

# Diverse At-Risk Americans Rely on Medicare Advantage to Overcome Barriers to Health

More than 26 million Americans choose Medicare Advantage – in large part because of the peace of mind it provides. **Americans from all walks of life rely on this high-quality, affordable health care coverage to stay healthy.**



Medicare Advantage serves some of the most at-risk and disproportionately affected populations amid the COVID-19 crisis – including individuals over age 65 and minority communities. Nearly [half](#) of all racial/ethnic minorities eligible for Medicare choose Medicare Advantage.

**32%** of Medicare Advantage enrollees are racial/ethnic minorities, compared to 21% of traditional Medicare enrollees.

**40%** of Medicare Advantage enrollees make less than \$25,000 per year, and about 9 million have income below 200% of the federal poverty level.\*

**57%** of Medicare Advantage enrollees are women.\*

**63%** of Medicare Advantage enrollees are 70 or older.

Americans dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid who choose Medicare Advantage tend to be [older, sicker, and more racially and ethnically diverse](#) than those who choose traditional Medicare.

Medicare Advantage plans help their members address social determinants of health and stay healthy beyond delivering high-quality health coverage. A person’s health is influenced by many non-medical factors, called “social determinants of health” – where a person lives, grows, learns, and works. Medicare Advantage works to tackle social barriers to good health through supplemental benefits like:



Expanded access to telehealth services



Delivering in-home support services



Transportation for health care appointments and non-medical needs



Home delivery of essential supplies like prescription drugs and groceries



Services for eligible enrollees that address social isolation like club memberships and family counseling



Benefits that meet specific health care needs, such as vision, hearing, dental and fitness benefits



**Medicare Advantage plans are committed to developing innovative programs and solutions that help members overcome barriers to good health.** Regardless of social and financial conditions, Americans deserve the better services, better access to care, and better value that Medicare Advantage delivers. That’s why [94%](#) of Americans 65+ on Medicare Advantage are satisfied with their health care coverage, and why [a growing number](#) of Americans choose Medicare Advantage.

\*Based on AHIP analysis of 2018 Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey Public Use File.