

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Department: Social Services**

**HB Section(s): 11.745**

**Program Name: Rehab and Specialty Services**

**Program is found in the following core budget(s): Rehab and Specialty Services**

### **1a. What strategic priority does this program address?**

Provide additional support services to MO HealthNet (MHD) participants.

### **1b. What does this program do?**

The purpose of the Rehabilitation and Specialty Services programs is to ensure that medical services are provided to MHD participants, who would otherwise not have access to such services. The MHD ensures this by reimbursing providers for rehabilitation and specialty services that are medically necessary for eligible participants.

Rehabilitation and specialty services funded from this core include the following:

- Audiology/Hearing Aid
- Optical
- Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
- Ambulance
- Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Adaptive Training for prosthetic/orthotic devices when performed in a rehabilitation center
- Hospice
- Comprehensive Day Rehabilitation for individuals with traumatic brain injuries
- Children's Residential Treatment
- Treat No Transport

Unless otherwise noted, rehabilitation and specialty services are covered only for participants who are under the age of 21, pregnant women, the blind, and nursing home facility residents (including Independent Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities - ICF/ID).

### **Service Information**

#### **Audiology/Hearing Aid**

Audiology/Hearing Aid program provides medically necessary audiology services to MHD participants. Hearing aids are a covered service for children ages 20 and under, pregnant women, participants in a category of assistance for the blind, and participants living in a vendor/nursing facility. A participant is entitled to one (1) new hearing aid and related services every four (4) years. However, services for children under the EPSDT program are determined to be whatever is medically necessary. See the Physician Services for more information about EPSDT benefits. Other covered services include audiological testing, hearing aids, ear molds, hearing aid fitting, hearing aid dispensing/evaluation, post-fitting evaluation, post-fitting adjustments, and hearing aid repairs.

The intent of this program is to prevent additional or total hearing loss for children under the age of 20, as well as provide a better quality of life to all deaf or hard of hearing participants. MHD attempts to increase a participant's quality of life and to reduce future MHD spending for speech/language therapy and cognitive development services for hearing impaired children.

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### Optical

The MO HealthNet Optical Program covers the following types of providers and services:

- Optometrists - eye examinations, eyeglasses, artificial eyes, and special ophthalmological services
- Physicians - eyeglasses, artificial eyes (physician must be enrolled in the Optical program in order to bill for these services)
- Opticians - eyeglasses and artificial eyes

Participants who are age 20 and under or who are pregnant, blind, or in a nursing facility (including ICF/ID) are eligible for an eye exam every 12 months. MO HealthNet participants age 21 and over are eligible for an eye exam every 24 months. MO HealthNet eligible participants are allowed one pair of complete eyeglasses every two years. Participants may be eligible for an additional eye exam and new lens within the stated time periods if the participant has a .50 diopter change in one or both eyes. An optometrist is used as a consultant for this program. The consultant reviews prescriptions that do not meet the program criteria. Services related to trauma or treatment of disease/medical conditions remain a covered benefit for all MO HealthNet participants.

### Ambulance

Emergency medical transportation is provided under the ambulance program. Ambulance services are covered if they are emergency services and transportation is made to the nearest appropriate hospital. Certain specified non-emergency but medically necessary ambulance transports are also covered. Ambulance services can be provided through ground or air transportation (helicopter/fixed wing) as medically necessary.

Providers are required to provide the MHD with the Missouri Ambulance Reporting Form (trip ticket) to receive reimbursement when mileage charges are indicated on the CMS-1500 claim form. Charges for mileage must be based on loaded mileage, from the point of pickup of a participant to his or her arrival at the intended destination. The MHD does not reimburse for mileage that is less than 0.5 miles from point of pickup to destination.

### DME

MO HealthNet reimburses qualified Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers for certain items of durable medical equipment such as: apnea monitors; artificial larynx and related items; augmentative communication devices; canes; crutches; commodes; bed pans; adult incontinence briefs; urinals; CPAP devices; decubitus care equipment; hospital beds; side rails; humidifiers; BiPAP machines; IPPB machines; insulin pumps and supplies; labor and repair codes; nebulizers; orthotics; ostomy supplies; oxygen and respiratory equipment; patient lifts and trapeze; prosthetics; scooters; suction pumps; total parenteral nutrition mix; supplies and equipment; wheelchairs; wheelchair accessories; and walkers. These items must be prescribed.

