

Many U.S. Employees Would Prefer Health Insurance Benefits Over Higher Pay, Survey Finds

[Aug 21, 2003]

Many U.S. employees would prefer lower-pay jobs with health insurance benefits to higher-pay jobs with no coverage benefits, according to a national survey released on Aug. 19, [Bloomberg/Asbury Park Press](#) reports. In the survey, researchers at [Stony Brook University](#) conducted telephone interviews with 865 U.S. adults between July 22 and Aug. 12. The survey found that 71% of respondents would select a job with a lower salary and health insurance benefits and that 24% would select a job with a higher salary and no health coverage (*Bloomberg/Asbury Park Press*, 8/20). The preference for a job with health insurance benefits over higher pay was not dependent on job description or the age, education or income of respondents, the survey found ("Health Pulse of America," 8/19). "People are really worried right now about job security and health benefits, more so than money, especially retirement benefits," Leonie Huddy, director of the [Center for Survey Research](#) at Stony Brook University, said (*Bloomberg/Asbury Park Press*, 8/20). According to the survey, 50% of respondents with employer-sponsored health insurance have concerns that their employers will reduce their coverage next year, and 29% have concerns that they will lose their coverage; 50% of respondents said that they could not afford to purchase health insurance on the private market. However, respondents were "generally satisfied" with their current health insurance and other benefits, the survey found. About 60% of respondents with employer-sponsored health insurance said that they would prefer a raise over improved coverage in the next year ("Health Pulse of America," 8/19). The survey is available [online](#).