

2017 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey
Insurance Component

HEALTH INSURANCE COST STUDY Government Questionnaire

*(Please correct any errors in name, address, and ZIP Code.
Enter number and street, if not shown.)*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

INTERNET RESPONSE

You may respond to this survey via the Internet at the following secure web address:

econhelp.census.gov/mepsgov

Your Survey Key to access the Internet form is:

If completing paper form, please RETURN TO:

U.S. Census Bureau
1201 East 10th Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47132-0001 OR Fax to 1-800-447-4613

PLEASE RETURN ENTIRE CONTENTS OF THIS PACKAGE WITHIN

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THIS COVER SHEET

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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please report for the government unit identified on the cover sheet, unless otherwise specified.
2. Please report data for the year **2017**.
3. Estimates are acceptable.
4. For an explanation of unfamiliar terms, refer to the MEPS-20(D) Health Insurance Cost Study definition sheet included with this package.
5. Unless otherwise specified, respond for ACTIVE employees.
6. Please retain a completed copy of this form for your records.
7. If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the questionnaire, please call 1-888-273-3878 or visit:
econhelp.census.gov/mepsgov

We are conducting this study under the authority of Section 913 of the Public Health Service Act (Title 42, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 299b-2). Sections 924c and 308d of that Act (42 U.S.C. Section 299c-3(c) and 42 U.S.C. Section 242m, respectively) ensure that the information you report will be released only to authorized staff of the Census Bureau, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and their authorized researchers and contractors.

Paperwork Reduction Act and Burden Statements

We estimate this survey will take 45 minutes, on average, to complete, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you offered more than two plans, we estimate an extra 11 minutes per additional plan. You may send any comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing burden, to the following address: Director, Center for Financing, Access and Cost Trends, Paperwork Reduction Project 0935-0110, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 5600 Fishers Lane, Mailstop 07W41A, Rockville, MD 20857. Please **do not** mail questionnaires to this address as it will delay data processing. If the enclosed mailing envelope has been misplaced, please send questionnaire to the address printed on the front page of this form.



NUMBER OF PLANS

Respond for **ACTIVE** employees only.

1. Did your government unit make available or contribute to the cost of any health insurance plans for its ACTIVE employees in 2017?

For this survey, a health insurance plan is defined as a plan where hospital and/or physician coverage is made available to employees.

- 001
- 1 Yes - Continue with **2**
- 2 No - **SKIP to 3**

2. How many different health insurance plan choices did your government unit make available or contribute to for its ACTIVE employees during the 2017 plan year?

Do not count single service plans (optional plans) such as dental or vision.

Plans offered by the same insurance company which offer:

- Single, employee-plus-one, and family coverage providing the same level of benefits count as ONE plan.
- High and standard options count as TWO plans.
- An HMO and a conventional plan from the same insurance company count as TWO plans.

003 Number of Health Plans offered

PRIOR YEAR OFFERING

3. In 2016, did your government unit make available or contribute to the cost of any health insurance plans for ACTIVE employees?

- 760
- 1 Yes – Offered
- 2 No – Not offered
- 3 Don't know

EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Estimates are acceptable for all employment, eligibility, and enrollment figures.

Include full-time, part-time, temporary, and seasonal employees.

Exclude former employees, leased or contract workers and retirees.

4a. How many employees were on your government unit's payroll for a TYPICAL pay period in 2017?

740 All employees

If your government did not offer health insurance in 2017, **SKIP to 5a**

b. How many of these employees were ELIGIBLE for at least one health plan through your government unit?

201 Eligible employees

c. How many of these employees were ENROLLED in ANY health plan through your government unit?

202 Enrolled employees

Continue with **5a**



EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS - Continued

5a. For the same TYPICAL pay period in 2017, how many employees reported in Question 4a worked part-time?

If none, enter "0".

759

Part-time employees

*If your government unit did not offer health insurance in 2017, **SKIP to 6***

b. How many of these part-time employees were ELIGIBLE for at least one health plan through your government unit?

204

Eligible part-time employees

c. How many of these part-time employees were ENROLLED in ANY health plan through your government unit?

205

Enrolled part-time employees

6. How many of the employees reported in Question 4a worked fewer than 30 hours per week?

742

Employees worked fewer than 30 hours

743

No employees worked fewer than 30 hours

*If your government unit did not offer health insurance in 2017, **SKIP to 8a***

7. What was the minimum number of hours per week that an employee had to work in order to be eligible for health insurance?

626

Minimum hours worked per week to be eligible

721

No minimum number of hours required

Provide information for a TYPICAL pay period in 2017.

Estimates are acceptable.

The following workforce characteristics are used to group similar government units together for analytical purposes.

8a. Approximately what percentage of the employees at this government unit were union members?

018

 %

Union members

729

No union members

b. Approximately what percentage of the employees at this government unit were women?

If none, enter "0".

