

New Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees: The Transition to Medicaid Coverage Among Medicare Beneficiaries

March 11, 2013

**Presentation to the Center for Excellence on Disability Research
National Conference**

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MATHEMATICA
Policy Research

Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees

- **Approximately 9 million are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid coverage**
- **Little is known about new Medicare-Medicaid enrollees**

Two Research Questions

- **What are the basic characteristics of new Medicare-Medicaid enrollees?**
- **What are the common pathways to dual coverage?**

Identification of Study Population

- **Medicare enrollment records used to identify all Medicare-Medicaid enrollees in 2009**
 - **Medicare Beneficiary Summary File**
- **Medicare 5 percent sample provides a group of beneficiaries who never enroll in Medicaid**

Exclusions

- **Excluded**

- **Beneficiaries under 21**
- **Managed care enrollees**
- **End-stage renal disease beneficiaries**

- **Together**

- **Excluded about 30 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries in 2009**

Relevant Pathways to Medicaid Eligibility

Low-income

- SSI Cash Assistance Recipients
- State Poverty Level Expansions: Enrollees with income up to 100% FPL(22 states)
- Workers with Disabilities (Age 18-64 only, rules vary by state)

High Medical Expenses

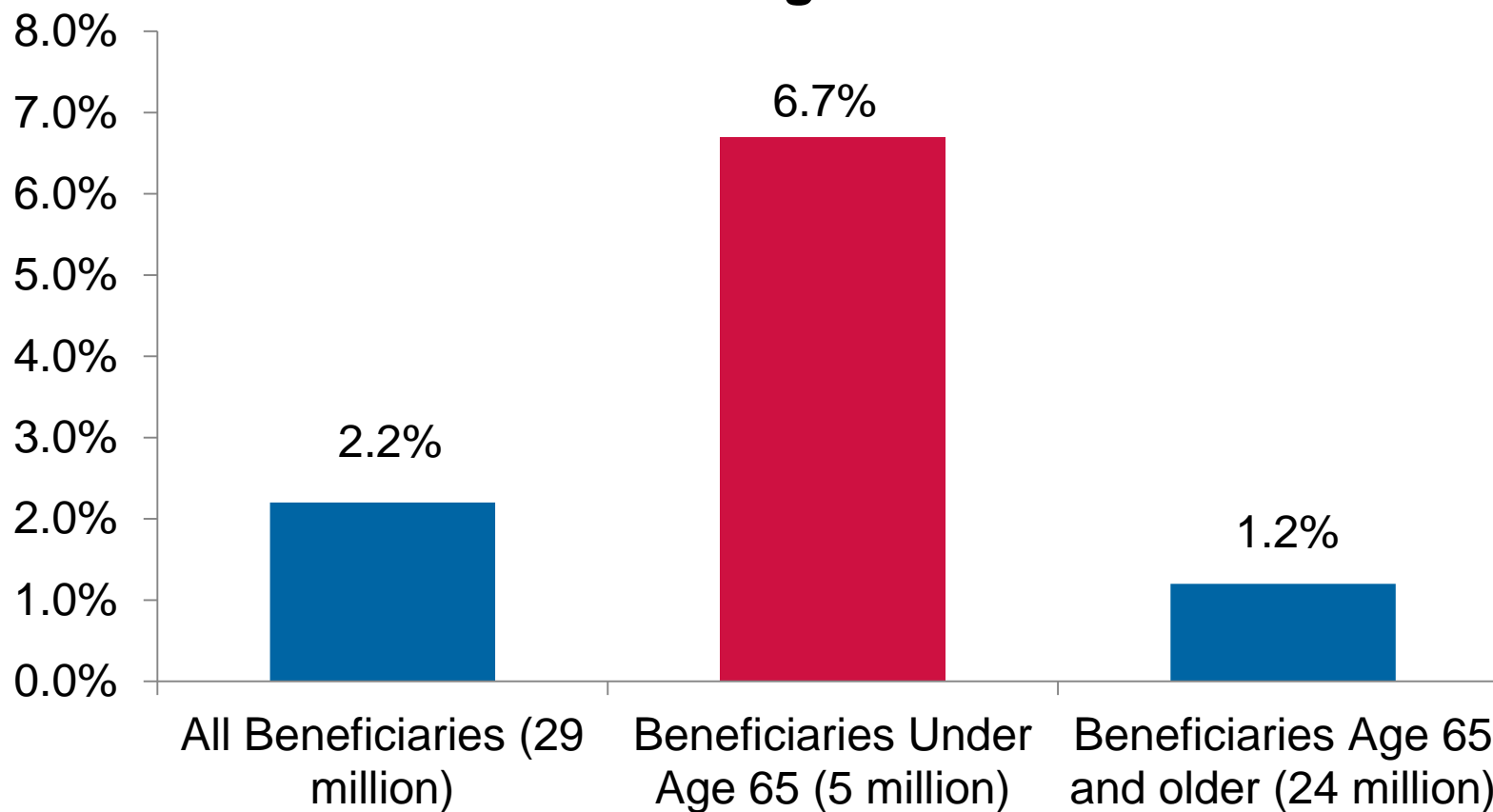
- Medically Needy: 36 states, 30 states include enrollees in nursing homes and HCBS waivers

