

MEDICARE DATA HUB

# COVID-19: Spending

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Commonwealth Fund Analysis of CareJourney Claims Data for  
Traditional Medicare Beneficiaries

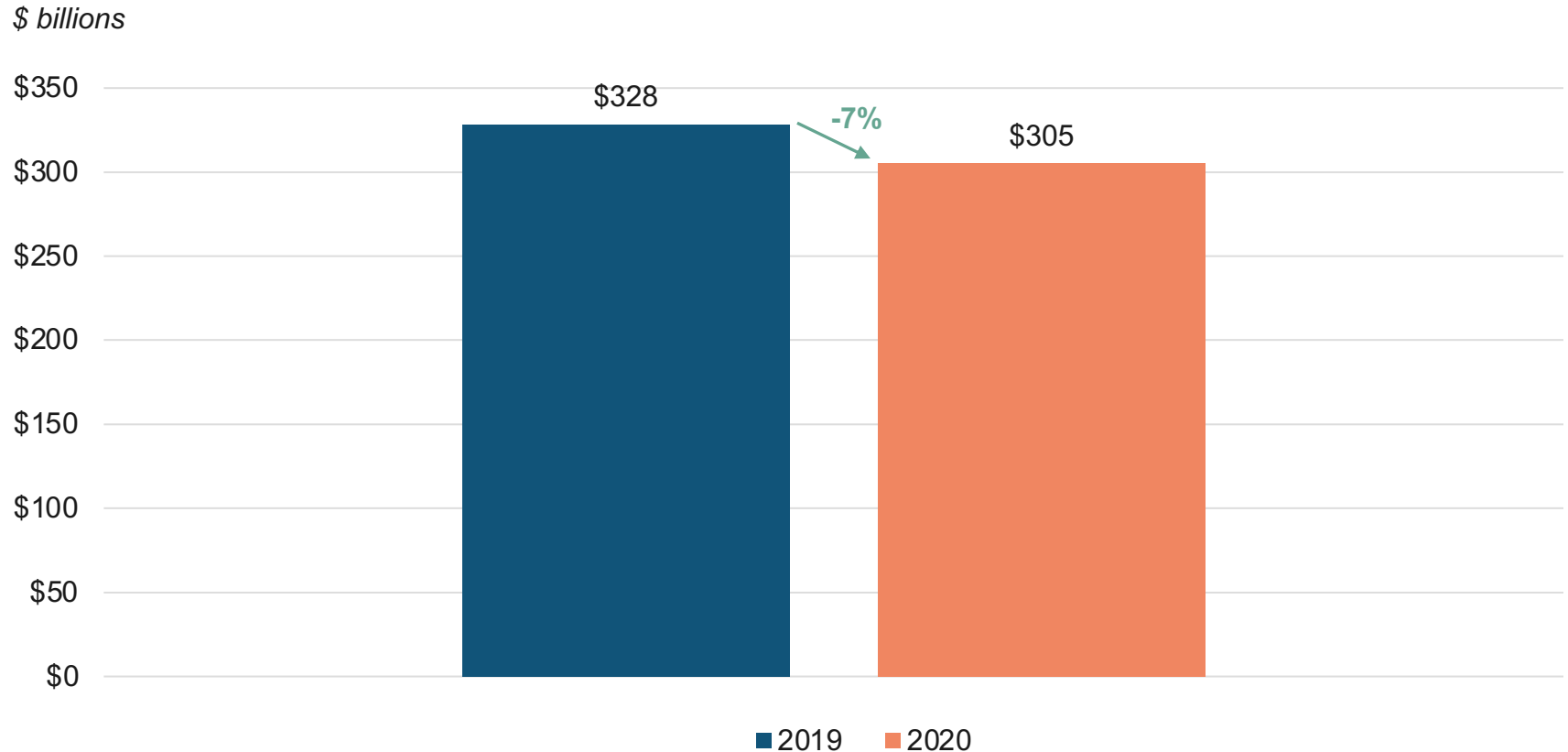


The  
Commonwealth  
Fund

## COVID-19: SPENDING

Overall, traditional Medicare spending was 7 percent less in 2020 compared to 2019.

