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Press Release

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AHIP: Low-Income and Rural Seniors Depend on Medigap Supplemental Coverage

New Report Analyzing the 2006 Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Medigap supplemental coverage is a vital option for low and moderate income seniors and those living in rural areas, according to the latest data from the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS).

“Millions of seniors, especially those with low incomes and those living in rural areas, rely on Medigap supplemental coverage for their health and financial security,” said Karen Ignagni, President and CEO of America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP). “Medigap beneficiaries receive additional benefits and are able to better budget for future health care expenses.”

According to the MCBS data for 2006, 31 percent of Medigap policyholders – compared to 24 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries – reside in rural areas. Forty-one percent of rural Medigap policyholders had incomes under \$20,000 in 2006, and nearly two-thirds had incomes under \$30,000. Additionally, 36 percent of all Medigap policyholders had incomes under \$20,000 and 58 percent had incomes under \$30,000.

To view the Medigap data analysis, visit www.ahipresearch.org.

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America’s Health Insurance Plans – Providing Health Benefits to More Than 200 Million Americans