



2017 Annual Health Care Industry Survey Highlights

For the 14th consecutive year, Strategic Benefit Advisors has conducted its annual Health Care Industry Survey, which explores current practices and trends in health and welfare coverages and benefits administration. This year, in addition to reporting on 22 hospitals and health care organizations in Massachusetts, we also surveyed 17 health care organizations in Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Here are a few general findings from this year's survey:

- Per employee medical and prescription costs continue to rise in 2017 – up 4.4% for employees of academic medical centers and 4.3% for employees of other health care organizations in Massachusetts.
- Enrollment is migrating to the Value Plan for both Massachusetts benchmark groups, particularly for other health care organizations.
- Academic medical centers and other larger organizations surveyed rely on data analytics to identify cost drivers and provide the business case for cost management strategies.
- A majority of respondents leverage value-based designs and domestic networks to encourage employees to use health resources wisely.
- Looking forward, almost half of respondents (including more than 80% of Boston academic medical centers) plan to continue exploring and implementing strategies that discourage spouse enrollment when other coverage is available.

Implications for the future:

While health care employers have made measurable progress in enabling employees to become better consumers of health care, systemic challenges continue to thwart cost-management efforts.

In planning for the future, Strategic Benefit Advisors has developed a new concept to help employees optimize their health coverage and better navigate decision making – and, equally important, to help employers reduce costs associated with redundant services and wasted resources.

We help clients identify and implement the strategies that best suit their culture, and meet business objectives. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us.