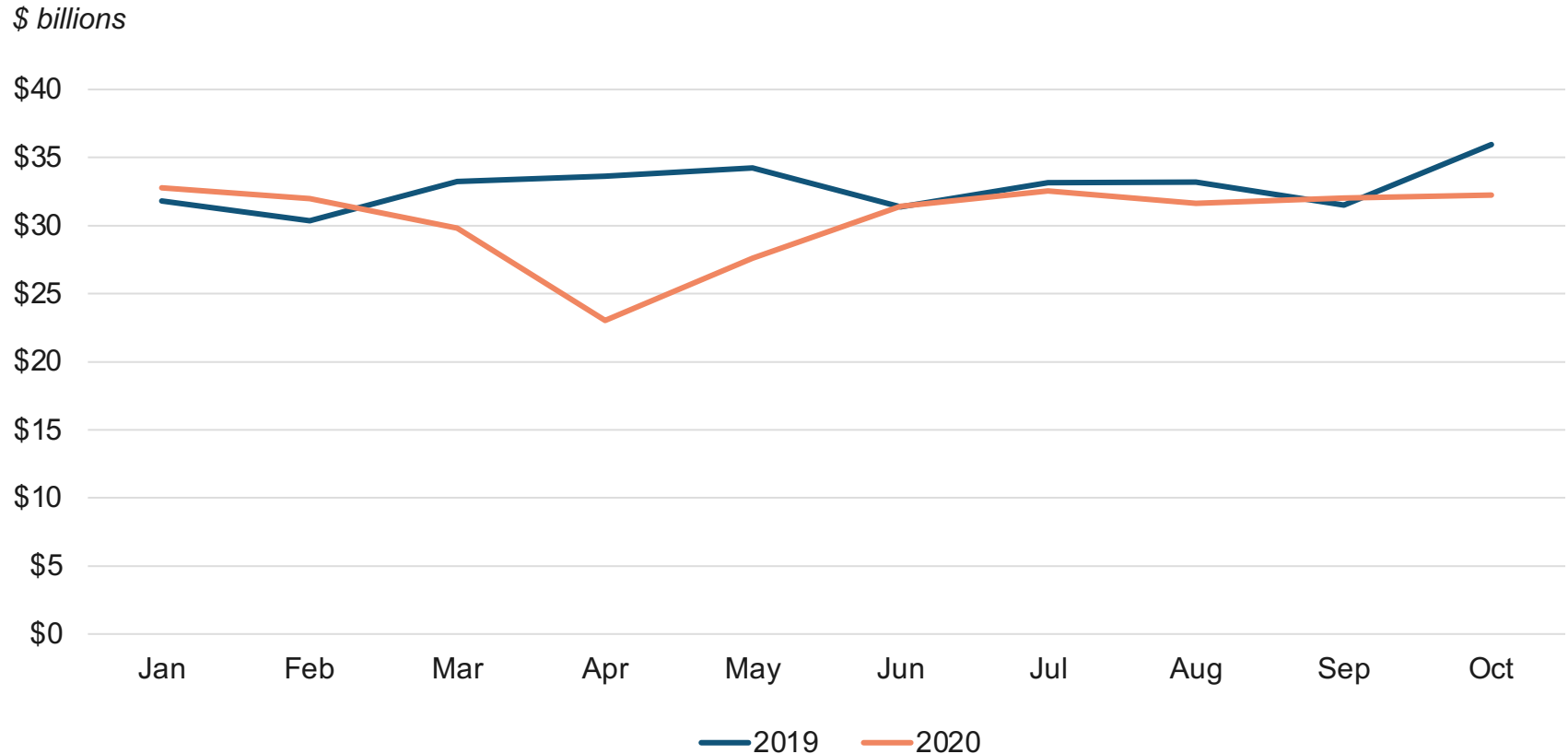
Total aggregate traditional Medicare spending, 2019 vs. 2020



## COVID-19: SPENDING

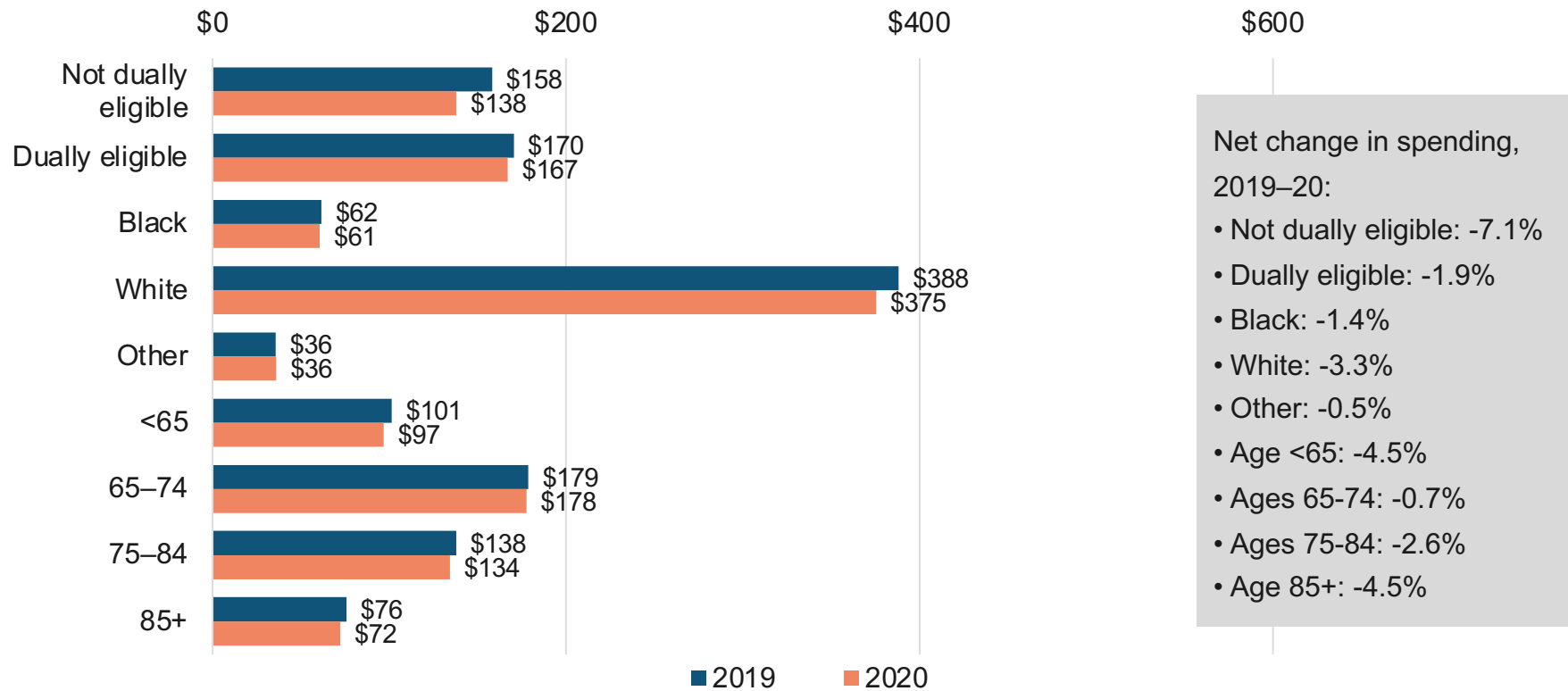
Compared to 2019, traditional Medicare spending dropped dramatically between March and May of 2020, before returning to previous levels.

