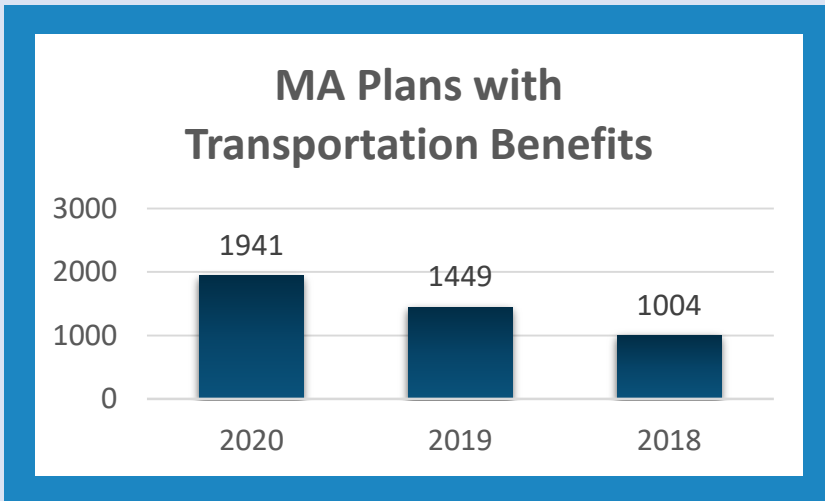
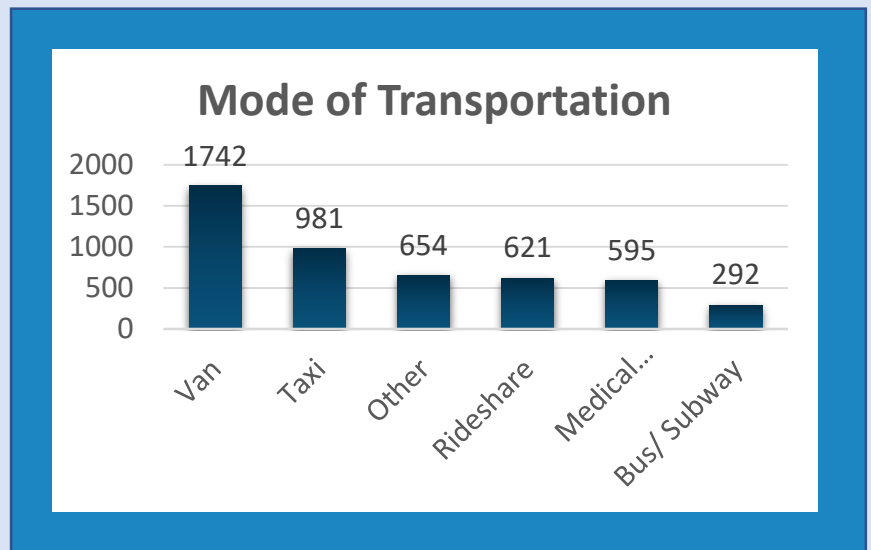


Medicare Advantage (MA) Transportation Supplemental Benefits



Medicare Advantage (MA) is the private plan option in the Medicare program. More than 22 million people with Medicare have chosen MA. Transport to medical appointments and pharmacies is one of the most rapidly growing supplemental benefits within the Medicare Advantage program. In 2020, the number of MA health plans offering transportation benefits has grown from 1449 to 1941, representing a 25% increase from 2019.

For 2020, CMS began collecting data on the mode of transport used to deliver MA transportation benefits. While van services remain the most common way to deliver the benefit, there is a great deal of diversity in how the benefit is delivered which includes use of taxis, rideshare services (such as Uber and Lyft), and public transportation. In many cases, MA plans use a transportation broker to provide transport in the most cost-effective manner appropriate for the member. Some MA plans also limit access to transportation based on medical necessity or demonstrated need for transportation.



In 2020, 1136 MA plans will require cost sharing for medical transportation with an average maximum co-pay of \$3.73 per trip. 805 MA plans will offer the benefit with no cost sharing. 522 MA plans require prior authorization while 121 plans require referral.