

Families Without Medical Care

A recent survey of nearly 26,500 people — most of whom are insured, employed and educated — revealed one in three families skipped medical care because of cost and one in four experienced serious problems paying for the care they needed.

The survey was conducted by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and resulted in the largest opinion pool available on healthcare.

The survey results also revealed:

- More than half of insured respondents said their insurance does not cover the care they need at an affordable price.
- One-third of college graduates said they or their family skipped medical care because of cost.
- 46 percent of respondents spent \$1,000 to \$5,000 out of pocket on healthcare in the last year. Seventeen percent spent more than \$5,000.
- 53 percent of Medicare recipients said their prescriptions are not covered or unaffordable.
- 83 percent of respondents said their families “have just enough to get by” or are “falling behind.”
- 48 percent of respondents said they or a family member stayed in a job just to hold on to healthcare benefits.
- 95 percent of families said they are “somewhat” or “very concerned” about being able to afford health insurance in the future.

AFL-CIO and its community affiliate, Working America, launched the survey from Jan. 14, 2008, to March 3, 2008. At least 7,500 respondents shared personal stories about their experience with America's healthcare system. The survey, promoted online by more than 35 organizations, was open to anyone.

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