

# Breast cancer screening

Medicare Qualified Entity Public Report

June 2025



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# Report overview

According to the American Cancer Society, one of the most common cancers among women in the United States is breast cancer. In 2025, it is projected that over 315,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed.<sup>1</sup> Given the relative prevalence of this disease, breast cancer screening is common and recommended for all women and assigned female at birth persons over a certain age and with various risk factors. Testing primarily includes imaging studies such as mammography and digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT), a form of 3D mammography.

The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of breast cancer screening rates for women 52-74 years of age who had a primary breast cancer screening. This report includes national and state aggregations for breast cancer screening rates for Medicare and commercial beneficiaries.

## Measure

### Overview

Breast cancer screening rates are a standard CMS quality measure as part of the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) Program.<sup>2</sup>

In this report, we will assess breast cancer screening rates as measured by CMS and determine ranges for Medicare beneficiaries, commercial beneficiaries, and an aggregate across Medicare and commercial beneficiaries.

### Methodology & definitions

Populi based its methodology on the standard measure criteria from CMS as outlined below.

#### Measure source

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare quality initiatives through the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)<sup>34</sup>

#### Time period: Calendar Year 2023

Historical analysis is also provided for calendar year 2021. This timing aligns with claims availability.

#### Denominator eligibility

Medicare and commercial beneficiaries.

Females between the age of 50-74.

<sup>1</sup> American Cancer Society. 2025 Trends in Breast Cancer.

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/about/how-common-is-breast-cancer.html>

<sup>2</sup> CMS Quality Payment Program. ID 112: Breast Cancer Screening. <https://qpp.cms.gov/mips/explore-measures/ecqm/CMS125v12>

<sup>4</sup> Refer to Measure Variation ID: CMS125v12 - Breast Cancer Screening, MIPS Quality ID: 112.

## Numerator eligibility

Medicare and commercial beneficiaries who had one or more mammograms anytime on or between October 1 two years prior to the measurement year and December 31<sup>st</sup> of the measurement year.

## Exclusion criteria

Denominator Exclusions: Bilateral mastectomy any time during the member's history through December 31 of the measurement year.

Numerator Exclusions: Primary breast cancer screening only (excludes biopsies, breast ultrasounds, or magnetic resonance images (MRIs))

## Data

The measures are calculated using an integrated data set containing commercial all-payor claims data and the Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) data Populi receives as a Qualified Entity. All measures in this report are based on national data from all U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

The definitions of each payor source are as follows:

- Medicare FFS includes enrollment and claims data for approximately 30.5 million individuals covered by Traditional Medicare.
- Commercial all-payor claims data covers approximately 212.6 million individuals who are commercially insured and have relevant claims activity during the reporting period. Please note that commercial all-payor claims data does not represent 100% of the total commercial claims activity available for analyses.

## Measure score interpretation

For the breast cancer screening measure (CMS125v12), regions are assessed on the rates of primary preventative breast cancer screening based on the proportion of total population.

This report provides aggregate primary breast cancer screening rates (expressed as a percentage) at the national and state level and compares them to the national benchmark of 46.5% of women aged 50-74 that had a mammogram in the past 2 years. The results feature national and state indicators for whether certain geographies have higher or lower than national benchmark breast cancer screening rates.

Additionally, this report provides an annual trend line for historical years, to provide some context as to how breast cancer screening rates have changed over time.

# Breast cancer screening rates

## All beneficiaries (combined Medicare & commercial)

Overall, 58 million patients within the combined beneficiary group had a primary mammography study in FFY 2023.

### Results

#### National rates

- The national rate for primary breast cancer screening is **46.5%**, which will serve as the benchmark.

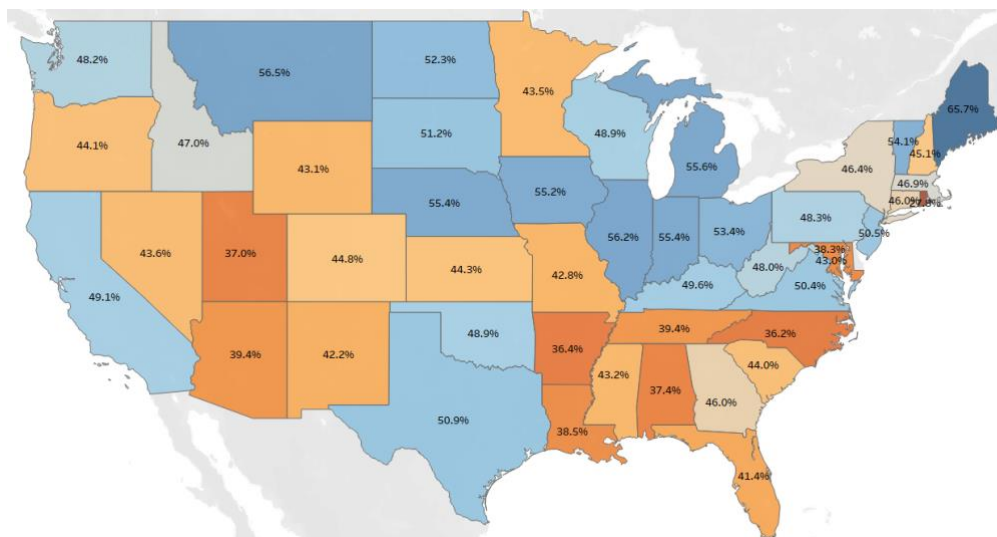
#### State rates

Refer to Figures 1.1 and 1.2 for a visual breakdown of the screening rates.

