What Do Adult Children Know About Retired Parents’ Income, Expenses?

WASHINGTON—How much do adult children know about the income and expenses of their retired parents?

Recent research by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) answers both of those questions. Overall, retired parents appear to think their adult children know more about their parents’ finances than their adult children actually report, according to the recently released 2010 Health Confidence Survey (HCS) by EBRI and Mathew Greenwald & Associates. Here are the results:

- **Adult children** with retired parents were asked if they had detailed discussions with their parents about their parents’ income and expenses: Slightly less than half (47 percent) of the children reported they had those discussions.
- **Retirees** were asked whether they had detailed discussions about their own income and expenses with their children: Slightly more than half (54 percent) of retired parents reported that they had those discussions.
- **Adult children** with retired parents were asked if they knew the approximate amount of their parents’ income: Again, less than half (42 percent) of the adult children reported they did know.
- **Retirees** were asked whether their children knew the approximate amount of their income: Well over half (63 percent) of retired parents reported that they thought their children knew this information.

### Adult Children’s Knowledge of Retired Parents’ Income and Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adult Children’s View</th>
<th>Parents’ View</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detailed discussions about income and expenses</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of parents’ income</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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

---

**Fast Facts from EBRI** is issued by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute to highlight benefits information that may be of current interest. Established in 1978, EBRI is an independent nonprofit organization committed exclusively to data dissemination, policy research, and education on economic security and employee benefits. EBRI does not take policy positions and does not lobby.

**EBRI is now on Twitter! Name:** @EBRI  |  **URL:** [http://twitter.com/EBRI](http://twitter.com/EBRI)  |  **Sign up for our RSS feeds!**

© 2010 Employee Benefit Research Institute, 1100 13th St. NW #878, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 659-0670 [www.ebri.org](http://www.ebri.org)