Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Progress Report:

Findings from the Kaiser/Commonwealth/Tufts-New England Medical Center 2006 National Survey of Seniors and Prescription Drugs

August 2007
Methodology

The National Survey of Seniors and Prescription Drugs, 2006 was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, and Tufts–New England Medical Center. The survey of 16,072 seniors was administered in English and Spanish between October 5 and December 20, 2006, primarily by mail with telephone follow-up. The study used an augmented longitudinal design that included respondents to our 2003 national survey of seniors and a randomly selected nationally representative sample of non-institutionalized Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older that was provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in June 2006. After accounting for beneficiaries excluded because of death, institutionalization, relocation, non-English/Spanish language, or severe cognitive or physical impairment, the final study sample had a response rate of 56 percent. The survey had a margin of sampling error of less than 1 percent. Bivariate and multivariate methods were used to examine seniors’ prescription drug coverage, use, out-of-pocket spending, adherence, and experiences in a Part D plan.

This chartpack is based on an article (published online 21 August 2007) in Health Affairs, “Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Progress Report: Findings from a 2006 National Survey of Seniors” available at http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/abstract/hlthaff.26.5.w630 The charts were prepared by Tricia Neuman, Michelle Kitchman Strollo, and Kim Boortz of the Kaiser Family Foundation; Stuart Guterman and Sophie Kasimow of the Commonwealth Fund; Angela Li of the Tufts-New England Medical Center; and Dana Gelb Safran of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.
Prescription Drug Coverage of Non-Institutionalized Seniors
Chart 1

Share of Seniors Who Said They Were Without Drug Coverage in 2005 and 2006

33%

8%

2005

2006

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Numbers are rounded.
Chart 2

Distribution of Seniors’ Drug Coverage in 2006 Among Those Who Did Not Have Drug Coverage in 2005

Drug coverage in 2005:

- Yes: 67%
- No: 33%

Source of Drug Coverage in 2006:

- No Rx Coverage: 61%
- VA: 5%
- Employer: 7%
- Other: 7%
- Part D: 20%

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. Numbers are rounded.
Distribution of Seniors by Primary Source of Drug Coverage, 2006

Chart 3

- Part D: 50%
- Employer: 31%
- VA: 3%
- None: 8%
- Other Coverage: 7%

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. Numbers are rounded.
Part D Coverage Rates Among Seniors with Selected Characteristics, 2006

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Weighted percentages. In 2006, federal poverty level: $9,800/individual and $13,200/couple. Reference groups for statistical significance include: white, >200% poverty, and no chronic conditions (*p < 0.05). Numbers are rounded.

Chart 5

Lack of Any Drug Coverage Among Seniors with Selected Characteristics, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>8%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban/Rural Location</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>10% *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>12% *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-White Hispanic</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Poverty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤100%</td>
<td>14% *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101-150%</td>
<td>11% *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151-200%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;200%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Conditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>7% *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more</td>
<td>5% *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Weighted percentages. In 2006, federal poverty level: $9,800/individual and $13,200/couple. Reference groups for statistical significance include: white, >200% poverty, and no chronic conditions (*p < 0.05). Numbers are rounded.

Chart 6
Seniors’ Drug Coverage in Selected States, 2006

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. Seven state rural region includes: IA, MN, MT, ND, NE, SD, WY. Reference group for statistical significance is Total (*p<0.05). Numbers are rounded.
Low-Income Seniors’ Drug Coverage in Selected States, 2006

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. Seven state rural region includes: IA, MN, MT, ND, NE, SD, WY. Low-income refers to seniors at or below 150% of poverty (<$14,700/individual and <$19,800/couple). Reference group for statistical significance is Total (*p<0.05). Numbers are rounded.

Characteristics of Non-Institutionalized Seniors with Various Sources of Drug Coverage
Income Distribution of Seniors, by Source of Drug Coverage, 2006

Chart 8

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. "Other coverage" is not shown. In 2006, federal poverty level (FPL): $9,800/individual and $13,200/couple. The reference group for statistical significance is Part D coverage (*p < 0.05). Numbers are rounded.

Race/ Ethnicity of Seniors, by Source of Drug Coverage, 2006

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. "Other coverage" is not shown. Reference group for statistical significance is Part D Coverage (*p < 0.05). Numbers are rounded.

