

Medicare's Vulnerable Home Health Population

Analyses of federal data by Avalere Health and Dobson | Davanzo & Associates reveal that the Medicare home health benefit is particularly important to women and vulnerable seniors. The Medicare program's 3.5 million home health beneficiaries are older, sicker, and poorer than all other beneficiaries. Data also show home

health beneficiaries are more likely to be female, a minority, and/or disabled and that women constitute the majority of home health beneficiaries.

1 Home health patients are more likely to be **female**.

60.1%

Female home health patients

VS

53.9%

Female Medicare beneficiaries excluding home health patients

2 Home health patients are **older** than the average Medicare beneficiary.

24.4%

Home health patients older than 85

VS

12.1%

Non-home health Medicare beneficiaries older than 85

3 Medicare home health patients are **sicker** than the average Medicare population and require more constant care to manage both chronic conditions and post-acute care.

74.7%

Home health patients who have four or more chronic conditions

VS

48.5%

Non-home health Medicare beneficiaries who have four or more chronic conditions

4 Home health beneficiaries are **39% more likely than non-home health beneficiaries to live in poverty**.

66.2%

Medicare home health beneficiaries living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

VS

47.9%

Medicare beneficiaries excluding home health patients living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

5 Home health patients are **30% more likely than other Medicare beneficiaries to be ethnic or racial minorities**.

19.3%

Medicare home health patients who are a minority

VS

14.9%

Medicare beneficiaries excluding home health patients who are a minority

6 Medicare home health patients **need more help** with basic and necessary self care activities such as bathing and eating, known as Activities of Daily Living (ADLs).

23.5%

Medicare home health patients who need assistance with two or more ADLs

VS

7.6%

Non-home health Medicare beneficiaries who need assistance with two or more ADLs