Institutional Level of Care

- Special Income Rule: Enrollees with income up to 300% the SSI benefit (40 states)

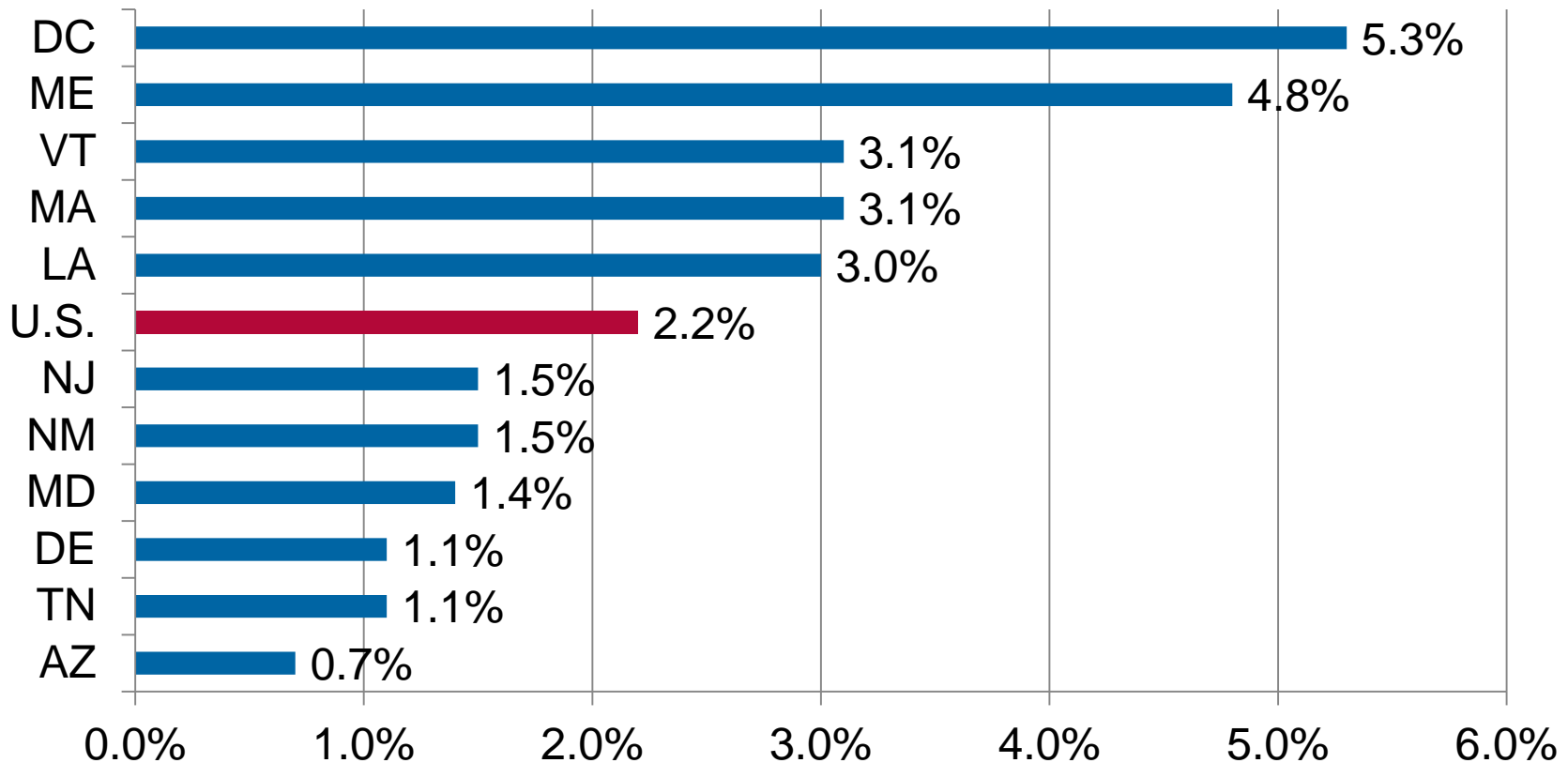
Few Transition to Medicare-Medicaid Enrollment

