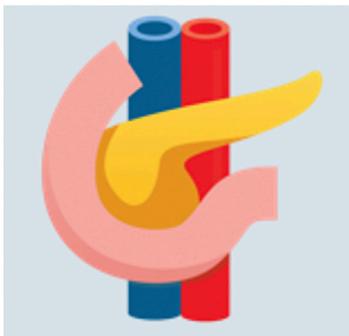


# Diabetes Disparities in Medicare Fee-For-Service Enrollees

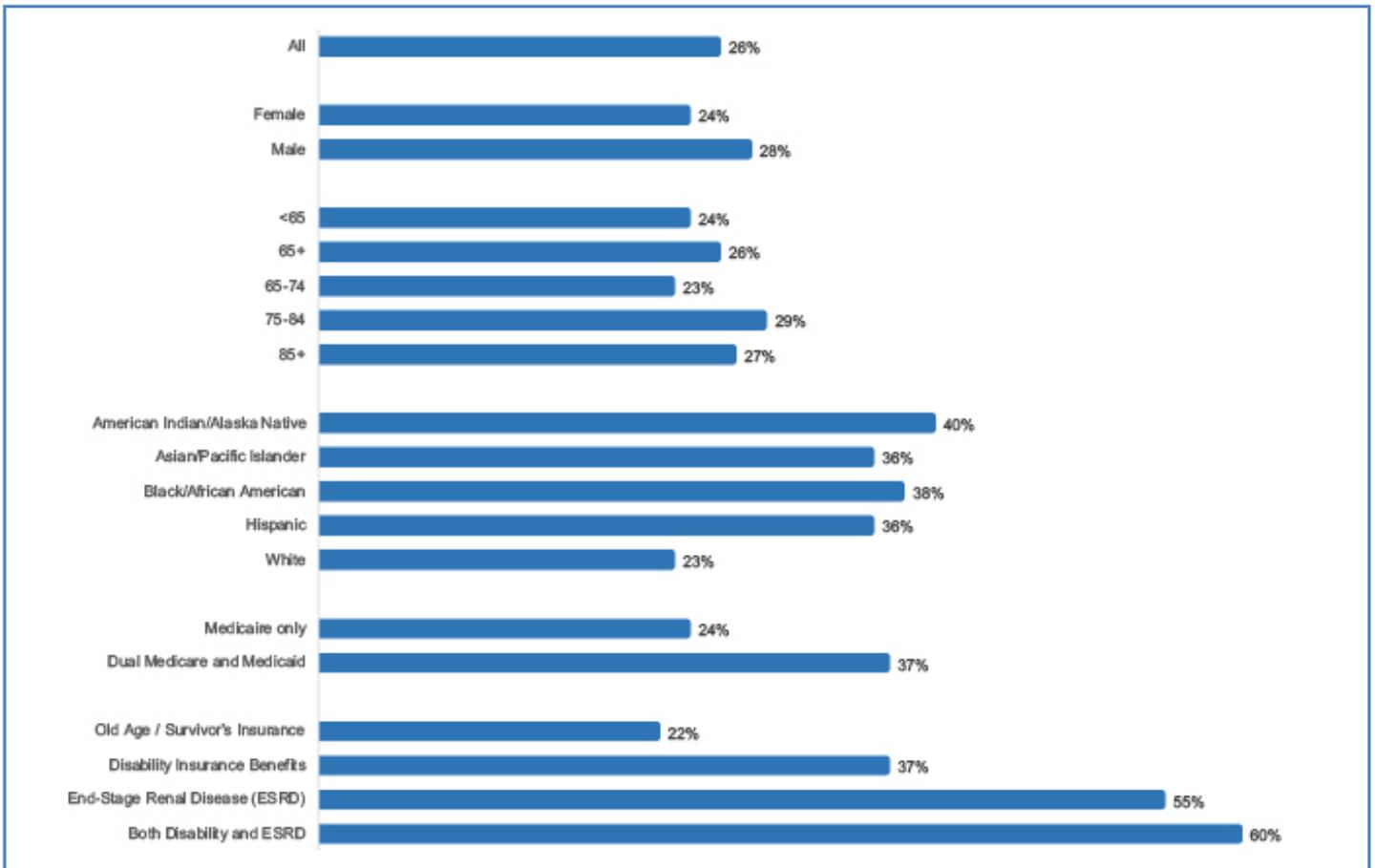


Diabetes is a chronic condition in which blood glucose (blood sugar) levels in the body are too high and can cause heart disease, blindness, kidney failure, and lower-extremity amputations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lists diabetes as the eighth leading cause of death in the United States in 2021.<sup>1</sup> According to the National Diabetes Statistics Report, 38.4 million Americans, or 11.6% of the population, estimated to have diabetes in 2021.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, in 2021, 97.6 million Americans age 18 and

older had prediabetes, a condition where blood glucose levels are above the normal range but are not high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes. People with prediabetes are also at increased risk for heart disease and stroke.<sup>3</sup>

The [Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool](#) developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Office of Minority Health indicates that 26% of Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) enrollees had a diagnosis of diabetes in 2022, and it shows the prevalence of diabetes among Medicare FFS enrollees varied by sociodemographic characteristics and geographic areas.<sup>4</sup> As shown in Figure 1, the age standardized prevalence rate of diabetes was higher among FFS enrollees who are American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander than their White counterparts, and it was higher among males (compared to females), Medicare and Medicaid dual eligible enrollees (compared to the Medicare only enrollees), and those whose original reason for entitlement was Disability Insurance Benefits, ESRD, or both (compared to the Old Age / Survivor's Insurance). The prevalence rate was higher among enrollees aged 75+ than younger groups.

