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Medicare Part B Premiums in 2016: How Many People in Each State will be Affected by a Steep Increase?

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Unless federal policymakers enact changes, Medicare premiums for doctor and outpatient services (Part B services) will increase by 52 percent for about 30 percent of people with Part B coverage, or approximately 16.5 million people nationwide. State governments will pay that increase for about 9 million of them. Premiums will stay at the 2015 level for the other 70 percent of Medicare enrollees because there is a hold-harmless provision that freezes their premiums when the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment is zero.

The table below shows the estimated number of people in each state for whom premiums will increase. A separate column shows the estimated number of low-income enrollees for whom the state pays the Part B premium.

Estimated Number of Medicare Enrollees Who Will Be Affected by an Increase in Medicare Part B Premiums in 2016, by State

State	Enrollees Affected by Premium Increase in 2016 (in 1000s)			Estimated Total Part B Enrollees in 2016 (in 1000s)	Total Affected in Percent of Part B Enrollees
	Total Affected	Low-Income Enrollees ¹ (state pays the premium)	Others Facing Premium Increase ²		
Total	16,500	9,000	7,500	52,159	32%
Alabama	320	206	114	940	34%
Alaska	31	15	16	73	43%
Arizona	313	164	149	1,043	30%
Arkansas	188	123	65	586	32%
California	2,192	1,242	949	5,245	42%
Colorado	211	95	116	706	30%
Connecticut	244	138	106	602	40%
Delaware	50	25	25	168	30%
District of Columbia	46	27	19	77	60%
Florida	1,237	690	547	3,820	32%
Georgia	492	284	208	1,410	35%
Hawaii	86	33	52	221	39%
Idaho	68	36	32	261	26%
Illinois	596	303	293	1,992	30%
Indiana	298	168	130	1,114	27%
Iowa	149	81	68	565	26%
Kansas	125	64	61	471	27%
Kentucky	260	168	92	846	31%
Louisiana	279	182	97	759	37%
Maine	126	91	34	293	43%
Maryland	292	119	172	832	35%

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	Total Affected	Low-Income Enrollees ¹ (state pays the premium)	Others Facing Premium Increase ²		
Massachusetts	407	229	179	1,135	36%
Michigan	476	243	233	1,860	26%
Minnesota	223	105	118	871	26%
Mississippi	212	153	59	554	38%
Missouri	279	143	136	1,099	25%
Montana	46	21	25	189	24%
Nebraska	74	36	38	302	24%
Nevada	114	49	65	396	29%
New Hampshire	58	23	35	242	24%
New Jersey	452	198	254	1,421	32%
New Mexico	120	71	49	345	35%
New York	1,136	613	523	3,191	36%
North Carolina	533	317	216	1,702	31%
North Dakota	25	10	15	116	22%
Ohio	568	310	258	2,092	27%
Oklahoma	181	100	82	659	28%
Oregon	197	99	98	694	28%
Pennsylvania	671	347	324	2,453	27%
Rhode Island	60	32	28	191	31%
South Carolina	267	151	115	889	30%
South Dakota	37	18	19	149	25%
Tennessee	391	248	143	1,189	33%
Texas	1122	617	505	3,368	33%
Utah	83	34	49	313	26%
Vermont	42	25	18	123	34%
Virginia	401	178	223	1,251	32%
Washington	332	168	165	1,082	31%
West Virginia	121	74	47	418	29%
Wisconsin	236	112	124	1,014	23%
Wyoming	23	10	13	90	26%

Sources: State-level estimates by AARP Public Policy Institute, October 16, 2015. Total numbers of affected enrollees from: Phil Galewitz, Good News, Bad News in Medicare Trustees Report, Kaiser Health News, 23 July 2015. Total Medicare Part B enrollees from: 2015 Report of the Medicare Trustees, 22 July, 2015.

Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding. Total also includes Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, residence unknown, and other outlying areas not shown separately.

¹ Low-income Medicare enrollees who enroll in Medicaid or a Medicare Savings Program.

² Consists of new enrollees, other enrollees (besides low-income enrollees) who do not have premium taken out of a Social Security check, and higher-income enrollees (income greater than \$85,000 for singles, greater than \$170,000 for couples).