

TRICARE And Idaho's Vaccine Financing

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Idaho – a “Universal” Vaccine State

- A “universal” vaccine state is one where all children under 19 years of age are eligible for state-supplied vaccines
- While the vaccines are supplied by the state, medical providers may charge an administration fee for providing the vaccination service.
- Universal vaccine supply allows medical providers to maintain a single stock of vaccines for their pediatric patients, which was the intent of the vaccine assessment legislation in 2010

Idaho – a “Universal” Vaccine State (cont.)

- Universal eligibility is made possible by:
 - VFC - Medicaid, Uninsured, underinsured, American Indian and Alaska Natives funded through the federal entitlement Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.
 - Assessment - Insured Idaho residents funded through the Idaho’s Childhood Immunization Assessment law (41-60 Idaho Code)
 - S-CHIP participants funded by S-CHIP program

TRICARE - Overview

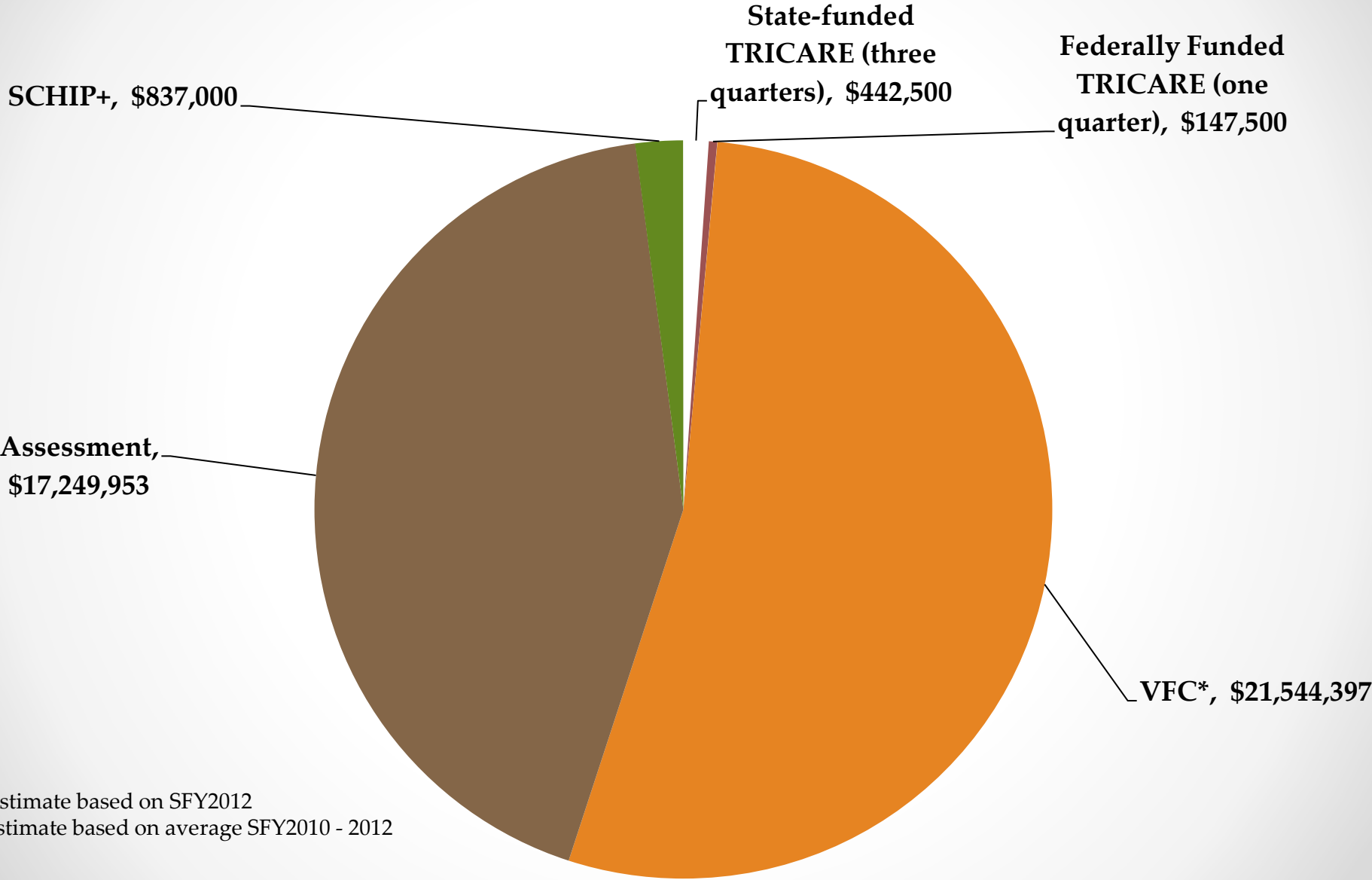
- Federal insurance program that “provides civilian health benefits for military personnel, military retirees, and their dependents, including some members of the Reserve Component.” (from TRICARE’s website)
- Covers between 11,000 and 12,000 children under 19 years of age in Idaho
- To date, TRICARE has not paid in to the dedicated vaccine assessment fund.

