

Table 83
Changes in Access to or Coverage Under a Zero Premium Plan:
Calendar Years 1999-2005

Year	Medicare+Choice/Medicare Advantage Coordinated Care Plans	
	Overall Medicare Population with Access to Zero Premium	Enrollees with Zero Premium Plan
	Percent	
1999	61	68
2000	53	61
2001	39	45
2002	34	39
2003	29	38
2004	40	48 ¹
Mar-05	42	58

¹ A change in methodology applies beginning in 2004. Because health plans are reporting enrollments by benefit package to CMS when an organization offers more than one benefit package in a given county, the 2004 and 2005 figures for enrollees choosing zero premium plans show enrollment at the actual "plan" level (that is, by benefit package). In prior years, enrollees were assigned to zero premium plans if one was offered by the organization in the county of residence of the individual. The figures for 2004 and 2005 would be a higher number if the methodology used in prior years were continued for 2004 and thereafter.

SOURCES: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of Research, Development, and Information and MedPAC: Analysis of Medicare Compare and Health Plan Management System data.