Total aggregate traditional Medicare spending, by month



# Traditional Medicare spending decreased more for white beneficiaries and beneficiaries not also enrolled in Medicaid than for other beneficiaries from 2019 to 2020.

Total aggregate traditional Medicare spending by dual eligibility, age, and race/ethnicity, 2019 vs. 2020 (in \$ billions)



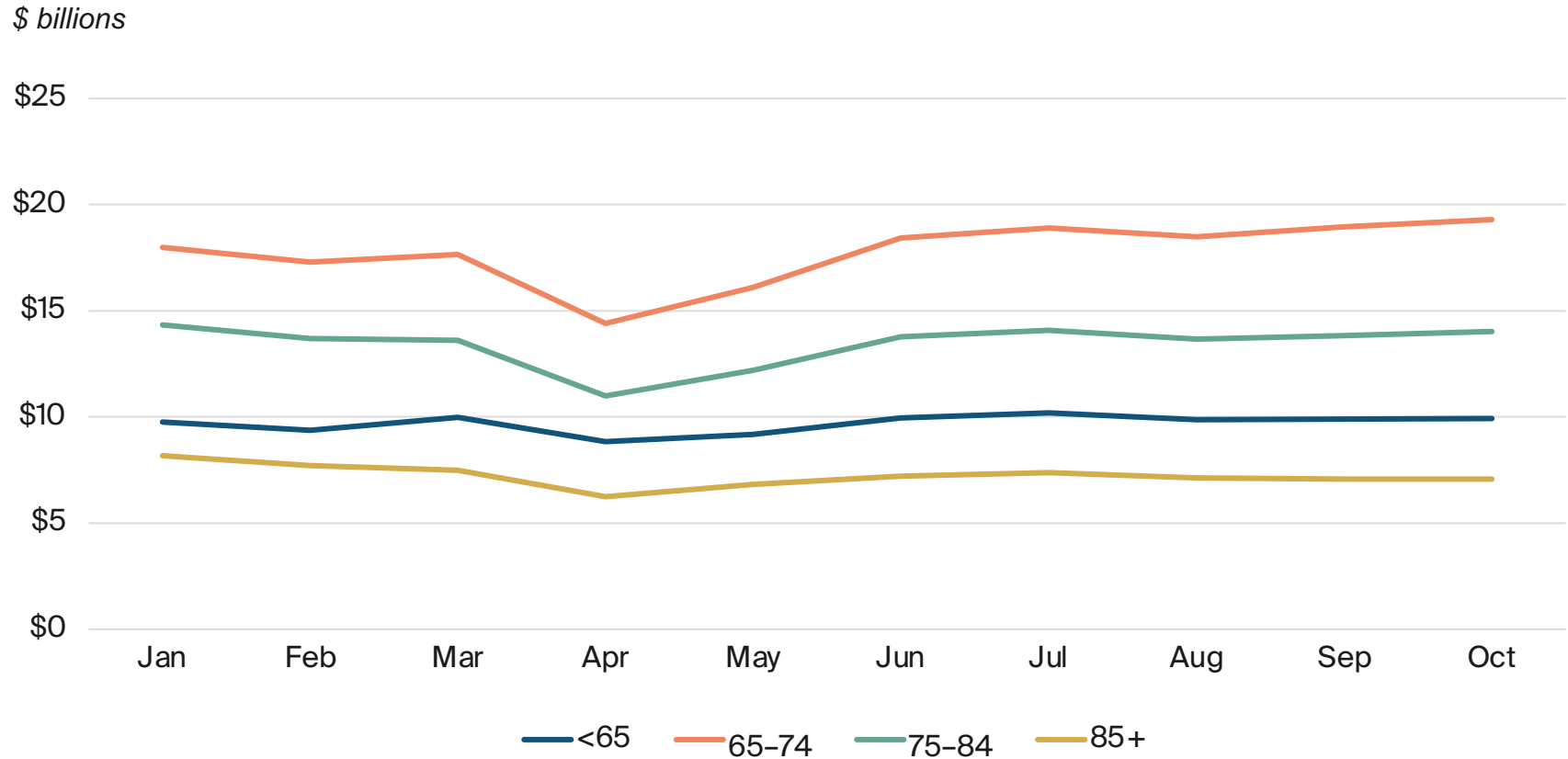
Net change in spending, 2019–20:

- Not dually eligible: -7.1%
- Dually eligible: -1.9%
- Black: -1.4%
- White: -3.3%
- Other: -0.5%
- Age <65: -4.5%
- Ages 65-74: -0.7%
- Ages 75-84: -2.6%
- Age 85+: -4.5%

## COVID-19: SPENDING

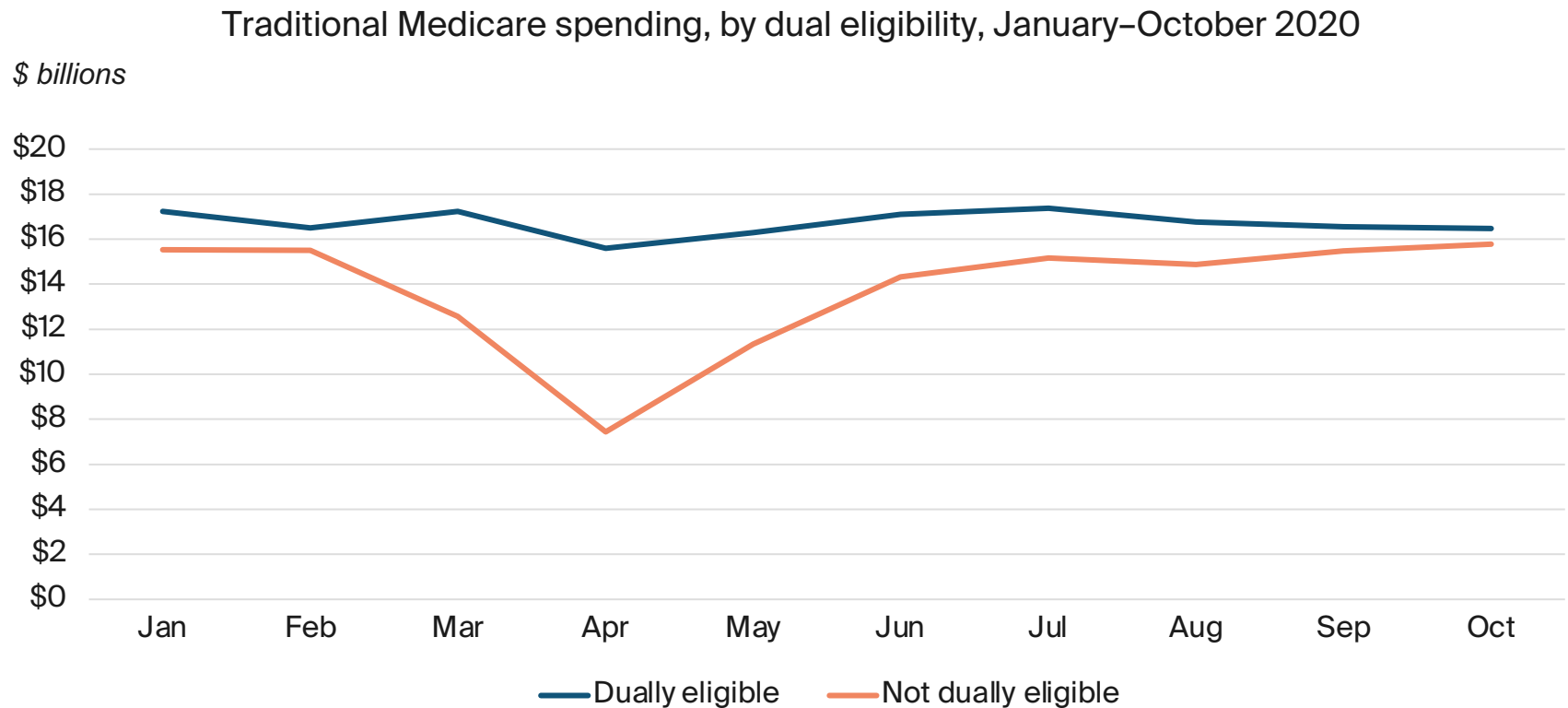
Traditional Medicare spending decreased most for beneficiaries ages 65–74 between March and April 2020.