Percentage of Medicare-Only Beneficiaries Transitioning to Medicare-Medicaid Enrollment During 2009



Percentage Transitioning Varies Across States

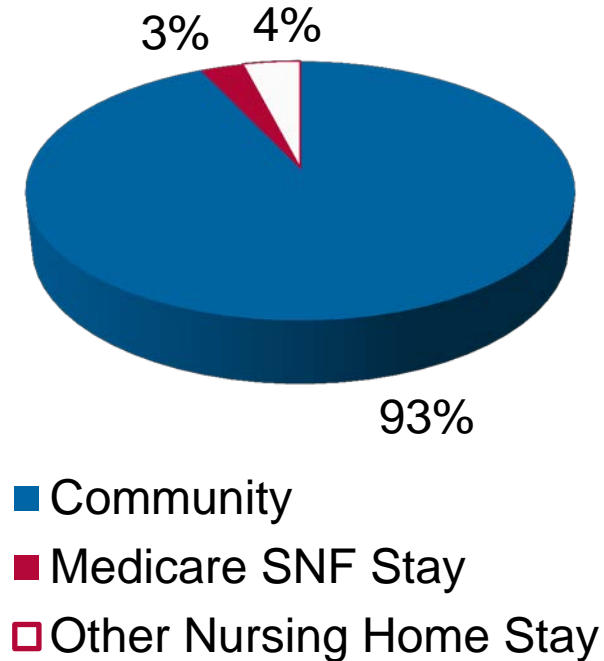
Percentage of Medicare-Only Beneficiaries Who Transitioned to Medicare-Medicaid Enrollment During 2009, Top and Bottom States



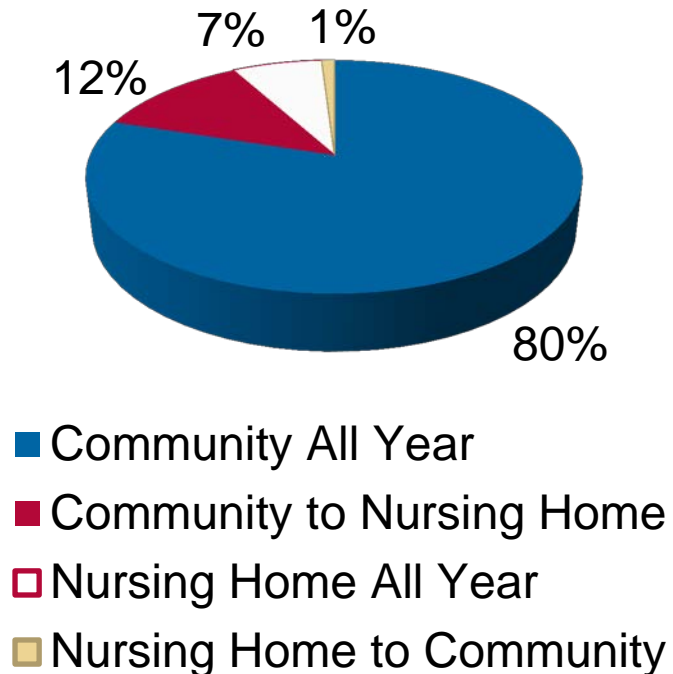
New Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees

Most New Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees Live in the Community

