

Report for Congress

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Medicare Prescription Drug Proposals: Estimates of Aged Beneficiaries Who Fall Below Income Criteria, by State

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Summary

Medicare, the nationwide health insurance program for the aged and disabled, does not cover most outpatient prescription drugs. To address this gap in the Medicare benefit, proposals in both the House and the Senate in the 107th Congress would have covered at least a portion of beneficiaries' prescription drug costs. The bills included additional assistance for low-income beneficiaries. The assistance would have been in the form of reduced, subsidized or eliminated premiums, deductibles and other cost-sharing. Proposals in the 108th Congress will probably also include some of these features for low-income beneficiaries.

Eligibility for assistance under these proposals was tied to beneficiaries' income and, in some of the bills, also to their assets, or "resources." The proposals would have provided various levels of assistance to beneficiaries with incomes below 100%, 135%, 150%, 175% and 200% of the federal poverty guideline. However, not all of a beneficiary's income is included in this calculation. The bills specified that income is to be counted as it is for determining eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which excludes certain amounts and types of income. The following analysis approximates, by state, the percentage and number of aged noninstitutionalized Medicare beneficiaries who meet the income requirements of these proposals based on beneficiaries' income as counted for SSI eligibility purposes.

Average state-level estimates of the proportion of aged noninstitutionalized Medicare beneficiaries with incomes below the bills' specified levels were calculated using the Current Population Survey (CPS). Besides providing capabilities for state-level estimates, the survey obtains income information detailed enough to exclude the amounts and types of income as proscribed for SSI eligibility. Unfortunately, because the CPS does not provide information on assets, it is not possible to estimate the proportion of seniors who may be ineligible for assistance because of their assets even though they may fall below an income threshold.

Most of the major Medicare prescription drug bills of the 107th Congress would have covered all of the cost-sharing and generally all of the premiums for beneficiaries with incomes up to either 135% or 150% of the federal poverty level. Over the 3 years from 1999 to 2001, an estimated 28% of aged noninstitutionalized Medicare beneficiaries had countable income below 135% of poverty. The results by state vary widely. The average percentage of aged noninstitutionalized beneficiaries with countable income below 135% of poverty ranged from 18% in Wisconsin to 43% in Mississippi. More than one in three aged noninstitutionalized Medicare beneficiaries (34%) had countable income below 150% of poverty. These estimates are based on survey data and must be interpreted with caution.

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Medicare Prescription Drug Proposals: Estimates of Aged Beneficiaries Who Fall Below Income Criteria, by State

Background

Medicare, the nationwide health insurance program for 41 million aged (65 and older) and disabled individuals, does not cover most outpatient prescription drugs. To address this gap in the Medicare benefit, proposals in both the House and the Senate in the 107th Congress would have covered at least a portion of beneficiaries' prescription drug costs.¹ The bills included additional assistance for low-income beneficiaries. The assistance would have been in the form of reduced, subsidized or eliminated premiums, deductibles and other cost-sharing. Proposals in the 108th Congress will probably also include some of these features for low-income beneficiaries.

Eligibility for assistance under these proposals was tied to beneficiaries' income and, in some of the bills, also to their assets, or "resources." The proposals would have provided various levels of assistance to beneficiaries with incomes below 100%, 135%, 150%, 175% and 200% of the federal poverty guideline. However, not all of a beneficiary's income is included in this calculation. The bills specified that income is to be counted as it is for determining eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which excludes certain amounts and types of income. The following analysis approximates, by state, the percentage and number of aged noninstitutionalized Medicare beneficiaries who meet the income requirements of these proposals based on beneficiaries' income as counted for SSI eligibility purposes. *The asset (or "resource") requirements included in some proposals were not factored into the analysis.* This analysis relies on a 3-year average of self-reported income from national survey data covering 1999-2001.

In this report, beneficiaries' income is compared to the federal poverty guidelines. The poverty guidelines are published by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and are used for program eligibility purposes. For Medicare beneficiaries in particular, the poverty guidelines are used to determine beneficiaries' eligibility as Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs) or Specified Low-income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMBs), both of which entitle beneficiaries to additional assistance for cost-sharing and premiums. The low-income provisions of the Medicare prescription drug bills in the 107th Congress were typically linked to these programs' definitions of income and therefore also use the federal poverty guidelines

¹ See CRS Report RL31496, *Medicare: Major Prescription Drug Provisions in Selected Bills*.

for determining eligibility.² This is discussed in greater detail in the Sources and Limitations section of this report.

Activities of the 107th Congress

Under the House-passed plan (H.R. 4954, introduced by Representative Nancy Johnson), beneficiaries with countable income³ below 175% of the federal poverty guideline and countable resources of less than \$4,000 (or \$6,000 per couple) would have received assistance with their premiums and cost-sharing. These beneficiaries would have had their cost-sharing reduced such that they would have been required to pay no more than \$2 per prescription for a multiple source or generic drug and no more than \$5 for a non-preferred brand-name drug. Qualifying beneficiaries with countable income below 150% of poverty would have received a premium subsidy to cover the value of standard drug coverage provided by the beneficiary's plan; if the enrollee had chosen a higher-value plan, no subsidy would have been provided for additional costs. For those with countable income between 150% and 175% of poverty, the premium subsidy would have been reduced as income rose; there would have been no subsidy at 175% of poverty or above.

