

Assessing Availability of Hearing Aid Services Under Iowa Medicaid

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The University of Iowa



The Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center

- Au.D. training program
- Three full time clinical faculty supervisors
- 6-10 new graduate clinicians per year

My Goals for this presentation:

1. Recognize the union of Medicaid and Audiology: this is our lane!
2. Be familiar with policy changes impact the work we do—you're not imagining anything!
3. Appreciate the ways that demographic changes influence the program planning decisions you make.

What I'll Cover

PART 1

Medicaid Background

Part 2

Research Questions

Part 3

Future Directions

PART I

Medicaid Background

Medicaid & Access



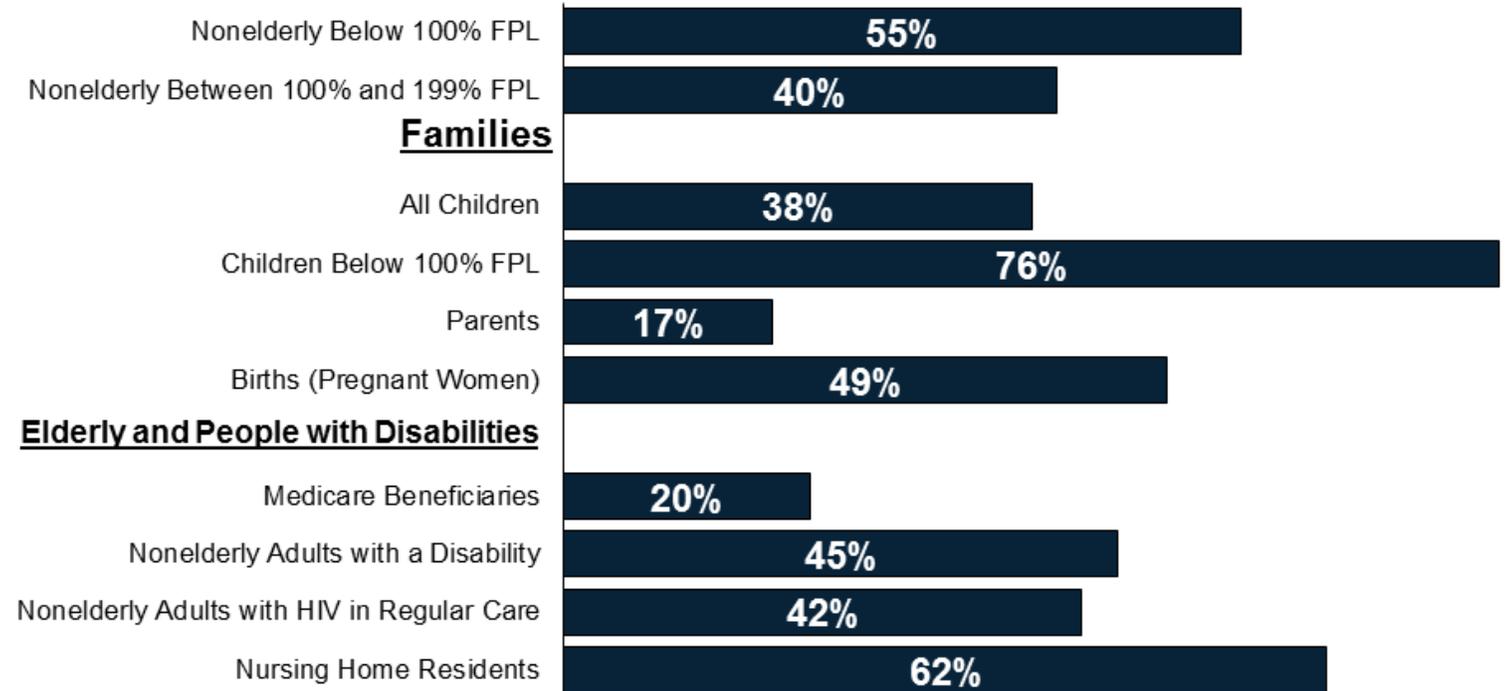
Medicaid & Access



State Medicaid programs:

- Cover 1 in 5 Americans
- Provide crucial coverage for children and adults with disabilities

Percent with Medicaid Coverage



Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)

