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# **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

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

# Two Research Questions

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

# Identification of Study Population

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- **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

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- **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

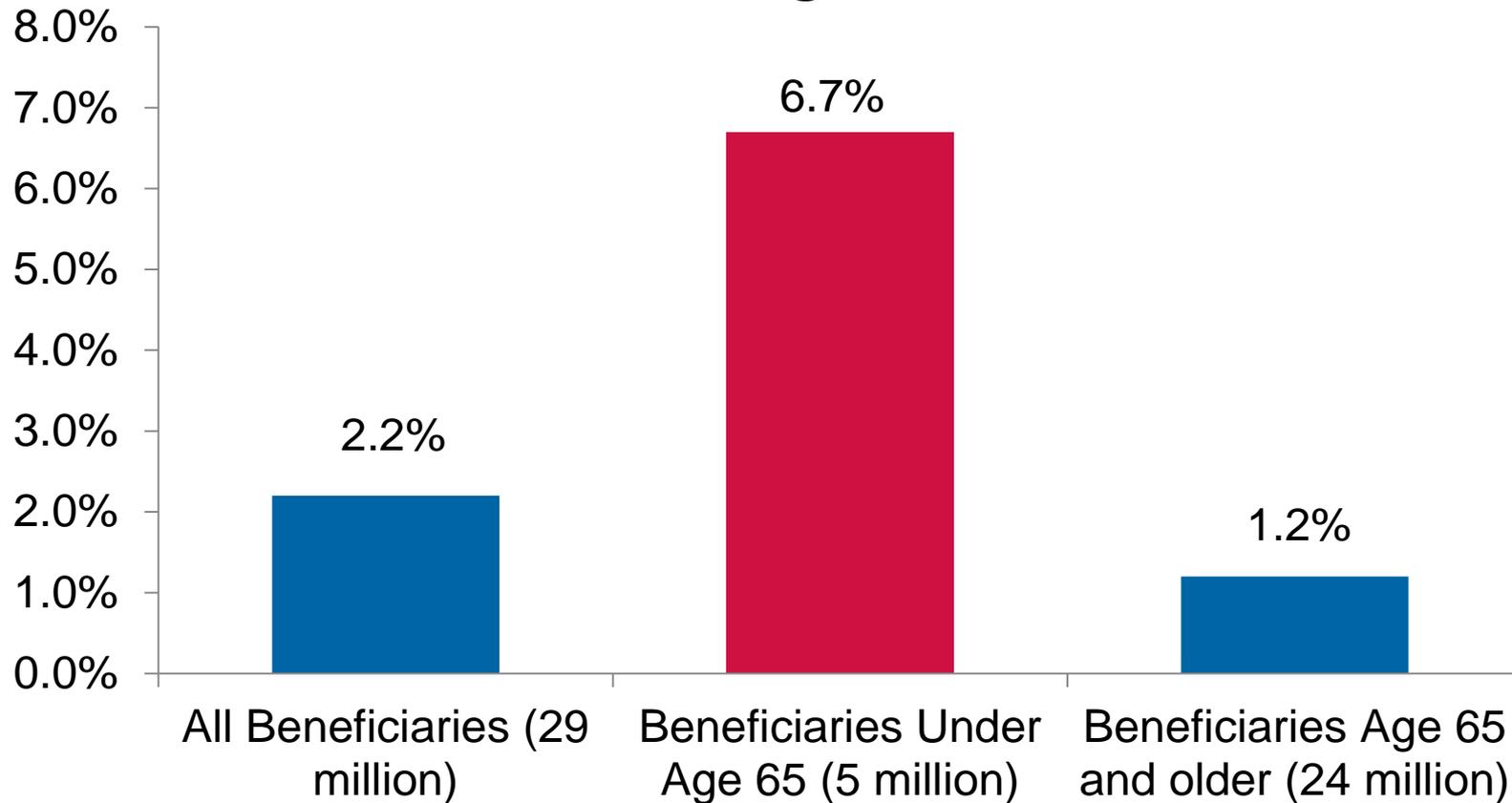
- Medically Needy: 36 states, 30 states include enrollees in nursing homes and HCBS waivers

