

New Research from EBRI:

Americans Still Confident About Health Care, But Concerned About Cost

WASHINGTON—The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) appears to have had little impact on Americans' confidence about their health care, according to a new report by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI).

“Public confidence about various aspects of today’s health care system has remained fairly level both before and after the passage of the health care reform law,” said Paul Fronstin, director of EBRI’s Health and Education Research Center and author of the report. “The Supreme Court decision did not change how people view the system.”

Data from the EBRI/MGA 2012 Health Confidence Survey (HCS) show that two years after passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), implementation of a number of provisions in the legislation, and three months after the Supreme Court upheld the law, Americans offer a diverse perspective: 28 percent consider the nation’s health care system to be “good,” 28 percent say “fair,” and 26 percent rate it “poor,” while 12 percent rate it very good and 5 percent say it is “excellent.”

Fronstin noted that, in contrast with the ratings for the health care system overall, Americans’ rating of their own health plans continues to be generally favorable—more than half of those with health insurance are extremely or very satisfied with their current plans, and a third are somewhat satisfied.

On the other hand, just 22 percent are extremely or very satisfied with the cost of their health insurance plans, and only 16 percent are satisfied with the costs of health care services not covered by insurance. Among those experiencing cost increases in their plans

in the past year, 31 percent state they have decreased their contributions to retirement plans, and more than half have decreased their contributions to other savings as a result.

The report, “2012 Health Confidence Survey: Americans Remain Confident About Health Care, Concerned About Costs, Following Supreme Court Decision,” is published in the September *EBRI Notes*, available online at www.ebri.org. The HCS examines a broad spectrum of health care issues, including Americans’ satisfaction with health care today, their confidence in the future of the health care system and the Medicare program, and their attitudes toward health care reform.

The Employee Benefit Research Institute is a private, nonpartisan, nonprofit research institute based in Washington, DC, that focuses on health, savings, retirement, and economic security issues. EBRI does not lobby and does not take policy positions. The work of EBRI is made possible by funding from its members and sponsors, which includes a broad range of public, private, for-profit and nonprofit organizations. For more information go to www.ebri.org or www.asec.org.