Under the Medicare Rx Drug Benefit and Discount Act of 2002 (H.R. 5019, introduced by Representative Charles Rangel), all premiums and cost-sharing would have been paid for beneficiaries with countable income less than 150% of poverty and up to \$4,000 in countable resources, or \$6,000 per couple. For beneficiaries below the countable-resources limit but with countable income between 150% and 175% of poverty, the premium subsidy would have been reduced on a sliding scale, although Medicaid would still have covered all cost-sharing.

The Senate bill known as the "tripartisan" bill (21st Century Medicare Act, S. 2729, introduced by Senator Charles Grassley) would have provided full premium subsidies for those with countable income below 135% of poverty, if the beneficiary chose a private prescription-drug plan at or below the national weighted average. If such a plan were not available, the subsidy would have covered the least expensive plan in the area. To qualify, beneficiaries would also have been limited to \$4,000 of countable resources, or \$6,000 per couple.

Under the tripartisan plan, beneficiaries would still have paid some out-of-pocket expenses toward the deductible and coinsurance. For qualifying low-income beneficiaries, the annual deductible (\$250 for 2005, for standard coverage) would have been reduced to 5% of the plan's usual amount (in this case, \$12.50). For the plan's coverage for drug expenditures between the deductible and the initial coverage limit (that is, between \$250 and \$3,450 for 2005, for standard coverage), the coinsurance for qualifying low-income beneficiaries would have been reduced to

² For 2003, the poverty guidelines in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia were \$8,980 for one person and \$12,120 for a family of two. For this report, when a percentage is given as a "percent of poverty" or as a "percent of the poverty level," this refers to the federal poverty guideline.

³ That is, income as counted under eligibility guidelines for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which is described in detail in the Source and Limitations section of this report.

2.5% from 50%. For the range of spending in which the beneficiary would generally be responsible for all costs (that is, between the initial coverage limit and the stop-loss amount), qualifying low-income beneficiaries would have been responsible for only half of the costs. Above the stop-loss limit (\$3,700 in out-of-pocket spending, which includes amounts paid under the low-income subsidy), qualifying low-income beneficiaries would have paid none of the costs, rather than the typical 10%. Eligibility for the premium subsidies and cost-sharing assistance also would have required countable resources of no more than \$4,000, or \$6,000 per couple. For those who would have qualified because of their assets but had income between 135% and 150% of poverty, sliding-scale premium subsidies would have been provided. The only cost-sharing assistance they would have received would have been the 50% reduction of out-of-pocket payments for spending between the initial coverage limit and the stop-loss amount.

Two amendments for adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare were offered by Senator Bob Graham to S. 812 (Greater Access to Affordable Pharmaceuticals Act of 2002). Neither of the amendments considered countable resources as a factor in eligibility for assistance. Under S.Amdt. 4309 (known as the Graham Amendment), beneficiaries would have paid nothing for the premium of the new prescription drug benefit if their countable income was under 135% of poverty, with a sliding scale subsidy up to 150% of poverty. All cost-sharing (e.g., deductibles and copayments) would also have been covered for those with countable income under 135% of poverty. Under S.Amdt. 4345 (known as the Graham-Smith Amendment), beneficiaries' enrollment fees would have been paid by the government if their countable income was less than 200% of poverty. Also, they would have paid no more than \$2 for a generic drug and no more than \$5 for a brand-name drug.

The low-income provisions of the selected Medicare prescription drug bills of the 107th Congress are summarized in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Low-Income Provisions of Selected Medicare Prescription Drug Bills of the 107th Congress

Bill	Countable income limit and scope of assistance	Countable assets limit
H.R. 4954	<p>0%-<150% FPL: Premium subsidy set at 100% of standard drug coverage</p> <p>150%-<175% FPL: Sliding-scale premium subsidy</p> <p>For both categories, ≤\$2 multi-source, generic copay, ≤\$5 nonpreferred brand; no deductible; no coverage for costs between initial coverage limit and out-of-pocket maximum</p>	Less than \$4,000, or \$6,000 for couples
H.R. 5019	<p>0%-<150% FPL: All premiums and cost-sharing</p> <p>150%-<175% FPL: All cost-sharing; sliding-scale premium subsidy</p>	Less than \$4,000, or \$6,000 for couples
S. 2729	<p>0%-<135% FPL: Premium subsidy set at 100% of national weighted average premium or, if no plan is available at this price, set at lowest cost plan. Deductible reduced to 5% of plan's usual amount. Beneficiary's coinsurance reduced to 2.5% from 50% for first tier (between deductible and initial coverage limit). Beneficiary's coinsurance reduced to 50% from 100% for second tier (between initial coverage limit and stop-loss amount). Beneficiary's coinsurance above stop-loss amount reduced to 0% from 10%.</p> <p>135%-150% FPL: Sliding-scale premium subsidy. Beneficiary's coinsurance reduced to 50% from 100% for second tier.</p>	Less than \$4,000, or \$6,000 for couples
S.Amdt. 4309	<p>0%-<135% FPL: All premiums, cost-sharing</p> <p>135%-<150% FPL: Sliding-scale premium subsidy</p>	No assets test
S.Amdt. 4345	0%-<200% FPL: Enrollment fee covered; ≤\$2 generic copay, ≤\$5 brand name copay	No assets test

Note: FPL is federal poverty level.

