



**Executive Summary**  
**Acute Pain and the Recession Omnibus Survey**

**September 21, 2009**

**Overview**

In the past year, half (48%) of Americans surveyed report having suffered from minor muscle strains or sprains on body parts other than their back, while 34% say they have suffered from acute back pain – defined as pain which comes on suddenly and typically lasts less than a few weeks. Interestingly, these sufferers of acute back pain or other minor muscle strains or sprains are being hit hard by the current economic downturn.

The recession is having an impact not only on sufferers' lives but also on their pain. It is harming all areas of sufferers' quality of life, and they are seeking relief from many sources. However, many still try to "tough it out" on their own instead of visiting a healthcare professional.

The following pages detail findings from a survey conducted online between July 27 and 30, 2009, by Greenfield Online for the American Pain Foundation. The margin of error for the total sample of 2,192 online Americans is  $\pm 2\%$ .

Margins of error for specific subsamples are:

- All sufferers of acute back pain or other minor strains and sprains (1,267):  $\pm 2.7\%$
- Sufferers of acute back pain or other minor strains and sprains who are parents (460):  $\pm 4.5\%$
- Acute back pain sufferers (569):  $\pm 4.1\%$
- Acute back pain sufferers who are parents (285):  $\pm 5.8\%$

The survey was made possible by support from King Pharmaceuticals®, Inc.

**Americans are feeling the pain of the recession**

Seven in 10 (68%) people experiencing acute back pain or other minor muscle strains or sprains in the past year report that the recession has played a role in causing, increasing or otherwise affecting their pain, with 37% reporting that some aspect of the recession had a big impact on their pain.

- Close to 6 in 10 (56%) sufferers of acute back pain or other minor muscle strains or sprains report that greater stress, pressure, anxiety, or worry related to the recession has had an effect on this pain, with more than a quarter (27%) citing a *big* effect (see Figure 1)