



California Health Care Foundation



## California Health Care Foundation 2026 Trust Poll

**Conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago  
With funding from The California Health Care Foundation**

*Interviews: 02/4-19/2026  
1,038 California adults*

*Margin of sampling error: +/- 4.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level  
among all adults*

*NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.*

Q: In general, how much trust do you have in each of the following institutions?  
The health care system

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	9%
A fair amount	45%
Not much	37%
None at all	9%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In general, how much trust do you have in each of the following institutions?  
The news media

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	3%
A fair amount	34%
Not much	43%
None at all	19%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In general, how much trust do you have in each of the following institutions?  
Public schools

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	13%
A fair amount	52%
Not much	29%
None at all	5%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In general, how much trust do you have in each of the following institutions? The federal government	
	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	3%
A fair amount	25%
Not much	48%
None at all	22%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In general, how much trust do you have in each of the following institutions? The California state government	
	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	8%
A fair amount	41%
Not much	31%
None at all	19%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In general, how much trust do you have in each of the following institutions? Small businesses	
	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	15%
A fair amount	68%
Not much	14%
None at all	2%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In general, how much trust do you have in each of the following institutions? Large corporations	
	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	3%
A fair amount	30%
Not much	47%
None at all	20%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In general, how much trust do you have in each of the following institutions? The police	
	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	14%
A fair amount	46%
Not much	30%
None at all	9%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust the following health care professionals, leaders, and organizations to do what is right for you and your family? Doctors in general	
	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	22%
A fair amount	60%
Not much	14%
None at all	3%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust the following health care professionals, leaders, and organizations to do what is right for you and your family?  
Your personal doctor(s)

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	36%
A fair amount	48%
Not much	11%
None at all	4%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust the following health care professionals, leaders, and organizations to do what is right for you and your family?  
Nurses

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	35%
A fair amount	54%
Not much	7%
None at all	3%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust the following health care professionals, leaders, and organizations to do what is right for you and your family?  
People who run hospitals

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	7%
A fair amount	43%
Not much	38%
None at all	11%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust the following health care professionals, leaders, and organizations to do what is right for you and your family?  
Health insurance companies

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	5%
A fair amount	29%
Not much	37%
None at all	29%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust the following health care professionals, leaders, and organizations to do what is right for you and your family?  
Pharmaceutical companies

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	4%
A fair amount	26%
Not much	46%
None at all	24%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust the following health care professionals, leaders, and organizations to do what is right for you and your family?  
California state public health officials

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	11%
A fair amount	45%
Not much	30%
None at all	13%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust the following health care professionals, leaders, and organizations to do what is right for you and your family?  
Federal health officials

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	4%
A fair amount	31%
Not much	43%
None at all	22%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: When important decisions are made about health care in California, such as what care is available, how much it costs, and who can access it, do each of the following groups have too little influence, too much influence, or about the right amount of influence?  
Health insurance companies

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Too much influence	75%
Too little influence	10%
About the right amount of influence	14%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: When important decisions are made about health care in California, such as what care is available, how much it costs, and who can access it, do each of the following groups have too little influence, too much influence, or about the right amount of influence?  
Pharmaceutical or drug companies

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Too much influence	74%
Too little influence	12%
About the right amount of influence	13%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: When important decisions are made about health care in California, such as what care is available, how much it costs, and who can access it, do each of the following groups have too little influence, too much influence, or about the right amount of influence?

People who run hospitals

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Too much influence	45%
Too little influence	21%
About the right amount of influence	32%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: When important decisions are made about health care in California, such as what care is available, how much it costs, and who can access it, do each of the following groups have too little influence, too much influence, or about the right amount of influence?

Doctors and nurses

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Too much influence	11%
Too little influence	56%
About the right amount of influence	32%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: When important decisions are made about health care in California, such as what care is available, how much it costs, and who can access it, do each of the following groups have too little influence, too much influence, or about the right amount of influence?

The governor and state legislators

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Too much influence	45%
Too little influence	23%
About the right amount of influence	31%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: When important decisions are made about health care in California, such as what care is available, how much it costs, and who can access it, do each of the following groups have too little influence, too much influence, or about the right amount of influence?

Lobbyists and special interest groups

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Too much influence	69%
Too little influence	14%
About the right amount of influence	15%
Don't know	1%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: When important decisions are made about health care in California, such as what care is available, how much it costs, and who can access it, do each of the following groups have too little influence, too much influence, or about the right amount of influence?

Patients and their families

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Too much influence	6%
Too little influence	74%
About the right amount of influence	20%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: Thinking about your experiences when getting healthcare, how much does the following impact your trust in the health care system?

