

News Release

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CONCERNED BUT NOT COVERED - THE HEALTH INSURANCE GAP IN SINGAPORE

- 67% of Singaporeans say they are most concerned about their health, 56% worry about long-term financial security
- 40% admit that they are not financially prepared if unforeseen events happen

Singaporeans worry most about their health and long-term financial security, yet not all are putting in place the right measures to protect it, according to a new HSBC report, *The Power of Protection Confidence in the future*.

The HSBC report is based on the views of over 11,000 people from across 12 countries globally, including 1,000 people in Singapore. The report provides insights into people's concerns about the future and how they are protecting themselves financially.

Health and financial security are the biggest concerns

According to the HSBC report, 67% of Singaporeans (higher than the global average of 65%) surveyed are most worried about their health, followed by 56% (higher compared to the global average of 47%) who say that long-term financial security is a concern for them.

The costs of healthcare treatment, medication and rehabilitation are a major concern for 78% of the Singaporeans surveyed (higher compared to the global average of 57%).

This is followed by ageing which 65% say is a big health-related concern (on par with global average of 65%), which covers long-term care and own and partner's quality of life.

Ian Martin, Chief Executive Officer, HSBC Insurance Singapore said: "More than most other nationalities, Singaporeans are worried that poor health in later life is going to stop them from being able to properly look after themselves or their family."

Yet many are unprepared financially for the future

While health and financial security are the main concerns for many, Singaporeans admit that they are not financially prepared for the future.

According to the HSBC report, of those Singaporeans who say they are concerned about their future financial security, two in five (40%) people say they could not manage well or at all financially or did not have anything specific in place if something unforeseen were to happen.

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While the remaining 60% have coverage, they are unsure of the policy pay-out, or think it is enough.

Mr. Martin added: "The report finds that while many Singaporeans are trying to do the right thing by planning and saving for the future, they still have nagging concerns as to whether they've done enough. My response to this is that if you've gone this far in trying to secure the future, then remove all doubt by getting a comprehensive plan in place. That way, there's one less thing to worry about."

Cost and lack of understanding are main barriers to taking out insurance

Cost and lack of understanding about insurance are common barriers for those who are considering health insurance but have not yet purchased it.

According to the HSBC report, 57% of those considering taking out insurance have not done so because it is too expensive (higher compared to the global average of 53%), while 39% do not know what to expect in terms of pay out (slightly higher compared to the global average of 38%).

Mr. Martin said, "There are misconceptions that insurance products can be complex, time-consuming and costly. But it doesn't have to be this way. The hardest part is making a start. Seek financial advice from a trusted provider to help identify the right solution for you."

Four actions that help individuals to better prepare for the future

1. Identify your biggest concerns
Review the financial protection you have in place today. See if it is enough to cover any concerns you have about providing for you and your family's lifestyle, home, health and future, if something unexpected should happen.
2. Know your future aspirations
Think about your aspirations for the future. Seeking professional advice could help you understand what protection you may need to put in place to achieve them.
3. Have an action plan
Once you understand what protection you have and what you need, explore the options available and take action to bridge the gap.
4. Review it regularly
Employer and government provision may not be sufficient for all your needs, and your circumstances will change over time. Review your plan regularly so you can take corrective action early.

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Notes to editors

The Power of Protection is an independent consumer research study into global protection needs and trends, commissioned by HSBC. This report, *Confidence in the future*, is the inaugural report and represents the views of 11,496 people in 12 countries and territories (Argentina, China, France, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States). The findings are based on a nationally representative survey of people of working aged 25 and over in each country or territory. The research was conducted by TNS in October and November 2015, online in 11 countries and by face-to-face interviews in the UAE.

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