

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey  
Insurance Component

# 2021 HEALTH INSURANCE COST STUDY Government Questionnaire

29181013

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

## TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY ONLINE

Visit: <https://portal.census.gov>

Authentication Code:

## 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**



## INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.** Please report for the government unit identified on the cover sheet, unless otherwise specified.
- 2.** Please report data for the year **2021**.
- 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.** For assistance completing this survey, please log-in to your Census Bureau account at <https://portal.census.gov> and send us a secure message **OR** call the customer help line at 1-888-273-3878, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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 the confidentiality of your responses will be maintained. It may be seen only by individuals sworn to uphold U.S. Census Bureau confidentiality and may be used only for statistical purposes.

### **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** In 2021, did your government unit offer any health insurance plans to its ACTIVE employees?

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** During the 2021 plan year, how many different health insurance plan choices did your government unit offer to its ACTIVE employees?

003



Health insurance plan choices

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

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

## PRIOR YEAR

**3** In 2020, did your government unit offer any health insurance plans to its ACTIVE employees?

760

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

**4** In 2020, did your government unit have a net change in the number of active employees in response to the Coronavirus pandemic or related economic conditions?

798

1  Yes, net increase  
 2  Yes, net decrease  
 3  No net change in number of active employees  
 4  Don't know

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**Continue with 5a**



## EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS – Continued

Provide information for a **TYPICAL** pay period in 2021.

Estimates are acceptable.

**9** a. **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?** 016  % Women employees

c. **Approximately what percentage of the employees at this government unit were 50 years old or older?** 017  % Employees 50 years old or older

d. **For the employees at this government unit, approximately what percentage earned:**

**Less than \$13.50 per hour?**

Approximately \$28,080 a year or less.....



Earned less than \$13.50 per hour

**Between \$13.50 and \$32.00 per hour?**

Approximately \$28,080 to \$66,560 a year.....



Earned between \$13.50 and \$32.00 per hour

**More than \$32.00 per hour?**

Approximately \$66,560 a year or more.....



Earned more than \$32.00 per hour

1 0 0 %

e. **For the employees at this government unit, how many earned more than \$50.50 per hour?** 726  Number of employees that earned more than \$50.50 per hour

Approximately \$105,040 a year or more

**10** a. **For the employees at this government unit, what percentage are able to do their jobs by teleworking if necessary?** 797  % Employees able to do their jobs by teleworking

**Necessary** - Due to pandemic, inclement weather or other circumstances that make it difficult or inadvisable to work in the office.

Estimates are acceptable. Include all position types.

b. **For the employees at this government unit, what percentage telework on a regular basis?** 796  % Teleworking employees

For example, once a week, once a pay period, monthly, etc.

Estimates are acceptable. Include all position types.



## FRINGE BENEFITS CHARACTERISTICS

### 11 Did your government unit offer the following fringe benefits to its employees?

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

Critical illness insurance is a special form of insurance that pays the policyholder a lump-sum, tax-free payment if they suffer from serious illnesses, including but not limited to cancer, heart attack, kidney failure and stroke.

		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"/>
795	Critical illness insurance . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
054	Retirement/pension plans . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## TAX-ADVANTAGED BENEFITS

### 12 Did your government unit offer any of these tax-advantaged benefits to its employees?

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

		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 offered health insurance, continue with 13.

If your government unit DID NOT offer health insurance, SKIP to 19.

## HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGES AND INSURANCE BROKERS

### 13 Did your government unit offer health insurance to active employees through a private exchange (also known as a corporate exchange)?

A private exchange is created by a consulting company, insurance carrier, or other private organization and 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

If your government unit has more than 100 employees at all locations, SKIP to 15a Otherwise, continue with 14.

### 14 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

**Continue with 15a**





## RETIREE HEALTH COVERAGE CHARACTERISTICS

For Questions 20 through 21g, if the answer is **NONE**, please enter "0".

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

**19 Did your government unit or some other government unit provide health insurance coverage to any person who retired in 2021 OR BEFORE, or to any of their survivors?**

If COBRA was the only coverage offered mark "No".

551 1  Yes – This government unit - Continue with 20

4  Yes – Another government unit ↗

672

*Name of other government unit*

**Continue with 20 if information is available.  
Otherwise, SKIP to Page 10 to complete form.**

551 2  No      3  Don't know } **SKIP to Page 10 to complete form.**

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

513

\_\_\_\_\_ ,

### Number of retirees enrolled



## RETIREE HEALTH COVERAGE CHARACTERISTICS – Continued

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

21

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

### UNDER 65 YEARS OF AGE

628  
 1  Yes  
 2  No  
 3  Don't know

**SKIP to Age 65 or Older**

### AGE 65 OR OLDER

629  
 1  Yes  
 2  No  
 3  Don't know

**SKIP to 22a**

**b. In a typical month, what was the TOTAL number of retirees, by age category, enrolled in health insurance through your government unit?**

572

--	--

Total under 65

578

--	--

Total 65 or older

**c. What percentage of these retirees, by age category, were ENROLLED in SINGLE coverage?**

573

--	--

Percent of under 65 enrolled in single

579

--	--

Percent of 65 or older enrolled in single

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

574

\$		.00
----	--	-----

580

\$		.00
----	--	-----

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

575

\$		.00
----	--	-----

581

\$		.00
----	--	-----

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

576

\$		.00
----	--	-----

582

\$		.00
----	--	-----

If premium varied by family size, report for a family of two.

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

577

\$		.00
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583

\$		.00
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**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 2021. Exclude any retirees that have coverage through COBRA or state continuation-of-benefits laws.

22

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

630	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – Continue with <b>22b</b>
	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

**SKIP to the bottom of this page to complete form.**

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

631	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

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

632	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

500 Remarks

### PERSON COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Name (Please print)

212

Title (Please print)

213

Area code      Number      220      Extension

215

MM      DD      YYYY

214

Email

217

#### \*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\*

If your government unit offered health insurance, please complete the attached MEPS-11(S), Plan Information Questionnaire, for all plans 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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