

2016 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

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please report for the government unit identified on the cover sheet, unless otherwise specified.
2. Please report data for the year **2016**.
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 expect that it will take 45 minutes, on average, to complete the basic questionnaire. If you offered more than one plan, we expect it will take an additional 10 minutes per plan, on average. In addition, we estimate that it will take 15 minutes to review the instructions and locate the requested information. 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 use address on front page of form to return questionnaire.

Section A – 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 2016?

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

001

☐

Yes - Continue with Question 2

☐

No - **SKIP to Section B, Question 1a**

2. How many different health insurance plan choices did your government unit make available or contribute to for its ACTIVE employees during the 2016 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 2015, did your government unit make available or contribute to the cost of any health insurance plans for ACTIVE employees?

760

☐

Yes – Offered

☐

No – Not offered

☐

Don't know

Section B – 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.

1a. How many employees were on your government unit's payroll for a TYPICAL pay period in 2016?

740

All employees

If your government did not offer health insurance in 2016, **SKIP to Page 4, Question 2a.**

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 Page 4, Question 2a



Section B – EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS – *Continued*

2a. For the same TYPICAL pay period in 2016, how many employees reported in Question 1a worked part-time?

If none, enter "0".

759

Part-time employees

*If your government unit did not offer health insurance in 2016, **SKIP to Question 3.***

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

3. How many of the employees reported in Question 1a worked less than 30 hours per week?

742

Employees worked less than 30 hours

743

☐

No employees worked less than 30 hours

4. If your government unit offered health insurance, 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 2016.

Estimates are acceptable.

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

5a. 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 2016, approximately what percentage earned –

If none, enter "0".

Less than \$11.50 per hour?
Approximately \$24,000 a year or less

022

 %

Earned less than \$11.50 per hour

Between \$11.50 and \$28.50 per hour?
Approximately \$24,000 to \$59,000 a year

023

 %

Earned between \$11.50 and \$28.50 per hour

More than \$28.50 per hour?
Approximately \$59,000 a year or more

024

 %

Earned more than \$28.50 per hour

Continue with Page 5, Question 6

Section B – EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS – Continued

6. For the employees at this government unit in 2016, how many earned more than \$44.50 per hour?

Approximately \$93,000 a year or more
If none, enter "0".

726

Number of employees that earned more than \$44.50 per hour

Section C – FRINGE BENEFITS CHARACTERISTICS

1. Did your government unit offer the following fringe benefits to its employees in 2016?

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	☐	☐	☐
051 Paid sick leave	☐	☐	☐
052 Life insurance	☐	☐	☐
053 Disability insurance	☐	☐	☐
054 Retirement/pension plans	☐	☐	☐

2. Did your government unit offer any of these tax-advantaged benefits to its employees in 2016?

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 . . .	☐	☐	☐
056 Flexible SPENDING Accounts (FSA) for healthcare	☐	☐	☐
057 Flexible Benefits Plans Full cafeteria plans that offer employees a set of benefits from which to choose.	☐	☐	☐

Section D – HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGES AND INSURANCE BROKERS

SMALL GOVERNMENT, 100 OR FEWER EMPLOYEES

Complete 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 Page 6, Question 3.**

1. 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

2. 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

SKIP to Page 6, Section E

Continue with Page 6, Question 3

Section D – HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGES AND INSURANCE BROKERS – Continued

LARGE GOVERNMENT. MORE THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

Complete only if your government unit offered insurance and has more than 100 employees. Otherwise, **SKIP to Section E.**

- 3. 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 one 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 |

Section E – GENERAL HEALTH COVERAGE CHARACTERISTICS

- 1a. Which of the listed optional coverage services, if any, did your government unit offer to its ACTIVE employees in 2016 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 Question 2**
- Continue with Question 1b*

- b. What was the total amount paid for optional coverage for all ACTIVE employees during a TYPICAL MONTH in 2016?**

Include both government unit and employee contributions.

Monthly optional coverage cost

- 2. For 2016, 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 |

- 3. 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

- #### 4. 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 | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 731 | Opposite sex domestic partners | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

Continue with Page 7, Section F

29186079



Section F – RETIREE HEALTH COVERAGE CHARACTERISTICS – *Continued*

AGE 65 YEARS OR OVER

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.

4a. Were any of the enrolled retirees, reported in Question 2, 65 years of age or over?

629

- 1 ☐ Yes - Continue with Question 4b
- 2 ☐ No
- 3 ☐ Don't know

SKIP to Question 5a

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

578

Number of retirees 65 years or over enrolled in health insurance

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

579

Retirees 65 years or over enrolled in **single** coverage

d. For a typical plan in 2016, how much did the GOVERNMENT UNIT contribute toward the monthly plan premium for one typical retiree with SINGLE coverage?

580

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

Total single premium

f. For a typical plan in 2016, how much did the GOVERNMENT UNIT contribute toward the monthly plan premium for one typical retiree with FAMILY coverage?

582

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

Total family premium

NEW RETIREES

For Questions 5a through 5c, NEW RETIREES refers only to persons who retired from your government unit in 2016.

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

5a. Did your government unit offer health insurance to any NEW RETIREES?

630

- 1 ☐ Yes - Continue with Question 5b
- 2 ☐ No
- 3 ☐ Don't know

SKIP to Page 9, Section G

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 65 years of age or over eligible for health insurance?

632

- 1 ☐ Yes
- 2 ☐ No
- 3 ☐ Don't know

Continue with Page 9, Section G

500 Remarks

Section G – PERSON COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

212 Name (Please print)

213 Title (Please print)

215 Area code

Number

220 Extension

214

MM

DD

YYYY

PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS

