-08 Oct-08 Feb-09 Jun-09 Oct-09 Feb-10 Jun-10 Oct-10 Feb-11 Jun-11 Oct-11 Feb-12 Jun-12 Oct-12 Feb-13 Jun-13 Oct-13 Feb-14 Jun-14 Oct-14 Feb-15 Jun-15 Oct-15 Feb-16 Jun-16 Oct-16 Feb-17 Jun-17 Oct-17 Feb-18 Jun-18 Oct-18 Feb-19 Jun-19 Oct-19 Feb-20 Jun-20 Oct-20 Feb-21 Jun-21
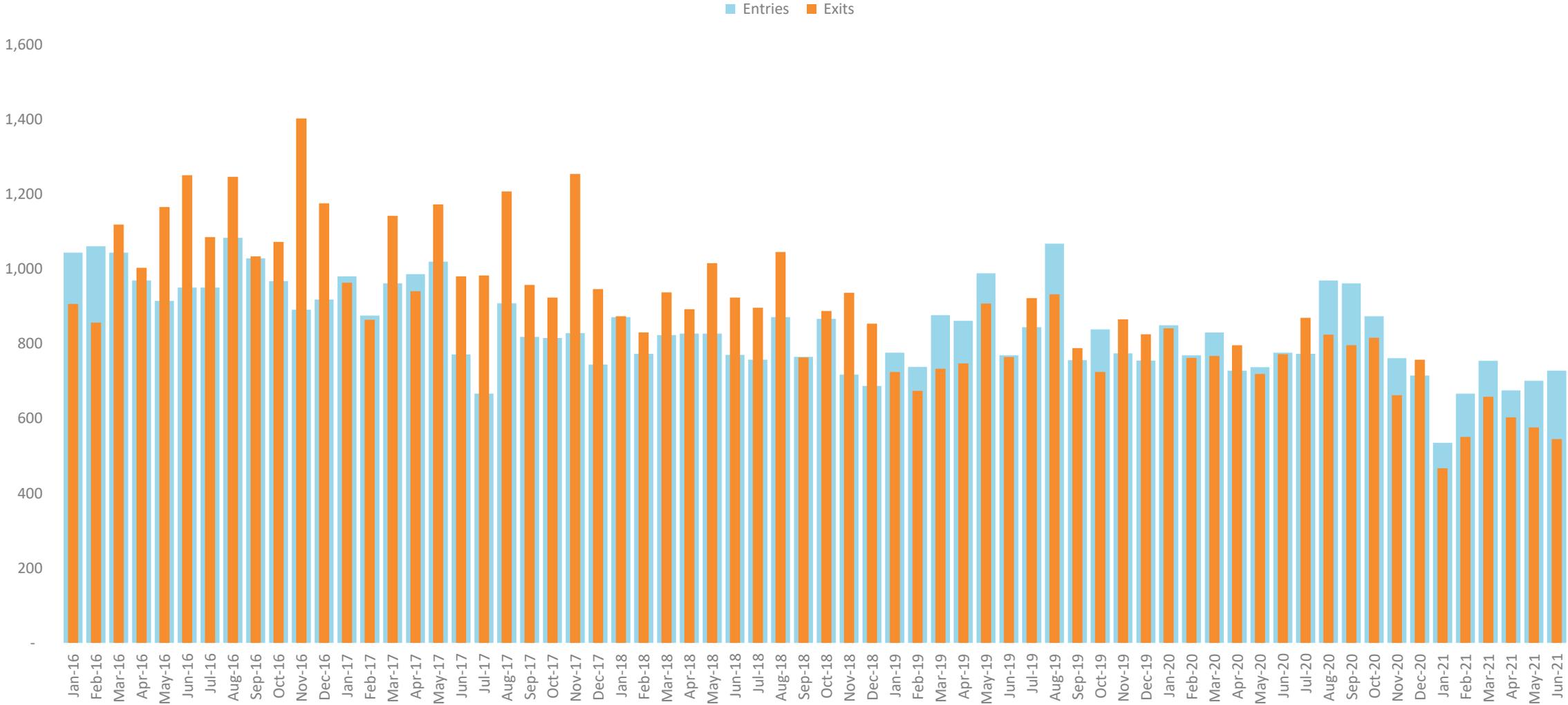
Note: Includes all children 0 to 21
Source: Department of Child Safety, *Monthly Report (TIGGER) Facts and Figures;* DCS Monthly Operational Report as of October 2016
Updated: 8/5/2021

TIMELINE
ARIZONA CHILD WELFARE

2009
Amid the **Great Recession**, budget cuts hit. DES announces that not all potential risk reports to the hotline will be investigated, staff layoffs begin, monthly foster care payments decrease, and prevention services and substance abuse treatment are cut.

2010
Following several **high-profile child abuse fatalities**, the public and media call for reform. CPS staffing is low and the agency struggles to respond.

2011
While other states begin to recover from the Great Recession, Arizona sees an even **steeper increase** of children into foster care.

2013
The **foster care population has skyrocketed** to more than 15,000, with more than 6,000 reports that had not been investigated.

2014
Governor Brewer disbands CPS and **creates the Department of Child Safety**

2016
Arizona's foster care population reaches an **all time high** of 19,044

2018
Arizona's foster care population reaches a **post-crisis low** of 13,763

2020
Arizona's foster care population **ticks up** to 14,247

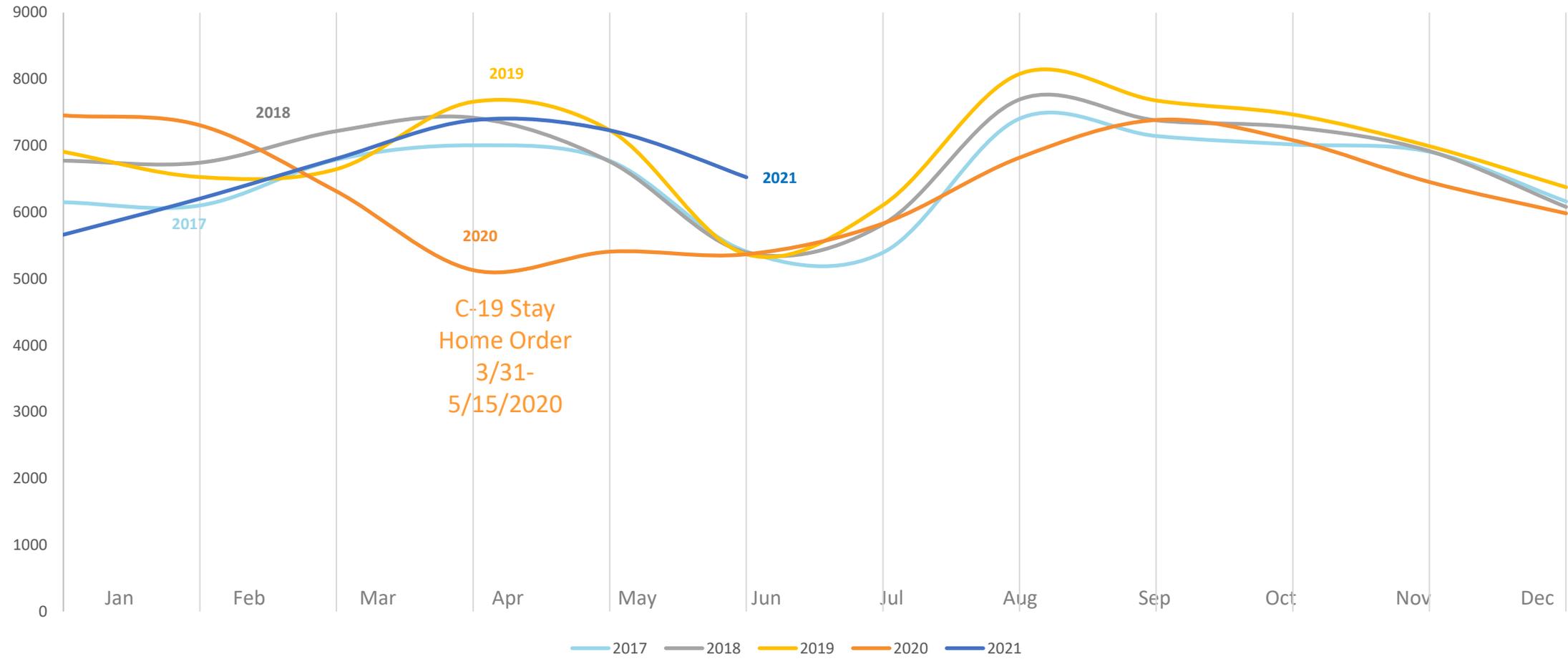# CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE COMPARED TO CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE

