



COVID-19 Impact on Medi-Cal Utilization among Children in Foster Care

July 30, 2021



Understanding COVID-19 Impact among Children in Foster Care

- DHCS is performing analysis that will monitor the impact of COVID-19 among children in Foster Care
- Focus areas for utilization of services:
 - ✓ COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and testing
 - ✓ Utilization of services prior to and during the pandemic



Data Analysis Caveats

- Data presented is for children in Foster Care in the age group 0 through 17 years unless otherwise specified
- Age is based on the Medi-Cal eligibility data at the time of the service
- Stratifications by sex, race/ethnicity, and delivery system are based on all claims to date for calendar year 2020
- Reporting is based on claims and encounter data received from providers and managed care plans
- Additional measures and reporting are in process beyond those being shared today



Data Completeness Considerations

- Data is preliminary and will continue to change and be updated
- Numbers that are less than 11 are suppressed and no data is presented.
- The time between date of service and when DHCS receives fee-for-service claims and managed care encounters varies
- Since providers payment is incumbent on claims being submitted within six months of the date of service, majority of data is received within six months
- While most data is received within 3 to 6 months of date of service, data may be received up to 6 to 12 months after services are delivered
- The most recent months of data are not presented as there is insufficient reporting (also called claim lag) to show current trends



COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

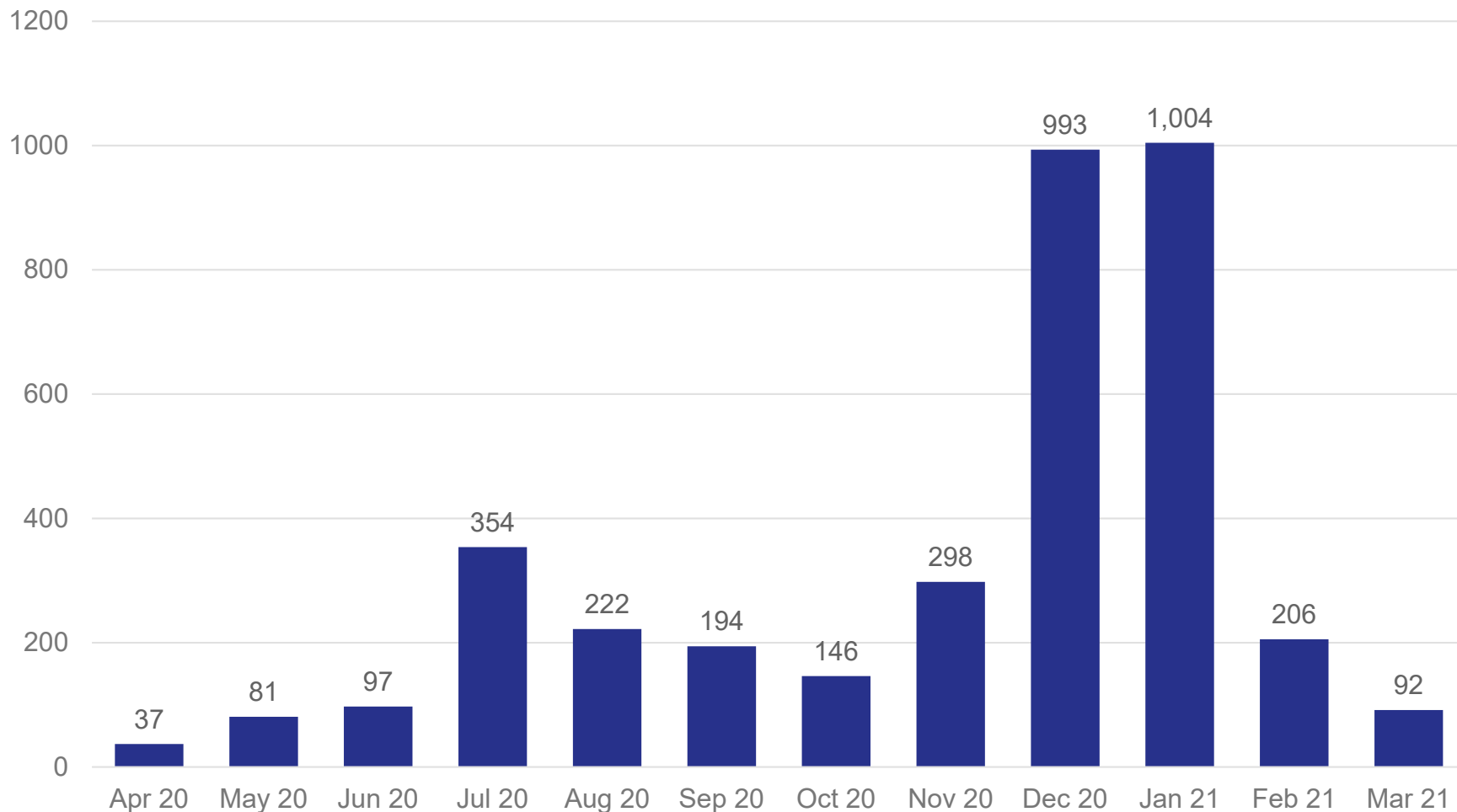
- Total number of beneficiaries in Foster Care aged 0-17 years with a COVID-19 diagnosis
- Beneficiaries are counted once
- ICD-10 codes are used to identify COVID-19 cases on claims or encounters:
 - B97.29 - other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere (Used for cases before April 1, 2020)
 - U07.1 - 2019 Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19 (Used to identify cases after April 1, 2020)
- Data source: DHCS MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility Data, California Open Data Portal



COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

New cases monthly

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care



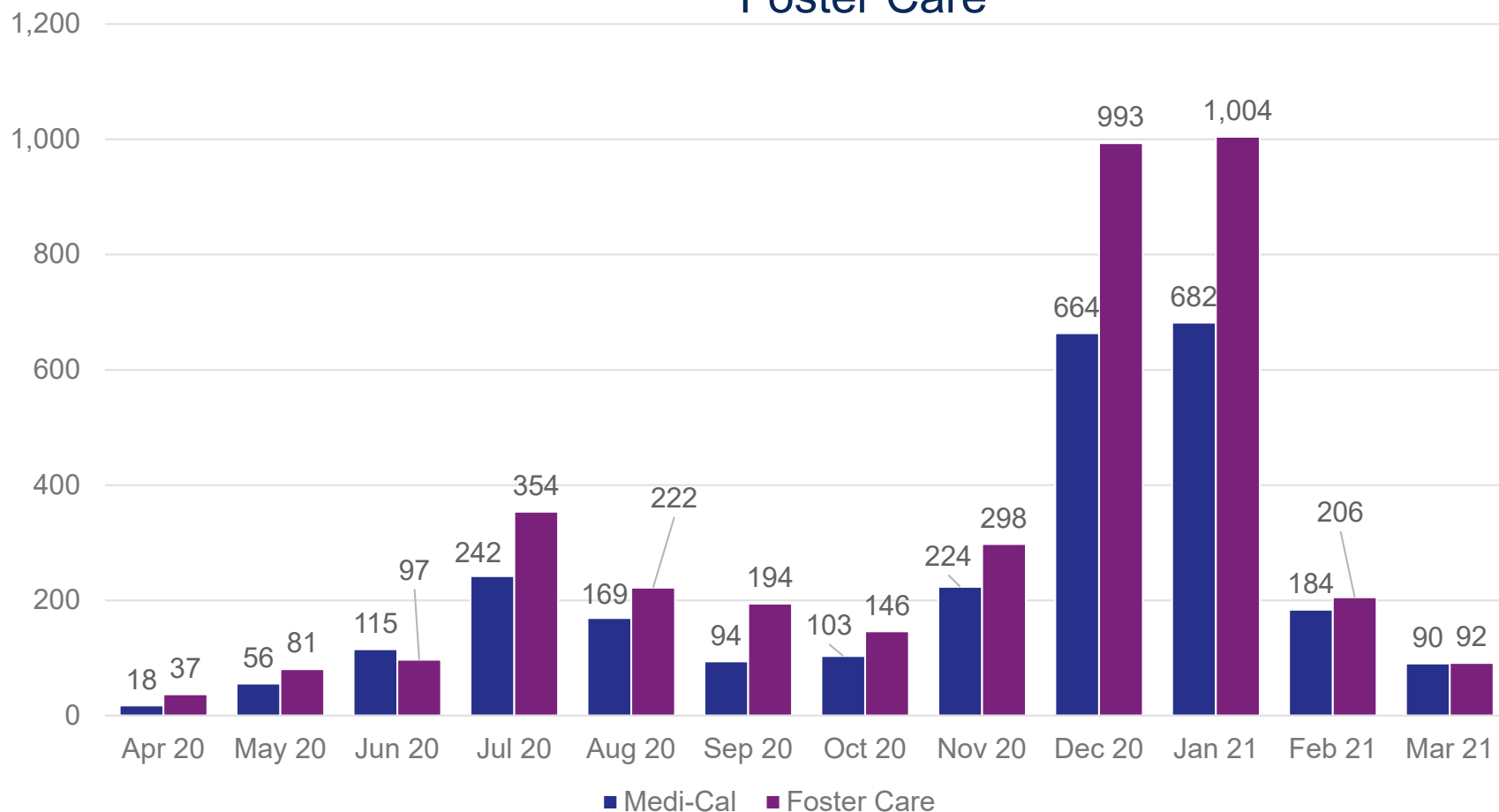
Preliminary Data as of 07/2021



COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

New cases monthly

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs in Foster Care



Preliminary Data as of 07/2021



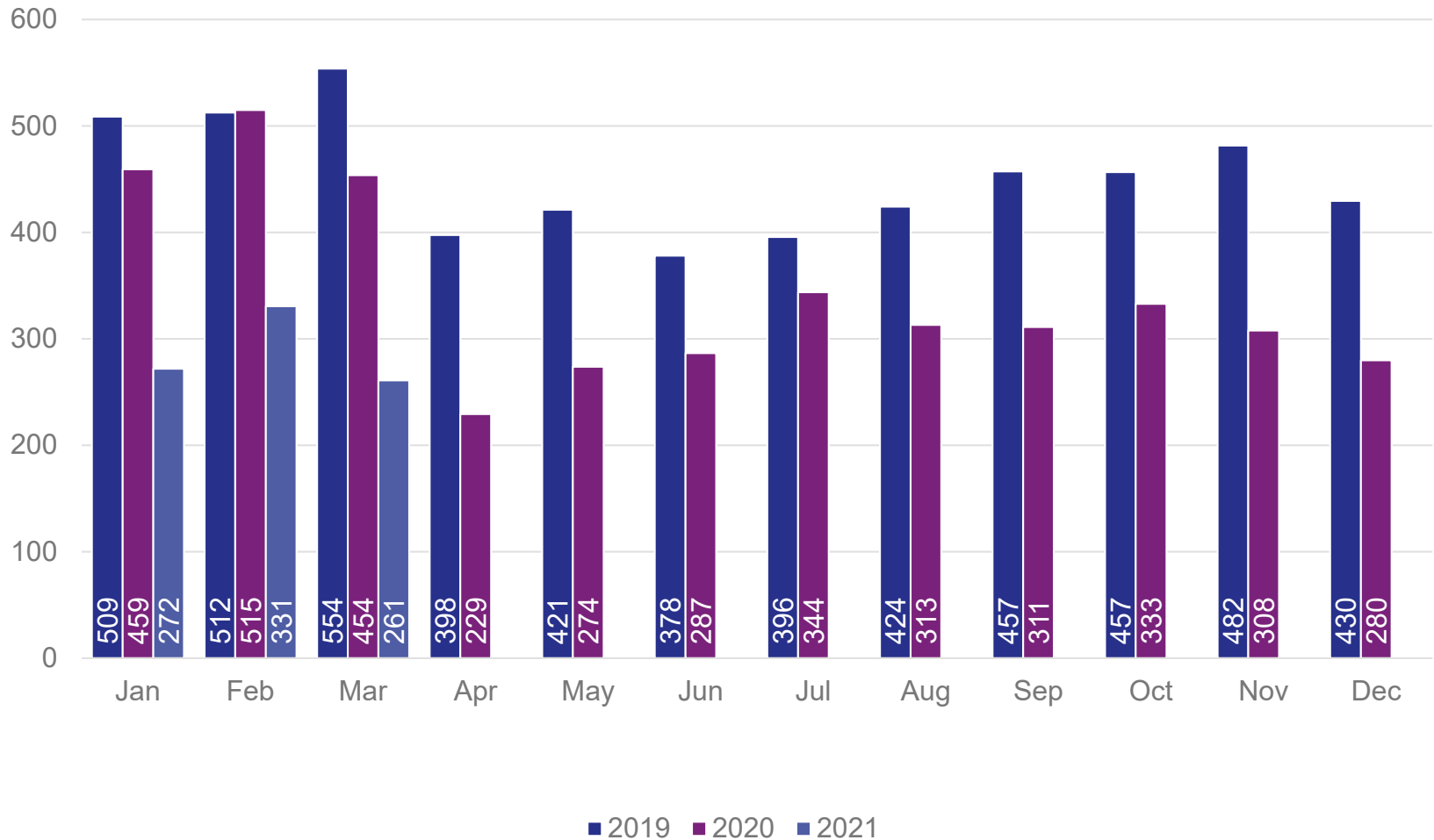
Hospitalizations

- Hospitalizations can be presented in the following ways
 - COVID-19 diagnosis (on claim)
 - All hospitalizations (COVID-19 and non-COVID-19) comparing calendar year 2019 (Pre-COVID) to calendar year 2020
- Hospitalizations are counted as the number of beneficiaries aged 0-17 years in Foster Care who were hospitalized
- Since less than 11 beneficiaries aged 0-17 years in Foster Care were hospitalized for COVID related diagnosis every month, we are unable to present that data for privacy reasons
- Data Source: DHCS MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility Data



Hospitalizations

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care



Preliminary Data as of 07/2021



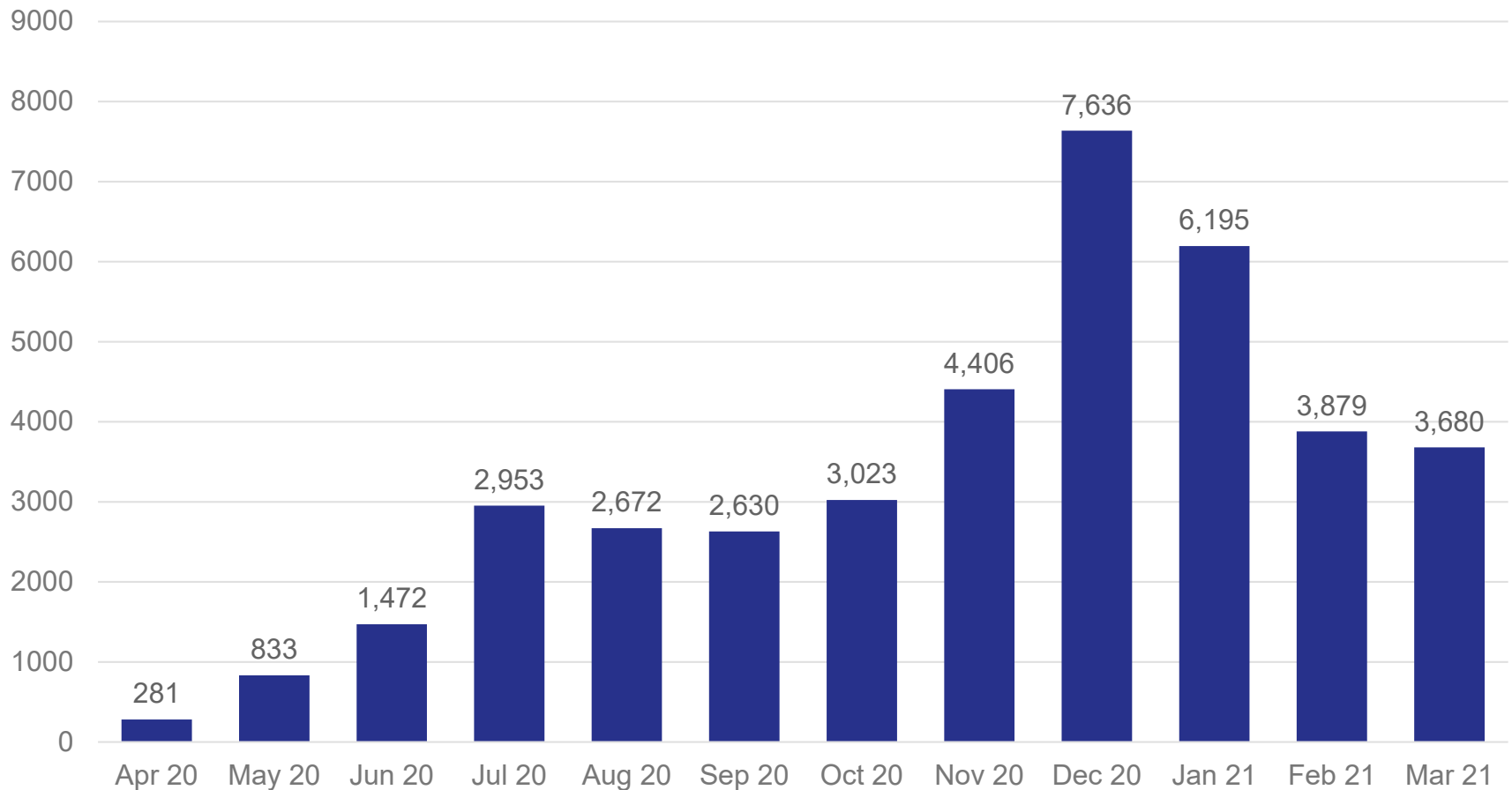
COVID-19 Testing

- Total number of tests by month for beneficiaries aged 0-17 years who have been tested for COVID-19
- Data represent totals of tests (claims), not individual people
- Tests can be antigen or antibody based. Specific codes used for identification of tests included but are not limited to U0001-4, 87635, 87426, 0202U, 0224U, 86328 and 86769
- Data does not represent test results or positivity status
- Source of Data: DHCS MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility Data, California Open Data Portal



