

2023 | SUMMARY OF CHANGES: SURVEY FILE MICRODATA PUBLIC USE FILE



WHAT'S NEW: 2023 SURVEY FILE MICRODATA PUBLIC USE FILE¹

Version Control Log

Date	Version	Revisions
9/22/2025	1.0	Initial version published.

1. General File Information²

This document provides a summary of key updates and highlights for the 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata Public Use File (PUF).

The MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF is not intended to replace the more detailed MCBS Survey File Limited Data Set (LDS); rather, it offers a free, publicly available alternative that provides the highest degree of protection for Medicare beneficiaries' protected health information (PHI). The Survey File Microdata PUF contains a subset of the data released on the Survey File LDS. Unlike the Survey File LDS, the Survey File Microdata PUF only supports cross-sectional analysis of the ever enrolled population of Medicare beneficiaries living in the community and cannot be combined with other MCBS LDS files. Users should also note that the Survey File Microdata PUF does not include facility or cost data and that PUF data collected in different seasons (rounds) should not be combined. Cost data will be available in the 2023 Cost Supplement File Microdata PUF.

For detailed information about MCBS questionnaires, interviewing procedures, sampling, and analytic guidance related to the MCBS Microdata PUFs, researchers should refer to the new *Microdata PUF Data User's Guide*: <https://data.cms.gov/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey-mcbs/>. Comprehensive information about 2023 changes to MCBS sampling, questionnaires, data collection, and data processing is available in the *2023 MCBS Data Year Release Notes*: <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey/data-documentation-codebooks>.

The 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF is divided into three segments (Fall, Winter, and Summer), which allows for the release of data collected in all rounds. The Fall segment includes data for 13,016 sampled beneficiaries. The samples for the Winter and Summer segments are subsets of the Fall segment sample. The Winter segment includes data for 11,160 sampled beneficiaries, and the Summer segment includes data for 8,282 sampled beneficiaries. All three segments include survey weights that allow for analysis that is nationally representative of the population of beneficiaries ever enrolled in Medicare at any point in 2023.

2. Key Content Updates in 2023

The 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF features the following updates:

2.1 New Content

Seven new variables were added to capture Medicare Advantage coverage details in the Fall segment, including whether plans cover prescription drugs, provider visits, lab work, inpatient stays, hearing care, and behavioral health services. Additionally, three new oral health variables were added to assess general oral health, frequency of dry mouth, and tooth sensitivity in the 2023 Survey File Microdata PUF Fall segment. In the Winter segment, two new telehealth-related variables were added, which captures whether a provider

¹ This communication was printed, published, or produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense.

² The MCBS is authorized by section 1875 (42 USC 139511) of the Social Security Act and is conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The OMB Number for this survey is 0938-0568.

offered a telephone appointment in the past 12 months and identifies whether the appointment was conducted via telephone or video. In the Summer segment, five new variables were introduced, including updated COVID-19 vaccination measures, as well as flu, shingles, and pneumonia vaccination status.

2.2 Modified Content

Three immunization-related variables—flu shot, shingles vaccine, and pneumonia shot—were moved from the Fall segment to the Summer segment in the 2023 Survey File Microdata PUF. Additionally, one COVID-19 booster variable in the Summer segment was renamed.

2.3 Retired Content

Several variables were removed across all segments. In the Fall segment, three variables related to Pap smear screening, COVID-19 vaccination dose count by Fall 2022, and years enrolled in Medicare Advantage were dropped. The Winter segment streamlined telehealth content by retiring four telehealth-related variables, including whether providers offered telephone or video appointments and whether the sample person had a telehealth visit in the past year. In the Summer segment, one variable tracking the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses by Summer 2023 was dropped.

Exhibit 2 presents a summary of the content updates in the 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF.

Exhibit 2: 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF Content Updates

Segment	Variable	Variable Label	Description
Fall	MA_MADVRX	Mcare Adv plan covers drugs	Added
Fall	MA_MADVDOC	Mcare Adv plan covers visit to HCP	Added
Fall	MA_MADVLAB	Mcare Adv plan covers lab work	Added
Fall	MA_MADVINTPT	Mcare Adv plan covers inpatient stay	Added
Fall	MA_MADVHEAR	Mcare Adv plan covers hearing care	Added
Fall	MA_MADVBEH	Mcare Adv plan covers behavioral health	Added
Fall	HLT_TEETHGUM	General oral health, teeth and gums	Added
Fall	HLT_DRYMOUTH	Dry mouth (how often)	Added
Fall	HLT_TOOTHSN	Tooth sensitivity (how often)	Added
Fall	PRV_PAPSMEAR	Pap smear (past year)	Dropped
Fall	PRV_CVDOSE	Number CV19 vaccine doses by Fall 2022	Dropped
Fall	MA_MADVYRS	Years enrolled in Medicare Advantage	Dropped
Fall	PRV_FLUSHOT	Flu shot for last winter	Moved to Summer
Fall	PRV_SHINGVAC	Ever had shingles vaccine	Moved to Summer
Fall	PRV_PNEUSHOT	Pneumonia shot (ever)	Moved to Summer
Winter	TMW_TELAPPT	Provider offered telephone appt in last 12 months	Added
Winter	TMW_TELAPPT1	Appt was telephone or video	Added
Winter	TMW_TELMEDDU	Provider offered tele appt (past yr)	Dropped
Winter	TMW_TELMEDT3	Offered appt was telephone or video	Dropped
Winter	TMW_TELMEDUS	SP had telehealth appt (past yr)	Dropped
Winter	TMW_TELMEDT4	Appt was telephone or video	Dropped
Summer	PVS_FLUSHOT	Flu shot for last winter	Added
Summer	PVS_SHINGVAC	Ever had shingles vaccine	Added
Summer	PVS_PNEUSHOT	Pneumonia shot (ever)	Added

