2018 Employer Health Benefits Survey

Release Slides
October 3, 2018

Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues.
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Figure 1
Average Annual Increases in Premiums for Family Coverage Compared to Other Indicators, 2000-2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown (p < .05).

Figure 2
Average Annual Worker and Employer Contributions to Premiums and Total Premiums for Family Coverage, 1999-2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown (p < .05).

Figure 3
Distribution of Annual Premiums for Covered Workers with Family Coverage, 2018

SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Figure 4
Cumulative Premium Increases, Inflation, and Earnings for Covered Workers with Family Coverage, 2003-2018

* Percentage change in family premium is statistically different from previous five year period shown (p < .05).
Figure 5
Cumulative Increases in Family Premiums, Worker Contributions to Family Premiums, Inflation, and Workers' Earnings, 1999-2018

Figure 6
Average Annual Worker and Employer Premium Contributions and Total Premiums for Single and Family Coverage, by Firm Size, 2018

* Estimate is statistically different between All Small Firms and All Large Firms estimate (p < .05).

NOTE: Small Firms have 3-199 workers and Large Firms have 200 or more workers.

SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Figure 7
Distribution of Percentage of Premium Paid by Covered Workers for Single and Family Coverage, by Firm Size, 2018

* Distributions are statistically different between All Small Firms and All Large Firms within coverage type (p < 0.05).

NOTE: Small Firms have 3-199 workers and Large Firms have 200 or more workers.

SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Figure 8
Percentage of Covered Workers with a General Annual Deductible for Single Coverage, 2006-2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown (p < .05).
NOTE: Average general annual deductibles are for in-network providers.
Figure 9
Average General Annual Deductibles for Single Coverage, 2006-2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown (p < .05).

NOTE: Average general annual deductibles are among all covered workers. Workers in plans without a general annual deductible for in-network services are assigned a value of zero.

Figure 10
Cumulative Increases in Family Coverage Premiums, General Annual Deductibles, Inflation, and Workers' Earnings, 2008-2018

NOTE: Average general annual deductibles are for single coverage and are among all covered workers. Workers in plans without a general annual deductible for in-network services are assigned a value of zero.

Figure 11
Percentage of Covered Workers Enrolled in a Plan with a General Annual Deductible of $2,000 or More for Single Coverage, by Firm Size, 2009-2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown (p < .05).

NOTE: Small Firms have 3-199 workers and Large Firms have 200 or more workers. These estimates include workers enrolled in HDHP/POSs and other plan types. Average general annual deductibles are for in-network services.

### Figure 12

**Distribution of Health Plan Enrollment for Covered Workers, by Plan Type, 1988-2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Conventional</th>
<th>HMO</th>
<th>PPO</th>
<th>POS</th>
<th>HDHP/SO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td></td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td>58%</td>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>57%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Information was not obtained for POS plans in 1988 or for HDHP/SO plans until 2006. A portion of the change in plan type enrollment for 2005 is likely attributable to incorporating more recent Census Bureau estimates of the number of state and local government workers and removing federal workers from the weights. See the Survey Design and Methods section from the 2005 Kaiser/HRET Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits for additional information.

Figure 13
Among Covered Workers with a General Annual Deductible, Average Deductibles for Workers in Non-HDHP/SOs Compared to HDHP/SOs Before and After Any Employer Account Contributions, for Single Coverage, 2007-2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown (p < .05).

NOTE: The net liability for covered workers enrolled in a plan with an HSA or HRA is calculated by subtracting the account contribution from the single coverage deductible. General annual deductibles are for in-network services.

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown (p < .05).

NOTE: As noted in the Survey Design and Methods section, estimates are based on the sample of both firms that completed the entire survey and those that answered just one question about whether they offer health benefits.

Figure 15
Percentage of Workers at Firms That Offer Health Benefits to at Least Some Workers, by Firm Size, 1999-2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown (p < .05).

NOTE: As noted in the Survey Design and Methods section, estimates are based on the sample of both firms that completed the entire survey and those that answered just one question about whether they offer health benefits. Not all workers at a firm offering benefits are eligible or enrolled in their firm’s health benefits.

Figure 16
Eligibility and Coverage Rates for Workers in Firms Offering Health Benefits, 1999-2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown (p < .05).

Figure 17
Among Firms Offering Health Benefits, Percentage of Firms That Provide Workers Additional Incentives For Various Enrollment Decisions, by Firm Size, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Enrolling in a Spouse's Plan</th>
<th>Not Participating in Firm's Health Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Small Firms (3-199 Workers)</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Large Firms (200 or More Workers)</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Firms</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tests found no statistical difference from estimate for all other firms not in the indicated size category (p < .05).

SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Figure 18
Among Large Firms Offering Health Benefits, Percentage of Firms Whose Plan with the Largest Enrollment Covers Care at Retail Clinics and That Have a Financial Incentive for Workers to Visit Retail Clinics Instead of a Physician's Office, 2010-2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown (p < .05).

NOTE: A retail clinic is a health care clinic located in a retail store, supermarket, or pharmacy that treats minor illnesses and provides preventive health care services such as flu shots. Financial incentives include lower cost sharing for care received at retail clinics instead of traditional physician offices. Large Firms have 200 or more workers.

