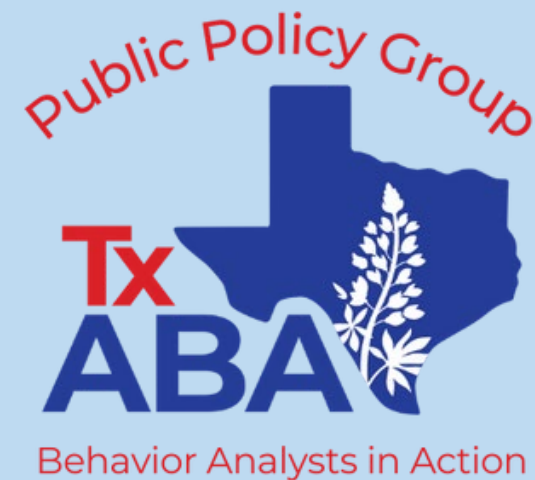


# Medicaid Autism (ABA) Benefit Updates & Recommendations



**Anna Sciarillo, M.A., BCBA, LBA**  
**Secretary & Chair of Medicaid Task Force**

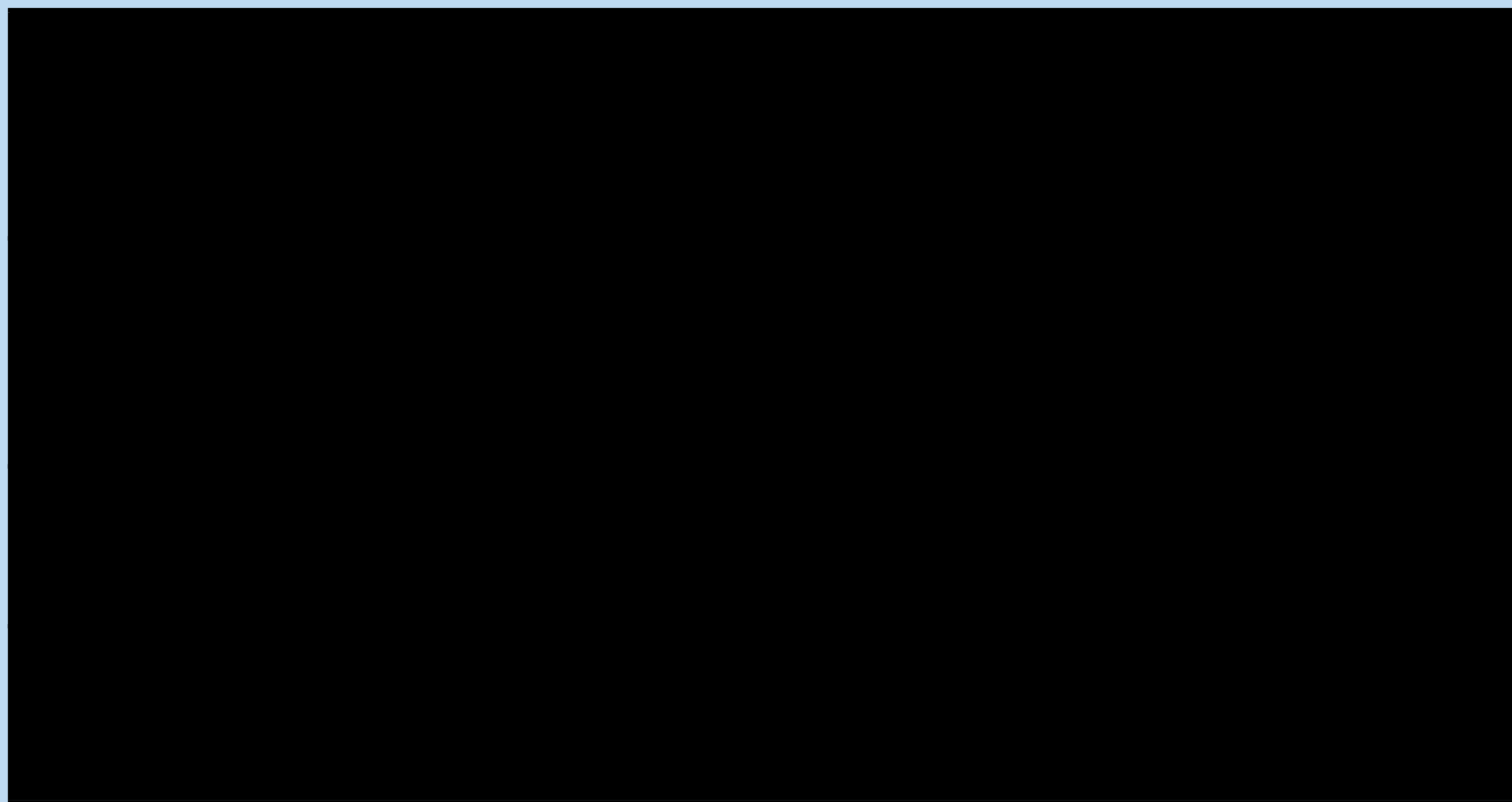


**Christa Stevens, JD, MAT**  
**Director, State Government Affairs**

**Autism Speaks Consumer Survey Data**  
**February 2024**

# Interested in Using ABA Benefit

## Current Barriers

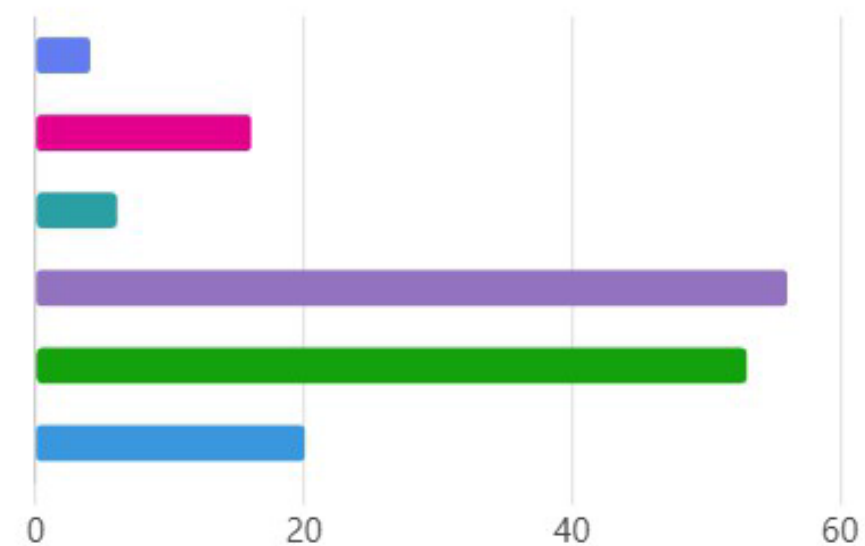


# Interested in Using ABA Benefit

## Current Barriers

7. What obstacles (if any) are currently preventing your child with autism from participating in ABA therapy? Check all that apply. [More details](#)

- I am not experiencing any obstacles 4
- I cannot find a Medicaid doctor who can currently provide a prescription (referral) for my... 16
- My child does not have documentation of their autism diagnosis that is acceptable to the... 6
