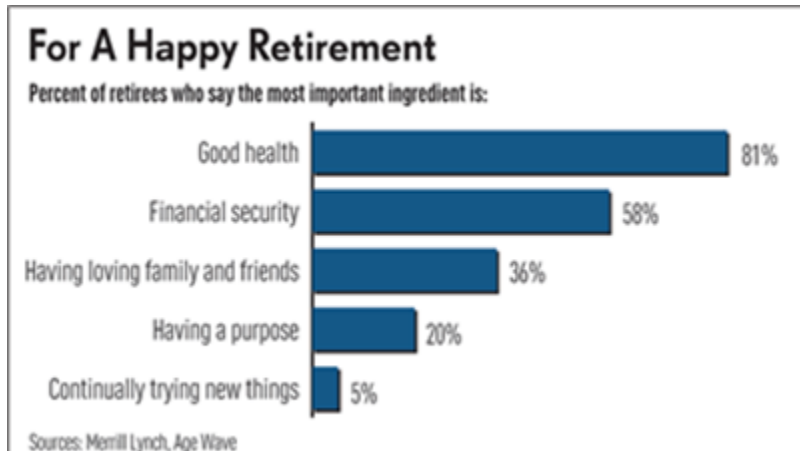


Good Health: Key Ingredient to a Happy Retirement

By Paul Katzeff | September 12, 2014



What's the key ingredient to a happy retirement? Good health, according to 81% of retirees polled by Merrill Lynch and Age Wave in a new survey.

Money helps too. Fifty-eight percent of the respondents cited financial security as the single most important factor. Thirty-six percent said family and friends were the most vital need. And 20% said having a purpose is the key.

Health weighs heavily on the minds of the respondents. Most of them — 2,152 — are baby boomers, age 50 to 68. All of the people polled have investable assets of at least \$250,000. Longer life spans are raising the specter of living long but also suffering chronic disease, Merrill Lynch said.

One finding of the survey is that most Americans age 50 or older have not weighed health care costs in their retirement planning.

The survey found that 70% of couples age 50 or older have not even discussed how much they may need to pay for health costs in retirement.

And more than 50% retired earlier than planned. The top reason was a health problem.

As an asset manager, Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management stands to benefit from people putting money to work to pay for health care and other expenses in retirement.

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