

National Committee for Vital and Health Statistics

ASPE Update

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Rural Health Care



ASPE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
PLANNING AND EVALUATION

OFFICE OF
HEALTH POLICY

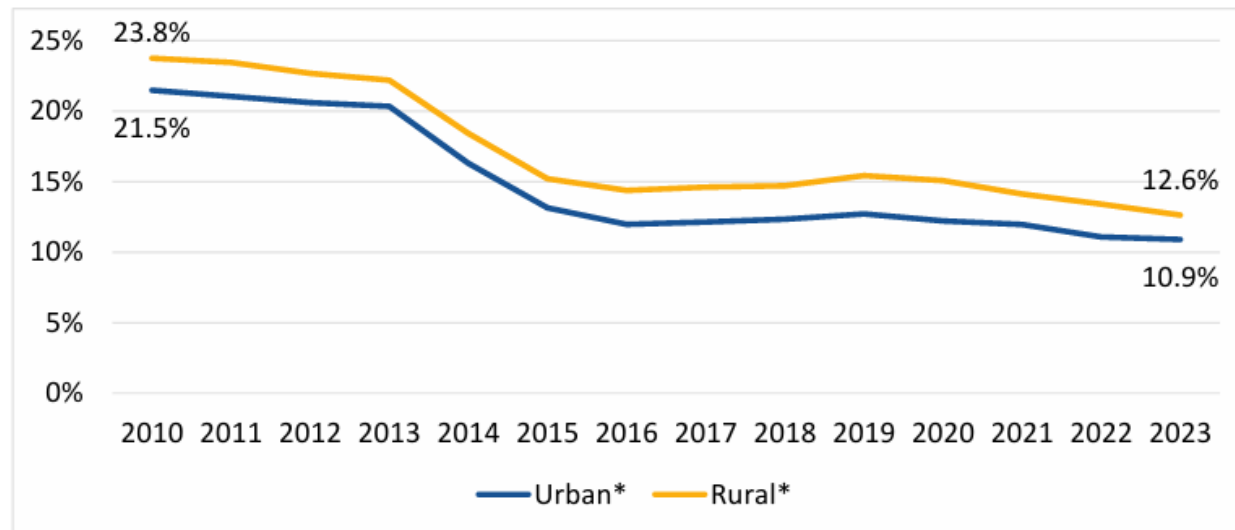
RESEARCH REPORT

October 31, 2024

HP-2024-22

Access to Health Care in Rural America: Current Trends and Key Challenges

Figure 2: Uninsured Rates Among Adults under Age 65 by Metropolitan Status, 2010-2023



Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year estimates, 2010-2023.

*Definition of rural and urban based on PUMA to CBSA (where CBSA metropolitan areas are “urban” and non-metropolitan areas are “rural”).



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<https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/health-care-rural-america>

HRSA Funding for Rural Health Care

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$75 Million Investment in Rural Health Care

Today's announcement includes the following HRSA investments:

- **Launching and expanding substance use disorder treatment, recovery, and social support services in rural communities:** HRSA is awarding nearly \$54 million over four years to 18 organizations to create new or expand existing access points for treatment and recovery services, support the behavioral health workforce, and collaborate with social services to ensure coordinated care and sustainable impact in rural communities.
- **Expanding access to maternal health services in the South:** HRSA is awarding nearly \$9 million over four years to five organizations in the Delta region of the South to expand access to and coordinate health care services before, during, and after pregnancy.
- **Supporting the viability of rural hospitals:** HRSA is providing nearly \$12 million over three years to fund technical assistance to rural hospitals to help them add or expand health care services to meet community need, keep care close to home for their patients, and ultimately improve financial sustainability for these facilities so they can stay open.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/09/24/biden-harris-administration-announces-75-million-investment-in-rural-health-care.html>



Drug Affordability - Medicare

HHS Announces Cost Savings for 54 Prescription Drugs Thanks to the Medicare Inflation Rebate Program Established by the Biden-Harris Administration's Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law

Under President Biden's and Vice President Harris's Inflation Reduction Act, some people with Medicare will pay less for some Part B drugs because the drug's price increased faster than the rate of inflation.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/09/30/hhs-announces-cost-savings-for-prescription-drugs-thanks-to-medicare-inflation-rebate-program.html>



—Inflation Reduction Act Research Series—

Medicare Part D Enrollees Reaching the Out-of-Pocket Limit by June 2024

More than half a million enrollees who did not qualify for the Low-Income Subsidy hit the Inflation Reduction Act catastrophic cap on out-of-pocket costs by June 30, 2024, saving enrollees nearly \$1 billion out-of-pocket, an average \$1,802 each in the first half of this year.