Traditional Medicare spending, by age, January–October 2020



## COVID-19: SPENDING

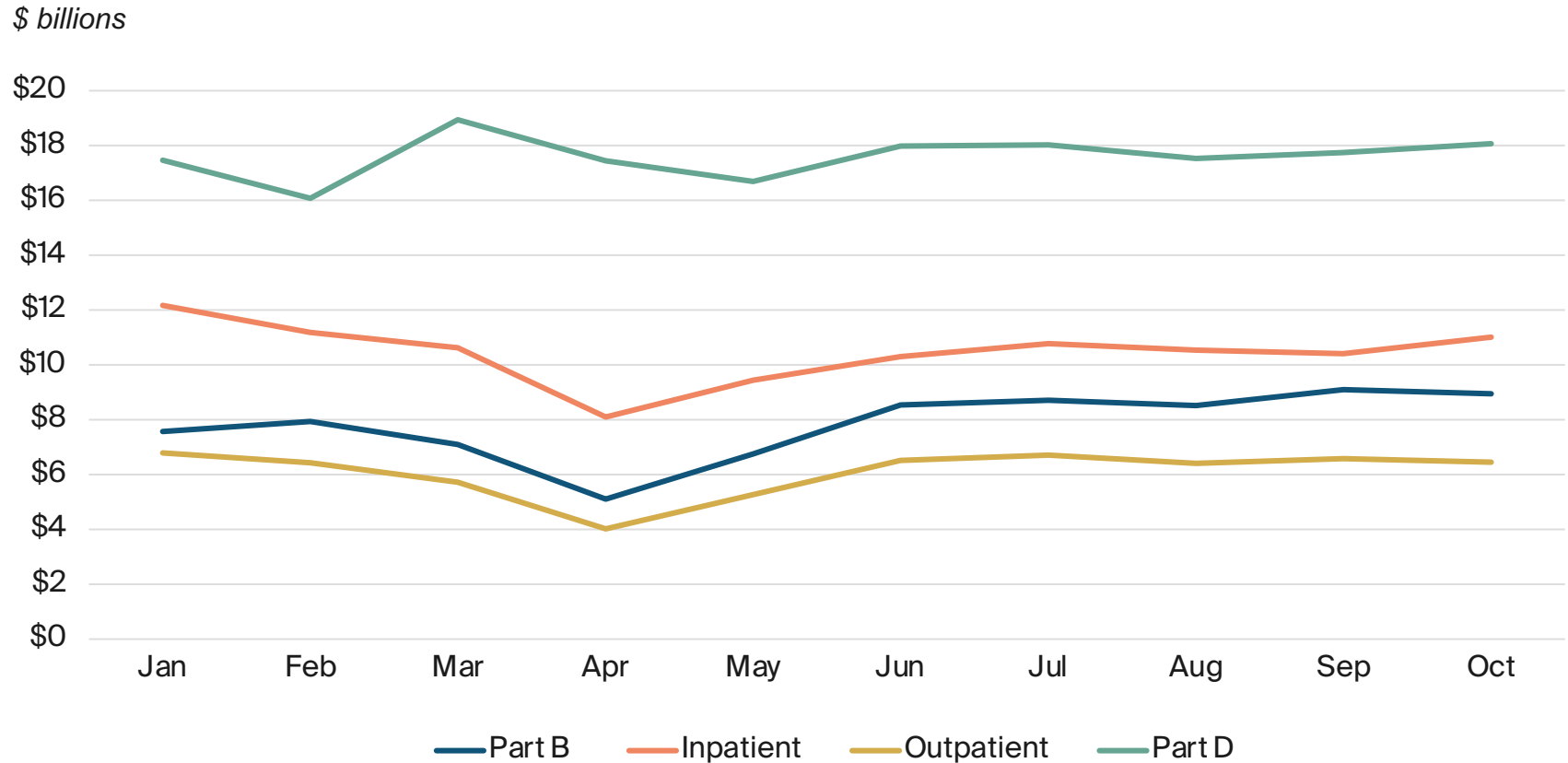
Traditional Medicare spending for dually eligible beneficiaries remained steady throughout 2020, while spending for other beneficiaries plummeted from February to April before returning to prepandemic levels by summer.