■ Entries   ■ Exits

Source: Department of Child Safety, *Facts and Figures*; DCS Monthly Operational Report as of July 2016.
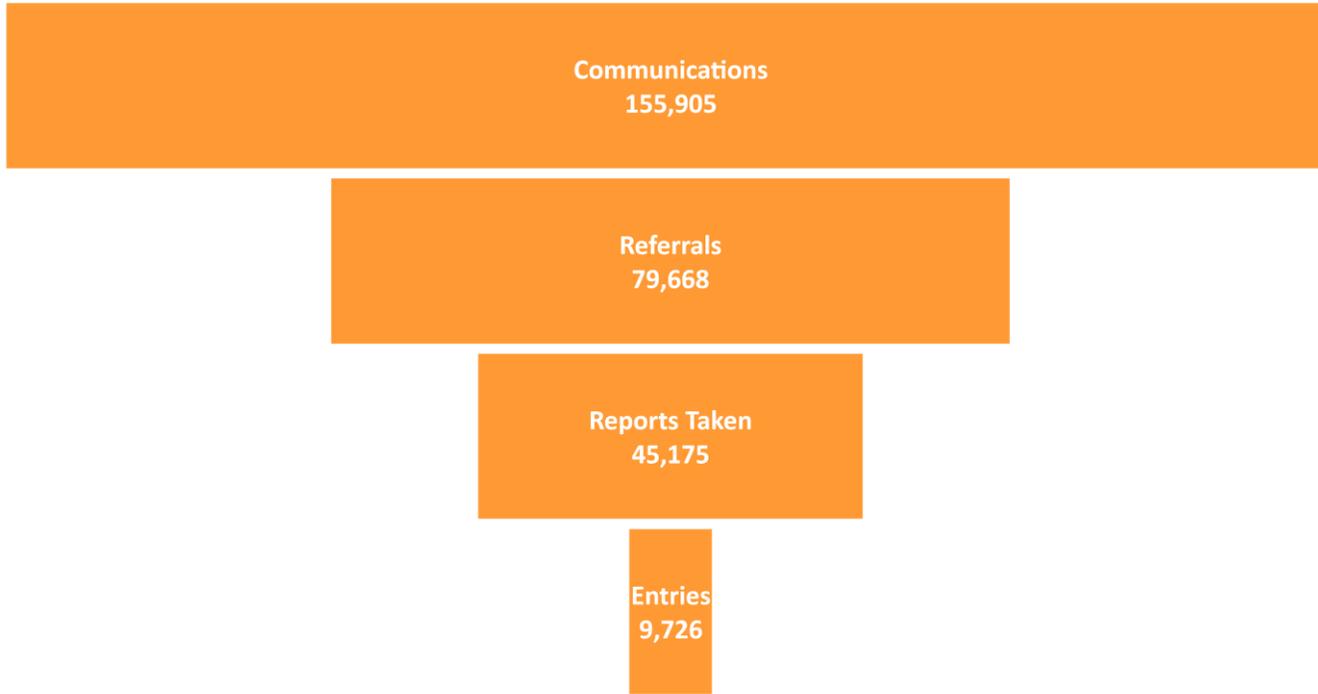Updated: 8/5/2021

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REFERRALS TO THE HOTLINE ARE SEASONAL

2019

2018

2017

2020

2021

C-19 Stay
Home Order
3/31-
5/15/2020

9000
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

— 2017 — 2018 — 2019 — 2020 — 2021

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ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF HOTLINE COMMUNICATIONS RESULT IN A CHILD'S ENTRY INTO FOSTER CARE

MOST REPORTS TO THE DCS HOTLINE ARE FOR NEGLECT

Communications
155,905

Referrals
79,668

Reports Taken
45,175

Entries
9,726

	FY 15	FY 16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21 YTD
Abuse	28%	29%	30%	29%	30%	33%	33%
Neglect	72%	71%	70%	71%	70%	67%	67%

■ Neglect ■ Abuse

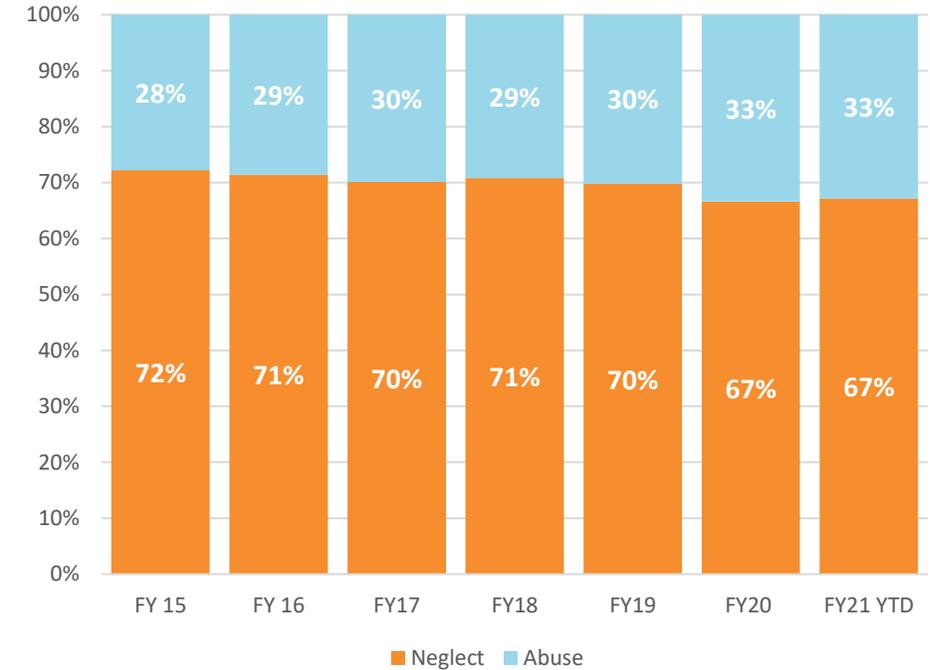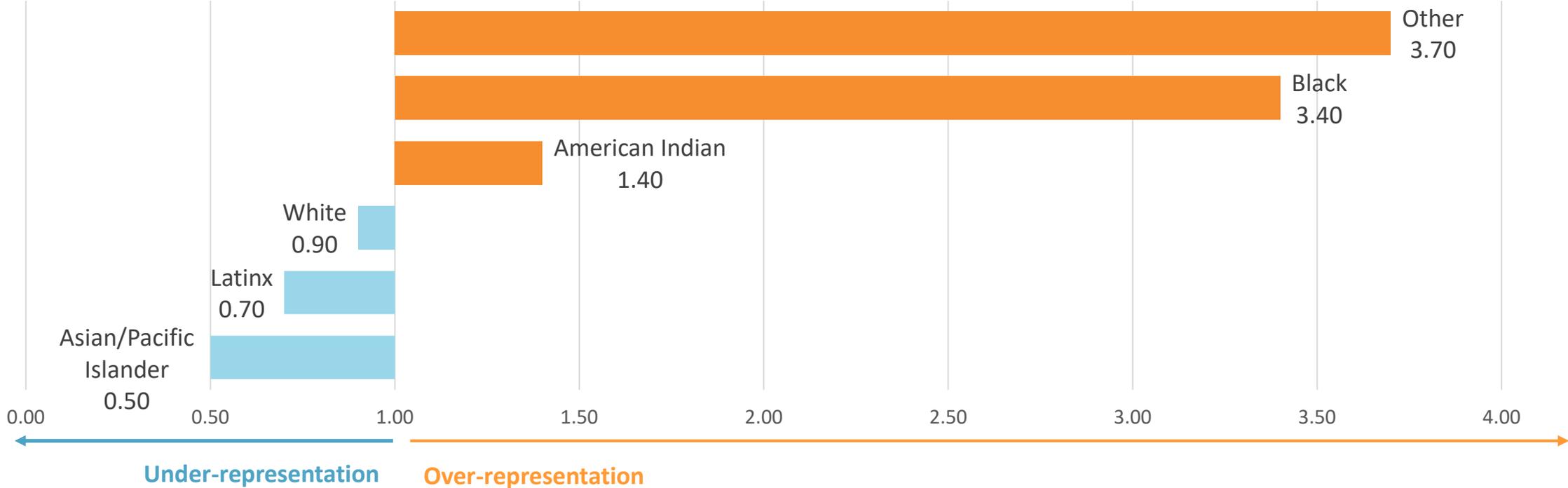| Communications	Total # of calls, court orders, letters, faxes, emails and online communications made to the Hotline communicating a child safety/well-being concern.
Referrals	Communications to the Child Abuse Hotline that is a concern of abuse and neglect. Referrals include communications that meet statutory report criteria and those that are screened out not having met criteria.
Reports Taken	Total # of referrals that meet the statutory definition of a report for investigation (including no jurisdiction reports) of abuse and/or neglect. "No Jursidiction" involves a report of abuse or neglect but for which the department does not have jurisdiction to investigate.
Screen In %	# of reports taken divided by total # of referrals.