Estimates by State

To qualify for low-income assistance benefits under the major Medicare prescription drug proposals of the 107th Congress, beneficiaries' countable income had to be below 135%, 150%, 175% or 200% of the federal poverty guideline. **Table 2** shows estimates of the percentage of noninstitutionalized aged Medicare beneficiaries (hereafter referred to as "beneficiaries") in each of these categories, for each state. **Table 2** also includes the percentage of beneficiaries with countable income below 100% of the federal poverty guideline. These estimates are based on beneficiaries' (and their spouses') income, as counted for SSI eligibility purposes, compared to the HHS's poverty guidelines. This differs from the typical poverty-level analyses that use total family income and compare it to the Census Bureau's poverty threshold. This is discussed in greater detail in the following section.

Nationwide, 28% of Medicare beneficiaries have countable income below 135% of the federal poverty guideline. The results by state vary widely. The average percentage of beneficiaries with countable income below 135% of poverty ranged from 18% in Wisconsin to 43% in Mississippi. In 20 states, the proportion below 135% of poverty was significantly less than the national average. In 15 states, including many states in the South, and in the District of Columbia, the proportion below 135% of poverty was significantly higher than the national average.

For the other percentages below poverty, many of the same states have rates significantly different than the national average. Nationally, more than one in three aged noninstitutionalized Medicare beneficiaries (34%) had countable income below 150% of poverty. Forty-two percent of beneficiaries were below 175% of poverty. Nearly half (49%) had countable income of less than twice the poverty guideline.

Table 2. Estimated Average Percentage and Number of Aged Medicare Beneficiaries with Incomes Below Specified Levels of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, by State, 1999-2001

State	Below 100% of poverty		Below 135% of poverty		Below 150% of poverty		Below 175% of poverty		Below 200% of poverty	
	Average	Estimated	Average	Estimated	Average	Estimated	Average	Estimated	Average	Estimated
Alabama	21.4%	** 112,000	34.3%	** 179,000	42.5%	** 222,000	50.8%	** 265,000	55.4%	** 289,000
Alaska	14.1%	5,000	28.0%	10,000	33.4%	11,000	41.7%	14,000	48.9%	17,000
Arizona	11.5%	* 66,000	21.5%	* 123,000	26.6%	* 153,000	34.0%	* 195,000	41.7%	* 239,000
Arkansas	19.3%	** 73,000	33.0%	** 124,000	41.1%	** 155,000	49.5%	** 186,000	57.1%	** 215,000
California	14.1%	440,000	29.0%	904,000	34.8%	1,081,000	42.1%	1,308,000	48.3%	1,504,000
Colorado	10.5%	* 41,000	20.9%	* 83,000	26.9%	* 106,000	35.9%	* 142,000	43.4%	* 171,000
Connecticut	12.4%	59,000	22.0%	* 105,000	28.8%	* 137,000	34.9%	* 166,000	41.6%	* 198,000
Delaware	10.7%	* 10,000	23.5%	* 22,000	28.5%	* 26,000	37.8%	* 35,000	43.8%	* 40,000
District of Columbia	26.6%	** 16,000	40.0%	** 24,000	43.2%	** 26,000	49.0%	** 30,000	53.5%	33,000
Florida	14.3%	369,000	27.4%	705,000	33.1%	851,000	41.0%	1,056,000	48.7%	1,253,000
Georgia	21.0%	** 153,000	34.6%	** 253,000	41.4%	** 304,000	48.4%	** 355,000	54.9%	** 403,000
Hawaii	18.5%	** 26,000	30.7%	43,000	34.3%	48,000	41.2%	58,000	46.9%	66,000
Idaho	11.3%	* 16,000	25.0%	36,000	31.1%	44,000	38.5%	55,000	47.1%	67,000
Illinois	12.6%	* 164,000	24.6%	* 322,000	30.5%	* 399,000	38.7%	* 508,000	46.3%	* 607,000
Indiana	9.2%	* 70,000	26.5%	202,000	31.9%	243,000	41.1%	314,000	49.7%	379,000
Iowa	9.3%	* 36,000	22.4%	* 88,000	28.4%	* 111,000	39.5%	154,000	47.6%	186,000
Kansas	9.7%	* 35,000	23.8%	* 87,000	29.2%	* 107,000	37.5%	* 137,000	45.8%	167,000
Kentucky	18.6%	** 85,000	34.6%	** 159,000	40.5%	** 186,000	48.5%	** 223,000	55.7%	** 256,000
Louisiana	21.0%	** 95,000	37.4%	** 171,000	42.9%	** 196,000	50.6%	** 232,000	57.3%	** 263,000
Maine	13.9%	24,000	30.1%	54,000	37.3%	67,000	46.0%	** 82,000	53.3%	** 96,000
Maryland	16.1%	104,000	27.8%	178,000	31.1%	198,000	36.5%	* 233,000	42.2%	* 269,000
Massachusetts	15.9%	123,000	28.7%	222,000	35.7%	275,000	44.5%	343,000	50.3%	388,000
Michigan	11.2%	* 125,000	22.9%	* 255,000	29.0%	* 322,000	38.1%	* 424,000	46.2%	* 515,000
Minnesota	12.5%	60,000	25.6%	123,000	30.5%	147,000	37.6%	* 179,000	45.4%	* 216,000
Mississippi	28.4%	** 93,000	43.0%	** 141,000	48.4%	** 159,000	56.1%	** 185,000	61.2%	** 202,000
Missouri	12.3%	* 76,000	23.9%	* 147,000	27.6%	* 171,000	40.2%	249,000	47.2%	293,000
Montana	11.6%	* 14,000	24.3%	* 29,000	30.3%	* 36,000	38.8%	46,000	46.7%	55,000
Nebraska	14.3%	29,000	27.8%	56,000	34.6%	69,000	41.9%	83,000	49.6%	99,000
Nevada	12.0%	* 25,000	23.7%	* 51,000	30.7%	65,000	39.1%	83,000	46.2%	98,000
New Hampshire	11.5%	* 18,000	22.8%	* 35,000	28.4%	* 44,000	37.4%	* 58,000	46.7%	73,000
New Jersey	13.6%	147,000	24.8%	* 270,000	30.8%	* 335,000	38.6%	* 420,000	45.2%	* 493,000
New Mexico	18.6%	** 41,000	34.2%	** 75,000	39.3%	** 86,000	45.7%	100,000	51.6%	113,000
New York	19.2%	** 437,000	31.6%	** 721,000	38.4%	** 876,000	45.6%	** 1,040,000	52.8%	** 1,203,000
North Carolina	21.2%	** 196,000	35.6%	** 329,000	40.9%	** 378,000	47.0%	** 435,000	55.0%	** 509,000

