



A doctor's new assistant: Canadians see promise in healthcare AI but want healthcare professionals in charge.

National Survey | Summary
The Santis-Nanos Canadian Health Perspective
Field: August 30 to September 2, 2026
Submission 2026-3098

THE SANTIS—NANOS
**CANADIAN HEALTH
PERSPECTIVE**

SANTIS

 **NANOS**

The research gauged the views of Canadians on artificial intelligence in the healthcare system.

Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1037 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, from August 30 to September 2, 2026 as part of an omnibus survey. The sample included both land- and cell-lines across Canada. The results were statistically checked and weighted by age and gender using the latest Census information and the sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Canada.

Individuals randomly called using random digit dialling with a maximum of five call backs.

The margin of error for this survey is ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

This study was commissioned by Santis Health and the research was conducted by Nanos Research.

Full data tables with weighted and unweighted number of interviews is here:

- [By region age and gender](#)
- [By role in healthcare decision-making](#)

Tables within the report that have significant differences are highlighted in yellow.

Note: Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

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FORWARD!

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Key findings

- 1. Canadians see a place for AI in the health system:** On a variety of measures, including renewing prescriptions, providing referrals to specialists, and advice managing ongoing health conditions, most Canadians believe AI tools can be used either to assist healthcare providers or on their own, but in all cases tested Canadians are more likely to believe AI should be used in an assistive capacity than they are to believe autonomous AI use is acceptable.
- 2. Majority express comfort with researchers using AI for new breakthroughs:** Canadians are mostly comfortable to some extent with healthcare researchers using AI tools to discover potential new drugs (82%), to evaluate whether new drugs work as intended (75%), and to monitor the safety of new drugs (73%). In keeping with this sentiment, three in four (76%) are either open or somewhat open to more of their anonymized health data being used by researchers to train AI models.
- 3. Strong support for government-funded development of AI tools:** Canadians are mostly supportive of taxpayer dollars being used to fund the development of AI tools to be used by researchers to develop new drugs or devices (82%), by governments to improve their management of the health system (81%), and by healthcare providers to assist them in delivering care (75%).
- 4. Sizeable openness to the use of AI in healthcare to reduce wait times:** Seventy-one per cent of Canadians are either open or somewhat open to AI reviewing the results of their medical tests or scans if it reduced their wait times to see a specialist, while 23 per cent are somewhat not or not open to this.

Key findings

5. **Stronger positive than negative sentiment on current use of AI tools in healthcare:** Canadians are more likely to express agreement (47%) than disagreement (24%) to one extent or another that the benefits of AI in the healthcare system outweigh the downsides. AI use among healthcare providers is more likely to positively (39%) than negatively (23%) influence public trust in their ability to effectively deliver care.
6. **A more optimistic view of future AI tools than current ones:** Canadians are more likely to believe future AI tools will do a good or very good job of improving their personal health (51%) than they are to believe current AI tools do a good or very good job in this regard (28%).
7. **AI tools are not seen as a substitute for professional care among AI users:** Among Canadians who have used AI tools either to better understand their health (36%), or to make healthcare decisions for themselves (24%) or someone else (11%), most say that their AI usage has never led them to forego professional care in a case where they otherwise would have sought it (60%).
8. **Canadians view misdiagnosis as a top drawback of AI tools in healthcare:** Unprompted, Canadians mention the potential for a misdiagnosis as a top drawback of the use of AI in healthcare (23%), followed by data privacy and security risks (21%).

Key findings

9. **Majority want all involved parties to be held responsible if an AI tool makes a mistake or misdiagnoses:** Fifty-seven per cent of Canadians believe the doctors and clinics who used the AI tool, the health authorities who approved their use, and the AI tool developers should all be held responsible if an AI tool makes a mistake or misdiagnoses a patient.
10. **Canadians want regulation and oversight for healthcare AI tools:** Over four in five Canadians agree (62%) or somewhat agree (24%) that the federal government needs to do more to regulate the use of health data by AI companies. Of note, 42 per cent of Canadians are unsure whether AI companies currently do a good job of protecting health data.
10. **Healthcare providers are favoured over tech firms as stewards of health data:** Canadians are most trusting of healthcare providers, including doctors' offices, clinics, and hospitals, to safely manage their health data (60%), followed by health researchers (14%) and provincial health authorities (11%). Technology companies, whether Canadian (five per cent) or foreign (less than one per cent) are the least likely to be trusted by Canadians in this regard.
11. **Emphasis on data sovereignty:** Four in five Canadians (80%) agree or somewhat agree that it is important for Canadian health data to stay in Canada and not be used to train models outside of Canada. Canadians are generally uncomfortable with the Canadian health system using AI tools based in the United States (68% are uncomfortable to some extent).

Section 1: **General AI Sentiment**

Canadians are more likely to believe current and future AI technologies can and will do a good job rather than a poor job in helping improve their personal health. They are likewise more likely to agree than disagree that the benefits of AI use in the healthcare system outweigh the downsides.

Two in five have used AI themselves in some healthcare-related capacity, and most who have done so report that it has prompted them to seek care in a case where they otherwise would not have.



Efficiency and reduced costs are top perceived benefits of AI use in healthcare

Q – What positive things come to mind, if any, when it comes to using artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare? [OPEN]

TOP RESPONSES

	Canada 2026-09 (n=890)	Atlantic (n=81)	Quebec (n=185)	Ontario (n=307)	Prairies (n=188)	British Columbia (n=129)	Men (n=466)	Women (n=424)	18 to 34 (n=173)	35 to 54 (n=283)	55 plus (n=434)
Increased Efficiency and Reduced Costs	27.7%	27.1%	31.5%	26.6%	27.1%	25.4%	33.9%	21.5%	25.8%	32.4%	25.5%
Improved Patient Access and Service Speed	17.4%	23.4%	16.6%	16.0%	22.3%	13.9%	19.8%	15.1%	20.6%	18.5%	14.8%
Higher Diagnostic Accuracy	16.7%	19.6%	14.5%	17.2%	13.7%	21.0%	18.3%	15.1%	15.2%	19.8%	15.4%
Faster Diagnosis and Screening	16.6%	14.4%	12.9%	18.7%	15.8%	18.4%	15.6%	17.5%	16.8%	18.3%	15.1%
Reduced Administrative Burden and Help with Notetaking, Scheduling and Record Management	15.8%	23.2%	15.9%	16.2%	12.0%	15.7%	14.6%	17.0%	17.0%	15.7%	15.2%
Positive Support for AI as a Human-Assisted Tool	13.9%	10.7%	17.0%	11.1%	15.5%	15.9%	12.3%	15.4%	9.3%	9.2%	19.8%
Faster Research and Treatment Discovery	11.7%	12.9%	10.7%	12.2%	11.1%	12.3%	12.1%	11.3%	11.5%	13.3%	10.8%
Better Access to Health Information	11.6%	9.9%	11.0%	12.7%	9.1%	13.0%	9.9%	13.2%	7.6%	13.0%	13.0%
Negative Views of AI in Healthcare	7.3%	5.9%	5.9%	7.0%	9.9%	7.6%	6.1%	8.4%	9.5%	6.1%	6.7%
Patient Empowerment and Monitoring	1.9%	1.2%	2.9%	1.8%	-	3.0%	1.6%	2.1%	1.2%	1.7%	2.4%

*Multifrequency tabs based on multiple responses.

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, August 30 to September 2, 2026, n=890, accurate 3.3 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Misdiagnoses and privacy concerns are top perceived drawbacks of AI use in healthcare

Q – What negative things come to mind, if any, when it comes to using AI in healthcare? [OPEN]

TOP RESPONSES

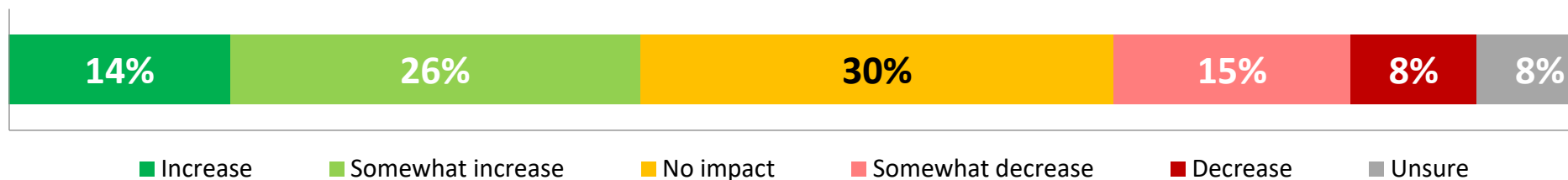
	Canada 2026-09 (n=900)	Atlantic (n=88)	Quebec (n=180)	Ontario (n=308)	Prairies (n=191)	British Columbia (n=133)	Men (n=463)	Women (n=437)	18 to 34 (n=182)	35 to 54 (n=293)	55 plus (n=425)
Inaccurate Diagnoses and Clinical Errors	23.3%	23.6%	27.9%	25.0%	19.8%	15.7%	23.5%	23.2%	30.6%	25.4%	17.1%
Privacy and Data Security Risks	20.8%	21.3%	18.4%	23.9%	20.3%	16.5%	21.1%	20.5%	27.7%	19.1%	17.7%
Loss of Human Connection in Care	17.6%	28.0%	16.8%	14.4%	21.2%	18.2%	16.1%	19.0%	19.0%	15.8%	18.0%
Fabricated or Unreliable Information	15.7%	11.6%	7.8%	18.1%	16.2%	22.8%	16.3%	15.2%	14.4%	19.4%	13.9%
Excessive Reliance Over Human Judgment	14.6%	12.6%	17.7%	12.8%	13.6%	16.6%	14.2%	14.9%	11.5%	13.2%	17.5%
Healthcare Job Losses	12.0%	19.2%	6.0%	13.9%	13.7%	10.7%	10.0%	14.0%	15.4%	12.7%	9.4%
Misuse, Abuse, and Loss of Control	8.9%	3.6%	10.4%	8.4%	11.0%	7.9%	10.9%	7.0%	6.9%	8.7%	10.3%
Insufficient Human Oversight and Governance	8.5%	7.7%	7.4%	9.3%	8.0%	9.3%	7.8%	9.3%	6.3%	7.5%	10.7%
Replacement of Clinicians by AI	5.9%	6.9%	6.7%	4.7%	5.8%	7.9%	5.4%	6.5%	4.0%	5.1%	7.8%
Immature or Fragile Technology	5.7%	5.8%	6.8%	4.6%	8.5%	3.8%	6.9%	4.5%	3.1%	6.4%	6.8%

*Multifrequency tabs based on multiple responses.

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, August 30 to September 2, 2026, n=900, accurate 3.3 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

AI use by healthcare providers is more likely to have a positive rather than negative impact on patient trust

Q – In general, would knowing that your healthcare provider is using AI tools to help deliver care increase, decrease, or have no impact on your level of trust in their ability to deliver care effectively? AI tools could include specialized software used to summarize a patient's medical history or appointment notes, review blood work or scans, or support a preliminary diagnosis.



*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

2 in 5 Canadians

say that knowing their healthcare provider is using AI to help deliver care would increase or somewhat increase their level of trust in their healthcare provider's ability to deliver care effectively. This is just over one and a half times greater than the combined percentage of Canadians who say this would decrease their level of trust in their healthcare provider to one extent or another. Of note, three out of every 10 Canadians say this would not impact the level of trust they have in their healthcare provider to effectively deliver care.

Impact of AI use on trust in healthcare provider – by demographics

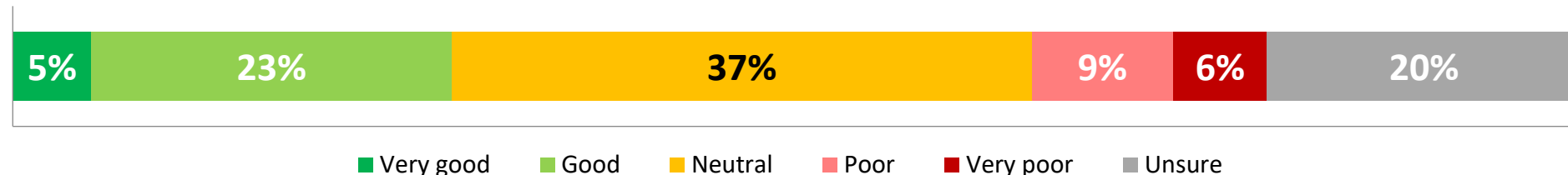
Q – In general, would knowing that your healthcare provider is using AI tools to help deliver care increase, decrease, or have no impact on your level of trust in their ability to deliver care effectively? AI tools could include specialized software used to summarize a patient's medical history or appointment notes, review blood work or scans, or support a preliminary diagnosis.

