

A stylized, light gray silhouette of a city skyline, including various skyscrapers and buildings, serves as the background for the title. The skyline is reflected in a horizontal band below the title.

Exploring Public Health Data

A Practical Guide to API Access in Power BI

PHOENIX

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Introduction

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Tons of government data

- [Data.gov Home - Data.gov](https://data.gov/)

- <https://data.gov/>

- Healthcare

- [CMS Developer Tools](https://developer.cms.gov/)

- <https://developer.cms.gov/>

- Catalogs

- data.cms.gov/data.json

- data.healthcare.gov/data.json

- data.medicaid.gov/data.json

- Search

- [Search Data.CMS.gov - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data](https://data.cms.gov/search)

- <https://data.cms.gov/search>

- [Dataset – Catalog](https://catalog.data.gov/dataset)

- <https://catalog.data.gov/dataset>

Uses for learning

- U-SQL
- SSIS
- BIML
- Azure Data Factory
- Spark
- Power BI

Getting data from Web is easy

- Web.Contents(URL)
- Download HTML page
 - Parse out HTML tables
- Download structured files
 - CSV, JSON, Tab Delimited

Web.Contents can do more!

- Web.Contents has a second argument, expanding its Power
 - [Web.Contents - PowerQuery M | Microsoft Learn](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/powerquery-m/web-contents)
(<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/powerquery-m/web-contents>)
- Record with the following fields
 - Query
 - Content
 - Headers
 - ApiKeyName
 - RelativePath
 - And a couple others

Two APIs

- Medicare Monthly Enrollments
 - CSV Download
 - API
- Marketplace API
 - Get county by zip code
 - Get plans from search

Medicare Monthly Enrollment

- [Medicare Monthly Enrollment - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data \(cms.gov\)](#)
- [https://data.cms.gov/summary-statistics-on-beneficiary-enrollment/medicare-and-medicaid-reports/medicare-monthly-enrollment](#)
- Two ways to get this
 - Download CSV
 - RestFul query to get JSON

Resources for Medicare Monthly Enrollment

- [Medicare Monthly Enrollment Data Dictionary - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data \(cms.gov\)](https://data.cms.gov/resources/medicare-monthly-enrollment-data-dictionary)
 - <https://data.cms.gov/resources/medicare-monthly-enrollment-data-dictionary>
- [Medicare Monthly Enrollment Methodology - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data \(cms.gov\)](https://data.cms.gov/resources/medicare-monthly-enrollment-methodology)
 - <https://data.cms.gov/resources/medicare-monthly-enrollment-methodology>
- [Medicare Monthly Enrollment - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data \(cms.gov\)](https://data.cms.gov/summary-statistics-on-beneficiary-enrollment/medicare-and-medicaid-reports/medicare-monthly-enrollment/api-docs)
 - <https://data.cms.gov/summary-statistics-on-beneficiary-enrollment/medicare-and-medicaid-reports/medicare-monthly-enrollment/api-docs>

Medicare Monthly Enrollment – CSV

- https://data.cms.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/327bc727-6a52-459f-ba7e-118198553112/Medicare%20Monthly%20Enrollment%20Data_Sept2023.csv

Compare Web and File

File

- let
- FilePath = "C:\Reports\Medicare Monthly Enrollment Data_August 2023.csv",
- Contents = File.Contents(FilePath),
- Source = Csv.Document(Contents,[Delimiter=",", Columns=26, Encoding=1252, QuoteStyle=QuoteStyle.None]),
-
- #"Promoted Headers" = Table.PromoteHeaders(Source, [PromoteAllScalars=true]),
- #"Changed Type" = Table.TransformColumnTypes(#"Promoted Headers",{{"YEAR", Int64.Type}, {"MONTH", type text}, {"BENE_GEO_LVL", type text}})
- in
- #"Changed Type"

Web

- let
- URL = "https://data.cms.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/81d25d0e-34b1-4177-9a6e-584102ab741b/Medicare%20Monthly%20Enrollment%20Data_Oct2023.csv",
- Contents = Web.Contents(URL),
- Source = Csv.Document(Contents,[Delimiter=",", Columns=26, Encoding=1252, QuoteStyle=QuoteStyle.None]),
- #"Promoted Headers" = Table.PromoteHeaders(Source, [PromoteAllScalars=true]),
- #"Changed Type" = Table.TransformColumnTypes(#"Promoted Headers",{{"YEAR", Int64.Type}, {"MONTH", type text}, {"BENE_GEO_LVL", type text}})
- in
- #"Changed Type"