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### Treat No Transport

The Treat No Transport (TNT) program, previously known as Community Health Access Programs (CHAPs), funds a new procedure code which will reimburse emergency medical technicians or paramedics for providing treatment on-site to a MO HealthNet participant who would otherwise be transported by ambulance to an emergency department. This program is intended to assist participants that have been over-utilizing emergency rooms/services and the 911 system for non-medical emergencies. For a 911 dispatched call the participant will be seen on-site by an ambulance services provider (emergency medical technician or paramedic) that will perform a medical assessment and determine if the participant needs to be transported to the emergency department. If the emergency medical technician or paramedic determines that an emergency does not exist, the participant will be treated on-site. The emergency medical technician or paramedic may also refer the participant for follow-up services. The program began January 1, 2020.

### Rate History

#### Audiology/Hearing Aid, Optical, DME, and Rehabilitative Therapies

07/01/2022: Audiology Services, Optical Services, and Rehabilitative Therapies rates were increased to 85% of the Medicare rate.

07/01/2019: 1.5% rate increase for all covered services\*

07/01/2018: 1.5% rate increase for all covered services\*

07/01/2017: 3% rate decrease for all covered services

07/01/2016: ~2% rate increase for all covered services

01/01/2016: 1% rate increase for all covered services (funded by the Tax Amnesty Fund)

*\* All covered services in these programs received a rate increase with the exception of DME services affected by the 21st Century CURES Act, as described in the MHD Provider Bulletin located at <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pdf/bulletin41-06-2018july19.pdf>*

### Ambulance

07/01/2022: 80% of Medicare rate for ambulance mileage

07/01/2021: 60% of Medicare rate for air ambulance

07/01/2020: \$45 base rate increase for ground ambulance\*

07/01/2019: 1.5% rate increase for all ambulance services

07/01/2018: 1.5% rate increase for all ambulance services

07/01/2017: \$45 base rate increase for ground ambulance - 3% rate decrease for all ambulance services\*

07/01/2016: \$45 base rate increase for ground ambulance; ~2% rate increase for all ambulance services; and an additional 51% increase for certain helicopter emergency services\*

01/01/2016: 1% rate increase for all ambulance services (funded by the Tax Amnesty Fund)

*\* Base rates are paid based on an established fee schedule and vary depending upon the appropriate billing code. The \$45 increase was added to each billing code's rate on the existing MHD Ambulance Fee Schedule.*