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Increase	13.6%	9.0%	17.4%	13.9%	10.6%	12.8%	17.3%	10.1%	6.3%	16.2%	16.4%
Somewhat increase	25.5%	24.7%	29.7%	24.1%	24.8%	24.0%	25.8%	25.3%	17.5%	23.5%	32.4%
No impact	29.6%	27.4%	32.7%	29.3%	27.9%	28.8%	33.2%	26.3%	36.3%	28.0%	26.7%
Somewhat decrease	15.1%	15.1%	7.0%	17.9%	19.0%	16.1%	12.4%	17.8%	15.9%	18.0%	12.4%
Decrease	8.2%	9.4%	6.8%	7.0%	9.1%	11.9%	7.0%	9.2%	14.4%	7.6%	4.5%
Unsure	7.9%	14.5%	6.5%	7.8%	8.6%	6.4%	4.4%	11.2%	9.6%	6.7%	7.7%

Older Canadians are more likely than younger Canadians to say that knowing their healthcare provider is using AI would positively impact their level of trust in their ability to effectively deliver care.

Canadians are split on current AI technologies improving their personal health

Q – Do you think current AI technologies do a good job or a poor job of helping improve your personal health today?



*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Just under **2 in 5**
Canadians

say that current AI technologies do a 'neutral' job in improving their personal health today. Another one in five are unsure. Canadians are nearly two times more likely to say current AI technologies do a good or very good job than a poor or very poor job in this regard.

Perceived job done by current AI technologies to improve personal health – by demographics

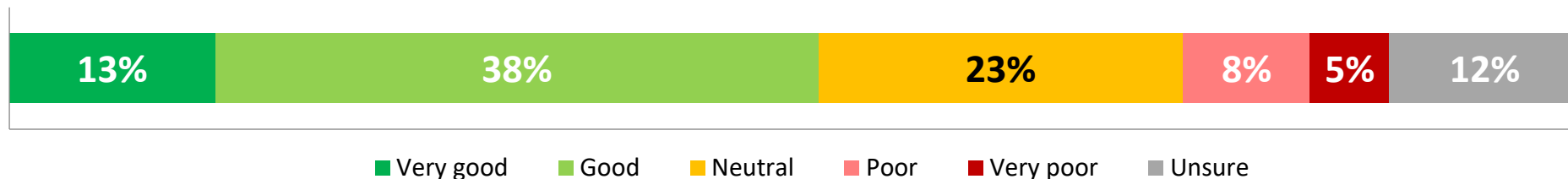
Q – Do you think current AI technologies do a good job or a poor job of helping improve your personal health today?

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Very good	5.4%	6.4%	6.7%	5.0%	3.3%	6.5%	6.6%	4.2%	3.4%	7.5%	5.0%
Good	22.7%	21.4%	31.9%	21.8%	17.6%	17.0%	25.5%	20.0%	19.2%	23.1%	24.7%
Neutral	37.0%	30.0%	37.4%	38.4%	37.6%	34.6%	37.3%	36.6%	36.7%	32.1%	40.9%
Poor	9.3%	11.5%	4.3%	9.8%	12.5%	11.2%	8.6%	9.9%	10.3%	12.0%	6.5%
Very poor	6.0%	12.2%	3.9%	5.1%	6.3%	8.8%	5.1%	6.9%	12.7%	6.3%	1.4%
Unsure	19.7%	18.5%	15.9%	20.0%	22.7%	22.0%	16.8%	22.4%	17.8%	19.0%	21.5%

Quebec residents are slightly more likely than Canadians on average to say that current AI technologies do a good job of improving their personal health today.

Positive views on the job AI technologies will be able to do in improving personal health in the future

Q – Do you think future AI technologies will be able to do a good job or a poor job of improving your personal health in the future?



*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Canadians are about four times more likely

to believe future AI technologies will be able to do a very good or good job in improving their personal health in the future than they are to believe it will do a poor or a very poor job in this regard. Just over one in three Canadians either hold a neutral view on the matter or are unsure.

Views on the job AI technologies will be able to do in improving personal health in the future – by demographics

Q – Do you think future AI technologies will be able to do a good job or a poor job of improving your personal health in the future?

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Very good	13.3%	11.9%	17.2%	13.6%	7.3%	14.3%	16.7%	10.0%	12.3%	16.8%	11.2%
Good	38.2%	37.6%	49.9%	34.7%	35.7%	31.8%	44.1%	32.5%	28.6%	36.2%	45.9%
Neutral	23.0%	20.7%	13.2%	26.3%	31.1%	20.9%	22.4%	23.6%	27.4%	20.9%	21.8%
Poor	8.2%	9.1%	4.8%	9.2%	8.8%	9.7%	5.9%	10.4%	9.7%	8.2%	7.2%
Very poor	5.3%	11.4%	2.6%	4.2%	6.0%	9.4%	4.0%	6.6%	11.0%	4.9%	2.0%
Unsure	12.0%	9.3%	12.3%	12.0%	11.1%	13.8%	6.9%	16.8%	11.0%	13.0%	11.8%

Older Canadians and men are respectively more likely than younger Canadians and women to say that future AI technologies will be able to do a good job of improving their personal health in the future. This is also the case for Quebec residents compared to the national average.

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, August 30 to September 2, 2026, n=1037, accurate 3.1 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Canadians more likely to agree than disagree that the benefits of AI in the healthcare system outweigh the downsides

Q – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The benefits of AI in the healthcare system outweigh the downsides.



*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Just under **1 in 2** Canadians

agree or somewhat agree that the benefits of AI in the healthcare system outweigh the downsides. This is two times greater than the combined percentage of Canadians who either disagree or somewhat disagree with this statement. Two out of every five hold a neutral view and another one in ten report being unsure.

Views on the benefits of AI in the healthcare system outweighing the downsides – by demographics

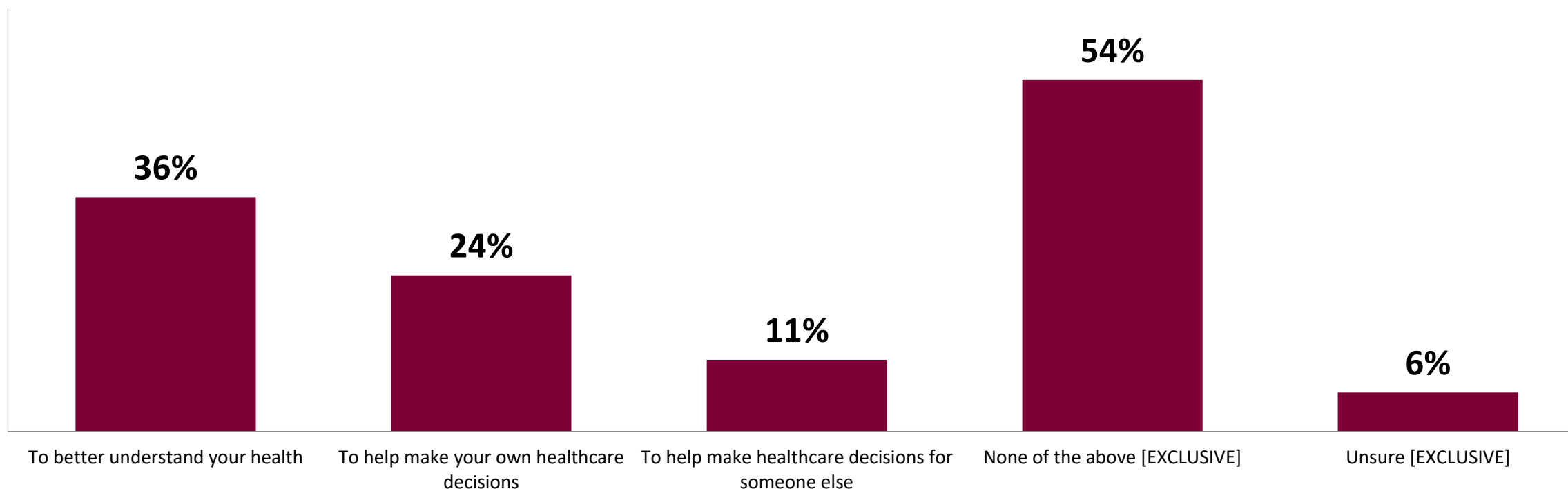
Q – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The benefits of AI in the healthcare system outweigh the downsides.

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Agree	18.3%	16.9%	19.1%	21.2%	14.4%	14.2%	24.3%	12.4%	14.8%	19.8%	19.4%
Somewhat agree	28.6%	27.1%	40.3%	23.8%	26.4%	26.4%	32.3%	25.1%	23.6%	26.6%	33.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	20.6%	22.4%	16.7%	22.3%	20.7%	21.7%	18.0%	23.1%	19.4%	21.9%	20.4%
Somewhat disagree	12.4%	8.7%	9.0%	12.1%	16.6%	15.5%	9.1%	15.6%	16.9%	10.7%	10.9%
Disagree	11.3%	15.1%	5.2%	11.5%	12.1%	18.4%	9.8%	12.8%	17.1%	11.7%	7.3%
Unsure	8.7%	9.9%	9.9%	9.1%	9.9%	3.8%	6.4%	10.9%	8.2%	9.2%	8.6%

Men are more likely than women to outright agree that the benefits of AI in the healthcare system outweigh the downsides. Quebec residents are more likely to agree to one extent or another than Canadians on average, as is also the case for older Canadians compared to younger Canadians.

Two in five Canadians report having used AI tools for at least one healthcare-related purpose

Q – Have you ever used AI tools for the following? [RANDOMIZE] [SELECT AS MANY AS APPLY]



*Multifrequency tabs based on multiple responses.

Among Canadians who have used AI tools for some healthcare related purpose, just over one in three have used them to better understand their health, one in four have used them to make their own healthcare decisions, and one in ten have used them to make healthcare decisions for someone else. About three in five either have not used AI tools for any of these purposes or are unsure.

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Use of AI for health purposes – by demographics

Q – Have you ever used AI tools for the following? [RANDOMIZE] [SELECT AS MANY AS APPLY]

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)	I make healthcare decisions only for myself (n=626)	I make healthcare decisions for myself and for others (n=374)
To better understand your health	36.0%	31.1%	42.5%	38.6%	29.7%	28.4%	36.4%	35.7%	39.4%	41.4%	29.6%	32.0%	42.2%
To help make your own healthcare decisions	24.1%	24.1%	27.3%	26.7%	16.0%	21.4%	24.7%	23.5%	26.9%	27.3%	19.7%	20.5%	29.9%
To help make healthcare decisions for someone else	11.5%	8.6%	13.8%	12.7%	7.0%	11.0%	11.6%	11.4%	16.2%	14.1%	6.4%	7.2%	17.7%
None of the above [EXCLUSIVE]	54.1%	55.6%	48.0%	52.9%	58.5%	61.0%	52.8%	55.2%	51.5%	49.6%	59.3%	6.0%	4.9%
Unsure [EXCLUSIVE]	5.6%	5.5%	4.0%	4.8%	8.4%	6.9%	5.7%	5.4%	5.3%	4.7%	6.4%	57.6%	48.4%

*Multifrequency tabs based on multiple responses.

Canadians who report making healthcare decisions both for themselves and for others are more likely than the national average to use AI to help understand their health and to help make healthcare decisions for someone else.



Among Canadians who report having personally used an AI tool for some health-related purpose, the tools that are reported as used most frequently are ChatGPT, Gemini, a Google search, and CoPilot.

