

Record-low percentage of Americans are happy with their health care quality, poll finds

January 23 2023, by Brendan Rascius



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For the first time in decades, a majority of Americans view health care quality as subpar, potentially a reflection of growing dissatisfaction with

high costs and recent policy changes, new polling reveals.

Forty-eight percent of those surveyed said health care quality was "excellent" or "good," while a slight majority, 52%, said it was "only fair" or "poor," according to Gallup's annual Health and Healthcare survey, which has been administered since 2001.

The poll of 1,020 adults was conducted Nov. 9-Dec. 2 with a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The latest results fall well below the 62% satisfaction rating recorded in 2010 and 2012, and trail the average satisfaction rating by seven points.

One factor contributing to the [downward trend](#) is Republicans' souring opinion of the health care industry since Donald Trump left office, according to the poll. In 2019, 75% of GOP supporters rated health care quality as excellent or good, whereas in 2022, only 56% said the same.

Meanwhile, Democrats have held steady with their 44% satisfaction rating.

Young adults, too, have helped curtail positive ratings over the past year. It's possible that [policy decisions](#) enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic or decreased access to abortion in the wake of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision factored into their dampened opinions, researchers said.

In addition to record-low ratings of health care quality in general, Americans' assessment of their own personal health care is also at a low point. Seventy-two percent rated it as excellent or good, a decrease from the past several years.

This year's decline is exclusively a product of young adult

dissatisfaction, researchers said. Hardly half of those aged 18 to 34 are "upbeat about the quality of care they receive, versus 72% of those 35 to 54 and 85% of those 55 and older."

However, a mismatch was revealed when researchers asked respondents to rate the country's coverage versus their own. Only one-third said they were satisfied with national coverage, but two-thirds were satisfied with their own.

Additionally, a paltry 24% of respondents were satisfied with the cost of health care, while 76% were dissatisfied.

A similar poll, conducted in 2016 by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, found that while Americans were generally content with their health care, they encountered "significant problems with [health care costs](#)."

Americans have long spent more for their health care than any other developed country, according to Johns Hopkins University research. Elevated drug prices, [higher salaries](#) and hospital administration costs are the main factors driving the above-average costs.

In a 2020 global survey of [health care quality](#), Australia, the Netherlands and Great Britain received the highest ratings—all of them being over 74%, according to Ipsos. The United States placed sixth with 71% approval.

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Citation: Record-low percentage of Americans are happy with their health care quality, poll finds (2023, January 23) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-01-record-low-percentage-americans-happy-health.html>

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