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### Hospice

07/01/2022: 3.58% rate increase

07/01/2021: 2.21% rate increase

07/01/2020: 2.5% rate increase

07/01/2019: 2.11% rate increase

07/01/2018: 1.08% rate restoration

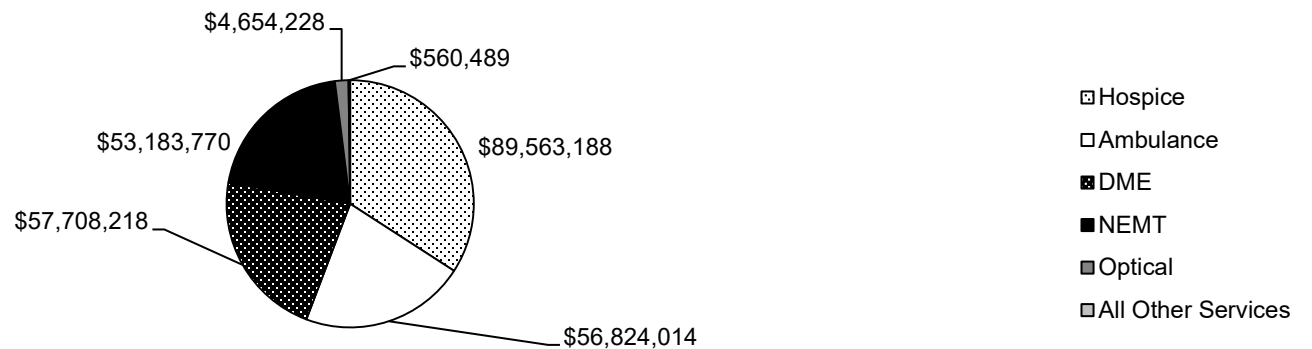
07/01/2017: 1.80% rate increase

07/01/2016: 3.94% rate increase

### 2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.

The rehab program comprises 2.87% of the total Medicaid program dollars. The top 5 services within the Rehab and Specialty services program were hospice, ambulance, DME, non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT), and optical, based on total SFY 2021 expenditures. All other service types that make up less than 1% of total expenditures include: audiology services, rehabilitation center services, non-participating provider services, comprehensive day rehabilitation services, and disease management services.

#### Rehab and Specialty Services for SFY22



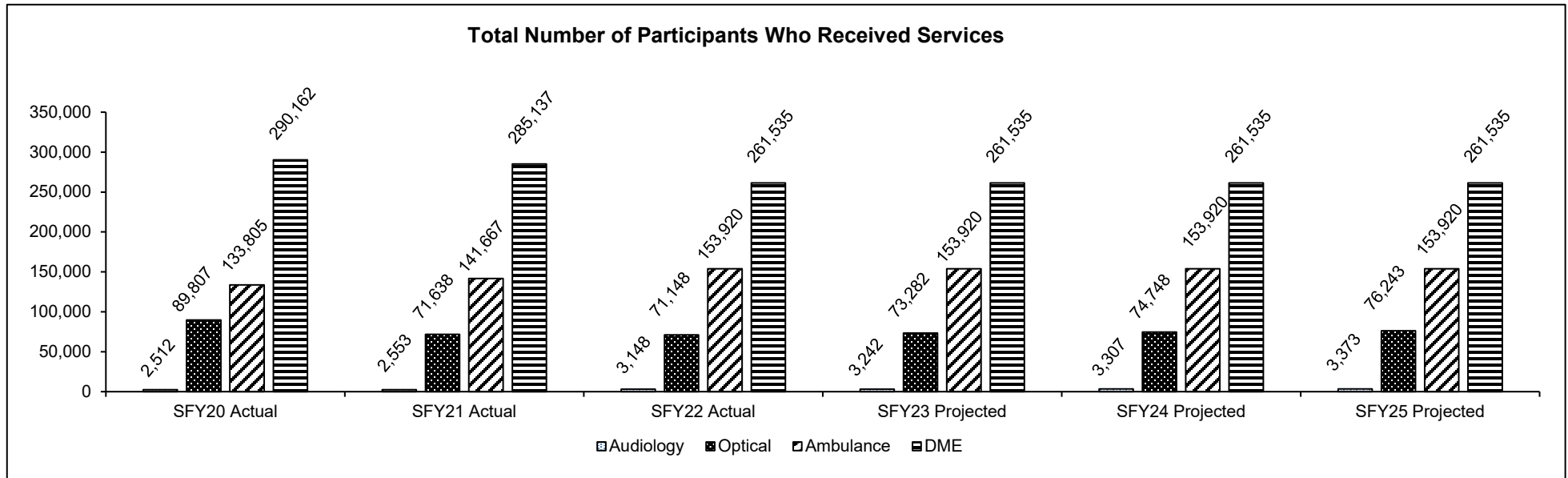
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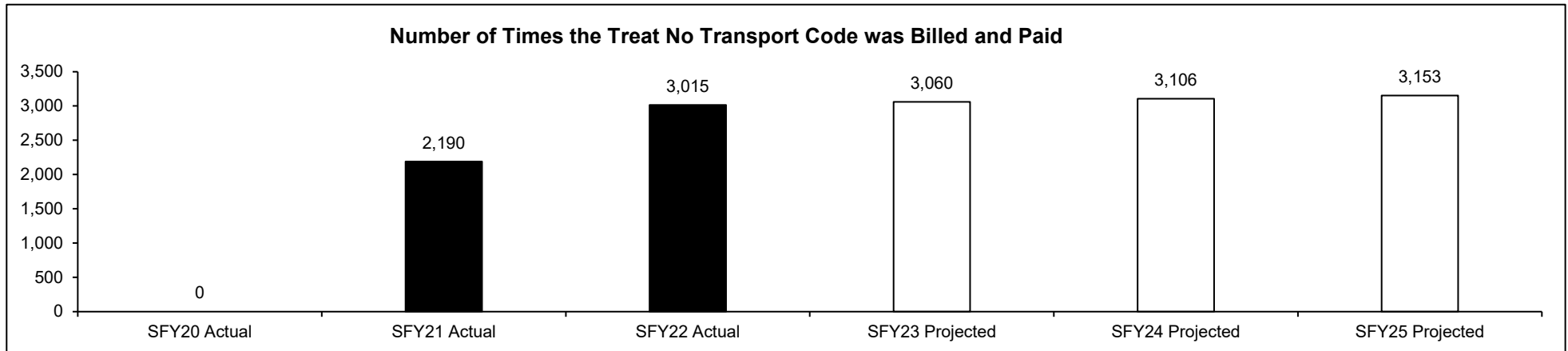
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**Note:** Does not include Complex Rehab DME services.