- States with lower than **46.5%** screening rates:
  - 27 (41.5%)**
- States with higher than **46.5%** screening rates:
  - 24 (52.2%)**

### Findings

Many states align with the benchmark of 46.5% primary screening rates. 27 out of 50 states (plus the District of Columbia) have screening rates that are outside the benchmark, with 27 below and 24 above the standard range.



**Figure 1.1.** Heatmap of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, combined Medicare FFS and commercial all-payor beneficiaries.



**Figure 1.2.** Scatterplot of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, combined Medicare FFS and commercial all-payor beneficiaries.

## Medicare beneficiaries

Overall, 5.7 million Medicare beneficiaries had a primary mammography study in FFY 2023.

## Results

## National rates

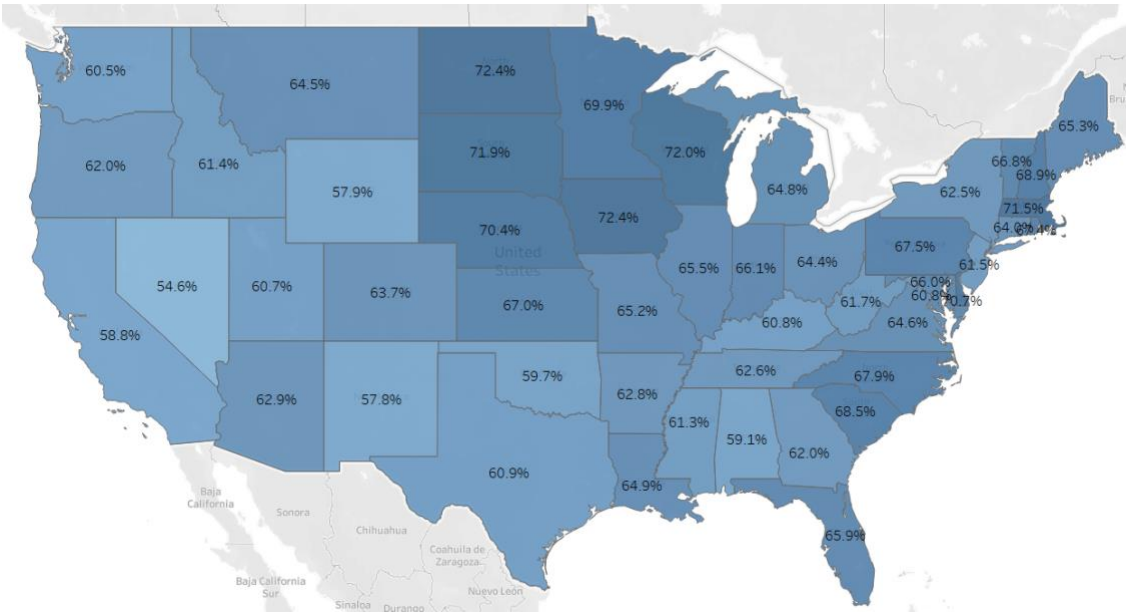
- The national rate for Medicare FFS beneficiaries breast cancer screening is **64.3%**, which is higher than the 46.5% benchmark.

## State rates

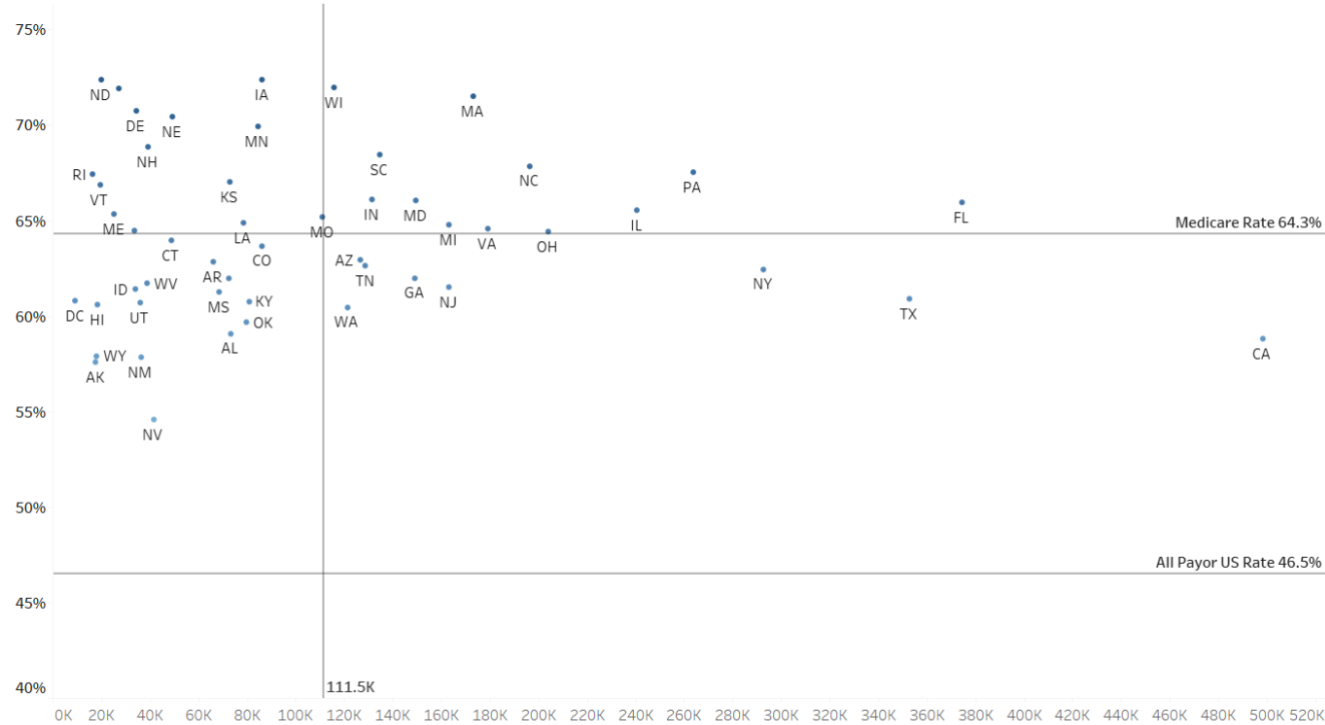
Refer to Figures 1.1 and 1.2 for a visual breakdown of the screening rates.