ChatGPT is the most commonly-used AI tool among Canadians who report having personally used AI for health purposes

Q – [IF HAS USED AN AI TOOL FOR HEALTHCARE] Which AI tools have you used for health purposes?
[OPEN]

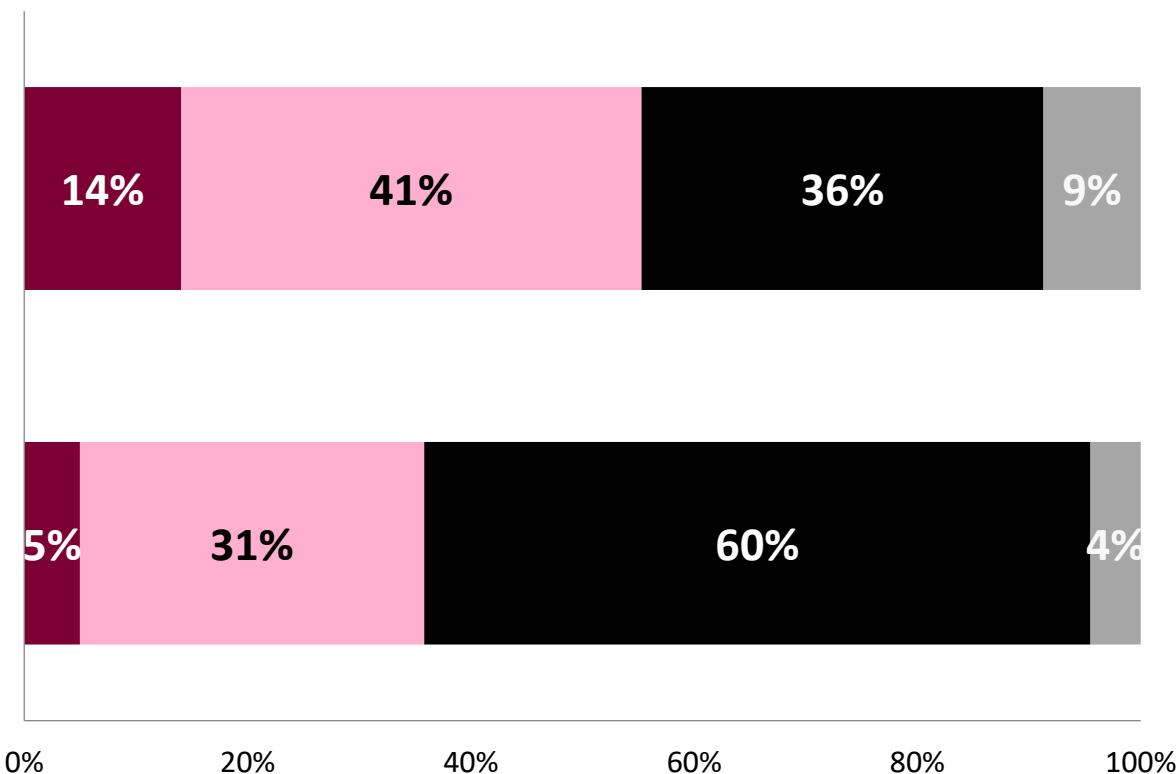
TOP RESPONSES	
	Canada 2026-09 (n=348)
ChatGPT	41.6%
Gemini	20.4%
Google/Google search/Google AI (unspecified)	17.6%
CoPilot/CoPilot 365	10.0%
Claude	6.5%
Internet search/reverse image search/Research (unspecified)	5.0%
For diet and exercise/To ask health-related questions/To research a medical diagnosis	2.8%
Chat/Chat bot (unspecified)	2.7%
Grok	2.1%
Perplexity	1.8%

*Multifrequency tabs based on multiple responses.

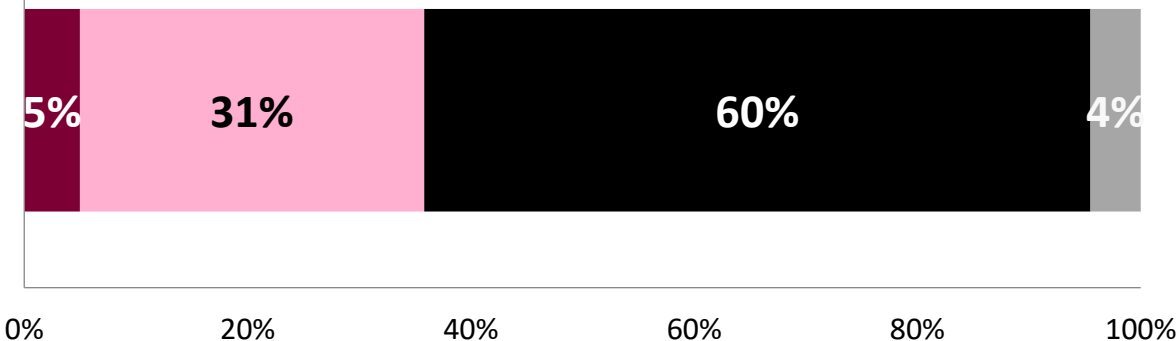
Majority of Canadians who have used AI for health purposes report that it has prompted them to seek professional care in a case where they would not have done so

Q – [IF HAS USED AN AI TOOL FOR HEALTHCARE] Thinking of your previous experience using AI tools for health purposes, do the following happen frequently, occasionally or never? [ROTATE]

AI prompting you to seek advice from a healthcare professional in a case where you would not have ordinarily done so.



Deciding not to see a healthcare provider in a time when you ordinarily would have, because you were able to manage your own care with the help of AI.



*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

■ Frequently ■ Occasionally ■ Never ■ Unsure

Over one in two Canadians who have used AI for health purposes say that it has prompted them to seek professional care when they would not have done so ordinarily

Q – [IF HAS USED AN AI TOOL FOR HEALTHCARE] Thinking of your previous experience using AI tools for health purposes, do the following happen frequently, occasionally or never? [ROTATE] **AI prompting you to seek advice from a healthcare professional in a case where you would not have ordinarily done so.**

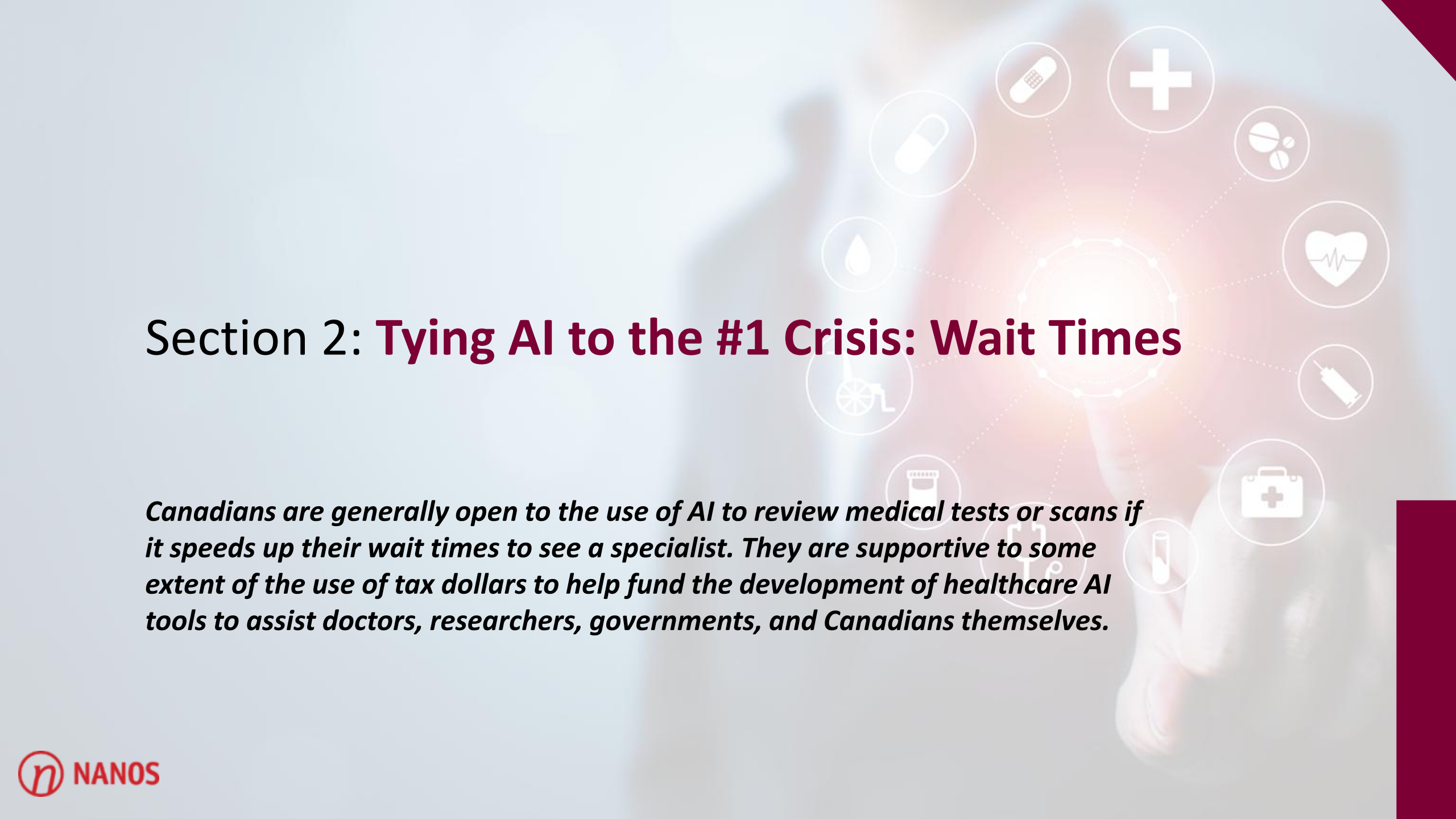
	Canada 2026-09 (n=408)	Atlantic (n=40)	Quebec (n=102)	Ontario (n=148)	Prairies (n=70)	British Columbia (n=48)	Men (n=213)	Women (n=195)	18 to 34 (n=90)	35 to 54 (n=157)	55 plus (n=161)
Frequently	14.0%	13.6%	16.9%	12.1%	19.4%	7.4%	13.6%	14.4%	15.9%	15.4%	11.1%
Occasionally	41.3%	36.1%	43.8%	42.8%	33.8%	41.9%	42.7%	39.8%	39.5%	42.8%	41.0%
Never	36.0%	40.0%	31.1%	36.4%	40.7%	38.2%	34.4%	37.7%	39.5%	32.1%	37.3%
Unsure	8.7%	10.4%	8.2%	8.7%	6.2%	12.5%	9.3%	8.1%	5.1%	9.7%	10.6%

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, August 30 to September 2, 2026, n=408 Canadians who have used AI for health purposes, accurate 4.9 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Most Canadians who have used AI for health purposes report that they have never decided not to seek professional care due to being able to manage their own care with AI

Q – [IF HAS USED AN AI TOOL FOR HEALTHCARE] -Thinking of your previous experience using AI tools for health purposes, do the following happen frequently, occasionally or never?
[ROTATE] **Deciding not to see a healthcare provider in a time when you ordinarily would have, because you were able to manage your own care with the help of AI.**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=408)	Atlantic (n=40)	Quebec (n=102)	Ontario (n=148)	Prairies (n=70)	British Columbia (n=48)	Men (n=213)	Women (n=195)	18 to 34 (n=90)	35 to 54 (n=157)	55 plus (n=161)
Frequently	5.0%	10.5%	5.0%	3.9%	4.0%	6.8%	5.5%	4.4%	3.6%	5.9%	5.1%
Occasionally	30.8%	24.6%	25.8%	34.5%	31.1%	33.2%	29.1%	32.6%	32.6%	31.4%	28.9%
Never	59.7%	57.4%	64.6%	58.1%	62.2%	51.4%	60.2%	59.2%	60.4%	57.5%	61.4%
Unsure	4.5%	7.5%	4.6%	3.5%	2.6%	8.6%	5.1%	3.9%	3.5%	5.2%	4.6%

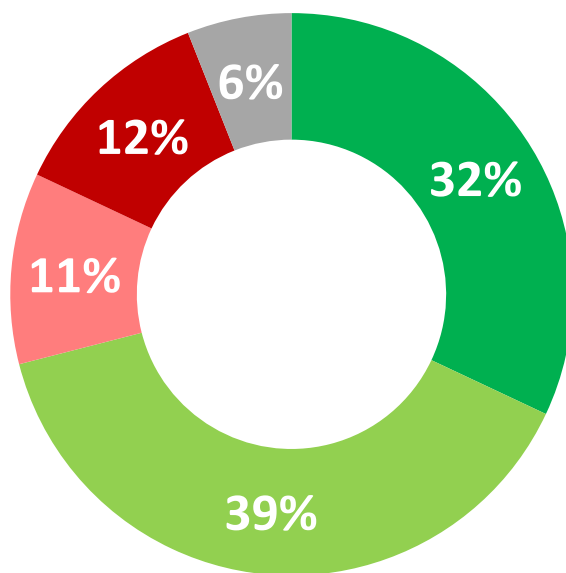
The background of the slide features a blurred image of a doctor's hand, with various medical icons (pill, bandage, plus sign, heart, syringe, etc.) arranged in a circular pattern around the hand. The text is overlaid on this background.

Section 2: **Tying AI to the #1 Crisis: Wait Times**

Canadians are generally open to the use of AI to review medical tests or scans if it speeds up their wait times to see a specialist. They are supportive to some extent of the use of tax dollars to help fund the development of healthcare AI tools to assist doctors, researchers, governments, and Canadians themselves.

Canadians are about three times more likely to be open than not open to an AI review of a medical test or scan if this could lead to lower wait times for a specialist

Q – Would you be open or not open to AI reviewing the results of a medical test or scan, like an MRI or blood test, if it could reduce the time it takes for you to see a specialist?



■ Open ■ Somewhat open ■ Somewhat not open ■ Not open ■ Unsure

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

7 in 10 Canadians

are open or somewhat open to AI reviewing the results of a medical test or scan if it could reduce the time it takes them to see a specialist. This is about three times greater than the just under one in four Canadians who report not being open to this, to one extent or another.