- Principle of Medicaid
- Important implications for childhood hearing loss

Iowa Department of Human Services

IOWA MEDICAID EPSDT Care of Kids PERIODICITY SCHEDULE

		Infancy							Early Childhood				Mid. Childhood					Adolescence														
		New born	2-5 days	by 1 mo	2 mo	4 mo	6 mo	9 mo	12 mo	15 mo	18 mo	24 mo	30 mo	3 yr	4 yr	5 yr	6 yr	7 yr	8 yr	9 yr	10 yr	11 yr	12 yr	13 yr	14 yr	15 yr	16 yr	17 yr	18 yr	19 yr	20 yr	21 yr
History Initial/Interval		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Physical Exam Well Visit		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Measurements	Length/Height and Weight	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Weight for Length	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Body Mass Index									●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Head Circumference	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Blood Pressure	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Sensory Screening	Vision	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	Hearing	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Oral Health	Screening and Risk Assessment	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Fluoride Varnish Applications					●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Developmental and Behavioral Health	Caregiver Depression Screening	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Developmental Surveillance	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Developmental Screening							●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Autism Screening									●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Psychosocial/Behavioral Assessment	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use Assessment																					○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	Depression Screening																						●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Anticipatory Guidance		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Nutrition/Obesity Prevention Assess/Educate		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Procedures	Newborn Screening - blood, bilirubin, hearing, critical congenital heart disease	●	←→	→																												
	Immunization	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Hemoglobin/Anemia					○				○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	Lead Testing						○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	Lipid Screening										○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	STI Screening																						○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	HIV Screening																						○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	Tuberculosis			○		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	Cervical Dysplasia Screening																														●	

EPSDT requirements for hearing

Must
cover:

- Hearing screening
- Diagnostic hearing evaluation
- Hearing aids when indicated.

Can
require
referral
from an
MD

Most common dimensions for assessing Medicaid access:



Provider Density



Distance / Travel Time



Wait Time

Iowa Medicaid

In IA, Medicaid Covers:



1 in 7 adults,
ages 19-64



3 in 8 children



4 in 9 nursing
home residents

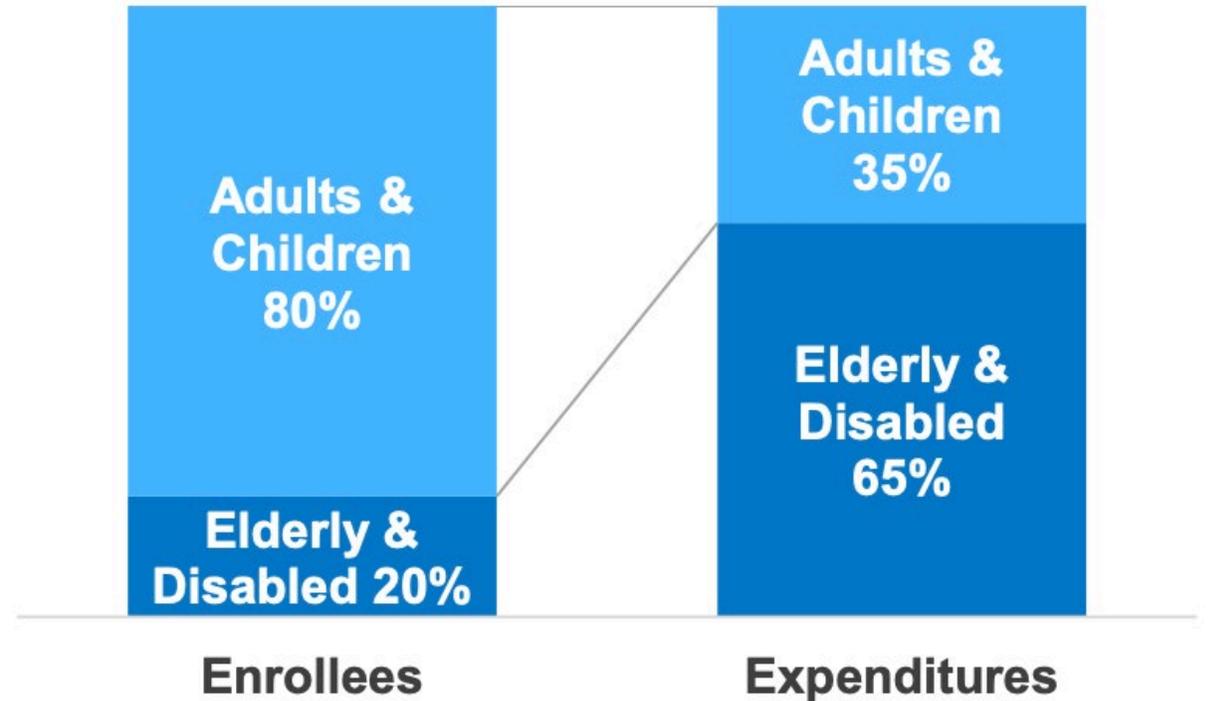


1 in 2 individuals
with disabilities



1 in 7 Medicare
beneficiaries

IA Medicaid Enrollees & Expenditures



Iowa Managed Care Organizations



PART 2

Research Questions

Research Questions

- 1. Accuracy** — Are the Iowa Medicaid provider listings for audiology services accurate?
- 2. Change Over Time** — Has the number of pediatric patients served by the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic changed during the past three years?

Research Question One

- 1. Accuracy** — Are the Iowa Medicaid provider listings for audiology services accurate?
- 2. Change Over Time** — Has the number of pediatric patients served by the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic changed during the past three years?

Methods & Data Collected | Question One

Methods

- Iowa Medicaid provider directories combed for “Audiologist” category
- Search completed in overlapping 100 mile radius areas
- Duplicates removed
- One-to-one match between each listing and a confirmatory contact with a member of the research team

Data Collected

- Current Medicaid provider for diagnostic services, hearing aids, both?
- If not, when did you most recently accept it?
- To whom do you actively refer?

Big thanks to Caitlin Nelson for her help with this work!