COVID-19 Testing

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

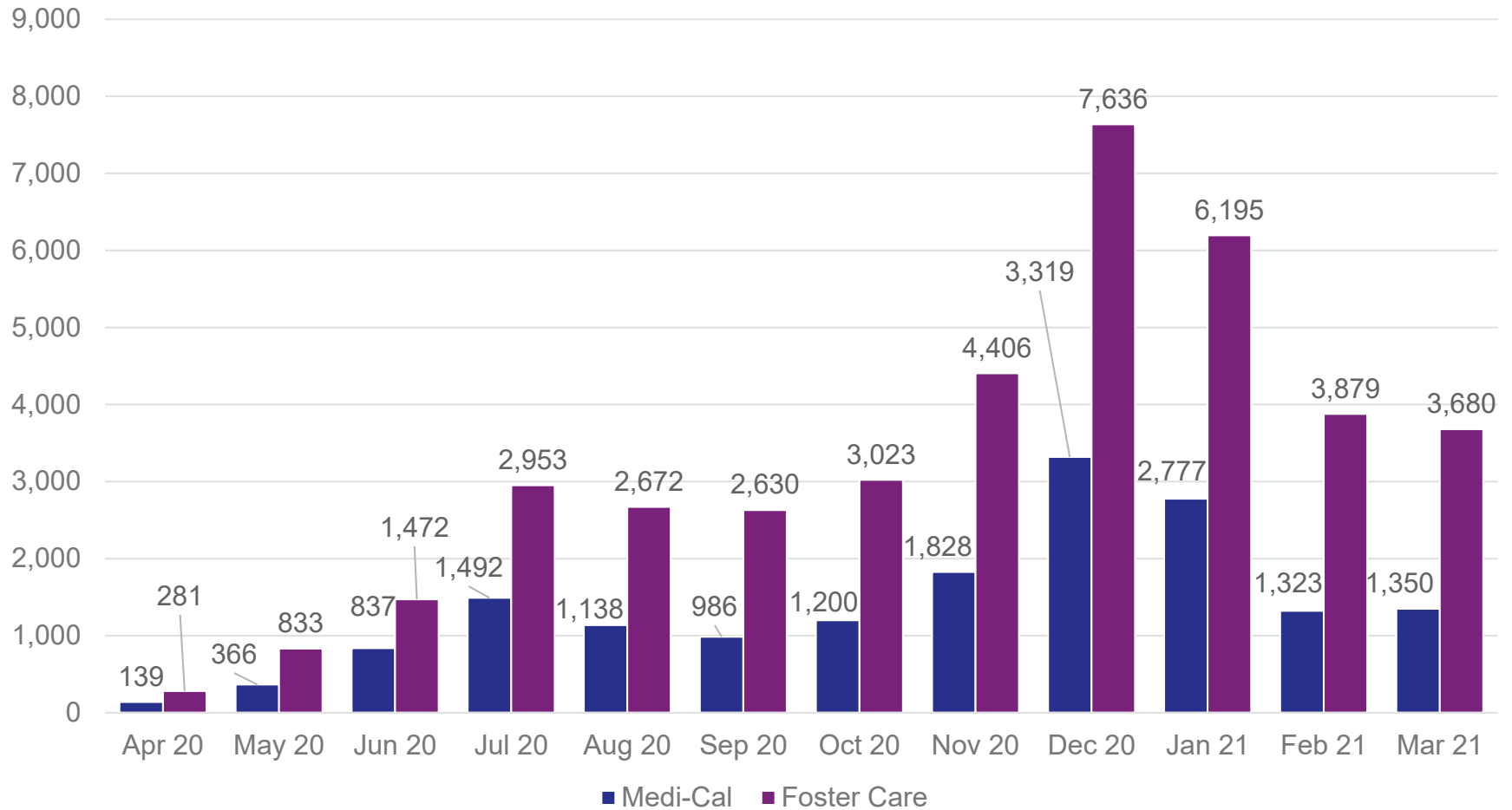


Preliminary Data as of 07/2021



COVID-19 Testing

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care

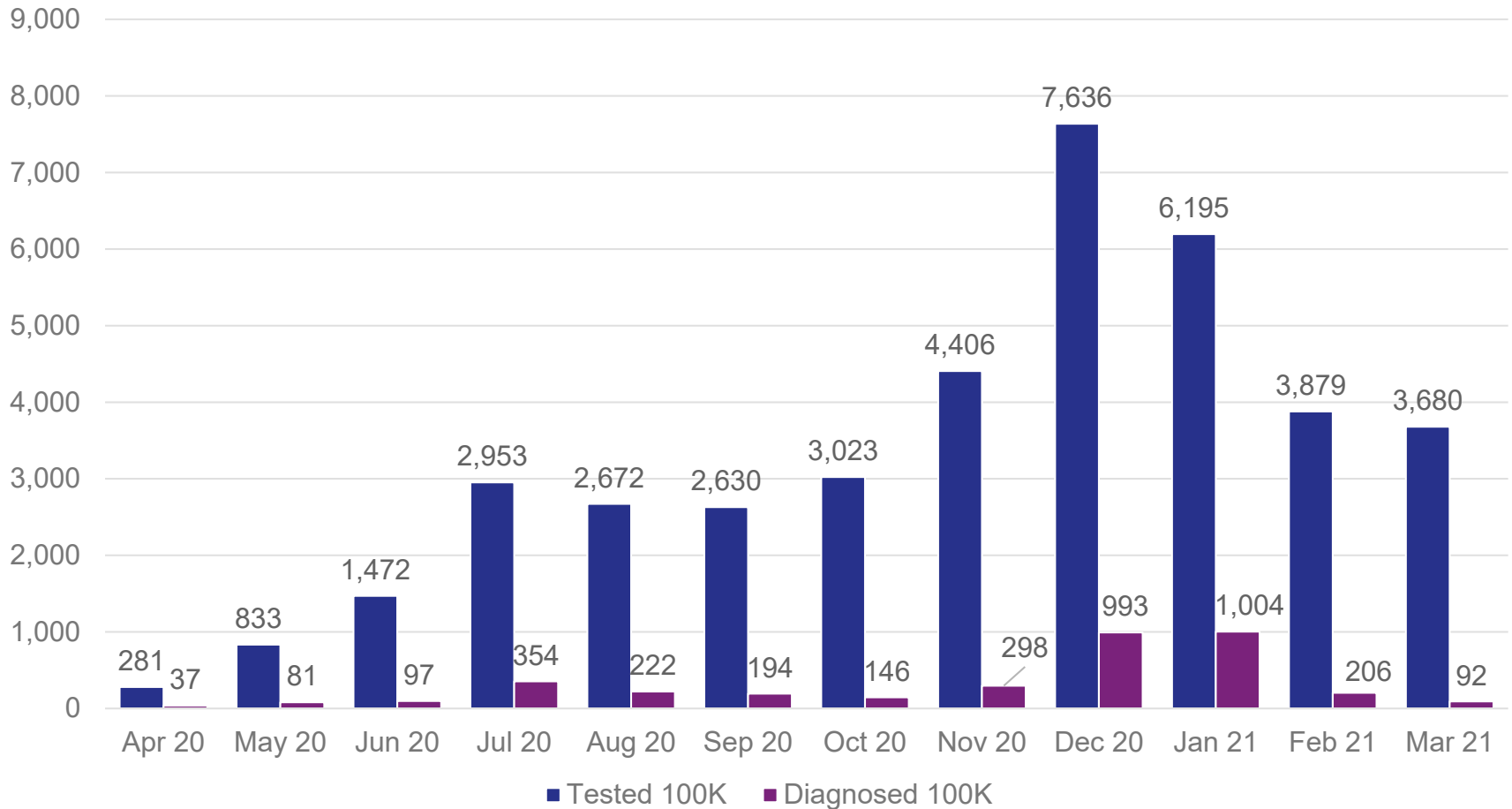


Preliminary Data as of 07/2021



COVID-19 Testing compared to Confirmed Cases

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care



Preliminary Data as of 07/2021



Medi-Cal Utilization of Services During the Pandemic Response

The following are initial measures that have been compiled to compare utilization during calendar year 2019 (Pre-COVID) to calendar year 2020

