

## Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey Data Inform Key Policy Research

Some recent examples of findings from this important survey are:

80% of Medicare beneficiaries **had out-of-pocket dental** expenses in 2021.

“Utilization of Dental Services by Medicare Beneficiaries Living in the Community and Dental Out of Pocket Expenses” (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 2023)

**87%** of beneficiaries **have some insurance coverage other than Medicare**, including Medicaid, Medigap, or employer-sponsored insurance.

“A Snapshot of Sources of Coverage Among Medicare Beneficiaries” (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2025)

**32%** of Medicare beneficiaries **age 65 and over have diabetes**. Beneficiaries with diabetes report poorer health and higher out-of-pocket costs than those without diabetes.

“2024 Diabetes Prevalence and Self-management Among Medicare Beneficiaries Early Release Public Use File” (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 2026)

You can find these publications and more information at [mcbs.norc.org](https://mcbs.norc.org).

## For More Information

Call us toll-free at: 1-844-777-2151.

Email us at: [mcbs@norc.org](mailto:mcbs@norc.org)

Visit us at: [mcbs.norc.org](https://mcbs.norc.org) or  
[cms.gov/MCBS](https://cms.gov/MCBS)

*[NORC and U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services logo]*

This survey is authorized by section 1875 (42 USC 1395ll) of the Social Security Act and is conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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# The Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)

*[Collage of MCBS Photos]*

About the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)

MCBS is an important source of information about people who use Medicare and their experiences with health care.

Over 170,000 people have participated in the survey since it began in 1991.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services oversees the Medicare program and sponsors the survey.

More than 9 out of 10 people with Medicare have access to the internet and 65% have used the internet to look up health information.  
(Source: 2024 Internet Access and Use Among Medicare Beneficiaries Preliminary Estimates Public Use File)

Participating in the Survey

You were randomly chosen to represent thousands of other people in your community who use Medicare.

Together, survey participants represent the nation’s 6 million Medicare beneficiaries.

Your voice cannot be replaced.

Conducting the Survey

A professional interviewer from NORC at the University of Chicago will contact you by phone or in person to conduct the survey.

The interviewer will ask questions about using health care services, your opinions about those services, and how much they cost.

NORC will interview you several times over the course of a few years to understand how well Medicare continues to meet your needs.

The first survey lasts about an hour, while later surveys last about ninety minutes.

Medicare beneficiaries report high levels of preventive care use.  
  
97% of Medicare beneficiaries had a blood pressure screening in the past year.  
  
91% of Medicare beneficiaries had a blood cholesterol screening in the past year.  
  
Source: 2024 Socio-demographic and Health Characteristics of Medicare Beneficiaries Early Release Public Use File

The information you share cannot be found anywhere else. Medicare records show what services people use but not the full picture of daily life, health challenges, or difficulties getting care.

About half of Medicare beneficiaries have a Medicare Advantage plan, while half have original Medicare.  
  
Source: 2023 Socio-demographic and Health Characteristics of Medicare Beneficiaries Public Use File

Participant Rights and Privacy

Your participation is voluntary and you may skip any question you do not want to answer.

Your Medicare benefits will not be affected in any way by your answers or your decision to participate or not.

All information that you provide will be kept private to the extent permitted by law under the Federal Privacy Act of 1974.

Your answers will only be used to create summary tables and graphics for research purposes. No personal information is released publicly.