



Study: Sick days not for sick anymore

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KUSA - You call into work, tell them you have a high fever, chills and a sore throat. There's no way you can make it in, and have to take a sick day.

Only thing is, you have never been better.

Sound familiar?

Sick days don't seem to be for sick people anymore. And a new study proves it.

The poll, conducted by Harris Interactive and sponsored by Kronos Incorporated, reveals just how many employees lie about being sick.

It found that nearly one in four people have lied about being ill when they took a sick day.

Kelly Esselman, with Mountain States Employers Council, says many employees use their sick days when they are healthy, because they feel if they do not use them, those paid days will go to waste.

"(They feel,) 'I'm entitled to these days,'" Esselman said. "'If I'm relatively healthy, I'm going to take them no matter what. They're mine!'"

The study also discovered that nearly twice as many men were likely to lie about being sick than their female co-workers.

"Women are more diligent about health maintenance in terms of cleaning than men, statistically," said Esselman.

On the flip side, many U.S. employees are increasingly showing up to work, when they are actually ill.

The study shows that 98 percent of employees admitted to having gone to work when they were feeling sick. Of those, 40 percent said the reason was that they feel guilty for calling in sick, and 39 percent claimed that their workload is too heavy to call in sick.

Going to work sick also seems to have a negative affect on the workplace.

According to the survey, 38 percent of employees said that when sick employees come to work, they're afraid of getting sick themselves.

Another 35 percent of employees said they became upset at their employers for not encouraging sick employees to stay home.

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