## By the numbers: Medicare Part D

### North Carolina

- **Medicare Part D beneficiaries in North Carolina in 2018**: 1,410,633
- **Beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage prescription drug plans in 2017**: 415,967
- **Number of Medicare Advantage plans available in 2018**: 68
- **Beneficiaries receiving Part D’s Extra Help in 2018**: 29%
- **Medicare beneficiaries as a percent of state population in 2015**: 18%
- **Beneficiaries enrolled in stand-alone prescription drug plans in 2017**: 821,489
- **Number of Part D Plans available in 2018**: 24
- **Lowest monthly premium for a prescription drug plan in 2018**: $12.60
- **Beneficiaries with access to Part D plan with lower premium than what they paid in 2017**: 83%

Medicare Part D is working well for beneficiaries and taxpayers...

- Surveys show that more than 8 in 10 Part D enrollees are satisfied with their coverage and say that their coverage works well.\(^7\)
- In 2018, one third of all Part D stand-alone plans nationwide have no deductible.\(^8\)
- Total Part D costs were 45%, or $349 billion, less than initial projections for 2004-2013. Additionally, Part D drug spending was just 13.6% of total Medicare spending in 2018.\(^9\)
- 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:

4. See Medicare Beneficiaries as a Percent of Total Population at www.kff.org.