

# Quick Facts & Stats



## Medicare

Medicare Plan D is a reality and is bringing sweeping change to providers and beneficiaries. A look at the current Medicare environment reveals some interesting findings.

**5% to 18%**

**of physicians utilize e-Prescribing in their practices, but CMS predicts that the proportion of e-Prescribers will increase by 10% annually for the next 5 years.**

*(Modern Healthcare, 2005)*

**7,000,000**

**are believed to be eligible for the subsidy.**

*(Associated Press, 2005)*

**80%**

**of respondents to a Kaiser Family Foundation/Hewitt Associates survey regarding the impact of the new Medicare drug benefit on retiree health benefits, as well as overall changes in retiree health coverage at large employers, will accept a federal subsidy in 2006 to maintain retiree drug coverage that is at least as good as the Medicare Part D program.**

*(“Prospects for Retiree Health Benefits as Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Begins,” December 2005)*

**72.9%**

**of physicians reported accepting all new Medicare patients in 2004-2005**

*(Center for Studying Health System Change, January 2006)*

**10%**

**of large employers said they would supplement the Medicare Part D program.**

*(“Prospects for Retiree Health Benefits as Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Begins,” December 2005)*

**9%**

**of large employers said they would discontinue drug coverage.**

*(“Prospects for Retiree Health Benefits as Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Begins,” December 2005)*

**Only 661,000**

**applications for a low-income subsidy that makes the new Medicare drug benefit less expensive for low-income seniors and people with disabilities have been approved by the Social Security Administration.**

*(Associated Press, 2005)*

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