

Medicare Enrollment Dashboard^{BETA} Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Q:** How can I report a problem, ask a question, or make a suggestion about the Medicare Enrollment Dashboard^{BETA}?
- A:** To report a problem or submit feedback, please use the [Submit Feedback](#) link found at the bottom of the main Dashboard page.
- Q:** Are there plans to put any other CMS data sets into a Dashboard format in the future?
- A:** Currently, the Medicare Inpatient Hospital Dashboard, Part B Physician/Supplier, and Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit are available at <http://www.cms.gov/Dashboard/>. There are future plans to release dashboards focusing on Medicare Spending, Total BENE, Fraud & Abuse, etc. Be sure to check the website periodically for new releases.
- Q:** Am I able to look up Medicare enrollment figures for my area?
- A:** The Medicare Enrollment Dashboard^{BETA} provides enrollment statistics at both the national and state level.
- Q:** Why don't you present enrollment figures for years prior to 1966?
- A:** The Social Security Act, which created the Medicare program, was signed in 1965.
- Q:** How can I see the data that is used in the Medicare Enrollment Dashboard^{BETA}?
- A:** You can download the data used in the Medicare Enrollment Dashboard^{BETA}. To do so, go to the Downloads section of the View Dashboards page and click on **Accessibility Files**.
- Q:** What is the Integrated Data Repository (IDR)?
- A:** For a detailed explanation of the IDR, please follow the link [here](#).
- Q:** What is the Enrollment Database (EDB)?
- A:** Medicare's Enrollment Database (EDB) contains information on all individuals entitled to Medicare, including demographic information, enrollment dates, third party buy-in information, and Medicare managed care enrollment.
- Q:** What is the function of the slider object above the Historical Trends graph?
- A:** This slider allows you to select a specific time frame to be viewed on the Historical Trends graph. For example, you can drag the left and right arrows of the slider so that only years 1980 through 1990 are viewed on the Historical Trends graph beneath it. To revert back to its original view, simply drag the arrows back to their default positions. This function is also available in the Grid View.
- Q:** Why are certain lines on the Historical Trends graph not showing up?
- A:** When two lines have the same values, only one solid line will appear due to a layering issue. Both lines are in fact there, but only one may be visible to the user. Dot markers have been

added to some grid lines in an effort to make the background line visible. In order to see how closely the values of the two lines match, switch to the grid view.

Q: What's the difference between the "Data as of" date and the July 1 "snapshot" date?

A: When the disclaimer found at the bottom of the Medicare Enrollment Dashboard^{BETA} states, "Data represents a snapshot of beneficiary counts on July 1st of each year", it means that all information reflected in each year has been captured as it was for July 1 of that year. The "Data as of" date is the date the data was pulled from the IDR. Data is constantly added to the IDR, and sometimes the new data contains updated information for past years. This means that data collected at the beginning of 2011 for a July 1 snapshot of 2010 may be different than data collected at the end of 2011 for that same July 1 snapshot of 2010.

Q: Are decimals rounded to the nearest whole number?

A: All values found in the National Summary section of the Dashboard have been rounded to the nearest whole number. In some instances where percentages are used and all the numbers are rounded down or all the numbers are rounded up, it is possible for percentages to add up to either 99% or 101%, respectively.