

## **Medicare and Health for Aging Californians**

April 2021 Updated

## Who is Eligible for Medicare?1,2

Medicare is a federal health insurance program for three populations.<sup>1</sup>



1. SENIOR POPULATION (65+ years)



2. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES\*

**CA Medicare** 

or 23% of all CA Medicare members<sup>3</sup>

are eligible for both Medicare and Medi-Cal, known as "dual eligibles" or "Medi Medis," for a total of 1.5 million



**RENAL DISEASE (ESRD)\*** 

\*Regardless of age

## Medicare Health Benefits Coverage<sup>4, 5</sup>

## Original/Fee-For-Service (FFS) Medicare vs. **Medicare Advantage/Managed Medicare**

- Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital stays, hospice care, some home health care, and and limited care in skilled nursing facilities for specific rehabilitation needs (not to exceed 100 days)
- Medicare Part B covers outpatient services such as primary and specialty doctors visits, as well as some preventive services and medical supplies
- Medicare Part D covers prescription drugs
- Medicare Part C, also known as Medicare Advantage, is delivered through private managed care plans; Medicare Advantage bundles together services covered by Medicare Parts A, B, and D into a single plan, Part C

#### **Medicare Enrollment**

Figure 1a: The California Population and Medicare Enrollment<sup>6</sup>

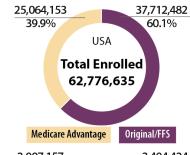
**TOTAL CA Population** 2019 39.5M

California Medicare Members and Percent of **CA Population Covered by** Medicare, by Aid Code

Over 65 Years 5,580,031 (14.9%)

People with Disabilities

628,894 (1.6%) 68,241 (0.2%) Figure 1b: Medicare Enrollment in United States and California 7-10



2,907,157 3,494,424 45.4% 54.6% CALIFORNIA

> **Total Enrolled** 6,401,581

California Represents 10% of Total US Medicare Enrollment

## **Medicare Members** and COVID-1911-14

Californians Age 65+ and COVID-19, March 2021

**Total CA Positive Cases** 

Long-Term Care Facilities % of State Cases

73.7% Total CA Deaths

**73**%

**Long-Term Care Facilities** % of State Deaths

**Total Nationwide COVID-19 Cases,** November 2020

42,130

121,663

Medicare Only

**Dual Medicare/Medicaid** 

55,749

57,195

188,291

Aged 65+

Disabled

**End Stage** Renal Disease

**Survey: COVID-19 Experiences** among all US Medicare Members, Summer 2020

of members needed health care unrelated to COVID-19, but did not obtain it due to the pandemic

of Medicare members did not seek care because they did not want to risk being at a medical facility

### **Survey: Impact of COVID-19** on Well-Being

- 46% reported feeling more stressed or anxious
- 18% reported feeling less financially secure
- **37%** reported feeling less socially connected to family and friends

## Medicare Affordability and Medigap Plans (Medicare Supplemental Insurance) 15, 16

Original/FFS Medicare does not cover all of the costs of receiving health care services through Medicare and members often face additional costs in the form of deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance. Original/FFS Medicare members can purchase Medigap, also known as Medicare Supplemental Insurance, to offset or eliminate many of these out-of-pocket costs. Private health plans offer Medicare Supplemental Insurance for an extra, usually, monthly premium cost. You can read more about Medigap Plans here.

TOTAL CALIFORNIA MEDIGAP ENROLLMENT 591,240

### **Race/Ethnicity and Socioeconomic Status of CA Medicare Members**

Table 1. Racial Breakdown of California and California's Medicare Members, 2019<sup>17, 18</sup>

	All California		Californians > 65		Dual Eligible Population		Medicare Members	
TOTAL	39,001,000		5,844,000		1,226,000		5,899,300	
White	14,390,000	36.9%	3,531,000	60.4%	409,000	33.3%	3,237,500	54.9%
Black	2,231,000	5.7%	379,000	6.5%	157,000	12.8%	334,500	5.7%
Latinx	15,198,000	39.0%	1,046,000	17.9%	404,000	32.9%	1,298,400	22.0%
Asian/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	6,120,000	15.7%	779,000	13.3%*	206,000	16.9%*	904,300	15.3%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	196,000	0.5%	19,000	0.3%*	18,000	1.4%*	28,800	0.5%
Multiple Races	866,000	2.2%	91,000	1.6%	32,000	2.6%*	95,700	1.6%

<sup>\*</sup>statistically unstable

Table 2. Income Breakdown by Percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Among Californians 65+ and Medicare Members, 2019<sup>18, 19</sup>