Chart 10

Rural/Urban Residence of Seniors, by Source of Drug Coverage, 2006

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. "Other coverage" is not shown. Reference group for statistical significance is Part D coverage (*p < 0.05). Numbers are rounded.

Chart 11

Number of Prescriptions Taken by Seniors, by Source of Drug Coverage, 2006

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. "Other coverage" is not shown. Reference group for statistical significance is Part D coverage (*p < 0.05). Numbers are rounded.
Prescription Drug Use, Out-of-Pocket Spending, and Non-Adherence
Chart 12

Mean Number of Prescriptions Filled by Seniors, by Source of Drug Coverage, 2006
(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. Reference group for statistical significance is Part D coverage (*p<0.05). Numbers are rounded.
Chart 13

Share of Seniors Spending More Than $300 on Prescriptions in the Last 30 Days, by Source of Drug Coverage, 2006

(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. Reference group for statistical significance is Part D coverage (*p<0.05). Numbers are rounded.

Chart 14
Share of Seniors Who Did Not Fill or Delayed Filling Prescriptions Due to Cost, by Source of Drug Coverage, 2006
(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Drug Coverage</th>
<th>All Seniors</th>
<th>Seniors with 3+ Chronic Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>35%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part D</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>23%*</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td>23%*</td>
<td>16%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>15%*</td>
<td>18%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Rx Coverage</td>
<td>8%*</td>
<td>12%*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. “Did not fill/delayed filling” refers to not filling or delayed filling or refilling a prescription because of cost in the past twelve months. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. Reference group for statistical significance is Part D coverage (*p<0.05). Numbers are rounded.
## Chart 15
Multivariate Results Showing Association Between Sources of Drug Coverage, Out-of-Pocket Spending, and Non-Adherence, 2006 (Odds Ratios)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Coverage vs. Reference Group</th>
<th>None vs. Part D</th>
<th>Part D vs. Employer</th>
<th>Part D vs. VA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent &gt;$100 in the Last 30 Days</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent &gt;$300 in the Last 30 Days</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did Not Fill/ Delayed Fill or Refill Due to Cost in the Past 12 Months</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Findings based on three separate models each of which controlled for demographics, health measures, self-reported diseases, number of duals, and source of coverage. Among seniors taking one or more prescription medications. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. SOURCE: Kaiser/Commonwealth/Tufts-New England Medical Center National Survey of Seniors and Prescription Drugs, 2006.
Chart 16
Share of Seniors Who Purchased Prescriptions From Canada or Mexico, by Source of Drug Coverage, 2006
(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)

- Total: 4%
- Part D: 5%
- Employer: 2% *
- VA: 5%
- Other: 4%
- No Rx Coverage: 10% *

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. Reference group for statistical significance is Part D coverage (*p<0.05). Numbers are rounded.
Characteristics and Cost-Related Experiences of Non-Institutionalized Seniors in Part D Plans
Chart 17

Part D Enrollment Among Seniors, by Plan Type, 2006

Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan (MAPD) 30%

Stand-Alone Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) 70%

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Numbers are rounded.
Chart 18

Share of Seniors in Part D Plans (PDP vs. MAPD) with Selected Characteristics, 2006

- **Age 85+**: 12% (PDP), 12%* (MAPD)
- **≤100% Poverty**: 13% (PDP), 24%* (MAPD)
- **Rural location**: 7% (PDP), 31%* (MAPD)
- **7+ Rx (per month)**: 23% (PDP), 30%* (MAPD)
- **3+ Chronic Conditions**: 37% (PDP), 45%* (MAPD)

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Weighted percentages. Significance testing: PDP versus MAPD plan (*p<0.05). In 2006, federal poverty level: $9,800/individual and $13,200/couple. Numbers are rounded.
NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Weighted percentages. Significance testing: PDP versus MAPD plan (*p<0.05). Numbers are rounded.
Chart 20
Prescription Out-of-Pocket Spending and Non-Adherence Among Seniors in Part D Plans, by Part D Plan Type, 2006
(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. “Did not fill/delayed filling” refers to not filling or delayed filling or refilling a prescription because of cost in the past twelve months. Weighted percentages. Significance testing: PDP versus MAPD plan (*p<0.05). Numbers are rounded.
The Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS)
Drug Coverage Among Seniors with Incomes At or Below 150% of Poverty Who Were Not Receiving the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS), 2006

Nearly half of all seniors at or below 150% of poverty without the low-income subsidy are in a Part D plan.

