

## Many Americans Don't Ask Basic Questions Before Getting Health Insurance



With the Affordable Care Act open enrollment period underway, a national survey finds that three out of four Americans say they are confident they know how to use health insurance, but 42 percent say they are not likely

or only somewhat likely to review a plan's details before signing up. AIR's survey and data analysis also show that only one in five could accurately calculate how much a routine doctor's visit would cost.

---

## Report Looks at Student Achievement in D.C. After Reforms



Recent analysis of student achievement in Washington, D.C. after the Public Education Reform Amendment Act was implemented shows that math scores improved, especially among affluent black and Hispanic students.

Reading improvements lost momentum after the first year. The National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER) published the report.

---

## Is Expanding Public-Financed Home Care Cost Effective?



State Medicaid programs are looking to home- and community-based alternatives to institutional long-term care for retiring baby boomers, but does this approach save money and improve quality of life? AIR's Center on

Aging's brief finds that expanding home care is not a silver bullet to controlling high long-term costs and that customer satisfaction and preferences need to be taken into account in planning for long-term care.

---

## In Florida, First-Year Earnings From an Associate Degree Can Surpass Bachelor's



A new study of the first-year earnings of students who received degrees or certificates from public institutions in Florida finds that associate degree holders can out-earn bachelor's degree holders. Those with an

associate of science, for example, had median earnings

### IN THE NEWS

#### Community Colleges Make Four-Year Degrees Pay Off

**Mark Schneider** outlines why community colleges are a reliable entryway to the middle class.

*Inside Higher Ed, 11/14/14*

#### Using Data to Head Off High School Dropouts

**Susan Bowles Therriault**

describes how Early Warning Systems can help schools and districts identify potential dropouts to increase graduation rates.

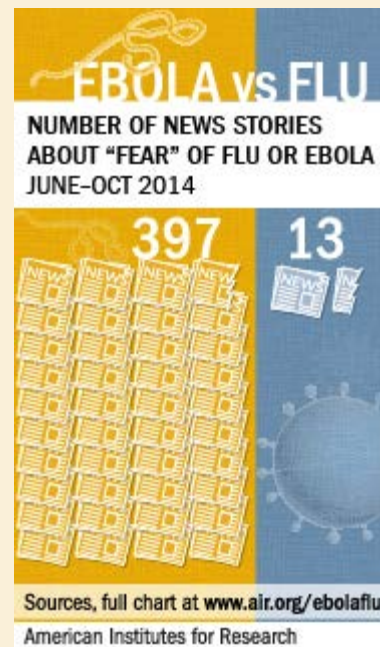
*Marketplace, 11/12/14*

[> Read more AIR media coverage](#)

---

### IN BRIEF

AIR experts **share** how they developed the Health Insurance Literacy Measure survey in a recent issue of *Journal of Health Communication: International Perspectives*.



more than \$11,000 higher than those with a bachelor's. The study also looked at the percent of graduates from different programs receiving public welfare, and the likelihood that graduates will find jobs in different occupations.

## Student-Centered Math Teaching Can Lead to More Engagement, Higher Scores



High schoolers learning math through student-centered methods are more engaged and demonstrate higher performance on problem-solving assessments, a new AIR study shows. Student-centered instruction consists of

complementary approaches drawing from multiple theories, and focuses on personalization and core competencies.

## CDC, AIR Roll Out New Public Health Campaign, "HIV Treatment Works"



AIR helped the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention launch a national campaign encouraging people with HIV to remain in care, take medication and adhere to treatment. The "HIV Treatment Works" social marketing

campaign shares stories from people living with the virus. About one in four of these people has the virus under control, according to the CDC. With treatment, the level of HIV can be kept low enough to maintain health and dramatically reduce risk of transmission to others.



**Watch** Senior Researcher Liza Josias explain why using "human factors" can improve work performance.

Assessment | Education | Health | Human Development | International | Workforce

### CONTACT

American Institutes for Research  
1000 Thomas Jefferson Street NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
tel 202.403.5000  
email [news@air.org](mailto:news@air.org)

### SUBSCRIPTION

This is a monthly digest from American Institutes for Research. You may [unsubscribe instantly](#) from these emails [here](#). Received this from a friend? [Subscribe here](#).

### CONNECT

