



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

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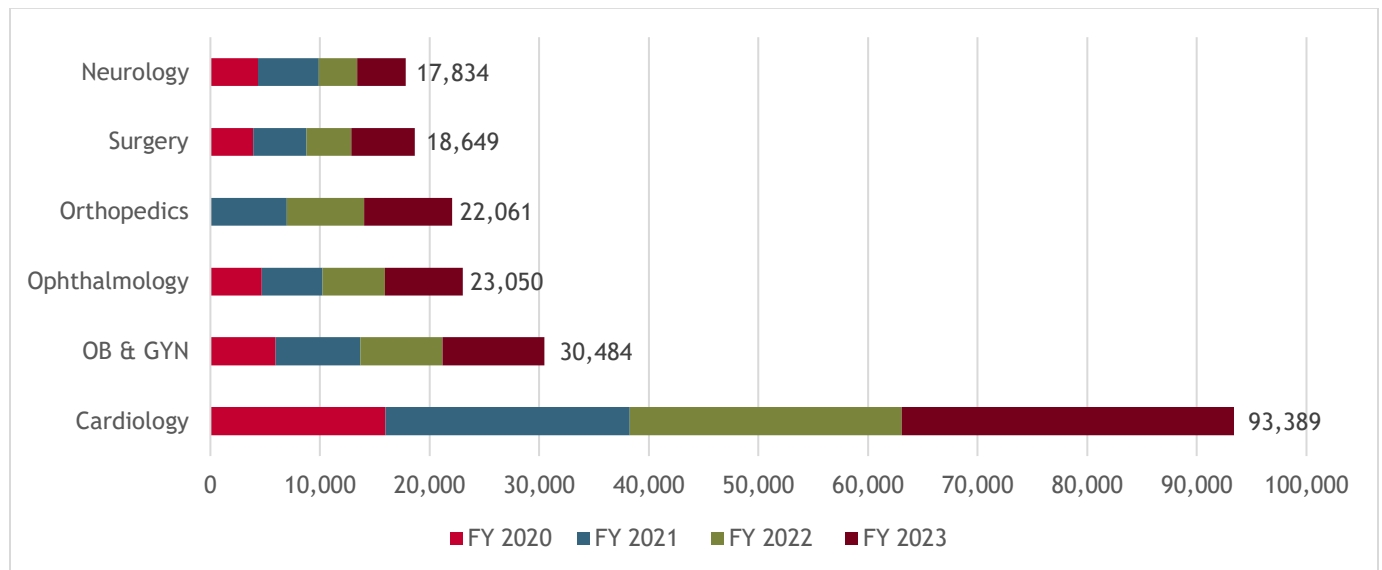
Specialty Care

