Valuing Voluntary Benefits for Those Nearing Retirement

As a growing number of workers near—and head into—retirement, a recent survey finds that most workers think it would be valuable if employers offered additional voluntary benefits to those nearing retirement age.

According to the 2013 Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Survey (WBS), conducted by EBRI and Greenwald & Associates, large majorities say they think the following products and services would be extremely or very valuable to workers nearing retirement age:

- An annuity product that makes guaranteed monthly lifetime payments (83 percent).
- Life insurance that pays benefits to the surviving spouse, helping to replace income from Social Security or other sources that is discontinued when a worker dies (77 percent).
- Retirement planning that includes assistance with deciding when to retire, when to claim Social Security benefits, what Medicare option to choose, and how to set up a stream of income for retirement (76 percent).
- Long-term care insurance (71 percent).

More information about, and findings from, the 2013 Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Survey (WBS), can be found in the November 2013 EBRI Notes, “Views on the Value of Voluntary Workplace Benefits: Findings from the 2013 Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Survey,” online here.

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