

A FACT SHEET ON:

# MEDICARE ADVANTAGE DEMOGRAPHICS

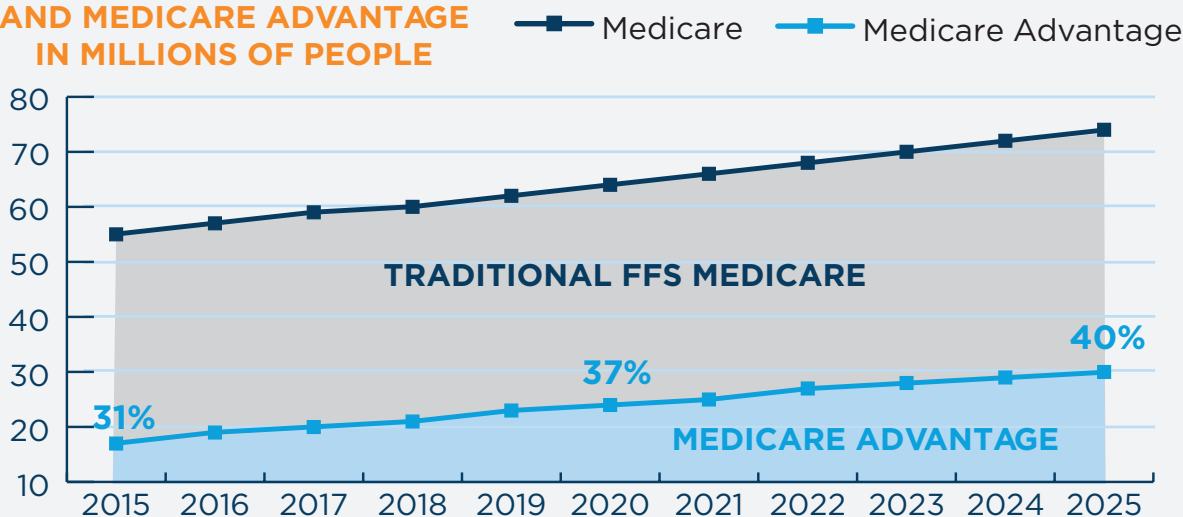
## High Satisfaction as More Beneficiaries, Including Low-Income, Racial/Ethnic Minorities, and Seniors with Chronic Conditions Choose Medicare Advantage

**Medicare Advantage is an option within Medicare that offers quality, affordability and simplicity, with enhanced benefits to more than 17 million Medicare beneficiaries across the country.** The number of seniors choosing Medicare Advantage is growing, with one third of Medicare-eligible individuals currently enrolled in Medicare Advantage. Essentially all Medicare-eligible beneficiaries have access to Medicare Advantage plans, and these plans present a high value, affordable option for seniors and the disabled. Research shows that Medicare Advantage plans are an important source of coverage for low income and racial/ethnic minority beneficiaries and that beneficiaries are highly satisfied with their Medicare Advantage coverage.

- **A significant portion of Medicare Advantage beneficiaries are low income — over 37% of Medicare Advantage enrollees have annual incomes of less than \$20,000.**  
By comparison, 34% of Traditional FFS Medicare beneficiaries have annual incomes of less than \$20,000.<sup>1</sup>
- The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC)<sup>2</sup> and Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)<sup>3</sup> data report up to **44% of Hispanic Medicare beneficiaries and over 31% of African American Medicare beneficiaries choose Medicare Advantage over Traditional FFS Medicare.**
- **91% of beneficiaries in Medicare Advantage are satisfied** with their coverage, with 69% saying they are highly satisfied.<sup>4</sup>
- **CMS presented data in 2015 that currently 99% of Medicare-eligible beneficiaries have access to a Medicare Advantage plan** in their area.<sup>5</sup>
- **The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) expects the percent of Medicare-eligible individuals in Medicare Advantage to grow from 32% to about 40%** in the next 10 years, an increase from over 17 million to about 30 million beneficiaries.<sup>6</sup>

- **Once beneficiaries chose Medicare Advantage they are likely to stay. MedPAC reports about 98% of Medicare Advantage enrollees remain in Medicare Advantage plans** in a year over year analysis.<sup>7</sup>
- **MedPAC also reported data showing new Medicare beneficiaries are choosing Medicare Advantage over Traditional FFS Medicare** at an increasing rate and this rate is even higher for Hispanics and African Americans.<sup>8</sup>
- **26% of all individuals dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans.**<sup>9</sup>
- **57% of individuals dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare in Medicare Advantage represent racial or ethnic minority populations** compared to 47% in the Traditional FFS Medicare.<sup>10</sup>

### ENROLLMENT IN MEDICARE AND MEDICARE ADVANTAGE IN MILLIONS OF PEOPLE



Graph: Congressional Budget Office, March 2015 Baseline. (March 9, 2015). Available at: <https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/44205-2015-03-Medicare.pdf>

1 CMS. Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS), 2012 data. Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Research/MCBS/index.html>

2 Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, Meeting Presentation: Medicare Advantage demographics and enrollment patterns. (September 11, 2014).

3 Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS), 2012 data.

4 Better Medicare Alliance, The Winston Group. Recent Survey on Medicare Advantage. (February 24-28, 2015).<sup>3</sup> Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, Meeting Presentation: Medicare Advantage demographics and enrollment patterns. (September 11, 2014). Available at: <http://www.medpac.gov/documents/september-2014-meeting-presentation-medicare-advantage-demographics-and-enrollment-patterns.pdf?fvrsn=0>.

5 CMS. Fact Sheet: Moving Medicare Advantage and Part D forward. (September 21, 2015). Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2015-Fact-sheets-items/2015-09-21.html>

6 Congressional Budget Office, March 2015 Baseline. (March 9, 2015).

7 Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, Meeting Presentation: Medicare Advantage demographics and enrollment patterns. (September 11, 2014). Available at: <http://www.medpac.gov/documents/september-2014-meeting-presentation-medicare-advantage-demographics-and-enrollment-patterns.pdf>

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

Better Medicare Alliance (BMA) is the leading coalition of nurses, doctors, health plans, employers, aging service agencies, advocates, retiree organizations, and beneficiaries supporting Medicare Advantage. Medicare Advantage offers quality, affordability and simplicity, with enhanced benefits to more than 17 million Medicare beneficiaries across America. BMA works to ensure the sustainability and stability of Medicare Advantage through information, research, education, and united support among stakeholders to strengthen this important coverage for seniors and the disabled. For more information please visit [www.bettermedicarealliance.org](http://www.bettermedicarealliance.org).