Residence Status in January 2009

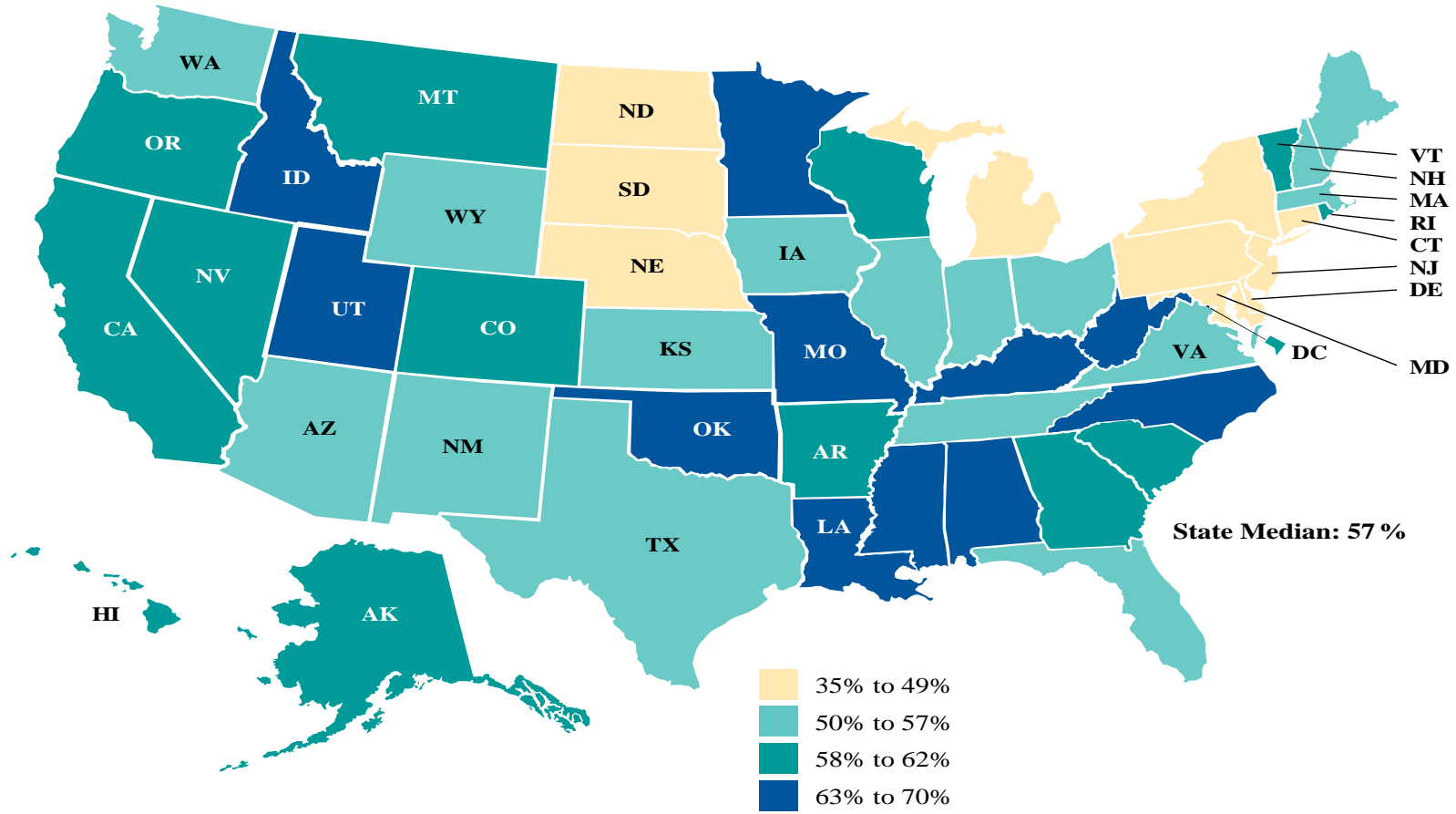


Residence Status During 2009

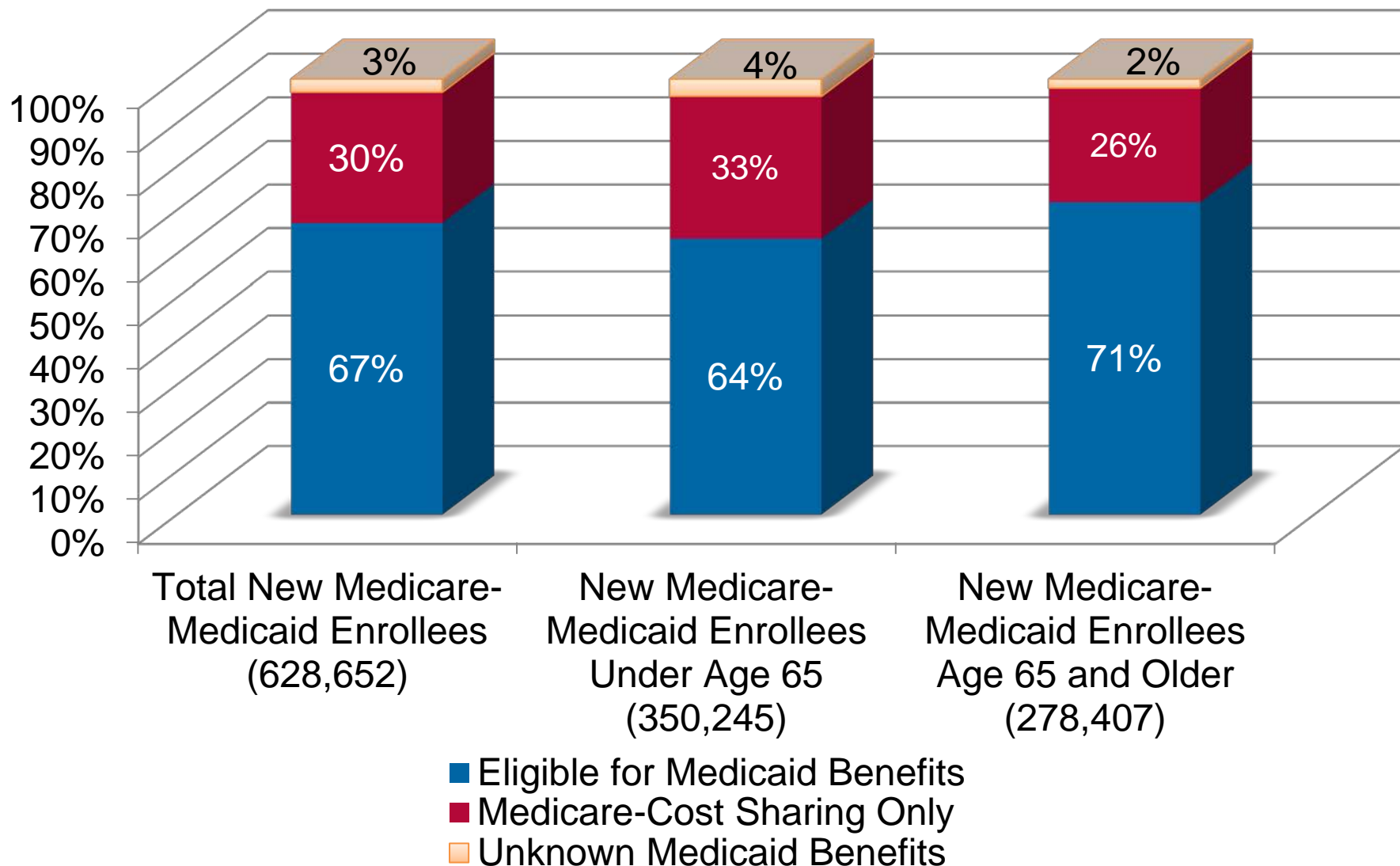


Majority Are Under Age 65

The Percentage of New Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees Under Age 65, 2009

