



Mental-health claims a top concern: Poll

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TORONTO -- Watson Wyatt Worldwide has released preliminary results of the firm's fourth Staying at Work survey.

According to its findings, more than half (56 per cent) of the respondents considered the continuous rise in employees' mental-health claims a top concern.

Three-quarters indicated that mental-health issues continue to be the leading cause of short- and long-term disability claims in their organizations (75 per cent and 79 per cent respectively). In the previous survey, over 70 per cent of respondents made the same claim.

These and other findings were revealed at a meeting of the Global Economic and Business **Roundtable on Addiction and Mental Health** in Toronto. Watson Wyatt's Staying at Work survey explores disability management practices in Canadian organizations and this year expanded to include further examination of mental-health-related issues.

With mental health continuing to be the top disability management issue for organizations, companies have been slow to adopt innovative mental-health management practices in the workplace.

Only about one-third of organizations said they have enacted return-to-work processes specific to mental-health claims (35 per cent), or functional mental-health capacity assessments (27 per cent).

The complete Watson Wyatt Staying at Work survey will be available this summer.

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