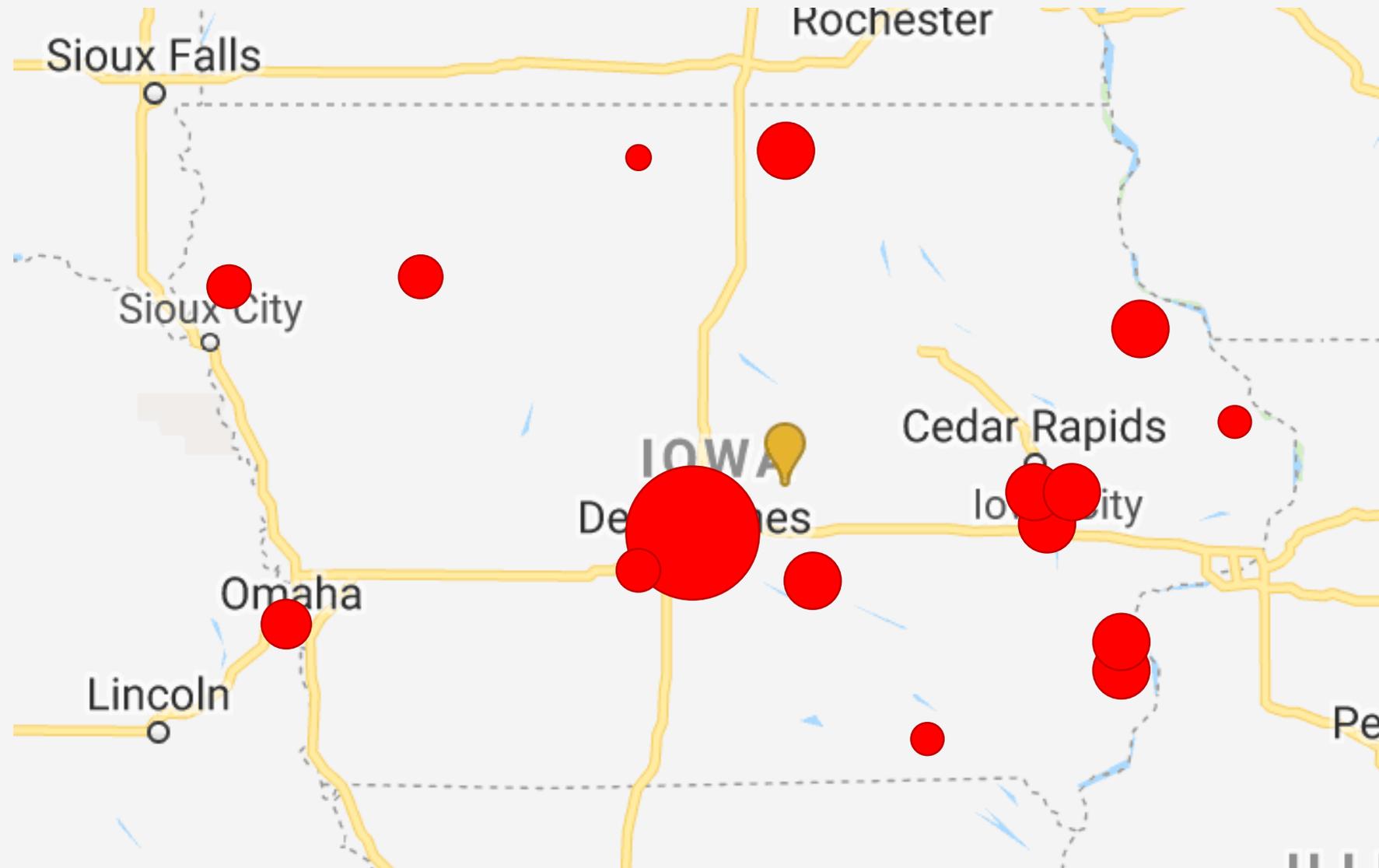
Search Area | Question One



Results | Question One



Provider Distribution in Iowa



Provider Distribution Outside of Iowa



Limitations & Future Directions | Question One

Limitations

- Self report
- Data collection cut off

Future Directions

- Confirm findings through Iowa DHS
- Present the findings to Iowa Medicaid

Research Question Two