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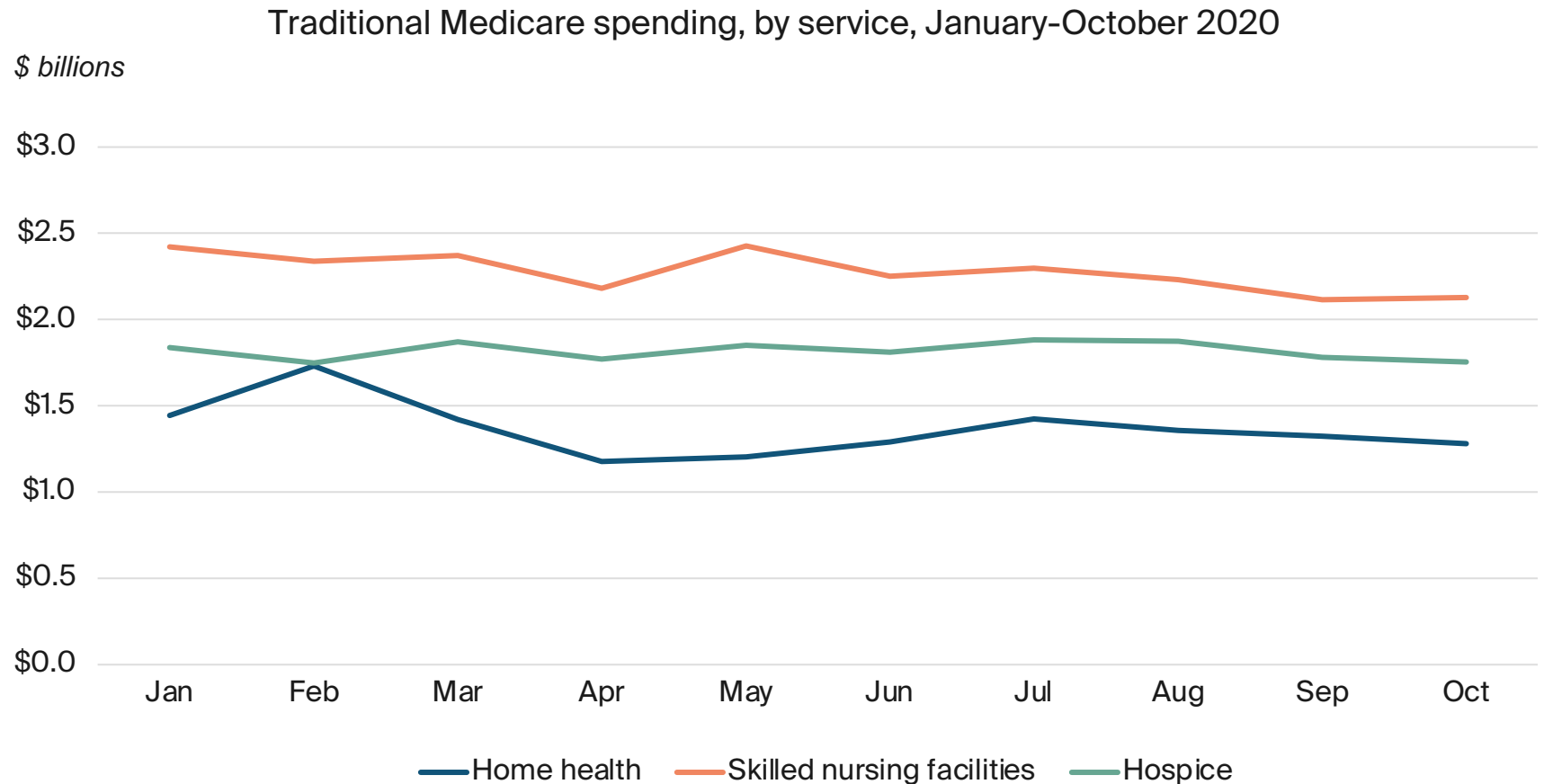
Inpatient, outpatient, and other Medicare Part B spending decreased in the early months of the pandemic.

