

Medicare By the Numbers

1965- The year the Medicare program was established.

48 million – The number of people served by Medicare in 2011.

10,000—The number of baby boomers who, starting on January 1, 2011, will turn 65 every day for the next 19 years.¹

2016—The year the Medicare Actuary predicts insolvency could hit the Medicare program.²

\$530 billion—The amount cut from Medicare by the President’s controversial health care law to spend on programs not for seniors.³

15—The number of unelected, unaccountable, politically-connected czars that will serve on the Independent Payment Advisory Board under the controversial new health care law, which is charged with developing proposals to reduce the growth of Medicare under the new health care law.

70 years—The average life expectancy when Medicare was established almost 50 years ago.⁴ Today, life expectancy is approaching 80 years of age.⁵

79 million—The number of people who will enroll in Medicare by 2030, nearly doubling the total number of people served by the program in 2000.⁶

\$3—The beneficiary premium envisioned when Medicare was established and the government and beneficiaries were expected to each cover 50 percent of the costs.⁷

300 percent – The amount on average that seniors today receive in Medicare benefits compared to what they paid in their payroll taxes.⁸

9 out of 10—Medicare beneficiaries take up some form of supplemental coverage due to the lack of comprehensive coverage in the fee-for-service benefit design.⁹

\$932 billion—Medicare spending projected in 2020 under current law.¹⁰

\$100 billion—AARP estimates this amount in Medicare and Medicaid fraud each year.¹¹

\$36.8 trillion—Medicare’s long-term unfunded liability.¹²

¹ <http://pewresearch.org/databank/dailynumber/?NumberID=1150>

² <https://www.cms.gov/ReportsTrustFunds/downloads/tr2011.pdf>

³ <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/113xx/doc11355/hr4872.pdf>

⁴ <http://thomas.loc.gov/medicare/eligib.htm#4a>

⁵ http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr59/nvsr59_04.pdf

⁶ <http://www.medpac.gov/documents/jun10databookentirereport.pdf>, pg. 24

⁷ President Lyndon B. Johnson’s Remarks With President Truman at the Signing in Independence of the Medicare Bill. July 30, 1965.

<http://www.liblib.utexas.edu/johnson/archives.hom/speeches.hom/650730.asp>

⁸ <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/social-security-medicare-benefits-over-lifetime.pdf>

⁹ http://www.medpac.gov/chapters/Jun11_Ch03.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2011/10/the-first-stage-of-medicare-reform-fixing-the-current-program#_ftn4

¹¹ http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2010-09-29/news/os-ed-medicare-fraud-gingrich-093010-20100929_1_health-care-fraud-home-health-medicare-and-medicaid

¹² <http://www.cms.gov/ReportsTrustFunds/Downloads/2011TRAlternativeScenario.pdf>

\$7 trillion—The Congressional Budget Office projects that the Federal budget deficits will total \$7 trillion over the next decade if current laws remain unchanged.¹³

15+ trillion—Our unprecedented national debt.¹⁴

41 percent – Medicare actuaries show the 10-year costs of Medicare Part D coming in 41 percent below estimates when the bill was passed.¹⁵

4 out of 5 – The number of Medigap enrollees who would see a reduction in net out-of-pocket costs under Medigap reforms, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.¹⁶

60,000 – The number of seniors enrolled in Medicare Part B in June 2011 with annual income over \$1 million.¹⁷

\$48 billion – HHS' reported estimate of Medicare's improper payments in Fiscal Year 2010.¹⁸

2022 – The year the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects the Medicare program will be insolvent.¹⁹

¹³ <http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=12085>

¹⁴ <http://www.usdebtclock.org/>

¹⁵ <https://www.cms.gov/ReportsTrustFunds/downloads/tr2011.pdf>

¹⁶ <http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/8208.pdf>

¹⁷ http://www.coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?a=Files.Serve&File_id=bb1c90bc-660c-477e-91e6-91c970fbee1f

¹⁸ <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11842t.pdf>

¹⁹ http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/126xx/doc12699/01-31-2012_Outlook.pdf