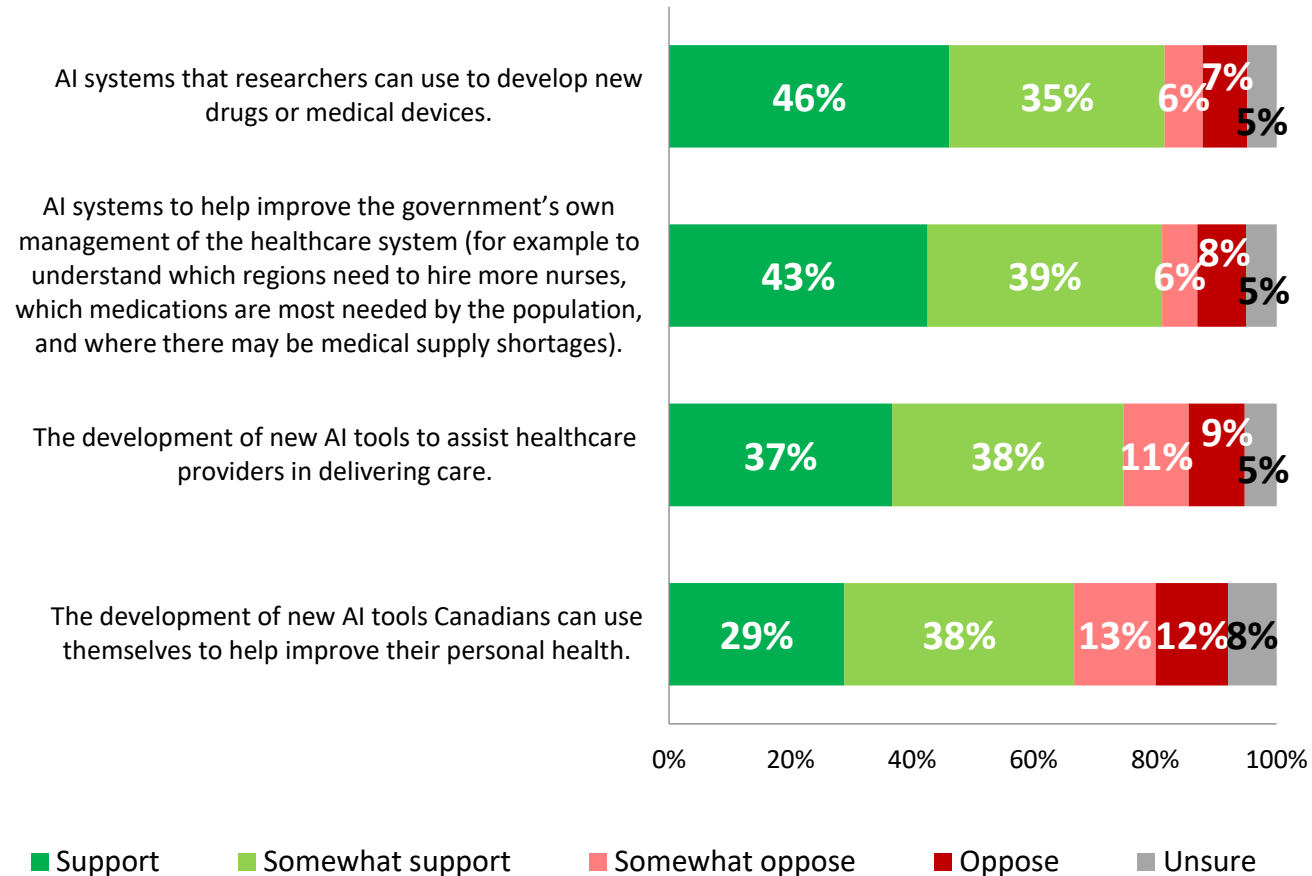
Level of openness to an AI review of a medical test or scan – by demographics

Q – Would you be open or not open to AI reviewing the results of a medical test or scan, like an MRI or blood test, if it could reduce the time it takes for you to see a specialist?

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Open	32.2%	32.7%	36.7%	33.6%	25.6%	29.2%	38.4%	26.3%	25.6%	33.2%	35.8%
Somewhat open	39.0%	35.1%	33.8%	40.4%	44.8%	38.4%	38.7%	39.3%	40.8%	38.8%	38.0%
Somewhat not open	10.9%	11.8%	11.2%	10.0%	13.0%	10.0%	9.1%	12.7%	12.1%	12.1%	9.2%
Not open	11.7%	16.9%	9.5%	11.0%	12.0%	14.3%	8.1%	15.1%	14.9%	10.6%	10.4%
Unsure	6.1%	3.6%	8.8%	5.0%	4.6%	8.1%	5.7%	6.6%	6.6%	5.3%	6.5%

While a majority of Canadians across all demographic groups report being open or somewhat open to AI reviewing the results of a medical test or scan if it could reduce the time it takes them to see a specialist, intensity of openness is stronger among men than among women.

Q – Do you support or oppose governments using tax dollars to help fund the following? [RANDOMIZE]



*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Canadians are more likely to support than oppose governments using tax dollars to fund AI tools for various purposes

4 in 5 Canadians

support or somewhat support the use of tax dollars to help fund AI systems that researchers can use to develop new drugs or medical devices, as well as AI systems to help improve the government's management of the healthcare system. This is followed by three in four who express some level of support for the use of tax dollars to help fund the development of AI tools to assist healthcare providers in delivering care, and two in three who are supportive or somewhat supportive of allocating tax dollars to the development of new AI tools for Canadians to use to help improve their own health.

Canadians are six times more likely to express support rather than opposition to the use of tax dollars to help fund AI systems to help researchers develop new drugs or medical devices

Q – Do you support or oppose governments using tax dollars to help fund the following? [RANDOMIZE] **AI systems that researchers can use to develop new drugs or medical devices.**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Support	46.2%	47.8%	42.2%	51.2%	39.9%	45.8%	52.7%	39.9%	37.3%	42.7%	54.6%
Somewhat support	35.5%	27.3%	39.3%	34.2%	39.2%	31.9%	33.6%	37.2%	38.1%	36.5%	32.9%
Somewhat oppose	6.2%	6.2%	5.3%	6.2%	5.4%	9.2%	4.9%	7.5%	7.7%	6.4%	5.2%
Oppose	7.3%	13.0%	6.7%	5.9%	7.7%	9.0%	6.1%	8.5%	10.9%	8.9%	3.7%
Unsure	4.8%	5.8%	6.6%	2.6%	7.9%	4.1%	2.7%	6.9%	5.9%	5.5%	3.6%

While most Canadians across all regions, age groups and genders are supportive to one extent or another of governments using tax dollars to help fund AI systems that researchers can use to develop new drugs or medical devices, intensity of support is higher among Canadians aged 55 and over and men than it is for those aged 18 to 34 and women, respectively.

Four in five Canadians express some level of support for governments using tax dollars to fund AI tools to help improve the government's own management of the healthcare system

Q – Do you support or oppose governments using tax dollars to help fund the following? [RANDOMIZE] **AI systems to help improve the government's own management of the healthcare system (for example to understand which regions need to hire more nurses, which medications are most needed by the population, and where there may be medical supply shortages).**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Support	42.5%	44.4%	35.5%	50.3%	36.2%	39.7%	47.8%	37.5%	34.3%	40.6%	49.4%
Somewhat support	38.6%	32.3%	45.0%	34.6%	43.1%	36.7%	35.8%	41.3%	36.8%	41.7%	37.4%
Somewhat oppose	5.8%	4.9%	7.2%	4.9%	5.1%	7.6%	4.6%	7.0%	9.3%	3.7%	5.2%
Oppose	8.0%	13.6%	5.1%	6.4%	10.2%	11.9%	7.7%	8.3%	12.6%	8.8%	4.4%
Unsure	5.0%	4.9%	7.3%	3.9%	5.4%	4.1%	4.0%	6.0%	6.9%	5.2%	3.7%

Majority support to one extent or another cuts across all demographic groups when it comes to governments using tax dollars to help fund AI tools that would assist them in their own management of the health system. Intensity of support is slightly higher among Ontarians and among men compared to the national average. It is also slightly higher among older Canadians relative to younger Canadians.

Three in four Canadians are supportive to one extent or another of governments using tax dollars to help fund the development of new AI tools to assist healthcare providers in delivering care

Q – Do you support or oppose governments using tax dollars to help fund the following? [RANDOMIZE] **The development of new AI tools to assist healthcare providers in delivering care.**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Support	36.7%	40.5%	40.8%	38.1%	27.7%	35.3%	44.3%	29.4%	23.6%	36.2%	45.5%
Somewhat support	38.2%	33.1%	35.5%	39.6%	44.5%	33.2%	37.4%	38.9%	44.0%	36.2%	36.0%
Somewhat oppose	10.6%	8.7%	8.8%	11.2%	12.0%	11.4%	7.3%	13.9%	13.5%	10.5%	8.9%
Oppose	9.2%	11.8%	7.8%	7.8%	9.8%	13.7%	7.9%	10.6%	12.9%	11.4%	5.2%
Unsure	5.2%	5.9%	7.1%	3.3%	6.0%	6.3%	3.2%	7.2%	6.1%	5.6%	4.4%

A majority of Canadians across all demographic groups report being supportive to one extent or another of governments using tax dollars to help fund the development of new AI tools to assist healthcare providers in delivering care. Intensity of support is slightly higher among men than among women and among Canadians aged 55 and over compared to those between the ages of 18 and 34. Intensity of support is also slightly lower in the Prairies compared to the national average.

Two in three Canadians support or somewhat support using tax dollars to help fund the development of new AI tools Canadians can use to help improve their personal health

Q – Do you support or oppose governments using tax dollars to help fund the following? [RANDOMIZE] **The development of new AI tools Canadians can use themselves to help improve their personal health.**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Support	28.8%	32.6%	25.4%	33.2%	23.4%	27.3%	35.2%	22.7%	21.5%	29.7%	33.0%
Somewhat support	37.9%	34.5%	36.0%	38.6%	43.1%	33.9%	38.1%	37.6%	35.7%	37.6%	39.4%
Somewhat oppose	13.4%	8.1%	16.8%	13.7%	10.8%	13.0%	11.1%	15.7%	15.5%	12.1%	13.1%
Oppose	11.9%	15.7%	12.4%	7.9%	12.6%	19.7%	9.4%	14.3%	20.3%	11.5%	6.7%
Unsure	8.0%	9.2%	9.3%	6.6%	10.1%	6.2%	6.1%	9.7%	6.9%	9.1%	7.8%

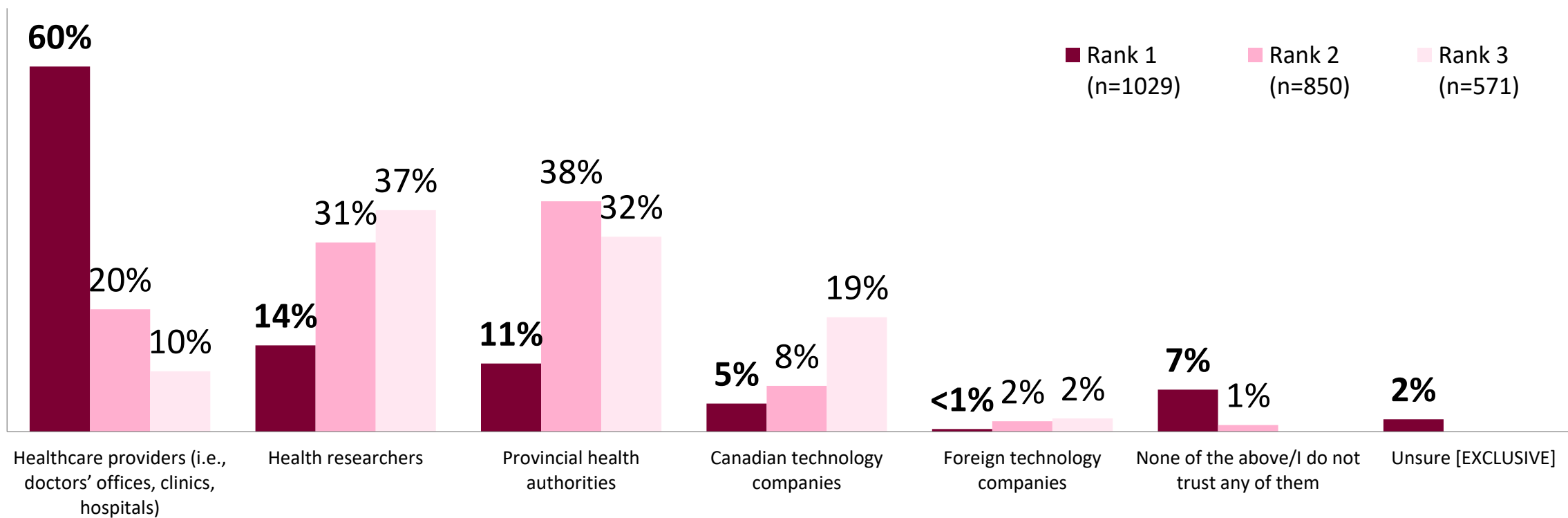
A majority of Canadians across all demographic groups support or somewhat support the use of tax dollars to help fund the development of new AI tools Canadians can use themselves to help improve their own personal health. Intensity of support is slightly higher among men than among women. While a minority view, Canadians aged 18 to 34 are more likely than Canadians on average to be opposed to this.