State	Below 100% of poverty		Below 135% of poverty		Below 150% of poverty		Below 175% of poverty		Below 200% of poverty	
	Average	Estimated	Average	Estimated	Average	Estimated	Average	Estimated	Average	Estimated
North Dakota	15.4%	14,000	31.7% **	28,000	37.8% **	34,000	49.6% **	44,000	56.5% **	50,000
Ohio	11.6% *	160,000	25.1% *	349,000	30.0% *	416,000	38.7% *	537,000	47.5%	660,000
Oklahoma	14.4%	64,000	26.9%	120,000	32.0%	142,000	40.4%	180,000	47.2%	211,000
Oregon	9.8% *	37,000	20.6% *	78,000	26.1% *	99,000	36.1% *	136,000	44.5% *	168,000
Pennsylvania	12.1% *	203,000	25.4% *	425,000	30.9% *	515,000	39.9% *	667,000	49.2%	821,000
Rhode Island	15.1%	24,000	31.5% **	49,000	37.8% **	59,000	46.6% **	73,000	54.2% **	85,000
South Carolina	18.6% **	92,000	33.3% **	164,000	38.0% **	187,000	46.7% **	231,000	55.4% **	273,000
South Dakota	11.7% *	12,000	24.9% *	26,000	30.3% *	31,000	38.5% *	39,000	48.0%	49,000
Tennessee	22.0% **	133,000	37.7% **	227,000	43.1% **	260,000	50.9% **	306,000	58.6% **	352,000
Texas	18.8% **	372,000	32.6% **	646,000	38.7% **	767,000	46.8% **	929,000	52.6% **	1,043,000
Utah	12.0% *	20,000	23.7% *	39,000	28.1% *	46,000	39.7%	65,000	46.1%	75,000
Vermont	17.2%	11,000	33.0% **	22,000	40.4% **	27,000	48.6% **	32,000	56.7% **	38,000
Virginia	14.7%	117,000	27.3%	216,000	34.8%	276,000	42.9%	341,000	49.8%	395,000
Washington	12.8%	78,000	22.1% *	136,000	26.6% *	165,000	35.3% *	220,000	41.7% *	259,000
West Virginia	16.1%	45,000	28.9%	81,000	35.5%	99,000	46.5% **	130,000	53.9% **	151,000
Wisconsin	8.1% *	51,000	18.1% *	115,000	24.5% *	156,000	34.3% *	219,000	43.4% *	276,000
Wyoming	13.2%	7,000	27.6%	15,000	34.0%	19,000	43.5%	24,000	52.7%	29,000
United States	14.9%	4,826,000	28.1%	9,062,000	33.9%	10,935,000	42.1%	13,566,000	49.3%	15,911,000

Source: Table prepared by the Congressional Research Service based on data from the March supplement of the Current Population Survey, 2000-2002.