## Findings

Compared to the screening rates in the combined dataset and the commercial all-payor dataset, Medicare FFS beneficiaries in all states have a higher screening rate than the 46.5% benchmark.



**Figure 2.1.** Heatmap of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, for Medicare FFS beneficiaries.



**Figure 2.2.** Scatterplot of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, for Medicare FFS.

## Commercial beneficiaries

Overall, 14.2 million patients within the available commercial data were shown to have had a primary mammography in FFY 2023.

### Results

#### National rates

- The national rate for commercial beneficiaries' breast cancer screening is **40.6%**, which is lower than the **46.5%** benchmark.

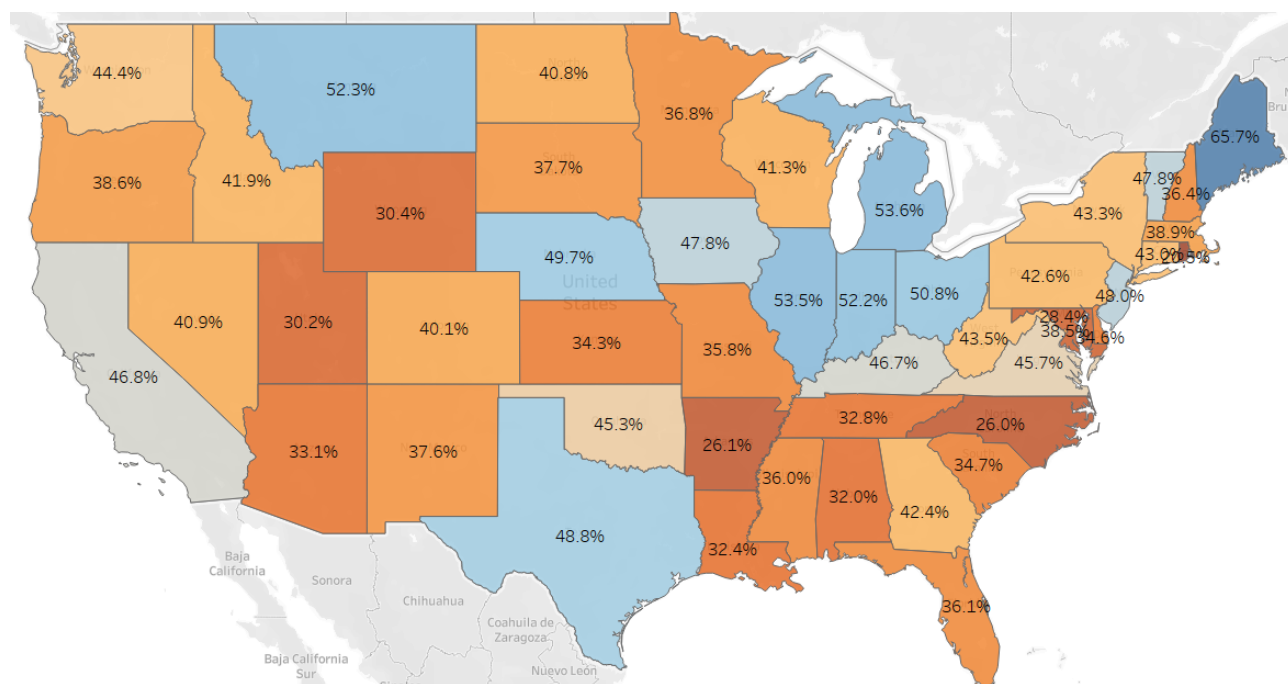
#### State rates

Refer to Figures 1.1 and 1.2 for a visual breakdown of the screening rates.

- States with lower than **46.5%** screening rates:
  - 37 (36.6%)**
- States with higher than **46.5%** screening rates:
  - 14 (51.2%)**

