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How Education and Household Income Affect HSA and HRA Balances

WASHINGTON—Are there any differences in health saving account (HSA) and health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) balances as it relates to household income and education?

According to the latest research from the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), the average balance for HSAs and HRAs increased with both household income and education.

For instance, individuals with less than \$50,000 in household income had an average of \$1,166 in their HSA and HRA compared with those with incomes of \$50,000–\$99,999 (an average account balance of \$1,303) and those with incomes of \$100,000 or more (an average account balance of \$1,742).

Account balances also went up with education:

- Individuals with a high school degree or less had an average of \$1,219, in their health account.
- Individuals with a college degree had an average \$1,519 account balance.
- Individuals with a graduate degree had an average \$1,558 account balance.

The data on account balances is based on the 2010 EBRI/MGA Consumer Engagement in Health Care Survey, which also examines numerous other aspects about health care consumers who use these plans, in comparison with traditional health plans. Full results of EBRI's research are published in EBRI's January 2011 *Issue Brief* "Health Savings Accounts and Health Reimbursement Arrangements: Asset, Account Balances, and Rollover 2006–2010," available online at www.ebri.org

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