Californians	0-99% FPL	100-199% FPL	200-299% FPL	>300% FPL	
Ago 65 1	646,000	1,000,000	812,000	3,385,000	
Age 65 +	11.1%	17.1%	13.9%	57.9%	
Madisara Danafsiarias	733,400	1,060,500	1,564,000	2,541,400	
Medicare Beneficiaries	12.4%	18.0%	26.5%	43.1%	

For reference, 2019 FPL annual incomes for an individual are: 0-99% FPL - \$0-\$12,365; 100-199% FPL - \$12,490-\$24,855; 200-299% FPL - \$24,980-\$37.345; >300% FPL - >\$37,470

## Medicare Enrollment Assistance: Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)

HICAP, a program run by the California Department of Aging, is available to consumers.<sup>20</sup>



- Educates consumers on Medicare, including enrolling in Original Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and Medigap plans
- The Master Plan for Aging intends to modernize HICAP by improving upon cultural competency and increasing language options and resources available

## **Addressing Social Determinants of Health**

#### **FOOD SECURITY**

**CalFresh** is the California program for food stamps, also known as the federal Supplemental Nurtritional Assistance Program (SNAP).

**19%** 

of CalFresh enrollees are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities



Average Monthly Supplemental Nutritional
Assistance Program Benefit 2019

\$247

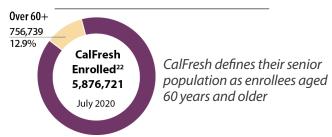
\$140

\$119

All Households

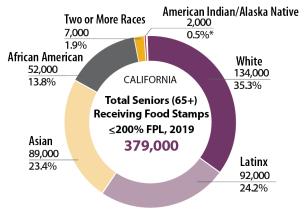
Households with Seniors

Households with Non-Elderly Disabled Individuals





## Figure 3. Seniors (65+) Currently Receiving Food Stamps - ≤200% FPL by Race, 2019<sup>23</sup>



- (\*) statistically unstable
- (-) data not available for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

# Medicare members account for 94.5% of those with incomes ≤200% FPL who receive food stamps

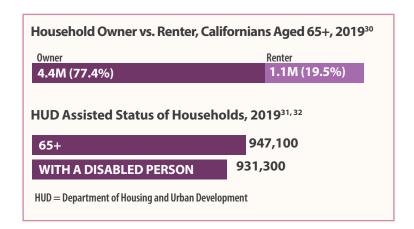
### SNAP-Ed (CalFresh Healthy Living Program)<sup>24, 25</sup>

- Eligibility: Individuals 60+ years old, ≤185% of the FPL
- Helps older adults make healthy food choices and develop more physically active lifestyles to reduce risk of chronic disease
- TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 2017-2018: 5,108

#### **HOUSING ASSISTANCE**

### California Federal Housing Assistance, 2019<sup>26</sup>

- 23% of people aged 61+ years receiving rental assistance are seniors
- 26% of people receiving rental assistance have a disability
- 12% of the senior population are low-income California renters who pay more than half their income for housing
- According to a 2018 national survey,<sup>27</sup> lower-income seniors:
  - 55.5% were concerned about housing affordability
  - **30.9%** were concerned about adequate transportation



## Additional CA Senior Housing Resources and Programs<sup>28, 29</sup>

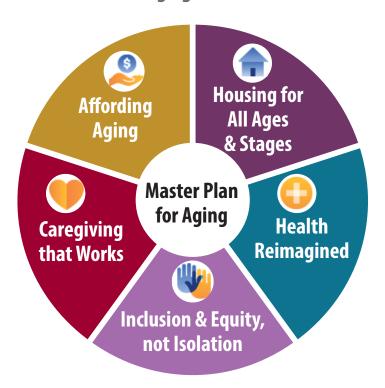
The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) also offers housing assistance in the form of, but not limited to, the following:

- Project Roomkey/Housing and Homelessness COVID Response
- CalWORKs Housing Support Program
- CalWORKs Homeless Assistance
- Senior Home Safe Program

## Next Steps: The 2021 Master Plan for Aging<sup>33</sup>

On January 6, 2021, the Newsom Administration released its <u>Master Plan for Aging</u>. The Plan proposed five bold goals to achieve by 2030, along with over 100 initiatives to reach those goals and accommodate the growing aging populations.

## Master Plan for Aging: Five Bold Goals for 2030



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#### **About ITUP**

Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP) is a Sacramento-based nonprofit health policy institute that for more than two decades has provided expert analysis and facilitated convenings for California policymakers and decisionmakers focused on health policy.

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