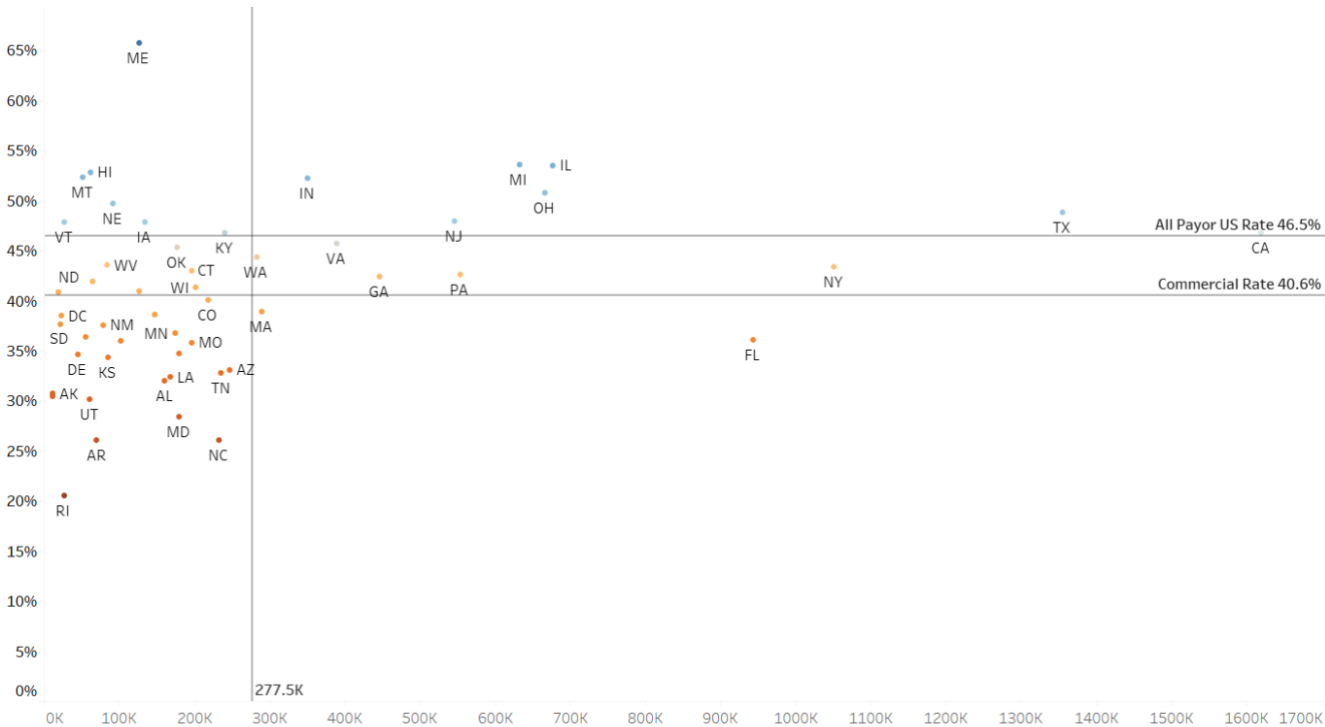
### Findings

Most states have screening rates that are lower than the 46.5% benchmark. 37 out of 50 states (plus the District of Columbia) have screening rates that are not in line with the benchmark, with 37 below and 14 above the average range.



**Figure 3.1.** Heatmap of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, for commercial all-payor beneficiaries.





**Figure 3.2.** Scatterplot of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, for commercial all-payor beneficiaries.

# Historical trends

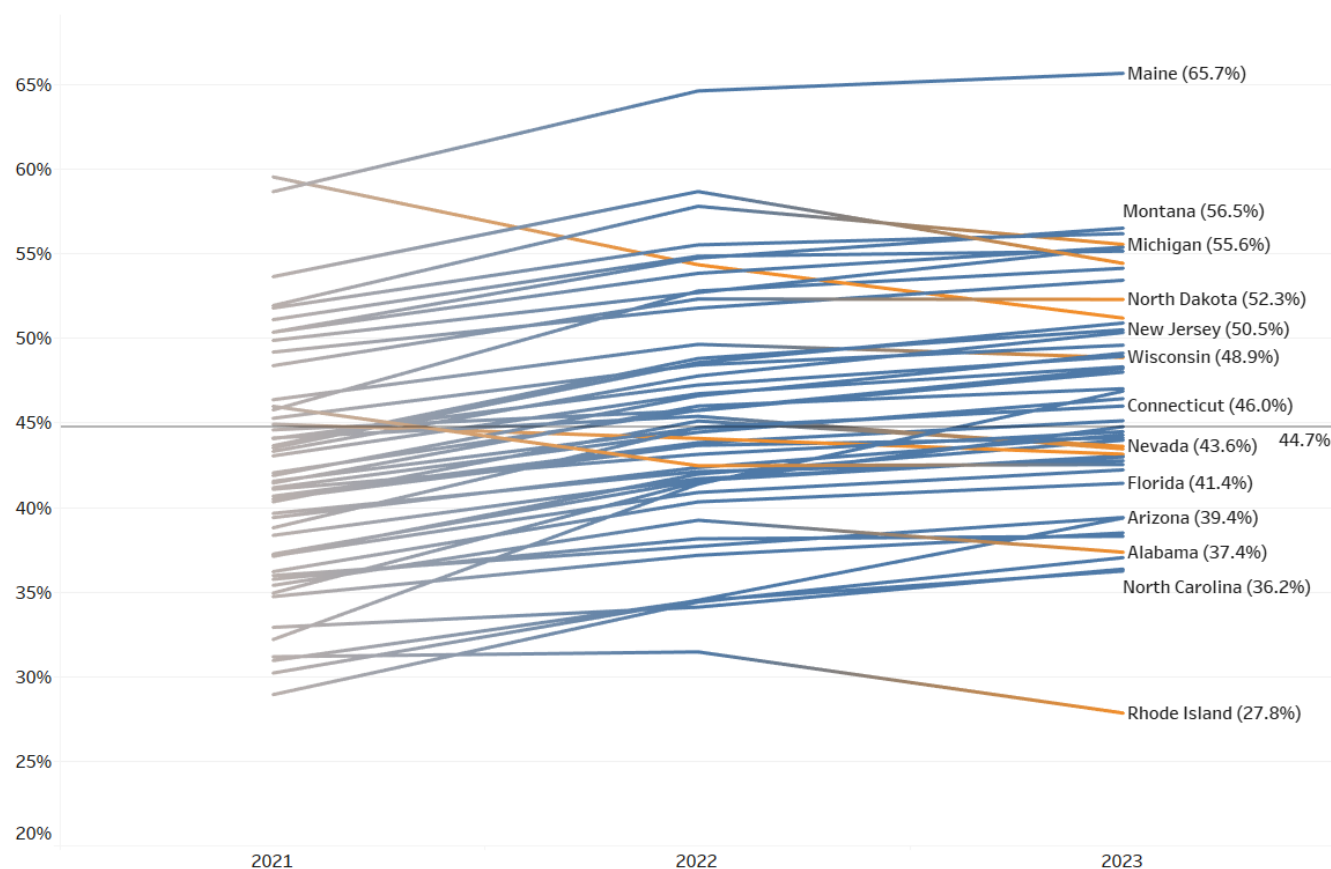
## Trends: All beneficiaries (combined Medicare and commercial)

Between the years of 2021 and 2023, 2023 was the most consistent year for screening rates that align with the 46.5% benchmark across all states for all beneficiaries, while Maine had the highest screening rates across the U.S. (as depicted in Figure 4.1 below).

