Part-Time Work and Health Insurance Coverage Trends

The percentage of workers employed part-time has been rising since 2007, increasing from 16.7 percent to 22.2 percent in 2011, according to research by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI).

Since 1999, there has been no clear trend away from offering coverage to part-time workers either among small or large employers. While the percentage of small employers offering health coverage to part-time workers declined from 30 percent to 15 percent between 2009 and 2011, it rebounded to 28 percent in 2012.

As implementation of various provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA) nears, there have been concerns that employers with 50 or more full-time workers—who would be required to pay a penalty in 2014 if they fail to provide health coverage to full-time workers—may respond by cutting back on health coverage for part-time workers or by increasing the proportion of part-time workers employed.

More information about “Trends in Health Coverage for Part-Time Workers” is available online here.

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