

ALASKA

By the numbers: Medicare Part D



31,681	Medicare Part D beneficiaries in Alaska ¹	31,681	Beneficiaries enrolled in stand-alone prescription drug plans in 2015 ⁴
0	Beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage prescription drug plans in 2015 ²	18	Number of Part D Plans available in 2017 ³
0	Number of Medicare Advantage plans available in 2017 ³	\$17.00	Lowest monthly premium for a prescription drug plan in 2017 ³
55%	Beneficiaries receiving Part D's Extra Help in 2017 ³	79%	Beneficiaries with access to Part D plan with lower premium than what they paid in 2016 ³
11%	Medicare beneficiaries as a percent of state population in 2015 ⁵		

In 2015, 76% of Medicare beneficiaries in Alaska were white and 21% were another ethnicity.⁶

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

- Several surveys show that about 90% of Part D enrollees are satisfied with their coverage and say that their coverage works well.⁷
- In 2017, one third of all Part D stand-alone 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 13.7% of total Medicare spending in 2016.⁹
- CBO changed its scoring methodology to reflect evidence that increased prescription drug use leads to offsetting reductions in Medicare spending for other medical services.¹⁰
- 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.¹¹
- 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.¹²

Sources: ¹See Medicare Advantage: MA-PD Plan Enrollment and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans: Stand Alone PDP Enrollment at www.kff.org. ²See Medicare Advantage: MA-PD Plan Enrollment at www.kff.org. ³CMS Part D State Fact Sheets "Medicare in Alaska, 2017," at www.cms.gov. ⁴See Medicare Prescription Drug Plans: Stand Alone PDP Enrollment at www.kff.org ⁵See Medicare Beneficiaries as a Percent of Total Population at www.kff.org. ⁶See Profile of Medicare Beneficiaries by Race and Ethnicity: A Chartpack at www.kff.org. ⁷Morning Consult Survey for Medicare Today, "New National Survey: Nearly Nine in 10 Seniors Satisfied with Medicare Part D" July 2017. ⁸Medicare Part D: A First Look at Prescription Drug Plans in 2017 at www.kff.org. ⁹Congressional Budget Office; see CBO Medicare baselines at www.cbo.gov. ¹⁰Congressional Budget Office, 2013 at www.cbo.gov. ¹¹Effects of Prescription Drug Insurance on Hospitalization and Mortality: Evidence from Medicare Part D," National Bureau of Economic Research, February 2014. ¹²Reductions in Mortality Among Medicare Beneficiaries Following the Implementation of Medicare Part D, American Journal of Medical Care, July 2015.