

Uptake of In-Home COVID-19 Vaccines among Medicare Fee-for-Service Beneficiaries

Office of Enterprise Data and Analytics

This Data Highlight provides a summary of the claims submitted for Medicare beneficiaries who received an in-home COVID-19 vaccine by demographic and health characteristics.

Background

Starting in June 2021, Medicare provides an additional payment amount for administering in-home COVID-19 vaccines for certain Medicare patients. This Data Highlight examines Medicare Part B fee-for-service (FFS) claims for the administration of in-home COVID-19 vaccines by demographics and health characteristics between June 1, 2021 and June 1, 2022.

Methodology & Limitations

We identified Medicare FFS claims with an additional payment for administering the COVID-19 vaccine in the home using HCPCS code M0201.

One limitation of this analysis is that previous research has found that COVID-19 vaccine administration information is incomplete in Medicare FFS claims.¹ To evaluate whether the data were sufficiently complete for this analysis, we compared the count of distinct beneficiaries with an in-home COVID-19 vaccine to the population of Medicare beneficiaries using home health services, as we believe that users of home health services is a proxy for the population that may be likely to receive an in-home COVID-19 vaccination.² We found that the comparison between these two metrics shows the data are sufficient to support this analysis.

KEY FINDINGS

- Providers billed the in-home add-on payment two times more frequently for beneficiaries dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, compared to non-dually eligible beneficiaries.
- Providers billed the in-home add-on payment about three times as often for beneficiaries 85 years of age and older, compared to younger beneficiaries.
- Providers billed the in-home add-on payment more often for beneficiaries with select chronic conditions that put individuals at risk for serious COVID-19 complications – nearly two times greater use for some conditions.

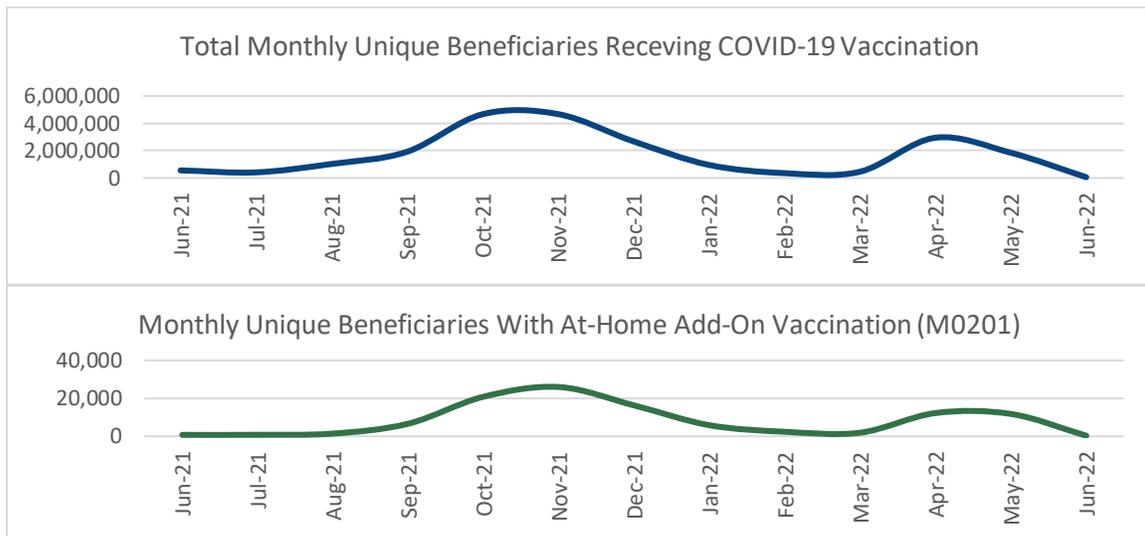
¹ A previously conducted analysis showed that, as of June 4, 2021, only about one-half (48%) of COVID-19 vaccines that were administered to elderly individuals (aged 65 and over) resulted in a claim submission to the Medicare program. That analysis is available here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/assessing-completeness-medicare-claims-data-measuring-covid-19-vaccine-administration.pdf>

² At a national level, about 8% of FFS beneficiaries had a home health claim during the study period while 0.3% of beneficiaries received an in-home COVID-19 vaccine.

Overall

Figure 1 provides a monthly count of FFS Medicare beneficiaries with a claim for a COVID-19 vaccine and a claim for an in-home COVID-19 vaccine between June 2021 and June 2022. We observed just over 17 million FFS Medicare beneficiaries with a claim for a COVID-19 vaccine and approximately 96,000 FFS Medicare beneficiaries with a claim for an in-home COVID-19 vaccine. Generally, monthly fluctuations for in-home administration of the COVID-19 vaccine followed overall COVID-19 vaccine administration trends.

Figure 1: Monthly Unique Beneficiaries With COVID-19 Vaccination and In-Home Vaccination (M0201).



