

Table 12.11
Access to Medicare+Choice (M+C)/Medicare Advantage (MA) Coordinated Care Plans (CCP),
Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS) Plans, or Preferred Provider Organization (PPO)
Demonstration Projects, Rural Areas, by Type of Coverage: Calendar Years 1999-2006

Year	Any M+C/MA CCP, PFFS Plan, or PPO Demo Plan	Any M+C/MA CCP Plan	Percent	
			Any Zero Premium Plan	Any Plan with Drug Coverage
1999	---	23	14	19
2000	62	21	9	16
2001 ¹	60	14	4	8
2002	59	13	2	9
2003	59	13	2	8
2004 ²	62	15	13	26
2005 ²	97	40	54	94
2006 ³	98	41	55	94

¹Includes 53 counties, with 99,000 beneficiaries, where PFFS became available in December 2001.

²The 2004 and 2005 data reflect the reclassification of the metropolitan statistical area (MSA) status of a number of counties. There was a net reduction in the number of Medicare beneficiaries residing in non-MSA (rural) counties of about one million. About 1.5 million beneficiaries were in the counties changing from non-MSA to MSA status, and about half a million beneficiaries were in counties that changed from MSA status to non-MSA status (generally because of being assigned to the new category of micropolitan areas).

³The 2006 data used the same definition of rural that CMS had used in a number of other published studies. It was felt that for purposes of consistency this definition should be used: Metropolitan areas were considered urban while micropolitan areas and areas that were neither metropolitan nor micropolitan were considered rural.

NOTES: The 2005 data are as of October 2005. The 2006 data are as of December 2006. In all years, only plans available to all Medicare beneficiaries in a county are included. That is, plans such as those available only to members of an employer group, or Special Needs Plans (SNP) available as of 2005, are excluded. In 2006, only Local CCP and PFFS Organization types were used. Employer only plans were excluded but SNP were included since they frequently were either targeted to local enrollees and/or allowed disproportionate shares of non-targeted enrollees. The Zero-premium and Drug-Coverage column data included all plan types except Prescription Drug Coverage plans, Employer Direct plans, and Regional PPO.

SOURCES: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of Research, Development, and Information: Analysis of Health Plan Management System data; MedPAC Annual Reports 1999 and 2000.