

NORTH CAROLINA

By the numbers: Medicare Part D



1,152,187

Medicare Part D beneficiaries in North Carolina¹

363,995

Beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage prescription drug plans in 2015²

48

Number of Medicare Advantage plans available in 2016³

31%

Beneficiaries receiving Part D's Extra Help in 2016³

18%

Medicare beneficiaries as a percent of state population in 2015⁵

788,192

Beneficiaries enrolled in stand-alone prescription drug plans in 2015⁴

26

Number of Part D Plans available in 2016³

\$18.40

Lowest monthly premium for a prescription drug plan in 2016³

88%

Beneficiaries with access to Part D plan with lower premium than what they paid in 2015³

In 2014, 74% of Medicare beneficiaries in North Carolina were white, 20% were black and 2% were Hispanic.⁶

Medicare Part D is working well for beneficiaries and taxpayers...And it's getting better.

- Several surveys show that about 90% or more of Part D enrollees are satisfied with their coverage and say that their coverage works well.⁷
- In 2016, one third of all Part D plans nationwide have no deductible.⁸
- Total Part D costs are 45%, or \$349 billion, less than initial projections for 2004-2013. Additionally, Part D drug spending was just 11.8% of total Medicare spending in 2015.⁹
- CBO changed its scoring methodology to reflect evidence that increased prescription drug use leads to offsetting reductions in Medicare spending for other medical services.⁸
- Part D helped expand drug coverage and improve adherence to medicines; gaining Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage was tied to an 8% decrease in hospital admissions for seniors overall, with higher reductions for certain conditions.¹⁰
- A growing body of research finds reductions in mortality following the implementation of Part D. One study found, since the implementation of Part D in 2006, nearly 200,000 Medicare beneficiaries have lived at least one year longer with an average increase in longevity of 3.3 years.¹¹

Sources: ¹ See Medicare Advantage: MA-PD Plan Enrollment and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans: Stand Alone PDP Enrollment at www.kff.org. ² See Medicare Advantage: MA-PD Plan Enrollment at www.kff.org. ³ CMS Part D State Fact Sheets "Medicare in North Carolina, 2016," at www.cms.gov. ⁴ See Medicare Prescription Drug Plans: Stand Alone PDP Enrollment at www.kff.org. ⁵ See Medicare Beneficiaries as a Percent of Total Population at www.kff.org. ⁶ See Profile of Medicare Beneficiaries by Race and Ethnicity: A Chartpack at www.kff.org. ⁷ Morning Consult Survey for Medicare Today, "Nearly Nine of 10 Seniors Satisfied with Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage, National Survey Finds" August 2015. ⁸ Medicare Part D: A First Look at Plan Offerings in 2016 at www.kff.org. ⁹ Congressional Budget Office; see CBO Medicare baselines at www.cbo.gov. ¹⁰ Effects of Prescription Drug Insurance on Hospitalization and Mortality: Evidence from Medicare Part D," National Bureau of Economic Research, February 2014. ¹¹ Reductions in Mortality Among Medicare Beneficiaries Following the Implementation of Medicare Part D," American Journal of Medical Care, July 2015.