1. **Accuracy** — Are the Iowa Medicaid provider listings for audiology services accurate?
2. **Change Over Time** — Has the number of pediatric patients served by the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic changed during the past three years?

Methods & Data Collected | Question Two

Methods

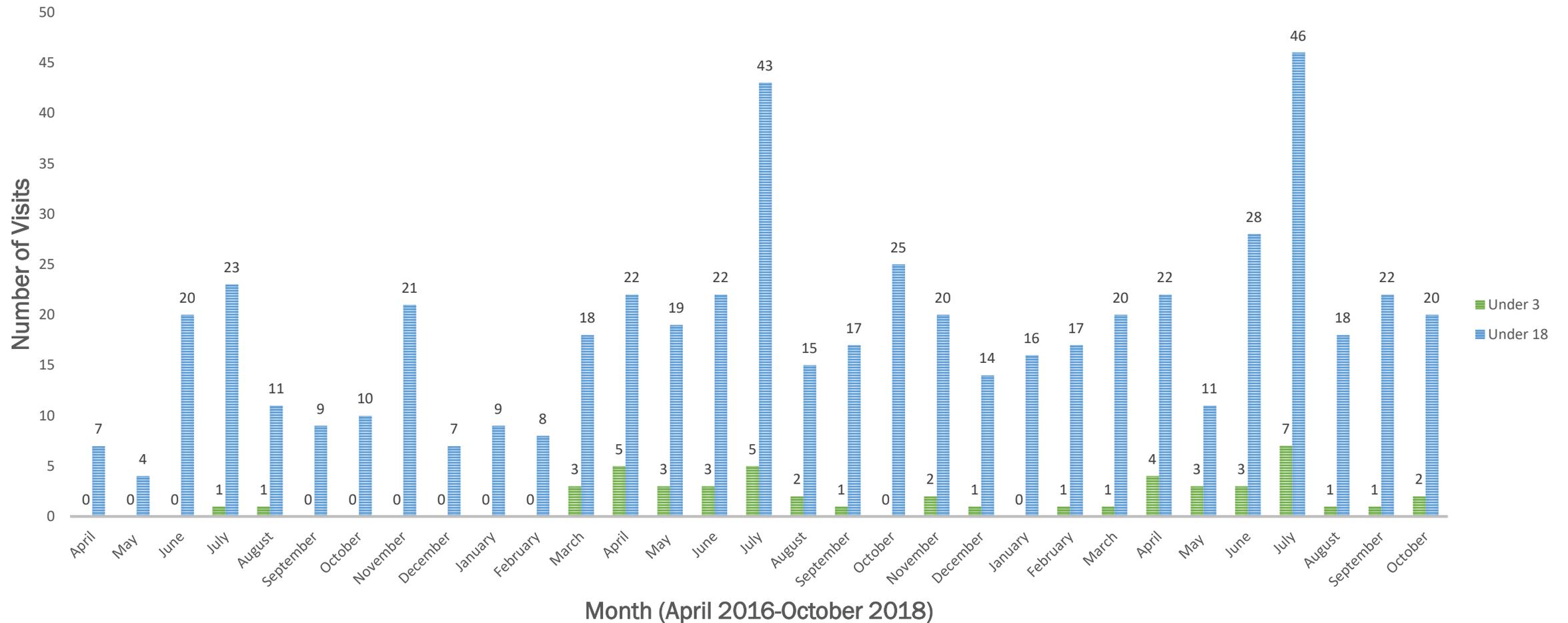
- Clinic schedule was reviewed via EPIC Electronic Medical Health Record
- Search made for paper schedules

