

Medicare, Medicaid, and dual enrollment for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT



Due to high unemployment rates, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely on Medicaid, Medicare, or both to cover their healthcare expenses



Medicaid is public health insurance for low-income and disabled children and adults
Medicare is public health insurance for older-adults (≥ 65 years) and some with disabilities



Some disabled adults become eligible for Medicare before they turn 65, but we don't know much about why some of them use Medicare services while others do not

WHAT WE DID

We described the duration of Medicare enrollment for adults ≥ 18 years with intellectual and developmental disabilities in 2019 and then compare demographics by enrollment type (Medicare-only, Medicaid-only, dual-enrolled).

Demographic comparison for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by public health insurer, 2019.

		Medicare	Medicaid	Dual
		N= 149,172	N= 819,256	N= 433,696
		%	%	%
Sex	Male	58.8	60.2	57.6
	Female	41.2	39.7	42.4
Race	White	71.9	58.5	73.2
	Black	17.4	25.4	21.0
	Other	0.7	0.5	1.0
	Asian	1.2	3.8	2.1
	Hispanic	7.7	19.6	9.2
	Native American	1.0	2.2	0.9
IDD	Down syndrome	7.3	6.0	13.6
	Autism	16.3	33.9	20.1
	Intellectual disability	76.4	60.1	66.3

WHAT WE FOUND

13.6

AGE

Percent of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with any Medicare insurance are older than 65 years. Most are young adults



RACIAL / ETHNIC DIFFERENCES

Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities enrolled in Medicaid-only were more likely to be Hispanic, and younger compared to those in Medicare-only and dual-enrolled.



STATES

In AK, NM, and ID, $>45\%$ were Medicare-only. IA, SD, and ND had $>45\%$ dual-enrolled. AK, PR, VI, and NV had $<15\%$ dual-enrolled. Twenty states had $>90\%$ in Medicaid (Medicaid-only or dual)

CONCLUSIONS

500,000 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely on Medicare, with 75% being dual-enrolled in Medicaid. Action is needed to ensure all are insured in the program that works for their healthcare needs.



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