Source: DCS Monthly Operational Report. (The chart on the left shows SFY 20.)
Updated: 8/5/21

HOTLINE REPORTS: Black, American Indian and Children's whose race/ethnicity is described as "Other" are reported to the hotline at rates higher than their rate in Arizona's general population

This chart shows a **Racial Disproportionality Index (RDI)** for hotline reports to DCS. RDI's compare the percentage of children who experience an event (reported to the hotline) to the percentage by race of the larger comparison population (Arizona's general population). A result of 1 indicates the group experiences the event at a rate equal to their rate in the population. A result greater than 1 indicates that the group experiences the event at a higher rate than their rate in the population (i.e., over-representation). A result less than one indicates that the group experiences the event at a rate lower than their rate in the population (i.e., under-representation). For example, this chart shows that Black children are reported to the hotline at a rate 3.4 times greater than their rate in Arizona's general population.
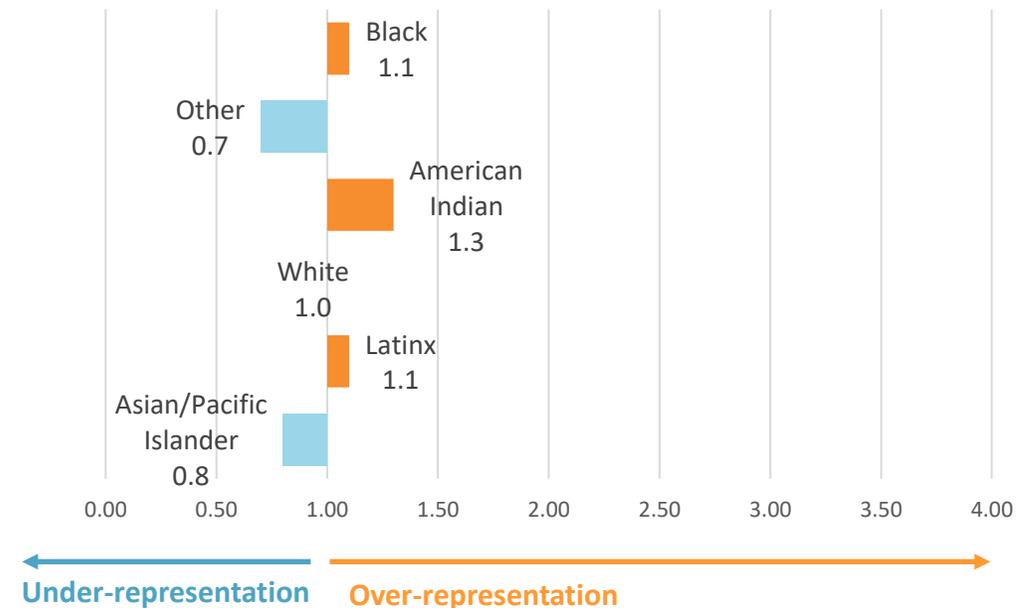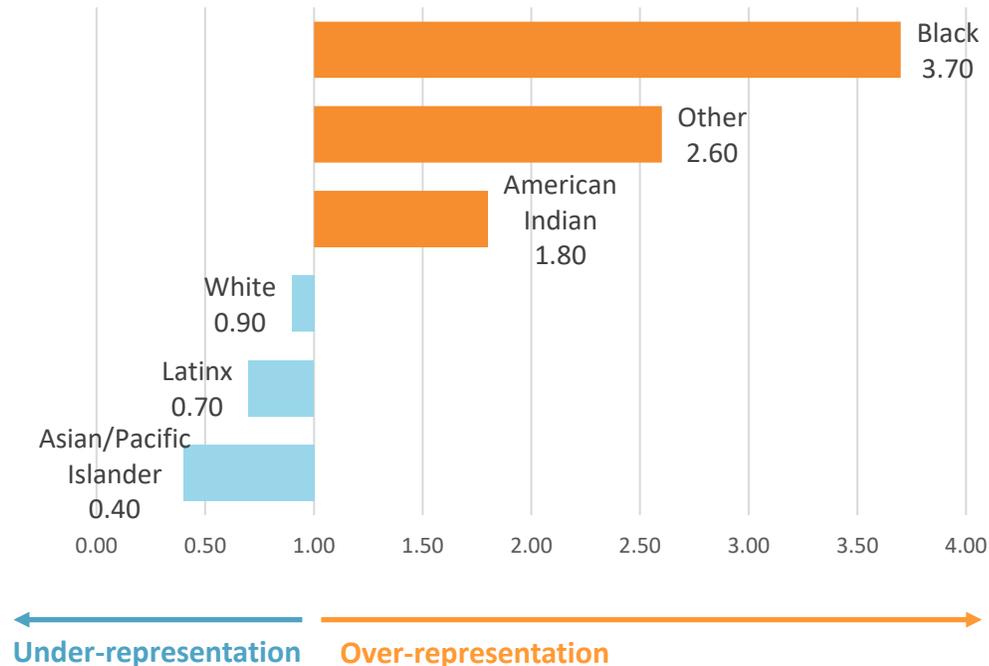
Source: DCS data for 2018 obtained by request on 7/28/2020
Updated: 9/20/2020

