

What is the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey?

The Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) provides researchers and policymakers with nationally representative data on Medicare beneficiaries' health status, insurance coverage, health care utilization and costs, access to care, and more.

Topic Areas

Features of the MCBS

- 4 years of data from the same beneficiaries
- Beneficiaries <65 & ≥65 years old
- Data on Fee-for-Service & Medicare Advantage
- Data on health care costs paid by Medicare & other sources
- Beneficiaries' residential status, including community, facility, & transitions between settings



Health Status

- General health
- Chronic conditions
- Behavioral & mental health
- Chronic pain



Prescription Drugs

- Medication nonadherence
- Covered & non-covered prescription drugs
- Knowledge of prescription drug benefit



Functional Status

- Physical & cognitive functioning
- Activities of daily living
- Frailty & falls



Access to Care

- Telemedicine
- Care experience & satisfaction
- Transportation & barriers to care
- Forgone & delayed care



Health Management & Prevention

- Preventive care
- Vitamin & supplement use
- Physical activity



Health Risk Factors

- Disease-specific risks
- Tobacco & alcohol use
- Body mass index



Costs & Utilization

- Coverage by Medicare & other sources
- Out-of-pocket costs
- Fee-for-Service claims
- Non-covered services



Beneficiary Characteristics

- Veteran status
- Metropolitan residence status
- Supplemental health insurance
- Knowledge of Medicare



Financial Well-being

- Income & assets
- Food insecurity
- Medical & credit card debt