Patient State	2021	2022	2023	≡
Grand Total	42.1%	45.5%	46.5%	
Maine	58.7%	64.6%	65.7%	
Montana	50.4%	54.8%	56.5%	
Illinois	51.8%	55.5%	56.2%	
Michigan	51.9%	57.8%	55.6%	
Indiana	50.4%	53.9%	55.4%	
Nebraska	49.9%	52.7%	55.4%	
Iowa	51.1%	54.9%	55.2%	
Hawaii	53.7%	58.7%	54.4%	
Vermont	45.8%	52.8%	54.1%	
Ohio	49.2%	51.8%	53.4%	
North Dakota	48.4%	52.3%	52.3%	
South Dakota	59.5%	54.4%	51.2%	
Texas	43.5%	48.6%	50.9%	
New Jersey	43.7%	48.8%	50.5%	
Virginia	43.3%	47.8%	50.4%	
Kentucky	45.3%	48.4%	49.6%	
California	41.9%	46.6%	49.1%	
Oklahoma	44.1%	47.2%	48.9%	
Wisconsin	46.4%	49.7%	48.9%	
Pennsylvania	43.1%	46.7%	48.3%	
Washington	42.0%	45.8%	48.2%	
West Virginia	44.6%	45.7%	48.0%	
Idaho	41.4%	46.0%	47.0%	
Massachusetts	32.2%	41.4%	46.9%	
New York	41.2%	44.5%	46.4%	
Georgia	41.6%	44.7%	46.0%	
Connecticut	38.8%	44.7%	46.0%	
New Hampshire	40.7%	43.8%	45.1%	
Colorado	34.9%	41.5%	44.8%	
Delaware	41.1%	43.1%	44.5%	
Kansas	39.4%	42.4%	44.3%	
Oregon	40.5%	43.7%	44.1%	
South Carolina	37.1%	42.0%	44.0%	
Nevada	40.3%	45.1%	43.6%	
Minnesota	44.1%	45.4%	43.5%	
Mississippi	44.9%	44.1%	43.2%	
Wyoming	37.2%	41.6%	43.1%	
District of Columbia	38.4%	41.7%	43.0%	
Missouri	39.7%	42.1%	42.8%	
Alaska	46.0%	42.5%	42.5%	
New Mexico	37.1%	40.9%	42.2%	
Florida	36.2%	40.3%	41.4%	
Tennessee	36.0%	37.7%	39.4%	
Arizona	30.2%	34.5%	39.4%	
Louisiana	34.7%	37.2%	38.5%	
Maryland	35.8%	38.2%	38.3%	
Alabama	35.4%	39.3%	37.4%	
Utah	28.9%	34.4%	37.0%	
Arkansas	32.9%	34.1%	36.4%	
North Carolina	31.0%	34.5%	36.2%	
Rhode Island	31.2%	31.5%	27.8%	

**Figure 4.1.** Summary of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, for grand total (commercial all-payor and Medicare) beneficiaries across CY 2021 – 2023

From 2019 to 2023, there were mostly increases by state in screening rates. Based on CY 2023, screening rates seem to be increasing as compared to the 46.5% benchmark (as depicted in Figure 4.2 below). The states that experienced increases in screening rates are also highlighted below in blue.



**Figure 4.2.** Trendline of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, for grand total (commercial all-payor and Medicare) beneficiaries across CY 2021 – 2023.