Whether you can afford the care you need

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	34%
A fair amount	36%
Not much	21%
None at all	8%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: Thinking about your experiences when getting healthcare, how much does the following impact your trust in the health care system?  
How long you have to wait to get an appointment

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	28%
A fair amount	44%
Not much	23%
None at all	4%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: Thinking about your experiences when getting healthcare, how much does the following impact your trust in the health care system?  
How easy it is to navigate the system to find the right care

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	28%
A fair amount	44%
Not much	20%
None at all	7%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: Thinking about your experiences when getting healthcare, how much does the following impact your trust in the health care system?  
Whether the information you get about your care is easy to understand

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	35%
A fair amount	45%
Not much	14%
None at all	5%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: Thinking about your experiences when getting healthcare, how much does the following impact your trust in the health care system?  
Whether you know the out-of-pocket costs upfront, without surprise bills later

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	38%
A fair amount	35%
Not much	17%
None at all	9%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: Thinking about your experiences when getting healthcare, how much does the following impact your trust in the health care system?  
How much you feel seen, heard, and respected when getting care

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	37%
A fair amount	42%
Not much	16%
None at all	4%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust each of the following to provide reliable health information for you and your family?  
A doctor or other health care provider

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	33%
A fair amount	51%
Not much	11%
None at all	4%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust each of the following to provide reliable health information for you and your family?  
Government health websites (for example, CDC.gov, NIH.gov)

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	9%
A fair amount	44%
Not much	33%
None at all	13%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust each of the following to provide reliable health information for you and your family?  
Websites from hospitals or medical centers (for example, Kaiser, Sutter)

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	17%
A fair amount	55%
Not much	21%
None at all	7%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust each of the following to provide reliable health information for you and your family?  
General web search results (for example, links from Google or Bing)

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	4%
A fair amount	44%
Not much	39%
None at all	10%
Skipped on web	2%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust each of the following to provide reliable health information for you and your family?  
Social media platforms (for example, Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, YouTube)

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	2%
A fair amount	19%
Not much	45%
None at all	34%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust each of the following to provide reliable health information for you and your family?  
Health information websites (for example, WebMD, Mayo Clinic)

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	13%
A fair amount	57%
Not much	22%
None at all	6%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: How much do you trust each of the following to provide reliable health information for you and your family?  
AI tools (for example, ChatGPT, Google AI)

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
A great deal	4%
A fair amount	29%
Not much	43%
None at all	23%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: Do you think the spread of misinformation about health issues in the United States is a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all?

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Major problem	73%
Minor problem	21%
Not a problem at all	5%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In the next 10 years, do you think artificial intelligence, or AI, will do more to increase or decrease each of the following, or will it not make much of a difference?  
Your trust in the health care system

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
AI will do more to increase this	13%
AI will do more to decrease this	34%
AI won't make much difference on this	25%
Not sure	28%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In the next 10 years, do you think artificial intelligence, or AI, will do more to increase or decrease each of the following, or will it not make much of a difference?  
The spread of false and inaccurate health information

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
AI will do more to increase this	42%
AI will do more to decrease this	20%
AI won't make much difference on this	15%
Not sure	22%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In the next 10 years, do you think artificial intelligence, or AI, will do more to increase or decrease each of the following, or will it not make much of a difference?  
The cost of health care

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
AI will do more to increase this	21%
AI will do more to decrease this	23%
AI won't make much difference on this	25%
Not sure	32%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In the next 10 years, do you think artificial intelligence, or AI, will do more to increase or decrease each of the following, or will it not make much of a difference?  
The quality of health care you receive

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
AI will do more to increase this	23%
AI will do more to decrease this	30%
AI won't make much difference on this	20%
Not sure	26%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In the past 12 months, have you or anyone in your family experienced any of the following?  
Had trouble affording health care

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Yes	28%
No	72%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In the past 12 months, have you or anyone in your family experienced any of the following?  
 Skipped getting care because it was too expensive

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Yes	25%
No	73%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In the past 12 months, have you or anyone in your family experienced any of the following?  
 Taken on debt to pay for health care

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Yes	17%
No	82%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: Do you have a regular doctor or health care provider you usually see when you are sick or need routine care, or not?  
 This is also referred to as a primary care provider.

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Yes	81%
No	18%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: In the past 12 months, have you had to wait longer than you thought was reasonable to get an appointment for health care?

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Yes, I have had to wait longer than I thought reasonable.	34%
No, I have not had to wait longer than I thought reasonable.	57%
I have not tried to make a health care appointment in the past 12 months.	8%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	

Q: Do you currently have medical or health insurance, including coverage you or a family member receives through an employer, purchase on your own, or enroll in through a public program like Medicare or Medi-Cal?

	<b>Total</b>
Total unweighted N	1,038
Yes	81%
No	15%
Don't know	4%
Skipped on web	1%
Note: Asked of everyone	