Medicare Monthly Enrollment – API

- [Medicare Monthly Enrollment - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data \(cms.gov\)](https://data.cms.gov/data-api/v1/dataset/cf6462a9-9a5e-451b-8ae1-1df8ce942014/data?offset=0&size=10)
- <https://data.cms.gov/data-api/v1/dataset/cf6462a9-9a5e-451b-8ae1-1df8ce942014/data?offset=0&size=10>
- Characteristics:
 - Can query, select columns, choose how many rows
 - Complex queries
 - Pagination

Drupal conventions

- [Filtering | JSON:API module | Drupal Wiki guide on Drupal.org](#)
 - <https://www.drupal.org/docs/core-modules-and-themes/core-modules/jsonapi-module/filtering>
- [Sorting | JSON:API module | Drupal Wiki guide on Drupal.org](#)
 - <https://www.drupal.org/docs/core-modules-and-themes/core-modules/jsonapi-module/sorting>

APIs using Drupal approach

- [Medicare Part D Opioid Prescribing Rates - by Geography - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data \(cms.gov\)](#)
- [Accountable Care Organization Participants - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data \(cms.gov\)](#)
- [Accountable Care Organization Skilled Nursing Facility Affiliates - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data \(cms.gov\)](#)
- [ACO Realizing Equity, Access and Community Health Aligned Beneficiaries - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data \(cms.gov\)](#)

Query String

- [https://data.cms.gov/data-api/v1/dataset/93bd5bd2-4160-4890-ac4c-7357a1dbef8d/data?offset=0&size=1000&column=YEAR,BENE_STATE_ABRVTN,BENE_COUNTY_DESC,TOT_BENES,PRSCRPTN_DRUG_TOT_BENES&filter\[YearFilter\]\[condition\]\[path\]=YEAR&filter\[YearFilter\]\[condition\]\[operator\]=>%3D&filter\[YearFilter\]\[condition\]\[value\]=2019&filter\[MONTH\]=Year&filter\[BENE_GEO_LVL\]=County&filter\[BENE_STATE_ABRVTN\]=GA&filter\[BENE_COUNTY_DESC\]=Fulton](https://data.cms.gov/data-api/v1/dataset/93bd5bd2-4160-4890-ac4c-7357a1dbef8d/data?offset=0&size=1000&column=YEAR,BENE_STATE_ABRVTN,BENE_COUNTY_DESC,TOT_BENES,PRSCRPTN_DRUG_TOT_BENES&filter[YearFilter][condition][path]=YEAR&filter[YearFilter][condition][operator]=>%3D&filter[YearFilter][condition][value]=2019&filter[MONTH]=Year&filter[BENE_GEO_LVL]=County&filter[BENE_STATE_ABRVTN]=GA&filter[BENE_COUNTY_DESC]=Fulton)

Query field in Web.Contents

- = [
- offset="0",
- size="1000",
- column="YEAR,BENE_STATE_ABRVTN,BENE_COUNTY_DESC,TOT_BENES,PRSCRIPTN_DRUG_TOT_BENES",
- #"filter[YearFilter][condition][path]"="YEAR",
- #"filter[YearFilter][condition][operator]"=">=",
- #"filter[YearFilter][condition][value]"="2019",
- #"filter[MONTH]"="Year",
- #"filter[BENE_GEO_LVL]"="County",
- #"filter[BENE_STATE_ABRVTN]"="GA",
- #"filter[BENE_COUNTY_DESC]"="Fulton"
-]

Anatomy of an HTTP request

- Request Line
 - HTTP Method (GET, POST, etc)
 - URL (<http://www.google.com>)
 - HTTP Version
- Headers
 - Content-Type: text/html
- Message Body

[HTTP Requests Defined: What They Are & How They Work – Sematext](https://sematext.com/glossary/http-requests/)
<https://sematext.com/glossary/http-requests/>

Health Insurance Marketplace

- Government run interface for finding health insurance
- Targets are people who have difficulty (lack of income, etc) finding insurance



Marketplace API

- [Marketplace API \(cms.gov\)](https://developer.cms.gov/marketplace-api/)
 - <https://developer.cms.gov/marketplace-api/>
- [API Specifications - Marketplace API \(cms.gov\)](https://developer.cms.gov/marketplace-api/api-spec)
 - <https://developer.cms.gov/marketplace-api/api-spec>