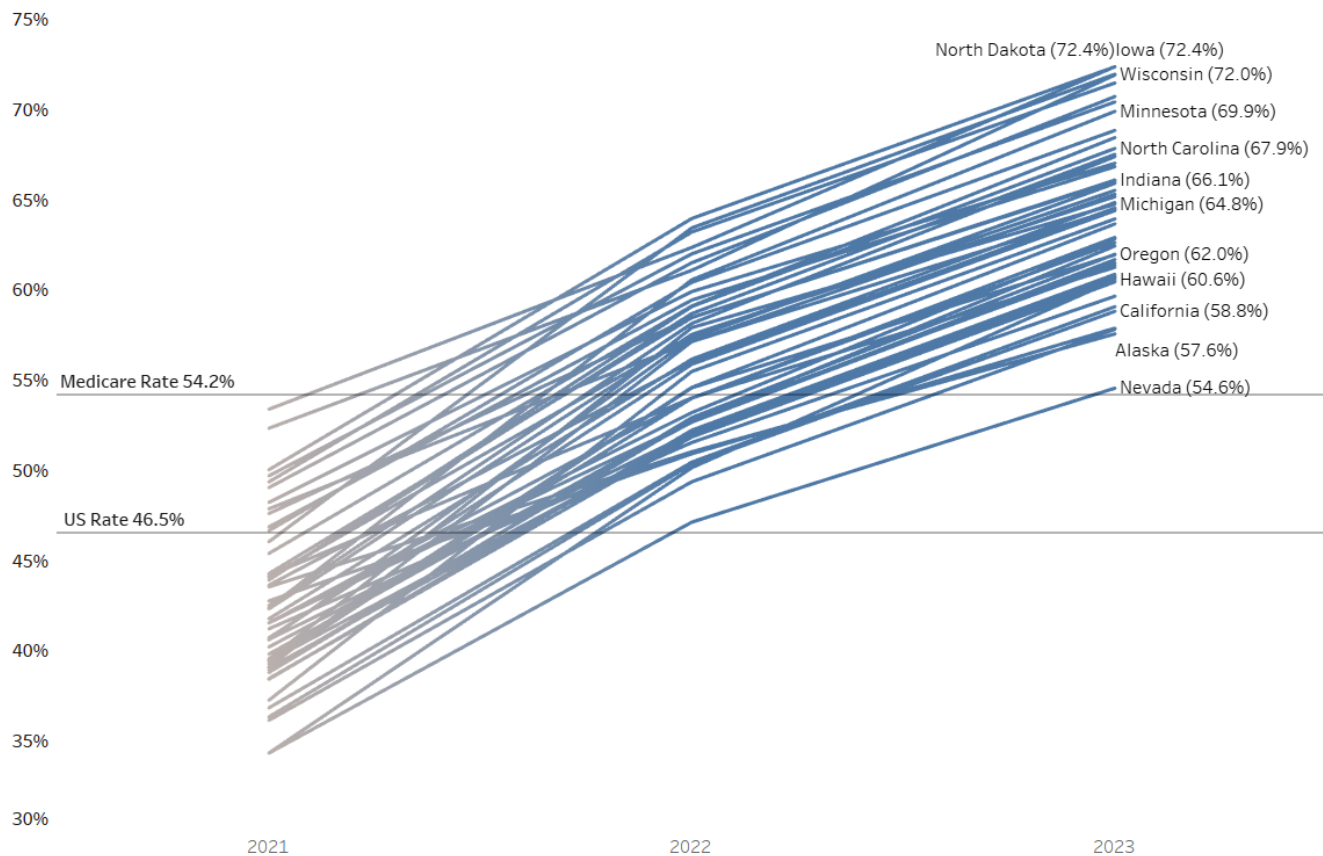
## Trends: Medicare beneficiaries

Breast cancer screening rates for Medicare beneficiaries have increased from 2021 to 2023. Five states had the highest screening rates for Medicare beneficiaries across the U.S. at over 70%. (as depicted in Figure 4.1 below).

Patient State	2021	2022	2023
Grand Total	42.5%	55.8%	64.3%
North Dakota	53.4%	62.4%	72.4%
Iowa	50.0%	64.0%	72.4%
Wisconsin	46.1%	63.5%	72.0%
South Dakota	52.3%	61.1%	71.9%
Massachusetts	49.4%	63.2%	71.5%
Delaware	49.0%	61.5%	70.7%
Nebraska	49.7%	62.0%	70.4%
Minnesota	42.4%	60.6%	69.9%
New Hampshire	46.7%	60.4%	68.9%
South Carolina	45.4%	59.1%	68.5%
North Carolina	43.9%	59.1%	67.9%
Pennsylvania	43.9%	58.7%	67.5%
Rhode Island	42.5%	58.2%	67.4%
Kansas	48.2%	59.9%	67.0%
Vermont	46.9%	59.5%	66.8%
Indiana	44.3%	58.5%	66.1%
Maryland	47.6%	58.5%	66.0%
Florida	40.6%	57.3%	65.9%
Illinois	44.1%	57.5%	65.5%
Maine	39.1%	57.2%	65.3%
Missouri	42.3%	57.5%	65.2%
Louisiana	41.8%	56.2%	64.9%
Michigan	39.5%	57.9%	64.8%
Virginia	43.6%	56.0%	64.6%
Montana	47.9%	57.1%	64.5%
Ohio	40.7%	55.9%	64.4%
Connecticut	37.3%	55.5%	64.0%
Colorado	39.5%	54.6%	63.7%
Arizona	39.6%	54.0%	62.9%
Arkansas	41.6%	53.2%	62.8%
Tennessee	41.6%	54.0%	62.6%
New York	38.9%	52.8%	62.5%
Georgia	38.8%	52.9%	62.0%
Oregon	39.3%	54.6%	62.0%
West Virginia	41.6%	52.7%	61.7%
New Jersey	40.2%	52.7%	61.5%
Idaho	39.8%	52.8%	61.4%
Mississippi	44.2%	54.0%	61.3%
Texas	38.4%	52.2%	60.9%
District of Columbia	40.6%	52.1%	60.8%
Kentucky	39.0%	52.0%	60.8%
Utah	39.4%	51.9%	60.7%
Hawaii	34.3%	50.2%	60.6%
Washington	38.5%	51.9%	60.5%
Oklahoma	41.2%	51.6%	59.7%
Alabama	36.8%	50.5%	59.1%
California	36.3%	50.4%	58.8%
Wyoming	42.8%	50.9%	57.9%
New Mexico	36.2%	49.4%	57.8%
Alaska	43.6%	51.0%	57.6%
Nevada	34.3%	47.1%	54.6%

**Figure 5.1.** Summary of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, for Medicare beneficiaries across CY 2021 – 2023.

All states have experienced increases from 2021 through 2023 and have screening rates for Medicare beneficiaries that exceed the benchmark of 46.5% by 2023. (as depicted in Figure 4.2 below).



**Figure 5.2.** Trendline of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, for Medicare beneficiaries across CY 2021 – 2023.

