Automatic Enrollment and Automatic IRAs

David C. John The Heritage Foundation The Retirement Security Project





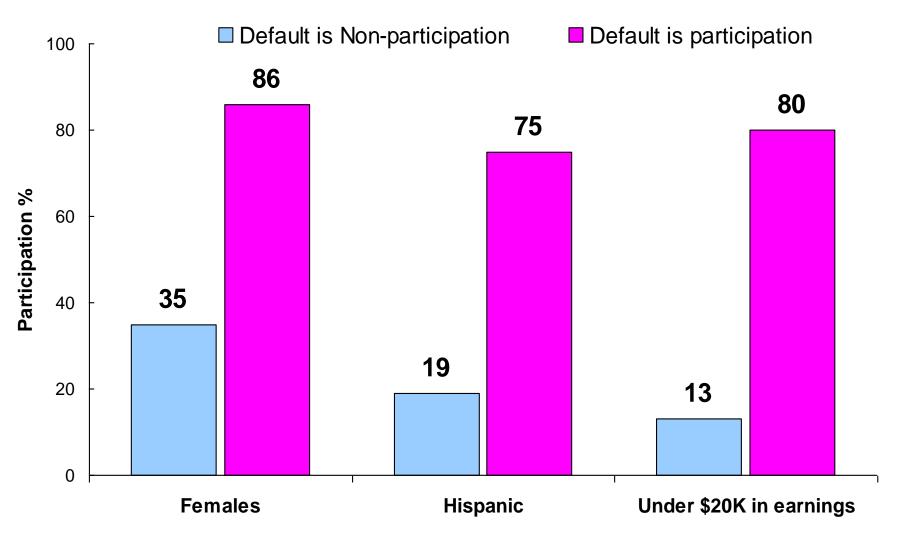
Automatic Enrollment Works

 Legal since 1999. All legal questions resolved 2006.

 Most larger 401(k)s incorporate automatic features.

Spreading to smaller plans.

Impact of 401(k) Auto Enrollment



Actual results from employees with between 3 and 15 months of tenure. Study by Brigitte Madrian, University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, and Dennis Shea, UnitedHealth Group.

What Americans Think Of Automatic Enrollment - 2007

"You are glad your company offers automatic enrollment" (Agree)

Auto enrolled: 98%

Opted Out: 79%

"Allowed you to start retirement saving earlier than planned" (Agree)

Auto enrolled: 85%

What Americans Think Of Automatic Enrollment and Automatic Escalation - 2008

Automatic enrollment

(Positive)

Auto enrolled: 92%

Overall: 77%

Automatic escalation

(Positive)

In auto escalation: 91%

Overall: 65%

American Workers on Automatic Features in 2009

- 74% Favor Automatic Enrollment
- 65% Favor Automatic Escalation
- 85%-90% Favor Auto Asset Allocation
- 64%-71% Favor Auto Income Guarantee
- Includes all workers not just those automatically enrolled.
- Source: Prudential January 2010 Study

Why the Automatic IRA?

 About 50% of US Employees now have access to a 401(k) or pension plan.

With Auto IRA, this rises to 90%.

Combines IRA + automatic enrollment

Very Simple Structure

- Three Accounts ONLY
 - Starter Account R-Bond or stable value
 - Target Date Account as a default
 - Either more aggressive target date fund or a balanced fund

 Covers all employers with more than 10 employees and no other plan. Phases in starting with 100+ employees.

Employer Responsibilities

Choose private sector provider.

Send money regularly.

Small Accounts under Auto IRA

 R-Bond – A US Treasury account available to new savers. Pays 5-10 year T-Bond rate.

 At \$5,000, R-Bond rolls automatically to private sector provider.

Or provider can use a stable value fund.

Virtual TSP

Central web page lists all interested providers.

 Employer chooses from list. Can set up relationship online.

Default providers accept all comers.

Fees

 Set by private sector but monitored by regulators.

 Clear disclosure using color coded thermometer-type graphic.

Employees on the Automatic IRA

(Agree)

- Useful way to save: 86%
- Easy to understand: 84%
- Affordable: 83%
- Make employer attractive: 77%