

Fewer Options, Higher Costs Due to Consecutive Years of Inadequate Rates

CHANGE OF COURSE NEEDED TO PROTECT COVERAGE & BENEFITS FOR SENIORS

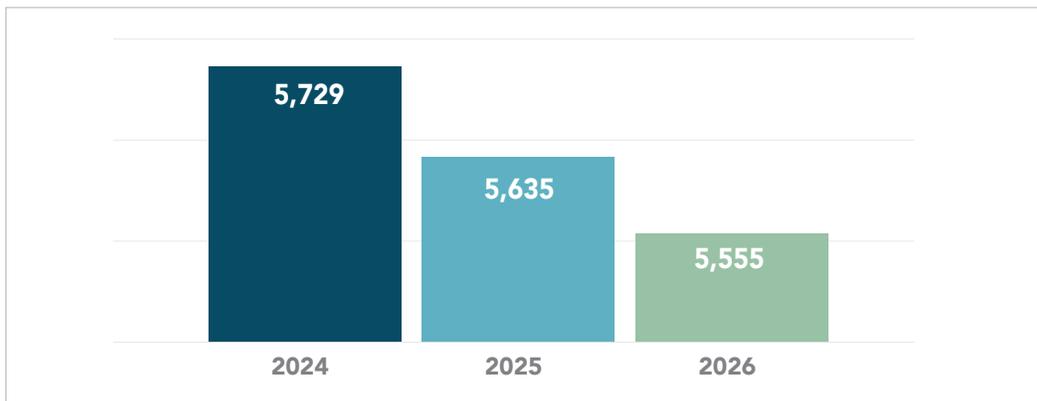
Following consecutive years of Medicare Advantage (MA) rate notices that have not kept pace with higher utilization and medical spending, millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities have fewer coverage options and increased costs in 2026.

Below is an overview of the Medicare Advantage landscape for seniors this year, based on data analysis of current coverage offerings.

These trends would continue under CMS' 2027 Medicare Advantage and Part D Advance Notice, which again fails to keep pace with medical costs. If finalized, it could lead to seniors seeing further coverage losses and benefit cuts when they renew their Medicare Advantage coverage in October 2026. To protect seniors and their coverage, **policy makers must prioritize reforms that adequately keep pace with the rising cost of care.**

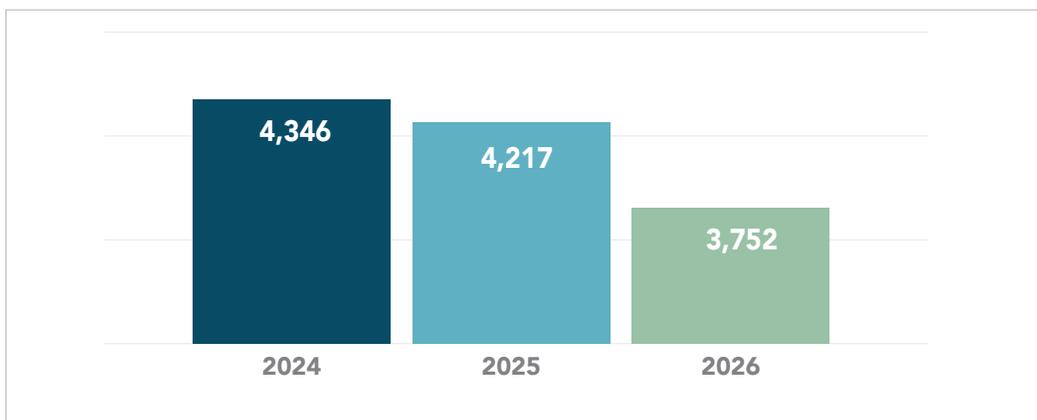
Fewer MA Options

Total Number of MA Plans



For 2026, the total number of MA plans declined for the third consecutive year.^{1,2}

Number of General Enrollment Plans (excludes SNPs and EGWPs)



Driving the reduction in MA options for seniors is a reduction in the number of generally available, non-Special Needs MA Prescription Drug Plans (known as "general enrollment" plans).

1 Milliman, "Medicare Advantage under pressure: How MA-PD plans are responding in 2025," Available at <https://www.milliman.com/en/insight/medicare-advantage-ma-pd-plans-2025>.

2 Milliman, "Navigating pressure in Medicare Advantage: How MA-PD plans are repositioning for 2026," Available at <https://www.milliman.com/en/insight/navigating-pressure-ma-pd-plans-2026>.



Following a 5% reduction from 2024 to 2025 in options, the number of general enrollment plans again declined by 9% in 2026. The two-year decline is nearly 14%.

Market Exits

Consecutive years of cuts to MA reduced the number of MA offerings for seniors to choose from and led to MA plans exiting the market in certain states. Nearly 1 million MA enrollees needed to select new coverage in 2026.³



Certain states are impacted disproportionately. Seniors in New Hampshire (41% of enrollees), Minnesota (35%), Vermont (93%), and Wyoming (65%) were impacted the most by market exits.

Rural areas are also impacted disproportionately. About 10% of enrollees in rural counties were impacted by market exits and needed to select new coverage in 2026 (as opposed to 4% of enrollees in non-rural counties).

Premium Increases

While nearly three-in-four MA enrollees are in \$0 premium plans, the number of \$0 premium plans decreased 9% in 2026 and there are 231 fewer \$0 premium plans on the market when compared to 2025. The average premium for general enrollment plans increased by 24% to \$15.41 in 2026.⁴



³ AHIP analysis of the MA landscape file for 2026; released September 26, 2025.

⁴ Ibid.