Traditional Medicare spending, by service, January-October 2020



## COVID-19: SPENDING

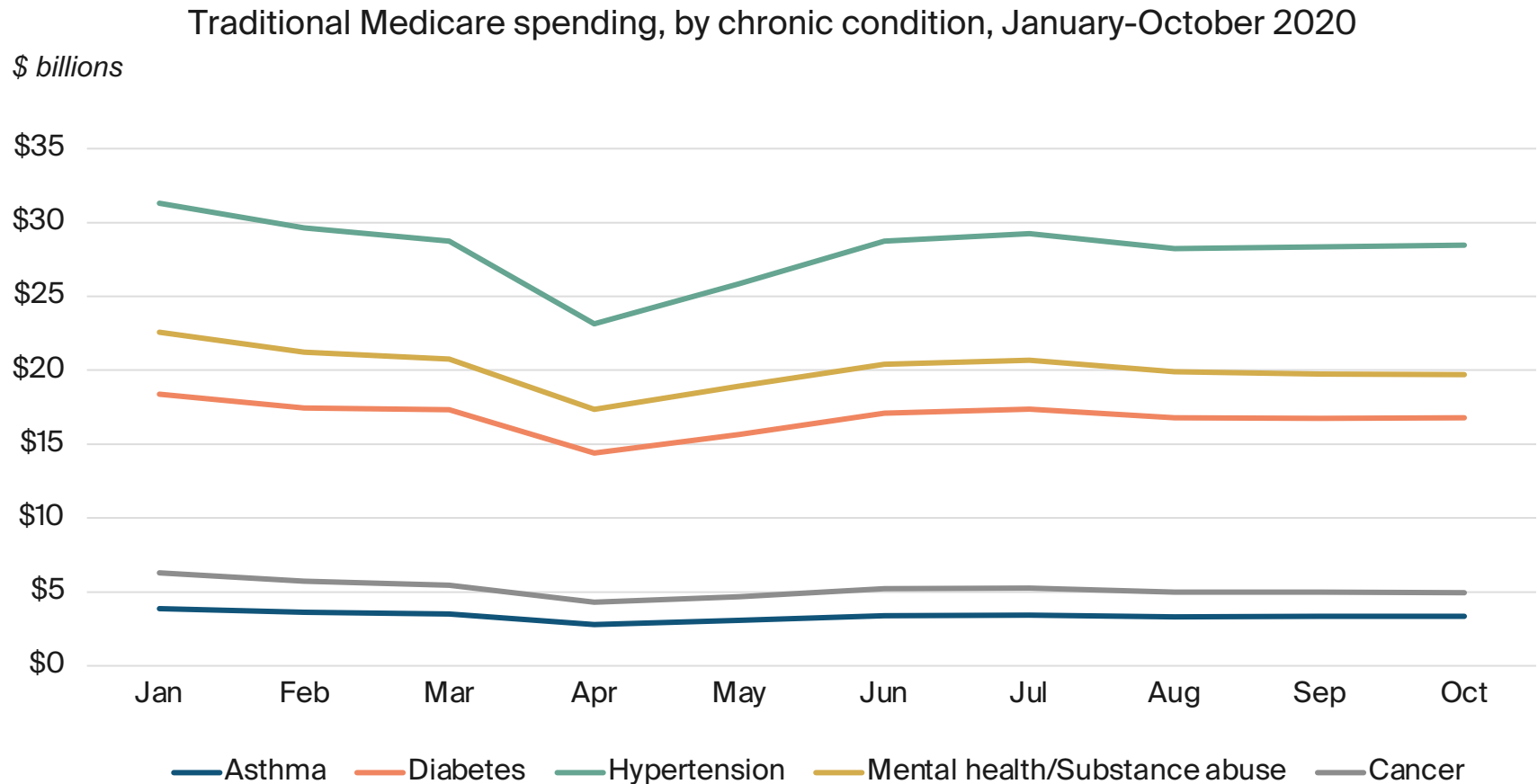
Traditional Medicare spending for skilled nursing and home health care decreased since the start of the pandemic.





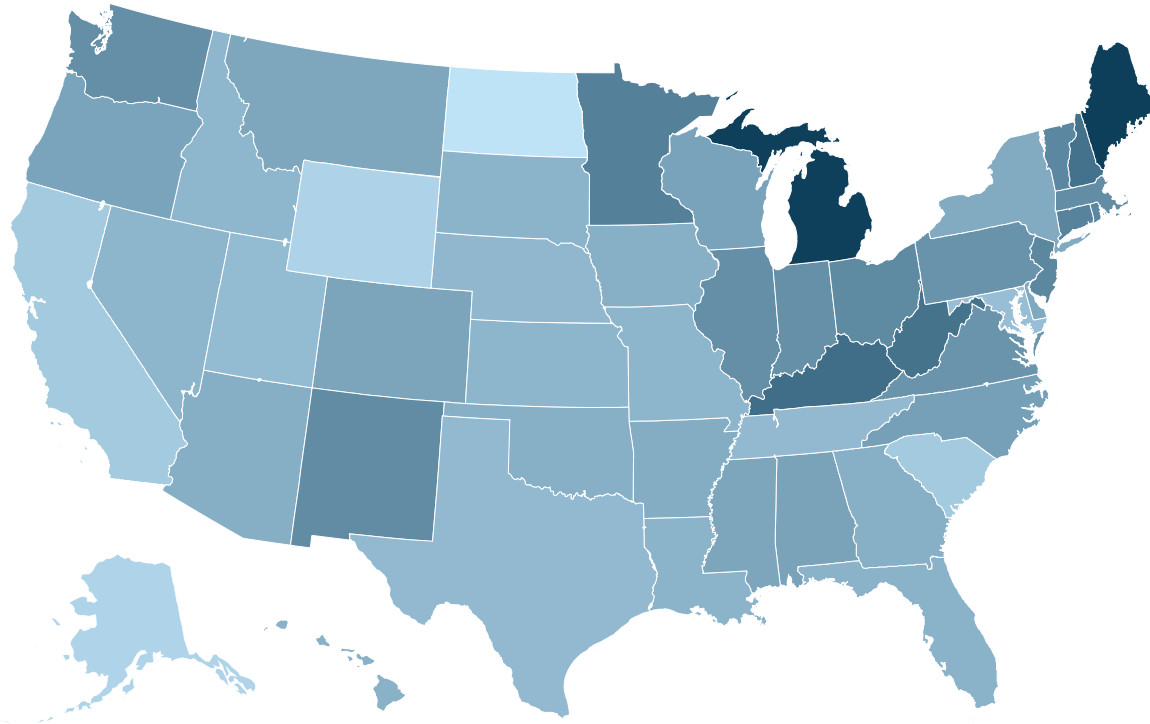
## COVID-19: SPENDING

Traditional Medicare spending declined for many chronic conditions early during the pandemic.



