

Medicare COVID-19 Hospitalizations Trend Report Data Dictionary

Variable Name	Definition
Year	Identifies the data year from which the Part B Medicare claims were pulled and covid hospitalization stay occurred.
Month	Identifies the data month from which the Part B claims were pulled and covid hospitalization stay occurred.
Bene_Geo_Desc	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	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	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	A beneficiary's sex is available from the CMS enrollment database and is classified as Male/Female.
Bene_Mdcr_Entlmt_Stus	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.
Bene_Age_Desc	Identifies the age level of the population that the data has been aggregated. A beneficiary's age is measured at the end of the snapshot time period, February 2021.
Bene_RUCA_Desc	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 <i>Rural</i> and <i>Urban</i> locations.
Total_Bene_Hosp	A monthly count of Medicare beneficiaries with a diagnosis of COVID-19 on an inpatient hospital fee-for-service claim or encounter record. A beneficiary with multiple hospital stays will be counted in each month in which a hospital stay began.
Total_Avg_Mth_Enrl	The average Medicare Population with Part A insurance during the pandemic period (beginning 01/01/2020 through most recent monthly reporting).
Total_Bene_Hosp_Per100K	The rate of Medicare COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 is calculated by taking Medicare COVID-19 Hospitalizations divided by the average Medicare Population with Part A insurance during the pandemic period (beginning 01/01/2020 through most recent monthly reporting), expressed as per 100,000.