## Institutional Level of Care

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

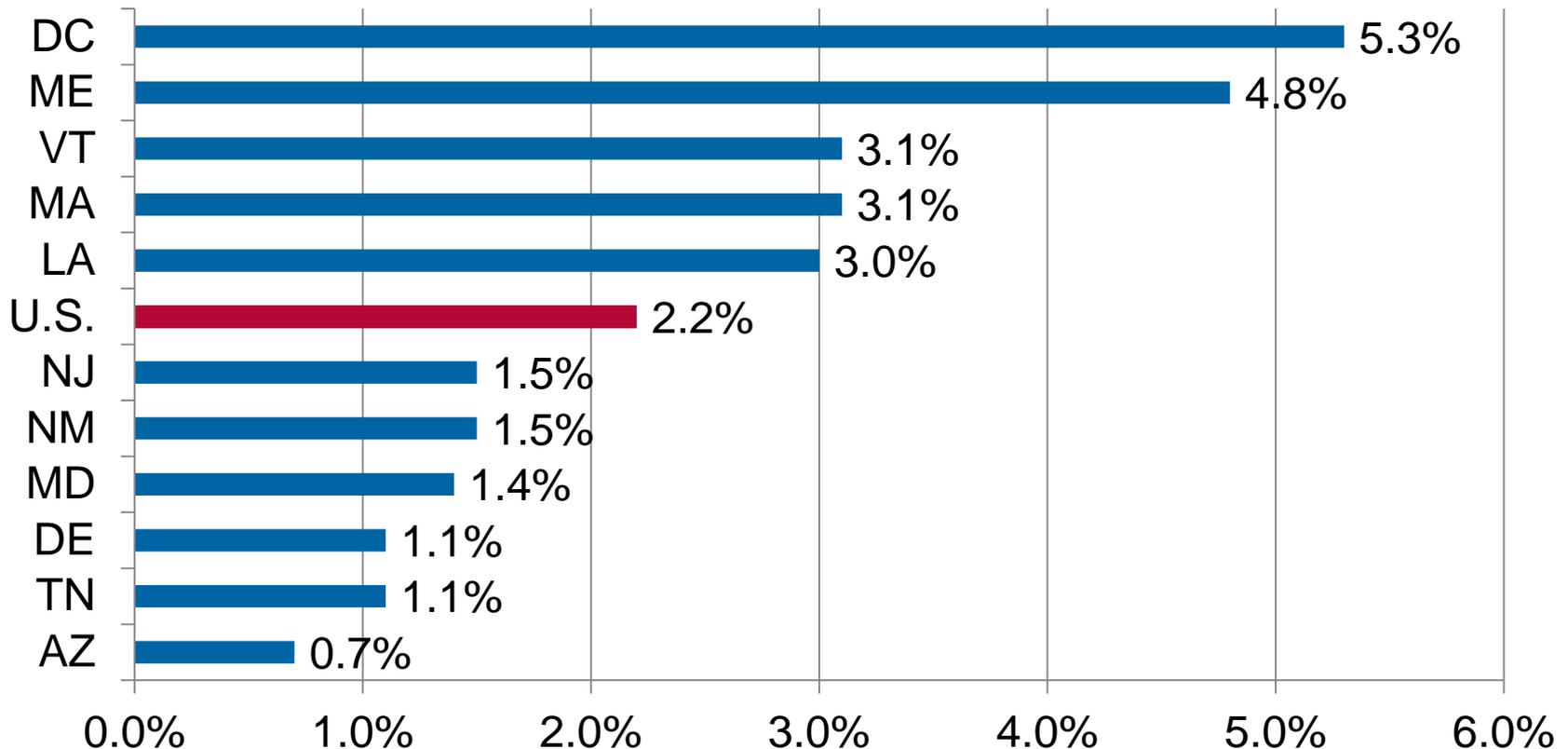
# Few Transition to Medicare-Medicaid Enrollment