- Emergency Department
- Telehealth
- Dental Visits
- Mental Health Services



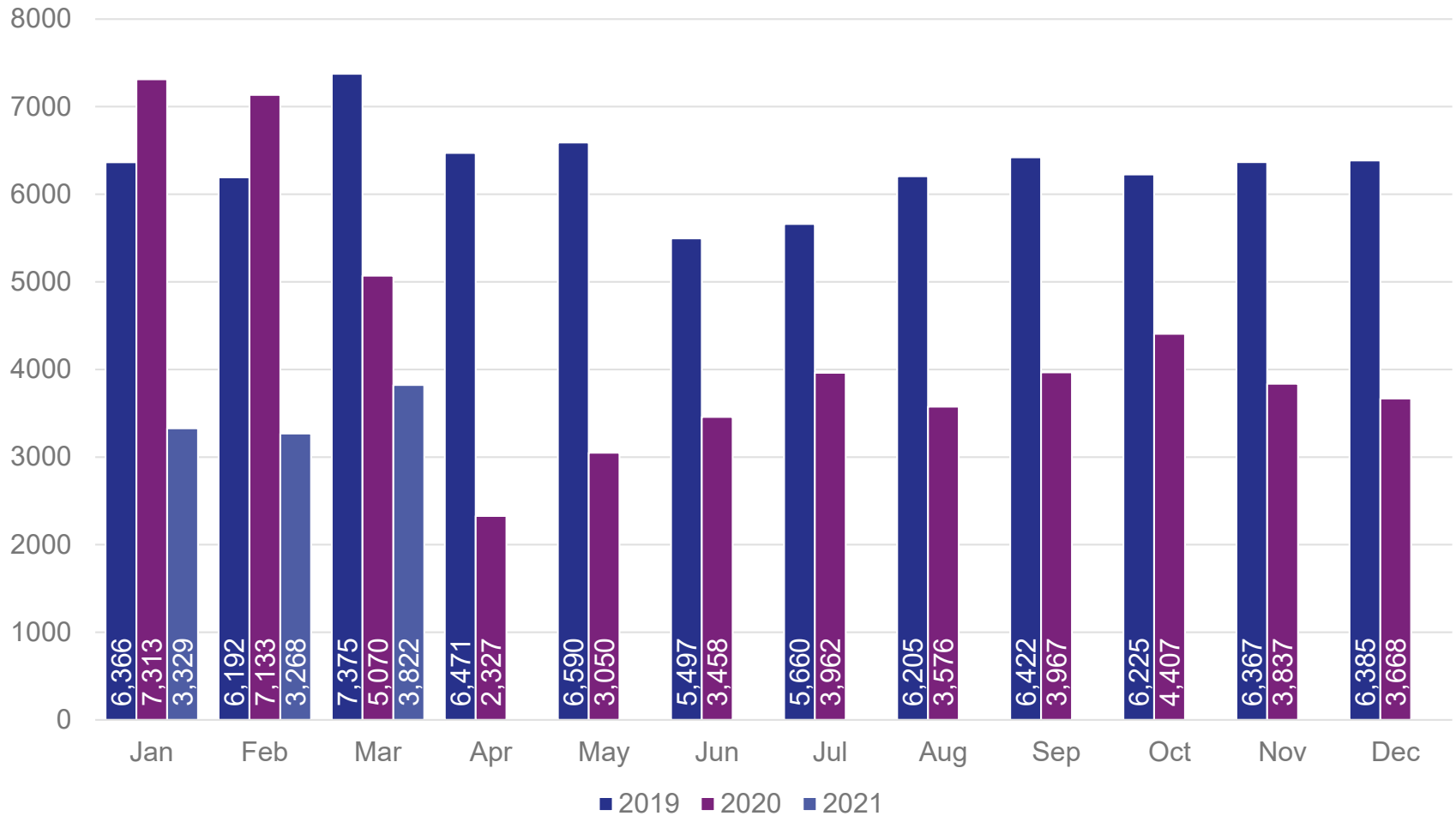
Emergency Department Visits

- Total number Emergency Department visits including those related to COVID-19 among beneficiaries aged 0-17 years in Foster Care
- Procedure Codes Utilized:
99281, 99282, 99283, 99284, 99285
- Overall, California hospitals have experienced declines of 40% to 60% in ED visits during the pandemic (The Financial Impact of COVID-19 on California Hospitals, CHCF, June 2020)
- Data Source: MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility Data



Emergency Department Visits

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

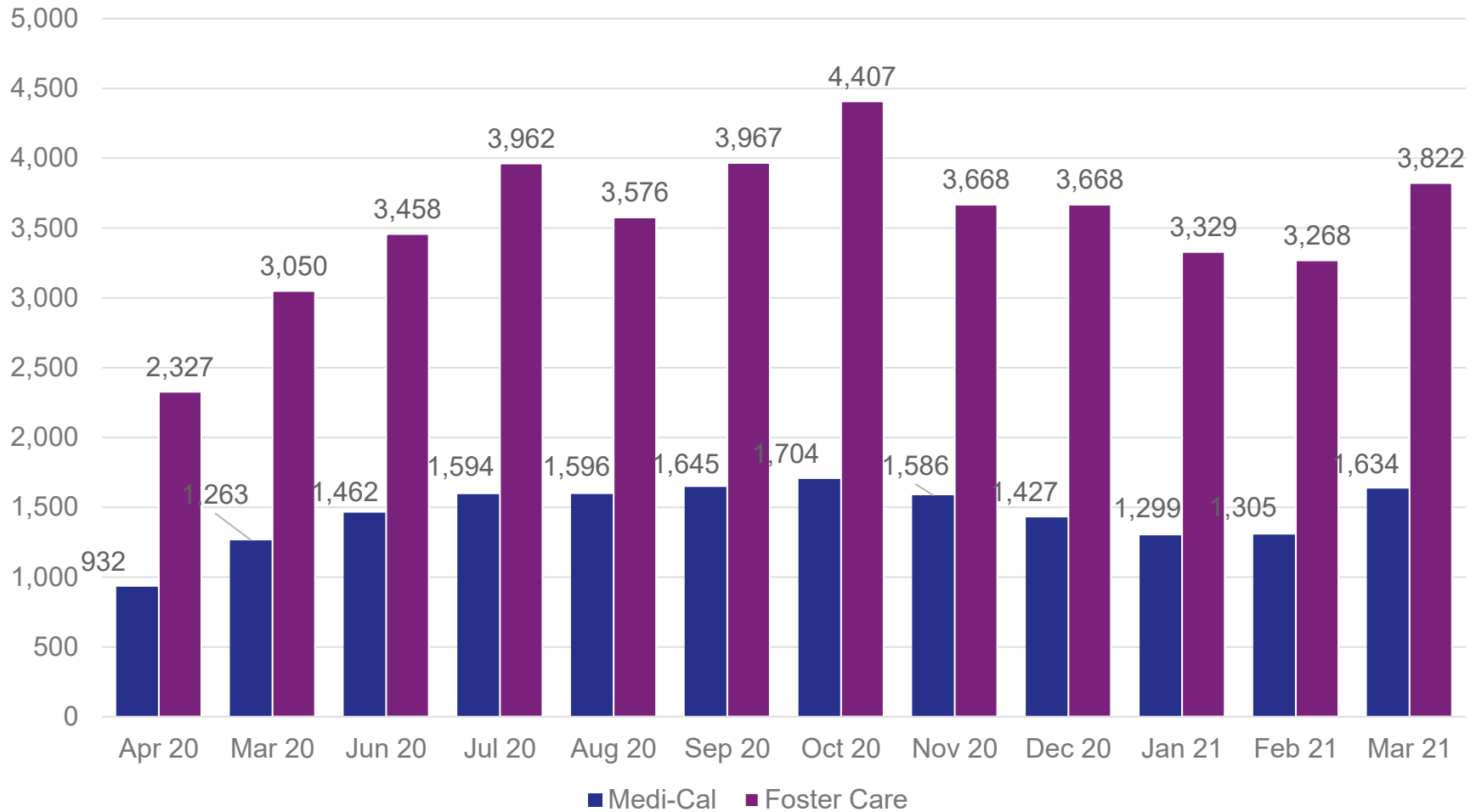


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Emergency Department Visits

Per 100,000 0-17 years old beneficiaries in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care



