

How well is MEDICARE working for beneficiaries in Colorado

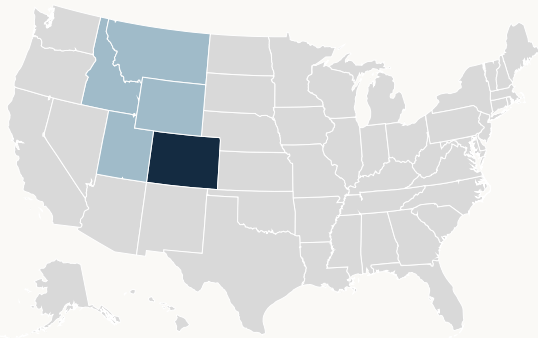


The
Commonwealth
Fund

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.

Colorado ranks #5 overall.

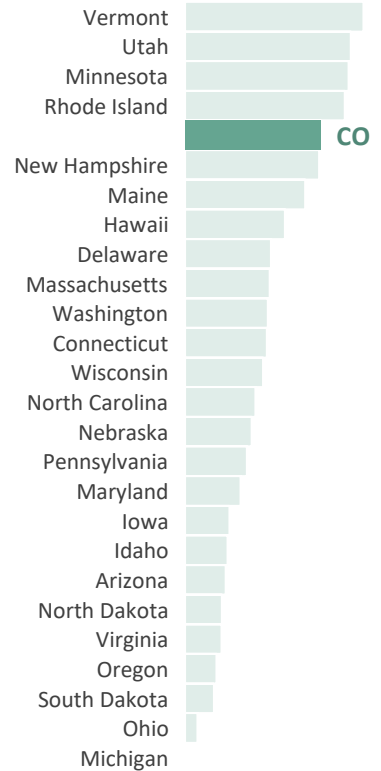
	National rank	Rank among Rocky Mountain states
Overall	5 of 51	2 of 5
Access to Care	26	2
Quality of Care	1	2
Costs and Affordability	11	2
Population Health	6	1



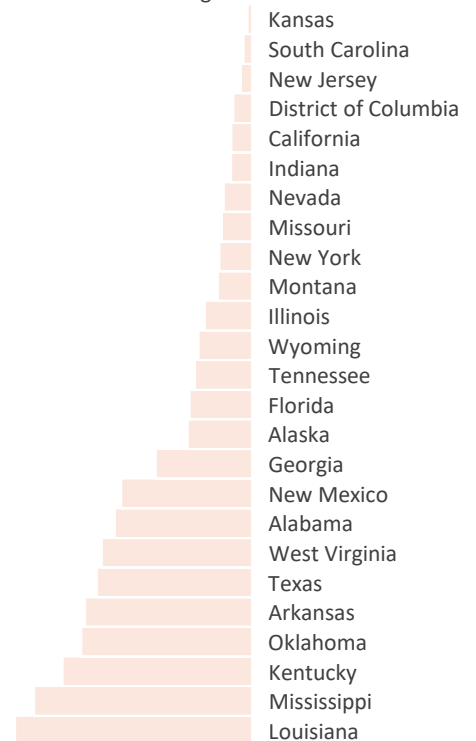
Note: Rocky Mountain region includes CO, ID, MT, UT, WY.

How Colorado compares to all states

Better-than-average overall performance



Worse-than-average overall performance



The Medicare Population in Colorado

	Colorado	United States ^a
State population enrolled in Medicare	17.6%	19.8%
Population age 65 and older	980,364	61,245,283
Share of beneficiaries age 85 and older	10.1%	10.8%
Beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage	52.8%	50.4%
Median household income over age 65	\$67,322	\$59,648
Older adults with income at or near federal poverty level	14.7%	18.9%
Beneficiaries receiving Low-Income Subsidy	14.4%	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	96.8%	97.1%	99.2%	31
Medicare Advantage plans within a state that require prior authorization for specialist doctor visits or preventive care	2025	47.5%	48.3%	8.3%	27
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%	25
Adults age 65 and older without a dental visit in the past year	2024	23.6%	28.2%	19.1%	11
Medicare beneficiaries with a home health referral who received home health services within seven days of hospital discharge	2022	48.2%	51.5%	62.9%	40
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	19.7%	21.2%	17.4%	5
Hospital admissions for ambulatory care—sensitive conditions among Medicare beneficiaries, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2023	15.0	26.4	13.9	2
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2023	145.0	155.2	126.4	15
30-day hospital readmissions among Medicare beneficiaries, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2023	23.9	37.5	18.6	8
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	13.7%	14.4%	12.3%	8
Short-stay nursing home residents readmitted within 30 days of hospital discharge to nursing home	10/2023 - 09/2024	20.7%	25.0%	13.0%	9
Patient safety and adverse hospital events composite measure (PSI-90; lower is better)	07/2021 - 06/2023	31	36	16	13
Adults age 65 and older with an injurious fall in the past year	2023	35.6%	38.7%	28.8%	17
Long-stay nursing home residents who received an antipsychotic medication	01/2024 - 12/2024	18.5%	14.6%	7.5%	34
Long-stay nursing home residents with pressure sores	01/2024 - 12/2024	4.2%	5.5%	3.9%	4
Adults age 65 and older who have ever received a pneumonia vaccine	2024	75.3%	70.3%	76.4%	3
Adults age 65 and older who received a flu vaccine in the past year	2024	67.1%	62.8%	73.1%	13
Adults age 65 and older who received a COVID vaccine between August 2024 and March 2025	08/2024 - 03/2025	46.5%	43.4%	54.7%	7

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	3.7%	3.8%	1.6%	29
Medicare beneficiaries average out-of-pocket spending on Part D drugs	2023	\$339	\$386	\$216	9
Total share of Part D drug costs paid by the Medicare beneficiary	2023	7.9%	7.4%	3.0%	33
Total Medicare (Parts A & B) reimbursements per enrollee	2023	\$10,671	\$11,886	\$8,203	14
Primary care spending as share of total Medicare spending among beneficiaries age 65 and older	2023	6.2%	5.7%	10.9%	12
Population Health					
2025 Scorecard					
Adults age 65 and older who rated their health as fair or poor	2024	19.5%	25.0%	15.9%	7
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	16.0%	17.5%	13.6%	14
Adults age 65 and older reporting 14 or more poor mental health days per month	2024	8.3%	8.7%	6.0%	17
Adults age 65 and older who reported difficulty with dressing, running errands alone, walking, or concentrating	2024	27.1%	32.6%	22.1%	7
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	—	34.5%	28.7%	—
Adults age 60 and older who experienced food insecurity within the past year	2023	8.4%	9.2%	3.8%	29

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