REMOVALS TO FOSTER CARE: These charts provide a side by side look at removals of children from their homes and into foster care by race/ethnicity compared to (1) the general population and (2) children who were reported to DCS. The data suggests that much, but not all, racial disproportionality in removals to foster care is a result of disproportionality in reports to the hotline.
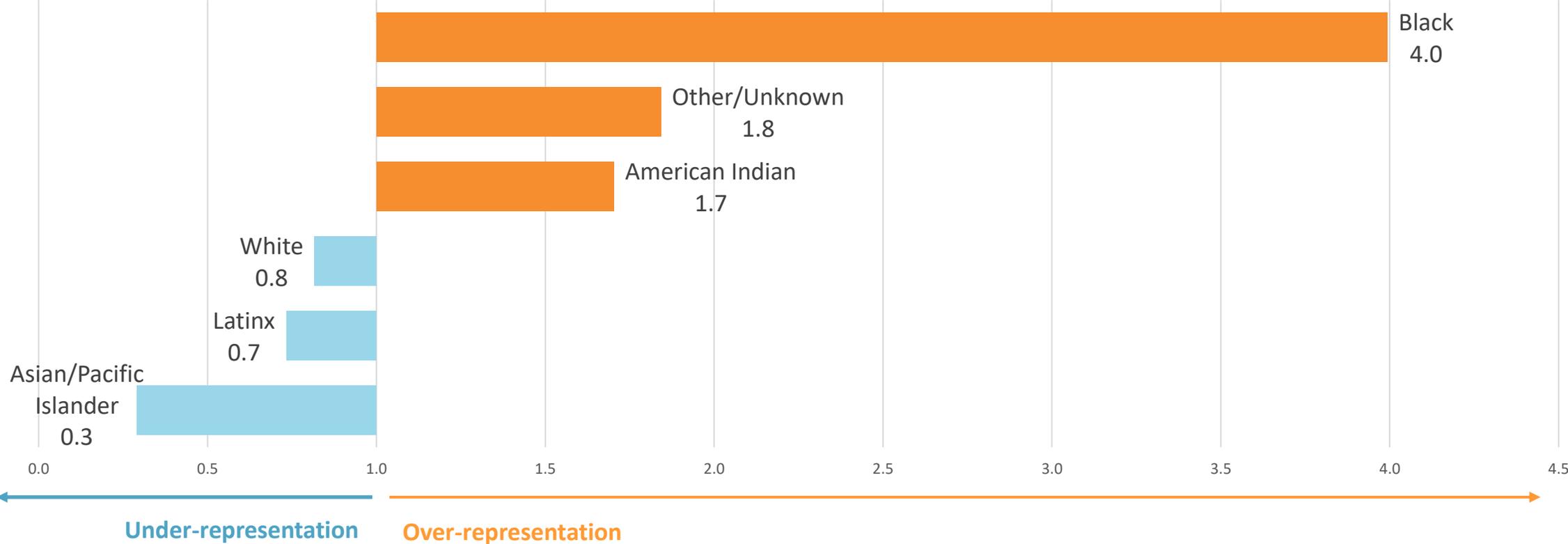
ENTRIES PER GENERAL POPULATION   VS   ENTRIES PER REPORTED POPULATION

Under-representation   Over-representation   Under-representation   Over-representation

These charts shows **Racial Disproportionality Indexes (RDI)** for removals to foster care. The index on the left compares the percentage of children by race who entered foster care in 2018 to the percentage by race of children in Arizona's *general population*. The index on the right compares the percentage of children by race who entered foster care in 2018 to the percentage by race of children who were *reported to the DCS hotline*. A result of 1 indicates the group experiences the event at a rate equal to their rate in the comparison population. A result greater than 1 indicates that the group experiences the event at a higher rate than their rate in the comparison population (i.e., over-representation). A result less than one indicates that the group experiences the event at a rate lower than their rate in the comparison population (i.e., under-representation).

Source: DCS data for 2018 obtained by request on 7/28/2020
Updated: 9/20/2020

TOTAL FOSTER CARE POPULATION: Black, American Indian and children's whose race/ethnicity is described as "Other" are in out-of-home foster care at rates higher than their rate in Arizona's general population.
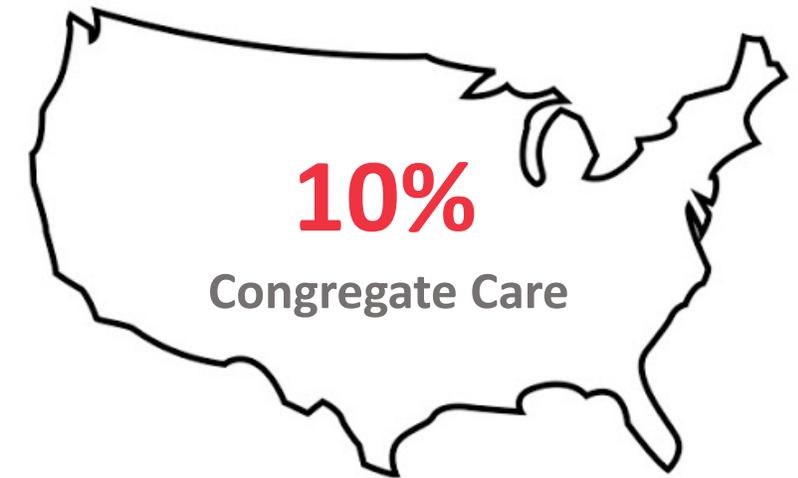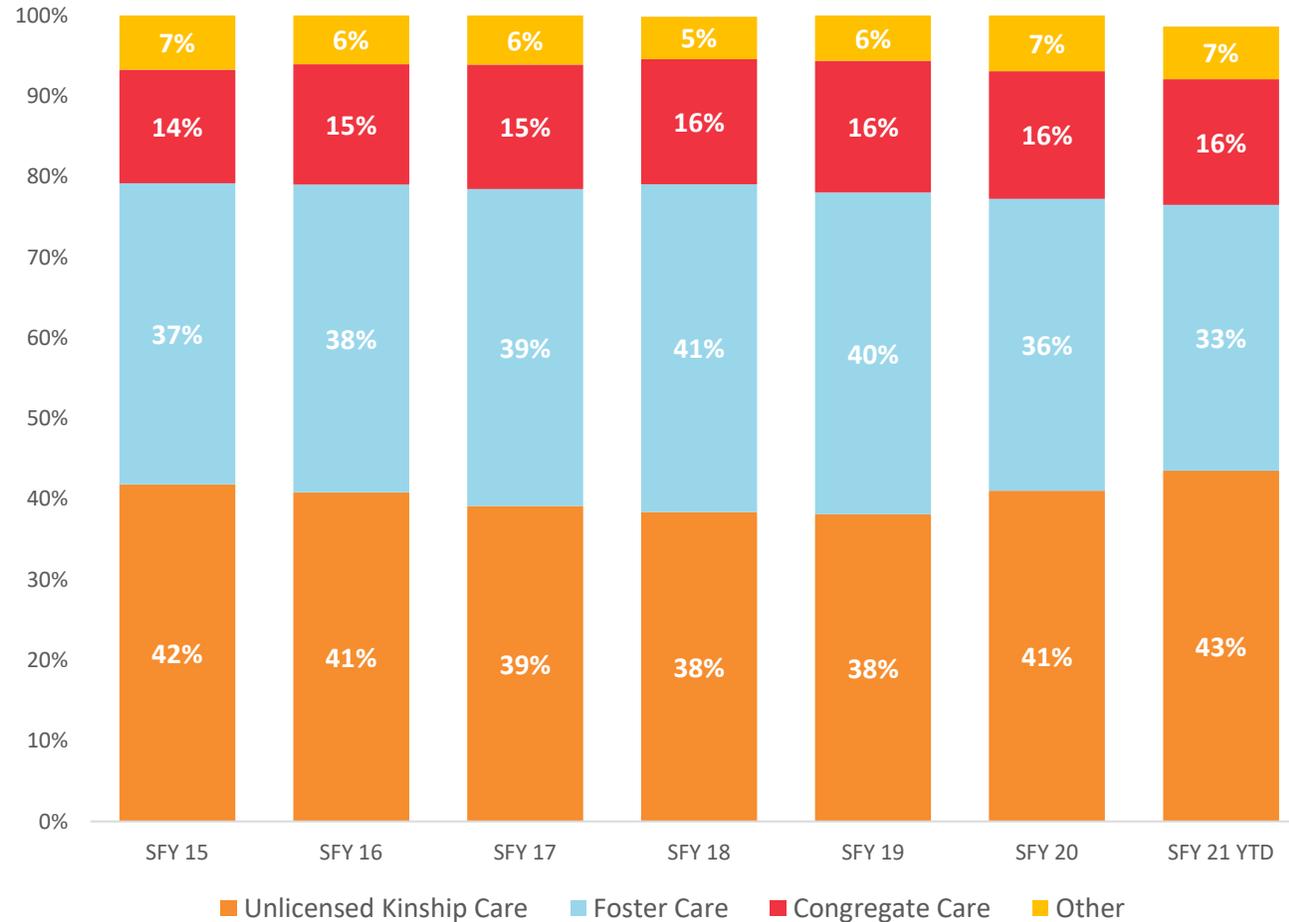

This chart shows a **Racial Disproportionality Index (RDI)** for Arizona's foster care population. This RDI compares the percentage of children by race in foster care to the percentage by race of children in Arizona's general population. A result of 1 indicates the group experiences the event at a rate equal to their rate in the population. A result greater than 1 indicates that the group experiences the event at a higher rate than their rate in the population (i.e., over-representation). A result less than one indicates that the group experiences the event at a rate lower than their rate in the population (i.e., under-representation). E.g., In Arizona Black children experience foster care at rate 4 times greater than their rate in Arizona's general population.