- I cannot find an in-network ABA provider near me 56
- I cannot find an in-network ABA provider who can currently accept my child or who has... 53
- Other 20



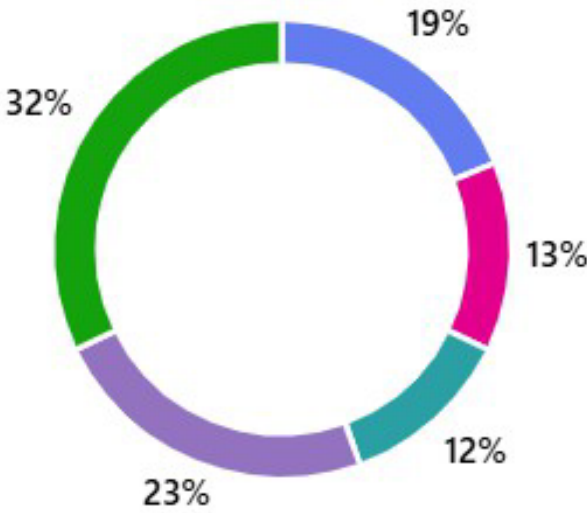
# Interested in Using ABA Benefit

## Time Spent Pursuing ABA

15. From the time you decided to pursue ABA therapy for your child, how long have you been actively working on arranging it? *Do not count time before 2022 because ABA was not available through Medicaid at that time.*

[More details](#)

- 4 months or less
- 5-8 months
- 9-12 months
- More than 1 year but less than 2 years
- Over 2 years



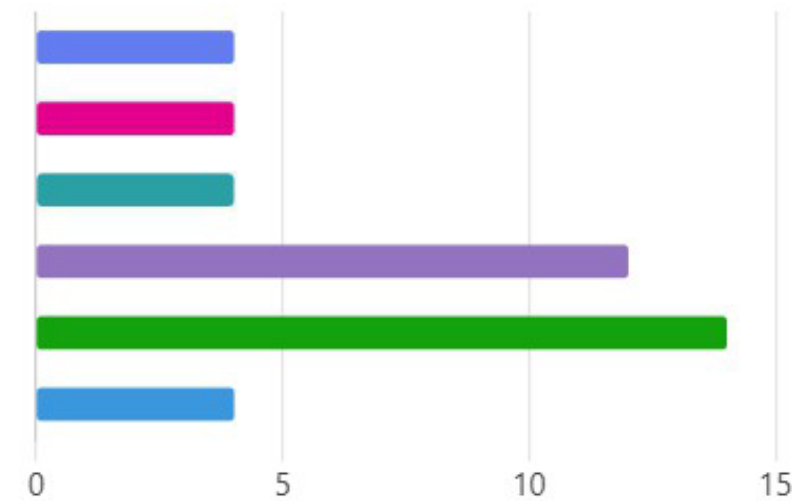
# Current ABA Users

## Barriers Experienced

12. What obstacles (if any) did you experience in the process of your child beginning ABA therapy? Choose all that apply.

