

# Majority of Workers Favor Health Benefits Over More Pay

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SAN ANTONIO, Sept. 21 /PRNewswire/ -- More than half of workers in the United States -- 54 percent -- said that health benefits are more important to them than higher wages, according to results from the American Payroll Association's 2006 "Getting Paid In America" online survey, released today.

"With more companies facing rising health care costs and the constant need to increase productivity, organizations are looking for ways to better manage their benefits programs," said Zachary Meyer, senior vice president of Ceridian's EAP and work-life division. "In addition to ongoing innovations in payroll processing, we believe the next generation of HR outsourcing will focus on providing companies services that increase employee productivity, reduce absences and enhance the overall health of their employees."

Although neither federal nor state law generally requires employers to finance health coverage for employees and their families, approximately 140 million people -- nearly two-thirds of all Americans under age 65 -- receive health benefits through the workplace, according to "Employment and Health Benefits: A Connection at Risk," published by the Institute of Medicine. Most of those with employment-based health benefits view them favorably and value them highly.

"Getting health coverage through employers is convenient and reassuring," said Jeff Lemieux, Senior Economist, Progressive Policy Institute. "Employers handle the paperwork and payroll deduction of premiums, and can help resolve disputes with health plans."

The online survey was held in conjunction with APA's annual National Payroll Week campaign. More than 33,000 employees provided opinions on payroll-related issues.

"These survey results will help American companies better serve their employees and improve their workforce," said Dan Maddux, executive director of the APA. "Employers need to offer quality health benefits to retain the best employees."

For complete survey results and tips to make the most of your paycheck, visit

[www.nationalpayrollweek.com](http://www.nationalpayrollweek.com).

Established in 1982, the American Payroll Association (APA) is the nation's leader in payroll education, publications and training. The nonprofit association conducts more than 300 payroll training conferences and seminars across the country each year and publishes a complete library of resource texts and newsletters. Representing more than 22,000 members, APA is the industry's highly respected and collective voice in Washington, D.C. Visit APA online at [www.americanpayroll.org](http://www.americanpayroll.org).

SOURCE American Payroll Association

CONTACT: Steve Elliott of American Payroll Association, +1-210-226-4600, ext. 2230, or fax, +1-210-224-2028, or [SElliott@americanpayroll.org](mailto:SElliott@americanpayroll.org)

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