Note: Income is determined based on the definition of countable income for Supplemental Security Income, not by total family income. The Department of Health and Human Services' federal poverty guidelines are used rather than the Census Bureau's federal poverty threshold.

* indicates percentage of beneficiaries is statistically lower than the national rate, at the 90% confidence level;

** indicates the percentage of beneficiaries is statistically higher than the national rate, at the 90% confidence level.

Sources and Limitations

Source of Data. The state-by-state percentages presented in this report were calculated using the March Supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS). The March Supplement of the CPS consists of a survey of approximately 99,000 households selected to be demographically representative of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. The percent of aged Medicare beneficiaries by poverty status was based on data from the CPS for 1999, 2000 and 2001. The sample sizes available for many states are small, especially when examining a subset of the sample like Medicare beneficiaries over the age of 65.⁴ Small sample sizes increase the likelihood that the characteristics of the survey participants differ from the characteristics of the population they are meant to represent, which is known as sampling error. To increase the reliability of state-level estimates, multiple-year estimates of the total number of beneficiaries and the proportion of beneficiaries below specified levels of countable income relative to the poverty guideline were calculated. The percentages are 3-year averages, covering 1999 to 2001. The total number of beneficiaries in each state is also an average of the same 3 years. The number of beneficiaries in each income category is estimated by applying the average percentages to the average total number of noninstitutionalized aged beneficiaries in each state.

Income Defined. As previously noted, when beneficiaries' eligibility for Medicare cost-sharing and premium assistance is determined, income is counted according to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility guidelines. In fact, each of the bills discussed in this report ultimately point to SSI for how to count income. As a result, to estimate the number of individuals who may be eligible for assistance under these bills requires more analysis than simply looking at individuals' reported total income. The estimates of income used in this report were obtained by taking respondents' total income as reported in the CPS and subtracting from it the amounts and types of income specified according to SSI eligibility rules as follows.

When calculating countable income under SSI, income is divided into two categories — earned income, which consists of the CPS variables for wages and self-employment earnings, and unearned income. The CPS gathers information on 17 types of unearned income. Two of these are not considered income for SSI purposes: education assistance and child support payments.⁵

The following “disregards” are the same for individual's income and couples' combined income, as specified under SSI. The amount of countable unearned income is reduced by up to \$240 per year (\$20 per month). If that maximum amount

⁴ Medicare beneficiaries under the age of 65 – those eligible for Medicare due to a disability – were not included in this analysis because they can not be identified on the CPS.

⁵ Child support payments only count as income under SSI when determining eligibility for a child for whom those payments are received.

is not reached (that is, if unearned income was less than \$240 for the year), then the remainder of the \$240 disregard can be subtracted from earned income.⁶

Countable earned income is reduced by an additional \$780 per year (\$65 per month). Once the remaining countable earned income is calculated, if there is any left, half of it is subtracted off, and the amount that remains is counted as earned income. The couple's or individual's countable earned and unearned incomes are then added together and compared to the federal poverty guidelines.

Poverty Defined. The poverty *guidelines* are published by HHS and are used primarily for determining eligibility for many federal programs, which is why the guidelines were used in this analysis. The poverty *thresholds*, although more commonly used for poverty-related analyses, are a different measure of poverty updated by the Census Bureau and are used primarily for statistical purposes. In 2002, the most recent year for which the poverty thresholds are available, the poverty threshold for a person 65 years of age or older living alone was \$8,628; for a family of two persons aged 65 years of age or older, the threshold was \$10,874. The poverty guideline for an individual living alone in the 48 contiguous states was \$8,860; for a family of two, the guideline was \$11,940.

Estimation Limitations. The small sample sizes available from the CPS for many states make it prudent to consider state-level estimates in terms of a range of values. This range is based on sampling theory and takes into account the size of the sample. While **Table 2** shows the best point estimate, or single value, for the average proportion of beneficiaries below specified levels of poverty, **Table 3** reports a range of values for these percentages. The size of the range depends primarily on sample size. **Table 3** shows the ranges based on a 90% confidence interval. A 90% confidence interval means that given repeated sampling of income in a state, 9 out of 10 times, the estimate of the percent below a certain level of poverty will lie within the range set by the low and high estimates. For example, if one surveys people in Colorado about their income compared to the poverty guideline, in 9 out of 10 sample surveys, on average, the percent of seniors with incomes below 135% of poverty will be between 17.6% and 24.2%.⁷

The 90% confidence interval for the average total number of beneficiaries is also shown, in **Table 4**.

⁶ SSI, public assistance welfare, disability payments and financial assistance payments are considered unearned income when calculating total income. However, they are excluded when calculating how much of the \$240 disregard a beneficiary will receive. The CPS variable for "financial assistance payments" is assumed to be state or nonprofit assistance.

⁷ Note that there is no way to determine if the results for Colorado in **Table 2** are the 1 time out of 10 that a different result is obtained, where the real percent uninsured is outside the confidence interval (i.e., greater than 24.2% or less than 17.6%).