Notes: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. VA is Department of Veterans Affairs. Numbers are rounded.
Out-of-Pocket Spending on Prescriptions and Non-Adherence Among Low-Income Seniors in Part D Plans, With and Without the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS), 2006

(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>With LIS (excluding Dual Eligibles)</th>
<th>Without LIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did Not Fill/Delayed Filling Due to Cost</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent &gt;$100 in the Last 30 Days</td>
<td>11%*</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent &gt;$300 in the Last 30 Days</td>
<td>4%*</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. “Did not fill/delayed filling” refers to not filling or delayed filling or refilling a prescription because of cost in the past twelve months. Weighted percentages. Excludes seniors for whom LIS status is unknown (n=686). Significance testing: with LIS versus without LIS (*p < 0.05). Low-income is defined as at or below 150% of poverty. In 2006, federal poverty level: $9,800/individual and $13,200/couple. Numbers are rounded.

Chart 23
Share of Seniors With Incomes At or Below 150% of Poverty Who Said That They Were Not Aware of the Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS), Among Those Not Receiving The LIS, 2006

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Weighted percentages. Reference Groups: 135-150% of poverty, white, and Part D Rx Coverage (*p<0.05). In 2006, federal poverty level: $9,800/individual and $13,200/couple. Numbers are rounded.
Seniors in Part D Plans Who Spent More Than $100 on Prescriptions in the Last 30 Days, by Income Level and Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) Status, 2006

(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Total Part D</th>
<th>Dual Eligibles</th>
<th>≤150% Poverty With LIS</th>
<th>≤150% Poverty Without LIS</th>
<th>151-200% Poverty</th>
<th>&gt;200% Poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>7%*</td>
<td>11%*</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Weighted percentages. Excludes seniors for whom LIS status is unknown (n=686). Significance testing: >200% poverty as reference group, except as indicated (*p < 0.05). In 2006, federal poverty level: $9,800/individual and $13,200/couple. Numbers are rounded.

Seniors in Part D Plans Who Spent More Than $300 on Prescriptions in the Last 30 Days, by Income Level and Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) Status, 2006

(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Total Part D</th>
<th>Dual Eligibles</th>
<th>≤150% Poverty With LIS</th>
<th>≤150% Poverty Without LIS</th>
<th>151-200% Poverty</th>
<th>&gt;200% Poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%*</td>
<td>4%*</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Weighted percentages. Excludes seniors for whom LIS status is unknown (n=686). Significance testing: >200% poverty as reference group, except as indicated (*p < 0.05). In 2006, federal poverty level: $9,800/individual and $13,200/couple. Numbers are rounded.

Chart 26
Seniors in Part D Plans Who Did Not Fill or Delayed Filling a Prescription Due to Costs, by Income Level and Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) Status, 2006
(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)

NOTE: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. “Did not fill/delayed filling” refers to not filling or delayed filling or refilling a prescription because of cost in the past twelve months. Weighted percentages. Excludes seniors for whom LIS status is unknown (n=686). Significance testing: >200% poverty as reference group (*p < 0.05). In 2006, federal poverty level: $9,800/individual and $13,200/couple. Numbers are rounded.
Part D Enrollees’ Experiences Since Enrolling in a Part D Plan, by Income Level and Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) Status, 2006

(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)

Chart 27

NOTE: Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Weighted percentages. Excludes seniors for whom LIS status is unknown (n=686).

Significance testing: >200% poverty as reference group (*p < 0.05). In 2006, federal poverty level (FPL): $9,800/individual and $13,200/couple. Numbers are rounded.

**Chart 28**

**Share of Part D Enrollees’ Who Started Ordering Prescriptions by Mail, by Income Level and Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) Status, 2006**  
(Among Seniors Taking 1 or More Rx)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Share of Enrollees' Who Started Ordering Prescriptions by Mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Part D</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Eligibles</td>
<td>6%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤150% Poverty with LIS</td>
<td>9%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤150% Poverty without LIS</td>
<td>15%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151-200% Poverty</td>
<td>13%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;200% Poverty</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Sample excludes institutionalized seniors. Weighted percentages. Excludes seniors for whom LIS status is unknown (n=686). Significance testing: >200% poverty as reference group (*p < 0.05). In 2006, federal poverty level: $9,800/individual and $13,200/couple. Numbers are rounded.  