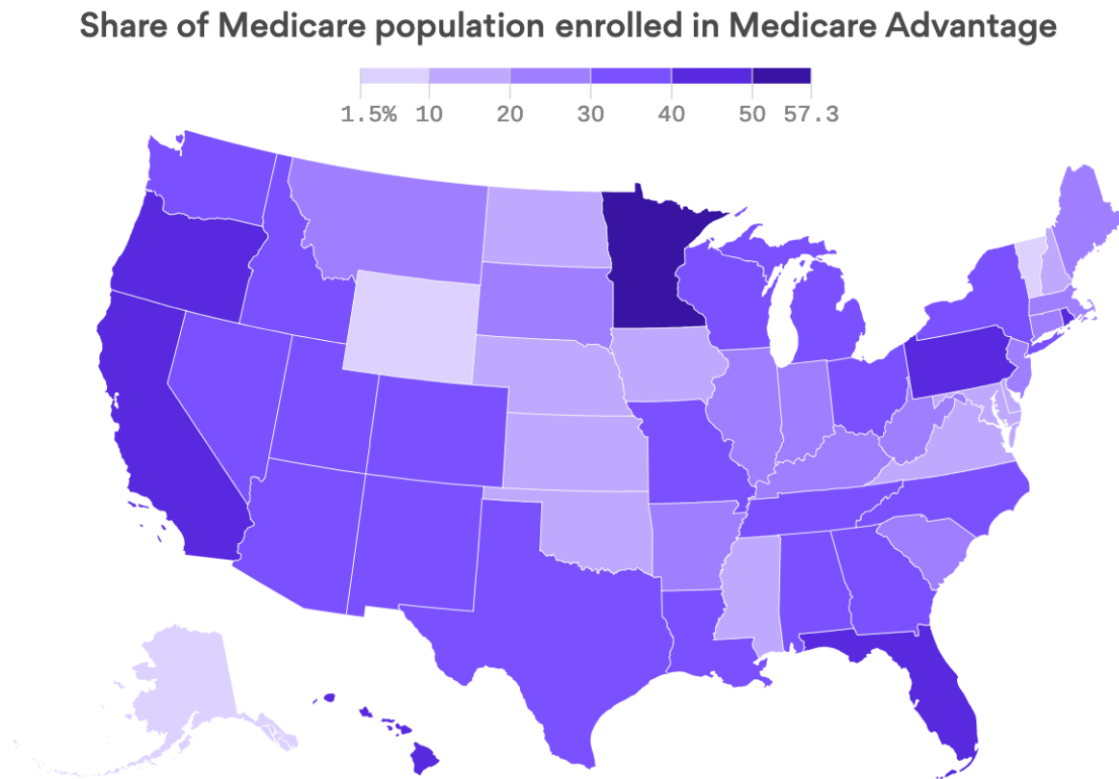


# Where Medicare Advantage is Most Popular



Data: [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#); Map: Harry Stevens/Axios

States in the Midwest, South and West have the highest proportions of Medicare members enrolled in Medicare Advantage, my colleague [Bob Herman](#) reports.

- Some states have more than 40% of their Medicare population in the taxpayer-subsidized private plans.

**The big picture:** Roughly a third of all Medicare enrollees are in MA, a program that has garnered [bipartisan support despite its shortcomings](#), and some Wall Street estimates think MA will be the majority option by 2021.

**By the numbers:** The state with the highest proportion of private Medicare plan enrollees (57.3%) is Minnesota, although many people are enrolled in "Medicare cost" plans that function as a hybrid between MA and traditional Medicare.

- MA is the choice of at least 40% of all Medicare enrollees in 6 other states (California, Florida, Hawaii, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island).
- MA is far less popular in states with sparse populations, like Alaska, Vermont and Wyoming.

**What to watch:** Health insurance companies will always aggressively pursue areas where there are a lot of seniors, like Florida and California, but the distribution shows there are pockets of the Midwest and Northeast that could be their next targets.

Source: Caitlin Owens, Axios. Feb 25, 2019