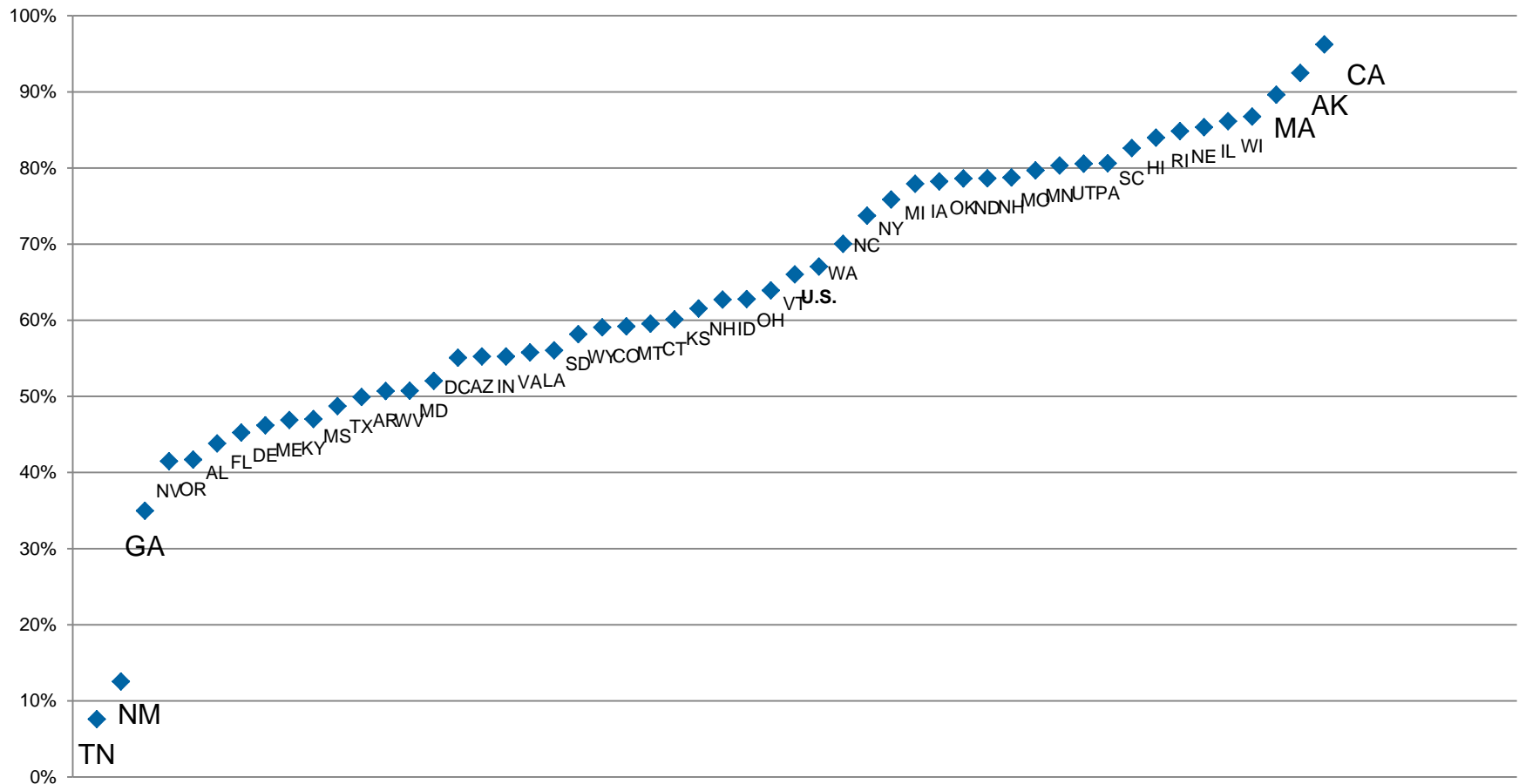


Most Eligible for Medicaid Benefits



Eligibility for Medicaid Benefits Varied by State