[More details](#)

- I did not experience any obstacles 4
- It took a long time to be seen by a Medicaid doctor to get an ABA prescription (referral) 4
- My child did not have documentation of their autism diagnosis that was acceptable to the... 4
- It was difficult to find an in-network ABA provider near me 12
- It was difficult to find an in-network ABA provider who could accept my child or who had schedul... 14
- Other 4



# Current ABA Users

## Time Spent Pursuing Befor ABA Started



# Current Provider Barriers

- Inadequate reimbursement rates
- Increased administrative burden
  - TMHP Enrollment process & timeline
    - Site visit requirements
  - MCO credentialing process & timeline
  - Authorization process
- Concurrent billing not permitted

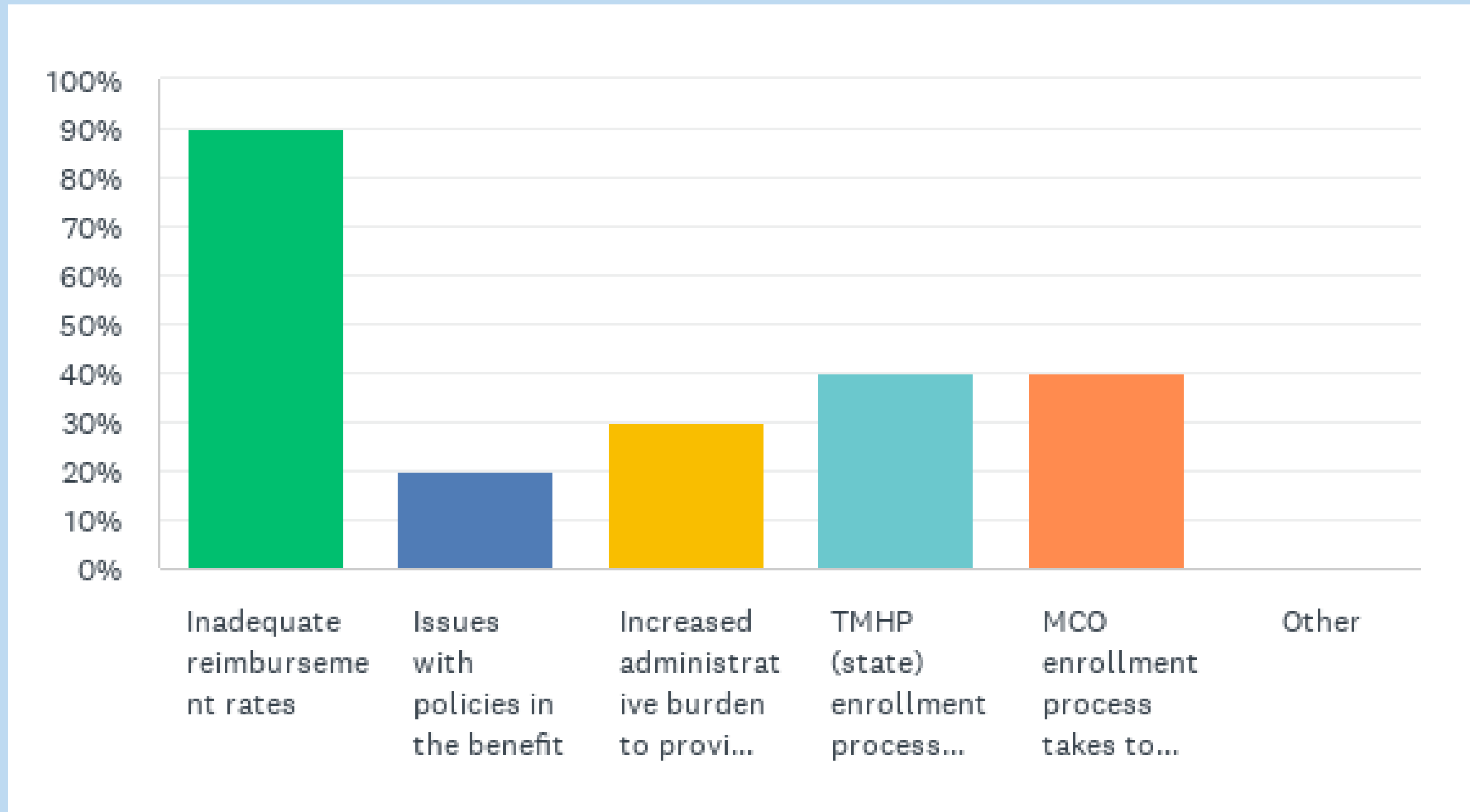


# TxABA PPG Provider Survey Data

## August 2024

# Of Providers NOT enrolled in Medicaid

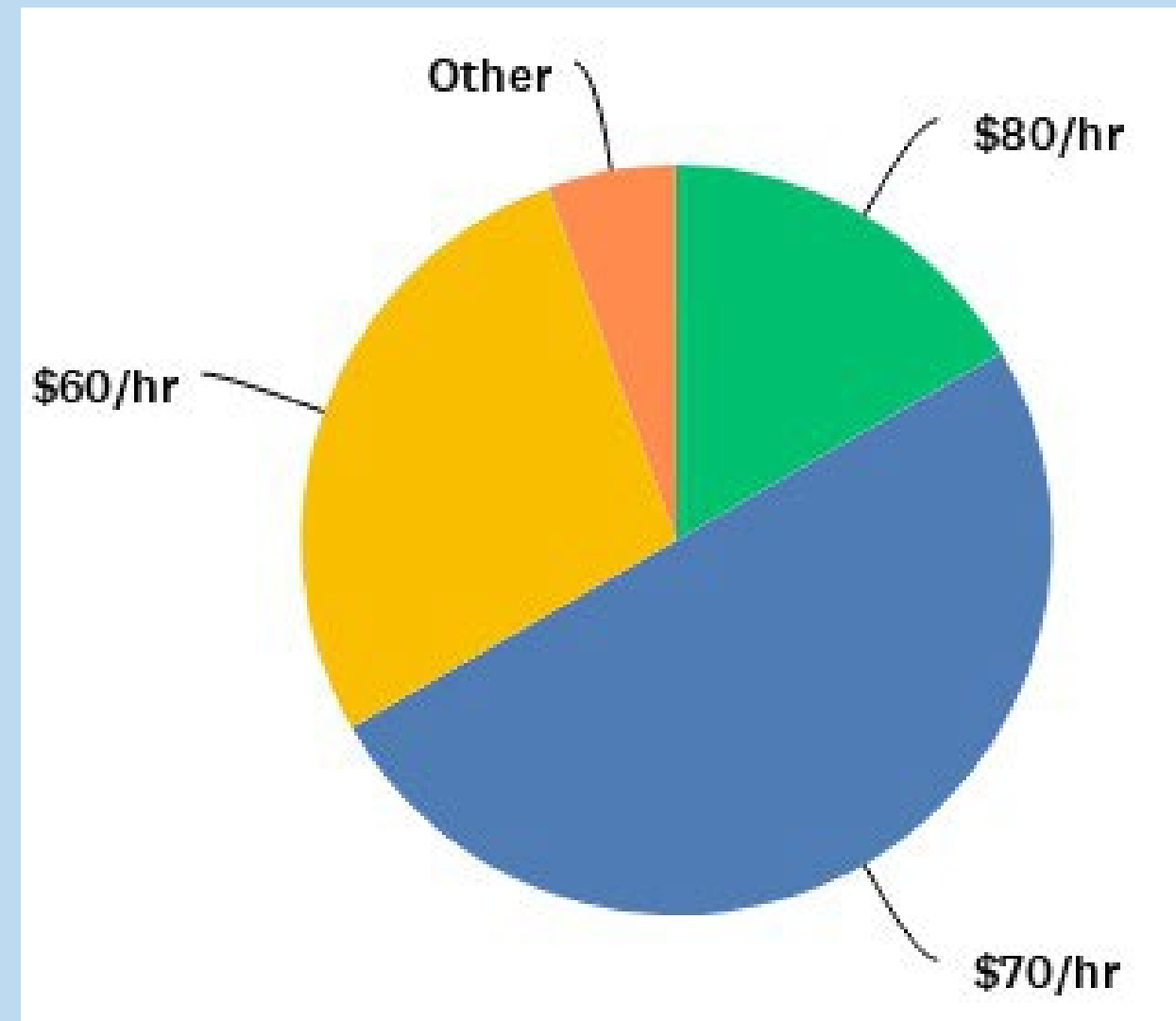
## What is preventing you/your organization from enrolling as a Medicaid provider in Texas?