Data Collected

- Scheduled encounters for patients between ages 0 and 17 years 11 months
- Total number of encounters
- Double bookings were counted one time
- Manually tallied

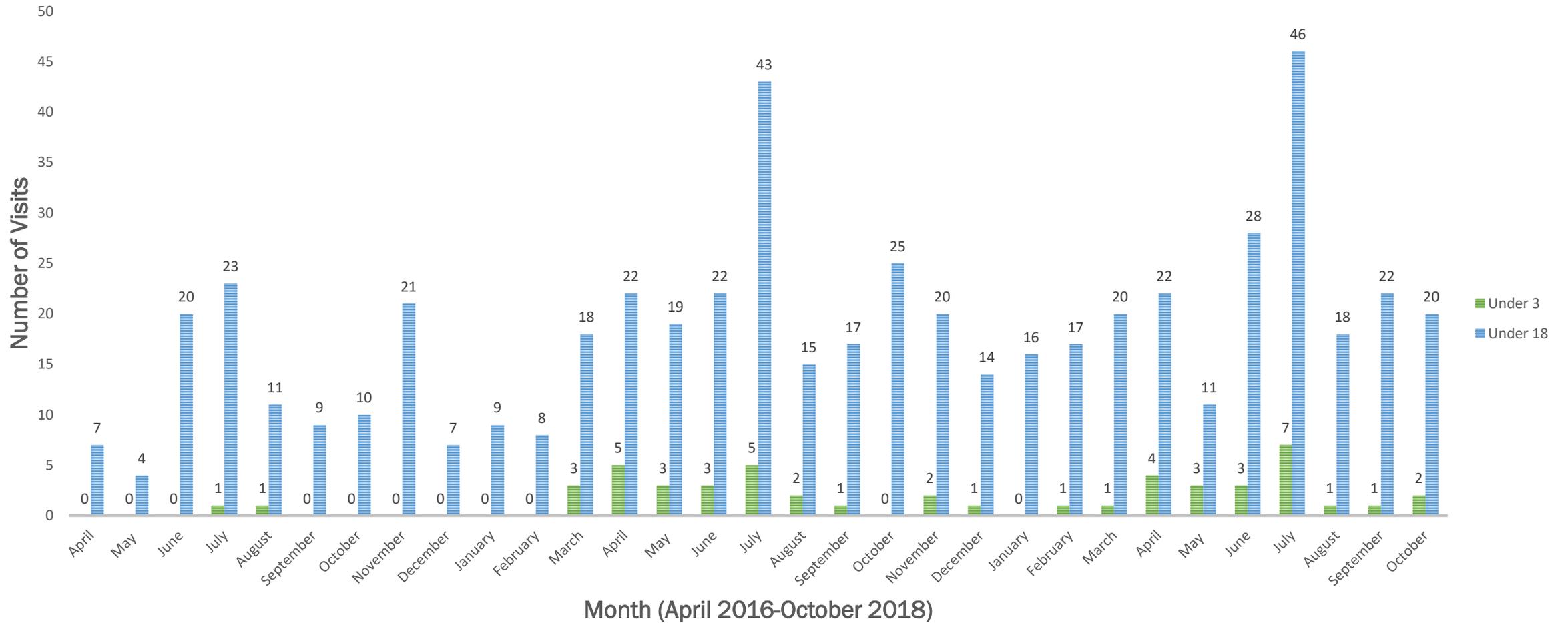
Results | Question Two

PEDIATRIC AUDIOLOGY VISITS AT THE WENDELL JOHNSON SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER



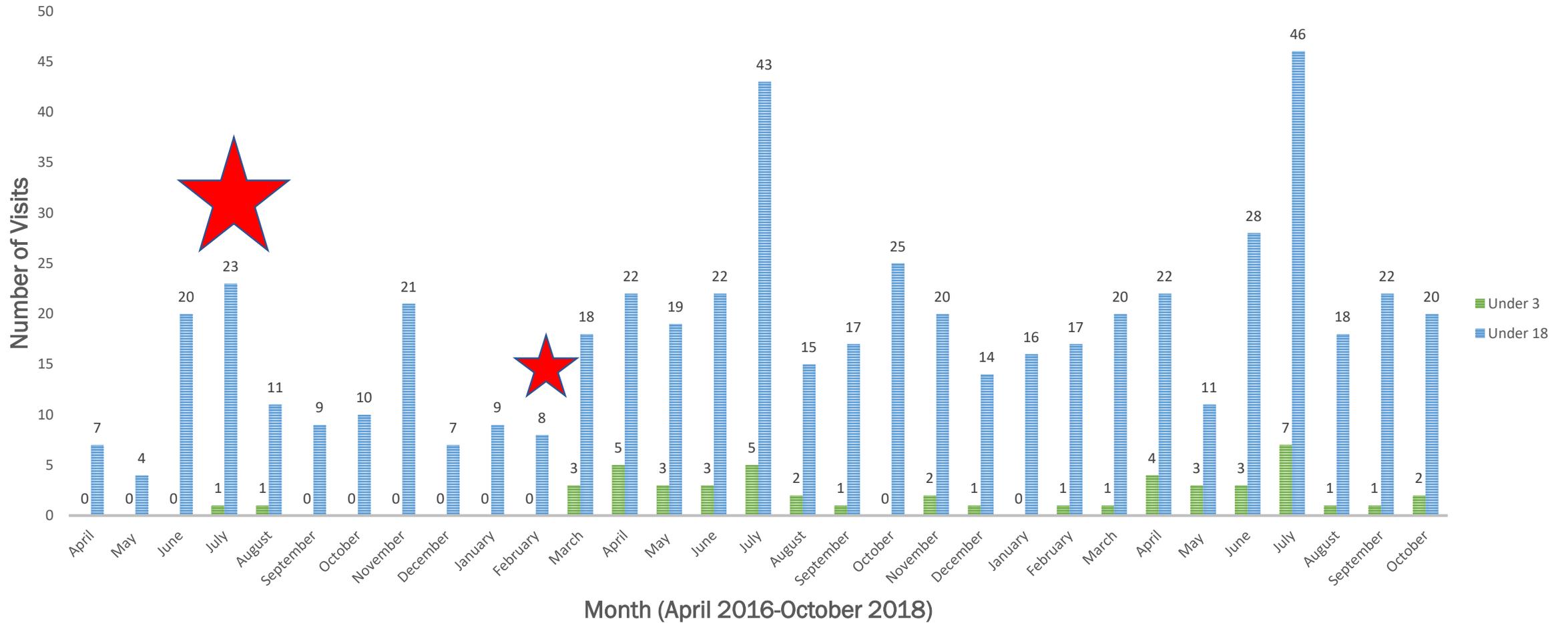
Results | Question Two

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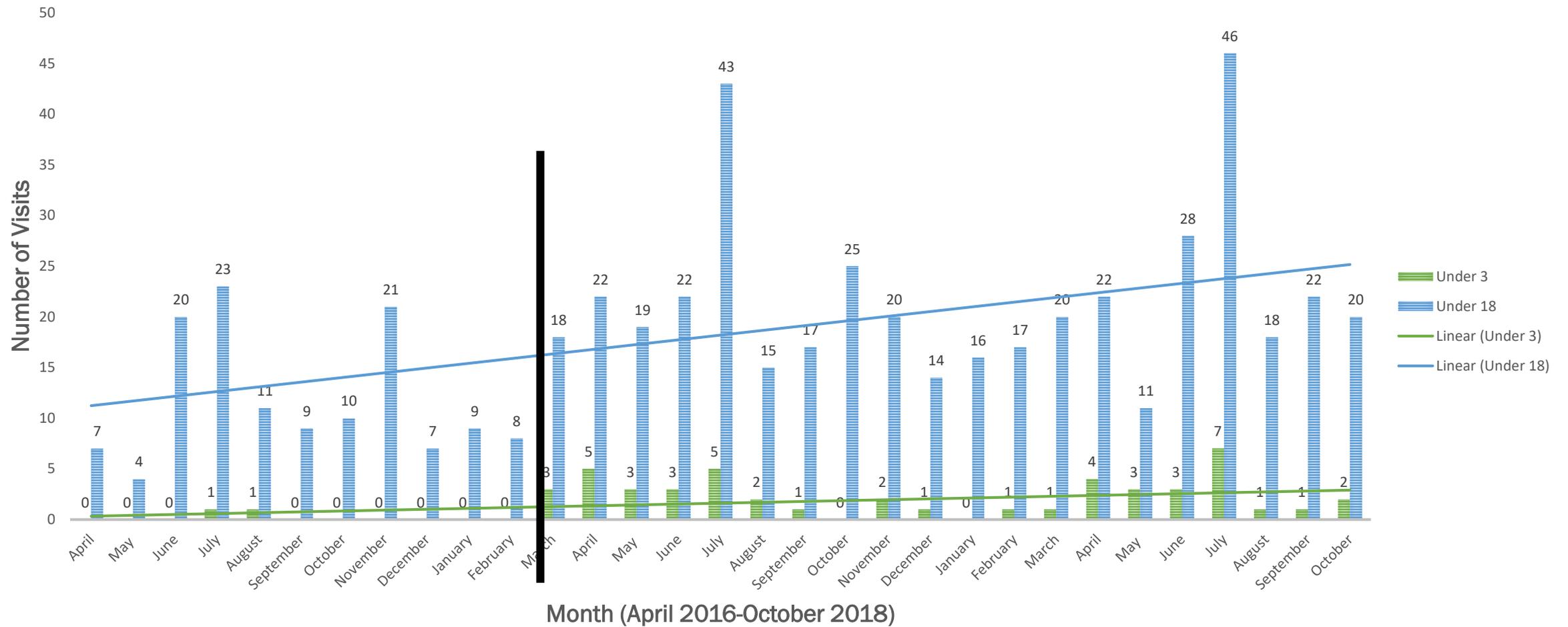
Results | Question Two

PEDIATRIC AUDIOLOGY VISITS AT THE WENDELL JOHNSON SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER



Results | Question Two

PEDIATRIC AUDIOLOGY VISITS AT THE WENDELL JOHNSON SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER



Results | Question Two

	Pre-Community Partner Medicaid exit		Post-Community Partner Medicaid exit		p-value
Age 0-18 (mean)	11.73	SD=6.46	21.75	SD=8.68	= 0.001
Age 0-3 (mean)	0.18	SD=0.4	2.4	SD=1.82	< .001

Limitations & Future Directions | Question Two

Limitations

- Time scale (true baseline?)
- Broad categorization

PART 3

Future Directions

Most common dimensions for assessing Medicaid access:



Provider Density

1/12,000 Iowans on Medicaid



Distance / Travel Time



Wait Time



Clinical Training Implications for Expanded Medicaid and Pediatric Caseload

Challenges

- Staffing and supervision
- Complex patient care
- Referrals and compliance
- Vulnerable populations (and all that comes with it)

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Opportunities

- Collaboration
- Expanded clinic scheduling
- Refinement of our pediatric protocols
- Policy responsive clinic planning

Policy
Responsive
Clinic Planning:
Infant
Diagnostic
Clinic





Summary

- Medicaid is an important support for hearing services, especially for children.
- Participation may be less than it appears.
- Changes are always afoot, in the patients we see and the payors who cover it.
- Responsiveness is a challenge, but it can be a pleasant one.