Section 3: The Data Trade-Off: Privacy versus System Speed

Healthcare providers are trusted more than anyone else when it comes to managing Canadians' health data. There is considerable openness to increased use of anonymized health data to train AI models and a general sense of comfort with researchers using AI tools in the development and monitoring of new drugs. However, Canadians emphasize the need for the federal government to do more in regulating the use of health data by AI companies and most are uncomfortable using AI tools based in the U.S.

Canadians trust healthcare providers most to safely manage their health data

Q – Please rank the following in terms of who you trust the most to safely manage your health data, where 1 is who you trust the most, 2 the second most, and so on.[RANDOMIZE]



Three out of every five Canadians say they trust healthcare providers, including doctors' offices, clinics and hospitals, the most when it comes to safely managing their health data. This is followed by health researchers and provincial health authorities.

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, August 30 to September 2, 2026, n=1029, accurate 3.1 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

THE SANTIS—NANOS
CANADIAN HEALTH
PERSPECTIVE

SANTIS  NANOS

Who Canadians trust most to safely manage their health data – by demographics

Q – Please rank the following in terms of who you trust the most to safely manage your health data, where 1 is who you trust the most, 2 the second most, and so on. [RANDOMIZE] [FIRST RANKED]

	FIRST RANKED										
	Canada 2026-09 (n=1029)	Atlantic (n=99)	Quebec (n=213)	Ontario (n=346)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=150)	Men (n=533)	Women (n=496)	18 to 34 (n=207)	35 to 54 (n=345)	55 plus (n=477)
Healthcare providers (i.e., doctors' offices, clinics, hospitals)	60.3%	61.6%	42.2%	67.0%	70.6%	57.9%	58.7%	62.0%	51.5%	62.8%	64.2%
Health researchers	14.3%	16.6%	21.2%	12.1%	9.4%	14.1%	15.0%	13.6%	19.3%	11.7%	12.9%
Provincial health authorities	11.3%	6.9%	13.1%	9.8%	9.0%	17.3%	11.8%	10.7%	14.2%	10.3%	10.1%
Canadian technology companies	4.7%	5.0%	10.8%	3.9%	1.1%	1.1%	4.1%	5.2%	3.6%	4.9%	5.1%
Foreign technology companies	0.4%	-	-	0.3%	-	2.2%	0.9%	-	1.0%	0.3%	0.2%
None of the above/I do not trust any of them	7.0%	7.4%	8.8%	5.9%	8.3%	4.9%	6.6%	7.3%	7.0%	8.8%	5.5%
Unsure [EXCLUSIVE]	2.1%	2.4%	4.0%	0.9%	1.6%	2.6%	2.9%	1.3%	3.3%	1.1%	2.0%

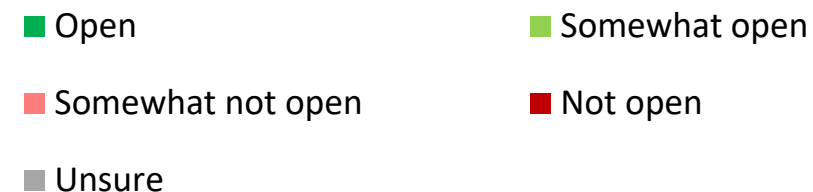
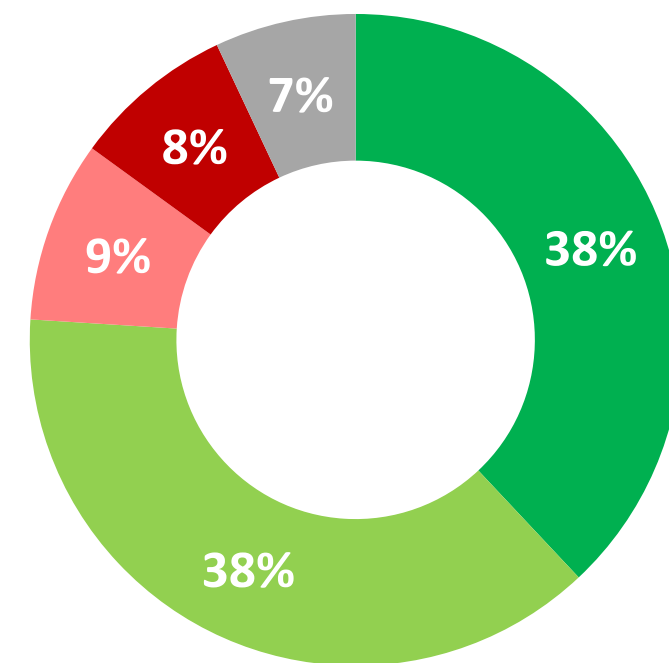
Canadians across all demographic groups are more likely to say they trust healthcare providers most to manage their health data than any other organizations or parties tested. Ontarians and respondents in the Prairies are comparatively more likely to say they trust healthcare providers most in this regard compared to respondents in Quebec, while younger Canadians are comparatively less likely than the national average to trust healthcare providers most.

Canadians are over four times more likely to be open than not open to allowing more of their anonymized health data to be used by healthcare researchers

3 in 4 Canadians

report being either open or somewhat open to allowing more of their anonymized health data to be used by researchers who are using AI tools to develop new medicines, medical devices, or treatments, compared to under one in five who report being either not open or somewhat not open to this.

Q – As you may be aware, anonymized health data is health information that has been generalized so that the individual it belongs to can no longer reasonably be personally identified. Such anonymized health data is sometimes used by researchers to better understand how the health system is working or to improve patient treatment. Would you be open or not open to allowing more of your anonymized health data to be used by healthcare researchers who are using AI tools to develop new medicines, medical devices, or other health care treatments?



*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

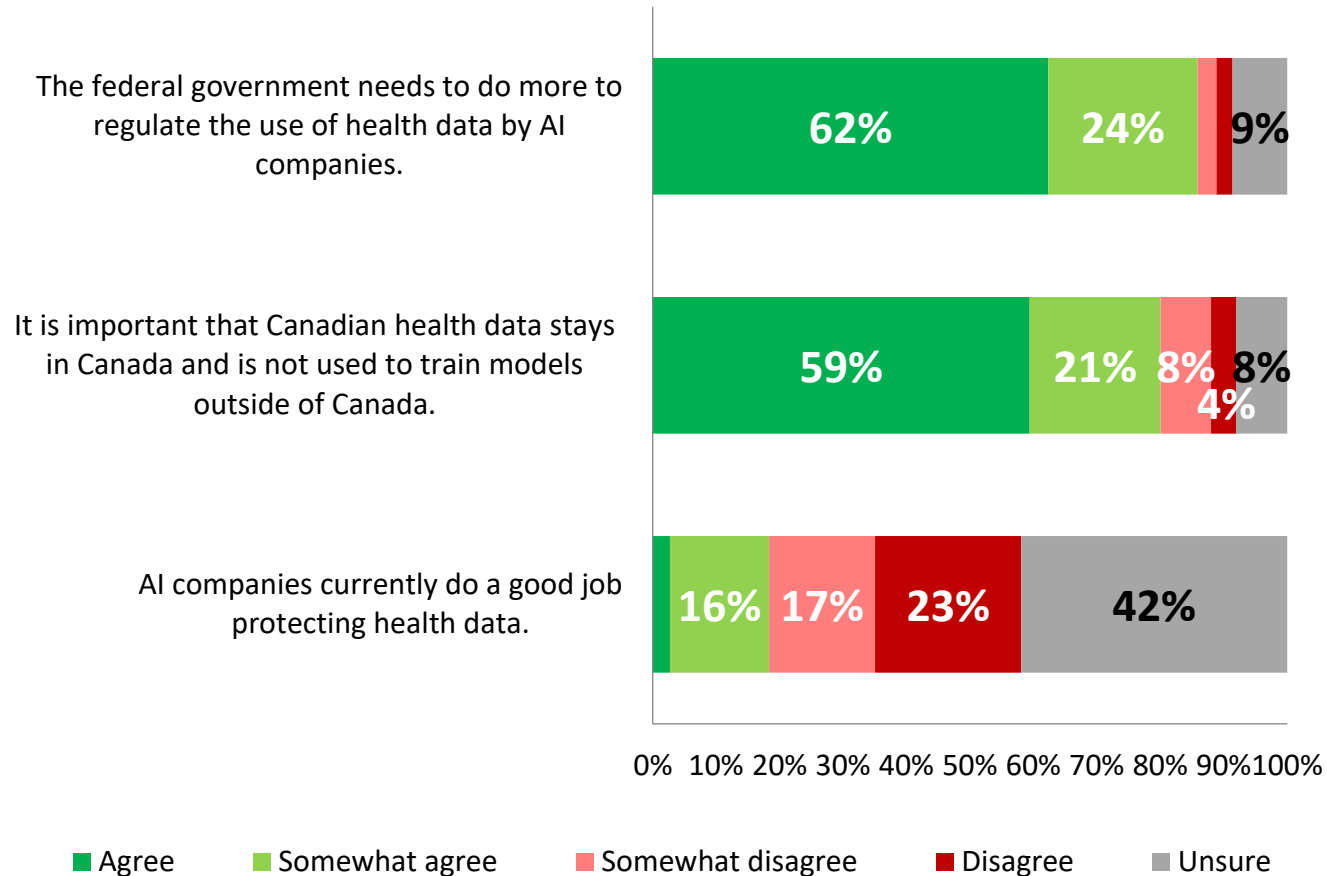
Level of openness to allowing more anonymized health data to be used by healthcare researchers – by demographics

Q – As you may be aware, anonymized health data is health information that has been generalized so that the individual it belongs to can no longer reasonably be personally identified. Such anonymized health data is sometimes used by researchers to better understand how the health system is working or to improve patient treatment. Would you be open or not open to allowing more of your anonymized health data to be used by healthcare researchers who are using AI tools to develop new medicines, medical devices, or other health care treatments?

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Open	38.0%	32.9%	38.9%	42.0%	29.9%	37.8%	41.7%	34.4%	32.2%	38.1%	41.6%
Somewhat open	38.1%	37.6%	38.0%	34.3%	44.9%	40.4%	36.6%	39.6%	35.1%	38.3%	39.9%
Somewhat not open	8.5%	11.9%	8.6%	9.8%	6.6%	6.0%	9.0%	8.1%	13.8%	6.7%	6.6%
Not open	8.1%	9.7%	7.1%	7.5%	8.5%	10.1%	6.6%	9.5%	12.8%	8.5%	4.6%
Unsure	7.3%	7.9%	7.5%	6.4%	10.2%	5.7%	6.2%	8.4%	6.1%	8.3%	7.3%

Though a majority of Canadians across all demographic groups report being either open or somewhat open to allowing more of their anonymized health data to be used by healthcare researchers who are using AI tools to develop new medicines, medical devices, and treatments, intensity of openness is slightly lower among Prairie residents than among Canadians on average.

Q – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
[RANDOMIZE]



*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

*Data labels under four per cent have been removed for legibility.

Canadians strongly agree there is a need to regulate the use of health data and to ensure Canadian health data stays in Canada

Over 4 in 5 Canadians

agree or somewhat agree that the federal government needs to do more to regulate the use of health data by AI companies, while four in five agree to one extent or another that it is important for Canadian health data to stay in Canada and not be used to train models outside of Canada. Of note, Canadians are more likely to disagree than agree that AI companies currently do a good job of protecting health data. About two in five are unsure whether AI companies currently do a good job in this regard.

Canadians are over fifteen times more likely to agree than disagree to some extent that the federal government needs to do more to regulate the use of health data by AI companies

Q – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [RANDOMIZE] **The federal government needs to do more to regulate the use of health data by AI companies.**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Agree	62.3%	67.6%	55.5%	65.6%	59.5%	65.6%	56.5%	67.9%	64.0%	63.8%	60.0%
Somewhat agree	23.6%	21.9%	28.6%	21.4%	23.4%	22.4%	28.7%	18.6%	21.9%	23.3%	24.9%
Somewhat disagree	3.0%	0.9%	3.9%	3.0%	3.6%	1.5%	3.1%	2.8%	3.2%	1.6%	3.9%
Disagree	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	1.8%	3.7%	3.0%	3.2%	1.9%	2.8%	3.3%	1.7%
Unsure	8.6%	7.1%	9.5%	8.2%	9.8%	7.5%	8.5%	8.8%	8.0%	8.1%	9.5%

A majority of Canadians across all demographic groups outright agree that the federal government needs to do more to regulate the use of health data by AI companies. While a majority opinion among both groups, women are more likely to outright agree with this statement than men.