Table 3. High and Low Estimated Average Percentages of Aged Medicare Beneficiaries with Incomes Below Specified Levels of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, by State, 1999-2001

State	Percentage of aged below 100% of poverty		Percentage of aged below 135% of poverty		Percentage of aged below 150% of poverty		Percentage of aged below 175% of poverty		Percentage of aged below 200% of poverty	
	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate
Alabama	18.1%	24.6%	30.6%	38.0%	38.6%	46.3%	46.9%	54.7%	51.5%	59.2%
Alaska	10.1%	18.0%	22.7%	33.3%	27.9%	39.0%	36.0%	47.5%	43.1%	54.7%
Arizona	8.9%	14.2%	18.1%	24.8%	23.0%	30.2%	30.2%	37.9%	37.6%	45.7%
Arkansas	16.4%	22.3%	29.5%	36.5%	37.4%	44.7%	45.8%	53.2%	53.4%	60.8%
California	12.7%	15.5%	27.2%	30.9%	32.9%	36.7%	40.1%	44.0%	46.3%	50.3%
Colorado	8.0%	12.9%	17.6%	24.2%	23.3%	30.6%	31.9%	39.9%	39.3%	47.6%
Connecticut	9.9%	14.9%	19.0%	25.0%	25.5%	32.1%	31.5%	38.4%	38.0%	45.1%
Delaware	8.4%	13.0%	20.4%	26.7%	25.1%	31.8%	34.2%	41.4%	40.1%	47.6%
District of Columbia	22.2%	31.0%	35.1%	44.9%	38.2%	48.2%	44.0%	54.1%	48.5%	58.6%
Florida	13.0%	15.7%	25.7%	29.1%	31.3%	34.9%	39.2%	42.9%	46.8%	50.6%
Georgia	17.6%	24.3%	30.7%	38.6%	37.2%	45.5%	44.2%	52.6%	50.7%	59.0%
Hawaii	15.2%	21.9%	26.8%	34.6%	30.3%	38.4%	37.1%	45.4%	42.6%	51.1%
Idaho	8.7%	13.9%	21.4%	28.6%	27.3%	34.9%	34.5%	42.5%	43.0%	51.2%
Illinois	10.8%	14.3%	22.4%	26.9%	28.1%	32.8%	36.2%	41.2%	43.7%	48.9%
Indiana	7.2%	11.2%	23.4%	29.6%	28.6%	35.1%	37.6%	44.6%	46.1%	53.2%
Iowa	7.3%	11.4%	19.4%	25.4%	25.1%	31.6%	36.0%	43.0%	44.0%	51.1%
Kansas	7.6%	11.9%	20.8%	26.8%	25.9%	32.4%	34.0%	41.0%	42.1%	49.4%
Kentucky	15.5%	21.7%	30.8%	38.5%	36.6%	44.4%	44.5%	52.5%	51.7%	59.6%
Louisiana	17.4%	24.5%	33.2%	41.5%	38.7%	47.1%	46.3%	54.9%	53.1%	61.6%
Maine	11.3%	16.6%	26.7%	33.6%	33.6%	40.9%	42.2%	49.7%	49.5%	57.0%
Maryland	13.3%	18.9%	24.4%	31.2%	27.6%	34.5%	32.8%	40.1%	38.5%	45.9%
Massachusetts	13.7%	18.1%	26.0%	31.5%	32.7%	38.6%	41.5%	47.6%	47.2%	53.4%
Michigan	9.5%	12.9%	20.6%	25.2%	26.5%	31.5%	35.5%	40.8%	43.5%	49.0%
Minnesota	9.9%	15.2%	22.0%	29.1%	26.8%	34.3%	33.7%	41.6%	41.3%	49.4%
Mississippi	24.6%	32.1%	38.9%	47.0%	44.3%	52.6%	52.0%	60.2%	57.2%	65.2%
Missouri	9.6%	15.0%	20.4%	27.3%	24.1%	31.2%	36.3%	44.0%	43.3%	51.2%
Montana	9.0%	14.1%	20.9%	27.8%	26.6%	33.9%	34.9%	42.7%	42.7%	50.7%
Nebraska	11.5%	17.2%	24.2%	31.4%	30.8%	38.4%	37.9%	45.8%	45.6%	53.6%
Nevada	9.3%	14.6%	20.3%	27.1%	26.9%	34.4%	35.2%	43.0%	42.2%	50.2%
New Hampshire	8.8%	14.2%	19.3%	26.2%	24.8%	32.1%	33.5%	41.3%	42.7%	50.8%
New Jersey	11.8%	15.4%	22.5%	27.1%	28.4%	33.2%	36.0%	41.1%	42.6%	47.9%
New Mexico	15.3%	21.9%	30.2%	38.3%	35.1%	43.4%	41.4%	49.9%	47.3%	55.8%