December 2023

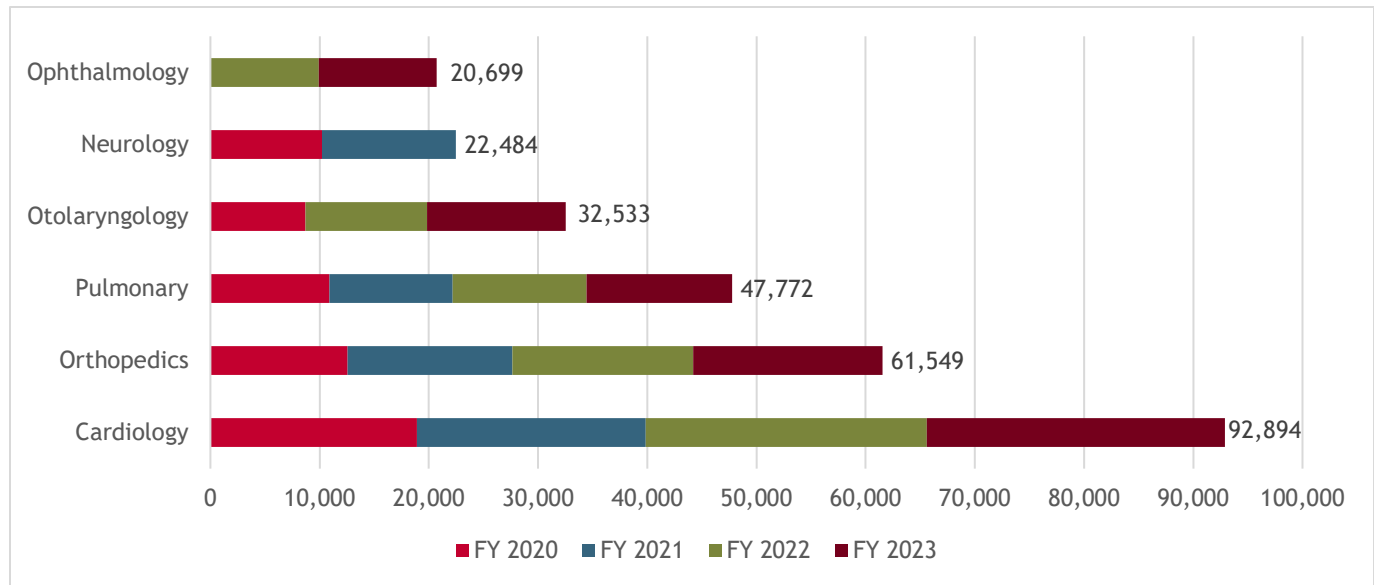
Introduction

Access to specialty care can be challenging due to provider capacity, long wait times to appointment, and availability of services. Specialty care was chosen as a priority area because of the increased need for specialty care paired with the challenges of obtaining it. The Interagency Agreement (IA) has focused on Urology, Dermatology, Rheumatology and Neurology with the goal of increasing workforce, understanding referral pathways, and utilizing data to understand where gaps still exist across the state. In fiscal year 2022-23, the funding focused on Neurology and conducted an initial data analysis to determine the needs and the gaps.

Top Six Adult Specialty Care Total Visits - Fiscal Year 2019-20 to 2022-23



Top Six Children Specialty Care Visits - Fiscal Year 2019-20 to 2022-23



Rheumatology, Dermatology, and Urology

- Fiscal Year 2018-19
 - ✓ Identified specialty care access as a key priority area for Interagency Agreement
- Fiscal Year 2019-20:
 - ✓ Conducted a specialty care analysis which included CUSOM data, HCPF claims and provider data, CDPHE provider enrollment data, and qualitative RAE data.
 - ✓ Dermatology, Rheumatology, and Urology were selected as the first set of prioritized specialty care areas.
- Fiscal Year 2020-21:
 - ✓ Development of the formal Action Plan and quantitative and qualitative data collection from primary and specialty care providers. Shared processes and results to stakeholders through community-based forums. Begin implementation of the Action Plan.
- Fiscal Year 2021-22:
 - ✓ Full implementation of the Action Plan and begin evaluation efforts to determine success in specialty care access initiatives.
- Fiscal Year 2022-23
 - ✓ Developing workflows for Urology post-operative visits to be conducted via telehealth, allowed members to eliminate barriers.
 - ✓ eConsult platform was updated to improve Dermatology referral pathway, allowed the question to reach the correct specialist and ensure an appropriate referral across all specialties.
 - ✓ ECHO series were held to increase primary care workforce confidence in managing appropriate Rheumatologic and Urologic symptoms.

Neurology

In fiscal year 2022-23, the Supplemental Funding Program focused on Neurology and conducted an initial data analysis to determine what Neurology looks like in Colorado and where there are gaps that could be minimized. This data analysis found that CUSOM providers care for more pediatric patients and non-CUSOM providers care for more adult patients. Maintaining the same level of care for members as they transition from childhood to adulthood and to separate facilities is essential. In addition, epilepsy, seizures, migraines, and headaches are common for all ages. This data will guide work in this area to include a focus in transitions of care and developing an ECHO series to educate providers who are managing common diagnosis in primary care.