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## What Does the Public Know About the New Health Care Law?

WASHINGTON—How much does the public know about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PACCA), the legislation overhauling the nation's health care system that President Obama signed into law earlier this year?

Not much, according to a new survey recently released by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) and Mathew Greenwald & Associates: The 2010 Health Confidence Survey shows a significant lack of public understanding about when key elements of the legislation, known by its shorthand name of PPACA, will take effect. Here are some examples:

### **Reality:**

- Some aspects of PPACA take effect with health benefit plan years that start after Sept. 23, 2010.
- The health insurance exchanges and other major insurance-market reforms take effect in 2014.
- The excise tax on high-cost health plans takes effect in 2018.

### **Perception:**

- Most respondents (38 percent) don't know when PPACA takes full effect.
- 23 percent of the public think PPACA takes full effect before 2014.
- 21 percent think PPACA takes full effect in 2014.
- 8 percent think PPACA takes full effect between 2015–2017.
- 7 percent think PPACA takes full effect after 2018.
- 1 percent think PPACA takes full effect in 2018.

The 2010 HCS also found that among individuals who plan to vote in this November's mid-term congressional elections, 71 percent report that health reform will affect how they vote, compared with 26 percent who reported that it will not affect how they vote.

Full results of the 2010 Health Confidence Survey are available at EBRI's website at [www.ebri.org](http://www.ebri.org)

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