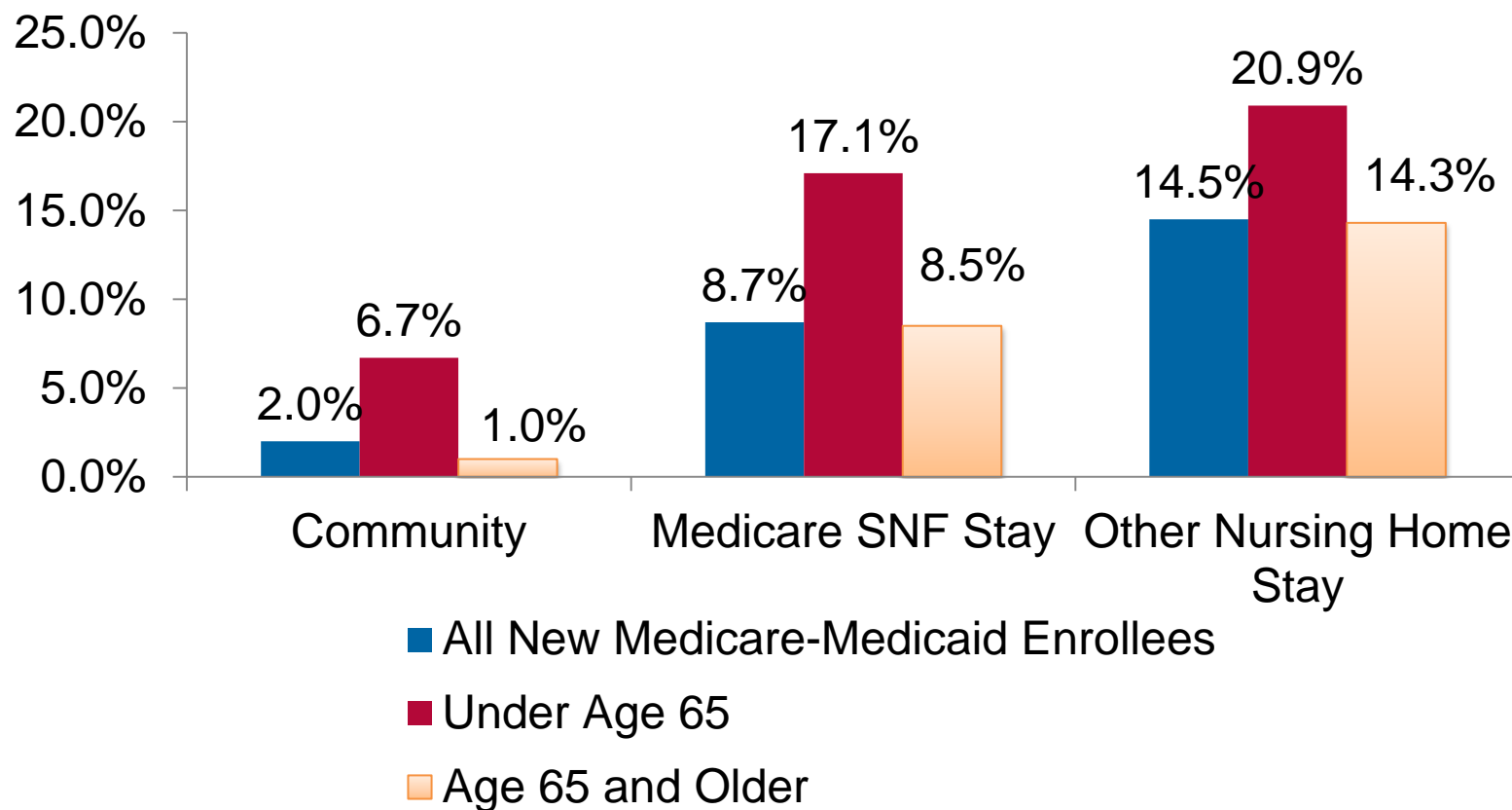
Percentage of New Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees Eligible for Medicaid Benefits in 2009, by State



