

BEFORE MEDICARE

of those aged 65+

LESS THAN
50%
had insurance

35%
lived in poverty

LIFE EXPECTANCY WAS ABOUT

8
years less
for men

5
years less
for women

FUN FACTS

President Harry Truman was the first official Medicare enrollee



\$3

The monthly Part B premium was only \$3.00

MEDICARE WAS OFFICIALLY SIGNED INTO LAW ON **July 30, 1965**

More than 19 million people enrolled in Medicare's first year

19M

Access to care increased by one-third

1/3

Poverty among older and disabled Americans decreased by nearly two-thirds

2/3

Personal economic security increased for older people and their families



MEDICARE HAS SERVED AMERICA WELL, AND INCREASED HEALTH EQUITY

1965



Any hospital wishing to accept Medicare was required to desegregate. As a result, 1,000+ hospitals integrated staff and patients in 4 months.

1972



Disability coverage is introduced for people under 65 with long-term disabilities. More than 6 million people with disabilities gain health insurance.

Congress acts so people no longer need hospital or nursing home care to get Home Health coverage, and the 100-visit limit is removed, improving access to home care for people with long-term and chronic conditions.

1980



1982



Hospice coverage is added, impacting millions of Americans. Almost half of the beneficiaries who died in 2013 received hospice care.

1985



Any hospital that participates in Medicare and has an ER is required to provide basic stabilizing treatments to all, regardless of insurance status.

1992



Medicare Supplement Insurance ("Medigap") plans are standardized, making coverage more understandable and Medicare more affordable by covering beneficiary cost-sharing.

2006



Prescription drug coverage is added to Medicare, but only through private plans, not traditional Medicare. This encourages people to join private Medicare, at greater expense to the program.

2008



Mental health coverage is improved, controlling program costs and increasing parity.

2010



The Affordable Care Act positively impacts Medicare with:
10 years of economic security for the Medicare Trust Fund
Free preventive benefits and annual Wellness Visit
Increased payment parity between private Medicare Advantage plans and traditional Medicare
Better Part D prescription drug coverage

2012



"Improvement Standard" clarified by Jimmo v. Sebelius Settlement: Center for Medicare Advocacy wins lawsuit confirming Medicare is available for skilled maintenance nursing or therapy, increasing access to health care for people with long-term and chronic conditions.

Today there are more than **54M** people enrolled in Medicare.

MEDICARE IS A SUCCESS. KEEP IT STRONG.

TODAY

TO KEEP ITS PROMISE FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, WE NEED TO:

Pay private Medicare Advantage plans the same per-beneficiary rate as traditional Medicare, saving \$132 billion over 10 years.

Require Medicare to obtain the best prices for prescription drugs, including negotiating drug prices, saving \$141 billion over 10 years.

Add a prescription drug benefit to traditional Medicare.

Eliminate the unnecessary second level of the traditional Medicare Appeals process ("Reconsideration"), saving more than \$100 million per year in operating costs.

For other recommendations to strengthen Medicare, see bit.ly/medicareolutions. For more information visit MedicareAdvocacy.org or follow us on Twitter @CMAorg and on Facebook at facebook.com/MedicareAdvocacy.org.