Kenneth Finegold, Kristen L. King, Bisma A. Sayed, and Rachael Zuckerman

KEY POINTS

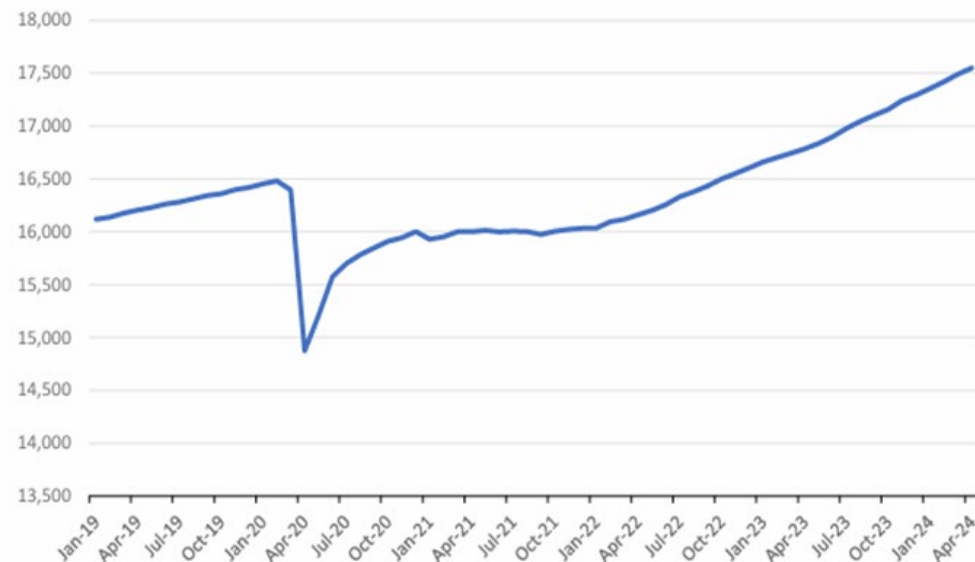
- The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) established a limit on out-of-pocket spending (“the 2024 cap”) for enrollees with very high prescription drug spending in Medicare Part D, for the first time in the history of the program.
- Nearly 1.5 million Part D enrollees hit the cap (about \$3,500) by June 30, 2024, and had no additional cost-sharing on prescription drugs for the year.
- More than 500,000 Part D enrollees who did not have the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) hit the cap in the first half of the year and saved a total of \$979 million, with average savings of \$1,802 per enrollee. These savings will likely continue over the remainder of the year.
- Proportions of Medicare Part D enrollees hitting the cap by June 30, 2024 were higher for enrollees under age 65, American Indian and Alaska Native enrollees, and African American enrollees than for other enrollees.
- Enrollees hitting the cap in the first half of the year had particularly high out-of-pocket spending on cancer drugs.
- Total savings from the IRA cap were highest in California, Florida, and Texas, with 52,005, 43,845, and 37,554 non-LIS enrollees hitting the cap, respectively.
- In 2025, the IRA sets a lower, uniform cap at \$2,000, which is likely to result in further savings for Medicare enrollees. About 4.6 million Medicare Part D enrollees reached this threshold by June 30, 2024.

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/medicare-part-d-ooop-cap>



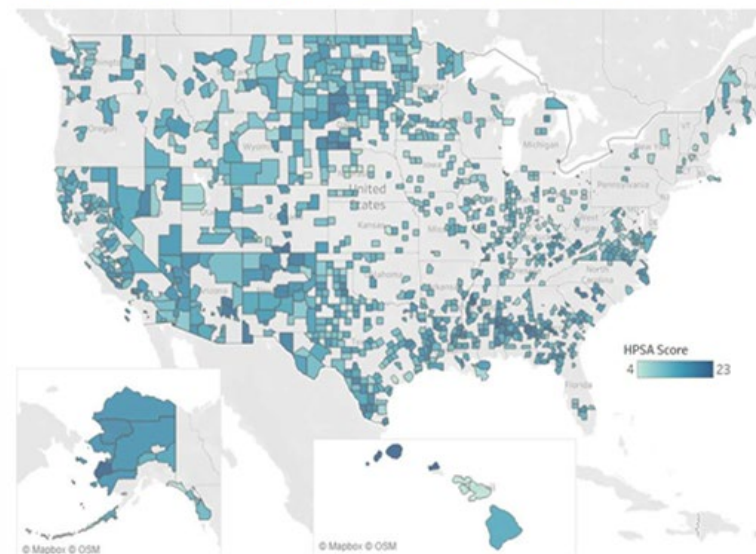
Healthcare Workforce: Key Issues, Challenges, and the Path Forward

Figure 1: All Health Care Employees (in Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted), January 2019-April 2024



Note: Data is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics (Establishment Survey), retrieved July 2024 here: <https://www.bls.gov/ces/>. These data include all individuals working in health care, including both clinical and administrative staff.

Figure 5: Primary Care Geographic Health Provider Shortage Areas



Note: Data on health provider shortage areas were provided by HRSA, through its online data tool, downloaded July 2024. Available here: <https://data.hrsa.gov/data/download>. This map does not display population and facility HPSAs.

HHS supports for healthcare workforces

- [Join the Health Workforce: A Career With Endless Possibilities | HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/workforce/index.html)
- <https://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/workforce/index.html>

HSRA issues competitive funding opportunities to support they behavioral health workforces

- The Graduate Psychology Education Program
- The Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Professionals

Public Health Emergencies

Hurricanes in FL, AL, GA, NC, SC, TN

As part of our commitment to remaining with impacted communities as long as it takes, under President Biden’s direction, the Administration has already approved more than \$1.8 billion in assistance for hurricane recovery efforts.



<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/10/16/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-approves-nearly-2-billion-for-hurricane-response-and-recovery-efforts/>

Hurricanes Impact IV Supply



<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/10/18/fact-sheet-hhs-continues-action-increase-access-supply-iv-fluids-hurricane-helene.html>

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/10/11/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-takes-action-ensure-americans-can-access-medical-supplies-following-hurricanes-helene-milton.html>