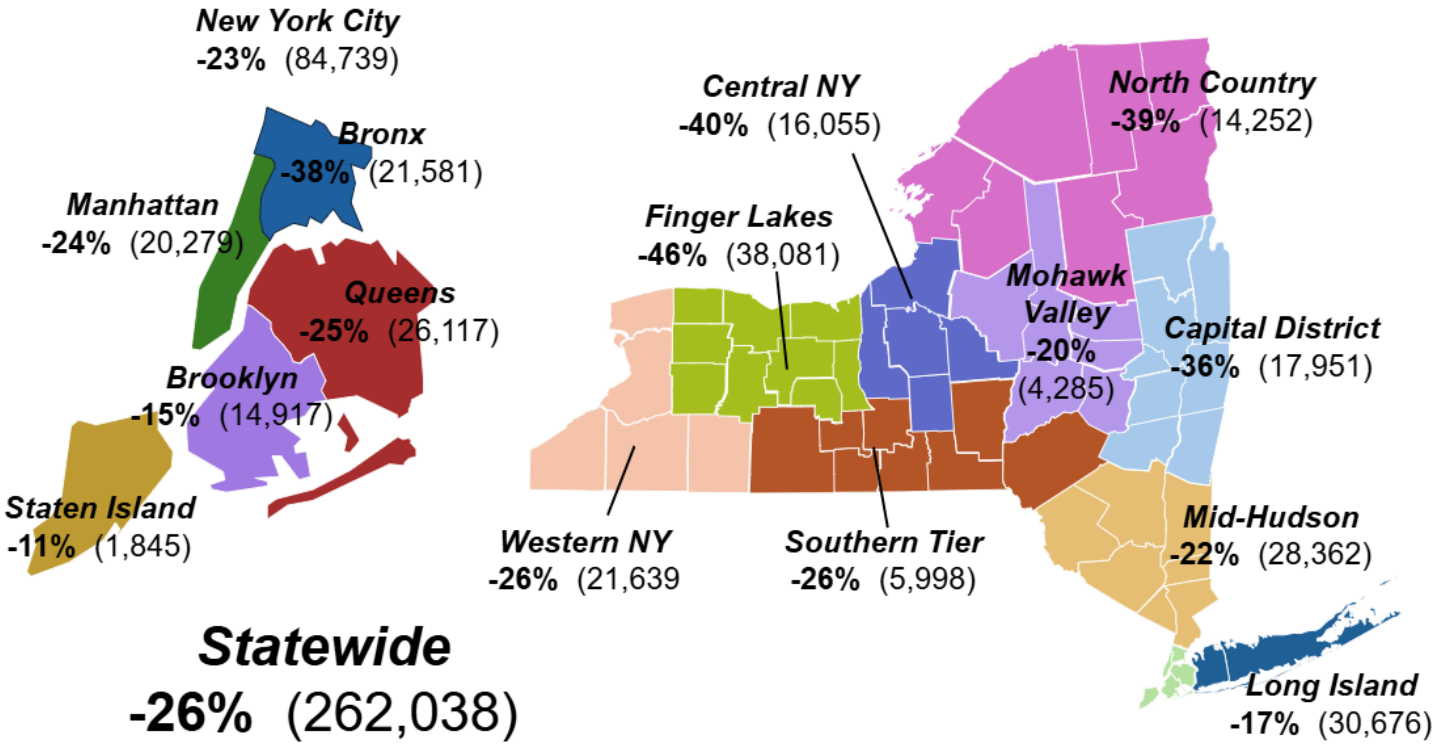
Home Health Access Collapsing Across NYS

VNS Health

Decline in Home Health Admissions 2018-2024 (Medicare)



Key: Bold percentages represent the estimated percent change in Certified Home Health Agencies (CHHA) utilization between 2019 and 2024. Non-bold numbers indicate the estimated number of Medicare beneficiaries who were unable to access CHHA services during that period, based on 2019 utilization rates. **Source:** CHHA Market Saturation File and County Data File (2018–2024) Release version 20, accessed July 2025. CMS MA State/County Penetration 2018-2024, (December)

Home Health Care is Essential Care

Home health care is short-term home-based care for a "skilled need" (e.g. nursing, physical therapy), usually following a hospitalization, to help patients recover at home. In NYS, it is provided by Certified Home Health Agencies (CHHAs). It is available through Medicare, Medicaid and commercial insurance.

Patients discharged with a home health referral who do not receive care:

- Stay longer in the hospital and are **36% more likely to be readmitted**,
- Are **41% more likely to die**, and
- Have **$2,170 higher health care costs**

Home Health Care Losses in NYS

- Home health use **dropped 26% statewide,** with sharper declines in "home health deserts; more than **262,000 patients did not receive** home health services (2018-24)
- ***40% of patients referred to home health did not receive*** *care (2024)*
- **29 home health agencies have closed, leaving just 100** serving all of NYS (2018-2024).