Figure 19
Among Large Firms Offering Health Benefits, Percentage of Firms Whose Plan with the Largest Enrollment Covers Telemedicine, 2015-2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown (p < .05).

NOTE: Large Firms have 200 or more workers. Telemedicine is the delivery of health care services through telecommunications to a patient from a provider who is at a remote location, including video chat and remote monitoring. This would not include the mere exchange of information via email, exclusively web-based resources, or online information a plan may make available unless a health professional provides information specific to the enrollee’s condition. There was a minor change in the survey question about telemedicine between 2016 and 2017.

Figure 20
Among Firms Offering Health Benefits, Percentage of Firms That Eliminated Hospitals From Their Network in the Past Year to Reduce Cost or Offer a Narrow Network Plan, by Firm Size, 2018

- Eliminated Hospitals or Health Systems from a Network
- Offers Plan Considered a Narrow Network

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for all other firms not in the indicated size category (p < .05).

NOTE: Narrow network plans limit the number of providers that can participate in order to reduce costs and generally are more restrictive than standard HMO networks.

SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Figure 21
Among Large Firms Offering Health Benefits, Percentage of Firms That Require Workers Who Use Tobacco to Contribute More to the Premium or Cost Sharing Than Those Who Do Not Use Tobacco, by Firm Size, 2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for all other firms not in the indicated size category (p < .05).

NOTE: Four percent of firms offering health benefits volunteered that not using tobacco is a condition of employment. Large Firms have 200 or more workers.

SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Figure 22
Among Large Firms Offering Health Benefits and a Health Risk Assessment and/or Biometric Screening, Percentage With or Without an Incentive to Complete the Programs, 2018

- Offers Program, But No Incentive
- Offers Incentive to Complete Program

NOTE: A health risk assessment includes questions on medical history and lifestyle and is designed to identify a person's health risks. Biometric screening is an in-person health examination to measure risk factors such as cholesterol, blood pressure, and body mass index. Large Firms have 200 or more workers.

SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Figure 23
Among Large Firms Offering Workers an Incentive for Any Health Promotion Programs, Maximum Annual Value of the Incentive for All Programs Combined, 2018

NOTE: Includes incentives for health risk assessments, biometric screenings, and wellness programs. Firms with at least one of the listed health promotion programs were asked to report the maximum incentive a worker and his/her dependents could receive for all the firm's health promotion programs combined. Forty-five percent of large offering firms offer an incentive to complete any of their health promotion programs. In 2018, less than one percent of firms indicated they had a reward of zero dollars. In most cases, this indicates a non-monetary incentive such as a preferred parking spot. Large Firms have 200 or more workers.
SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Figure 24
Among Firms Offering Health Benefits, Percentage of Firms That Collect Information From Workers' Mobile Apps or Wearable Technologies, by Firm Size, 2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for all other firms not in the indicated size category (p < .05).
NOTE: Wearable technologies could include Fitbits or Apple Watches. Small Firms have 3-199 workers and Large Firms have 200 or more workers.
SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Figure 25

Among Large Firms That Offer a Health Screening Program, How Firm Uses Information Collected, 2018

- Understand Employee Health Risks: 67%
- Target Health Promotion Programs or Communications: 62%
- Design New Wellness Programs: 53%
- Measure Health Plan Costs: 43%
- As Basis of an Incentive Program: 24%
- Other: 3%
- At Least One of These: 81%

NOTE: Screening programs include health risk assessments and biometric screenings. Among large firms offering health benefits, 70% offer workers one or both of these programs. Large Firms have 200 or more workers.

SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Figure 26
Among Covered Workers at Small Firms, Percentage Enrolled in a Level-Funded or Self-Funded Plan, by Firm Size, 2018

* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for all other firms not in the indicated size category (p < .05).

NOTE: Only firms that indicated they were fully-insured were asked if their plan was level-funded; self-funded plans may also have this structure. See the glossary at the end of Section 10 for definitions of self-funded, fully-insured, and level-funded premium plans. Small Firms have 3-199 workers.

SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Figure 27
Among Firms Offering Health Benefits, Percentage of Firms That Believe the Repeal of the Individual Mandate Will Impact Their Benefit Offerings, by Firm Size, 2018

- Fewer Workers/Dependents Will Participate
  - All Small Firms: 9%* Yes, 81%* No, 10% Don't Know
  - All Large Firms: 24%* Yes, 69%* No, 8% Don't Know
  - ALL FIRMS: 10% Yes, 81% No, 10% Don’t Know

- Firm Will Change Available Benefit Options
  - All Small Firms: 5% Yes, 89% No, 6% Don’t Know
  - All Large Firms: 10% Yes, 84% No, 6% Don’t Know
  - ALL FIRMS: 5% Yes, 89% No, 6% Don’t Know

- There Will be Other Impacts
  - All Small Firms: 6% Yes, 88% No, 6% Don’t Know
  - All Large Firms: 7% Yes, 88% No, 5% Don’t Know
  - ALL FIRMS: 6% Yes, 88% No, 6% Don’t Know

* Estimates are statistically different between Small Firm and Large Firm estimates within category (p < .05).

NOTE: Small Firms have 3-199 workers and Large Firms have 200 or more workers.

SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018
Read the report, and find a link to today’s presentation, at

kff.org/ehbs
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