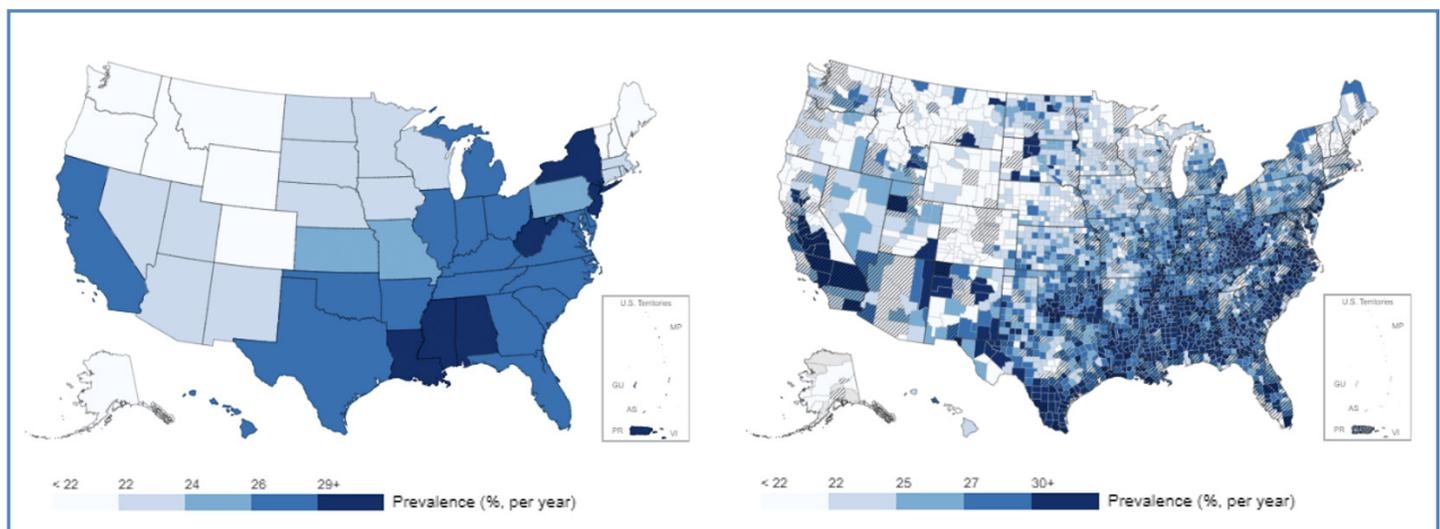
**Figure 1. Prevalence rate of Diabetes among Medicare FFS Enrollees by Enrollee Characteristics, 2022**



Note: \* 2022 data presented in MMD Tool were preliminary.

\*\* Prevalence rates for sex, race and ethnicity, dual Medicare and Medicaid eligibility, and original reason for entitlement were age standardized rate.