## 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

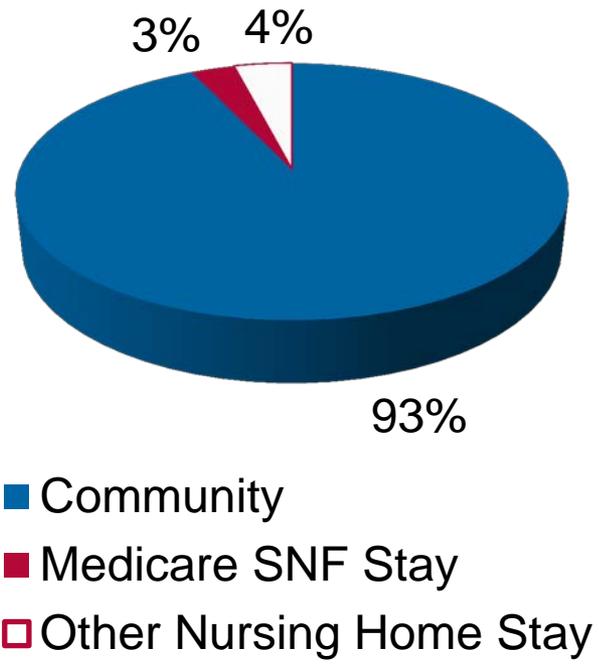


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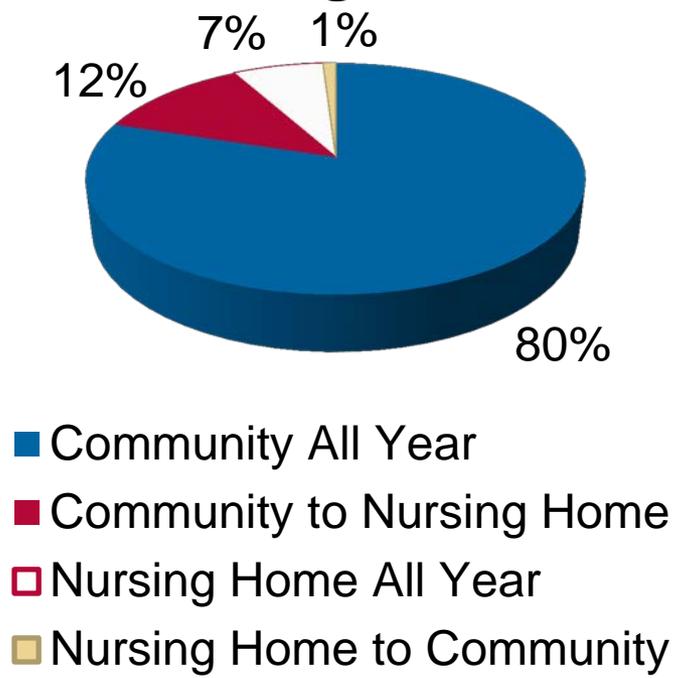
# New Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees

