

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Data

Table F.2. Medicare* Part D prescription drug utilization, 2012–2021

2021

Type of plan	2021 All**	2021 Medicare Advantage prescription drug (MD-PD)	2021 Stand-alone prescription drug plan (PDP)
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	51,607,624	24,867,911	26,180,526
Member years of Part D enrollment†	48,823,217	23,648,853	24,636,568
Total prescription drug events (PDEs)	1,503,063,237	703,912,072	773,651,240
Percent of beneficiaries with at least one fill	92.3%	92.5%	92.1%
Total unique drug products‡	2,963	2,601	2,522

Average annual number of prescription fills	2021 All**	2021 MA-PD	2021 PDP
Per beneficiary	29.12	28.31	29.55
Per member year of enrollment	30.79	29.77	31.40

Average annual number of unique drug products	2021 All**	2021 MA-PD	2021 PDP
Per beneficiary	8.10	8.17	8.00
Per member year of enrollment	8.56	8.59	8.50

Prescription use (number of fills). Percent of beneficiaries with:	2021 All**	2021 MA-PD	2021 PDP
No prescriptions	7.7%	7.5%	7.9%
Average of 0–2.0/month	48.8%	49.3%	48.5%
Average 2.1–5.0/month	32.6%	32.9%	32.3%
Average 5.1–10.0/month	8.9%	8.7%	9.0%
More than 10/month	2.1%	1.7%	2.3%

Prescribers and pharmacies▲	2021 All**	2021 MA-PD	2021 PDP
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 prescribing provider	16.9%	17.3%	16.6%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 prescribing provider	83.1%	82.7%	83.4%
Average number of prescribing providers	3.94	3.90	3.98
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 pharmacy	53.9%	52.0%	55.7%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 pharmacy	46.1%	48.0%	44.3%
Average number of pharmacies	1.77	1.81	1.73

* Includes all Medicare beneficiaries who were eligible for or enrolled in Medicare on or after January 1, YYYY.

** “All” includes the total Part D enrollees or covered drug utilization regardless of plan type. The sum of the MA-PD and PDP columns does not match the “All”. The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team includes additional plan types in “All”; for example, Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), employer plans, and demonstrations, for which PDEs would be available.

† The CCW team calculates member years of enrollment as the cumulative member months of Part D enrollment for all beneficiaries divided by 12 (months).

‡ Number of generic drug entities (i.e., unique formulations of drugs).

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2020

Type of plan	2020 All**	2020 Medicare Advantage prescription drug (MD-PD)	2020 Stand-alone prescription drug plan (PDP)
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	49,942,920	22,363,076	27,030,394
Member years of Part D enrollment†	47,281,709	21,292,905	25,460,739
Total prescription drug events (PDEs)	1,496,057,259	639,299,830	831,497,357
Percent of beneficiaries with at least one fill	92.3%	92.5%	92.2%
Total unique drug products‡	2,936	2,541	2,501

Average annual number of prescription fills	2020 All**	2020 MA-PD	2020 PDP
Per beneficiary	29.96	28.59	30.76
Per member year of enrollment	31.64	30.02	32.66

Average annual number of unique drug products	2020 All**	2020 MA-PD	2020 PDP
Per beneficiary	8.05	8.03	8.04
Per member year of enrollment	8.51	8.43	8.54

Prescription use (number of fills). Percent of beneficiaries with:	2020 All**	2020 MA-PD	2020 PDP
No prescriptions	7.7%	7.5%	7.8%
Average of 0–2.0/month	47.7%	49.0%	46.9%
Average 2.1–5.0/month	32.8%	32.9%	32.8%
Average 5.1–10.0/month	9.5%	8.9%	9.9%
More than 10/month	2.3%	1.7%	2.6%

Prescribers and pharmacies [▲]	2020 All**	2020 MA-PD	2020 PDP
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 prescribing provider	17.7%	18.3%	17.2%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 prescribing provider	82.3%	81.7%	82.8%
Average number of prescribing providers	3.84	3.77	3.89
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 pharmacy	53.6%	51.5%	55.3%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 pharmacy	46.4%	48.5%	44.8%
Average number of pharmacies	1.79	1.84	1.75

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2019

Type of plan	2019 All**	2019 MD-PD	2019 PDP
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	48,382,156	20,181,529	27,659,646
Member years of Part D enrollment†	45,821,644	19,266,926	26,033,767
Total prescription drug events (PDEs)	1,505,681,404	587,022,601	894,137,534
Percent of beneficiaries with at least one fill	93.1%	93.4%	92.9%
Total unique drug products‡	2,991	2,562	2,534