**Figure 2. Diabetes Prevalence among Medicare FFS Enrollees by State/Territory and County, 2022**



**Figure 3. Diabetes Prevalence among Medicare FFS Minority Racial/Ethnic Group Enrollees by County, 2022**

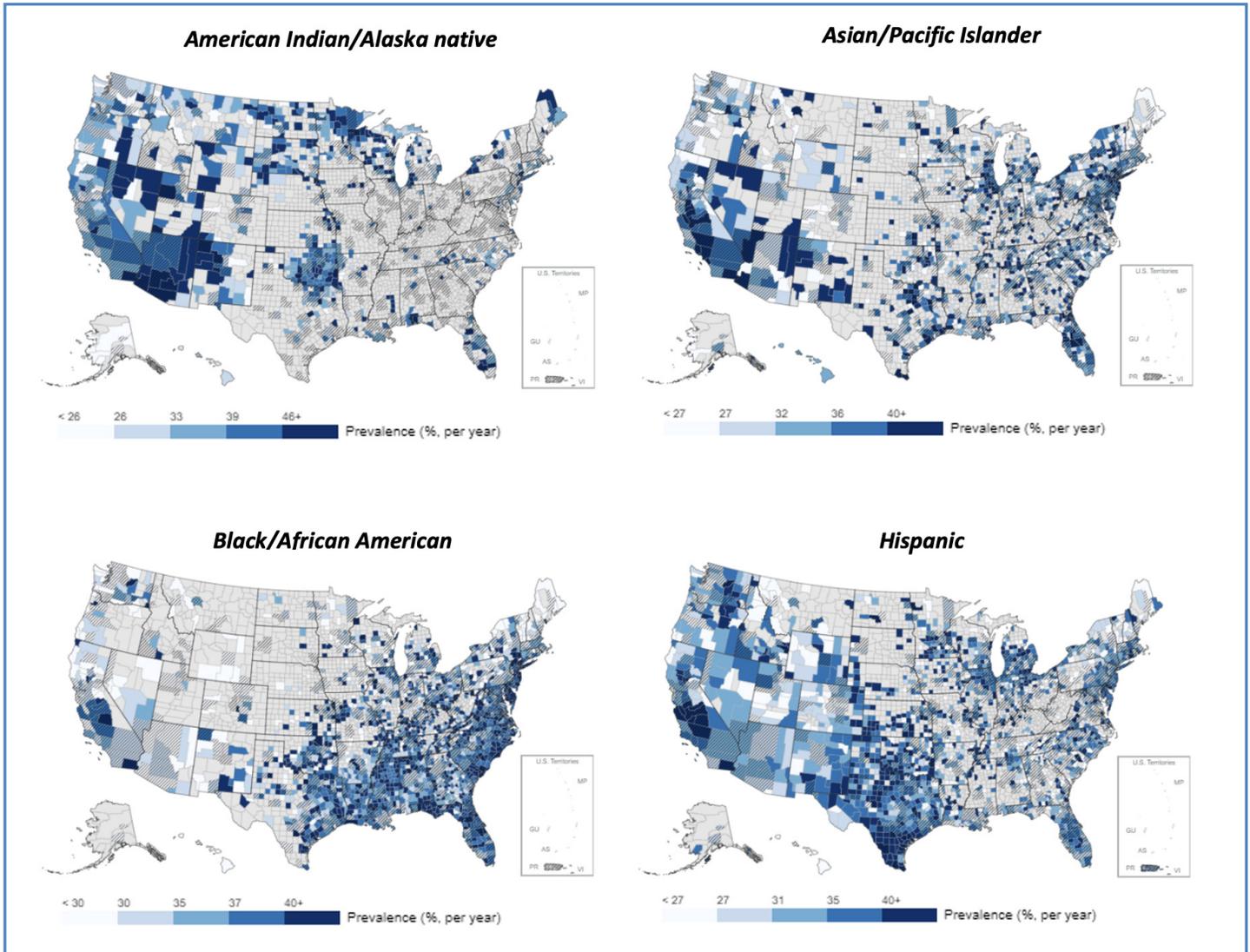


Figure 3 shows the prevalence rate of diabetes differed by state/territory and county. Puerto Rico had the highest prevalence rate (46%), and Colorado had the lowest rate (17%). Also, the prevalence rates among each racial and ethnic group differed by geographic areas as shown in Figure 4.

Under the Medicare program, Medicare Part B covers diabetes screenings and other [Preventive & Screening Services](#) such as an annual “wellness” visit, diabetes self-management training, and Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) to help prevent or lower the risk for diabetes.

However, analysis of CMS claims data found that only 4% of Medicare FFS enrollees had a diabetes screening, and 40% had an annual “wellness” visit in 2022.<sup>4</sup> Medicare also covers chronic care management services if enrollees have 2 or more serious conditions (like arthritis and diabetes) expected to last at least a year.

## Enrollee Resources

- [What Is Diabetes?](#)
- [Medicare & You: diabetes \(video\)](#)
- [Medicare Coverage of Diabetes Supplies, Services & Prevention Programs](#)
- [Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program \(MDPP\) - Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Managing Diabetes: Medicare Coverage & Resources](#)
- [American Diabetes Association: Life with Diabetes](#)
- [Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support \(DSMES\)](#)
- [Medicare Coverage of Diabetes Supplies](#)

## Provider Resources

- [Diabetes Prevention Program: Equity Tailored Programs](#)
- [Diabetes Management: Directory of Provider Resources](#)
- [Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Expanded Model](#)
- [Pre-Diabetes Services: Referring Patients to the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program](#)
- [Diabetic Self-Management Training \(DSMT\) Accreditation Program](#)
- [Diabetes Self-Management Training: Fact Sheet](#)
- [National Diabetes Prevention Program](#)
- [Make a DSMES Referral](#)

## References/Sources

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2018-2021 on CDC WONDER Online Database, 2021. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10-expanded.html>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics-report/index.html>
3. American Stroke Association. <https://www.stroke.org/en/about-stroke/stroke-risk-factors/diabetes-and-stroke-prevention>
4. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool. <https://data.cms.gov/mapping-medicare-disparities>  
- Results from 2022 were considered preliminary at the time of this analysis, as the data were not fully complete due to a “claims lag” between when a service occurs and when the claim is collected by CMS and, ultimately, appears in the CCW database.

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