Currently enrolled Medicaid providers

**CPT Code 97153**

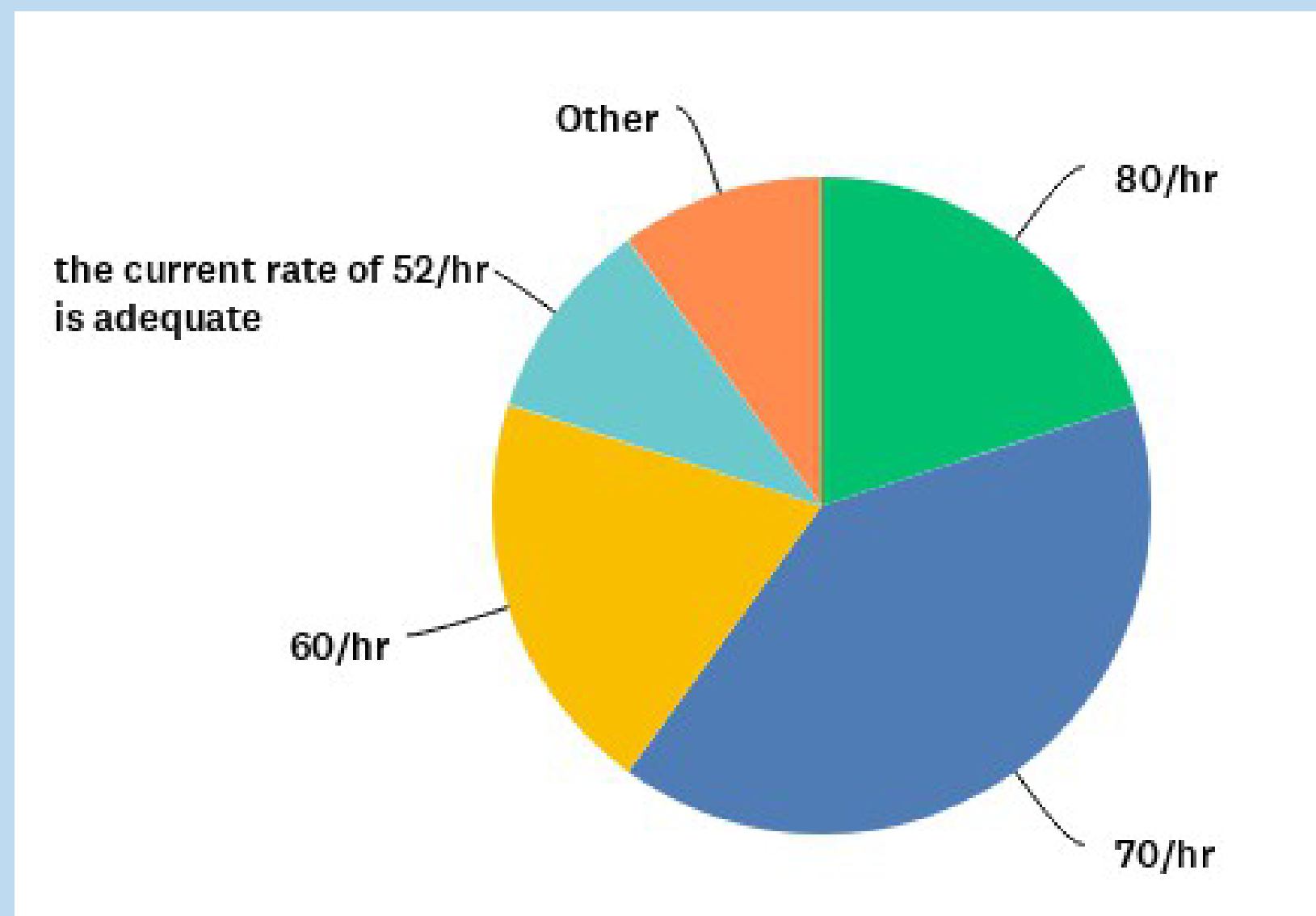
**What do you consider an acceptable hourly reimbursement rate for RBT/behavior technician/paraprofessional working under supervision of BCBA?**