Common Pathways to Medicare-Medicaid Enrollment

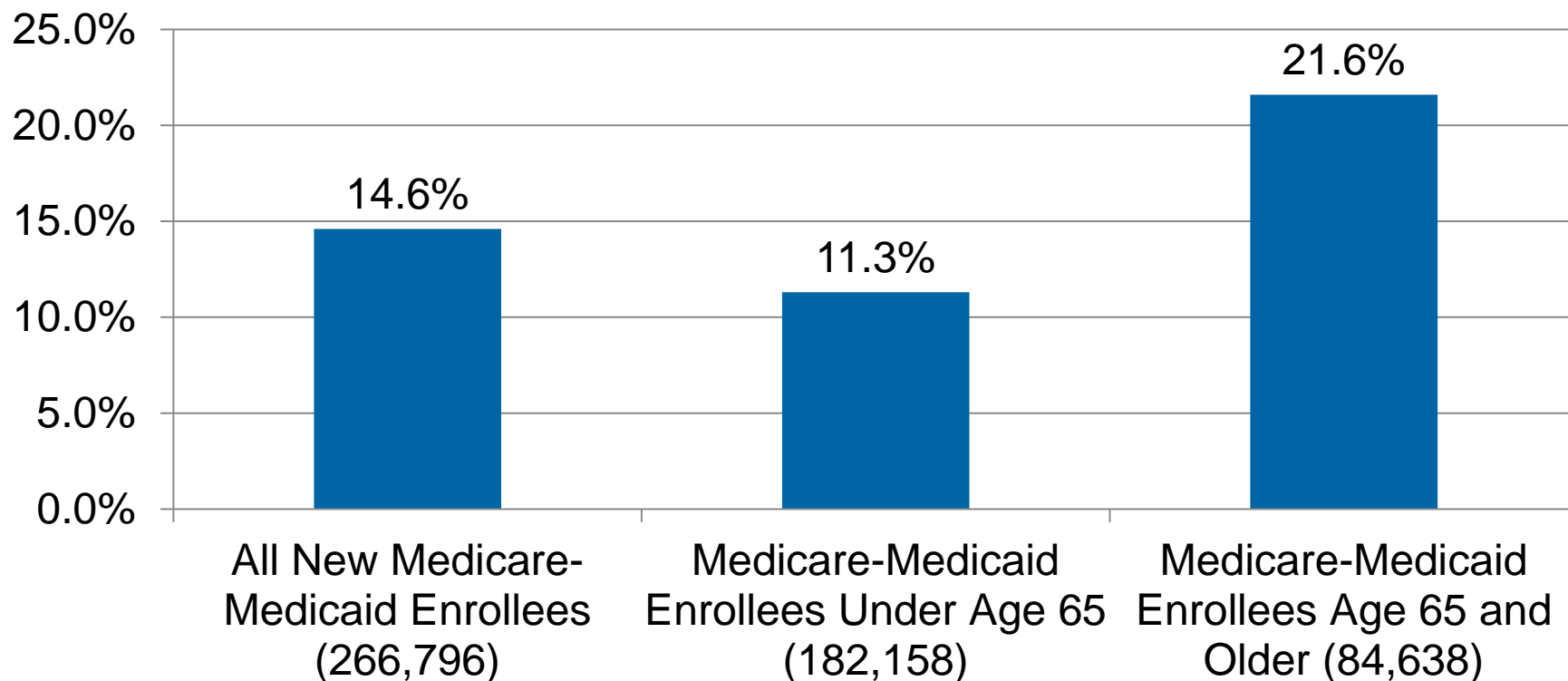
Nursing Home Care

Percentage of Medicare-Only Beneficiaries Who Transitioned to Medicare-Medicaid Enrollment During 2009, By Type of Residence At the Beginning of the Year