State	Percentage of aged below 100% of poverty		Percentage of aged below 135% of poverty		Percentage of aged below 150% of poverty		Percentage of aged below 175% of poverty		Percentage of aged below 200% of poverty	
	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate
New York	17.7%	20.7%	29.9%	33.4%	36.6%	40.3%	43.7%	47.5%	50.9%	54.7%
North Carolina	18.7%	23.7%	32.6%	38.5%	37.8%	43.9%	43.9%	50.1%	52.0%	58.1%
North Dakota	12.9%	18.0%	28.3%	35.0%	34.3%	41.2%	46.0%	53.1%	53.0%	60.1%
Ohio	9.9%	13.2%	23.0%	27.3%	27.7%	32.3%	36.2%	41.2%	45.0%	50.1%
Oklahoma	11.8%	16.9%	23.7%	30.2%	28.5%	35.4%	36.8%	44.0%	43.6%	50.9%
Oregon	7.4%	12.3%	17.3%	23.9%	22.5%	29.7%	32.2%	40.0%	40.4%	48.6%
Pennsylvania	10.7%	13.6%	23.5%	27.4%	28.8%	33.0%	37.7%	42.1%	47.0%	51.4%
Rhode Island	12.6%	17.6%	28.2%	34.7%	34.5%	41.2%	43.1%	50.1%	50.8%	57.7%
South Carolina	15.7%	21.6%	29.7%	36.9%	34.3%	41.8%	42.8%	50.6%	51.5%	59.3%
South Dakota	9.4%	14.0%	21.9%	27.9%	27.1%	33.6%	35.1%	41.9%	44.5%	51.6%
Tennessee	18.5%	25.6%	33.5%	41.9%	38.8%	47.4%	46.6%	55.2%	54.3%	62.8%
Texas	16.9%	20.7%	30.3%	34.8%	36.3%	41.1%	44.4%	49.3%	50.2%	55.0%
Utah	9.0%	14.9%	19.7%	27.8%	23.7%	32.4%	35.0%	44.5%	41.3%	50.9%
Vermont	13.9%	20.5%	29.0%	37.0%	36.1%	44.6%	44.3%	52.9%	52.5%	61.0%
Virginia	12.0%	17.4%	23.9%	30.7%	31.2%	38.4%	39.1%	46.7%	45.9%	53.6%
Washington	9.8%	15.7%	18.5%	25.7%	22.8%	30.4%	31.2%	39.4%	37.4%	45.9%
West Virginia	13.7%	18.6%	26.0%	31.9%	32.4%	38.7%	43.3%	49.7%	50.6%	57.1%
Wisconsin	6.0%	10.1%	15.2%	20.9%	21.3%	27.7%	30.7%	37.8%	39.7%	47.0%
Wyoming	10.4%	16.1%	23.9%	31.3%	30.1%	37.8%	39.4%	47.5%	48.7%	56.8%
United States	14.6%	15.3%	27.6%	28.6%	33.4%	34.4%	41.6%	42.6%	48.8%	49.9%

Source: Table prepared by the Congressional Research Service based on data from the March supplement of the Current Population Survey, 2000-2002.

Note: Income is determined based on the definition of countable income for Supplemental Security Income, not by total family income. The Department of Health and Human Services' federal poverty guidelines are used rather than the Census Bureau's federal poverty threshold. Ranges represent the low and high estimates given a 90% confidence interval.

Table 4. High and Low Estimated Average Number of Aged Medicare Beneficiaries with Incomes Below Specified Levels of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, by State, 1999-2001