# Most New Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees Live in the Community

## Residence Status in January 2009

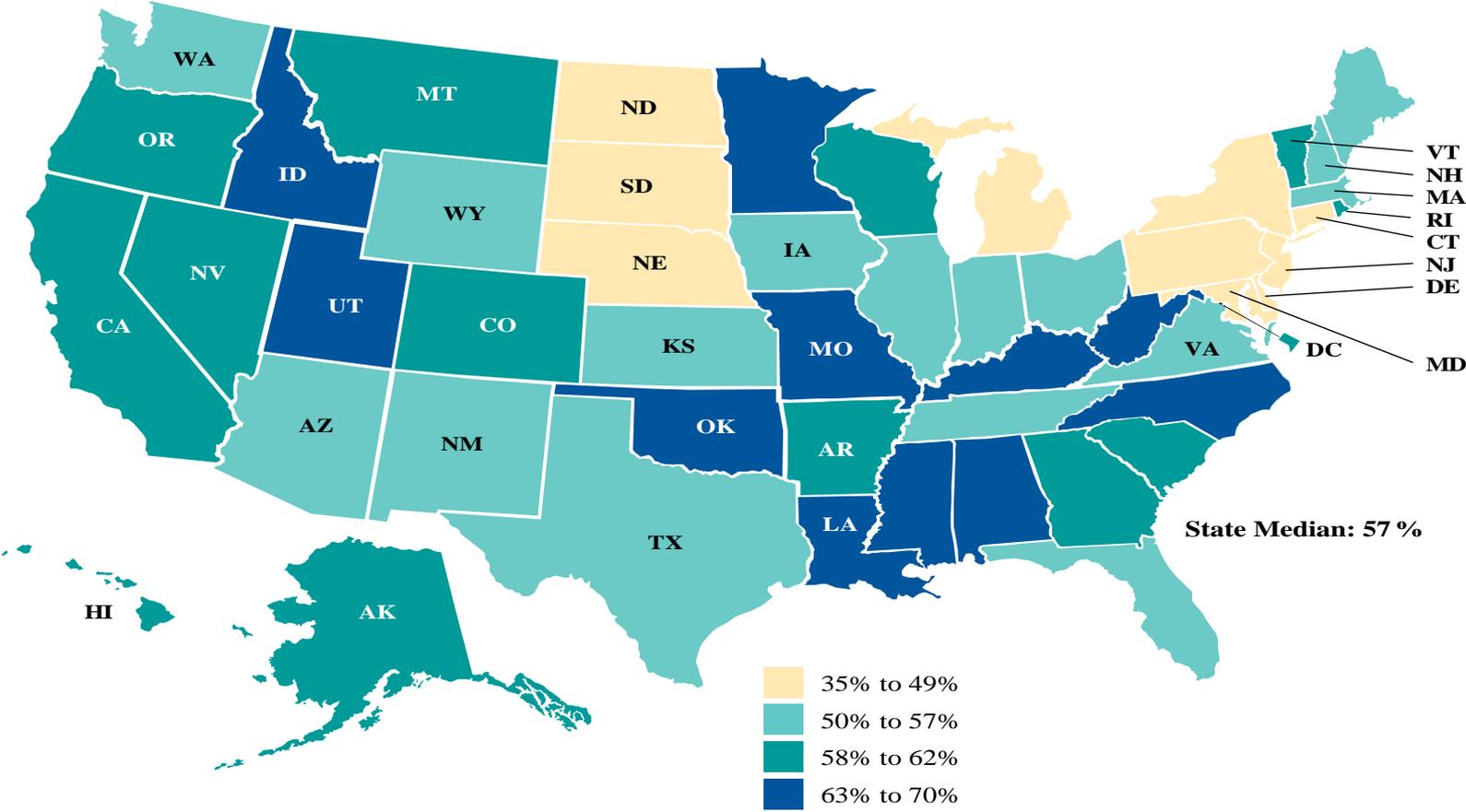


## Residence Status During 2009

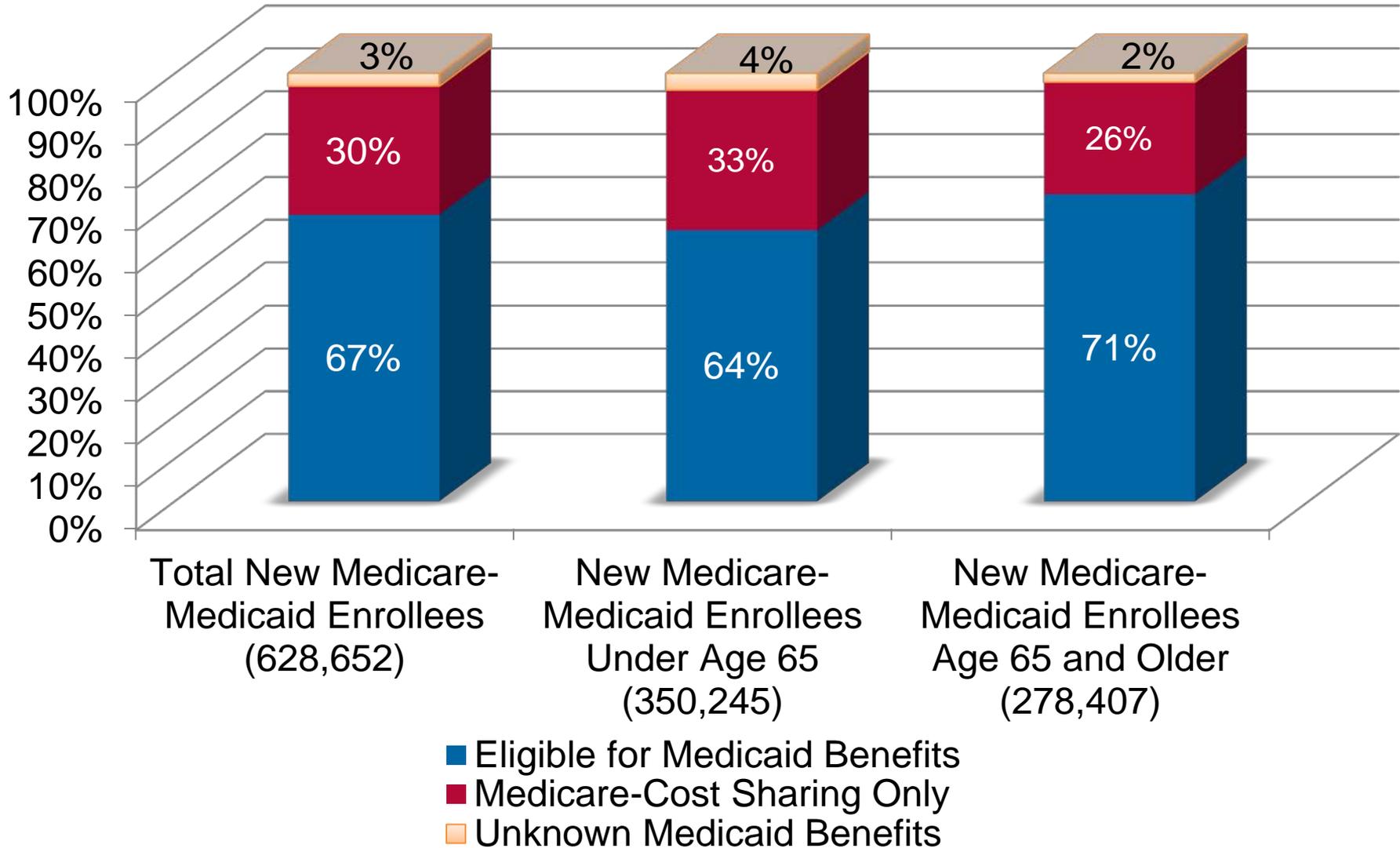