Four in five Canadians agree to one extent or another that it is important for Canadian health data to stay in Canada

Q – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [RANDOMIZE] **It is important that Canadian health data stays in Canada and is not used to train models outside of Canada.**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Agree	59.4%	54.3%	60.8%	58.6%	61.3%	59.4%	57.2%	61.5%	57.3%	61.2%	59.3%
Somewhat agree	20.7%	23.2%	21.5%	20.6%	18.3%	21.1%	22.5%	18.9%	24.1%	18.8%	19.9%
Somewhat disagree	8.0%	9.8%	7.2%	9.0%	7.2%	6.6%	8.4%	7.6%	5.7%	8.8%	8.8%
Disagree	3.9%	3.3%	3.5%	2.4%	5.2%	7.8%	4.4%	3.5%	2.9%	4.6%	4.1%
Unsure	8.0%	9.4%	7.0%	9.5%	7.9%	5.1%	7.5%	8.5%	10.1%	6.5%	7.9%

A sizeable majority of Canadians across all demographic groups agree to one extent or another that it is important for Canadian health data to stay in Canada and not be used to train models abroad. No statistically significant demographic differences are observed.

Canadians are over two times more likely to disagree than agree that AI companies do a good job of protecting health data; two in five are unsure

Q – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [RANDOMIZE] **AI companies currently do a good job protecting health data.**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Agree	2.7%	3.9%	2.2%	3.1%	2.2%	2.7%	3.2%	2.3%	3.0%	3.2%	2.1%
Somewhat agree	15.6%	19.5%	20.5%	13.6%	13.8%	13.3%	18.9%	12.5%	11.1%	14.2%	19.7%
Somewhat disagree	16.7%	16.3%	20.8%	13.7%	19.6%	14.9%	16.1%	17.3%	15.9%	17.5%	16.6%
Disagree	23.0%	22.4%	14.0%	24.1%	25.5%	32.4%	22.6%	23.5%	31.7%	23.9%	16.8%
Unsure	41.9%	37.8%	42.5%	45.5%	38.9%	36.7%	39.3%	44.5%	38.3%	41.2%	44.8%

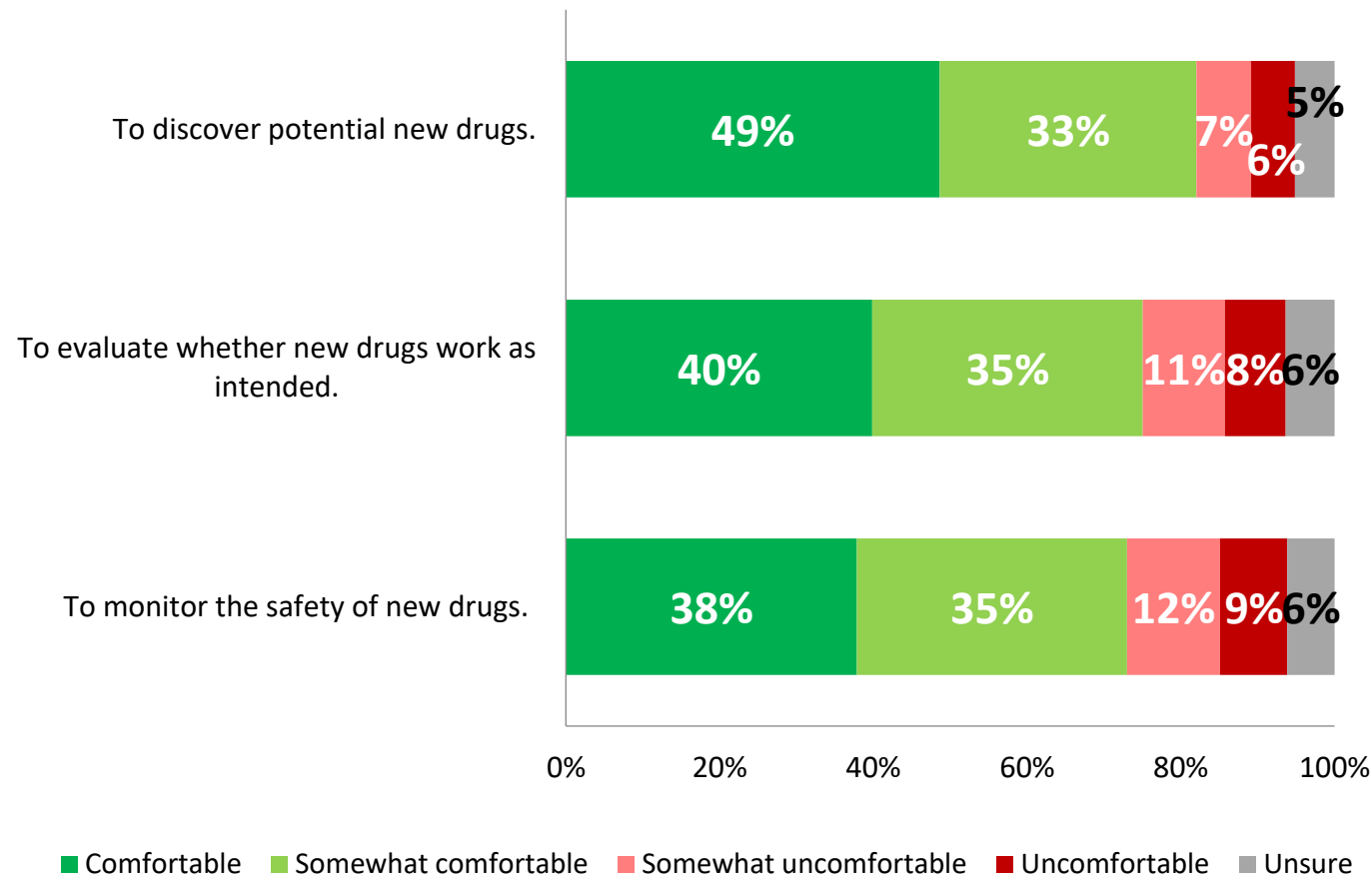
Canadians across all demographic groups are more likely to disagree than agree that AI companies currently do a good job protecting health data. Intensity of views is stronger among residents of British Columbia than Quebecers, as well as among 18-to-34-year-olds compared to those aged 55 and over. A sizeable proportion of respondents across all groups (42 per cent nationally) report being unsure whether AI companies currently do a good job protecting health data.

Canadians are generally comfortable to one extent or another with health researchers using AI tools for various purposes

4 in 5 Canadians

are either comfortable or somewhat comfortable with health researchers using AI tools to discover new drugs. Three in four express some level of comfort with health researchers employing AI tools to evaluate whether new drugs work as intended and just over seven in ten report being comfortable to one extent or another with AI tools being used by researchers to monitor the safety of new drugs.

Q – To what extent are you comfortable or uncomfortable with health researchers using AI tools for the following purposes? [RANDOMIZE]



*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Canadians are over six times more likely to express comfort than discomfort with health researchers using AI tools to discover potential new drugs

Q – To what extent are you comfortable or uncomfortable with health researchers using AI tools for the following purposes? [RANDOMIZE]

To discover potential new drugs.

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Comfortable	48.6%	44.7%	50.9%	52.4%	43.0%	43.1%	54.9%	42.6%	41.2%	45.9%	55.5%
Somewhat comfortable	33.4%	33.3%	34.7%	32.3%	35.1%	32.5%	32.4%	34.4%	36.4%	34.5%	30.6%
Somewhat uncomfortable	7.1%	10.6%	5.7%	7.1%	6.5%	8.8%	5.0%	9.1%	6.5%	9.0%	6.1%
Uncomfortable	5.7%	7.7%	5.0%	3.8%	8.0%	8.2%	3.7%	7.6%	10.6%	4.4%	3.5%
Unsure	5.2%	3.8%	3.7%	4.4%	7.5%	7.4%	4.0%	6.3%	5.3%	6.1%	4.3%

Most Canadians across all demographic groups report being either comfortable or somewhat comfortable with the use of AI tools by health researchers to discover potential new drugs. Intensity of views is stronger among men than women. This is also the case for older Canadians compared to the national average.

Three in four Canadians are comfortable to one extent or another with health researchers using AI tools to evaluate whether new drugs work as intended

Q – To what extent are you comfortable or uncomfortable with health researchers using AI tools for the following purposes? [RANDOMIZE]

To evaluate whether new drugs work as intended.

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Comfortable	39.8%	33.8%	40.8%	43.9%	34.7%	36.4%	46.1%	33.9%	31.1%	39.4%	45.8%
Somewhat comfortable	35.2%	38.9%	39.0%	33.3%	35.1%	32.4%	32.0%	38.3%	34.5%	36.6%	34.6%
Somewhat uncomfortable	10.7%	12.4%	7.8%	10.7%	11.5%	13.6%	11.1%	10.3%	13.4%	10.9%	8.7%
Uncomfortable	7.9%	9.7%	7.5%	5.7%	11.2%	9.6%	4.9%	10.8%	12.6%	6.6%	5.9%
Unsure	6.4%	5.1%	4.9%	6.4%	7.5%	7.9%	5.9%	6.8%	8.4%	6.4%	5.0%

A considerable majority of Canadians across all subgroups are comfortable to some extent with health researchers using AI tools to evaluate whether new drugs work as intended. Outright comfort is higher among men than women, as is the case for older Canadians compared to younger Canadians.

Canadians are over three times more likely to be comfortable than uncomfortable with the use of AI tools by health researchers to monitor the safety of new drugs

Q – To what extent are you comfortable or uncomfortable with health researchers using AI tools for the following purposes? [RANDOMIZE]

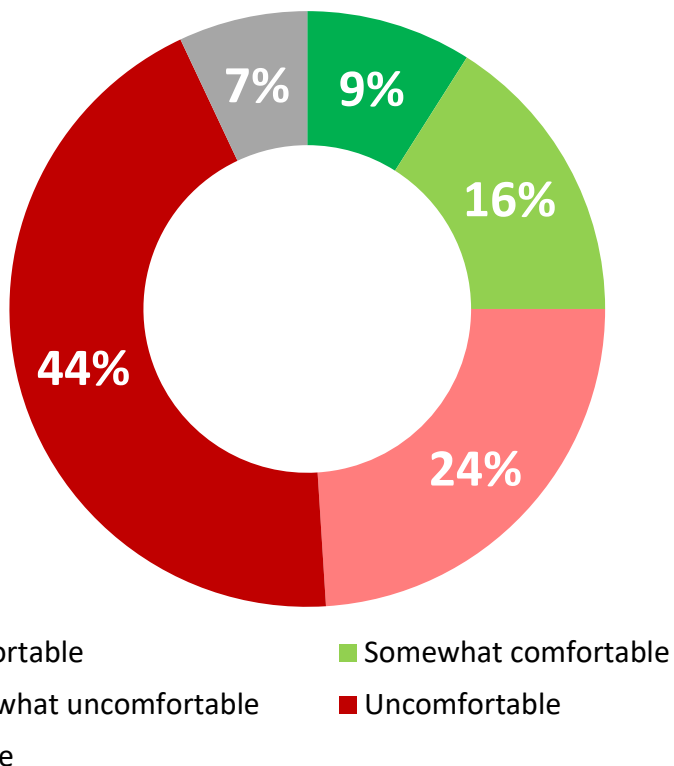
To monitor the safety of new drugs.

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Comfortable	37.8%	30.6%	38.8%	41.6%	32.3%	36.3%	43.5%	32.4%	29.2%	37.9%	43.4%
Somewhat comfortable	35.2%	36.5%	38.7%	32.7%	38.2%	31.8%	34.7%	35.6%	33.3%	33.3%	37.9%
Somewhat uncomfortable	12.1%	19.6%	10.8%	13.2%	9.0%	11.6%	10.8%	13.3%	14.8%	13.5%	9.3%
Uncomfortable	8.8%	8.2%	6.4%	6.8%	13.5%	12.3%	6.8%	10.6%	13.8%	9.2%	5.2%
Unsure	6.1%	5.1%	5.3%	5.7%	7.0%	7.9%	4.1%	8.1%	9.0%	6.1%	4.3%

Canadians across all subgroups are considerably more likely to be comfortable than uncomfortable with health researchers using AI tools to monitor the safety of new drugs. Men and Canadians aged 55 and over are respectively more likely than women and Canadians aged 18 to 34 to be outright comfortable with this.

Canadians are generally uncomfortable with the health system using AI tools based in the U.S.

Q – Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with the Canadian health system using AI tools that are based in the United States?



Over **2 in 3** Canadians

are uncomfortable or somewhat uncomfortable with the Canadian health system using AI tools that are based in the United States. Conversely, one out of every four Canadians reports being comfortable with this to one extent or another.

