

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Schumer Study: Tens of Thousands of Upstate New York Seniors Could Suddenly Be Hit With 300 Percent Increase In Prescription Rx Costs

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer today revealed today that tens of thousands of seniors could see their out-of-pocket-drug costs suddenly skyrocket by 300 percent because of a coverage gap in the Medicare drug plan. Unlike most other types of health insurance, the Medicare drug benefit was designed with a coverage gap, or “donut hole”, where beneficiaries must pay for all of their drugs out of pocket but also have to pay their drug plan’s full premium.

Unlike most other types of health insurance, the Medicare drug benefit was designed with a coverage gap, or “donut hole”, where beneficiaries must pay for all of their drugs out of pocket but also have to pay their drug plan the full premium. Under the current system, drug plans will pay 75 percent of drug costs between \$250 and \$2,250, but zero percent of the total costs between \$2,250 and \$5,100 (with beneficiaries paying 100% of costs in the “donut hole”).

Of the **162,489 Capital Region** seniors currently enrolled in Medicare, **45,704** are enrolled in Medicare Part D, of which at least **5,641** will fall into the donut hole.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Seniors who Will Fall in to Donut Hole
Albany	47,062	12,843	1,576
Fulton	10,046	3,646	408
Montgomery	10,805	3,456	406
Rensselaer	23,807	6,724	802
Saratoga	29,187	7,248	1,056
Schenectady	26,703	7,106	773
Schoharie	4,983	1,501	191
Washington	9,896	3,180	429
Capital Region Total	162,489	45,704	5,641

Of the **153,910** Central New York seniors currently enrolled in Medicare, **51,554** are enrolled in Medicare Part D, of which at least **6,940** will fall into the donut hole.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Seniors who Will Fall in to Donut Hole
Onondaga	73,562	23,008	3,302
Oswego	18,290	6,189	875
Cortland	7,277	2,629	326
Madison	10,123	3,546	516
Oneida	44,658	16,182	1,921
Central New York Total	153,910	51,554	6,940

Of the **191,447** seniors in the **Rochester-Finger Lakes region** currently enrolled in Medicare, **77,592** are enrolled in Medicare Part D, of which at least **12,910** will fall into the donut hole.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Seniors who Will Fall in to Donut Hole
Monroe	111,968	47,393	8,226
Cayuga	12,707	4,056	541
Livingston	9,305	3,429	559
Ontario	16,704	6,667	1,215
Schuyler	3,486	1,120	152
Seneca	6,057	2,309	339
Tompkins	11,261	3,424	449
Wayne	15,528	7,574	1,160
Yates	4,431	1,620	269
Finger Lakes Total	191,447	77,592	12,910

Of the **342,061 Hudson Valley** seniors currently enrolled in Medicare, **132,170** are enrolled in Medicare Part D, of which at least **21,108** will fall into the donut hole.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Seniors who Will Fall in to Donut Hole
Westchester	140,147	61,100	10,903
Orange	43,661	15,148	2,131
Columbia	11,664	3,814	549
Dutchess	42,426	13,484	1,848
Greene	8,981	2,724	412
Putnam	11,609	3,551	605
Rockland	41,829	17,275	2,650
Sullivan	13,322	5,168	669
Ulster	28,422	9,906	1,341
Hudson Valley Total	342,061	132,170	21,108

Of the **91,945 North Country** seniors currently enrolled in Medicare, **32,716** are enrolled in Medicare Part D, of which at least **5,303** will fall into the donut hole.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Seniors who Will Fall in to Donut Hole
Clinton	12,765	4,450	459
St. Lawrence	18,442	6,346	691
Warren	12,021	3,971	543
Essex	6,944	2,396	330
Franklin	8,645	3,365	300
Hamilton	1,240	333	60
Herkimer	11,888	4,689	668
Jefferson	15,659	5,411	1,972
Lewis	4,141	1,755	280
North Country Total	91,745	32,716	5,303

Of the **118,481 Southern Tier** seniors currently enrolled in Medicare, **40,795** are enrolled in Medicare Part D, of which at least **5,612** will fall into the donut hole.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Seniors who Will Fall in to Donut Hole
Broome	37,952	12,949	1,734
Allegany	8,273	2,816	367
Chemung	16,899	6,046	815
Chenango	9,264	3,642	487
Delaware	9,317	3,361	522
Otsego	10,789	3,889	589
Steuben	17,547	5,708	765
Tioga	8,440	2,384	333
Southern Tier Total	118,481	40,795	5,612

Of the **270,235 Western New York** seniors currently enrolled in Medicare, **105,840** are enrolled in Medicare Part D, of which at least **17,740** will fall into the donut hole.

County	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare	Seniors Enrolled in Medicare Part D	Seniors who Will Fall in to Donut Hole
Erie	166,980	66,675	11,271
Genesee	10,133	3,445	578
Niagara	40,002	15,270	2,633
Orleans	6,619	2,365	378
Wyoming	6,412	2,235	396
Cattaraugus	14,553	5,509	816
Chautauqua	25,536	10,341	1,668
Western NY Total	270,235	105,840	17,740

Data from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services and a report from the Kaiser Family Foundation were used to create this report.