Medicare COVID-19 Hospitalization Trends Report

Data Dictionary

Variable Name	Term Name	Definition
Year	Year	Identifies the year in which the COVID-19 hospitalization occurred.
Month	Month	Identifies the month in which the COVID-19 hospitalization occurred. Data aggregated at the biannual level are identified by "First half" and "Second half". Data aggregated at the year level are identified by "Overall".
Bene_Geo_Desc	Geography Description	The data is aggregated to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and a "Territories" category (all other outlying areas of the US). The state of the beneficiary is based on mailing address. If a beneficiary's state of residence is unknown, the beneficiary is assigned to the "Missing Data" category. Data aggregated at the National level are identified by "National'.
Bene_Mdcd_Mdcr_Enrl_Stus	Beneficiary Medicare Enrollment Description	Identifies whether a beneficiary is eligible for Medicare only or is enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid. A beneficiary who was enrolled at any time in Medicare and Medicaid simultaneously during the snapshot time period are considered Dual Medicare and Medicaid. A beneficiary enrolled in Medicare alone is Medicare Only. Please note that for beneficiaries enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid, only claims and encounters covered by Medicare are included in this data.
Bene_Race_Desc	Beneficiary Race/Ethnicity Description	The race/ethnicity classifications are: American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), White, Black/African American, Asian/ Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and Other/Unknown. In the snapshot, a beneficiary's race/ethnicity is created by taking the beneficiary race code that has historically been used by the Social Security Administration and applying an algorithm that improves the race/ethnicity classification. This algorithm was developed by the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and is thus often referred to as the "RTI race code".
Bene_Sex_Desc	Beneficiary Sex Description	A beneficiary's sex is available from the CMS enrollment database and is classified as Male/Female.
Bene_Mdcr_Entlmt_Stus	Beneficiary Medicare Entitlement Status	The data is aggregated to the beneficiary's type of Medicare entitlement: Aged, Disabled, and those with end stage renal disease (ESRD). Medicare entitlement can change over time. For purposes of this reporting, beneficiaries who at any time during the snapshot time period had ESRD, were Aged with ESRD or were Disabled with ESRD are classified as ESRD; otherwise beneficiaries are classified as Disabled or Aged.

Medicare COVID-19 Hospitalization Trends Report

Data Dictionary

Variable Name	Term Name	Definition
Bene_Age_Desc	Beneficiary Age Description	A beneficiary's age is measured at the end of the year during which they had a hospitalization, or at the time when the beneficiary died.
Bene_RUCA_Desc	Beneficiary Rural/Urban Status	Rural/Urban status is defined using the beneficiary's mailing ZIP code and the Rural Urban Commuting Area Crosswalk (RUCA). The RUCA crosswalk relies on commuting data from the US Census, as well as ZIP Codes to define Rural and Urban locations.
Total_Hosp	Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations	A count of stays with a diagnosis of COVID-19 on a claim or encounter record for an inpatient hospital setting. Hospitalizations are counted in the month in which the stay began.
Total_Enrl	Total Medicare Enrollment	The total Medicare Population with Part A insurance
Total_Hosp_Per100K	Total Medicare COVID-19 Hospitalizations per 100,000	The rate of Medicare COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 is calculated by taking Medicare COVID-19 Hospitalizations divided by the Medicare Population with Part A insurance, expressed as per 100,000.
AVG_los	Average Length of Stay	The average length of stay of Medicare COVID-19 hospitalizations
Pct_Dschrg_SNF	Percent Discharged to SNF	The percent of Medicare COVID-19 hospitalizations that ended with a discharge status to a Skilled Nursing Facility.
Pct_Dschrg_Expired	Percent Discharged to Expired	The percent of Medicare COVID-19 hospitalizations that ended with the beneficiary expiring.
Pct_Dschrg_Home	Percent Discharged to Home	The percent of Medicare COVID-19 hospitalizations that ended with a discharge status to the beneficiary's home or assisted living/nursing home.
Pct_Dschrg_Hspc	Percent Discharged to Hospice	The percent of Medicare COVID-19 hospitalizations that ended with a discharge status to a hospice.
Pct_Dschrg_HomeHealth	Percent Discharged to Home Health	The percent of Medicare COVID-19 hospitalizations that ended with a discharge status to home health.
Pct_Dschrg_Other	Percent Discharged to Other/Unknown	The percent of Medicare COVID-19 hospitalizations that ended with a discharge status of not covered by the categories above. In 2020, 6.79% of hospitalizations had an Other discharge status as did 6.82% of hospitalizations in 2021. The top three discharge status codes in this category are: inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF); long term care hospital (LTCH); and short term general hospital.