Source: General population data for 2018 obtained from DCS by request on 7/28/2020; 2021 DCS Out-of-Home placement data obtained from DCS Monthly Operational Report June 2021. But note, race and ethnicity data for children in out-of-home placement has not been reported by DCS since January 2021 due to a data lag caused by the Agency's change to the Guardian data management system.
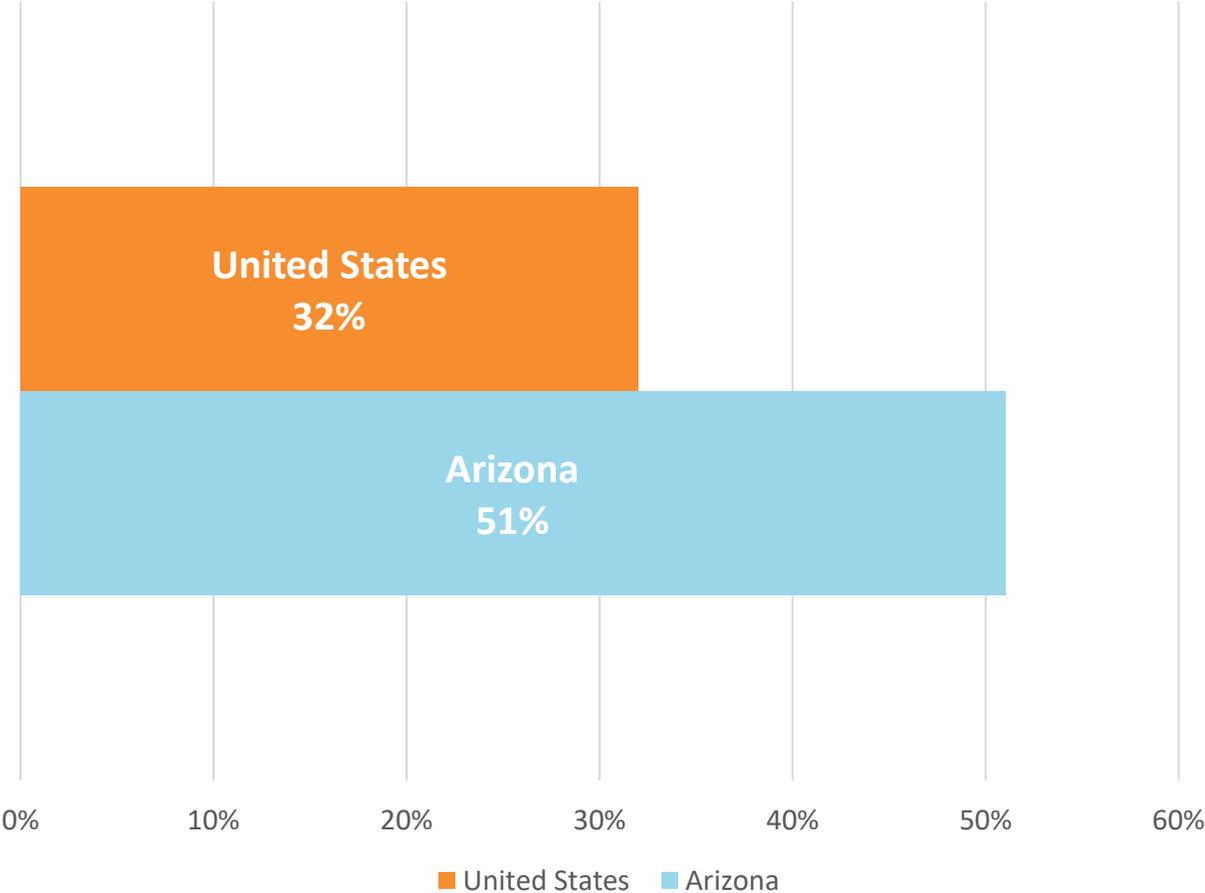Updated: 8/5/2021

ARIZONA'S DISTRIBUTION OF PLACEMENT TYPES, INCLUDING USE OF CONGREGATE CARE, HAS NOT CHANGED SIGNFICANTLY

NATIONALLY, 10% OF FOSTER CHILDREN ARE PLACED IN CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS

	SFY 15	SFY 16	SFY 17	SFY 18	SFY 19	SFY 20	SFY 21 YTD
Other	7%	6%	6%	5%	6%	7%	7%
Congregate Care	14%	15%	15%	16%	16%	16%	16%
Foster Care	37%	38%	39%	41%	40%	36%	33%
Unlicensed Kinship Care	42%	41%	39%	38%	38%	41%	43%

Unlicensed Kinship Care   **Foster Care**   **Congregate Care**   **Other**
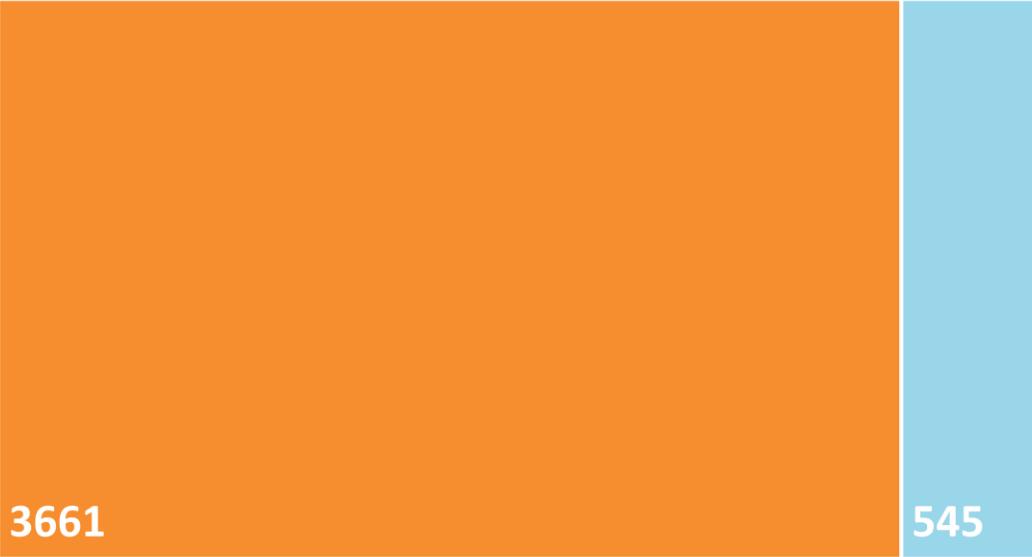
10%
Congregate Care

Note: Foster care population includes all children 20 years and under; Other includes Independent Living, Runaway, Missing Child, Trial Home Visit, and No ID Placement
Sources: Department of Child Safety, *Monthly Report (TIGGER) Facts and Figures,* April 2016; DCS Monthly Operational Report June 2921. But note, data regarding placement by type has not been reported by DCS since January 2021 due to a data lag caused by the Agency's change to the Guardian data management system; Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2020) Foster care statistics 2018. Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau.
Updated: 8/5/2021

