HOW MANY FAMILIES ARE AFFECTED?

- In the U.S., approximately 8.6% of employees will be caring for a child under the age of 18 with special health care needs (Center for Child and Adolescent Health Care Policy, n.d.).
- “Nearly 22% of U.S. households have one or more children ages 0–17 with special health care needs” (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2008).

DID YOU KNOW?

- “Having a child with an unstable condition increases the odds of a mother cutting her hours of employment by two and a half times” (Leiter et al., 2004).
- Nearly 24% of families with children who have special health care needs choose to cut back or stop working (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2008).
- Nearly 10% of families with children with special health care needs spend 11 or more hours per week providing and/or coordinating their child’s health care (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2008).
- More than 18% of families who have children with special health care needs said that their children’s health conditions caused financial problems for the family (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2008).

Want more STATISTICS or the full references for above statistics?
http://wfnetwork.bc.edu/topic_extended.php?id=40&type=1&area=All

HOW DOES RAISING A CHILD WITH DISABILITIES AFFECT EMPLOYMENT?

A survey about the employment experience of parents caring for children with serious emotional and behavioral disorders found:

- Nearly half (48%) reported needing to quit a job at some time to care for their children with mental health disorders.
- 27% were terminated because of work disruptions.
- 17% indicated that they were unemployed.
- 11% could not find employment because of their exceptional caregiving needs (Rosenzweig & Huffstutter, 2004).

WHAT CAN ORGANIZATIONS DO?

- Identify existing resources that may alleviate strain (e.g., employee support networks, case management services, community-based supports, and inclusive child care).
- Assess how employment practices that encourage recruitment, retention, and productivity can impact parents caring for a child with disabilities.
- Leverage their influence to improve the responsiveness of community-based supports (e.g., schools and health care) to help all working parents.
- Provide responsive resources and interventions (e.g., coordination of backup child care) when securing child care is problematic for employees.

REPORTS WITH MORE INFORMATION


Want more OVERVIEWS AND BRIEFS or full references for these reports?
http://wfnetwork.bc.edu/topic_extended.php?id=40&type=7&linktype=overview

SUGGESTED READINGS


Want more READINGS?
http://wfnetwork.bc.edu/topic_extended.php?id=40&type=2&linktype=suggested&area=All