

—Inflation Reduction Act Research Series— Stelara: Medicare Enrollee Use and Spending

This Fact Sheet provides information on **Stelara**, one of the 10 drugs selected for the first cycle of Medicare drug price negotiations. Stelara (active ingredient ustekinumab) is a biological product used to treat psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, Crohn’s disease, and ulcerative colitis. Among Medicare enrollees, in 2018, about 0.40 percent of 25.1 million Medicare fee-for-service enrollees (about 100,000 enrollees) ages 67 or older had a diagnosis of Crohn’s disease and 0.64 percent (about 161,000) had a diagnosis of ulcerative colitis.

- Between 2018 and 2022, average annual total Part D spending per enrollee taking Stelara (i.e., the total amount, including Medicare, plan, and enrollee payments, spent on Stelara per person) increased by 97 percent (from \$59,355 to \$117,131).
- From 2018 through 2022, the average annual out-of-pocket spending per enrollee increased by 190 percent (from \$709 to \$2,058).

Table 1 presents data on utilization and spending for Stelara among Part D enrollees. About 20,000 Part D enrollees filled prescriptions for Stelara in 2022. Relative to the total Part D population, a greater share of Stelara users were women (59 percent vs. 56 percent), under the age of 65 (43 percent vs. 19 percent), and White non-Latinos (77 percent vs. 72 percent).

Table 1. Medicare Part D Use and Spending on Stelara, Calendar Year (CY) 2022

	Total Enrollees	LIS Enrollees ^a	Non-LIS Enrollees
Number of Part D Enrollees	53,063,000	14,957,000	38,106,000
Number of Enrollees Taking Stelara	20,000	10,000	10,000
Share of Part D Enrollees Taking Stelara	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Total Spending on Stelara			
Total Spending	\$2,339,583,000	\$1,277,103,000	\$1,062,480,000
Average per Enrollee taking Stelara	\$117,131	\$124,292	\$109,545
Enrollee Out-of-Pocket Spending on Stelara			
Total OOP Spending	\$41,099,000	\$299,000	\$40,800,000
Average OOP per Enrollee taking Stelara	\$2,058	\$29	\$4,207

Notes: ^aFor eligible Part D enrollees who meet income and asset requirements, the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS), also known as Extra Help, provides assistance with premiums, deductibles, and co-payments for covered Part D drugs.

The Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law by President Biden in August 2022. Please see [here](#) for more information on how the law is reducing drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries.

Please see [here](#) for more information on Stelara and the other drugs selected for the first cycle of Medicare drug price negotiation, cautions and limitations in interpretation and use of these estimates, and relevant citations.