**Note:** TNT program began January 1, 2020 (no data available prior to FY21)

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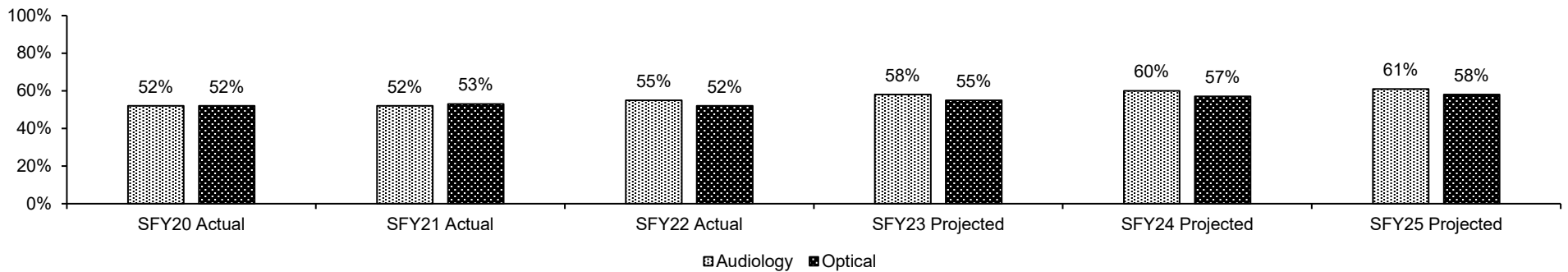
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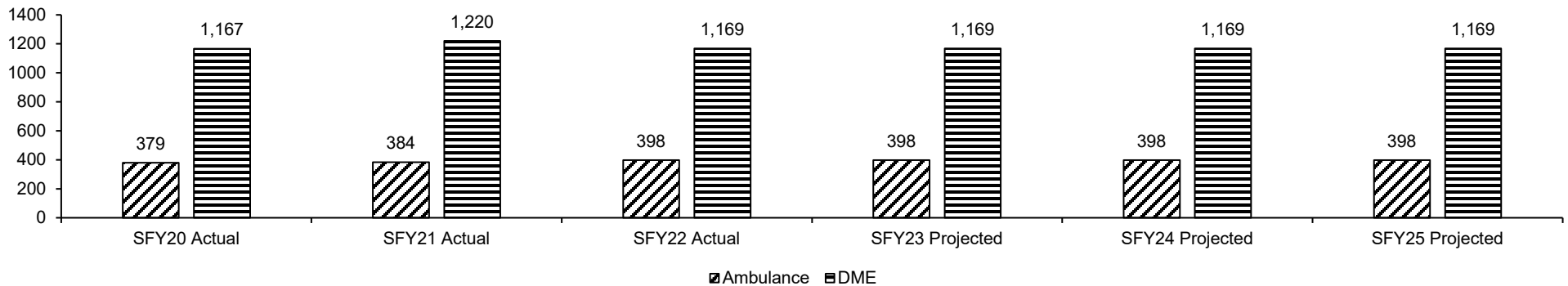
### 2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

A measure of a program's quality would be the number of active (enrolled) providers versus the total number of licensed providers in Missouri (for each program). If MHD has an adequate number of enrolled providers, it shows that the payment rates are appropriate and that providers want to participate in the program.