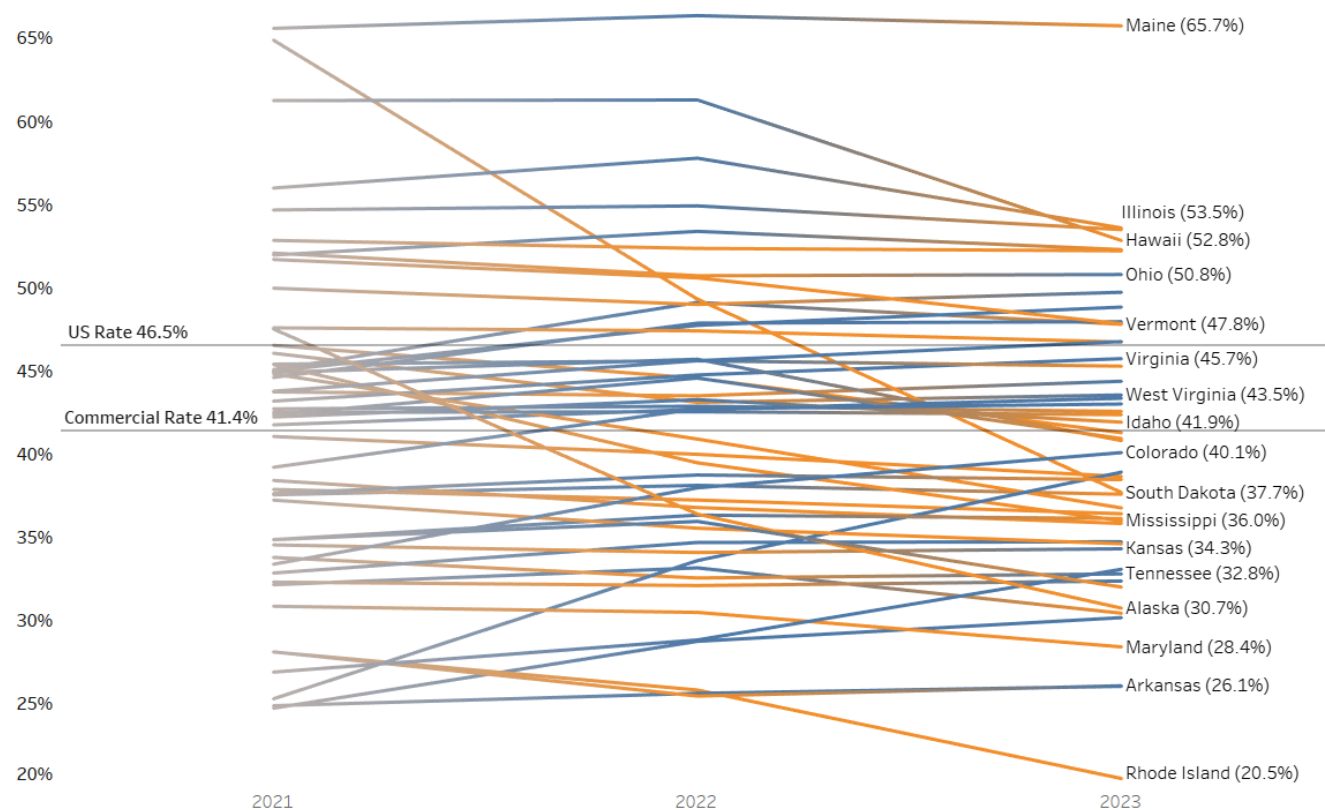
## Trends: Commercial beneficiaries

Between the years of 2021 and 2023, 2023 was the most consistent year for screening rates as compared to the benchmark 46.5% across all states for all beneficiaries, with Maine having the highest screening rates across the U.S. (as depicted in Figure 4.1 below).

Patient State	2021	2022	2023	≡
Grand Total	41.8%	41.7%	40.6%	
Maine	65.6%	66.4%	65.7%	
Michigan	56.0%	57.8%	53.6%	
Illinois	54.7%	54.9%	53.5%	
Hawaii	61.3%	61.3%	52.8%	
Montana	52.0%	53.4%	52.3%	
Indiana	52.8%	52.4%	52.2%	
Ohio	52.1%	50.7%	50.8%	
Nebraska	50.0%	49.0%	49.7%	
Texas	45.0%	47.7%	48.8%	
New Jersey	44.6%	47.9%	48.0%	
Iowa	51.7%	50.6%	47.8%	
Vermont	45.1%	49.1%	47.8%	
California	43.8%	45.6%	46.8%	
Kentucky	47.6%	47.4%	46.7%	
Virginia	43.2%	44.7%	45.7%	
Oklahoma	45.4%	45.6%	45.3%	
Washington	43.7%	43.5%	44.4%	
West Virginia	46.1%	43.1%	43.5%	
New York	41.7%	42.7%	43.3%	
Connecticut	39.2%	42.7%	43.0%	
Pennsylvania	42.7%	42.9%	42.6%	
Georgia	42.5%	42.5%	42.4%	
Idaho	42.2%	43.3%	41.9%	
Wisconsin	46.5%	44.6%	41.3%	
Nevada	42.4%	44.6%	40.9%	
North Dakota	44.9%	45.7%	40.8%	
Colorado	33.4%	38.0%	40.1%	
Massachusetts	25.3%	33.6%	38.9%	
Oregon	41.0%	40.0%	38.6%	
District of Columbia	37.6%	38.7%	38.5%	
South Dakota	64.9%	49.3%	37.7%	
New Mexico	37.5%	38.1%	37.6%	
Minnesota	44.8%	40.9%	36.8%	
New Hampshire	37.9%	37.2%	36.4%	
Florida	34.8%	36.3%	36.1%	
Mississippi	45.4%	39.5%	36.0%	
Missouri	38.4%	36.8%	35.8%	
South Carolina	32.8%	34.7%	34.7%	
Delaware	37.2%	35.5%	34.6%	
Kansas	34.5%	34.1%	34.3%	
Arizona	26.9%	28.8%	33.1%	
Tennessee	33.8%	32.5%	32.8%	
Louisiana	32.3%	32.1%	32.4%	
Alabama	34.8%	35.9%	32.0%	
Alaska	47.5%	36.4%	30.7%	
Wyoming	32.1%	33.1%	30.4%	
Utah	24.7%	28.7%	30.2%	
Maryland	30.8%	30.5%	28.4%	
Arkansas	28.1%	25.4%	26.1%	
North Carolina	24.9%	25.6%	26.0%	
Rhode Island	28.1%	25.8%	20.5%	

**Figure 6.1.** Summary of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, for patients within the available commercial data across CY 2021 – 2023.

