

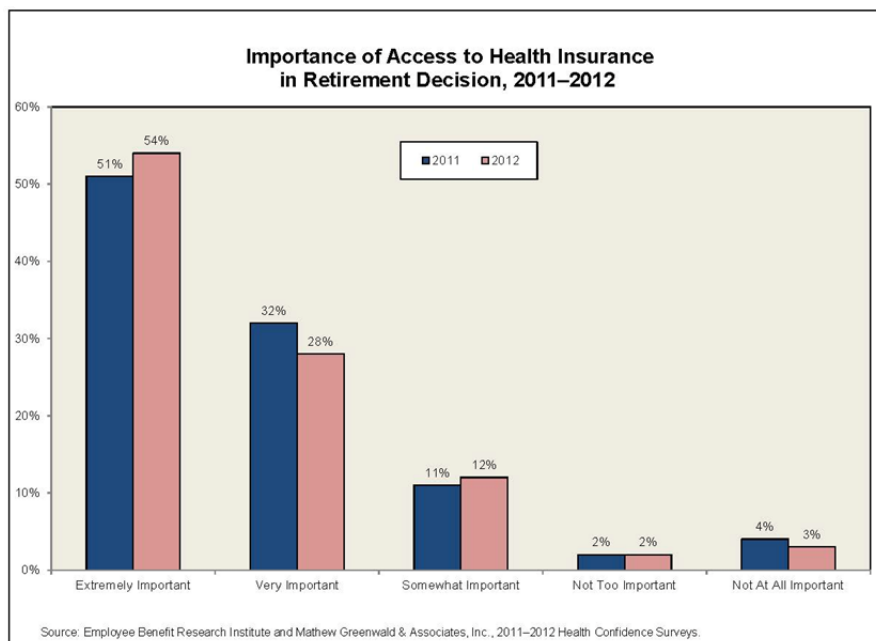
Contact: Stephen Blakely, EBRI, (202) 775-6341, blakely@ebri.org

Sick Sense? Health Care Concerns & Retirement Plans

Health care costs are an important financial consideration in retirement, and they appear to be of growing importance in planning when to retire as well.

In 2012, 45 percent of individuals reported that medical expenses were extremely important when it came to planning for retirement, and 26 percent reported that they were very important, according to the 2012 Health Confidence Survey (HCS), sponsored by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute and Mathew Greenwald and Associates.

Moreover, the percentage of individuals reporting that medical expenses were extremely important when it came to planning for retirement increased from 27 percent in 2003 to 45 percent in last year's HCS.



Of course, healthcare costs can be a significant financial factor in retirement. A recent EBRI analysis ([online here](#)) found that a 65-year-old couple, both with median drug expenses, would need \$163,000 in 2012 to have a 50 percent chance of having enough money to cover health care expenses (excluding long-term care) in retirement, \$227,000 to have a 75 percent chance of covering those expenses, and \$283,000 to have a 90 percent chance of doing so.

In 2003, 15 percent of workers reported that they would retire earlier than planned if they were guaranteed access to health insurance, but by 2012, 27 percent reported that they would retire earlier than planned under that condition.

More information about the 2012 Health Confidence Survey can be found online at www.ebri.org/surveys/hcs/

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