Percentage of MHD - Enrolled Providers



Number of MHD - Enrolled Providers



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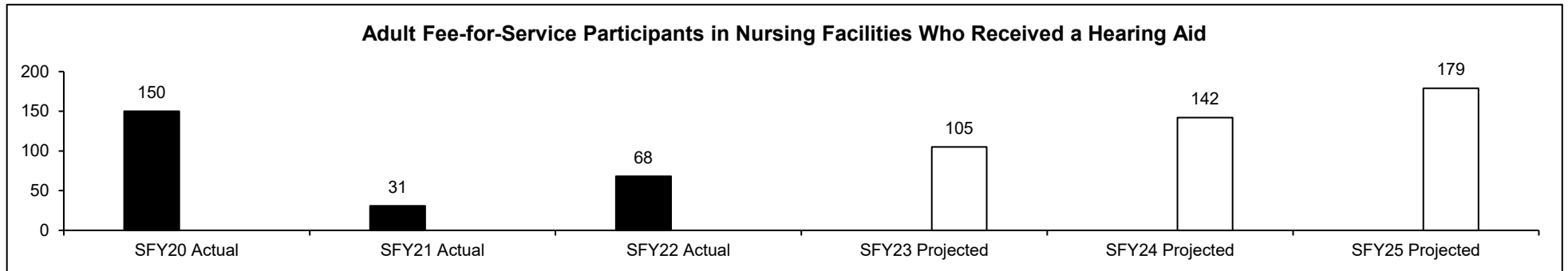
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### 2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.

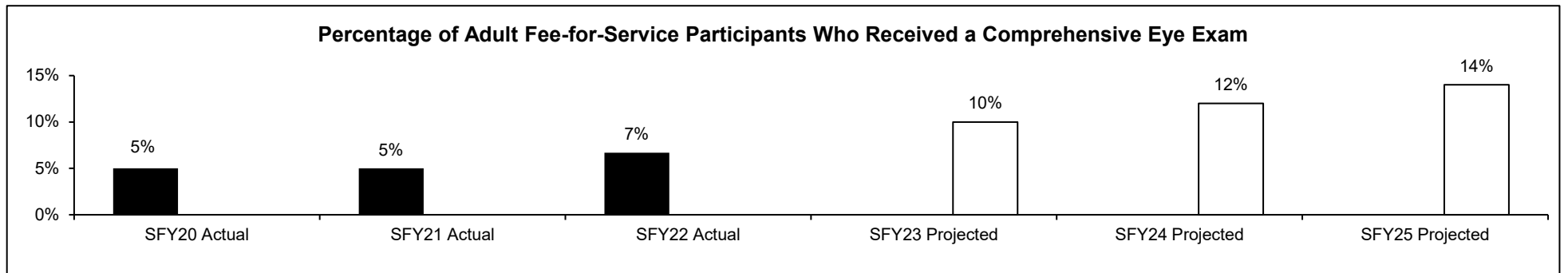
#### Audiology/Hearing Aid

MHD only covers hearing aids for children, pregnant women, participants who are in a category of assistance for the blind and participants living in a nursing facility. Statewide Managed Care implementation reduced the FFS population by enrolling most children and pregnant women. Blind participants receive two (2) hearing aids. Participants living in a nursing home are allowed one (1) hearing aid. Access to nursing facilities was limited in SFY21 due to COVID-19 restrictions, resulting in a decreased number of participants in nursing homes receiving hearing aid services. MHD expects this service to increase in the future as nursing facilities lift restrictions.



#### Optical

According to the National Academies of Sciences, vision impairment can cause additional health issues for individuals, including a lower quality of life, mobility issues, falls and injuries, depression and other behavioral health issues. By having regular optical exams, these potential health issues can be avoided, as well as identifying other health conditions, such as diabetes. MHD allows for the reimbursement of one (1) optical exam every two (2) years for adult FFS participants.



