Medicare in Profile

Who's eligible: Generally, those who have worked for at least 10 years in Medicare-covered employment and are at least 65 years old and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, as well as their spouses. Younger people with a disability or with chronic kidney disease may also be eligible.

How many covered: 39 million Americans

In managed care: 13 percent

Administered by: The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), part of the Health and Human Services Administration

When Medicare began: 1965

Web address: www.medicare.gov

SOURCE: Health Care Financing Administration