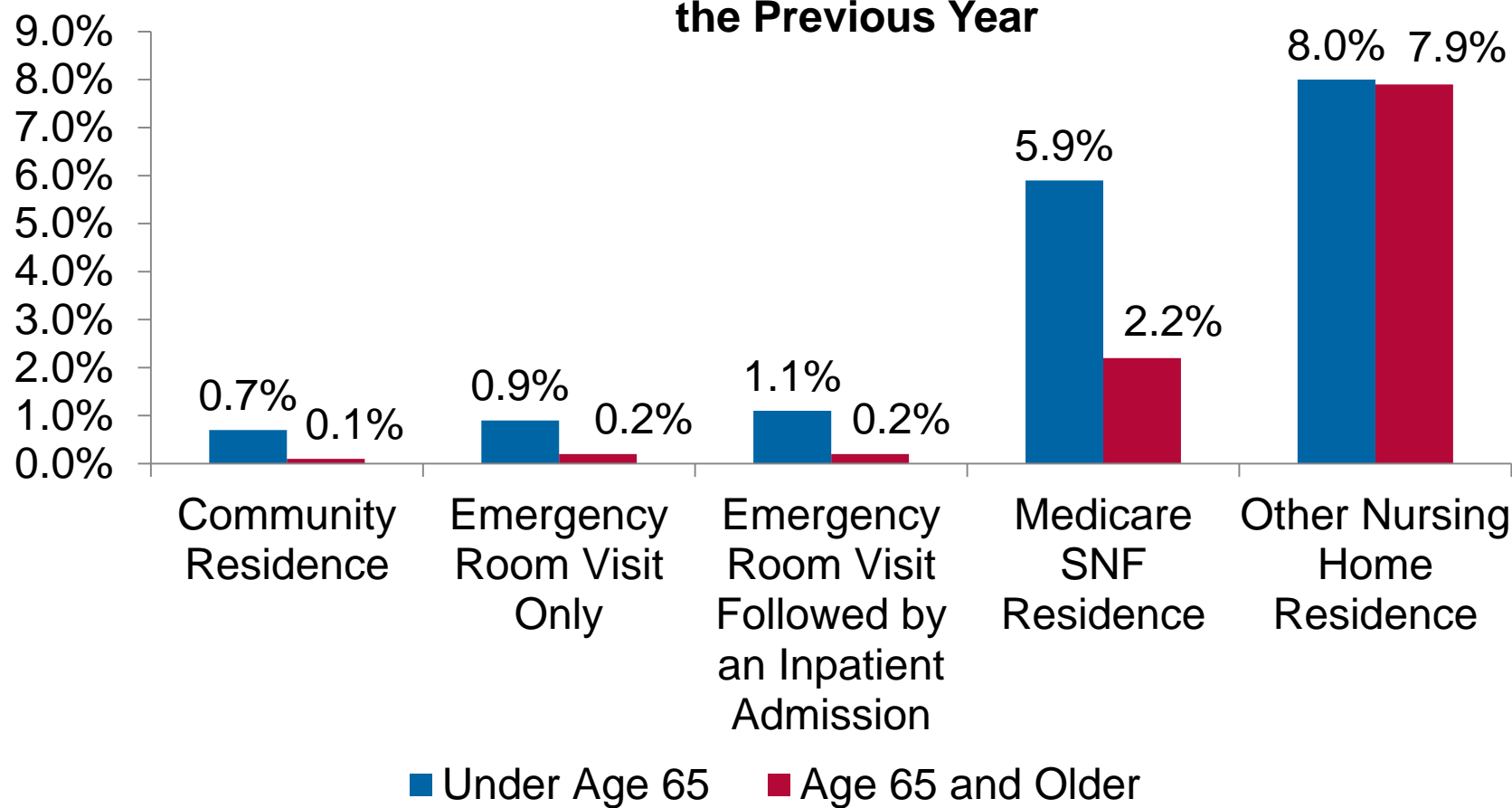
Community Based Long-Term Care

Percentage of New Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees Eligible for Medicaid Benefits Who Lived in the Community and Used HCBS Immediately After Enrollment in Medicaid



Preliminary Regression Results – Predicted Means

Regression-Adjusted Percentage of Medicare-Only Beneficiaries Who Become Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees In A Given Month by Residence in the Previous Month and Emergency Room Use in the Previous Year



Important State Characteristics–Preliminary Results

- **Under age 65**
 - **Percentage of the state population age 65 and older (+)**
 - **Number who self direct services (+)**
- **Age 65 and Older**
 - **Supply of home health and personal care aides (+)**
 - **Caregiver usually or always received needed social and emotional support (-)**

Key Results

- **Most new Medicare-Medicaid enrollees are young, community dwelling beneficiaries**
- **Nursing home use and emergency room visits are important predictors**
- **Availability of some non-clinical supports matter**

Implications

- **Care coordination programs for those with disabling conditions may help, if they focus on:**
 - **Addressing factors that lead to nursing home stays**
 - **Supporting self management among younger beneficiaries**
 - **Helping caregivers**

Implications

- **Care coordination programs for this population will need to be flexible and person centered**
 - **Mental illness and behavioral issues**
 - **Physical impairments**
 - **Cognitive impairments**

For More Information

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