Preliminary Data as of 07/2021



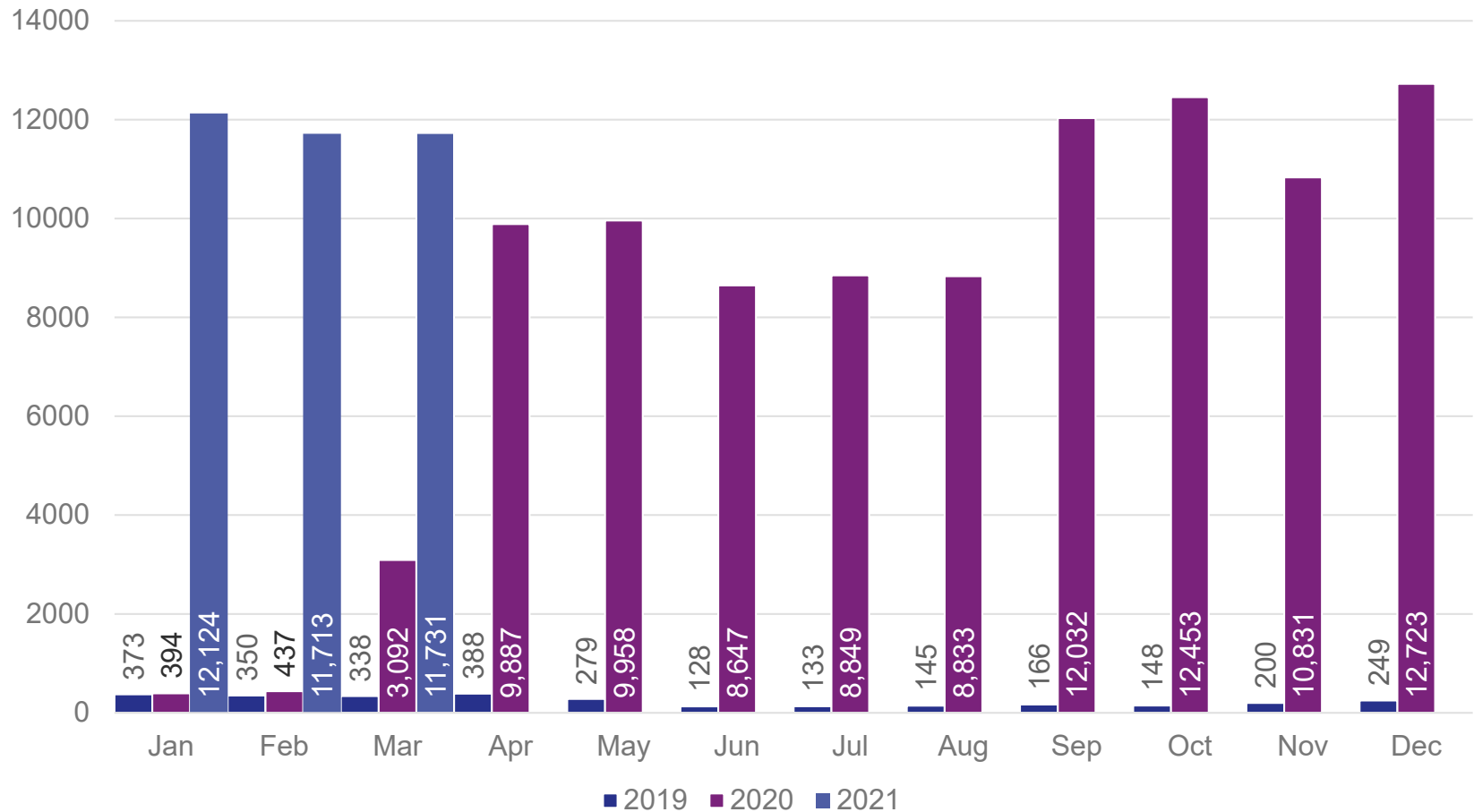
Telehealth Visits

- Telehealth visits were identified based on the presence of a modifier on the claim or encounter (modifiers 95, GQ and GT)
- Telehealth visits include phone and video healthcare visits
- Telehealth Visits are outpatient visits in fee-for-service or managed care – mental health visits are not included in this chart
- Source of data: MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility



Telehealth Visits

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

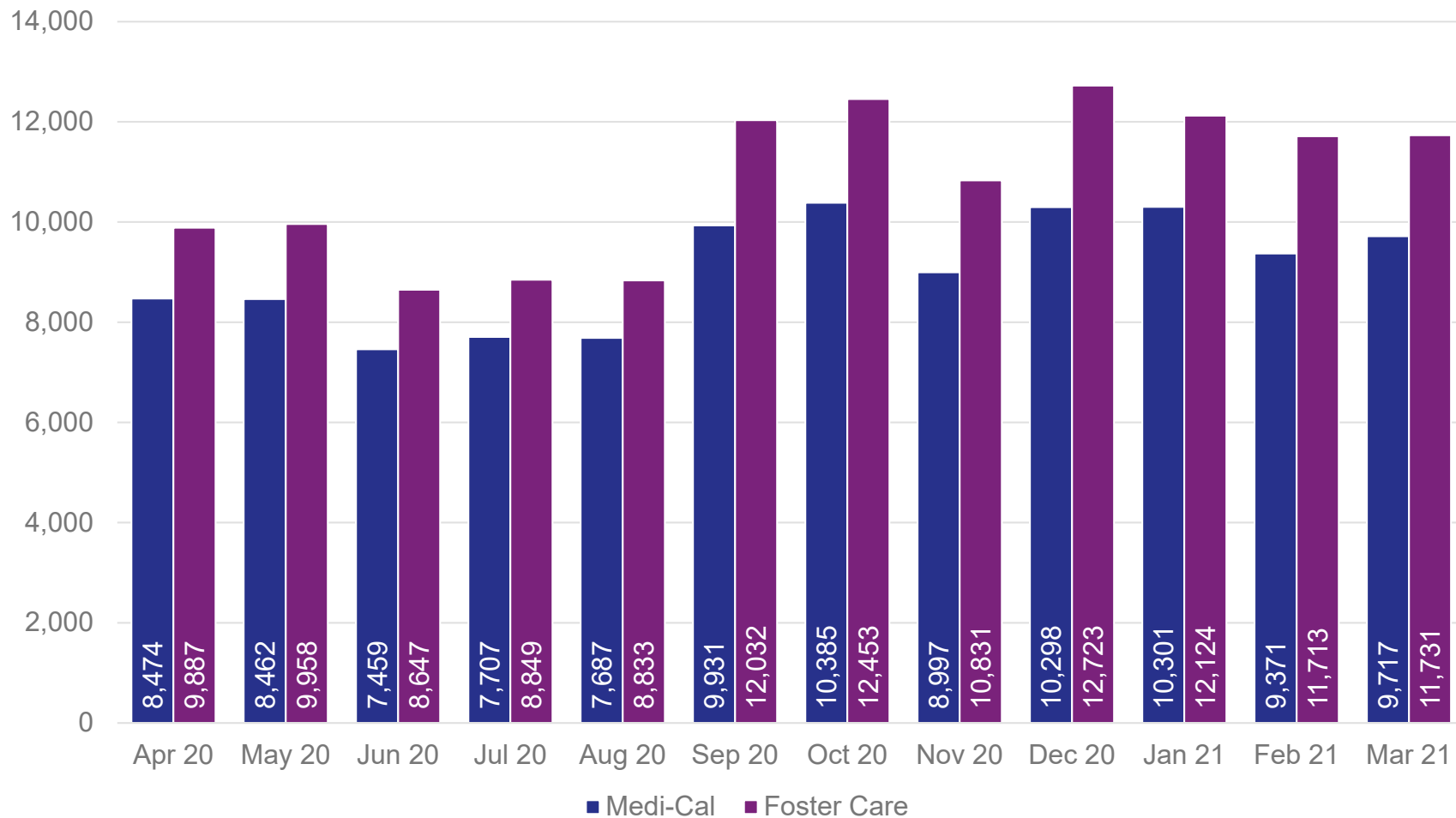


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Telehealth Visits

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care



Preliminary Data as of 07/2021



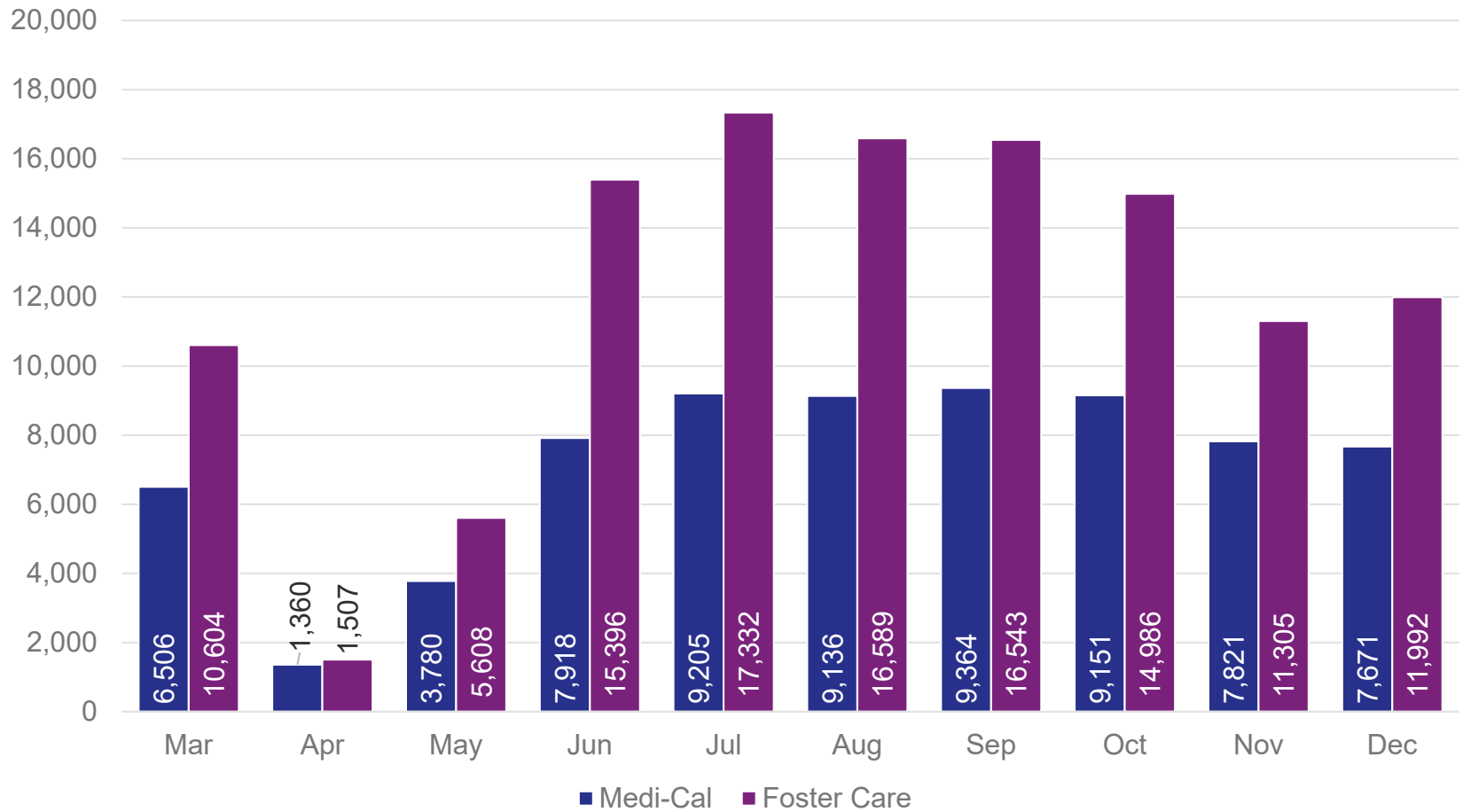
Dental Visits

- Number of members in Foster Care who received any Dental Care Visit Services
- Data is presented for age group 0-17 years for this slide; will be presented for foster care/former foster youth 0-20 years, in the future.
- Methodology is based on the measure for Annual Dental Visits
- Source of data: MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility



Beneficiaries with Dental Visits

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old
all Medi-Cal vs Foster Care



Preliminary Data as of 06/2021



California has a Split Mental Health Delivery System

- Managed Care Plans (MCPs) Cover
 - Non-specialty mental health services
- Mental Health Outpatient Services covered by MCPs:
 - Individual and group mental health evaluation and treatment (psychotherapy)
 - Psychological testing, when clinically indicated to evaluate a mental health condition
 - Outpatient services for the purpose of monitoring drug therapy
 - Outpatient laboratory, drugs, supplies and supplements (excluding antipsychotics)
 - Psychiatric consultation



Carved Out Mental Health Services

- Specialty Mental Health Services
 - Administered through county mental health plans (MHPs)
 - Services for children/youth in Foster Care whose mental health needs require care services not included in MCP mental health benefits
- Substance Use Disorder Benefits
 - Administered through Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) counties, and waiver services
 - Community-based system for SUD services through counties or through direct contracts with service providers



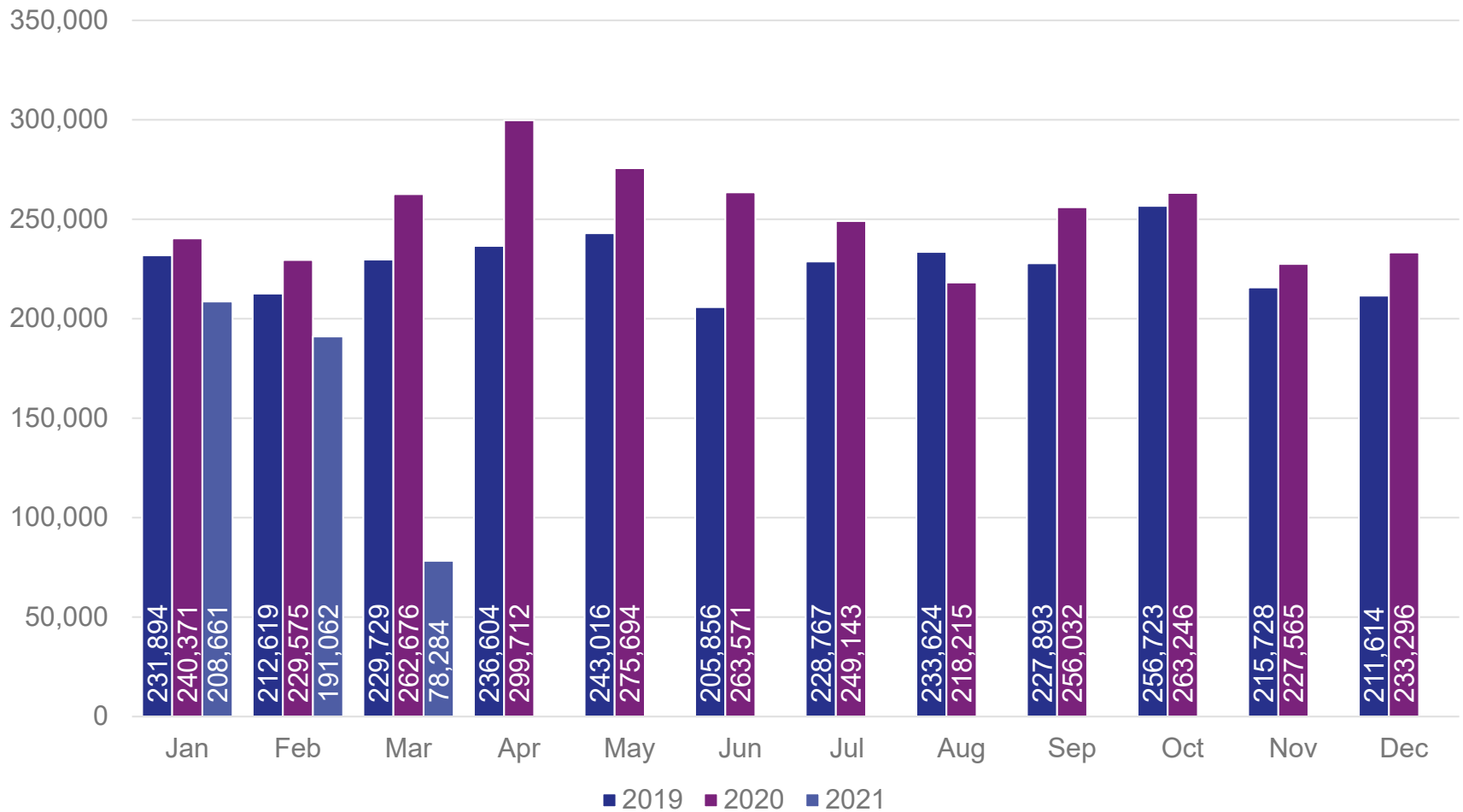
Mental Health Visits

- Non-specialty Mental Health Visits - Total number of mental health visits in managed care and fee-for-service
- Specialty Mental Health Visits – Total number of mental health visits in the Specialty Mental Health System
- Each unique visit is defined by a unique combination of beneficiary and visit date
- Total number of visits includes telehealth visits
- Visits have broad inclusion of procedures for screening, evaluation, care, and treatment provided in a non-specialty and specialty claiming systems
- Source of data: MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility



Total Mental Health Visits

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

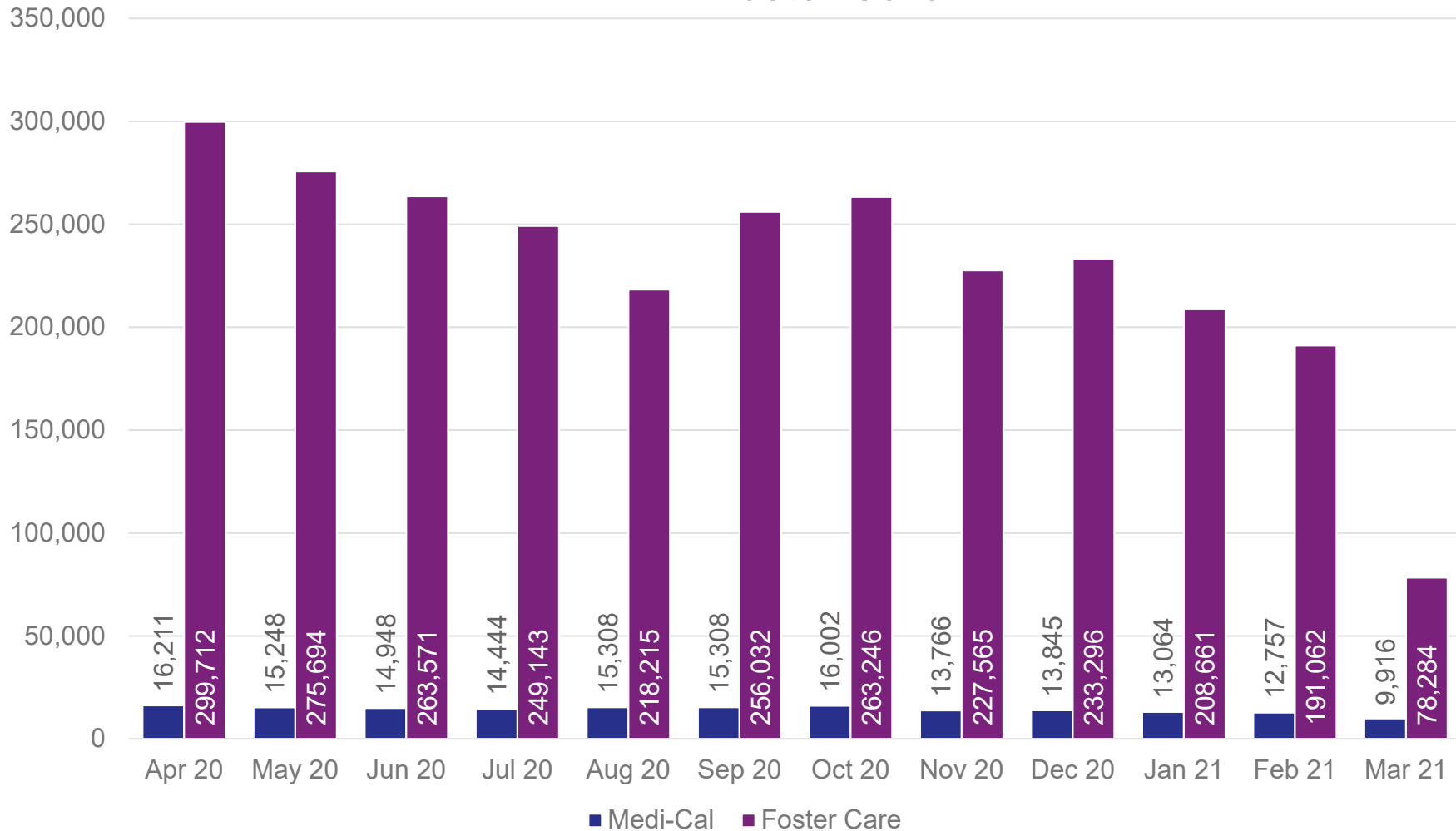


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Total Mental Health Visits

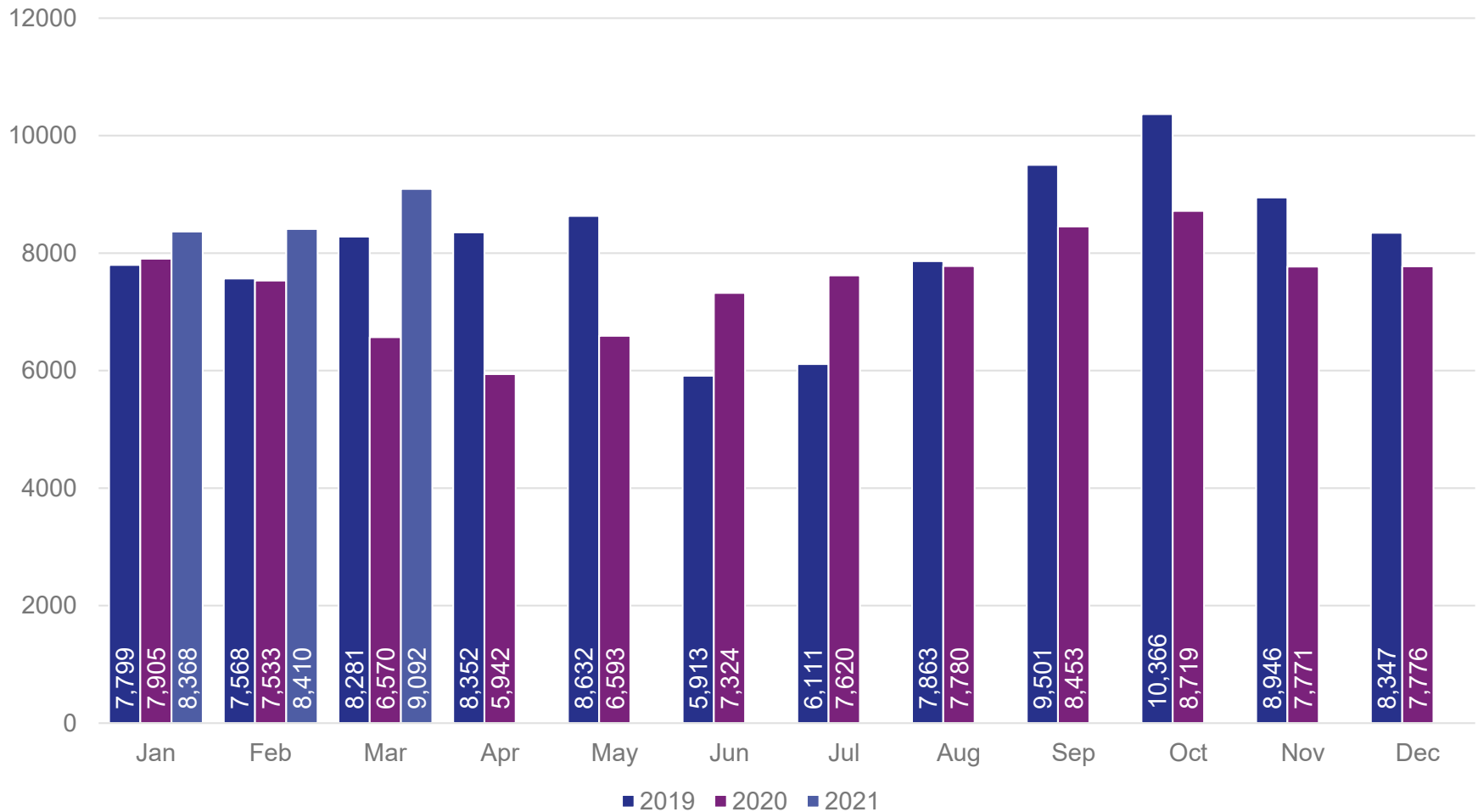
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care



Preliminary Data as of 07/2021



Non-Specialty Mental Health Visits Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

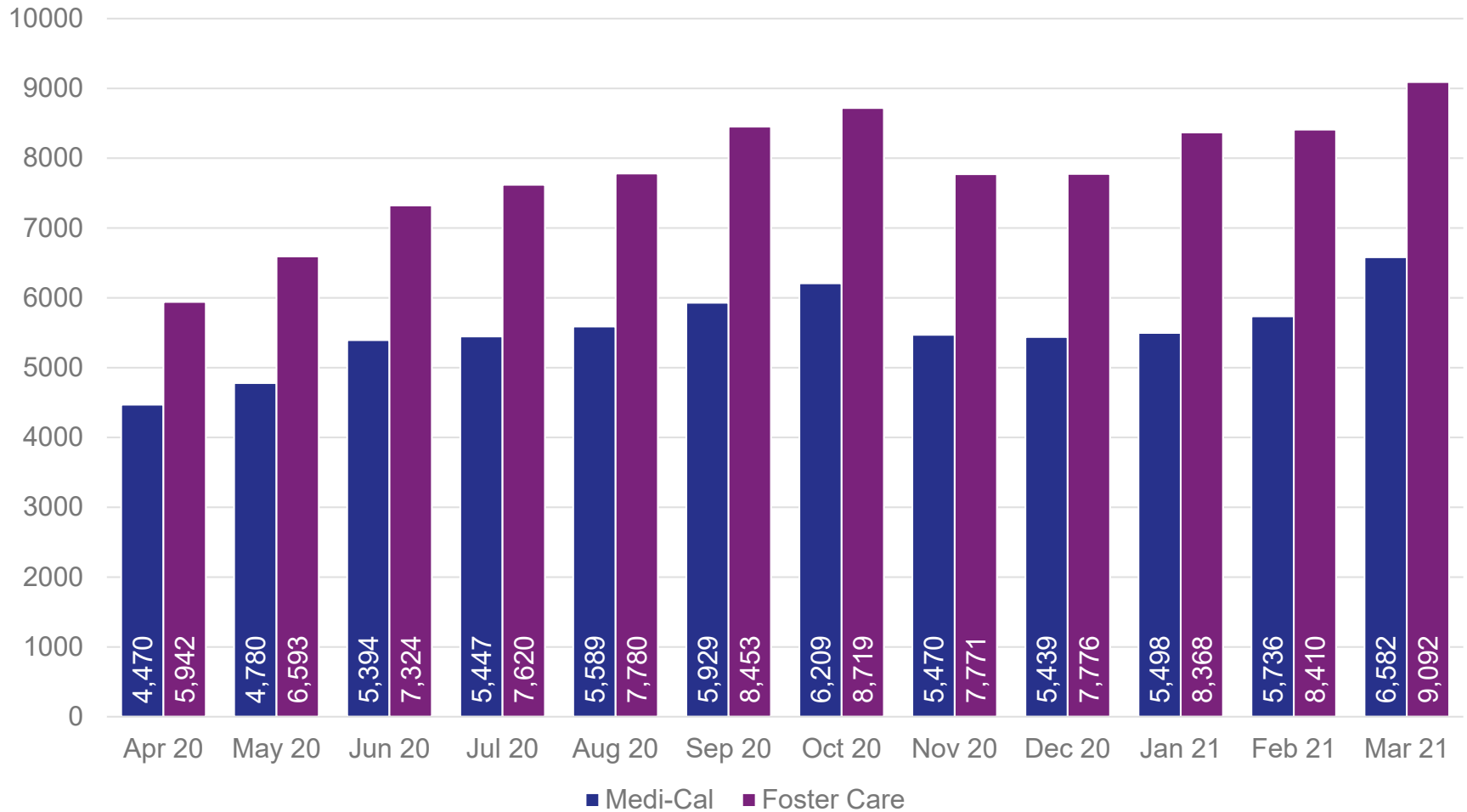


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Non-Specialty Mental Health Visits

