



MEDICARE AND MEDICAID FACT SHEET

Although usually called the Medicare bill, the actual title of the law is the Social Security Amendments of 1965.

President Lyndon Johnson signed the Amendments into law on July 30, 1965, at the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Missouri. Truman had tried to pass a bill to provide low-cost medical and hospital care for America's elderly but had failed in his attempts. At the ceremony, Harry Truman was the first person to enroll in Medicare; he and his wife, Bess, received the first Medicare insurance cards.

Medicare is Title XVIII of the Social Security Act; Medicaid is Title XIX.

More than 2 and a half million Americans received hospital care covered by Medicare in the program's first six months.

Today, 55.2 million Americans receive Medicare; 66.7 million Americans receive Medicaid.*

Some initial provisions of the program as passed in 1965:

- Program covered up to 90 days of hospital care, 100 days of nursing home care, and 100 home health care visits;
- Persons over 65 could pay \$3 a month for a voluntary health insurance plan covering 80 percent of doctor bills, laboratory tests, and related services.
- Language in the Medicare law required persons not covered by Social Security to swear that they were not members of any Communist organizations, a requirement that carried over from Section 210a (17) of the Social Security Act.

Budget funding for Medicare and Medicaid in fiscal year 1966, the first full year of Medicare's operation, was approximately \$2.2 billion.

In 2013, Medicare spending, which represented 20% of national health spending, was \$585.7 billion; Medicaid spending was \$449.4 billion.*

*Source: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services