# Majority Are Under Age 65

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

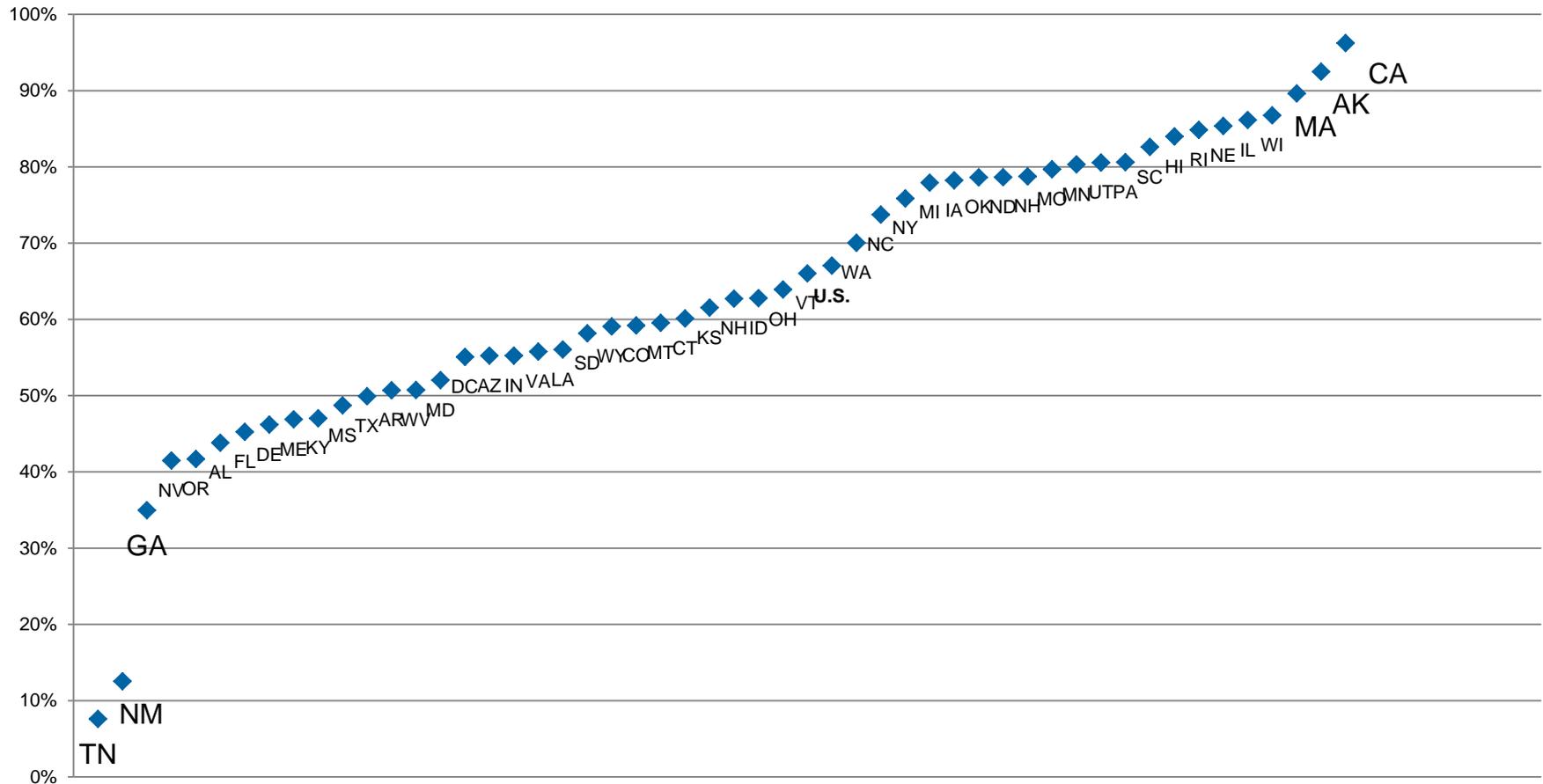


# Most Eligible for Medicaid Benefits



# Eligibility for Medicaid Benefits