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ARIZONA'S UTILIZATION OF KINSHIP PLACEMENTS IS HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL RATE

United States 32%

Arizona 51%

United States   Arizona

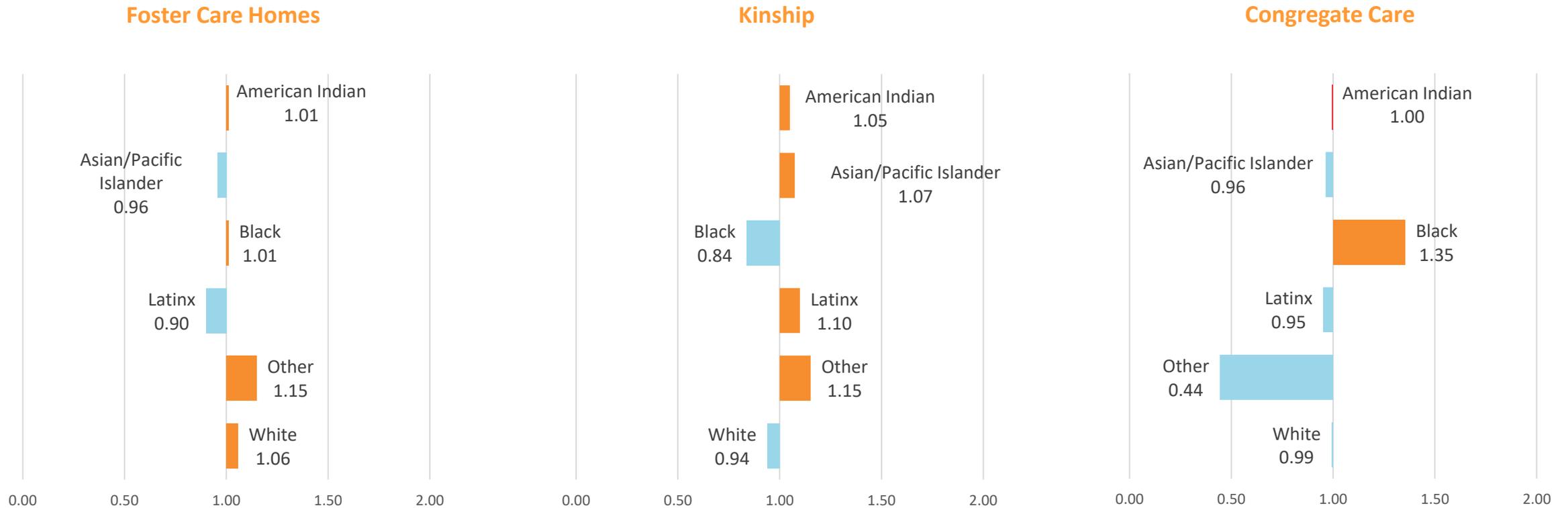MOST KINSHIP PLACEMENTS IN ARIZONA ARE UNLICENSED

3661

545

■ Licensed Kinship Foster Homes: 13%
■ Unlicensed Kinship Homes: 87%

Unlicensed kinship foster homes are eligible to receive a maximum of $239 dollars per child per month. Licensed foster homes (including licensed kinship homes) receive an average of $641.49 per child per month.
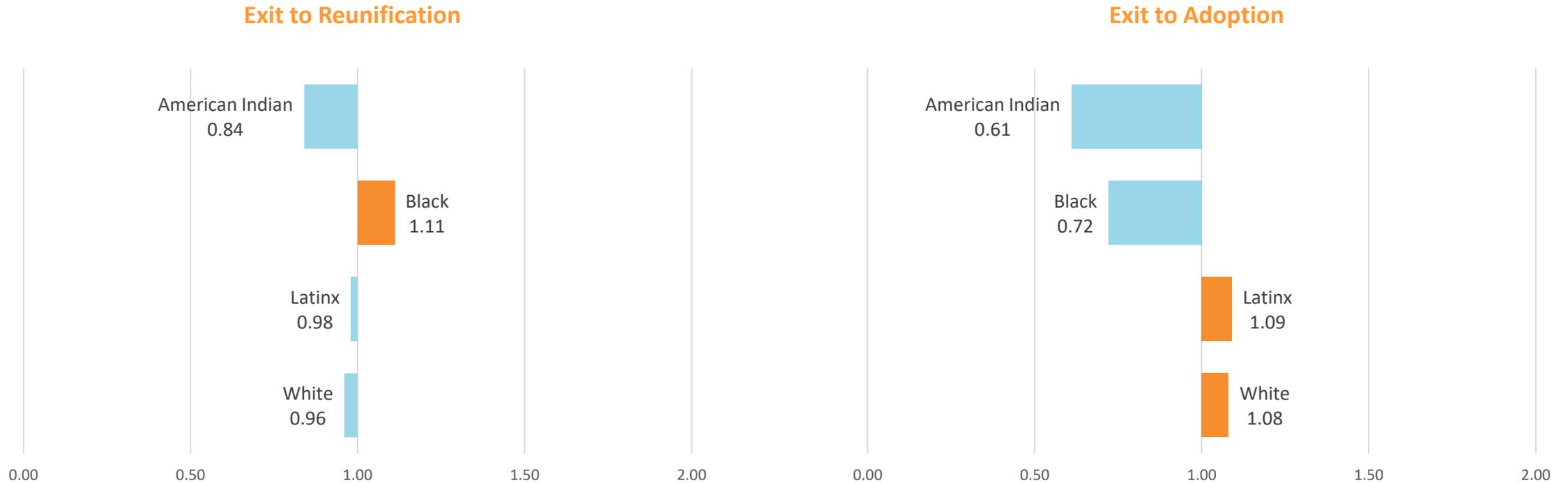
Source: Chart on Left: Child Welfare Information Gateway (2020) Foster care statistics 2018. Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau; DCS Annual Supportive Resources Report SFY 2020.
Updated: 11/12/2020

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS: Among children in out-of-home placement, Black children are under-represented in kinship care and over-represented in congregate care and American Indian children are over-represented in kinship care.

Foster Care Homes

American Indian
1.01

Asian/Pacific Islander
0.96

Black
1.01

Latinx
0.90

Other
1.15

White
1.06

Kinship

American Indian
1.05

Asian/Pacific Islander
1.07

Black
0.84

Latinx
1.10

Other
1.15

White
0.94

Congregate Care

American Indian
1.00

Asian/Pacific Islander
0.96

Black
1.35

Latinx
0.95

Other
0.44

White
0.99

These charts shows **Racial Disproportionality Indexes** for experiencing different types of out-of-home placements. It compares the percentage of children by race who experience the placement type to the percentage by race of children in the out-of-home foster care population. A result of 1 indicates the group experiences the event at a rate equal to their rate in the over all out-of-home placement population. A result greater than 1 indicates that the group experiences the event at a higher rate than their rate in the out-of-home placement population (i.e., over-representation). A result less than one indicates that the group experiences the event at a rate lower than their rate in the out-of-home placement population (i.e., under-representation). E.g., Black children experience congregate care at a rate 1.35X greater than their rate in the out-of-home placement population.

Source: 2019 DCS Out-of-Home placement data obtained by request on 6/25/2019
Updated: 9/20/2020

EXITS TO REUNIFICATION AND ADOPTION: Black children are over-represented in exits to reunification and under-represented in exits to adoption. American Indian children are under-represented in both exits to reunification and exits to adoption.