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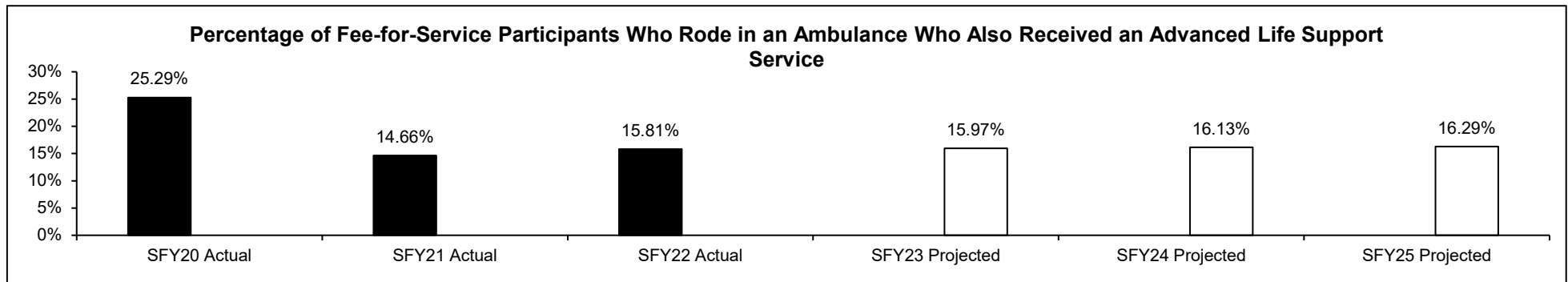
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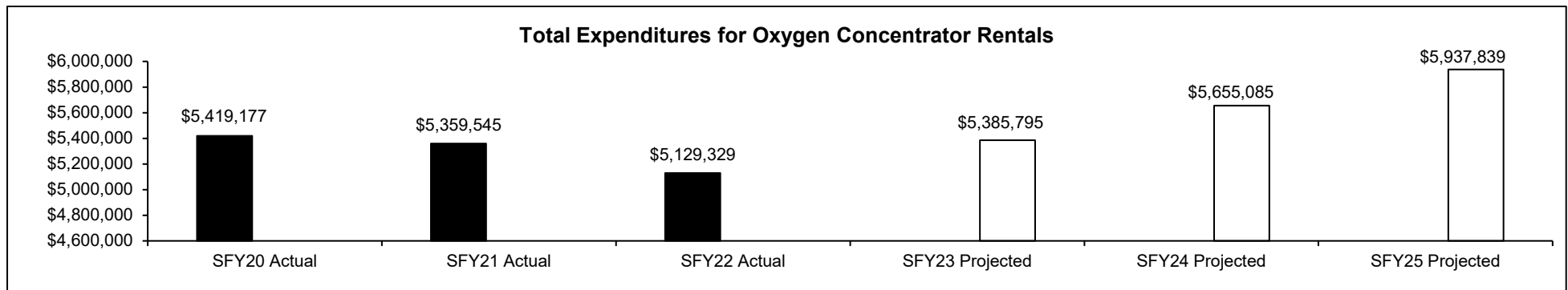
### Ambulance

An indicator of impact is the percentage of adult fee-for-service participants who rode in an ambulance who also received an Advanced Life Support (ALS) service by fiscal year. ALS services are those emergency services which statutorily require a paramedic to be on-board the vehicle. The reimbursement rates of ALS services are higher than Basic Life Support (BLS) service rates.



### DME

In SFY22, the DME program's total expenditures were \$51,261,220 (this does not include DME items paid in Complex Rehab). The DME item with the highest total expenditures in FY22 were rentals on oxygen concentrators. The total expenditures for this DME service in FY22 was \$5,129,329. If a participant is deprived of an oxygen concentrator, the potential for a life-threatening emergency is high. The outcome could cause the participant to enter into a higher level of care, and thus, cost the state significantly more.