# Declines in traditional Medicare spending varied across states between 2019 and 2020.

Percent change in traditional Medicare spending 2019-20, by state



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Percent change in Medicare spending, 2019-20

-15.7% -1.8%

## COVID-19: SPENDING

Among people in traditional Medicare diagnosed with COVID-19, average per capita spending was lower than for people with other common health conditions.

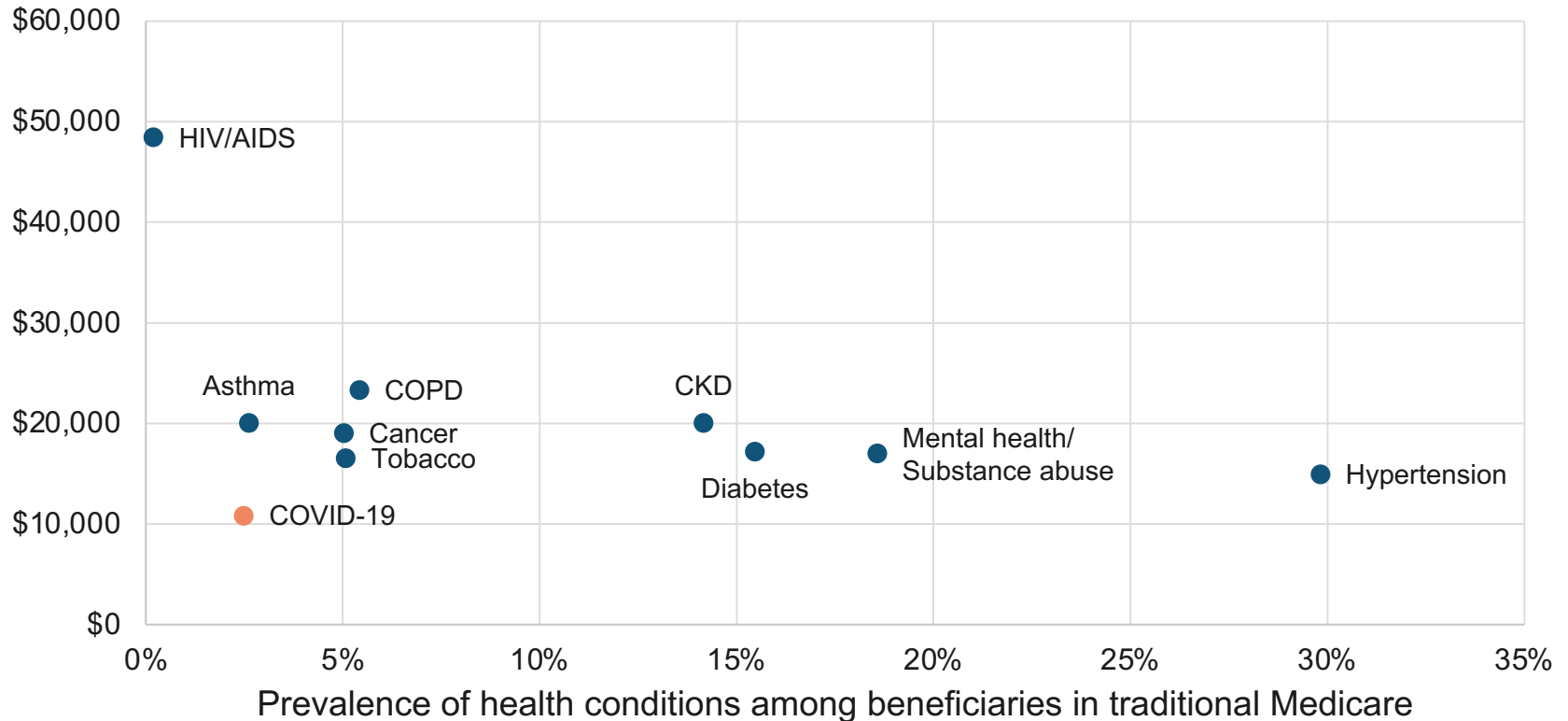
Average per capita traditional Medicare spending, among beneficiaries diagnosed with health conditions, March–December 2020



## COVID-19: SPENDING

Among Medicare beneficiaries, COVID-19 had the lowest spending compared to other chronic conditions.

Average per capita spending versus prevalence of health conditions among beneficiaries in traditional Medicare, March–December 2020



Notes: Excludes data from January and February 2020. COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. CKD = chronic kidney disease. Prevalence of health conditions was calculated by dividing the average number of beneficiaries in traditional Medicare with a chronic condition diagnoses between March and December 2020 by the average number of total beneficiaries in traditional Medicare from March to December 2020

Data: Commonwealth Fund analysis of CareJourney traditional Medicare claims data.