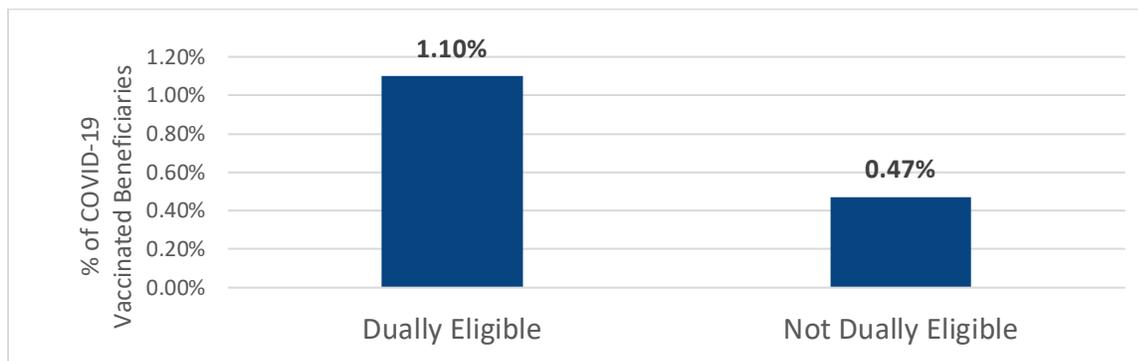
Source: June 1, 2021 - June 1, 2022 Medicare Part B FFS claims, received by December 2022. All Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in FFS Medicare Part B between June 1, 2021 and June 1, 2022 were included in the analysis.

Dually Eligible Beneficiaries

Dually eligible beneficiaries include low-income beneficiaries enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid. Specifically, the term includes beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Part A, Part B, or both, and getting full Medicaid benefits or only help with Medicare premiums or cost-sharing through Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs).

Figure 2 shows that in-home COVID-19 vaccine rates were two times higher among dually eligible beneficiaries (1.10%) compared to non-dually eligible beneficiaries (0.47%).

Figure 2: Comparison of Medicare In-Home COVID-19 Vaccination Rates by Dual Medicare-Medicaid Eligibility.

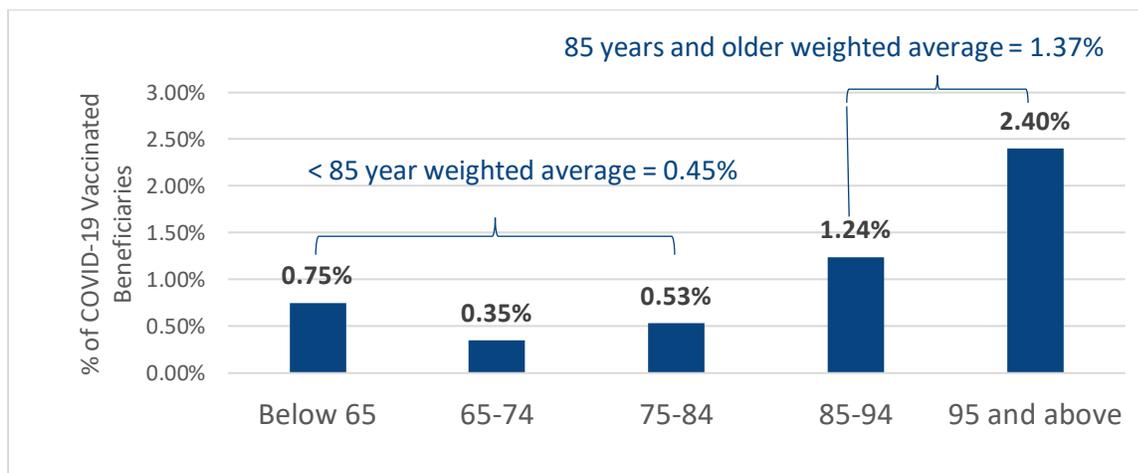


Source: June 1, 2021 - June 1, 2022 Medicare Part B FFS claims, received by December 2022. All Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in FFS Medicare Part B between June 1, 2021 and June 1, 2022 were included in the analysis.

Age Group

Advanced age has been associated with increased risk of COVID-19 hospitalization and death.³ *Figure 3* shows that beneficiaries 85 and older received an in-home COVID-19 vaccination at a rate about 3 times that of younger groups—1.37% of those 85+ with COVID-19 vaccine claims received the in-home vaccine compared to 0.45% of those who were younger. Additionally, those 95 and older were nearly twice as likely as 85-94 year-olds to receive an in-home COVID-19 vaccine.

