



Quick Facts from the 2010 NORC/ Public Welfare Foundation Paid Sick Days Survey

A new survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and commissioned by the Public Welfare Foundation demonstrates that lack of access to paid sick days has **significant negative consequences for public health, health care costs, and families’ financial security.**¹ The survey also shows that **overwhelming majorities support paid sick days laws as a matter of basic labor policy.**

The survey results could not be clearer: It is time for policymakers to guarantee access to paid sick days to the over 40 million U.S. workers who currently lack them.² Workers should not have to risk their job to care for their families and shouldn’t have to risk their own-well-being—and the public’s health—to do their job.

<i>Paid Sick Days Proposals</i>	
Public support for a law guaranteeing workers a “minimum number” of paid sick days to care for themselves or immediate family members	75% favor, including 61% who strongly favor
Public support for a law that would provide up to 7 paid sick days per year for workers to care for themselves or immediate family members	86% favor, including 69% who strongly favor
Public support for a law that would provide up to 7 paid sick days per year for workers to care for themselves or immediate family members, with time accrued prorated for part-time workers	77% favor, including 67% who strongly favor
Public support for a law that would provide up to 7 paid sick days per year for workers in larger businesses and 5 days per year for workers in smaller businesses	72% favor, including 53% who strongly favor
Public’s increased likelihood of voting for a candidate who supports paid sick days	47% more likely to support
<i>Paid Sick Days as a Policy Matter</i>	
Agreement that paid sick days are a basic worker’s right, like a decent wage	75% agree
Importance of paid sick days as a labor standard to protect worker’s rights	69% say very important
<i>Experiences With Lack of Paid Sick Time</i>	
Workers facing or threatened with job loss for taking time off to care for a sick child or family member or cope with personal illness	23% say they lost a job or job-loss threat, including 16% who say they lost a job
Workers’ increased likelihood of going to work sick if lack paid sick days access	1.5 times more likely to work sick
Workers’ increased likelihood of sending a child to school/daycare sick if lack paid sick days access	1.7 times more likely to send sick child to school
Workers’ increased likelihood of using an ER because of inability to take time off work if lack paid sick days access	2 times more likely to use the ER for self-care
Workers’ increased likelihood of taking child/family member to the ER because of inability to take time off work if lack paid sick days access	2.6 times more likely to use the ER for child/family

¹ T. Smith and J. Kim, *Paid Sick Days: Attitudes and Experiences*, National Opinion Research Center and the Public Welfare Foundation (June 2010) (“NORC Report”), available at www.publicwelfare.org. Data were collected via a telephone survey of 1461 adults in the United States, conducted from March 18 through May 6, 2010.

² Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey, Employee Benefits in Private Industry (March 2009).