Exit to Reunification

American Indian 0.84

Black 1.11

Latinx 0.98

White 0.96

0.00   0.50   1.00   1.50   2.00

Exit to Adoption

American Indian 0.61

Black 0.72

Latinx 1.09

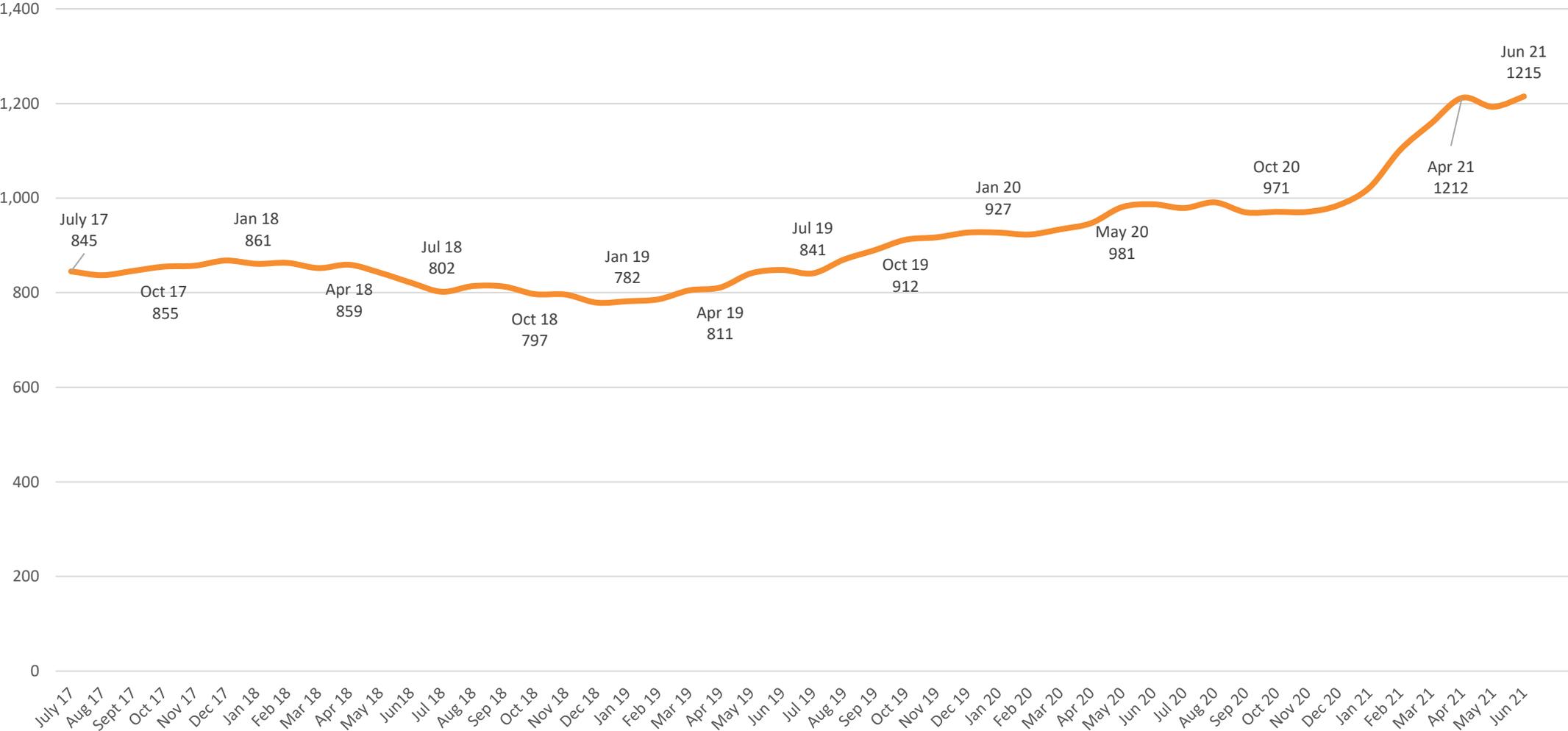White 1.08

0.00   0.50   1.00   1.50   2.00

This chart shows a **Racial Disproportionality Index (RDI)** for exits from foster care. These RDIs compare the percentage of children by race who exit to reunification in 12 months and exit to adoption in 24 months to the percentage by race of the 2017 entry cohort. A result of 1 indicates the group experiences the event at a rate equal to their rate in the population. A result greater than 1 indicates that the group experiences the event at a higher rate than their rate in the population (i.e., over-representation). A result less than one indicates that the group experiences the event at a rate lower than their rate in the population (i.e., under-representation).

Source: 2017 entry cohort data obtained from DCS by request on 7/28/2020.
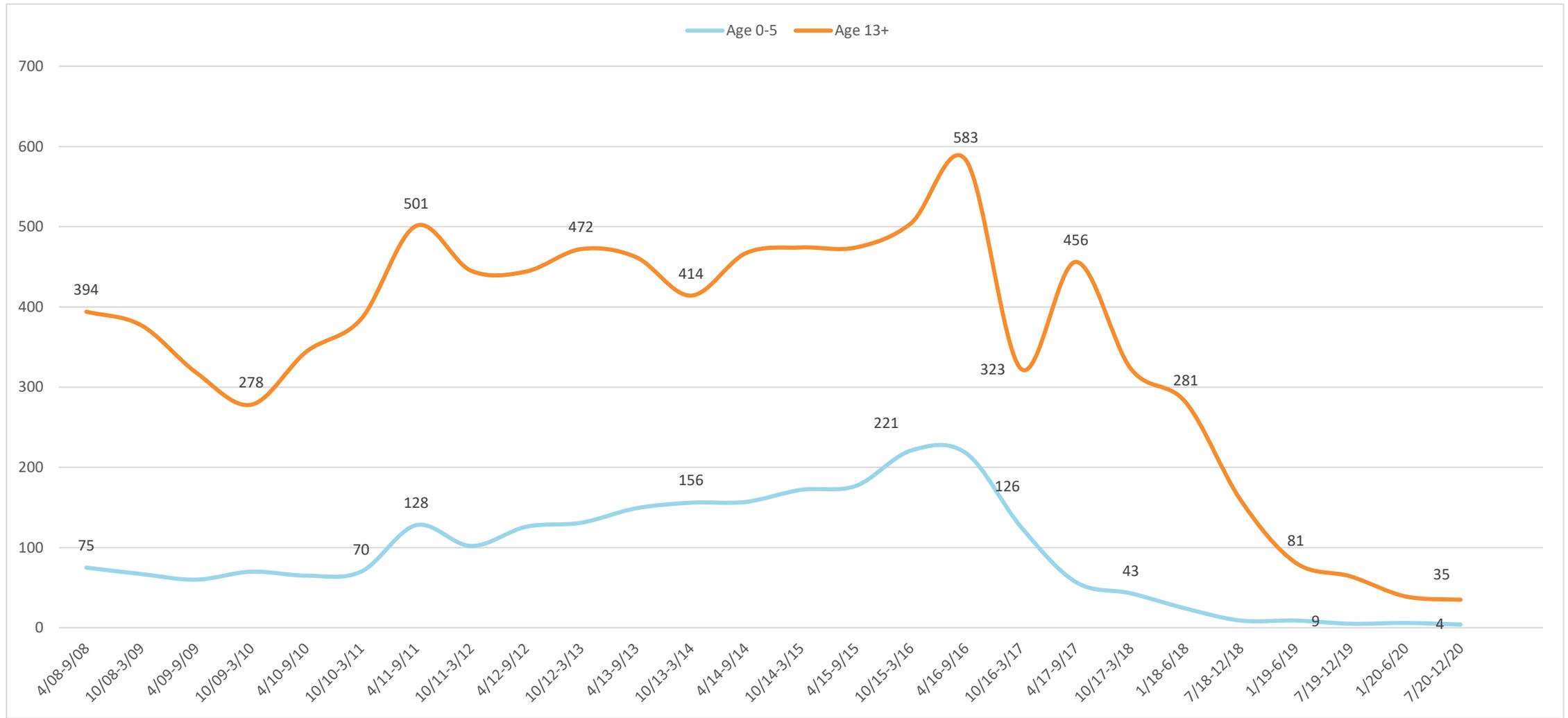Updated: 9/20/2020