Figure 3: Comparison of Medicare In-Home COVID-19 Vaccination Rates by Age Group



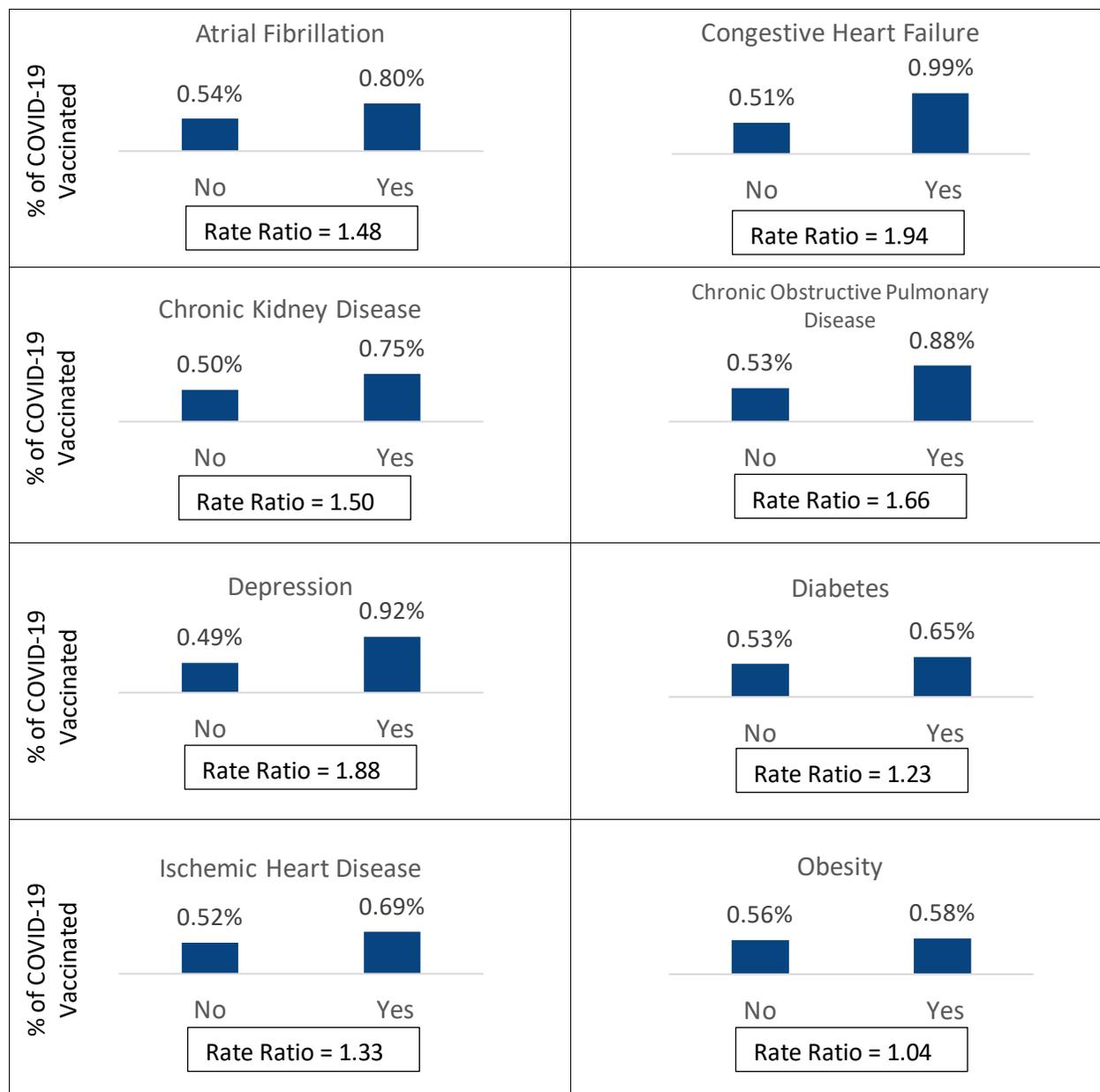
Source: June 1, 2021 - June 1, 2022 Medicare Part B FFS claims, received by December 2022. All Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in FFS Medicare Part B between June 1, 2021 and June 1, 2022 were included in the analysis.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2023. Risk for COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalization, and Death By Age Group. May 03. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-age.html>.

Select Chronic Conditions

Along with age, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that select chronic conditions are associated with worse COVID-19 infection outcomes.⁴ Analysis of chronic conditions present in the Medicare population illustrates that in-home COVID-19 vaccines were provided for a greater proportion of those with the select serious conditions related to those cited by CDC compared to those without the select serious conditions. The association was especially strong for congestive heart failure, with nearly 2 times more beneficiaries with the condition receiving an in-home COVID-19 vaccine compared to those without.

Figure 4. Comparison of Medicare In-Home COVID-19 Vaccination Rates by Select Chronic Conditions.



⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2023. People with Certain Medical Conditions. May 03. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html#:~:text=Having%20heart%20conditions%20such%20as,Heart%20Disease.>

Source: June 1, 2021 - June 1, 2022 Medicare Part B claims, received by December 2022 and 2021 Chronic Condition Warehouse (CCW) chronic conditions files. All Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in FFS Medicare Part B between June 1, 2021 and June 1, 2022 were included in the analysis.