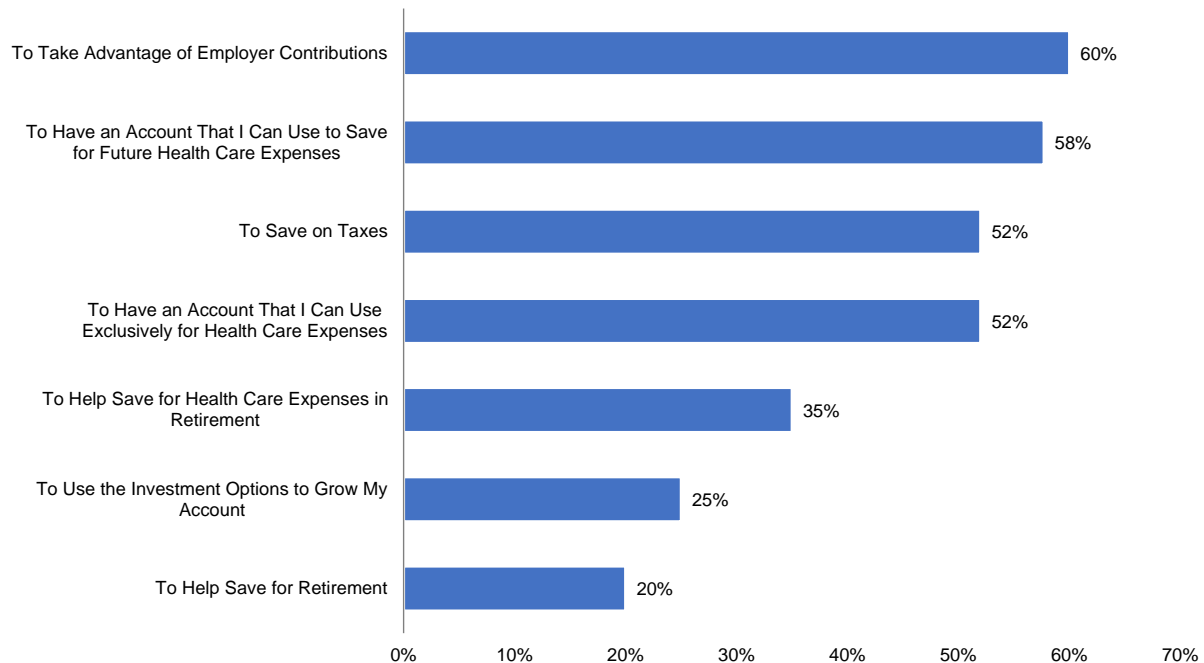


The Disconnect: More View Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) as Investment Accounts Than Use Them This Way

The Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI)/Greenwald Research [Consumer Engagement in Health Care Survey](#) found that the majority (60 percent) of health savings account (HSA) accountholders reported that they are using the account to take advantage of employer contributions. Similarly, 58 percent opened their HSA to save for future health care expenses and 52 percent to save on taxes.

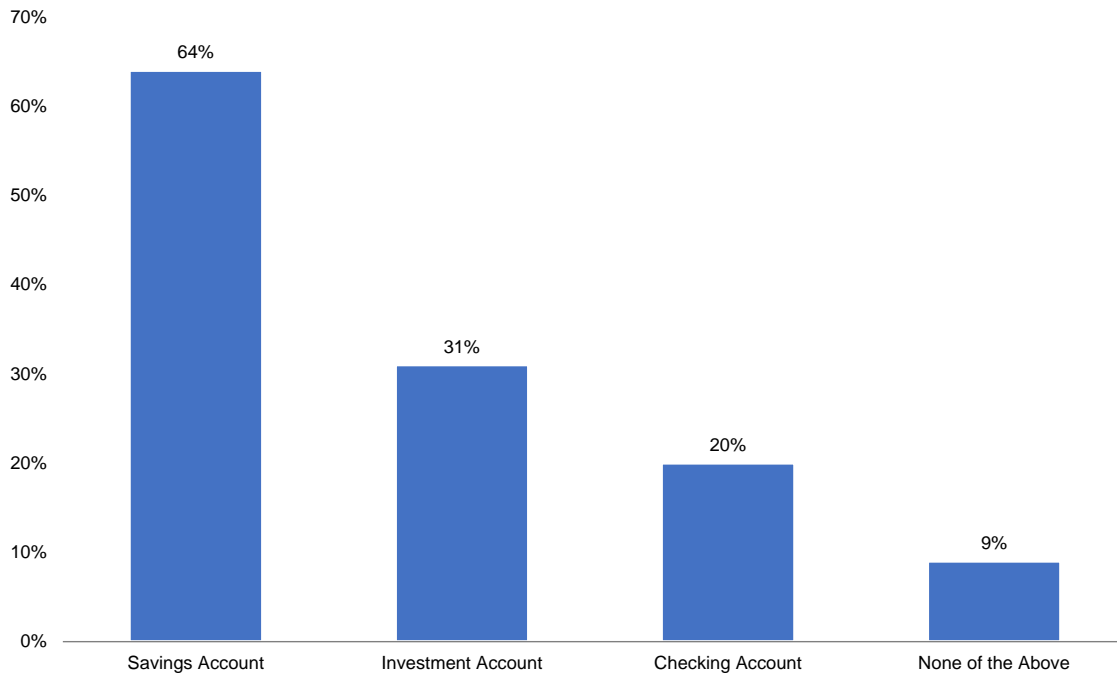
Figure 1
Consumers Use Their HSAs for Various Reasons



Source: EBRI/Greenwald Research Consumer Engagement in Health Care Survey, 2023.