API Specifications - Marketplace API (cms.gov)

The screenshot shows the CMS Developer Marketplace API Specification page. At the top, there's a header with 'CMS Developer' and links for 'About' and 'Contact'. Below this is a large blue banner with the text 'Marketplace API Specification' and a sub-header 'Use the API that powers HealthCare.gov to develop applications with health insurance plans, providers, and coverage information for issuers on the exchange.' A button 'Request an API key --' is visible. Below the banner, there's a section for 'Schemes' with a dropdown menu set to 'HTTPS'. To the right of this is an 'Authorize' button. Further right is a 'Resources' section with a 'Filter by tag' input field and a list of resources: 'Geography', 'Provider & Drug Coverage', 'Households & Eligibility', 'Insurance Plans', and 'Insurance Issuers'. Below the 'Schemes' section, there's a 'Marketplace API' section with a 'View Raw' button and a base URL: 'https://marketplace.api.healthcare.gov/api/v1/'. An 'About' section is partially visible at the bottom.

drug coverage for a specific plan. Other endpoints, like looking up doctors and providers, or getting recent state medicaid information, are covered in the docs.

Search for health insurance plans

We begin by searching for the health insurance plans for a 27 year-old woman living in North Carolina by posting a single person household to the plan search endpoint

```
apikey="d687412e7b53146b2631dc01974ad0a4" # rate limited test key
curl --request POST \
  --url "https://marketplace.api.healthcare.gov/api/v1/plans/search?apikey=${apikey}" \
  --header 'content-type: application/json' \
  --data '{
    "household": {
      "income": 52000,
      "people": [
        {
          "age": 27,
          "aptc_eligible": true,
          "gender": "Female",
          "uses_tobacco": false
        }
      ]
    },
    "market": "Individual",
    "place": {
      "countyfips": "37057",
      "state": "NC",
      "zipcode": "27360"
    },
    "year": 2019
  }'
```

This **POST** request returns health insurance information and pricing estimates for the plans for which she can sign up. More discussion about building the household JSON object can be found later on this page. Don't know the county **FIPS** code? To look it up for this person's zip code, we use the counties by zip endpoint.

```
apikey="d687412e7b53146b2631dc01974ad0a4"
zipcode="27360"
curl "https://marketplace.api.healthcare.gov/api/v1/counties/by/zip/${zipcode}?apikey=${apik
```

This helps gather the necessary information to build the household object to submit to the API.

Resources

Filter by tag

- Geography
- Provider & Drug Coverage
- Households & Eligibility
- Insurance Plans
- Insurance Issuers
- Enrollments
- API Reference
- Bulk Data
- default

Getting web content in Power Query

```
WebContent = Web.Contents(URL,  
[Headers=Headers, Content=JsonDoc])
```

Structure of POST Data

- Data is in JSON format
 - `{"market":"Individual","place":{"countyfips":"48439","state":"TX","zipcode":"76039"},"year":2024}`
- Data for a POST can be in other formats: XML, Name value, etc.
- In Power Query, with JSON, easiest to start with Record structure
- Convert the Record structure to text

```
{"market":"Individual","place":{"countyfips":"48439", "state":"TX" ,  
"zipcode":"76039"}, "year":2024}
```

```
content = [  
    market= "Individual",  
    place= [  
        countyfips= "48439",  
        state= "TX",  
        zipcode= ZipCode  
    ],  
    year= 2024  
],  
JsonDoc = Json.FromValue(content)
```


Header in Power Query

- Pass in a record
- Headers = [#"Content-Type"="application/json"]

Additional resources

- [Power Query Web connector - Power Query | Microsoft Learn](#)
 - <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/power-query/connectors/web/web>
- [Create a POST request with Power BI – PBI Guy \(pbi-guy.com\)](#)
 - <https://pbi-guy.com/2023/05/21/create-a-post-request-with-power-bi/>
- [\(3\) POST Requests in Power Query | LinkedIn](#)
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/post-requests-power-query-alex-reed/>
- [Making a POST Request Using Power Query \(youtube.com\)](#)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbt45XCD5RU>
- [Easy POST requests with Power BI and Power Query using Json.FromValue – \(thebiccountant.com\)](#)
 - <https://www.thebiccountant.com/2018/06/05/easy-post-requests-with-power-bi-and-power-query-using-json-fromvalue/>

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