Why is TRICARE Suddenly a Problem?

- The IIP has until now used federal CDC 317 grant funding to “cover” TRICARE-insured children
- July 11, 2012 - the Idaho Immunization Program (IIP) was formally notified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), that 317 funding could no longer be used to provide vaccines for any insured children
- October 1, 2012 – IIP is required to enforce the new CDC restrictions

State Fiscal Year 2013 Pediatric Vaccine Funding

July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013



+ Estimate based on SFY2012

*Estimate based on average SFY2010 - 2012

Short-term TRICARE Solution

- August 21, 2012 – IIP sent guidance to providers informing them that state-supplied vaccines could not be used for TRICARE beneficiaries after September 30, 2012
- After researching other vaccine solutions, it became obvious that TRICARE beneficiaries in most areas of Idaho would have difficulties accessing some or all vaccines
 - Military base out of reach for many TRICARE children
 - Most providers not able/willing to purchase separate stocks for TRICARE children
 - Pharmacies not set up to vaccinate very young children

Short-term TRICARE Solution (cont.)

- September 28, 2012 – Governor Otter announced to state legislators his intent to instruct the Department of Health and Welfare to use funds from within our existing appropriation to cover the cost of vaccines for TRICARE beneficiaries, and requested input from legislators who may be concerned
- October 4, 2012 – The Governor publicly announced the short-term funding solution, and IIP notified medical providers that TRICARE beneficiaries were once again eligible for state supplied vaccine

Long-term Solution

- We believe it is in the best interest of TRICARE children that TRICARE pays in to the state's vaccine assessment fund to keep their beneficiaries eligible to participate in the state's vaccine program

What's Being Done

- September 28, 2012 – Staff from the Division of Public Health (DoPH) hold a teleconference with two senior officials from the TriWest Healthcare Alliance, the contracted third party administrator for TRICARE for the western region
- TriWest assured the DoPH that their contractual obligations to TRICARE do not allow them to pay into any vaccine assessment plans, and that only TRICARE is able to make the changes required to permit participation



What's Being Done (cont.)

- October 4, 2012 – Governor Otter sent a letter to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. Jonathan Woodson, asking that the D.O.D. provide specific details from their laws, rules and/or policies that prevent them from participation in Idaho's vaccine assessment

What's Being Done (cont.)

- On October 10, 2012 – the IIP was contacted by Kennell and Associates Inc., a healthcare consulting firm, which has been contracted by TRICARE to research state vaccine assessments and provide TRICARE with a briefing
- On October 11, 2012 – IDHW Director Dick Armstrong contacted the office of Senator Crapo to request assistance in getting to the bottom of the TRICARE's refusal/inability to participate in Idaho's vaccine assessment.

Next steps

- While we have currently identified a short-term solution to providing vaccines to children insured by TRICARE in Idaho, we continue to seek a long-term solution in conjunction with the Office of the Governor and IDHW Administration.