

## MEDICAID AND MEDICARE

Medicaid, jointly funded by Federal and State governments, provides medical coverage to certain categories of low-income people.<sup>2</sup> In 2008, Medicaid covered 60.9 million people including low-income pregnant women, children, parents, elderly individuals, and those with disabilities. Adults aged 19 and older accounted for nearly half of Medicaid enrollees (30.2 million), and women accounted for 68.9 percent of all adult enrollees. Medicaid serves as a critical safety net for those who might otherwise be uninsured; enrollment has increased in the current recession, but more notably for children than adults due to greater eligibility and expansions for children.<sup>1</sup>

Women accounted for a larger proportion of adult Medicaid enrollees in every age group, most

noticeably among those aged 19–44 and 85 years and older (73.4 and 79.7 percent, respectively). Nearly 12.9 million women, representing 61.8 percent of adult female Medicaid enrollees, were of childbearing age (data not shown). Because the Medicaid eligibility threshold is lowered in the postpartum period, 28 States have expanded family planning through a federal waiver or state plan amendments to cover women who would not otherwise be eligible for Medicaid.<sup>3</sup>

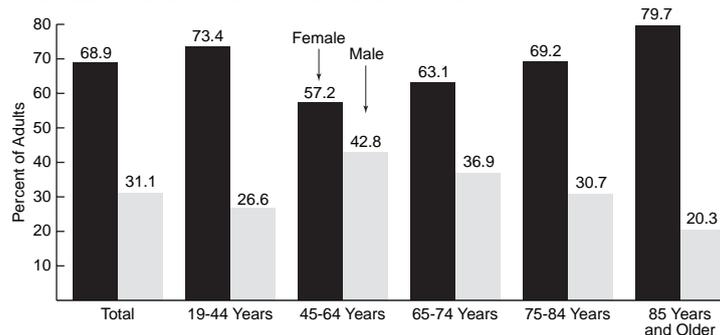
Medicare is the Nation's health insurance program for people aged 65 years and older, some people under age 65 with disabilities, and those with end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure). Medicare has four components: Part A covers hospital, skilled nursing, home health, and hospice care; Part B covers physician ser-

vices, outpatient services, and durable medical equipment; Part C (Medicare Advantage Plans) allows beneficiaries to purchase coverage through private insurers; and Part D allows for coverage of prescription drugs through private insurers.<sup>2</sup>

In 2009, 55.3 percent of Medicare's 46.5 million enrollees were female (data not shown). Due to age-related eligibility, those in older age groups accounted for a greater proportion of overall enrollment among both women and men. However, male enrollees were more likely to be under 65 than female enrollees (19.6 versus 14.3 percent). In contrast, adults aged 85 years and older comprised a greater proportion of female than male enrollees (14.3 versus 8.4 percent), due to the longer life expectancy of women.

### Adult Medicaid Enrollees Aged 19 and Older, by Age and Sex, 2008\*

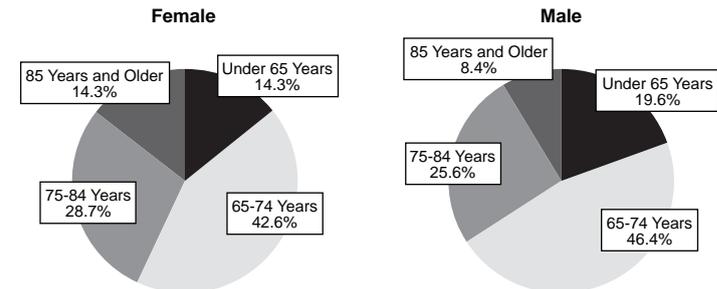
Source III.1: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



\*Based on Federal Fiscal Year (October to September).

### Medicare Enrollees, by Sex and Age, 2009\*

Source III.1: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



\*Enrolled as of July 1, 2009. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.