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Health insurance costs worry workers

AFL-CIO SURVEY | 1 in 3 skipped medical care because of the cost

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One in three families had to skip medical care because of cost, and 25 percent had serious problems paying for the care they needed, according to a survey of more than 26,000 people released Tuesday by the AFL-CIO.

Most of the survey respondents were employed, college graduates, union members and had insurance, a group that AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said "you would expect to have positive experiences with America's health-care system. They're hurting."

Of those with insurance, 95 percent said they are dissatisfied with health-care costs, and 62 percent are dissatisfied with health-care quality, the survey found.

Meanwhile 76 percent of people surveyed who lacked insurance themselves and 71 percent with uninsured children said someone in their family did not visit a doctor when sick because of cost. Sixty-seven percent of the uninsured and 66 percent of those whose children are uninsured said they skipped medical treatment or follow-up care recommended by a doctor.

The survey also found that:

- • 96 percent of people with insurance are somewhat or very concerned about being able to afford insurance.
- • • 53 percent of Medicare recipients said their prescriptions are not covered or are unaffordable.
- • 46 percent said they spent between \$1000 and \$5,000 for health care in the last year, and 17 percent spent more than \$5,000.

The survey, touted as one of the largest on health care, was conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates between Jan. 14 and March 3.

Contributing: AP

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