Varied by State

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

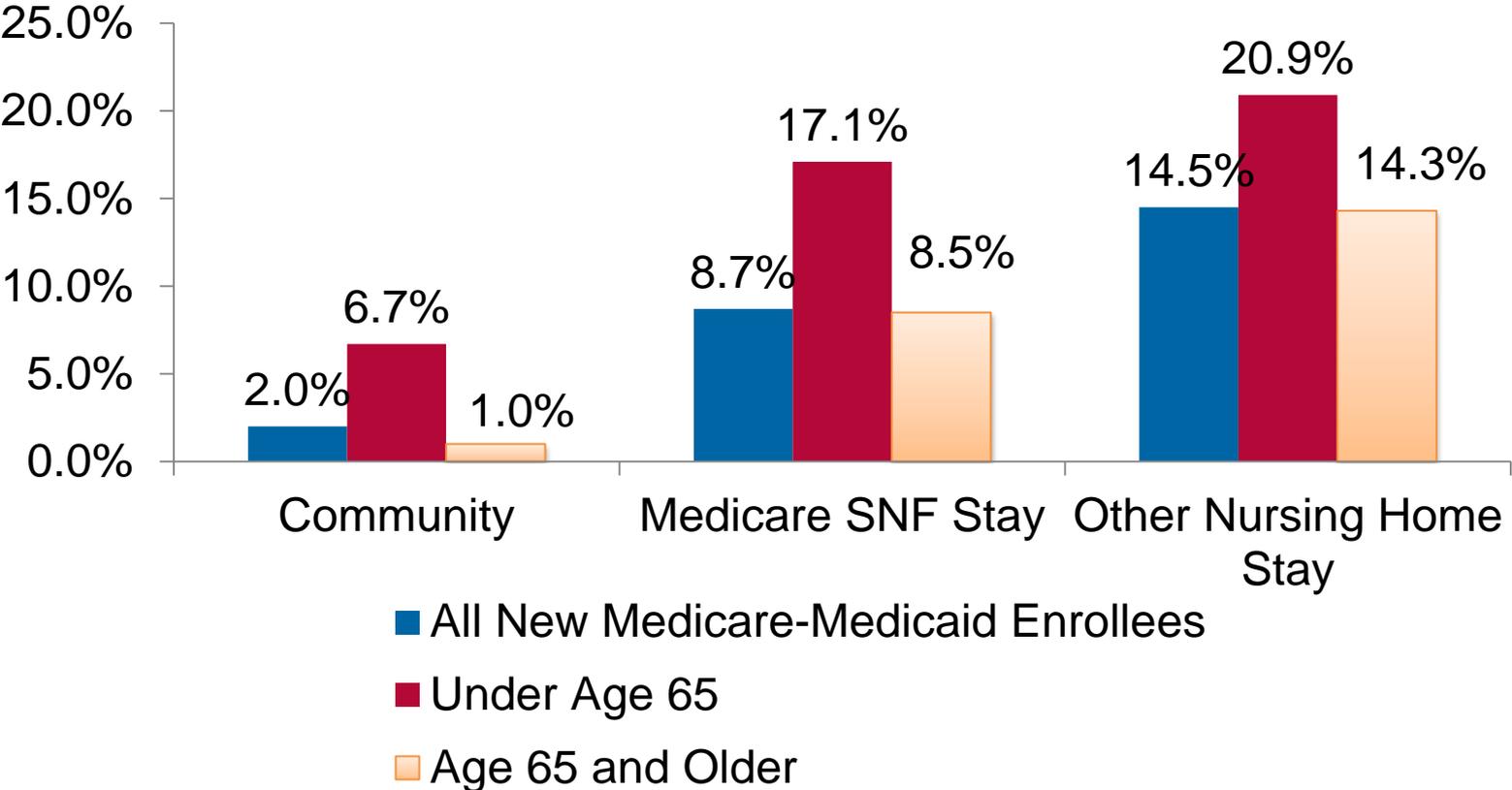


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# Common Pathways to Medicare-Medicaid Enrollment