While 31 percent viewed the account as an investment account, 20 percent viewed the account as a checking account. Most (64 percent) viewed the HSA as a savings account.

Figure 2
Two-Thirds View Their HSA as a Savings Account



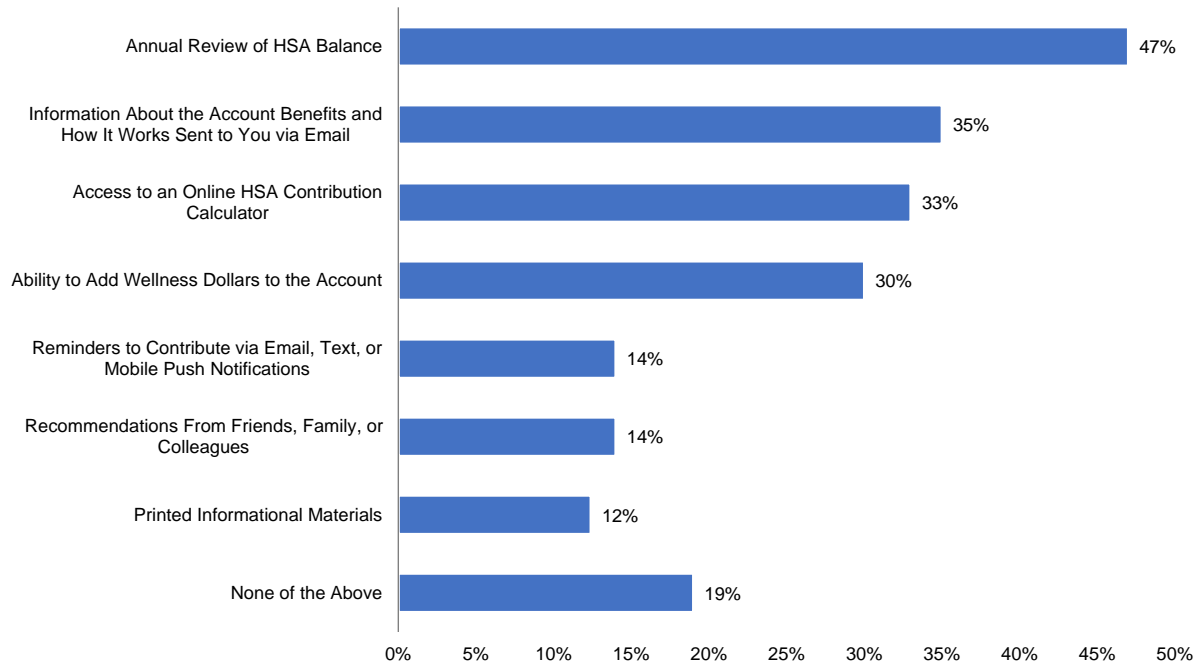
Source: EBRI/Greenwald Research Consumer Engagement in Health Care Survey, 2023.

Notably, there is a disconnect between how HSA account holders report they are using and viewing the account, and what we have learned from administrative data that are based on actual behavior. According to the EBRI HSA Database, a repository of 13.1 million HSAs with \$39.5 billion in assets as of Dec. 31, 2021, only 12 percent of HSAs are invested.¹

Some basic help from employers and/or providers could support account holders' desires to invest their balances. Almost one-half of account holders would be more likely to accumulate and invest unused funds if they were provided an annual review of their HSA balance, and one-third (35 percent) would be more likely to accumulate and invest unused funds if information about the account benefits and how it works were sent to them via email. With HSAs offering triple tax advantages when used as a retirement vehicle, supporting investment efforts could go far in helping workers amass sufficient assets for medical and other expenses once they retire.

¹ See <https://www.ebri.org/publications/research-publications/issue-briefs/content/health-savings-account-balances-contributions-distributions-and-other-vital-statistics-2021-evidence-from-the-ebri-hsa-database>.

Figure 3
Nearly One-Half Would be More Likely to Accumulate and Invest Unused Funds if They Were Provided an Annual Review of Their HSA Balance



Source: EBRI/Greenwald Research Consumer Engagement in Health Care Survey, 2023.

More information about the EBRI/Greenwald Research Consumer Engagement in Health Care Survey can be found [online](#).

The 2023 Consumer Engagement in Health Care Survey is an online survey of 2,020 Americans ages 21-64 with private health insurance coverage. It was fielded between October and December 2023. The survey is made possible with funding support from the following organizations: Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, HealthEquity, Inspira Financial, Segal, TIAA, and Voya Financial.

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