Between the years of 2021 and 2023, there were increases for some states (highlighted in blue) and decreases (highlighted in orange as depicted in Figure 4.2 below).



**Figure 6.2.** Trendline of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, for patients within the available commercial data across CY 2021 – 2023.



# Conclusion

For all states in the latest full year of data (FFY 2023), breast cancer screening rates for Medicare beneficiaries are 64.3%. In select states, commercial all-payor beneficiaries (as depicted in Figure 4.1 below) have lower screening rates than Medicare beneficiaries.

Overall, the U.S. average breast cancer screening rates is 46.5% across both commercial and Medicare beneficiaries.

Patient State	Commercial	Medicare	Grand Total
Grand Total	40.6%	64.3%	46.5%
Alabama	32.0%	59.1%	37.4%
Alaska	30.7%	57.6%	42.5%
Arizona	33.1%	62.9%	39.4%
Arkansas	26.1%	62.8%	36.4%
California	46.8%	58.8%	49.1%
Colorado	40.1%	63.7%	44.8%
Connecticut	43.0%	64.0%	46.0%
Delaware	34.6%	70.7%	44.5%
District of Columbia	38.5%	60.8%	43.0%
Florida	36.1%	65.9%	41.4%
Georgia	42.4%	62.0%	46.0%
Hawaii	52.8%	60.6%	54.4%
Idaho	41.9%	61.4%	47.0%
Illinois	53.5%	65.5%	56.2%
Indiana	52.2%	66.1%	55.4%
Iowa	47.8%	72.4%	55.2%
Kansas	34.3%	67.0%	44.3%
Kentucky	46.7%	60.8%	49.6%
Louisiana	32.4%	64.9%	38.5%
Maine	65.7%	65.3%	65.7%
Maryland	28.4%	66.0%	38.3%
Massachusetts	38.9%	71.5%	46.9%
Michigan	53.6%	64.8%	55.6%
Minnesota	36.8%	69.9%	43.5%
Mississippi	36.0%	61.3%	43.2%
Missouri	35.8%	65.2%	42.8%
Montana	52.3%	64.5%	56.5%
Nebraska	49.7%	70.4%	55.4%
Nevada	40.9%	54.6%	43.6%
New Hampshire	36.4%	68.9%	45.1%
New Jersey	48.0%	61.5%	50.5%
New Mexico	37.6%	57.8%	42.2%
New York	43.3%	62.5%	46.4%
North Carolina	26.0%	67.9%	36.2%
North Dakota	40.8%	72.4%	52.3%
Ohio	50.8%	64.4%	53.4%
Oklahoma	45.3%	59.7%	48.9%
Oregon	38.6%	62.0%	44.1%
Pennsylvania	42.6%	67.5%	48.3%
Rhode Island	20.5%	67.4%	27.8%
South Carolina	34.7%	68.5%	44.0%
South Dakota	37.7%	71.9%	51.2%
Tennessee	32.8%	62.6%	39.4%
Texas	48.8%	60.9%	50.9%
Utah	30.2%	60.7%	37.0%
Vermont	47.8%	66.8%	54.1%
Virginia	45.7%	64.6%	50.4%
Washington	44.4%	60.5%	48.2%
West Virginia	43.5%	61.7%	48.0%
Wisconsin	41.3%	72.0%	48.9%
Wyoming	30.4%	57.9%	43.1%

**Figure 7.1.** Summary of U.S. states based on breast cancer screening rates, for commercial all-payor, Medicare, and grand total (commercial all-payor and Medicare) beneficiaries.



# About us

## About Populi, a Definitive Healthcare Company

At Definitive Healthcare, our mission is to transform data, analytics, and expertise into healthcare commercial intelligence. We help clients uncover the right markets, opportunities, and people, so they can shape tomorrow's healthcare industry. Our SaaS products and solutions create new paths to commercial success in the healthcare market, so companies can identify where to go next.

Populi, a Definitive Healthcare Company, provides solutions to drive healthcare organization growth with use-case driven analytics and customizable visuals, all in a plug-and-play solution.

- **Provider Intelligence:** Inform your provider outreach and targeting strategy with comprehensive affiliations and attribute data.
- **Market Intelligence:** Understand your market trends with claims-based volume and benchmarking analytics.
- **Network Intelligence:** Understand and manage your network performance with analytics on referral patterns, benchmarks, and market volumes.
- **Population Intelligence:** Optimize your marketing campaigns and consumer activation with robust patient and consumer analytics.

For more information, contact us at [support@populi.ai](mailto:support@populi.ai).

## Medicare Qualified Entity Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Qualified Entity (QE) Program enables organizations to receive Medicare Parts A and B claims data and Part D prescription drug event data for use in evaluating provider performance after completing and receiving approval through the QE application process. QEs are required to combine the CMS Medicare data received under QECP with other sources of claims data to produce annual public reports on provider performance using measures of quality, efficiency, effectiveness, and resource use. More information on QECP can be found on CMS's website: [Qualified Entity Program](#)