

<b>MCBS Data Tables</b> <b>Glossary</b>	
<b>Term Name</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Age	Age is obtained from administrative data sources.
Area Deprivation Index (ADI)	ADI is an indicator of the socioeconomic disadvantage of geographic areas. National rankings are based on the Census block group for the beneficiary's primary residence address. ADI values in the first percentile are the least disadvantaged, and those in the hundredth are the most disadvantaged. See <a href="https://www.neighborhoodatlas.medicine.wisc.edu/">https://www.neighborhoodatlas.medicine.wisc.edu/</a> for additional information.
Armed Forces	Indicator of past or current service in the Armed Forces by Medicare beneficiaries.
Chronic conditions	Chronic conditions comprises a group of 15 health conditions measures: heart disease, cancer (other than skin cancer), Alzheimer's disease, dementia other than Alzheimer's disease, depression, mental condition, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, osteoporosis/broken hip, pulmonary disease, stroke, high cholesterol, Parkinson's disease, and chronic kidney disease. It is possible for a beneficiary to have "ever" been diagnosed with both Alzheimer's disease and dementia (other than Alzheimer's disease) as previous survey responses are carried forward into subsequent data years. For the purposes of the number of chronic conditions measure, Alzheimer's disease and dementia (other than Alzheimer's disease) are counted as one chronic condition for beneficiaries diagnosed with both conditions. As the definition of mental condition encompasses depression, for the purposes of the number of chronic conditions measure, depression and mental condition are counted as one chronic condition for beneficiaries diagnosed with both conditions.
Delay care due to cost	Beneficiaries were asked if they had delayed seeking medical care in the past 12 months because they were worried about cost.
Difficulty concentrating	Serious difficulty with concentration, memory, or decision-making abilities due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition.
Difficulty managing money	Difficulty with financial tasks such as managing money (such as keeping track of expenses or paying bills) due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition.

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Disability status	Respondents were asked whether they have serious difficulty hearing; seeing; concentrating, remembering, or making decisions; walking or climbing stairs; dressing or bathing; or with errands. Beneficiaries who had no serious difficulties with these activities were included in the category “No disability.” Beneficiaries who had a serious difficulty in one area were categorized as “One disability” and those who had a serious difficulty in more than one area were categorized as “Two or more disabilities.”
Dual eligibility status	Dual eligibility status indicates whether Medicare beneficiaries also qualify for Medicaid benefits based on low income and limited resources. Categories include full dual eligibles (enrolled in both Medicare and full Medicaid) and partial dual eligibles (enrolled in Medicare Savings Programs such as QMB, SLMB, QI, or QDWI). Beneficiaries were considered “dually eligible” and assigned a dual eligibility status if they were enrolled in Medicaid for at least one month. Classification is based on administrative data.
Education	Highest level of educational attainment obtained by beneficiary.

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Functional limitations	<p>Beneficiaries who reported no limitations in any of the activities of daily living (ADLs) or instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) due to health problems were included in the category "None." Otherwise, beneficiaries with one or more ADL limitations or one or more IADL limitations were categorized as having a functional limitation.</p> <p>Activities of daily living (ADLs) are activities related to personal care. They include bathing or showering; dressing; getting in and out of bed or a chair; walking; using the toilet; and eating. If a person with Medicare had any difficulty performing an activity by themselves and without special equipment or did not perform the activity at all because of health problems, the person was deemed to have a limitation in that activity. The limitation may have been temporary or chronic at the time of the survey. Beneficiaries who reported difficulty performing two or more ADLs were categorized as having two or more functional limitations. Instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) are activities related to independent living. They include preparing meals; managing money; shopping for groceries or personal items; performing light or heavy housework; and using a telephone. If a beneficiary had any difficulty performing an activity by themselves or did not perform the activity at all because of health problems, the person was deemed to have a limitation in that activity. The limitation may have been temporary or chronic at the time of the survey.</p>
Health status (self-reported)	<p>Respondents were asked to rate their general health compared to other people of the same age. Beneficiaries answered health status questions themselves, unless they were unable to do so.</p>

