

How well is **MEDICARE** working for beneficiaries in

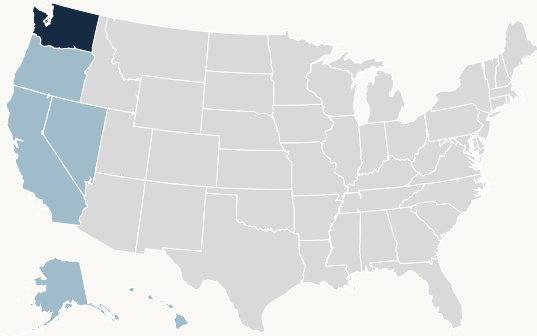
Washington

The
Commonwealth
Fund

Medicare is a federal program that should be uniform across the country — but the experience of beneficiaries varies depending on where they live. See the latest performance data for your state.

Washington ranks #11 overall.

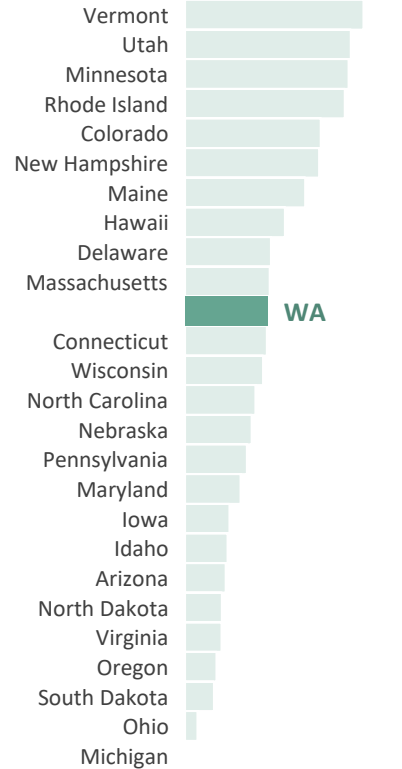
	National rank	Rank among Western states
Overall	11 of 51	2 of 6
Access to Care	41	4
Quality of Care	3	2
Costs and Affordability	8	4
Population Health	9	1



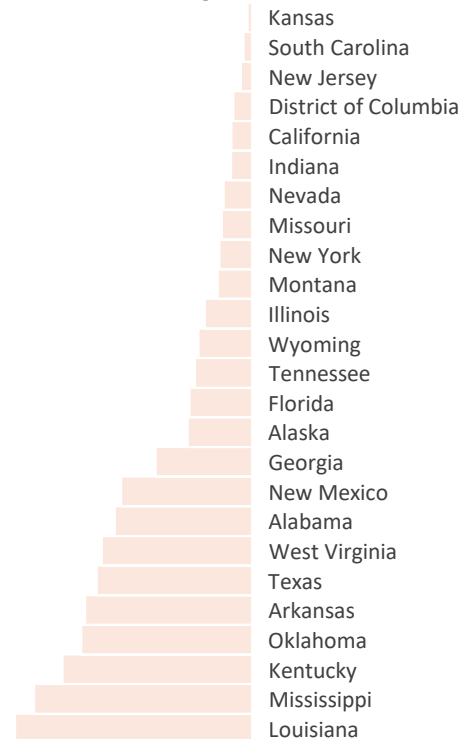
Note: West region includes AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA.

How Washington compares to all states

Better-than-average overall performance



Worse-than-average overall performance



The Medicare Population in Washington

	Washington	United States ^a
State population enrolled in Medicare	19.3%	19.8%
Population age 65 and older	1,378,508	61,245,283
Share of beneficiaries age 85 and older	10.5%	10.8%
Beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage	49.4%	50.4%
Median household income over age 65	\$69,010	\$59,648
Older adults with income at or near federal poverty level	14.5%	18.9%
Beneficiaries receiving Low-Income Subsidy	16.4%	20.1%