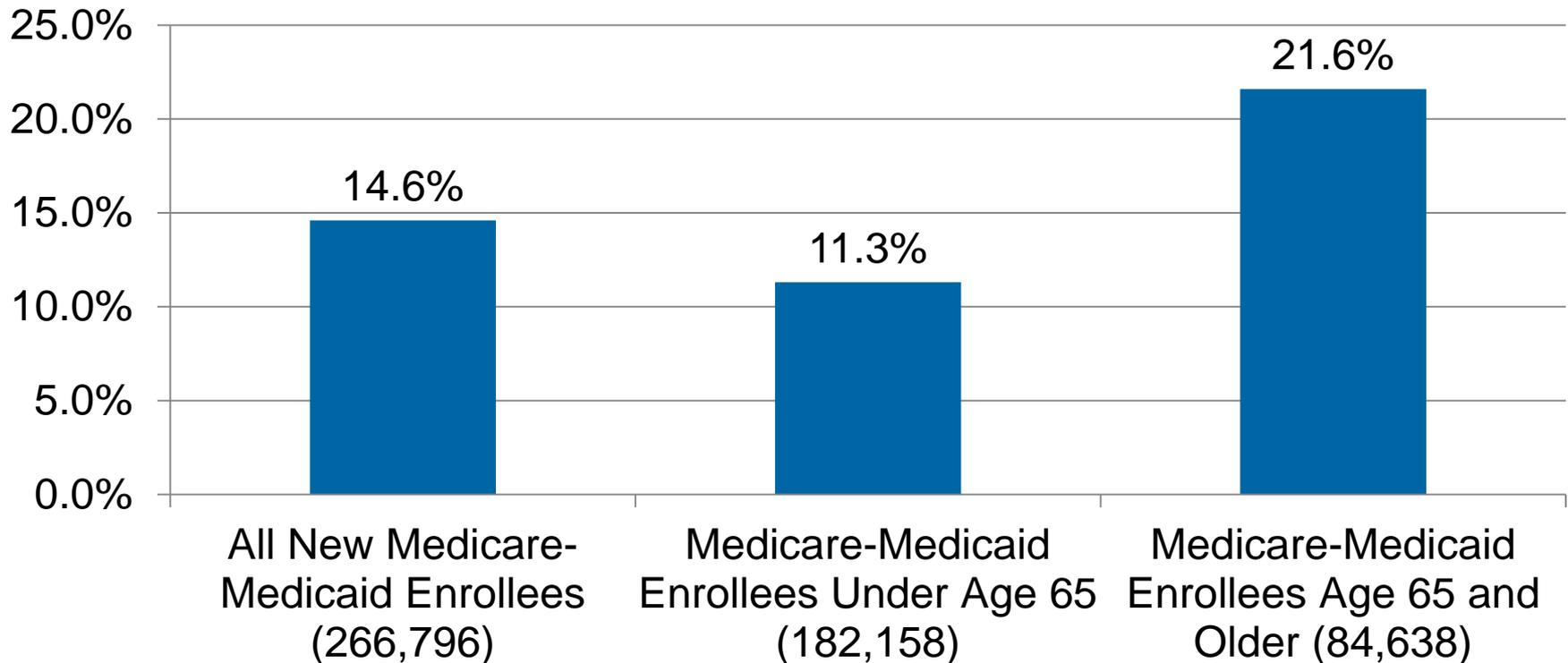
# Nursing Home Care

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



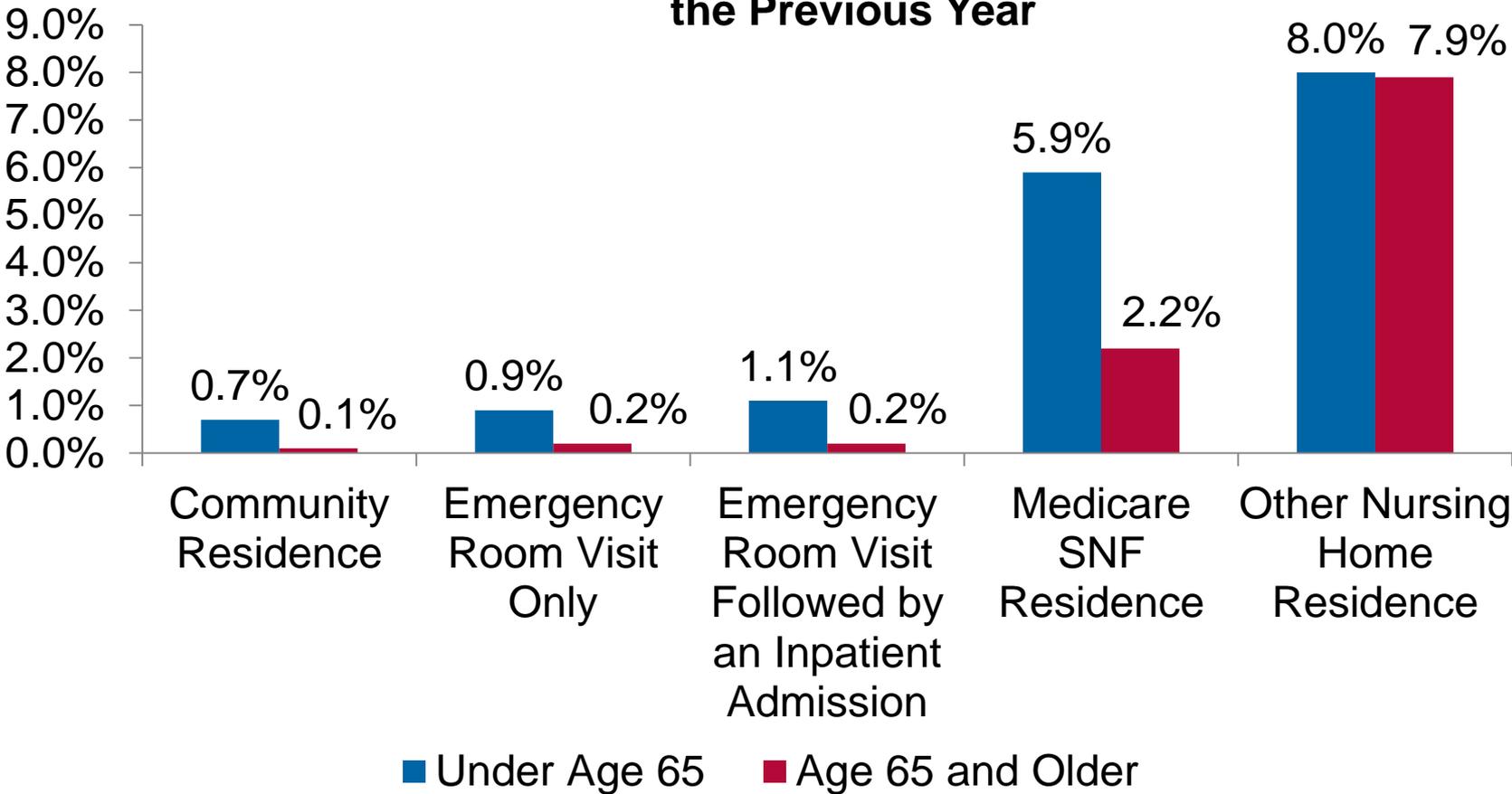
# Community Based Long-Term Care

**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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **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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