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care

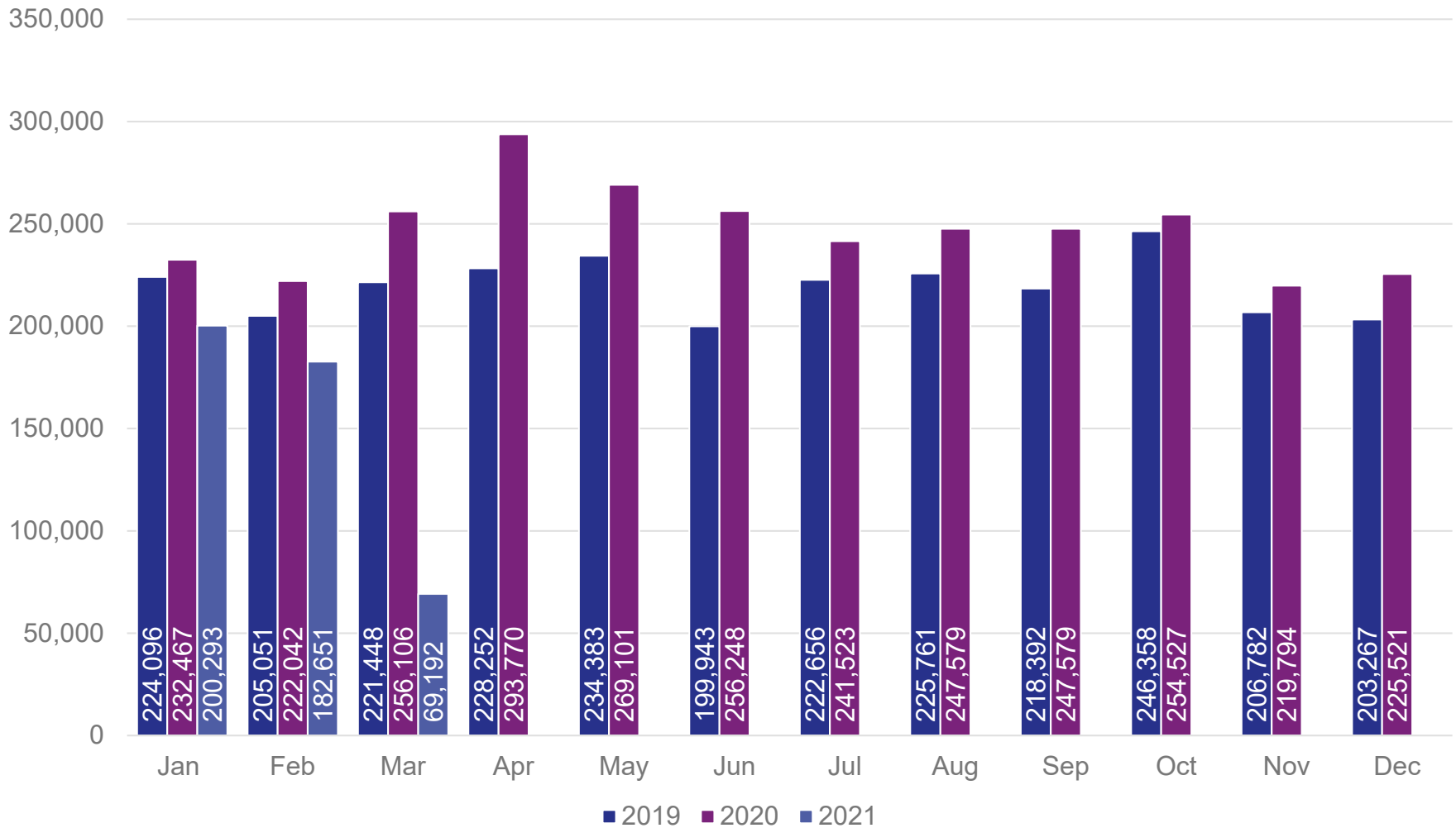


Preliminary Data as of 07/2021



Specialty Mental Health Visits

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

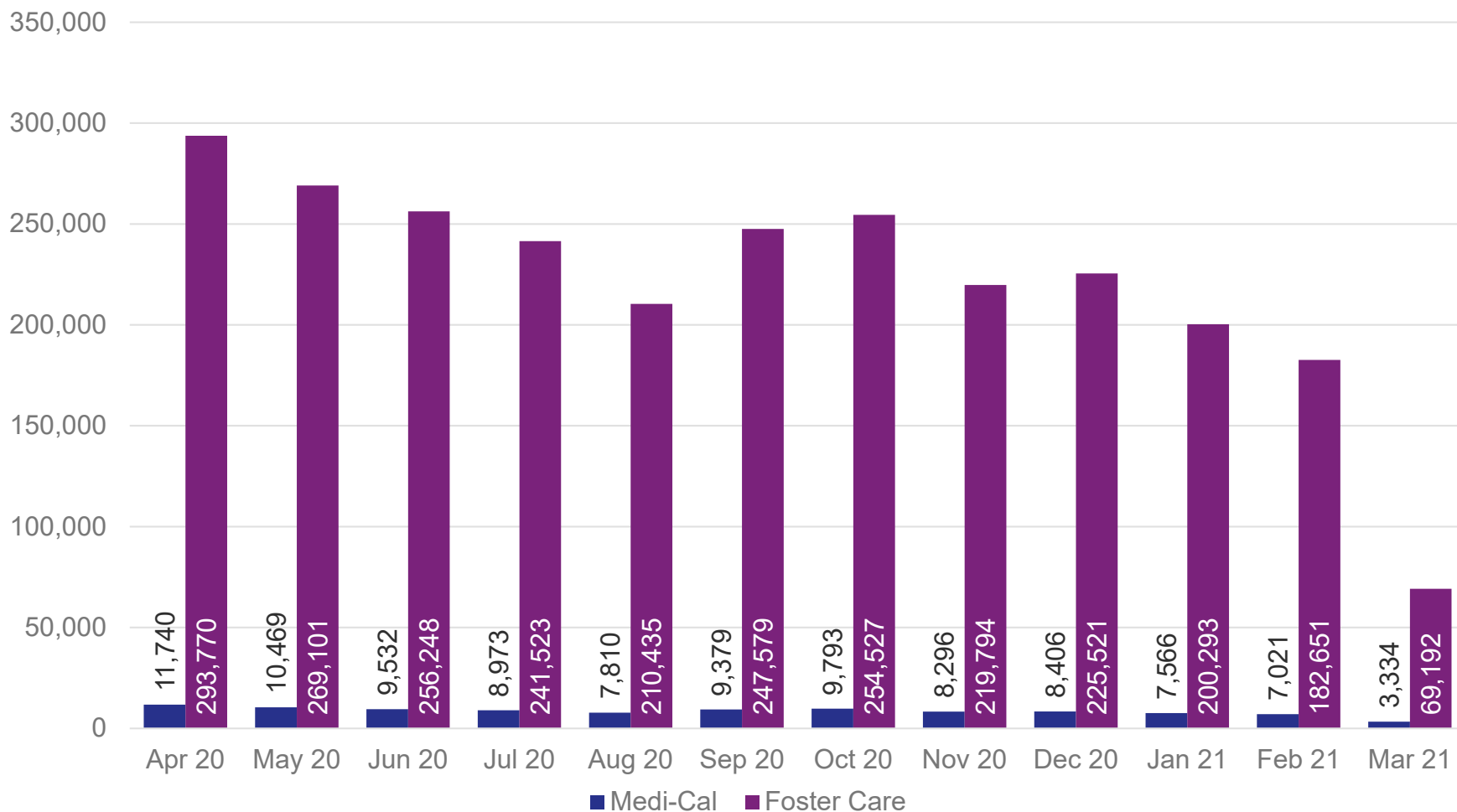


Preliminary Data as of 07/2021



Specialty Mental Health Visits

Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care



Preliminary Data as of 07/2021