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

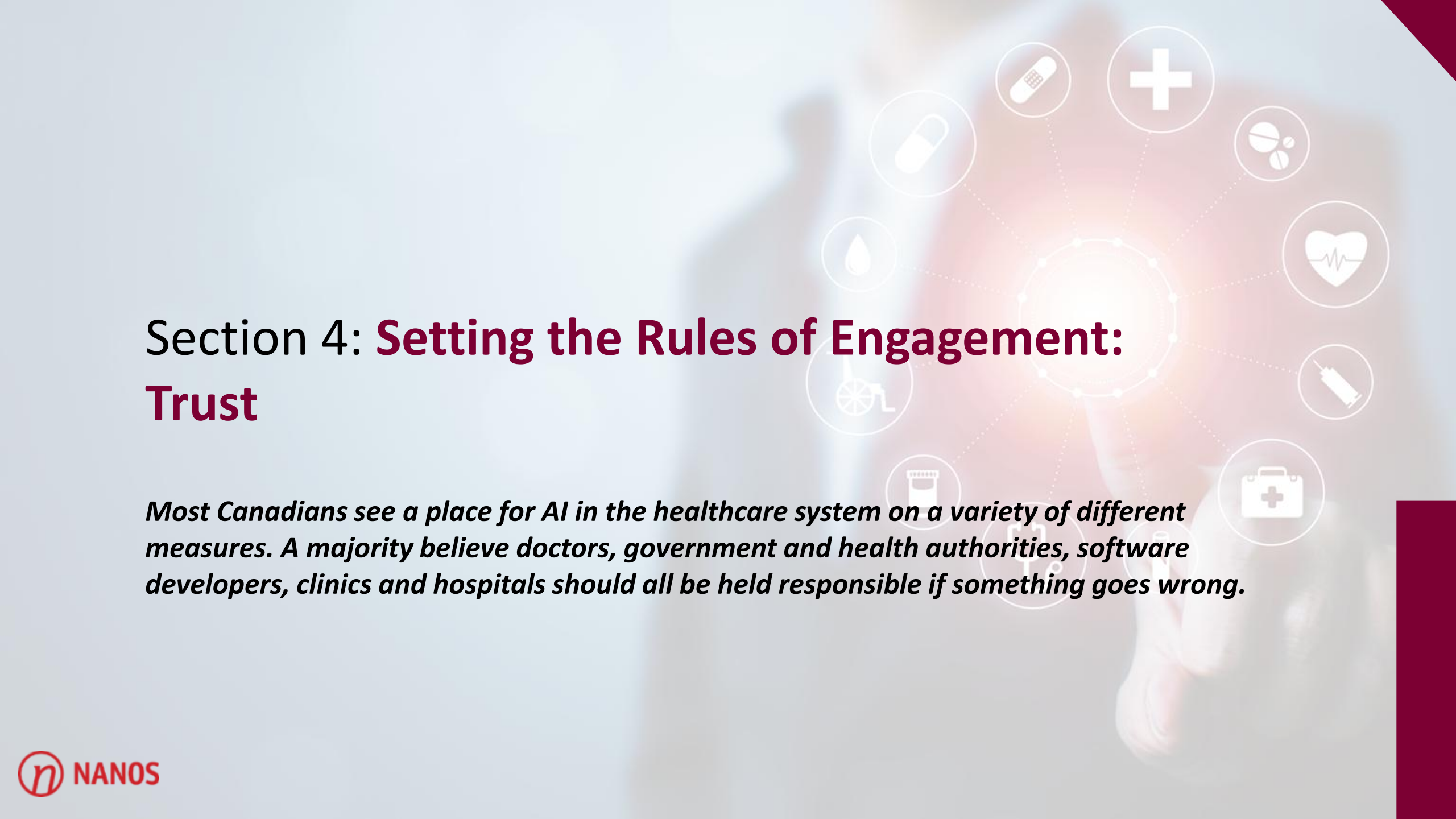
*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Level of comfort with the Canadian health system using AI tools based in the U.S. – by demographics

Q – Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with the Canadian health system using AI tools that are based in the United States?

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
Comfortable	8.8%	9.9%	7.8%	9.4%	7.6%	10.0%	12.6%	5.2%	9.5%	10.7%	6.9%
Somewhat comfortable	16.5%	12.4%	11.8%	18.9%	23.3%	10.6%	22.1%	11.1%	17.3%	19.3%	13.7%
Somewhat uncomfortable	24.3%	23.2%	27.3%	22.6%	24.6%	24.5%	22.4%	26.2%	21.7%	23.4%	26.8%
Uncomfortable	43.7%	49.3%	42.4%	43.9%	37.5%	50.4%	37.4%	49.7%	43.9%	40.9%	45.7%
Unsure	6.7%	5.2%	10.6%	5.3%	6.9%	4.5%	5.4%	7.9%	7.6%	5.8%	6.8%

While most Canadians across all subgroups report that they are uncomfortable to one extent or another with the Canadian health system using AI tools that are based in the United States, intensity of views is stronger for women than it is for men.

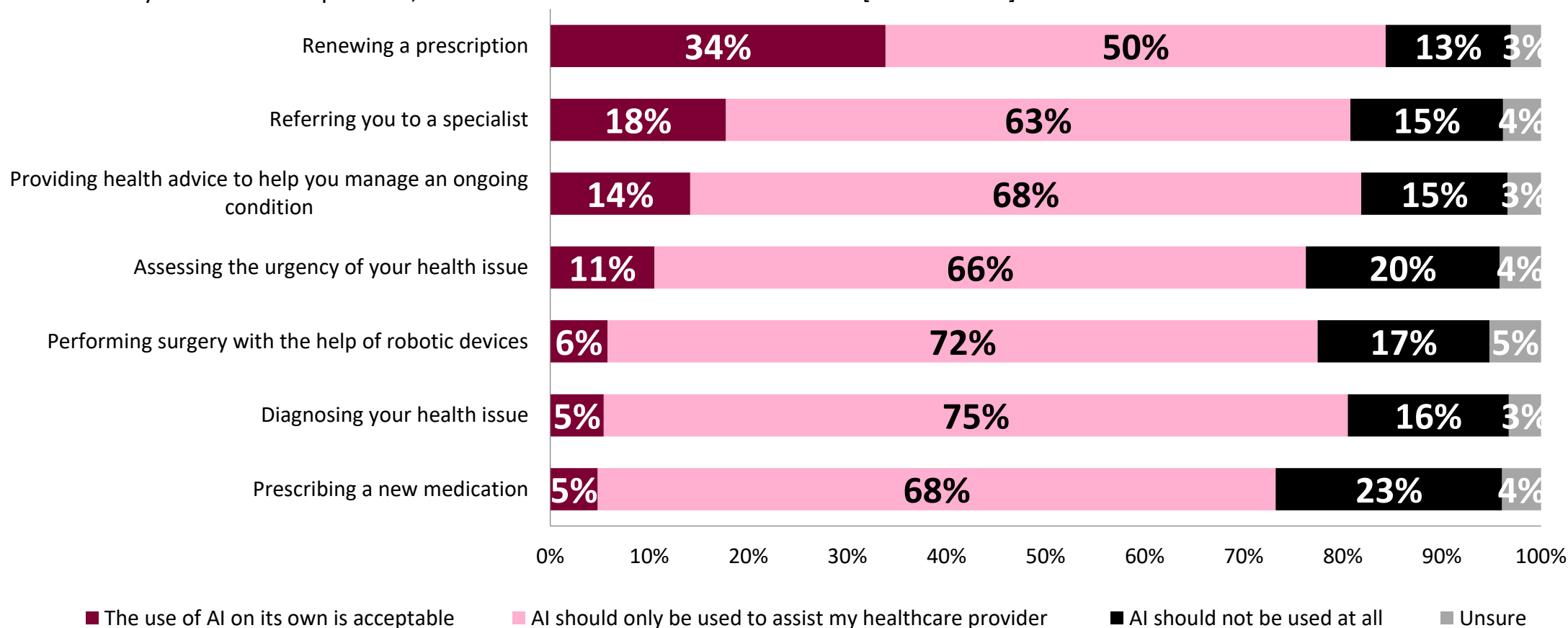
The background of the slide features a blurred image of a doctor's hands. Overlaid on this is a network of white medical icons connected by dotted lines to a central glowing point. The icons include a bandage, a plus sign, pills, a heart with an ECG line, a syringe, a first aid kit, a wheelchair, a water drop, and a pill bottle.

Section 4: **Setting the Rules of Engagement:** **Trust**

Most Canadians see a place for AI in the healthcare system on a variety of different measures. A majority believe doctors, government and health authorities, software developers, clinics and hospitals should all be held responsible if something goes wrong.

Canadians generally believe AI should only be used in an assistive capacity for a number of healthcare purposes

Q – For each of the following, please indicate whether you believe it is acceptable for AI to be used on its own, whether AI should only be used to assist your healthcare provider, or whether AI should not be used at all. [RANDOMIZE]



*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, August 30 to September 2, 2026, n=1037, accurate 3.1 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

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Over four out of every five Canadians say it is acceptable for AI tools to be used in some capacity for prescription renewals

Q – For each of the following, please indicate whether you believe it is acceptable for AI to be used on its own, whether AI should only be used to assist your healthcare provider, or whether AI should not be used at all. [RANDOMIZE] **Renewing a prescription**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
The use of AI on its own is acceptable	33.8%	32.3%	40.5%	31.9%	29.3%	34.9%	39.1%	28.8%	36.6%	34.3%	31.7%
AI should only be used to assist my healthcare provider	50.5%	49.2%	47.5%	52.0%	52.2%	49.6%	49.0%	51.9%	42.2%	52.4%	54.4%
AI should not be used at all	12.6%	14.6%	8.4%	14.3%	13.2%	13.3%	9.2%	15.9%	16.0%	10.9%	11.8%
Unsure	3.0%	4.0%	3.7%	1.8%	5.3%	2.2%	2.8%	3.3%	5.2%	2.4%	2.2%

Canadians aged 18 to 34 are slightly less likely than the national average to report that AI should only be used to assist healthcare providers when it comes to renewing a prescription. They remain more likely to hold this view than they are to believe it is acceptable for AI to be used on its own in this capacity.

Just over three in five Canadians see believe AI should only be used to assist their healthcare provider when being referred to a specialist – Another one in five say the use of AI on its own is acceptable for this

Q – For each of the following, please indicate whether you believe it is acceptable for AI to be used on its own, whether AI should only be used to assist your healthcare provider, or whether AI should not be used at all. [RANDOMIZE] **Referring you to a specialist**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
The use of AI on its own is acceptable	17.7%	23.9%	25.4%	14.6%	13.6%	15.7%	19.5%	16.0%	17.1%	21.4%	15.3%
AI should only be used to assist my healthcare provider	63.0%	54.4%	60.9%	65.9%	61.6%	64.5%	64.6%	61.5%	54.8%	61.5%	69.6%
AI should not be used at all	15.4%	20.1%	9.6%	16.4%	19.1%	15.4%	12.5%	18.2%	23.0%	13.9%	11.7%
Unsure	3.8%	1.6%	4.1%	3.0%	5.7%	4.4%	3.3%	4.3%	5.2%	3.2%	3.4%

While a majority of Canadians across all demographic groups believe that AI should only be used to assist their healthcare provider when they are being referred to a specialist, older Canadians are more likely than younger Canadians to hold this view. Though a minority opinion, Quebec residents are more likely than the national average to believe the use of AI on its own is acceptable for this purpose.

Canadians are five times more likely to see a role for AI in providing advice for managing an ongoing health issue than they are to believe it should not be used at all

Q – For each of the following, please indicate whether you believe it is acceptable for AI to be used on its own, whether AI should only be used to assist your healthcare provider, or whether AI should not be used at all. [RANDOMIZE] **Providing health advice to help you manage an ongoing condition**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
The use of AI on its own is acceptable	14.1%	14.2%	21.5%	12.5%	10.1%	11.3%	15.3%	13.0%	13.5%	15.5%	13.5%
AI should only be used to assist my healthcare provider	67.7%	62.8%	65.6%	68.8%	69.7%	68.1%	71.4%	64.2%	56.8%	68.7%	74.1%
AI should not be used at all	14.8%	21.0%	10.2%	15.3%	14.5%	18.3%	10.6%	18.8%	25.3%	12.4%	9.9%
Unsure	3.4%	1.9%	2.7%	3.3%	5.7%	2.4%	2.6%	4.1%	4.4%	3.5%	2.6%

Though it is a majority view among both subgroups, older Canadians are more likely than younger Canadians to say that AI should only be used to assist their healthcare provider when it comes to providing health advice to help manage an ongoing condition. Younger Canadians are comparatively more likely than the national average to say AI should not be used at all for this.

