

Workers Feeling Financial Strain, Unprepared for Medical Emergencies

Workers Under Financial Strain

- ◆ 49% are somewhat confident about their financial future, and 25% are not at all confident.
- ◆ 34% say having enough money to meet their current expenses is their biggest financial challenge and 28% say they are not earning enough money at their current jobs.
- ◆ 46% are coping with a financial crisis or trying to reduce debt.
- ◆ 71% expect their households' financial conditions to remain the same or get worse in the next six months.
- ◆ In the past 12 months, 42% of American companies eliminated or delayed raises, 12% asked employees to take pay cuts, 14% asked employees to take furloughs and 46% cut back on hiring.

Workers Financially Underprepared for Unexpected Health Events

- ◆ 36% don't believe their families are financially prepared for an unexpected health emergency.
- ◆ 31% have no confidence in their ability to cope with the financial impact of disability/injury, death or other unexpected events.
- ◆ 51% say they are not at all prepared to pay out-of-pocket expenses related to an unexpected illness or accident.
- ◆ 31% have less than \$500 on hand to pay out-of-pocket health expenses; 22% have between \$500 and \$1,000.
- ◆ 47% say they would have to borrow money to pay out-of-pocket medical costs.

Workers Fret About Finances But Don't Plan for Emergencies

- ◆ Financial issues would be the primary concern for 86% of U.S. workers if they or a family member suffered serious illness or injury.
- ◆ 34% say expenses resulting from an accident or illness would leave them concerned about paying their monthly bills.
- ◆ Nearly 6 in 10 (59%) don't have a financial plan for dealing with unexpected life challenges or events.
- ◆ Of the 41% of Americans with emergency financial plans in place, just 44% say health insurance is part of their plans.
- ◆ 30% of U.S. workers say their goals and dreams are financially protected.

2011 Aflac Workforces Report, a study conducted by Harris Interactive for Aflac, September 2010.