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# Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) and Telehealth

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**Early Childhood Intervention  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
April 6, 2022**

# ECI and Telehealth Overview

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- The early stages of telehealth in ECI
- COVID-19 pandemic shift
- Telehealth data



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# Early Stages in Telehealth

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# Legislation

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- Senate Bill 922, 85<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, 2017

Relating to the reimbursement of certain providers under the Medicaid program for the provision of telehealth services.



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# ECI Telehealth Pilot Program

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- HHS ECI sent request for proposals from ECI providers who were interested in piloting telehealth services in their program.
- The following ECI programs began piloting telehealth in 2018:
  - West Texas Centers, Little Lives ECI
  - My Health My Resources Tarrant County
  - Education Service Center Region 16
- Little Lives ECI presented the pilot program at the ECI Advisory Committee on August 7, 2019.



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# Changes in Rule and Guidance

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- ECI rule amendments were effective June 30, 2019 (Title 26, Chapter 350) and provided:
  - the definition of telehealth; and
  - approval for any ECI services to be provided via telehealth with written parental consent.
- HHS ECI staff presented a webinar on telehealth implementation to ECI providers on October 17, 2019.

# Telehealth Services Medicaid Policy

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Telehealth Services Medicaid Policy updated on March 1, 2020.

- Added ECI as an approved provider for specialized skills training, some occupational therapy and speech therapy procedure codes when provided via telehealth.



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# ECI Response to COVID-19

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# COVID-19 Shift to Telehealth Services

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- During mid-March of 2020, ECI providers rapidly shifted to a remote work environment and delivered services via telehealth.
- By April 20, 2020, all contracted ECI programs were providing services via telehealth.



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# Tools, Resources and Guidance

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- Question-and-answer document and other technical assistance
- Electronic signature technology
- Addition of the Developmental Assessment of Young Children, Second Edition and other remote tools
- Expanded Medicaid reimbursement



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# Tools, Resources and Guidance, cont.

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- Telehealth flyer for referral sources:  
*Telehealth Links ECI Children and Families to Needed Services*
- Telehealth flyer for families:  
*Bringing ECI Services to Families through Telehealth*
- Webinar series:  
*Success in Telehealth: Coaching from a Distance*



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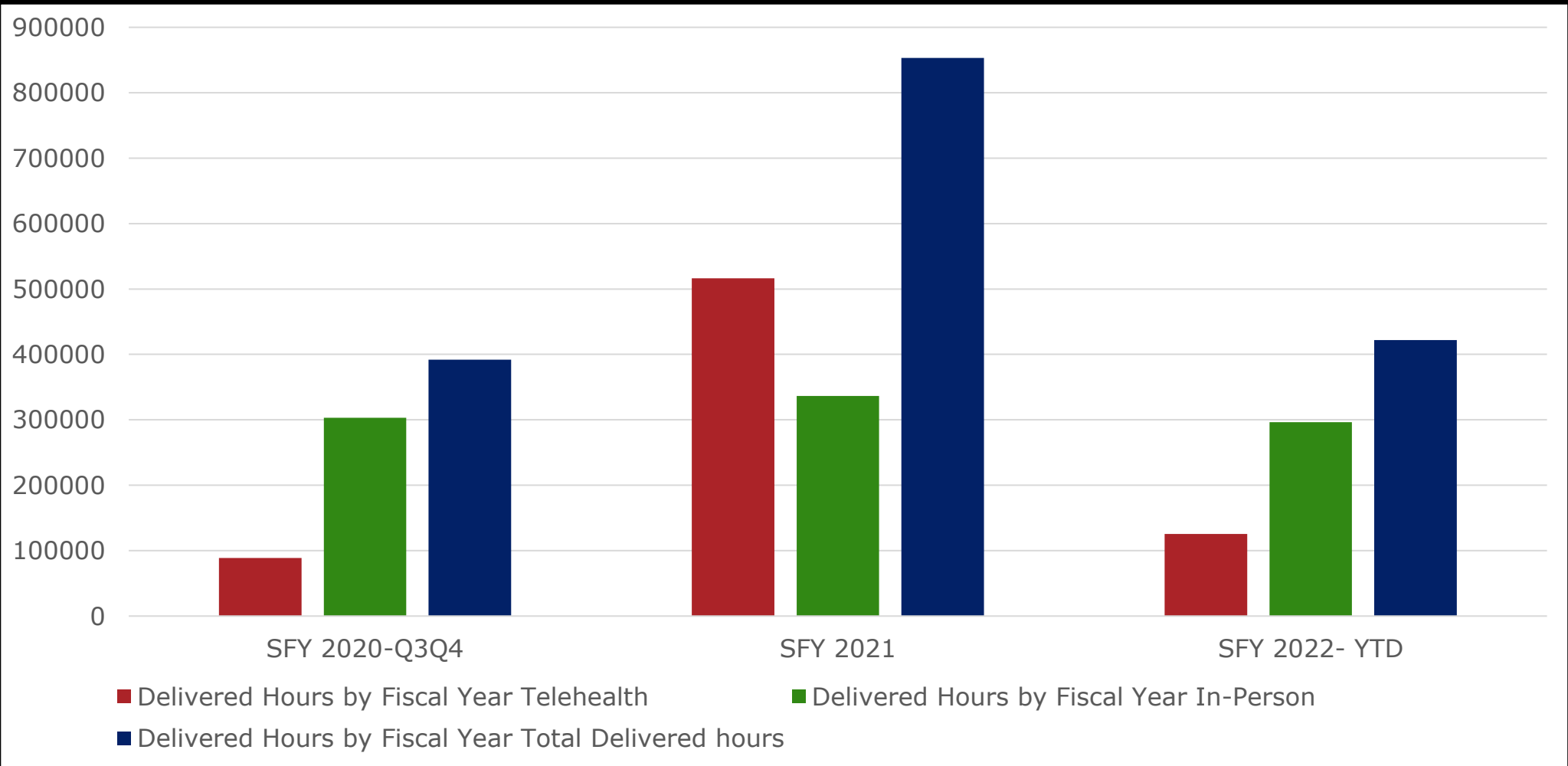
# Capturing Telehealth Data