Two in three Canadians believe AI should only be used to assist healthcare providers in assessing the urgency of health issues

Q – For each of the following, please indicate whether you believe it is acceptable for AI to be used on its own, whether AI should only be used to assist your healthcare provider, or whether AI should not be used at all. [RANDOMIZE] **Assessing the urgency of your health issue**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
The use of AI on its own is acceptable	10.5%	11.5%	18.1%	8.2%	8.1%	6.9%	12.5%	8.6%	15.2%	11.0%	7.1%
AI should only be used to assist my healthcare provider	65.8%	67.5%	65.5%	68.6%	62.7%	61.2%	68.3%	63.4%	50.3%	66.2%	75.4%
AI should not be used at all	19.6%	17.3%	12.3%	19.2%	23.8%	28.6%	16.2%	22.8%	29.5%	18.7%	13.8%
Unsure	4.2%	3.8%	4.1%	4.0%	5.4%	3.3%	3.1%	5.2%	5.1%	4.1%	3.6%

Three out of every four Canadians aged 55 and over believe AI should only be used to assist healthcare providers when assessing the urgency of a health issue, compared to about one out of every two 18-to-34-year-olds who hold this view. Though a minority view, younger Canadians are more likely than older Canadians to report that AI should not be used at all in this instance. Both groups are about two times more likely to say AI shouldn't be used at all for this than they are to say it is acceptable for AI to be used on its own. Though also a minority view, residents of British Columbia are more likely than Canadians on average to say that AI should not be used at all to assess the urgency of a health issue.

Most Canadians believe that AI should only be used to assist their healthcare provider when performing surgery with the help of robotic devices

Q – For each of the following, please indicate whether you believe it is acceptable for AI to be used on its own, whether AI should only be used to assist your healthcare provider, or whether AI should not be used at all. [RANDOMIZE] **Performing surgery with the help of robotic devices**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
The use of AI on its own is acceptable	5.8%	9.0%	6.6%	4.7%	6.7%	4.6%	7.3%	4.4%	6.0%	4.3%	6.8%
AI should only be used to assist my healthcare provider	71.7%	63.5%	74.7%	73.0%	69.7%	69.3%	74.4%	69.0%	60.7%	73.9%	77.1%
AI should not be used at all	17.3%	22.6%	13.5%	18.7%	16.1%	18.7%	13.2%	21.3%	26.2%	16.8%	12.1%
Unsure	5.2%	4.9%	5.2%	3.5%	7.4%	7.4%	5.1%	5.3%	7.1%	5.0%	4.1%

While still a majority view, Canadians aged 18 to 34 are less likely than the national average to say that AI should only be used to assist their healthcare provider when performing surgery with the help of robotic devices. They are comparatively more likely than Canadians on average to report that AI should not be used at all in this instance.

Three in four Canadians believe AI should only be used to assist their healthcare provider when it comes to diagnosing a health issue

Q – For each of the following, please indicate whether you believe it is acceptable for AI to be used on its own, whether AI should only be used to assist your healthcare provider, or whether AI should not be used at all. [RANDOMIZE] **Diagnosing your health issue**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
The use of AI on its own is acceptable	5.4%	7.7%	10.3%	3.3%	3.3%	4.7%	6.8%	4.1%	5.4%	6.0%	5.0%
AI should only be used to assist my healthcare provider	75.1%	69.6%	71.6%	80.2%	71.0%	74.5%	78.1%	72.2%	63.4%	75.5%	82.4%
AI should not be used at all	16.2%	20.5%	14.5%	14.0%	20.3%	18.0%	12.2%	20.1%	26.4%	15.7%	10.0%
Unsure	3.3%	2.2%	3.5%	2.5%	5.4%	2.8%	2.8%	3.7%	4.8%	2.8%	2.6%

While still a majority view among both groups, older Canadians are more likely than younger Canadians to believe that AI should only be used to assist their healthcare provider in diagnosing their health issue. Younger Canadians are more likely than older Canadians to believe that AI should not be used at all for this. Of note, Canadians writ large are three times more likely to believe AI should not be used at all in diagnosing a health issue than they are to believe the use of AI on its own is acceptable for this.

Two in three Canadians believe AI should only be used to assist their healthcare provider when prescribing a new medication

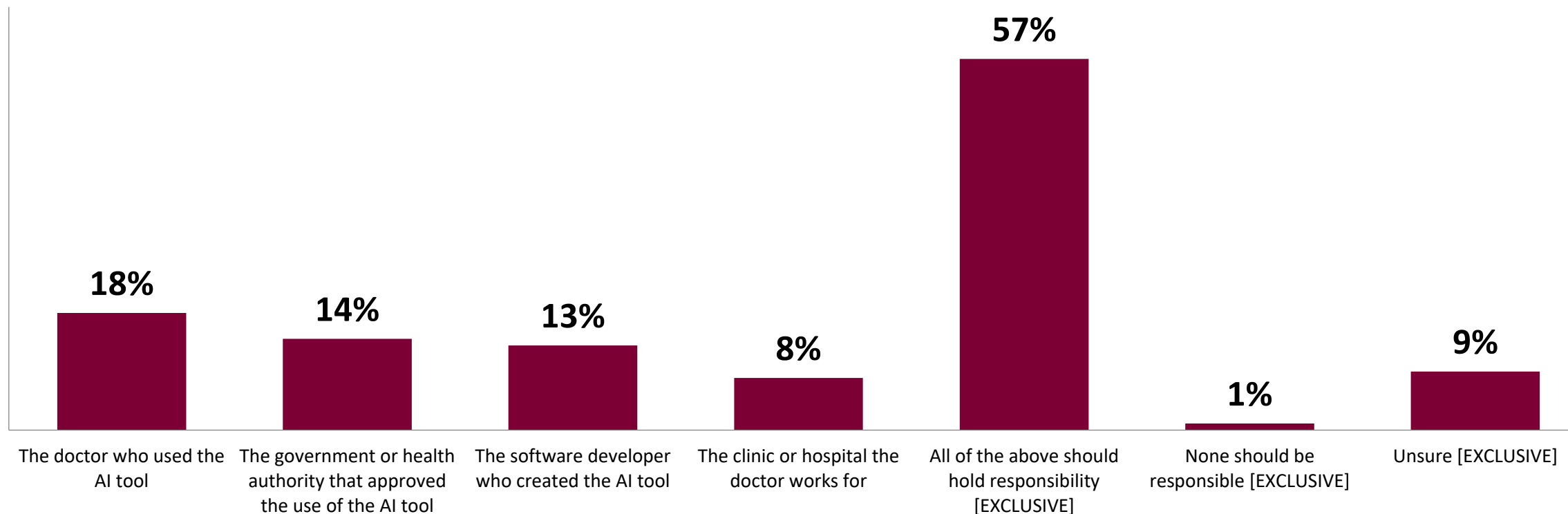
Q – For each of the following, please indicate whether you believe it is acceptable for AI to be used on its own, whether AI should only be used to assist your healthcare provider, or whether AI should not be used at all. [RANDOMIZE] **Prescribing a new medication**

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
The use of AI on its own is acceptable	4.8%	5.6%	6.9%	3.3%	6.2%	3.3%	6.5%	3.2%	7.1%	3.8%	4.1%
AI should only be used to assist my healthcare provider	68.4%	62.9%	70.3%	71.7%	61.3%	67.7%	71.7%	65.3%	55.2%	73.5%	73.1%
AI should not be used at all	22.8%	27.2%	18.8%	22.0%	25.3%	26.8%	18.2%	27.3%	33.1%	19.2%	19.1%
Unsure	3.9%	4.4%	4.0%	3.0%	7.1%	2.2%	3.6%	4.2%	4.6%	3.5%	3.8%

While still a majority opinion, Canadians aged 18 to 34 are less likely than the national average to say AI should only be used to assist their healthcare provider when it comes to prescribing a new medication. They are slightly more likely than Canadians on average to say that AI should not be used at all for this purpose.

Most Canadians believe all involved parties should be held responsible if an AI tool makes a mistake or misdiagnoses a patient

Q – Who should be held responsible if an AI tool makes a mistake or misdiagnoses a patient? [RANDOMIZE] [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]



*Multifrequency tabs based on multiple responses.

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, August 30 to September 2, 2026, n=1037, accurate 3.1 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Responsibility for an AI tool making a mistake or misdiagnosing a patient – by demographics

Q – Who should be held responsible if an AI tool makes a mistake or misdiagnoses a patient? [RANDOMIZE] [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
The doctor who used the AI tool	18.2%	10.4%	26.3%	17.3%	13.5%	17.1%	20.8%	15.7%	15.8%	19.3%	18.9%
The government or health authority that approved the use of the AI tool	13.7%	18.9%	14.6%	11.0%	13.9%	17.4%	15.7%	11.9%	9.8%	12.8%	17.1%
The software developer who created the AI tool	13.5%	14.4%	17.9%	9.9%	13.3%	15.7%	15.3%	11.7%	13.2%	12.0%	14.8%
The clinic or hospital the doctor works for	8.1%	5.1%	10.3%	7.8%	4.7%	11.2%	9.3%	7.0%	7.5%	7.5%	9.1%
All of the above should hold responsibility [EXCLUSIVE]	57.5%	61.8%	45.7%	63.6%	61.7%	52.8%	53.0%	61.8%	61.5%	59.3%	53.5%
None should be responsible [EXCLUSIVE]	0.7%	1.9%	-	0.8%	0.6%	1.0%	1.1%	0.3%	0.7%	1.0%	0.4%
Unsure [EXCLUSIVE]	9.3%	4.5%	9.7%	9.1%	10.8%	9.6%	8.6%	10.0%	9.0%	7.9%	10.6%

*Multifrequency tabs based on multiple responses.

Though still more likely to believe all tested parties should be responsible than they are to believe any party individually should be at fault, Quebec residents are less likely than Canadians on average to believe all involved should be held responsible if an AI tool makes a mistake or misdiagnoses a patient. They are slightly more likely than Canadians on average to single out the doctor who used the AI tool as a responsible party.

Profiling Question



Role in healthcare decision-making – by demographics

Q – Which of the following best describes your role in making decisions about your healthcare and the healthcare of your family or others?
[RANDOMIZE]

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1037)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=217)	Ontario (n=348)	Prairies (n=221)	British Columbia (n=151)	Men (n=536)	Women (n=501)	18 to 34 (n=209)	35 to 54 (n=348)	55 plus (n=480)
I make healthcare decisions only for myself	58.7%	54.9%	67.5%	52.5%	55.4%	67.7%	61.9%	55.7%	48.5%	51.7%	70.9%
I make healthcare decisions for myself and for others	37.7%	40.2%	25.9%	45.8%	41.4%	29.0%	34.3%	41.0%	48.8%	43.1%	26.3%
I make healthcare decisions for others	1.9%	3.7%	2.8%	0.8%	2.4%	2.0%	1.2%	2.6%	1.5%	3.0%	1.3%
I am not involved in making healthcare decisions	1.7%	1.2%	3.8%	0.9%	0.9%	1.2%	2.6%	0.8%	1.2%	2.2%	1.5%

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, August 30 to September 2, 2026, n=1037, accurate 3.1 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

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Element	Description	Element	Description
Research sponsor	Santis Health	Weighting of Data	The results were weighted by age and gender using the latest Census information (2021) and the sample is geographically stratified to ensure a distribution across all regions of Canada. See tables for full weighting disclosure
Population and Final Sample Size	1037 Randomly selected individuals.	Screening	Screening ensured potential respondents did not work in the market research industry, in the advertising industry, in the media or a political party prior to administering the survey to ensure the integrity of the data.
Source of Sample	Nanos Insights Lab	Excluded Demographics	Individuals younger than 18 years old; individuals without land or cell lines, and individuals without internet access could not participate.
Type of Sample	Probability	Stratification	By age and gender using the latest Census information (2021) and the sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Canada. Smaller areas such as Atlantic Canada were marginally oversampled to allow for a minimum regional sample.
Margin of Error	±3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.	Estimated Response Rate	11 percent, consistent with industry norms.
Mode of Survey	RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online omnibus survey	Question Order	Question order in the preceding report reflects the order in which they appeared in the original questionnaire.
Sampling Method Base	The sample included both land- and cell-lines RDD (Random Digit Dialed) across Canada.	Question Content	Topics on the omnibus ahead of the survey content included: views on political issues, views on economic issues, Conservative Party leadership, Canada-US trade, healthcare, streaming services, impressions of the Royal Canadian Navy, supply chain disruptions and labour disputes.
Demographics (Captured)	Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, British Columbia; Men and Women; 18 years and older; Role in healthcare decision-making. Six digit postal code was used to validate geography.	Question Wording	The questions in the preceding report are written exactly as they were asked to individuals.
Fieldwork/Validation	Individuals were recruited using live interviews with live supervision to validate work, the research questions were administered online	Research/Data Collection Supplier	Nanos Research
Number of Calls	Maximum of five call backs to those recruited.	Contact	Contact Nanos Research for more information or with any concerns or questions. http://www.nanos.co Telephone:(613) 234-4666 ext. 237 Email: info@nanosresearch.com.
Time of Calls	Individuals recruited were called between 12-5:30 pm and 6:30-9:30pm local time for the respondent.	Tabulations	<u>By region, age and gender</u> <u>By role in healthcare decision-making</u>
Field Dates	August 30 to September 2, 2026.		
Language of Survey	The survey was conducted in both English and French.		
Standards	Nanos Research is a member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC) and confirms that this research fully complies with all CRIC Standards including the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements. https://canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/standards/		



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Any questions?



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