**Note:** Lower expenditures in SFY22 is due to COVID-19.



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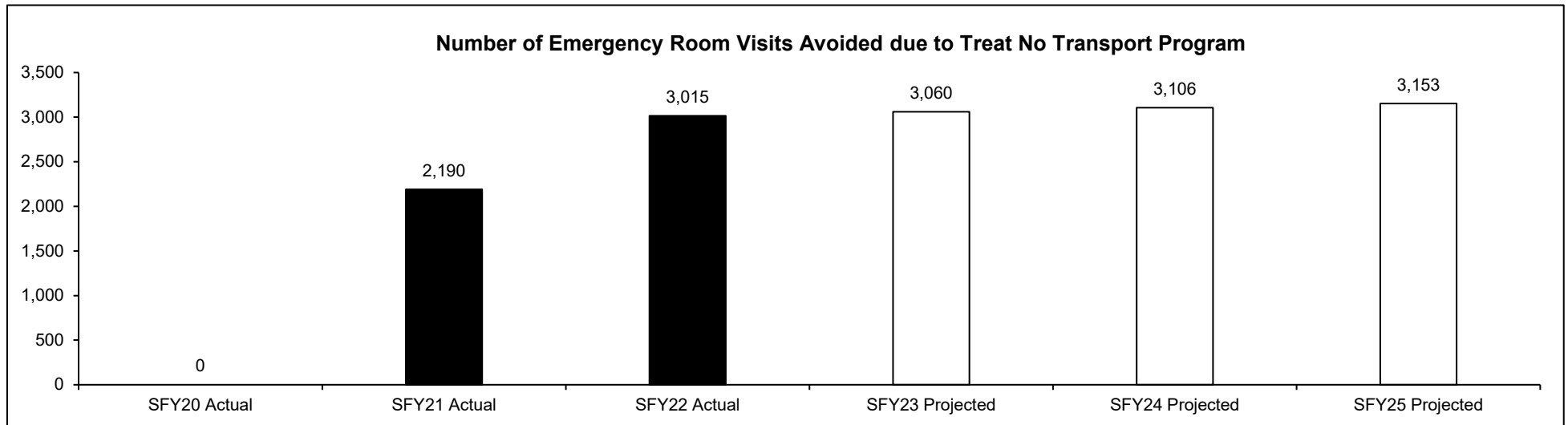
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**Note:** TNT program began January 1, 2020 (no data available prior to FY21)

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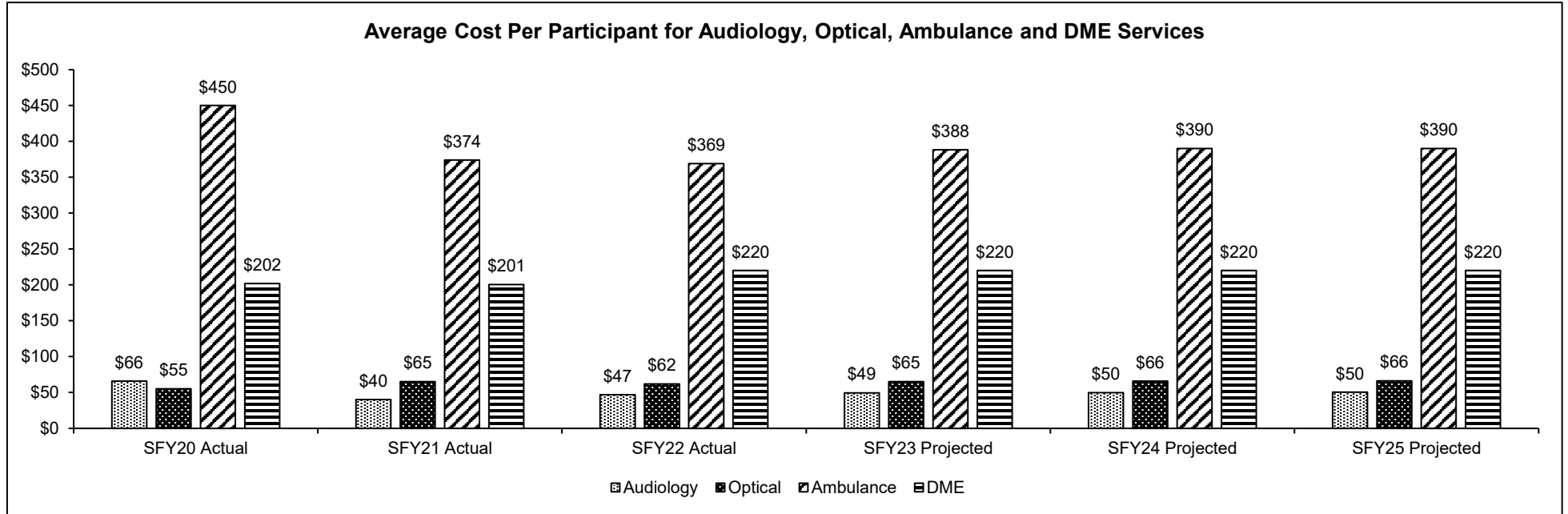
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### 2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.



