

FAMILY FINANCES

Improving Your Family's Financial Health

by John Addison

(NAPSA)—Safeguarding your income with life insurance is key to protecting your family's financial future.

According to the Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education, although 81 percent of Americans say they need life insurance, just 41 percent own individual policies. That number drops to 25 percent for households earning between \$25,000 and \$50,000.



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If you've been considering life insurance or want to check that your current policy provides enough coverage, the following tips could help:

Don't Put It Off

The topic of life insurance is an emotional issue, making it easy to put off. However, if someone depends on you financially, it's crucial that you obtain the right amount of life insurance coverage for your family. Talking to someone you are comfortable with can help.

Look Beyond Employee Plans

Many workplaces offer an employer-paid basic life insurance benefit, usually equal to one or two times your annual salary. Unfortunately, this is usually not enough. And what happens if you change jobs—or lose your job? Not all policies are portable, and there's no guarantee your employer will provide this benefit.

You Can Afford It

Term life insurance rates are often lower than you might expect. In fact, Money magazine reports that with term, compared to a whole life policy, "you can purchase more coverage for fewer dollars, and rates have been dropping steadily in recent years."

Stay Covered

How much coverage do you need? That depends on your circumstances. However, many financial experts recommend the following rule of thumb: Purchase an amount of coverage equal to six to 10 times your annual gross income. If you're still unsure, ask a financial adviser to help determine what's right for your family.

Stay Up-To-Date

It's a good idea to review your coverage every few years or when changes occur, such as buying a house or having more children. When was the last time you reviewed your policy? If it's been more than two years, chances are you could benefit from a review.

Learn More

Financial professionals at Primerica have created a guide that can help you understand your insurance options and take control of your financial life. To get a copy of "How Money Works," write to Primerica, 3120 Breckinridge Blvd., Duluth, GA 30099, ATTN: Corporate Relations, or call (770) 564-6329. For more information, visit www.primerica.com.

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