

NPR SURVEY

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HEALTHCARE CONSUMERS: WORKING WHILE SICK

APRIL 1-11, 2010

TOTAL N=3,015



THOMSON REUTERS™

SURVEY OVERVIEW

The Thomson Reuters PULSE Healthcare Survey is the nation's largest and longest running, privately funded household survey of health behavior, attitudes, and utilization. Each year, more than 100,000 households participate in this nationally representative survey. The study has 11 waves (each a standalone market research study) conducted sequentially throughout the year. A wide range of healthcare topics is covered, including health status, insurance coverage, physician and ambulatory care services, hospital inpatient services, health behaviors and attitudes, and current healthcare topics and issues. The survey is self-funded and the data it generates are used in Thomson Reuters' information products for healthcare professionals (particularly strategic planning and marketing managers in hospitals.)

The results depicted below focus on PULSE Healthcare Survey data tracked from April 1-11, 2010. The survey questions outlined below, which are focused on the topic of working while sick, were developed in conjunction with National Public Radio.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following survey asked respondents if they have gone to work sick in the past year and, if so, why. The survey polled 3,015 U.S. residents between April 1st and April 11th.

Nearly three-fourths of respondents said they went to work while they were sick during the past year. The top reason: the employee wouldn't get paid if they took a sick day.

- One out of four respondents who went to work while feeling ill said they did so because they would not be compensated for taking a sick day.
- One out of five respondents who went to work while feeling ill said they did not consider their illness serious enough to justify a sick day.
- Reasons for refraining from taking a sick day varied significantly based on income of respondents.
- Among respondents who earn less than \$25,000 a year, more than half said they went to work sick because they would lose pay — compared with 6% of those making over \$100,000 annually.
- Among respondents who earn more than \$100,000 annually, about half said they didn't call in sick because of their work ethic or workload — compared with 18% of those making under \$25,000.

SURVEY DATA

QUESTION 1: In the Past 12 Months, Did You Go To Work Even Though You Were Sick?

| | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes | | <35 79.2% | 35-64 72.0% | 65+ 48.9% | Total 73.8% |
| Yes | <\$25K 70.5% | \$25-49.9K 82.3% | \$50-99.9K 71.2% | \$100K+ 72.0% | Total 73.8% |
| Yes | | Republican 74.8% | Democrat 74.9% | Independent 72.1% | Total 73.8% |



QUESTION 2: Thinking About The Last Time You Were Sick And Worked, What Was The Main Reason You Still Worked?

| | <35 | 35-64 | 65+ | Total |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1-Not sick enough | 26.3% | 18.9% | 22.1% | 21.7% |
| 2-No sick days left | 4.5% | 4.0% | 0.0% | 4.1% |
| 3-Not employer provided | 0.9% | 1.2% | 0.0% | 1.0% |
| 4-Negative consequences | 8.3% | 4.4% | 1.5% | 5.8% |
| 5-Wouldn't get paid | 29.9% | 21.9% | 13.2% | 24.7% |
| 6-Cost of healthcare | 0.0% | 2.4% | 0.0% | 1.4% |
| 7-Workload | 6.8% | 16.3% | 11.8% | 12.7% |
| 8-Other | 7.2% | 8.6% | 19.1% | 8.3% |
| 9-Work ethic | 14.0% | 21.2% | 32.4% | 18.8% |

| | <\$25K | \$25-49.9K | \$50-99.9K | \$100K+ | Total |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1-Not sick enough | 7.7% | 22.5% | 19.3% | 27.8% | 21.7% |
| 2-No sick days left | 0.0% | 3.4% | 6.6% | 4.5% | 4.1% |
| 3-Not employer provided | 0.9% | 0.2% | 1.8% | 1.3% | 1.0% |
| 4-Negative consequences | 3.8% | 2.9% | 8.2% | 3.2% | 5.8% |
| 5-Wouldn't get paid | 54.9% | 37.2% | 17.6% | 6.2% | 24.7% |
| 6-Cost of healthcare | 3.8% | 1.1% | 1.2% | 1.0% | 1.4% |
| 7-Workload | 11.7% | 6.2% | 12.9% | 23.9% | 12.7% |
| 8-Other | 9.7% | 5.5% | 11.5% | 6.8% | 8.3% |
| 9-Work ethic | 5.9% | 21.0% | 20.4% | 24.5% | 18.8% |

| | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1-Not sick enough | 30.6% | 14.9% | 27.0% | 21.7% |
| 2-No sick days left | 2.0% | 7.2% | 4.1% | 4.1% |
| 3-Not employer provided | 0.2% | 0.9% | 1.6% | 1.0% |
| 4-Negative consequences | 5.4% | 4.0% | 7.2% | 5.8% |
| 5-Wouldn't get paid | 18.8% | 30.4% | 21.3% | 24.7% |
| 6-Cost of healthcare | 1.0% | 1.6% | 1.8% | 1.4% |
| 7-Workload | 12.2% | 12.6% | 10.6% | 12.7% |
| 8-Other | 7.5% | 10.1% | 7.8% | 8.3% |
| 9-Work ethic | 21.3% | 17.7% | 17.8% | 18.8% |