Table 1. Medicare Performance Indicators

Dimension and indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average ^a	Best state rate	State rank
Access to Care					
2025 Scorecard					
Adults age 65 and older who had a routine checkup in the past two years	2024	95.8%	97.1%	99.2%	43
Medicare Advantage plans within a state that require prior authorization for specialist doctor visits or preventive care	2025	73.1%	48.3%	8.3%	50
Adults age 65 and older who did not have at least one person they think of as their personal health care provider	2024	3.8%	4.0%	1.9%	26
Adults age 65 and older without a dental visit in the past year	2024	22.4%	28.2%	19.1%	9
Medicare beneficiaries with a home health referral who received home health services within seven days of hospital discharge	2022	45.6%	51.5%	62.9%	44
Quality of Care					
2025 Scorecard					
Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older who received at least one drug that should be avoided in the elderly	2023	20.0%	21.2%	17.4%	9
Hospital admissions for ambulatory care—sensitive conditions among Medicare beneficiaries, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2023	17.6	26.4	13.9	6
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2023	148.4	155.2	126.4	18
30-day hospital readmissions among Medicare beneficiaries, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2023	23.8	37.5	18.6	7
Risk-adjusted 30-day mortality among Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older hospitalized for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, or stroke	07/2020 - 06/2023	14.9%	14.4%	12.3%	28
Short-stay nursing home residents readmitted within 30 days of hospital discharge to nursing home	10/2023 - 09/2024	20.1%	25.0%	13.0%	8
Patient safety and adverse hospital events composite measure (PSI-90; lower is better)	07/2021 - 06/2023	48	36	16	42
Adults age 65 and older with an injurious fall in the past year	2023	34.9%	38.7%	28.8%	15
Long-stay nursing home residents who received an antipsychotic medication	01/2024 - 12/2024	14.6%	14.6%	7.5%	21
Long-stay nursing home residents with pressure sores	01/2024 - 12/2024	5.2%	5.5%	3.9%	19
Adults age 65 and older who have ever received a pneumonia vaccine	2024	73.8%	70.3%	76.4%	9
Adults age 65 and older who received a flu vaccine in the past year	2024	67.2%	62.8%	73.1%	12
Adults age 65 and older who received a COVID vaccine between August 2024 and March 2025	08/2024 - 03/2025	47.6%	43.4%	54.7%	6

Table 1. Medicare Performance Indicators (cont.)

Dimension and indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average ^a	Best state rate	State rank
Costs and Affordability					
2025 Scorecard					
Adults age 65 and older who went without care because of cost in the past year	2024	2.8%	3.8%	1.6%	15
Medicare beneficiaries average out-of-pocket spending on Part D drugs	2023	\$345	\$386	\$216	13
Total share of Part D drug costs paid by the Medicare beneficiary	2023	8.2%	7.4%	3.0%	38
Total Medicare (Parts A & B) reimbursements per enrollee	2023	\$9,433	\$11,886	\$8,203	6
Primary care spending as share of total Medicare spending among beneficiaries age 65 and older	2023	4.7%	5.7%	10.9%	36
Population Health					
2025 Scorecard					
Adults age 65 and older who rated their health as fair or poor	2024	19.9%	25.0%	15.9%	8
Medicare beneficiaries diagnosed with three or more chronic conditions	2023	51%	62%	45%	5
Adults age 65 and older reporting 14 or more poor physical health days per month	2024	15.7%	17.5%	13.6%	12
Adults age 65 and older reporting 14 or more poor mental health days per month	2024	8.8%	8.7%	6.0%	32
Adults age 65 and older who reported difficulty with dressing, running errands alone, walking, or concentrating	2024	26.7%	32.6%	22.1%	6
Average number of years of additional life expectancy at age 65	2021	19.1	18.4	20.6	10
Adults age 65 and older reporting loneliness or lack of emotional support	2022	36.9%	34.5%	28.7%	32
Adults age 60 and older who experienced food insecurity within the past year	2023	5.5%	9.2%	3.8%	8

Notes: (a) National (U.S.) estimates include all 50 states and D.C. and do not include territories.