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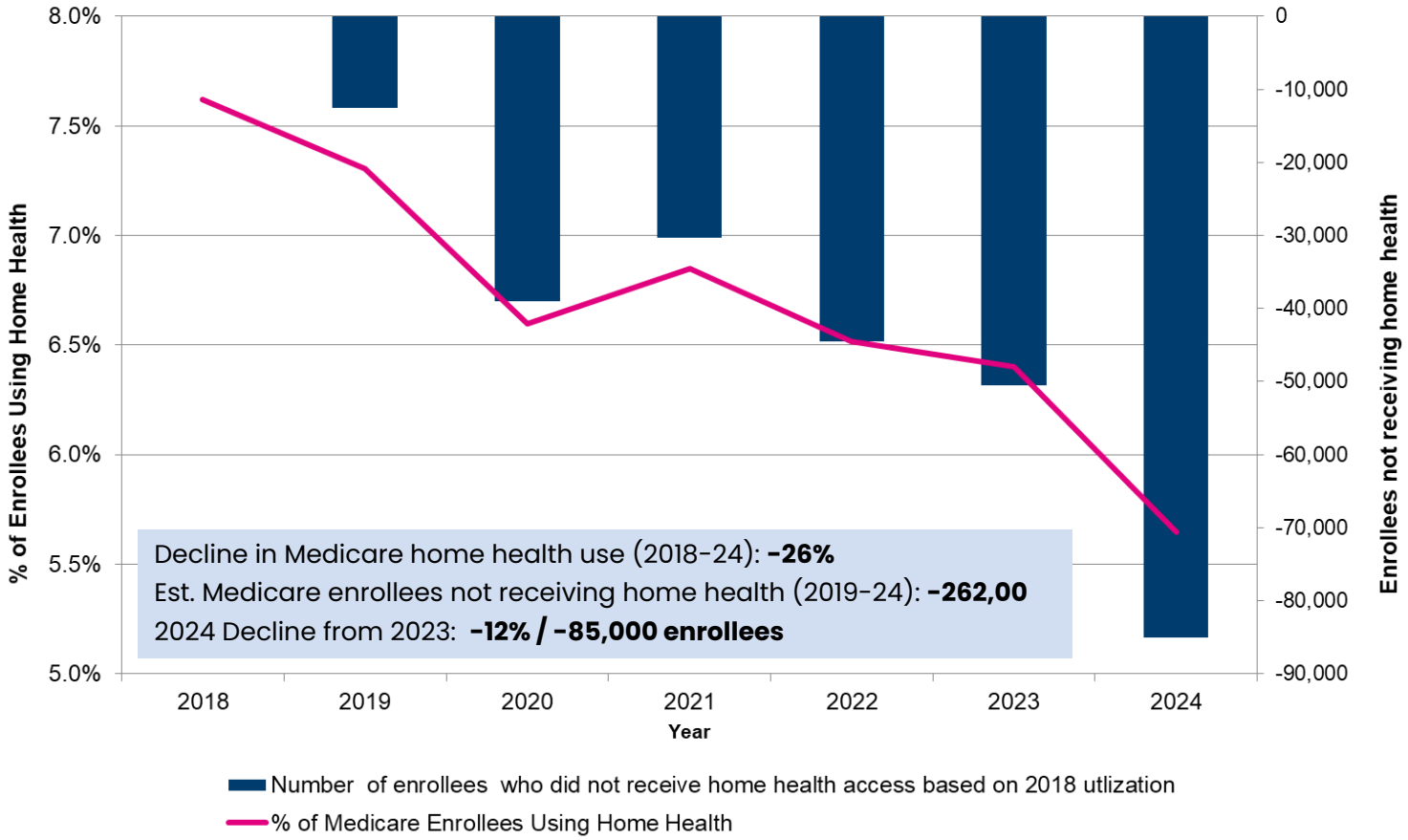
CMS is Proposing an Unprecedented 9% Medicare cut as Home Health Access Collapses

The CY 2026 Medicare Home Health Proposed Rule would slash payment rates by 9% annually, cutting over $1.1 billion from home health care and threatening access to critical services. **These proposed cuts would worsen an already dire situation**. Since 2020, home health agencies have been forced to absorb **more than 13% in Medicare payment cuts**, while **more than 1,300 agencies have closed and millions have been denied care.** Meanwhile, **CMS is ignoring major fraudulent behavior** that is distorting payment & hurting legitimate agencies.

Congress Must Act Now

- **Urge CMS to reverse harmful cuts and fix flawed PDGM implementation** in the 2026 Home Health Payment Rule — restoring Congressionally mandated budget neutrality (2018 Bipartisan Budget Act), and excluding fraudulent or anomalous data that have distorted rates and penalized compliant providers.
- **Cosponsor H.R. 5142, the Home Health Stabilization Act of 2025 (Hern/Sewell)**—to pause CMS's cuts for two years and provide immediate relief if CMS does not act.

Change in Home Health Admissions 2018-24 (Medicare): NYS



Key: Blue Bars show Estimated number of Medicare enrollees who lost access to home health services each year, based on 2018 utilization rates. Orange Line shows Percentage of Medicare enrollees using home health services annually.
Source: CHHA Market Saturation File and County Data File (2018–2024)