

# NORTH CAROLINA

## By the numbers: Medicare Part D



<b>1,152,187</b>	Medicare Part D beneficiaries in North Carolina <sup>1</sup>		
<b>363,995</b>	Beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage prescription drug plans in 2015 <sup>2</sup>	<b>788,192</b>	Beneficiaries enrolled in stand-alone prescription drug plans in 2015 <sup>4</sup>
<b>49</b>	Number of Medicare Advantage plans available in 2017 <sup>3</sup>	<b>22</b>	Number of Part D Plans available in 2017 <sup>3</sup>
<b>32%</b>	Beneficiaries receiving Part D's Extra Help in 2017 <sup>3</sup>	<b>\$14.60</b>	Lowest monthly premium for a prescription drug plan in 2017 <sup>3</sup>
<b>18%</b>	Medicare beneficiaries as a percent of state population in 2015 <sup>5</sup>	<b>85%</b>	Beneficiaries with access to Part D plan with lower premium than what they paid in 2016 <sup>3</sup>

**In 2015, 76% of Medicare beneficiaries in North Carolina were white, 19% were black and 4% were another ethnicity.<sup>6</sup>**

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.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2017, one third of all Part D stand-alone plans nationwide have no deductible.<sup>8</sup>
- 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.<sup>9</sup>
- CBO changed its scoring methodology to reflect evidence that increased prescription drug use leads to offsetting reductions in Medicare spending for other medical services.<sup>10</sup>
- 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.<sup>11</sup>
- 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.<sup>12</sup>

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