Segment	Variable	Variable Label	Description
Summer	PVS_CVDBOOST	Got CV19 booster (2023-24)	Added
Summer	PVS_CVONEDOS	Any CV19 vaccine doses by Summer 2024	Added
Summer	CVS_VCNUMS	Number CV19 vaccine doses by Summer 2023	Dropped
Summer	CVS_CVDBOOST	Got CV19 booster (2022-23)	Renamed

3. Population Represented by the 2023 Survey File Microdata PUF

3.1 Composition of MCBS Panels

The MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF represents four separate MCBS panels identified by the year in which the panel was selected and first interviewed (i.e., for the 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF, the 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Panels). Exhibit 3.1 shows the distribution of each of the four panels included in the 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF. For more information on the sample design, please see the *2023 Data Year Release Notes* at: <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey/data-documentation-codebooks>.

Exhibit 3.1: 2023 MCBS Composition of Panels in the MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF

Data Year (Fall)	Number of Beneficiaries Selected
2020	1,762
2021	2,039
2022	3,017
2023	6,198

3.2 Medicare Population Covered

Exhibits 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 present estimates of the size of the ever enrolled Medicare population living in the community by race/ethnicity³ and age (as of December 31, 2023), by sex in the 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF. Exhibit 3.2.3 presents the aggregated estimates of the size of the ever enrolled Medicare population living in the community overall and by sex and race/ethnicity in the 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF.

³ Hispanic origin and race are two separate and distinct categories. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race or combination of races. Hispanic origin includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, or Spanish origin. For the MCBS, responses to beneficiary race and ethnicity questions are reported by the respondent. More than one race may be reported. For conciseness, the text, tables, and figures in this document use shorter versions of the terms for race and Hispanic or Latino origin specified in the Office of Management and Budget 1997 Standards for Data on Race and Ethnicity. Beneficiaries reported as White and not of Hispanic origin were coded as White non-Hispanic; beneficiaries reported as Black/African American and not of Hispanic origin were coded as Black non-Hispanic; beneficiaries reported as Hispanic, Latino/Latina, or of Spanish origin, regardless of their race, were coded as Hispanic. The "Other" race category includes other single races not of Hispanic origin (including American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander), Two or More Races, or Unknown Races.

Exhibit 3.2.1: Estimated Number of Male Community Medicare Beneficiaries by Race/Ethnicity and Age in the 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF*

Race/Ethnicity	Age (in years) as of 12/31/2023	Weighted Count
White non-Hispanic	Under 65	2,132,479
	65-74	11,566,110
	75+	8,357,088
Black non-Hispanic	Under 65	741,375
	65-74	1,286,390
	75+	664,620
Hispanic	Under 65	458,442
	65-74	1,256,908
	75+	677,771
Other†	Under 65	238,800
	65-74	890,754
	75+	675,143

SOURCE: 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF, weighted counts.

*Weighted counts may not sum to the total of beneficiaries living in the community in the U.S. due to missingness.

†The 'Other' race category includes other single races not of Hispanic origin, Two or More Races, or Unknown Races.

Exhibit 3.2.2: Estimated Number of Female Community Medicare Beneficiaries by Race/Ethnicity and Age in the 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF*

Race/Ethnicity	Age (in years) as of 12/31/2023	Weighted Count
White non-Hispanic	Under 65	2,034,696
	65-74	12,853,317
	75+	10,080,151
Black non-Hispanic	Under 65	739,903
	65-74	1,956,923
	75+	1,267,642
Hispanic	Under 65	421,184
	65-74	1,762,711
	75+	1,149,831
Other†	Under 65	261,061
	65-74	925,318
	75+	888,517

SOURCE: 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF, weighted counts.

*Weighted counts may not sum to the total of beneficiaries living in the community in the U.S. due to missingness.

†The 'Other' race category includes other single races not of Hispanic origin, Two or More Races, or Unknown Races. See the Glossary entry for race/ethnicity information.

Exhibit 3.2.3: Estimated Number of Community Medicare Beneficiaries by Race/Ethnicity and Age in the 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF*

Group	Subgroup	Weighted Count
Overall Total		63,287,134
Sex	Male Total	28,945,879
	Female Total	34,341,254
Race/Ethnicity	White non-Hispanic Total	47,023,842
	Black non-Hispanic Total	6,656,852
	Hispanic Total	5,726,846
	Other Total†	3,879,594

SOURCE: 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF, weighted counts.

*Weighted counts may not sum to the total of beneficiaries living in the community in the U.S. due to missingness.

†The 'Other' race category includes other single races not of Hispanic origin, two or more races, and unknown races. See the Glossary entry for race/ethnicity information.

3.3 Beneficiary Counts by Age and Ethnicity

Exhibit 3.3 displays the number of beneficiaries included in the 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF by age and ethnicity.

Exhibit 3.3: 2023 Panel of Selected Beneficiaries by U.S. Hispanic and U.S. Non-Hispanic Ethnicity Classification and Age*

Age (in years) as of 12/31/2023	TOTAL Sample Size	TOTAL Weighted	Hispanic Sample Size	Hispanic Weighted	Non-Hispanic Sample Size	Non-Hispanic Weighted
Under 65 years	2,112	7,027,940	283	879,626	1,829	6,148,314
65-74 years	4,501	32,498,430	569	3,019,619	3,932	29,478,811
75+ years	6,403	23,760,763	752	1,827,601	5,651	21,933,162
Total	13,016	63,287,134	1,604	5,726,846	11,417	57,560,288

SOURCE: 2023 MCBS Survey File Microdata PUF.

*Weighted counts may not sum to the total of beneficiaries living in the community in the U.S. due to missingness.