Of Providers NOT enrolled in Medicaid

**CPT Code 97153**

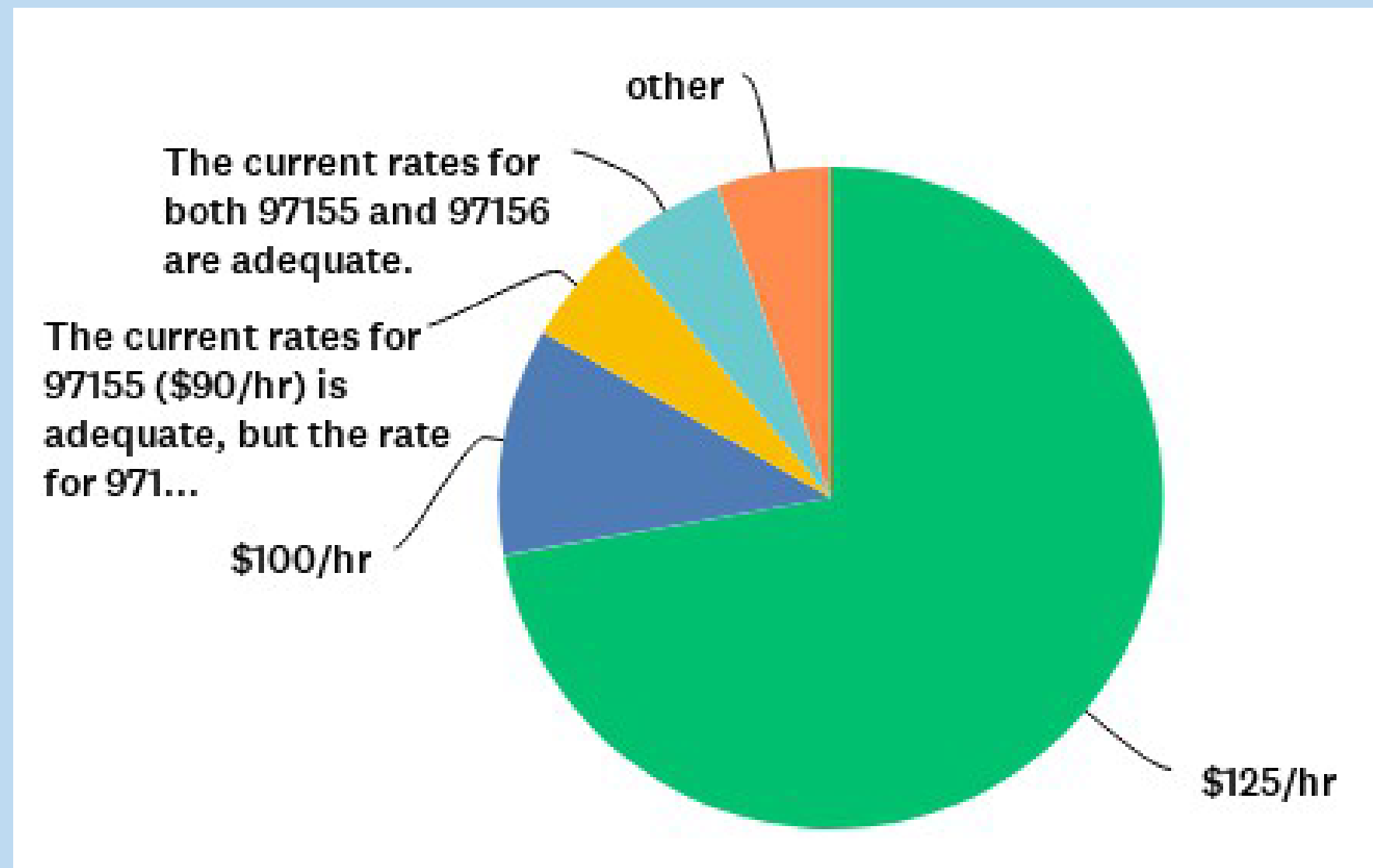
**What do you consider an acceptable hourly reimbursement rate for RBT/behavior technician/paraprofessional working under supervision of BCBA? What rate would be acceptable in order