State	Number of aged below 100% of poverty		Number of aged below 135% of poverty		Number of aged below 150% of poverty		Number of aged below 175% of poverty		Number of aged below 200% of poverty	
	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate
Alabama	93,000	131,000	155,000	204,000	195,000	249,000	236,000	295,000	259,000	320,000
Alaska	3,000	6,000	8,000	12,000	9,000	14,000	12,000	17,000	14,000	20,000
Arizona	50,000	82,000	102,000	145,000	129,000	177,000	168,000	222,000	209,000	269,000
Arkansas	61,000	85,000	108,000	140,000	137,000	172,000	166,000	206,000	194,000	236,000
California	393,000	486,000	837,000	970,000	1,009,000	1,154,000	1,229,000	1,388,000	1,419,000	1,589,000
Colorado	31,000	51,000	68,000	97,000	90,000	123,000	123,000	160,000	150,000	192,000
Connecticut	46,000	72,000	89,000	121,000	118,000	156,000	146,000	187,000	176,000	220,000
Delaware	8,000	12,000	18,000	25,000	23,000	30,000	31,000	39,000	36,000	45,000
District of Columbia	13,000	19,000	21,000	28,000	22,000	31,000	26,000	34,000	28,000	38,000
Florida	333,000	405,000	655,000	755,000	797,000	906,000	995,000	1,117,000	1,187,000	1,318,000
Georgia	125,000	181,000	218,000	289,000	264,000	343,000	313,000	398,000	358,000	449,000
Hawaii	21,000	31,000	37,000	50,000	41,000	55,000	50,000	66,000	58,000	74,000
Idaho	12,000	20,000	30,000	42,000	38,000	51,000	48,000	63,000	59,000	75,000
Illinois	140,000	188,000	289,000	356,000	362,000	437,000	466,000	549,000	561,000	653,000
Indiana	55,000	86,000	175,000	229,000	213,000	273,000	280,000	347,000	343,000	416,000
Iowa	28,000	45,000	74,000	101,000	96,000	126,000	137,000	172,000	167,000	205,000
Kansas	27,000	43,000	75,000	100,000	93,000	120,000	121,000	152,000	150,000	184,000
Kentucky	69,000	101,000	137,000	180,000	163,000	209,000	198,000	248,000	229,000	283,000
Louisiana	77,000	114,000	147,000	195,000	170,000	222,000	204,000	259,000	234,000	292,000
Maine	20,000	29,000	47,000	60,000	59,000	74,000	74,000	91,000	87,000	105,000
Maryland	83,000	124,000	152,000	204,000	171,000	226,000	203,000	262,000	237,000	301,000
Massachusetts	104,000	141,000	197,000	247,000	247,000	303,000	312,000	375,000	355,000	421,000
Michigan	105,000	145,000	226,000	283,000	290,000	355,000	387,000	461,000	474,000	555,000
Minnesota	46,000	74,000	103,000	143,000	124,000	169,000	155,000	204,000	190,000	243,000
Mississippi	79,000	108,000	123,000	159,000	140,000	179,000	164,000	205,000	180,000	223,000
Missouri	58,000	94,000	123,000	172,000	145,000	197,000	218,000	280,000	260,000	326,000
Montana	11,000	17,000	24,000	33,000	31,000	41,000	40,000	52,000	49,000	61,000
Nebraska	22,000	35,000	47,000	64,000	59,000	78,000	73,000	94,000	87,000	110,000
Nevada	20,000	31,000	42,000	59,000	56,000	75,000	73,000	94,000	87,000	110,000
New Hampshire	13,000	22,000	29,000	41,000	38,000	50,000	51,000	65,000	65,000	81,000
New Jersey	126,000	168,000	242,000	298,000	304,000	367,000	385,000	455,000	455,000	531,000

State	Number of aged below 100% of poverty		Number of aged below 135% of poverty		Number of aged below 150% of poverty		Number of aged below 175% of poverty		Number of aged below 200% of poverty	
	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate	Low estimate	High estimate
New Mexico	33,000	49,000	64,000	86,000	75,000	98,000	88,000	113,000	100,000	127,000
New York	400,000	475,000	673,000	770,000	823,000	929,000	982,000	1,097,000	1,141,000	1,265,000
North Carolina	170,000	222,000	295,000	362,000	342,000	414,000	396,000	473,000	467,000	550,000
North Dakota	11,000	16,000	25,000	32,000	30,000	38,000	40,000	49,000	45,000	55,000
Ohio	136,000	184,000	314,000	383,000	378,000	454,000	493,000	580,000	612,000	707,000
Oklahoma	51,000	76,000	103,000	137,000	124,000	161,000	159,000	201,000	188,000	234,000
Oregon	27,000	47,000	64,000	92,000	83,000	115,000	118,000	155,000	147,000	189,000
Pennsylvania	177,000	229,000	387,000	462,000	474,000	556,000	620,000	714,000	769,000	873,000
Rhode Island	19,000	28,000	43,000	55,000	52,000	66,000	65,000	80,000	77,000	92,000
South Carolina	76,000	108,000	142,000	186,000	164,000	211,000	204,000	257,000	245,000	302,000
South Dakota	9,000	14,000	22,000	29,000	27,000	35,000	35,000	44,000	44,000	54,000
Tennessee	109,000	158,000	196,000	259,000	226,000	293,000	270,000	343,000	313,000	391,000
Texas	331,000	414,000	592,000	700,000	708,000	826,000	864,000	993,000	975,000	1,112,000
Utah	15,000	25,000	31,000	47,000	38,000	54,000	55,000	75,000	65,000	86,000
Vermont	9,000	14,000	19,000	25,000	23,000	30,000	29,000	36,000	34,000	42,000
Virginia	93,000	140,000	185,000	248,000	240,000	312,000	301,000	381,000	352,000	438,000
Washington	59,000	97,000	111,000	161,000	138,000	192,000	189,000	251,000	226,000	293,000
West Virginia	38,000	53,000	71,000	91,000	88,000	110,000	118,000	142,000	137,000	164,000
Wisconsin	38,000	65,000	95,000	135,000	133,000	179,000	192,000	246,000	246,000	307,000
Wyoming	6,000	9,000	13,000	18,000	16,000	22,000	21,000	27,000	26,000	33,000
United States	4,708,000	4,945,000	8,913,000	9,212,000	10,777,000	11,093,000	13,401,000	13,732,000	15,743,000	16,079,000

Source: Table prepared by the Congressional Research Service based on data from the Current Population Survey, 2000-2002.

Note: Income is determined based on the definition of countable income for Supplemental Security Income, not by total family income. The Department of Health and Human Services' federal poverty guidelines are used rather than the Census Bureau's federal poverty threshold. Ranges represent the low and high estimates given a 90% confidence interval.