



## Top Ten Facts on Medicare

For over 50 years, Medicare has provided health coverage to seniors and people with disabilities, enabling them to lead healthy lives and receive the care they need. Unfortunately, rather than taking steps to strengthen Medicare, the Republican budget cuts nearly \$473 billion from Medicare over the next ten years.

### 1. Health Care Coverage

Medicare provides comprehensive health coverage to 47.8 million seniors. Traditional Medicare enrollees get an average annual benefit of \$10,500 and the peace of mind of knowing that their health care will be there when they need it.

### 2. Earned Benefit

Americans earn Medicare by paying into the program through payroll taxes. Nearly half of Medicare revenue is generated through payroll taxes and premiums.

### 3. Cost-Effective

Medicare's costs rise slower than private insurance. From 2010 to 2016, growth in Medicare per capita spending was 1.3 percent, compared to 3.5 percent for private insurance.

### 4. Seniors in Need

Medicare provides coverage to those living on modest means. Half of Medicare beneficiaries have incomes below \$24,150 and half have less than \$63,350 in lifetime savings.

### 5. People with Disabilities

Medicare provides health coverage to 9 million people with disabilities of all ages.

### 6. Prescription Drugs

Medicare Part D provides prescription drug coverage to 42 million people. When it began, Part D saved up to 26,000 lives in the first year and a half alone.

### 7. Chronic Conditions

Medicare serves a population with significant health needs. Two-thirds of the Medicare population have three or more chronic conditions.

### 8. Preventive Health

Medicare provides free preventive health screenings, which can save money and lives.

### 9. Women's Health

Medicare is critical to the financial security for older women. Women on Medicare age 65 and older have median incomes that are roughly 20 percent lower than men. Two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries age 85 and older are women and older women are more likely than older men to have three or more chronic conditions.

### 10. Rural Hospitals

Rural hospitals are economic engines of their communities. Since rural hospitals depend on Medicare for half of their revenue, cutting Medicare could force more rural hospitals to close and devastate surrounding communities.