

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

## *Schumer Study: With the Deadline Less than Two Weeks Away, Hundreds of Thousands of Upstate Seniors are Still Not Enrolled in the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.*

A new Schumer study found that of the more than 1.3 million upstate New York seniors enrolled in Medicare, 354,191 are still not signed up for the new Medicare Prescription Drug benefit and that almost half of them don't even know about the May 15 deadline. Medicare recipients must join by May 15, 2006, or else wait until November 15, 2006 to enroll. For those who join late, premiums will go up 1% per month for every month they wait after the deadline. Like other types of insurance, enrollees will have to pay this penalty as long as they have Medicare prescription drug coverage.

The Schumer study is based on complete Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and New York State Health Department data. A recent poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation was used to determine how many seniors are still unaware of the May 15 deadline.

**40,201 Capital Region** seniors are currently enrolled in Medicare Part D and **41,430** are still left without coverage. An estimated **19,058** seniors are unaware of the May 15 deadline.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Medicare Beneficiaries Not Enrolled in Part D And No Existing Drug Coverage	Estimated Seniors who Haven't Enrolled in Part D and are Unaware of the Deadline
Albany	47,062	11,383	12,532	5,765
Fulton	10,046	3,211	2,350	1,081
Montgomery	10,805	3,031	2,360	1,086
Rensselaer	23,807	5,988	6,358	2,925
Saratoga	29,187	6,257	8,441	3,883
Schenectady	26,703	6,361	5,497	2,529
Schoharie	4,983	1,283	1,155	531
Washington	9,896	2,687	2,737	1,259
<b>Capital Region Total</b>	<b>162,489</b>	<b>40,201</b>	<b>41,430</b>	<b>19,058</b>

**44,444 Central New York** seniors are currently enrolled in Medicare Part D and **42,494** are still left without coverage. An estimated **19,547** seniors are unaware of the May 15 deadline.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Medicare Beneficiaries Not Enrolled in Part D And No Existing Drug Coverage	Estimated Seniors who Haven't Enrolled in Part D and are Unaware of the Deadline
Onondaga	73,562	19,565	21,552	9,914
Oswego	18,290	5,184	5,469	2,516
Cortland	7,277	2,232	1,995	918
Madison	10,123	3,007	2,805	1,290
Oneida	44,658	14,456	10,673	4,910
<b>Central New York Total</b>	<b>153,910</b>	<b>44,444</b>	<b>42,494</b>	<b>19,547</b>

**72,116 Rochester/Finger Lakes** seniors are currently enrolled in Medicare Part D and **43,795** are still left without coverage. An estimated **20,146** seniors are unaware of the May 15 deadline.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Medicare Beneficiaries Not Enrolled in Part D And No Existing Drug Coverage	Estimated Seniors who Haven't Enrolled in Part D and are Unaware of the Deadline
Monroe	111,968	44,720	23,530	10,824
Cayuga	12,707	3,461	3,317	1,526
Livingston	9,305	3,174	2,195	1,010
Ontario	16,704	6,196	4,334	1,994
Schuyler	3,486	977	1,020	469
Seneca	6,057	2,147	1,511	695
Tompkins	11,261	2,817	3,321	1,528
Wayne	15,528	7,151	3,436	1,581
Yates	4,431	1,473	1,131	520
<b>Finger Lakes Total</b>	<b>191,447</b>	<b>72,116</b>	<b>43,795</b>	<b>20,146</b>

**114,616 Hudson Valley** seniors are currently enrolled in Medicare Part D and **97,151** are still left without coverage. An estimated **44,689** seniors are unaware of the May 15 deadline.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Medicare Beneficiaries Not Enrolled in Part D And No Existing Drug Coverage	Estimated Seniors who Haven't Enrolled in Part D and are Unaware of the Deadline
Westchester	140,147	53,352	41,531	19,104
Orange	43,661	12,870	11,959	5,501
Columbia	11,664	3,206	3,504	1,612
Dutchess	42,426	11,610	11,222	5,162
Greene	8,981	2,326	2,546	1,171
Putnam	11,609	2,859	3,791	1,744
Rockland	41,829	15,560	10,877	5,003
Sullivan	13,322	4,422	3,852	1,772
Ulster	28,422	8,411	7,869	3,620
<b>Hudson Valley Total</b>	<b>342,061</b>	<b>114,616</b>	<b>97,151</b>	<b>44,689</b>

**28,727 North Country** seniors are currently enrolled in Medicare Part D and **23,387** are still left without coverage. An estimated **10,758** seniors are unaware of the May 15 deadline.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Medicare Beneficiaries Not Enrolled in Part D And No Existing Drug Coverage	Estimated Seniors who Haven't Enrolled in Part D and are Unaware of the Deadline
Clinton	12,765	3,970	2,513	1,156
St. Lawrence	18,442	5,609	4,583	2,108
Warren	12,021	3,445	3,545	1,631
Essex	6,944	2,032	1,945	895
Franklin	8,645	2,994	2,017	928
Hamilton	1,240	285	369	170
Herkimer	11,888	4,203	2,972	1,367
Jefferson	15,659	4,663	4,287	1,972
Lewis	4,141	1,526	1,156	532
<b>North Country Total</b>	<b>91,745</b>	<b>28,727</b>	<b>23,387</b>	<b>10,758</b>

**35,670 Southern Tier** seniors are currently enrolled in Medicare Part D and **30,647** are still left without coverage. An estimated **14,098** seniors are unaware of the May 15 deadline.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Medicare Beneficiaries Not Enrolled in Part D And No Existing Drug Coverage	Estimated Seniors who Haven't Enrolled in Part D and are Unaware of the Deadline
Broome	37,952	11,465	8,922	4,104
Allegany	8,273	2,517	2,302	1,059
Chemung	16,899	5,371	4,904	2,256
Chenango	9,264	3,167	2,504	1,152
Delaware	9,317	2,779	2,563	1,179
Otsego	10,789	3,211	3,084	1,419
Steuben	17,547	5,093	4,261	1,960
Tioga	8,440	2,067	2,107	969
<b>Southern Tier Total</b>	<b>118,481</b>	<b>35,670</b>	<b>30,647</b>	<b>14,098</b>

**98,658 Western New York** seniors are currently enrolled in Medicare Part D and **75,287** are still left without coverage. An estimated **34,632** seniors are unaware of the May 15 deadline.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Medicare Beneficiaries Not Enrolled in Part D And No Existing Drug Coverage	Estimated Seniors who Haven't Enrolled in Part D and are Unaware of the Deadline
Erie	166,980	62,589	45,472	20,917
Genesee	10,133	3,134	3,005	1,382
Niagara	40,002	14,397	11,481	5,281
Orleans	6,619	2,242	1,554	715
Wyoming	6,412	2,013	2,053	944
Cattaraugus	14,553	5,034	4,094	1,883
Chautauqua	25,536	9,249	7,628	3,509
<b>Western NY Total</b>	<b>270,235</b>	<b>98,658</b>	<b>75,287</b>	<b>34,632</b>

\*\*The figure “estimated seniors who haven’t enrolled in Part D and are Unaware of the Deadline” was calculated by multiplying the number of seniors not enrolled in Part D by 0.46, which was derived from the Kaiser Family Foundation poll.