for your organization to provide services through TX Medicaid?**



Currently enrolled Medicaid providers

CPT Codes 97155,  
97156, 97151

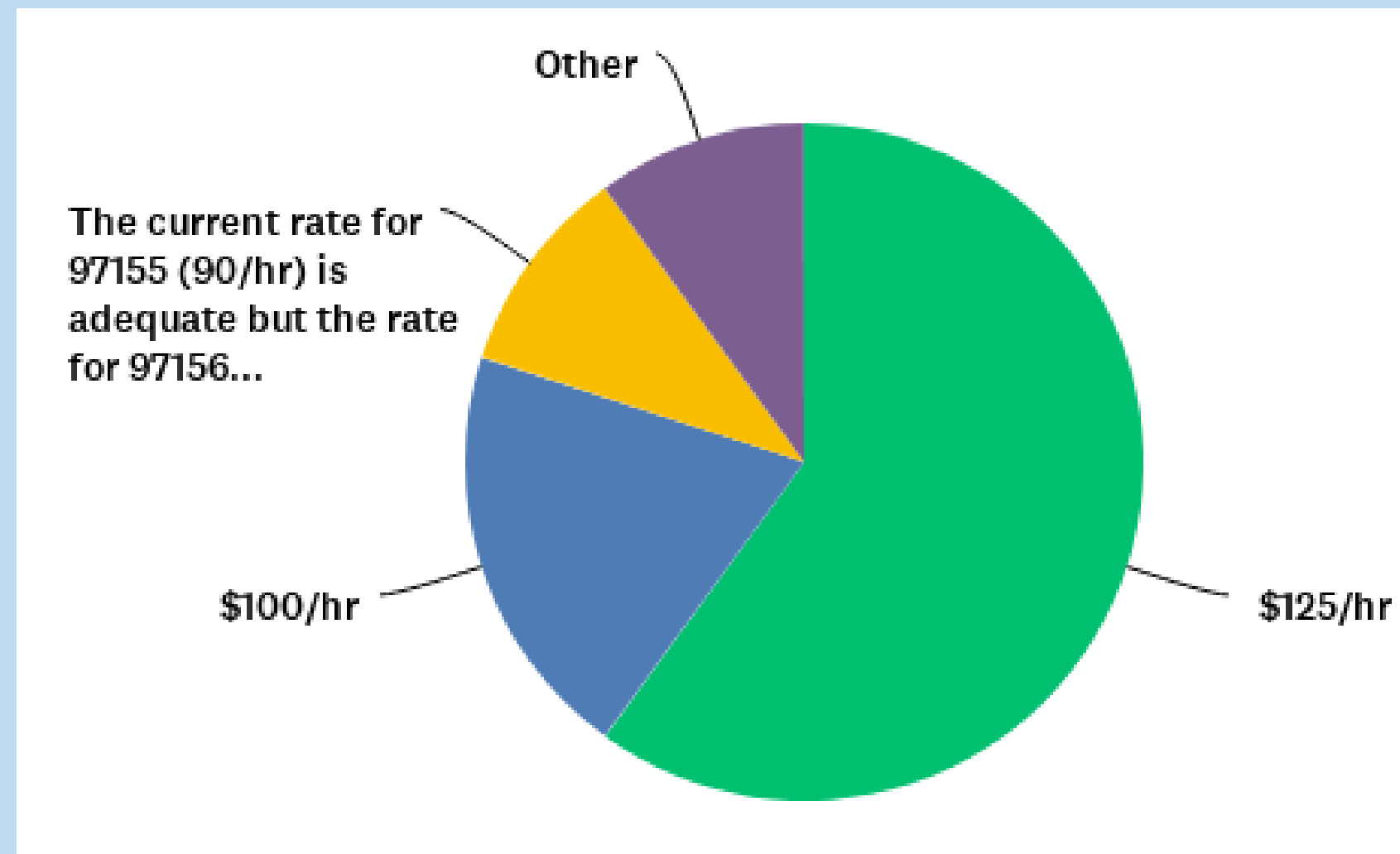
What do you consider an acceptable hourly reimbursement rate for BCBA/BCBA-D providing services?



