

United States Senate

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Schumer: New Medicare Drug Benefit Confusing Over 1.3 Million Upstate New York Seniors

Across New York State, over 1.3 million people are currently enrolled in Medicare and eligible for the new Medicare prescription drug plan. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, of Medicare enrollees, 46% did not know that they could be penalized if they did not enroll by the deadline, 37% did not plan to enroll at all, and only 14% had visited the www.medicare.gov or called 1-800-MEDICARE to learn more about new plans. Eight percent called and six percent visited the website. Overall, in Upstate New York that means over 608,000 seniors don't know yet that there is a penalty for late enrollment, 489,000 don't even plan on enrolling at all and only 185,000 of the 1.3 million eligible

There are **162,000** Medicare enrollees in the **Capital Region**. An estimated **74,000** do not know there is a penalty for late enrollment in the Medicare prescription drug plan, and an estimated **59,000** do not plan to enroll. An estimated **22,000** seniors have called the hotline or visited the website to compare plans.

County	Total Medicare Enrollees By County	Estimated Number of Seniors Who Do Not Know There Is Penalty For Late Enrollment	Estimated Number of Seniors Who Do Not Plan To Enroll	Estimated Number of Seniors Who Have Called 1-800-Medicare Or Visited Website
Albany	44,866	20,638	16,600	6,281
Fulton	9,273	4,266	3,431	1,298
Montgomery	11,042	5,079	4,086	1,546
Rensselaer	23,825	10,960	8,815	3,336
Saratoga	28,443	13,084	10,524	3,982
Schenectady	29,101	13,386	10,767	4,074
Schoharie	5,382	2,476	1,991	753
Washington	10,068	4,631	3,725	1,410
Capital Region Total	162,000	74,520	59,939	22,680

There are **153,951** Medicare enrollees in **Central New York**. An estimated **70,000** do not know there is a penalty for late enrollment in the Medicare prescription drug plan, and an estimated **56,000** do not plan to enroll. An estimated **21,000** seniors have called the hotline or visited the website to compare plans.

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Cortland	7,216	3,319	2,670	1,010
Madison	10,610	4,881	3,926	1,485
Oneida	44,617	20,524	16,508	6,246
Onondaga	73,209	33,676	27,087	10,249
Oswego	18,299	8,418	6,771	2,562
Central New York Totals	153,951	70,818	56,962	21,552

There are **339,000** Medicare enrollees in the **Hudson Valley**. An estimated **156,000** do not know there is a penalty for late enrollment in the Medicare prescription drug plan, and an estimated **125,000** do not plan to enroll. An estimated **47,000** seniors have called the hotline or visited the website to compare plans.

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Columbia	11,272	5,185	4,171	1,578
Dutchess	42,083	19,358	15,571	5,892
Greene	8,748	4,024	3,237	1,225
Orange	43,565	20,040	16,119	6,099
Putnam	11,183	5,144	4,138	1,566
Rockland	41,458	19,071	15,339	5,804
Sullivan	13,170	6,058	4,873	1,844
Ulster	27,798	12,787	10,285	3,892
Westchester	140,083	64,438	51,831	19,612
Hudson Valley Totals	339,360	156,106	125,563	47,510

There are **90,532** Medicare enrollees in the **North Country**. An estimated **41,000** do not know there is a penalty for late enrollment in the Medicare prescription drug plan, and an estimated **33,000** do not plan to enroll. An estimated **12,000** seniors have called the hotline or visited the website to compare plans.

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Clinton	11,625	5,348	4,304	1,628
Essex	7,577	3,485	2,803	1,161
Franklin	7,907	3,637	2,926	1,107
Hamilton	1,251	575	463	175
Herkimer	11,688	5,376	4,325	1,636
Jefferson	15,651	7,199	5,791	2,191
Lewis	4,211	1,937	1,558	590
St. Lawrence	18,817	8,656	6,962	2,634
Warren	11,805	5,430	4,368	1,653
North Country Totals	90,532	41,643	33,500	12,775

There are **189,000** Medicare enrollees in the **Rochester / Finger Lakes Region**. An estimated **87,000** do not know there is a penalty for late enrollment in the Medicare prescription drug plan, and an estimated **70,000** do not plan to enroll. An estimated **26,000** seniors have called the hotline or visited the website to compare plans.

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Cayuga	13,006	5,983	4,812	1,821
Livingston	9,355	4,303	3,461	1,310
Yates	4,590	2,111	1,698	643
Monroe	111,240	51,170	41,159	15,574
Ontario	16,159	7,433	5,979	2,262
Schuyler	3,122	1,436	1,155	437
Seneca	5,602	2,577	2,073	784
Tompkins	11,004	5,062	4,071	1,541
Wayne	15,544	7,150	5,751	2,176
Rochester / FL Totals	189,622	87,226	70,160	26,547

There are **117,000** Medicare enrollees in the **Southern Tier**. An estimated **54,000** do not know there is a penalty for late enrollment in the Medicare prescription drug plan, and an estimated **43,000** do not plan to enroll. An estimated **16,000** seniors have called the hotline or visited the website to compare plans..

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Allegany	8,139	3,744	3,011	1,139
Broome	38,389	17,659	14,204	5,374
Chemung	16,716	7,689	6,185	2,340
Chenango	9,197	4,231	3,403	1,288
Delaware	9,170	4,218	3,393	1,284
Otsego	10,762	4,951	3,982	1,507
Steuben	17,452	8,028	6,457	2,443
Tioga	7,884	3,627	2,917	1,104
Southern tier totals	117,709	54,146	43,552	16,479

There are **270,000** Medicare enrollees in **Western New York**. An estimated **124,000** do not know there is a penalty for late enrollment in the Medicare prescription drug plan, and an estimated **100,000** do not plan to enroll. An estimated **37,000** seniors have called the hotline or visited the website to compare plans.

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Cattaraugus	14,788	6,802	5,472	2,070
Chautauqua	25,700	11,822	9,509	3,598
Erie	167,356	76,984	61,922	23,430
Genesee	10,124	4,657	3,746	1,417
Niagara	39,808	18,312	14,729	5,573
Orleans	6,398	2,943	2,367	896
Wyoming	6,275	2,887	2,322	879
Western NY totals	270,449	124,407	100,066	37,863

**Data from the Department of Health and Human Services and Kaiser Family Foundation survey of Medicare enrollees.