

How Much Life Insurance Do You Need To Protect Your Family?

This simple worksheet can give you an idea. However, you should consult with an insurance agent or other financial advisor before buying any insurance products. The worksheet assumes you died today.

Income:

1.	Total annual income your family would need if you died today What your family needs, before taxes, to maintain its current standard of living (Typically between 60% - 75% of total income)	\$
2.	Annual income your family would receive from other sources Dividends, interest income, spouse's earnings (Social Security may be available)	
3.	Income to be replaced - Subtract line 2 from line 1	
4.	Capital needed for income Multiply line 3 by appropriate factor in Table A	
Expens	ses:	
5.	Funeral and other final expenses The average cost of an adult funeral is about \$6,130 ¹	
6.	Mortgage and other outstanding debts Include mortgage balance, credit card debt, car loans, etc.	
7.	College costs for each child, in today's dollars 2001-2002 average 4-year costs; state college-\$47,904 (in-state resident), private college-\$104,280 ²	
8.	Capital needed for college - Multiply line 7 by the appropriate factor in Table B	
9.	Total capital required Add lines 4, 5, 6 and 8	
Assets:		
10.	Savings and investments Bank accounts, money market accounts, CDs, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.	
11.	Retirement savings IRAs, 401(k)s, Keoghs, pension and profit sharing plans	
12.	Present amount of life insurance Include group insurance as well as insurance purchased on your own	
13.	Total income producing assets - Add lines 10, 11 and 12	

Table A			
Years income needed	Factor		
10	8.1		
15	11.1		
20	13.6		
25	15.6		
30	17.3		
35	18.7		
40	20.0		

Table B		
Factor		
.82		
.68		
.56		
.46		
	Factor .82 .68	

Important note: Inflation is assumed to be 4%. The rate of return on investments is assumed to be 8%. Changing either or both of these assumptions would change the results.

Life insurance needed - Subtract line 13 from line 9

² Annual Survey of Colleges, The College Board, 2001



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¹ NFDA 2002 General Price List Survey, National Funeral Directors Association, 2002