Average annual number of prescription fills	2019 All**	2019 MA-PD	2019 PDP
Per beneficiary	31.12	29.09	32.33
Per member year of enrollment	32.86	30.47	34.35

Average annual number of unique drug products	2019 All**	2019 MA-PD	2019 PDP
Per beneficiary	8.55	8.43	8.62
Per member year of enrollment	9.03	8.83	9.16

Prescription use (number of fills). Percent of beneficiaries with:	2019 All**	2019 MA-PD	2019 PDP
No prescriptions	6.9%	6.6%	7.1%
Average of 0–2.0/month	47.0%	49.0%	45.6%
Average 2.1–5.0/month	33.5%	33.4%	33.6%
Average 5.1–10.0/month	10.2%	9.2%	10.8%
More than 10/month	2.5%	1.7%	2.9%

Prescribers and pharmacies [▲]	2019 All**	2019 MA-PD	2019 PDP
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 prescribing provider	16.3%	17.2%	15.7%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 prescribing provider	83.2%	82.8%	84.3%
Average number of prescribing providers	3.99	3.86	4.08
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 pharmacy	50.4%	50.7%	51.0%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 pharmacy	49.6%	49.3%	48.4%
Average number of pharmacies	1.84	1.86	1.82

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2018

Type of plan	2018 All**	2018 MA-PD	2018 PDP
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	46,763,418	18,384,725	27,641,580
Member years of Part D enrollment†	44,250,055	17,561,709	25,979,137
Total prescription drug events (PDEs)	1,502,912,846	544,911,285	929,087,132
Percent of beneficiaries with at least one fill	93.1%	93.4%	92.8%
Total unique drug products‡	2,993	2,555	2,515

Average annual number of prescription fills	2018 All**	2018 MA-PD	2018 PDP
Per beneficiary	32.14	29.64	33.61
Per member year of enrollment	33.96	31.03	35.76

Average annual number of unique drug products	2018 All**	2018 MA-PD	2018 PDP
Per beneficiary	8.55	8.35	8.67
Per member year of enrollment	9.03	8.74	9.22

Prescription use (number of fills). Percent of beneficiaries with:	2018 All**	2018 MA-PD	2018 PDP
No prescriptions	6.9%	6.6%	7.2%
Average of 0–2.0/month	45.8%	48.2%	44.2%
Average 2.1–5.0/month	33.5%	33.5%	33.6%
Average 5.1–10.0/month	11.1%	9.9%	11.9%
More than 10/month	2.7%	1.8%	3.2%

Prescribers and pharmacies [▲]	2018 All**	2018 MA-PD	2018 PDP
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 prescribing provider	16.3%	17.2%	15.7%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 prescribing provider	83.2%	82.8%	84.3%
Average number of prescribing providers	3.99	3.86	4.08
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 pharmacy	50.4%	50.7%	51.0%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 pharmacy	49.6%	49.3%	48.4%
Average number of pharmacies	1.84	1.86	1.82

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2017

Type of plan	2017 All**	2017 MA-PD	2017 PDP
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	45,235,350	17,187,957	27,274,371
Member years of Part D enrollment†	41,203,810	15,377,426	25,126,406
Total prescription drug events (PDEs)	1,498,436,464	520,466,269	947,999,065
Percent of beneficiaries with at least one fill	93.0%	93.4%	92.7%
Total unique drug products‡	2,844	2,379	2,469

Average annual number of prescription fills	2017 All**	2017 MA-PD	2017 PDP
Per beneficiary	33.13	30.28	34.76
Per member year of enrollment	35.04	31.68	37.04

Average annual number of unique drug products	2017 All**	2017 MA-PD	2017 PDP
Per beneficiary	8.54	8.28	8.69
Per member year of enrollment	9.03	8.66	9.26

Prescription use (number of fills). Percent of beneficiaries with:	2017 All**	2017 MA-PD	2017 PDP
No prescriptions	7.0%	6.6%	7.3%
Average of 0–2.0/month	44.6%	47.4%	42.9%
Average 2.1–5.0/month	33.4%	33.6%	33.4%
Average 5.1–10.0/month	12.0%	10.6%	12.9%
More than 10/month	2.9%	1.9%	3.5%

Prescribers and pharmacies [▲]	2017 All**	2017 MA-PD	2017 PDP
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 prescribing provider	16.9%	16.2%	18.0%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 prescribing provider	83.1%	83.5%	82.0%
Average number of prescribing providers	3.93	4.02	3.76
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 pharmacy	51.7%	52.4%	50.7%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 pharmacy	48.3%	47.4%	49.3%
Average number of pharmacies	1.81	1.82	1.82

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2016

Type of plan	2016 All**	2016 MA-PD	2016 PDP
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	43,587,021	16,095,260	26,757,283
Member years of Part D enrollment†	41,203,810	15,377,426	25,126,406
Total prescription drug events (PDEs)	1,484,005,937	496,726,001	959,203,777
Percent of beneficiaries with at least one fill	93.0%	93.3%	92.8%
Total unique drug products‡	2,943	2,437	2,541

Average annual number of prescription fills	2016 All**	2016 MA-PD	2016 PDP
Per beneficiary	34.05	30.86	35.85
Per member year of enrollment	36.02	32.30	38.18

Average annual number of unique drug products	2016 All**	2016 MA-PD	2016 PDP
Per beneficiary	8.54	8.21	8.74
Per member year of enrollment	9.04	8.59	9.31

Prescription use (number of fills). Percent of beneficiaries with:	2016 All**	2016 MA-PD	2016 PDP
No prescriptions	7.0%	6.7%	7.2%
Average of 0–2.0/month	43.5%	46.7%	41.6%
Average 2.1–5.0/month	33.5%	33.5%	33.6%
Average 5.1–10.0/month	12.9%	11.2%	13.8%
More than 10/month	3.1%	2.0%	3.7%

Prescribers and pharmacies [▲]	2016 All**	2016 MA-PD	2016 PDP
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 prescribing provider	17.3%	16.5%	18.4%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 prescribing provider	82.7%	83.5%	81.6%
Average number of prescribing providers	3.88	3.98	3.70
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 pharmacy	51.8%	52.1%	51.2%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 pharmacy	48.2%	47.9%	48.8%
Average number of pharmacies	1.82	1.82	1.82

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2015

Type of plan	2015 All**	2015 MA-PD	2015 PDP
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	41,859,463	15,147,924	26,045,330
Member years of Part D enrollment†	39,505,335	14,465,397	24,407,680
Total prescription drug events (PDEs)	1,450,055,791	472,944,423	952,404,299
Percent of beneficiaries with at least one fill	92.9%	93.3%	92.7%
Total unique drug products‡	3,016	2,464	2,667

Average annual number of prescription fills	2015 All**	2015 MA-PD	2015 PDP
Per beneficiary	34.64	31.22	36.57
Per member year of enrollment	36.71	32.69	39.02

Average annual number of unique drug products	2015 All**	2015 MA-PD	2015 PDP
Per beneficiary	8.62	8.21	8.85
Per member year of enrollment	9.13	8.60	9.45

Prescription use (number of fills). Percent of beneficiaries with:	2015 All**	2015 MA-PD	2015 PDP
No prescriptions	7.1%	6.7%	7.3%
Average of 0–2.0/month	42.7%	46.1%	40.7%
Average 2.1–5.0/month	33.5%	33.5%	33.6%
Average 5.1–10.0/month	13.5%	11.7%	14.5%
More than 10/month	3.2%	2.0%	3.9%

Prescribers and pharmacies [▲]	2015 All**	2015 MA-PD	2015 PDP
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 prescribing provider	17.5%	18.6%	16.7%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 prescribing provider	82.5%	81.4%	83.3%
Average number of prescribing providers	3.85	3.66	3.95
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 pharmacy	50.8%	50.4%	51.0%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 pharmacy	49.2%	49.6%	49.0%
Average number of pharmacies	1.85	1.84	1.86

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2014

Type of plan	2014 All**	2014 MA-PD	2014 PDP
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	39,995,519	14,241,864	25,327,197
Member years of Part D enrollment†	37,720,840	13,575,387	23,742,844
Total prescription drug events (PDEs)	1,417,056,465	451,652,358	951,240,239
Percent of beneficiaries with at least one fill	92.9%	93.3%	92.6%
Total unique drug products‡	2,950	2,415	2,636

Average annual number of prescription fills	2014 All**	2014 MA-PD	2014 PDP
Per beneficiary	35.43	31.71	37.56
Per member year of enrollment	37.57	33.27	40.06

Average annual number of unique drug products	2014 All**	2014 MA-PD	2014 PDP
Per beneficiary	8.67	8.24	8.93
Per member year of enrollment	9.20	8.64	9.52

Prescription use (number of fills). Percent of beneficiaries with:	2014 All**	2014 MA-PD	2014 PDP
No prescriptions	7.1%	6.7%	7.4%
Average of 0–2.0/month	41.7%	45.4%	39.5%
Average 2.1–5.0/month	33.7%	33.7%	33.7%
Average 5.1–10.0/month	14.1%	12.2%	15.2%
More than 10/month	3.4%	2.1%	4.2%

Prescribers and pharmacies [▲]	2014 All**	2014 MA-PD	2014 PDP
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 prescribing provider	17.9%	19.0%	17.3%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 prescribing provider	82.1%	81.0%	82.7%
Average number of prescribing providers	3.78	3.61	3.89
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 pharmacy	50.7%	50.4%	50.8%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 pharmacy	49.3%	49.6%	49.2%
Average number of pharmacies	1.85	1.83	1.87

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2013

Type of plan	2013 All**	2013 MA-PD	2013 PDP
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	37,839,618	13,097,970	24,344,776
Member years of Part D enrollment†	35,679,758	12,445,404	22,861,383
Total prescription drug events (PDEs)	1,371,343,181	420,074,406	938,112,315
Percent of beneficiaries with at least one fill	92.8%	93.2%	92.5%
Total unique drug products‡	2,981	2,474	2,671

Average annual number of prescription fills	2013 All**	2013 MA-PD	2013 PDP
Per beneficiary	36.24	32.07	38.53
Per member year of enrollment	38.43	33.75	41.03

Average annual number of unique drug products	2013 All**	2013 MA-PD	2013 PDP
Per beneficiary	8.75	8.25	9.04
Per member year of enrollment	9.28	8.68	9.62

Prescription use (number of fills). Percent of beneficiaries with:	2013 All**	2013 MA-PD	2013 PDP
No prescriptions	7.2%	6.8%	7.5%
Average of 0–2.0/month	40.6%	44.8%	38.2%
Average 2.1–5.0/month	33.8%	33.7%	33.9%
Average 5.1–10.0/month	14.8%	12.6%	16.1%
More than 10/month	3.6%	2.1%	4.4%

Prescribers and pharmacies [▲]	2013 All**	2013 MA-PD	2013 PDP
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 prescribing provider	18.3%	19.4%	17.7%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 prescribing provider	81.7%	80.6%	82.3%
Average number of prescribing providers	3.74	3.56	3.84
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 pharmacy	51.1%	50.5%	51.5%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 pharmacy	48.9%	49.5%	48.5%
Average number of pharmacies	1.84	1.83	1.85

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2012

Type of plan	2012 All**	2012 MA-PD	2012 PDP
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	33,789,486	12,023,790	21,351,749
Member years of Part D enrollment†	31,807,992	11,404,787	20,014,325
Total prescription drug events (PDEs)	1,216,491,345	375,384,061	827,022,578
Percent of beneficiaries with at least one fill	92.6%	92.9%	92.3%
Total unique drug products‡	2,902	2,509	2,465

Average annual number of prescription fills	2012 All**	2012 MA-PD	2012 PDP
Per beneficiary	36.00	31.22	38.73
Per member year of enrollment	38.24	32.91	41.32

Average annual number of unique drug products	2012 All**	2012 MA-PD	2012 PDP
Per beneficiary	8.58	8.00	8.91
Per member year of enrollment	9.11	8.44	9.50

Prescription use (number of fills). Percent of beneficiaries with:	2012 All**	2012 MA-PD	2012 PDP
No prescriptions	7.4%	7.1%	7.7%
Average of 0–2.0/month	40.3%	45.4%	37.3%
Average 2.1–5.0/month	33.7%	33.5%	33.8%
Average 5.1–10.0/month	15.2%	12.2%	17.0%
More than 10/month	3.3%	1.8%	4.2%

Prescribers and pharmacies [▲]	2012 All**	2012 MA-PD	2012 PDP
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 prescribing provider	19.0%	20.0%	18.5%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 prescribing provider	81.0%	88.0%	81.5%
Average number of prescribing providers	3.68	3.49	3.79
Percent of beneficiaries with 1 pharmacy	51.9%	49.9%	53.0%
Percent of beneficiaries with >1 pharmacy	48.1%	50.1%	47.0%
Average number of pharmacies	1.84	1.85	1.83

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** “All” includes the total Part D enrollees or covered drug utilization regardless of plan type. The sum of the MA-PD and PDP columns does not match the “All”. The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team includes additional plan types in “All”; for example, Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), employer plans, and demonstrations, for which PDEs would be available.

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