



Relevant Delaware Factsⁱ

State Medicare Information

- There are 201,656 total Medicare beneficiaries in the State of Delaware, which represents 20.85 percent of the total state population.
- Total annual Medicare spending for Delaware totaled \$2,004,000,000

Documented Shortage of Primary Care Health Professionals

- According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, Delaware has 15 total primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).
- Delaware's population living in a primary care HPSA equals 237,967, which represents 24.6 percent of the overall population of Delaware.
- There are 70 licensed audiologists in the State of Delaware who could help.

Hearing Loss Statistics

- Of the more than 36 million Americans who experience hearing loss, 30 percent are 65-74 years old and 47 percent are 75 years old and older.
- Delaware has 138,000 residents with hearing loss, which represents 14 percent of the state population.
- Untreated hearing loss results in a greater occurrence of other physical and mental conditions in elderly patients, substantially reducing the quality of life for older adults and increasing Medicare spending. Treated hearing loss enhances the quality of life and reduces health care costs.

National Data on Older Adult Falls

- Every 18 seconds, an older adult is treated in an emergency room for a fall. Falls are the leading case of trauma in the United States.
- The average cost for a fall injury is \$30,000 and the direct medical cost for falls is \$50 billion annually.
- Among older adults (those 65 or older), falls are the leading cause of injury death. They are also the most common cause of nonfatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma.
- Elderly falls are preventable as are their associated financial and societal costs. Audiologists reliably diagnose and treat vestibular disorders, and help prevent older adult falls.

Sources

Medicare Beneficiaries by State <https://www.kff.org/medicare/state-indicator/total-medicare-beneficiaries/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

Medicare Spending <https://www.kff.org/medicare/state-indicator/medicare-spending-by-residence/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics: Designated HPSA Quarterly Summary, as of December 31, 2018.

Audiologists by State <https://www.bls.gov/data/>

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Screening for vestibular disorders: A study of clinicians' compliance with recommended practices (Polensek, Sterk, Tusa, 2008), <http://www.medscimonit.com/download/index/idArt/855748>