

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

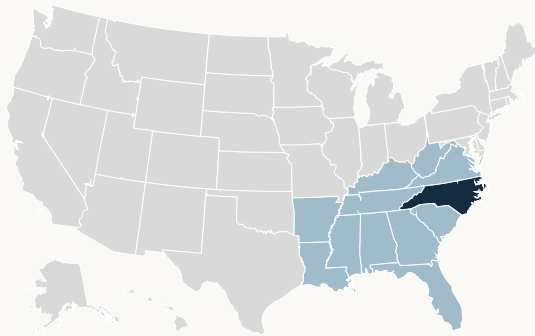
# North Carolina

**The  
Commonwealth  
Fund**

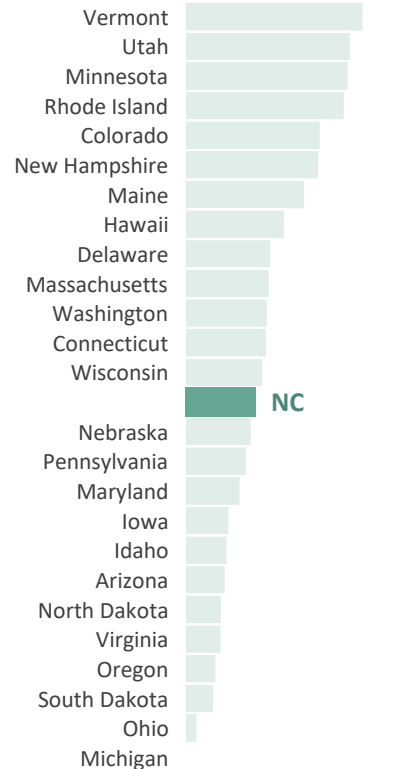
Medicare is a federal program that should be uniform across the country — but the experience of beneficiaries varies depending on where they live. See the latest performance data for your state.

**North Carolina ranks #14 overall.**

	National rank	Rank among Southeastern states
Overall	14 of 51	1 of 12
Access to Care	21	4
Quality of Care	27	2
Costs and Affordability	6	1
Population Health	12	1



Note: Southeast region includes AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV.

**How N.C. compares to all states***Better-than-average overall performance***The Medicare Population in North Carolina**

	N.C.	United States <sup>a</sup>
State population enrolled in Medicare	20.4%	19.8%
Population age 65 and older	1,980,690	61,245,283
Share of beneficiaries age 85 and older	9.8%	10.8%
Beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage	57.1%	50.4%
Median household income over age 65	\$55,235	\$59,648
Older adults with income at or near federal poverty level	21.7%	18.9%
Beneficiaries receiving Low-Income Subsidy	19.0%	20.1%

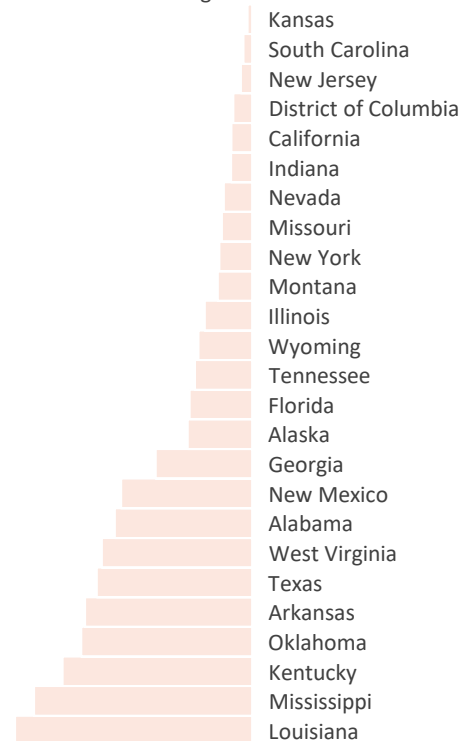
*Worse-than-average overall performance*

Table 1. Medicare Performance Indicators

Dimension and indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average <sup>a</sup>	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	98.2%	97.1%	99.2%	2
Medicare Advantage plans within a state that require prior authorization for specialist doctor visits or preventive care	2025	45.8%	48.3%	8.3%	24
Adults age 65 and older who did not have at least one person they think of as their personal health care provider	2024	3.4%	4.0%	1.9%	19
Adults age 65 and older without a dental visit in the past year	2024	30.1%	28.2%	19.1%	36
Medicare beneficiaries with a home health referral who received home health services within seven days of hospital discharge	2022	51.5%	51.5%	62.9%	36
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	25.6%	21.2%	17.4%	39
Hospital admissions for ambulatory care—sensitive conditions among Medicare beneficiaries, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2023	25.2	26.4	13.9	25
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2023	149.4	155.2	126.4	20
30-day hospital readmissions among Medicare beneficiaries, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2023	32.7	37.5	18.6	22
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	14.6%	14.4%	12.3%	25
Short-stay nursing home residents readmitted within 30 days of hospital discharge to nursing home	10/2023 - 09/2024	23.7%	25.0%	13.0%	25
Patient safety and adverse hospital events composite measure (PSI-90; lower is better)	07/2021 - 06/2023	37	36	16	27
Adults age 65 and older with an injurious fall in the past year	2023	40.2%	38.7%	28.8%	34
Long-stay nursing home residents who received an antipsychotic medication	01/2024 - 12/2024	13.4%	14.6%	7.5%	16
Long-stay nursing home residents with pressure sores	01/2024 - 12/2024	6.7%	5.5%	3.9%	43
Adults age 65 and older who have ever received a pneumonia vaccine	2024	72.0%	70.3%	76.4%	16
Adults age 65 and older who received a flu vaccine in the past year	2024	66.9%	62.8%	73.1%	14
Adults age 65 and older who received a COVID vaccine between August 2024 and March 2025	08/2024 - 03/2025	25.8%	43.4%	54.7%	31

Table 1. Medicare Performance Indicators (cont.)

Dimension and indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average <sup>a</sup>	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	2.5%	3.8%	1.6%	11
Medicare beneficiaries average out-of-pocket spending on Part D drugs	2023	\$399	\$386	\$216	37
Total share of Part D drug costs paid by the Medicare beneficiary	2023	7.0%	7.4%	3.0%	20
Total Medicare (Parts A & B) reimbursements per enrollee	2023	\$10,891	\$11,886	\$8,203	18
Primary care spending as share of total Medicare spending among beneficiaries age 65 and older	2023	6.8%	5.7%	10.9%	7
Population Health					
2025 Scorecard					
Adults age 65 and older who rated their health as fair or poor	2024	21.7%	25.0%	15.9%	12
Medicare beneficiaries diagnosed with three or more chronic conditions	2023	63%	62%	45%	29
Adults age 65 and older reporting 14 or more poor physical health days per month	2024	14.7%	17.5%	13.6%	5
Adults age 65 and older reporting 14 or more poor mental health days per month	2024	7.2%	8.7%	6.0%	4
Adults age 65 and older who reported difficulty with dressing, running errands alone, walking, or concentrating	2024	33.4%	32.6%	22.1%	35
Average number of years of additional life expectancy at age 65	2021	17.7	18.4	20.6	36
Adults age 65 and older reporting loneliness or lack of emotional support	2022	28.7%	34.5%	28.7%	1
Adults age 60 and older who experienced food insecurity within the past year	2023	6.9%	9.2%	3.8%	16

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