016

 %

Women employees

c. Approximately what percentage of the employees at this government unit were 50 years old or older?

If none, enter "0".

017

 %

Employees 50 years old or older

d. For the employees at this government unit in 2017, approximately what percentage earned -

If none, enter "0".

Less than \$12.00 per hour?
Approximately \$25,000 a year or less

022

 %

Earned less than \$12.00 per hour

Between \$12.00 and \$29.50 per hour?
Approximately \$25,000 to \$61,000 a year

023

 %

Earned between \$12.00 and \$29.50 per hour

More than \$29.50 per hour?
Approximately \$61,000 a year or more

024

 %

Earned more than \$29.50 per hour

1 0 0 %

Continue with 8e

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EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS - Continued

8e. For the employees at this government unit in 2017, how many earned more than \$46.00 per hour?

Approximately \$96,000 a year or more
If none, enter "0".

726

Number of employees that earned more than \$46.00 per hour

FRINGE BENEFITS CHARACTERISTICS

9. Did your government unit offer the following fringe benefits to its employees in 2017?

If Paid Time Off (PTO) is offered, mark (X) Yes for paid vacation AND paid sick leave.

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
050 Paid vacation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
051 Paid sick leave	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
052 Life insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
053 Disability insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
054 Retirement/pension plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Did your government unit offer any of these tax-advantaged benefits to its employees in 2017?

See the definition sheet, MEPS-20(D), included with this package for an explanation of these benefits.

These plans are also known as Section 125 Cafeteria Plans.

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
627 Employee contributions to health insurance made on a pre-tax basis . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
056 Flexible SPENDING Accounts (FSA) for healthcare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
057 Flexible Benefits Plans Full cafeteria plans that offer employees a set of benefits from which to choose.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If your government unit DID make available or contribute to the cost of any health insurance coverage for its employees in 2017, continue with 11.

If your government unit DID NOT make available or contribute to the cost of any health insurance coverage for its employees in 2017, SKIP to 18.

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Continue with 11

HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGES AND INSURANCE BROKERS

11. Did your government unit offer health insurance for active employees through a private exchange (also known as a corporate exchange)? (See definition sheet, MEPS-20(D).)

A private exchange is created by a consulting company, insurance carrier, or other private organization, not by either a federal or state government. Private exchanges often allow employees to choose from several health insurance options offered on the exchange.

- 765
- 1 Yes
 - 2 No
 - 3 Don't know

SMALL GOVERNMENT, 100 OR FEWER EMPLOYEES

Complete questions 12 through 13 only if your government unit offered insurance and has 100 employees or fewer OR has 100 full-time equivalent employees or fewer at all locations (see definition sheet, MEPS-20(D).) Otherwise, SKIP to 14a.

12. Did your government unit offer health insurance through a Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) exchange or marketplace in your state?

- 744
- 1 Yes
 - 2 No
 - 3 Don't know

13. Did your government unit use a third party, such as an insurance broker or agent, to help purchase the insurance plan(s)?

- 770
- 1 Yes
 - 2 No
 - 3 Don't know

GENERAL HEALTH COVERAGE CHARACTERISTICS

14a. Which of the listed optional coverage services, if any, did your government unit offer to its ACTIVE employees in 2017 at a premium SEPARATE from the comprehensive health plan premium?

*Report single service insurance plans only.
Do not include single services covered under a comprehensive health plan.
Long-term care insurance helps to cover the cost of institutional and home care required by the chronically ill or disabled.
Mark (X) all that apply.*

- 192 Dental
 - 193 Vision
 - 194 Prescription drugs
 - 195 Long-term care
 - 562 No optional coverage - **SKIP to 15**
- } Continue with **14b**

b. What was the total amount paid for optional coverage for all ACTIVE employees during a TYPICAL MONTH in 2017?

Include both government unit and employee contributions.

720

\$, , .00

Monthly optional coverage cost

15. For 2017, did your government unit impose a waiting period before new employees could be covered by health insurance?

- 197
- 1 Yes
 - 2 No
 - 3 Don't know

Continue with 16



GENERAL HEALTH COVERAGE CHARACTERISTICS - Continued

16. Were employees' SPOUSES eligible for health insurance coverage through your government unit?

- 745 5 All spouses eligible, greater **EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION** paid if spouses eligible through own employer.
- 6 All spouses eligible, same contribution.
- 7 All spouses eligible, don't know contribution.
- 2 Limited spouses eligible, only if not offered by own employer.
- 3 No spouses eligible.
- 4 Don't know

17. Did your government unit offer health insurance coverage to UNMARRIED domestic partners?

- | | Yes
(1) | No
(2) | Don't
know
(3) |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 730 Same sex domestic partners | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 731 Opposite sex domestic partners | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

RETIREE HEALTH COVERAGE CHARACTERISTICS

Exclude any retirees that have coverage through PHSA (COBRA) or state continuation-of-benefits laws. See the definition sheet MEPS-20(D) included with this package for an explanation of these terms.