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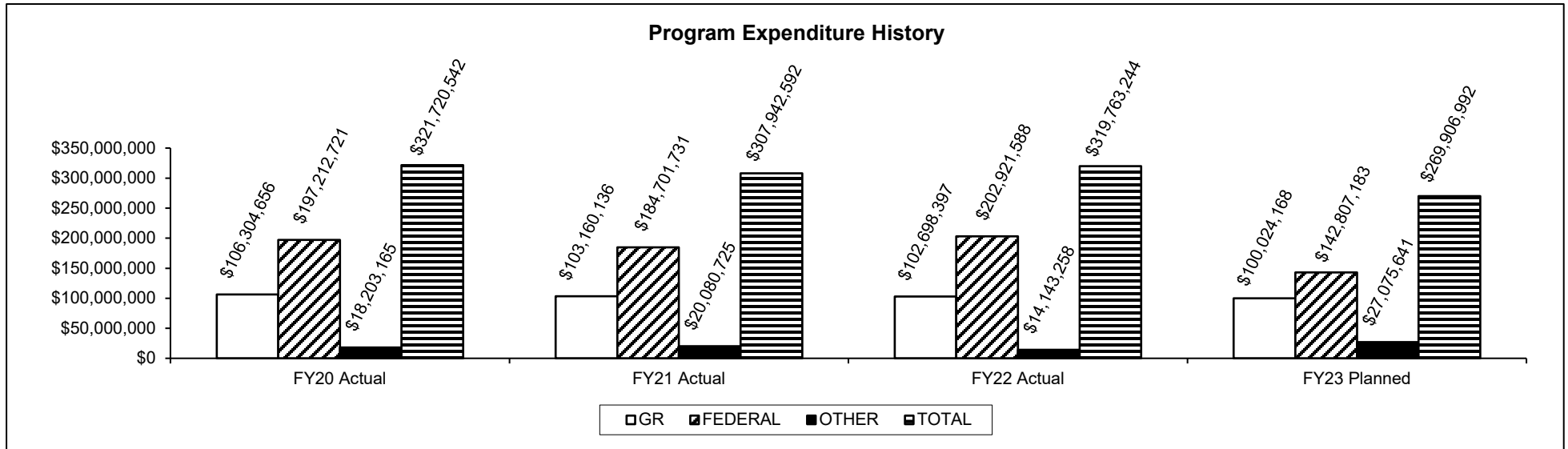
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**3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)**



In FY2022, AEG expenditures are included in total payments. Federal Fund 0809 was used to cover the state share of AEG expenditures.

**4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?**

Health Initiatives Fund (0275), Nursing Facility Reimbursement Allowance Fund (0196), Ambulance Service Reimbursement Allowance Fund (0958)

**5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)**

State statute: Section 208.152, RSMo; Federal law: Social Security Act Section 1905(a)(12) and (18), 1905(o); Federal regulation: 42 CFR 410.40, 418, 431.53, 440.60, 440.120, 440.130 and 440.170.

**6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.**

The FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) fluctuates annually based on state and national economic and population data, but generally the state matching requirement is around 35% and the federal match is around 65%.

**7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.**

This program is not mandatory for adults but is mandatory for children.