YOUNG ADULTS AGED 18 TO 21 YEARS IN EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

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NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN SHELTER CARE FOR MORE THAN 21 CONSECUTIVE DAYS BY AGE
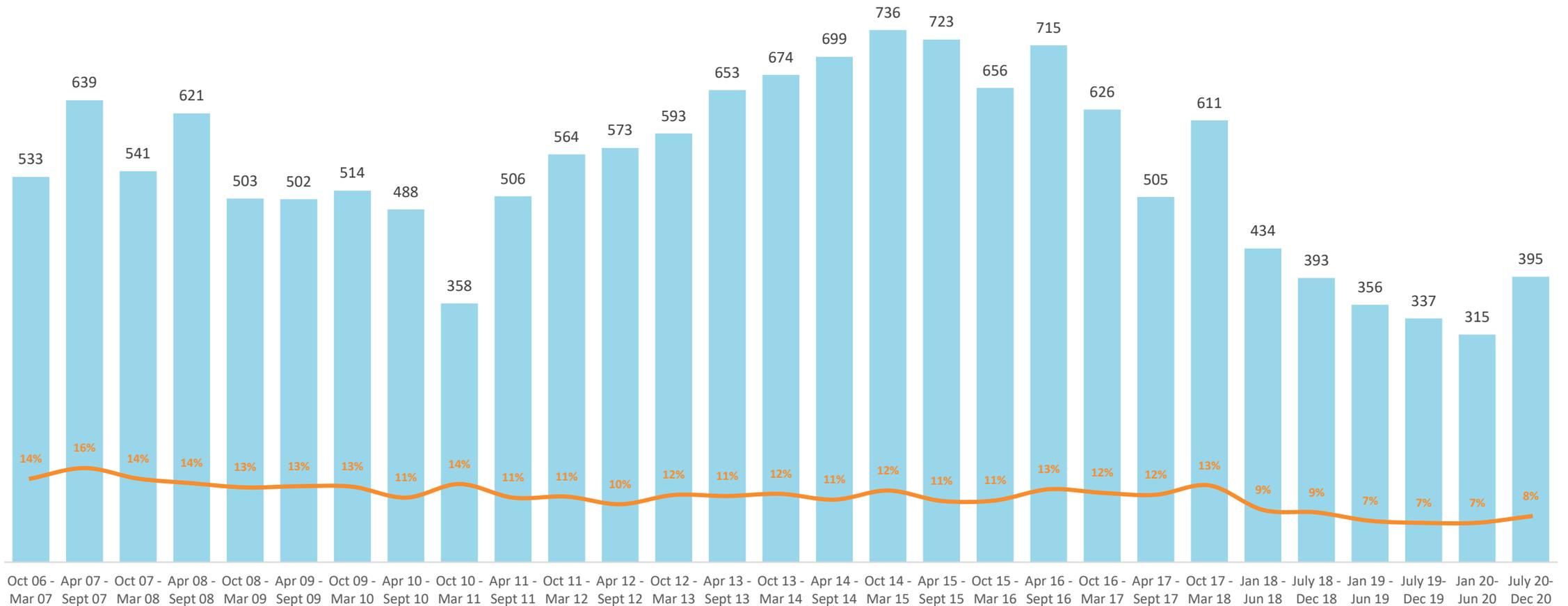
Age 0-5 ——— Age 13+

Source: Department of Child Safety, Semi-Annual *Child Welfare Report (1229 Report)*
Updated: 8/18/2021
*Figures include duplicate data between Jan 2018 and Mar 2018 due to changes to DCS reporting

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CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE WITH A PREVIOUS REMOVAL BY DCS IN THE LAST 24 MONTHS
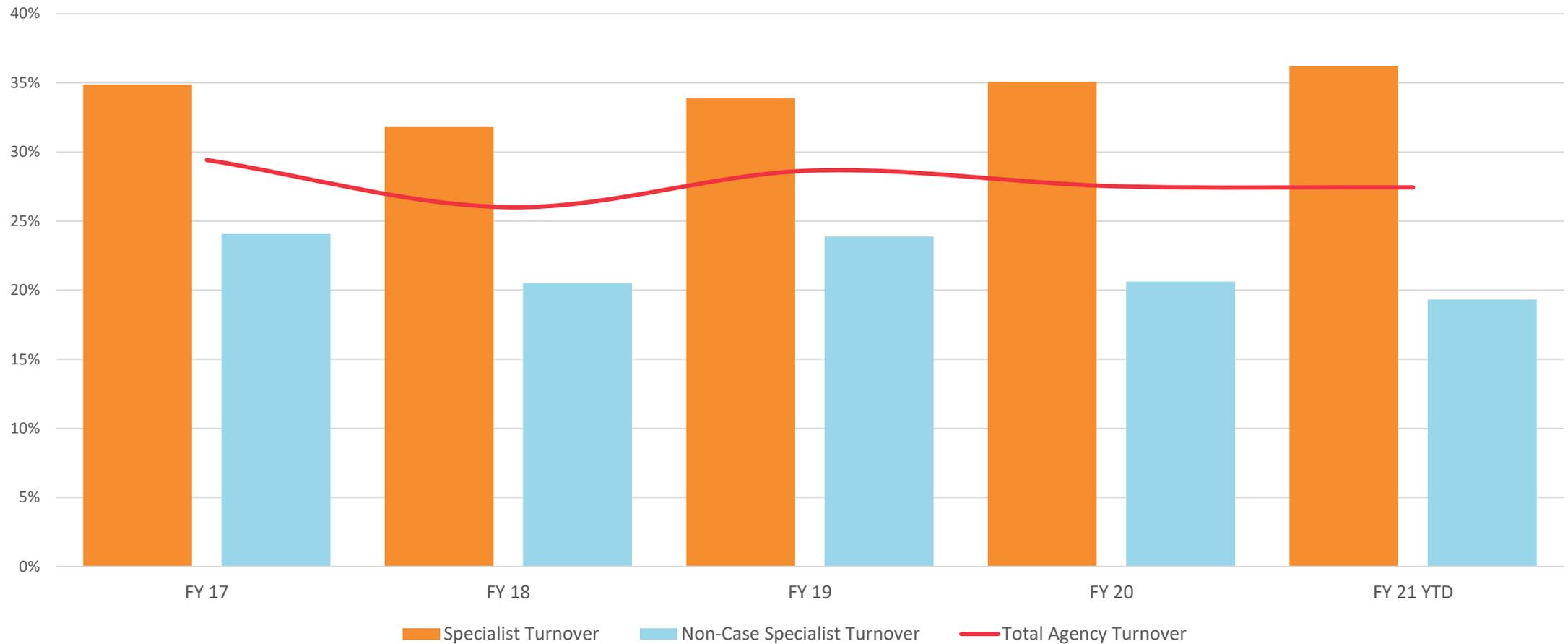

Source: Department of Child Safety, Semi-Annual Child Welfare Report (1229 Report)
Updated: 8/5/2021
*Figure include duplicate data between Jan 2018 and Mar 2018 due to changes to DCS reporting

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TURNOVER IN STAFFING AT DCS REMAINS HIGH

	Specialist Turnover	Non-Case Specialist Turnover	Total Agency Turnover

Total Agency Turn Over (Rolling 12 months)	Total # of separations divided by Total # of filled positions (rolling 12 months)
Total Case Worker Turn Over (Rolling 12 months)	Total # Child Safety Specialist separations divided by Total # of filled Specialist positions (rolling 12 months)
Total Non-Case Worker Turn Over (Rolling 12 months)	Total # Non-Child Safety Specialist separations divided by Total # of filled Non Child Safety Specialist positions (rolling 12 months)

Source: Department of Child Safety Monthly Operational Reports
Updated: 8/5/2021

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