Of Providers NOT enrolled in Medicaid

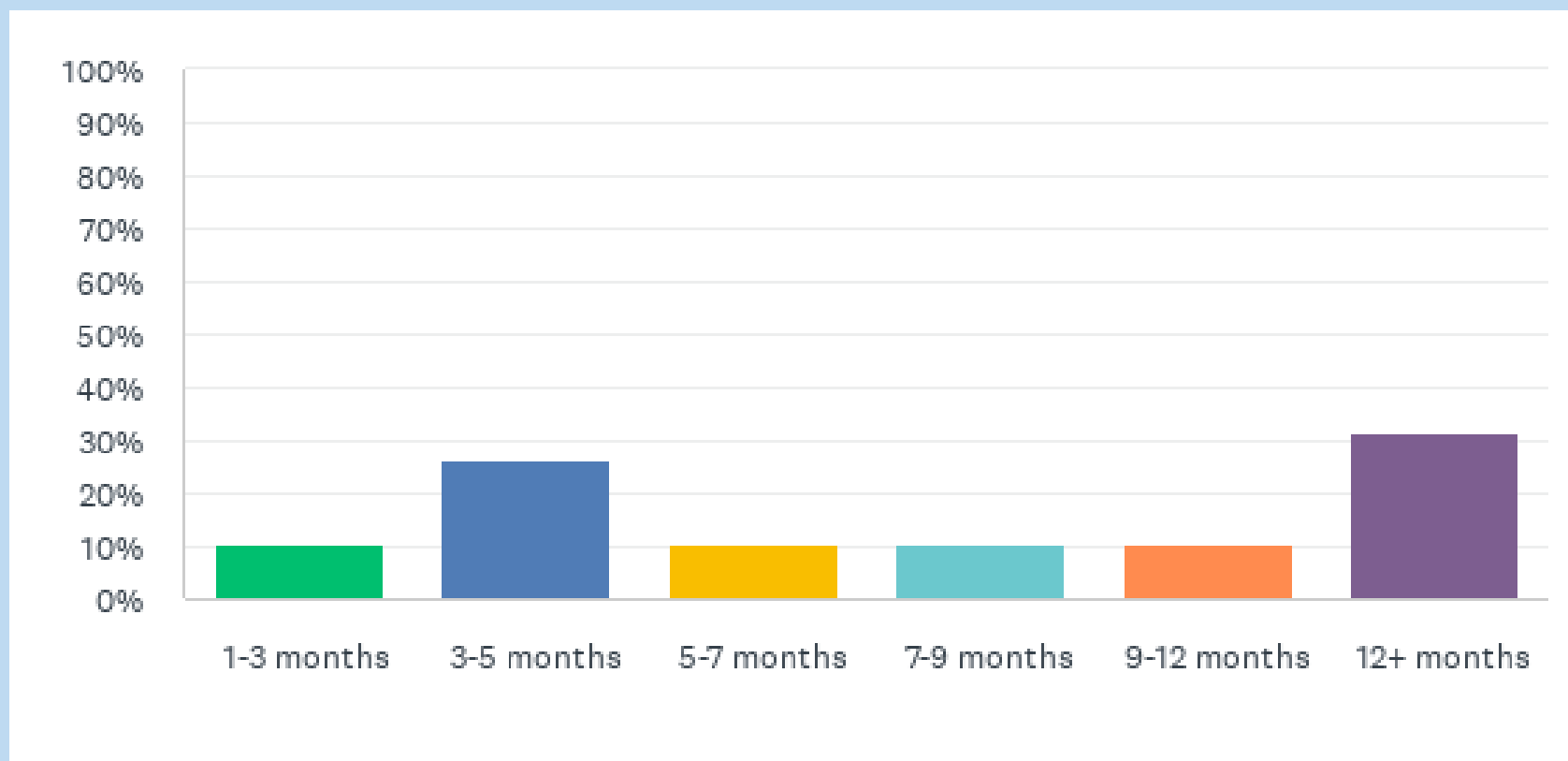
CPT Codes 97155,  
97156, 97151

**What do you consider an acceptable hourly reimbursement rate for BCBA/BCBA-D providing services? What rate would be acceptable in order for your organization to provide services through TX Medicaid?**

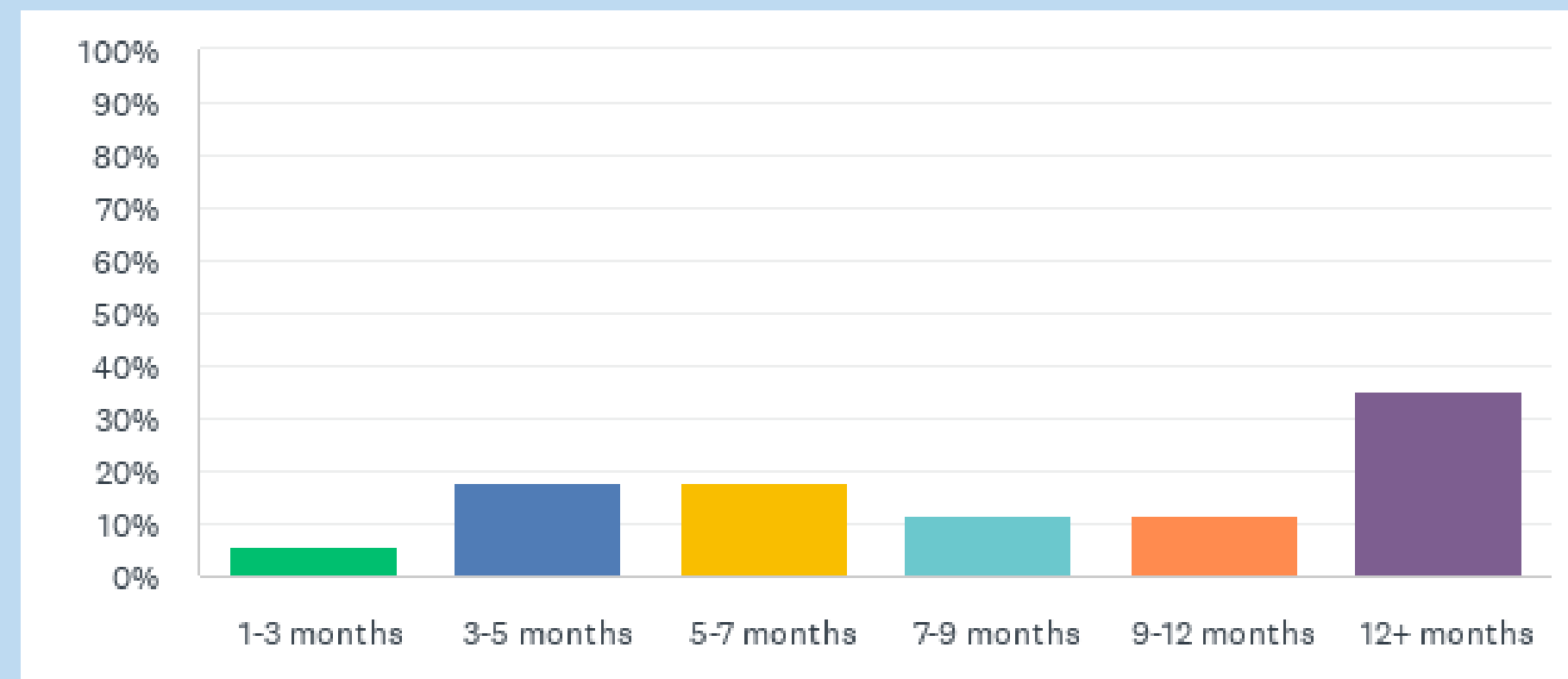


# Increased Administrative Burden

## TMHP Credentialing Timeline



## MCO Credentialing Timeline



# Recommendations for Autism Benefit

## **Increase in rates across all CPT codes to adequate levels**

- Re-add exceptional Item 24
- Consider actuarial rate analysis

## **Allow concurrent billing of CPT codes 97153 and 97155**

- Aligns with ABA industry standard
- Could increase provider enrollment and network adequacy

## **Allow MCO expedited credentialing**

- HB 1796



# Questions?