18. Does your government unit or some other government unit provide health insurance coverage to any person who retired in 2017 OR BEFORE, or to any of their survivors?

If PHSA (COBRA) was the only coverage offered mark "No".

- 551 1 Yes - This government unit - *Continue with 19*
 - 4 Yes - Another government unit
- 672
Enter name of other government unit
- Continue with 19 if information is available. Otherwise SKIP to Page 9 to complete form.**
- 551 2 No
 - 3 Don't know
- } **SKIP to bottom of Page 9 to complete form**

19. In a typical month, how many retirees were enrolled in health insurance through your government unit?

513 Number of retirees enrolled

UNDER 65 YEARS OF AGE

Exclude any retirees that have coverage through PHSA (COBRA) or state continuation-of-benefits laws. If this was a self-insured plan, report the premium equivalent.

20a. Were any of the enrolled retirees, reported in Question 19, under 65 years of age?

- 628 1 Yes - *Continue with 20b*
 - 2 No
 - 3 Don't know
- } **SKIP to 21a**

b. In a typical month, how many retirees under 65 years of age were enrolled in health insurance through your government unit?

572 Number of retirees under 65 enrolled in health insurance

c. What percentage of those retirees were ENROLLED in SINGLE coverage?

573 % Retirees under 65 enrolled in single coverage

d. For a typical plan in 2017, how much did the GOVERNMENT UNIT contribute toward the monthly plan premium for one typical retiree with SINGLE coverage?

574 Government unit contribution for single premium

Continue with 20e

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RETIREE HEALTH COVERAGE CHARACTERISTICS - *Continued*

20e. For this same plan, what was the **TOTAL** monthly premium for this typical retiree with **SINGLE** coverage?

575

\$	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	,	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	.00
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Total single premium

f. For a typical plan in 2017, how much did the **GOVERNMENT UNIT** contribute toward the monthly plan premium for one typical retiree with **FAMILY** coverage?

576

\$	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	,	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	.00
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Government unit
contribution for **family** premium

For retirees, if premium varied by family size, report for a family of two.

g. For this same plan, what was the **TOTAL** monthly premium for this typical retiree with **FAMILY** coverage?

577

\$	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	,	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	.00
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Total family premium

AGE 65 OR OLDER

Exclude any retirees that have coverage through PHSA (COBRA) or state continuation-of-benefits laws.

If this was a self-insured plan, report the premium equivalent.

21a. Were any of the enrolled retirees, reported in Question 19, age 65 or older?

629

1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - Continue with 21b	}	SKIP to 22a
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	No		
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know		

b. In a typical month, how many retirees age 65 or older were enrolled in health insurance through your government unit?

578

<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

Number of retirees age 65 or older enrolled in health insurance

c. What percentage of these retirees were **ENROLLED** in **SINGLE** coverage?

579

<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	%
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Retirees age 65 or older **enrolled** in **single** coverage

d. For a typical plan in 2017, how much did the **GOVERNMENT UNIT** contribute toward the monthly plan premium for one typical retiree with **SINGLE** coverage?

580

\$	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	,	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	.00
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Government unit
contribution for **single** premium

e. For this same plan, what was the **TOTAL** monthly premium for this typical retiree with **SINGLE** coverage?

581

\$	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	,	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	.00
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Total single premium

f. For a typical plan in 2017, how much did the **GOVERNMENT UNIT** contribute toward the monthly plan premium for one typical retiree with **FAMILY** coverage?

582

\$	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	,	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	.00
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Government unit
contribution for **family** premium

For retirees, if premium varied by family size, report for a family of two.

g. For this same plan, what was the **TOTAL** monthly premium for this typical retiree with **FAMILY** coverage?

583

\$	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	,	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	.00
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Total family premium

Continue with 22a

RETIREE HEALTH COVERAGE CHARACTERISTICS - Continued

NEW RETIREES

For Questions 22a through 22c, NEW RETIREES refers only to persons who retired from your government unit in 2017.

Exclude any retirees that have coverage through PHSAs (COBRA) or state continuation-of-benefits laws.

22a. Did your government unit offer health insurance to any NEW RETIREES?

- 630 1 Yes - Continue with **22b**
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know

SKIP to next Section to complete form

b. Were NEW RETIREES under 65 years of age eligible for health insurance?

- 631 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know

c. Were NEW RETIREES age 65 or older eligible for health insurance?

- 632 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know

500 Remarks

PERSON COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

212 Name (Please print)

213 Title (Please print)

215 Area code Number 220 Extension
 - -

214 MM DD YYYY

217 Email

***** PLEASE NOTE *****

If your government unit offered health insurance, please complete an attached MEPS-11(S), Plan Information Questionnaire, for each plan offered.

If your government unit DID NOT offer health insurance, you have completed the survey.

PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS

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