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Income	Information on income is self-reported by the respondent for the calendar year. Respondents are asked to report the total income the beneficiary and their spouse (if applicable) received from all sources during the year, including Social Security, Railroad Retirement, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), the Veteran's Administration, pensions, retirement accounts, interest, banking accounts, businesses, real estate, and jobs, before any taxes or deductions. Income represents the best source or estimate of income received during the year based on the most recent information reported.
Income to poverty ratio	Income to poverty ratio (IPR) is calculated only for household sizes of one (beneficiary living alone) or two (beneficiary living with a spouse only) as the income and asset information is collected only from the beneficiary and the beneficiary's spouse. Medicare beneficiaries have slightly different poverty level indices used for program eligibility. The IPR uses the Medicare poverty thresholds for calculation.
Language spoken at home	Respondents were asked if they speak a language other than English at home. Respondents who speak another language at home may be fully proficient in English as well as their home language.
Living arrangement	Living arrangement describes who a person lives with in their household
Limited English proficiency	Beneficiaries who do not speak English at home and speak English less than "very well" ("well", "not well", or "not at all") were categorized as having limited English proficiency.
Medicare coverage	This variable indicates whether Medicare beneficiaries had Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medicare or Medicare Advantage (MA) coverage during the data collection year. FFS beneficiaries were eligible for Part A and/or Part B without MA enrollment. MA beneficiaries were enrolled in private Medicare Advantage plans (Part C) for at least one month during the year. Classification is based on administrative data.

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Metropolitan area resident	Metropolitan/micropolitan area residence was obtained from administrative data sources and verified in the survey. This classification is based on Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) designations. <a href="https://www.federalreserve.gov/apps/mdrm/data-dictionary/search/item?keyword=9153%20&amp;show_short_title=False&amp;show_conf=False&amp;rep_status=All&amp;rep_state=Opened&amp;rep_period=Before&amp;date_start=99991231&amp;date_end=99991231#:~:text=The%20term%20%22Core%20Based%20Statistical,but%20less%20than%2050%2C000)%20population">https://www.federalreserve.gov/apps/mdrm/data-dictionary/search/item?keyword=9153%20&amp;show_short_title=False&amp;show_conf=False&amp;rep_status=All&amp;rep_state=Opened&amp;rep_period=Before&amp;date_start=99991231&amp;date_end=99991231#:~:text=The%20term%20%22Core%20Based%20Statistical,but%20less%20than%2050%2C000)%20population</a>
Problem paying medical bills	Beneficiaries were asked if they had problems paying for care or were unable to pay any medical bills in the last 12 months.
Proxy	Beneficiaries who were too ill, or who could not complete the interview for other reasons, were asked to designate a proxy, someone very knowledgeable about the beneficiary's health and living habits. In most cases, the proxy was a close relative such as the spouse or a son or daughter. In a few cases, the proxy was a non-relative like a close friend or caregiver. In addition, a proxy was utilized if a beneficiary had been reported as deceased during the current round's reference period or if a beneficiary who was living in the community in the previous round had since entered into a long-term care facility.

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Race / Ethnicity	Hispanic origin and race are two separate and distinct categories. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race or combination of races. Hispanic origin includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, or Spanish origin. For the MCBS, responses to beneficiary race and ethnicity questions are reported by the respondent. More than one race may be reported. For conciseness, the text, tables, and figures in this document use shorter versions of the terms for race and Hispanic or Latino origin specified in the Office of Management and Budget 1997 Standards for Data on Race and Ethnicity. Beneficiaries reported as White and not of Hispanic origin were coded as White non-Hispanic; beneficiaries reported as Black/African-American and not of Hispanic origin were coded as Black non-Hispanic; beneficiaries reported as Hispanic, Latino/Latina, or of Spanish origin, regardless of their race, were coded as Hispanic. The "Other Race/Ethnicity" category includes other single races not of Hispanic origin (including American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander), or Two or More Races.
Read English	Level of English reading ability reported by Medicare beneficiaries or designated proxies on beneficiaries' behalf, ranging from very well to not at all.
Region	Census region of residence as of the end of the calendar year.
Respondent	Respondent refers to a person who answers questions for the MCBS; for Community interviews, this person can be the beneficiary or a proxy. If the respondent is a proxy, they answer questions about the beneficiary rather than themselves.
Serious difficulty seeing	Being blind or having serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses or contact lenses.
Serious difficulty hearing	Being deaf or having serious difficulty hearing as reported by Medicare beneficiaries.
Sex	Sex is obtained from administrative data sources.

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Sexual orientation	Beneficiaries were asked to self-report their sexual orientation. This question was only asked of beneficiaries (i.e., not proxy respondents). Responses of “Lesbian or gay” and “Bisexual” were collapsed as “Lesbian, gay, or bisexual.” Available starting with 2023.
Speak English	Level of English speaking ability reported by Medicare beneficiaries or designated proxies on beneficiaries’ behalf, ranging from very well to not at all.
Trouble getting care	Beneficiaries were asked if they had trouble getting health care they wanted or needed in the last 12 months.
Trouble getting places due to health	Difficulty getting to places such as the doctor's office, supermarket, or friend's house due to a health or physical problem experienced by Medicare beneficiaries in the past 12 months.