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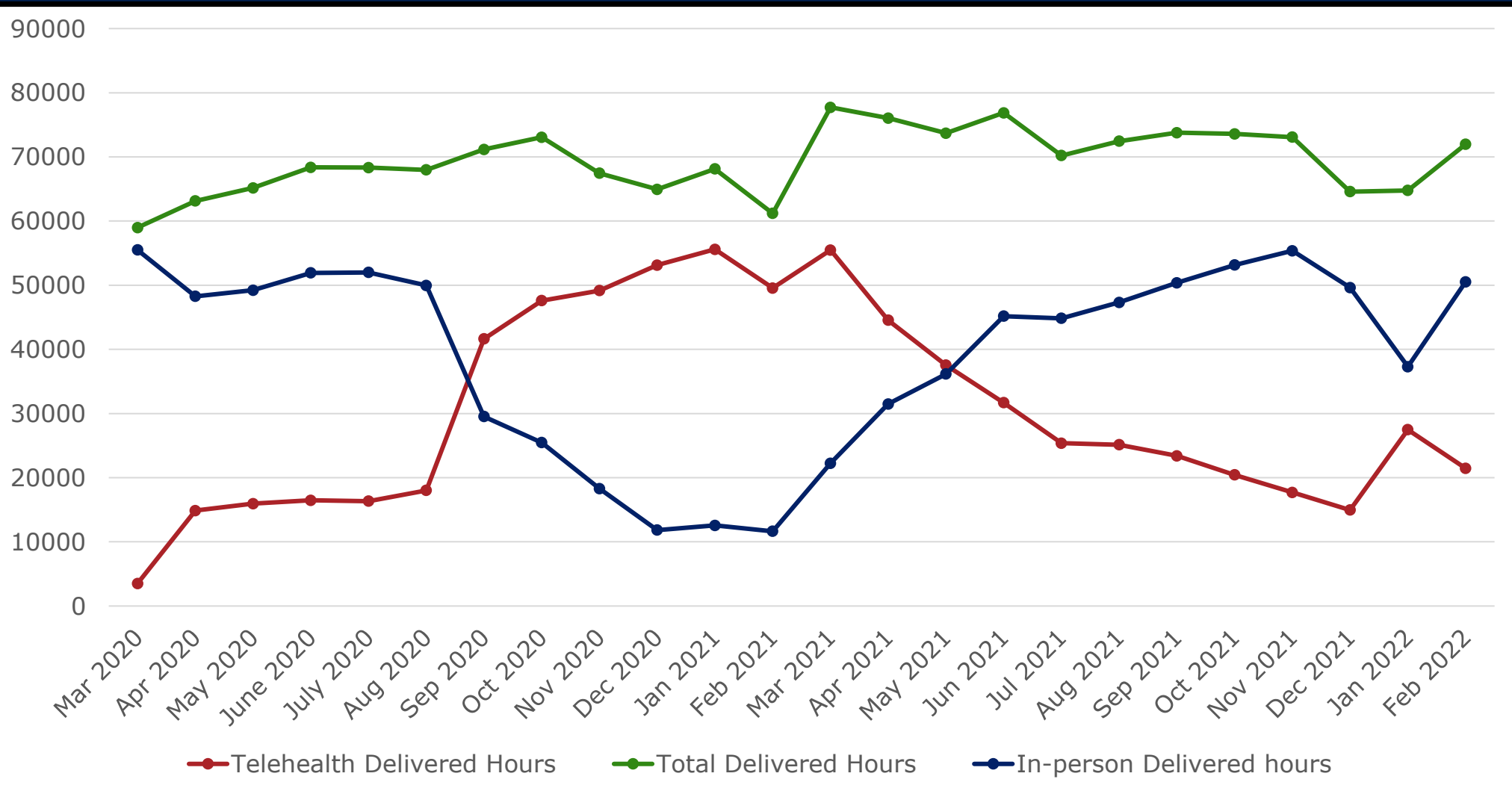
# Delivered Service Hours by Type and Fiscal Year



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# Delivered Service Hours by Type and Month





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**Questions?**

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# **Thank You**

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