

The Chapman University Survey of American Fears

Wave 11 (2025) and Wave 12 (2026) Compared



WAVE 11 2025	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	WAVE 12 2026	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	TOTAL DIFFERENCE
N/A	N/A	Accidents/Busy Intersection	25.3	N/A
Air Pollution	48.3	Air Pollution	39.9	-8.4
N/A	N/A	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Harming Personal Relationships	42.0	N/A
N/A	N/A	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hurting the Economy	51.9	N/A
N/A	N/A	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hurting the Environment	49.7	N/A
N/A	N/A	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Replacing People in the Workforce	43.2	N/A
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Replacing People in the Workforce	49.2	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Replacing People in the Workforce	42.0	-7.2
Becoming Seriously Ill	41.2	Becoming Seriously Ill	40.5	-0.7
Being Unemployed	44.6	Being Unemployed	25.7	-18.9
Biological Warfare	52.3	Biological Warfare	48.2	-4.1
Catching Influenza (the Seasonal Flu)	19.3	Catching Influenza (the Seasonal Flu)	18.2	-1.1
Climate Change Impacting Where I Live	41.5	Climate Change Impacting Where I Live	37.0	-4.5
Collapse of the Electric Grid	47.1	Collapse of the Electric Grid	45.5	-1.6

The Chapman University Survey of American Fears

Wave 11 (2025) and Wave 12 (2026) Compared



WAVE 11 2025	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	WAVE 12 2026	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	TOTAL DIFFERENCE
Corporate Tracking of Personal Data	50.7	Corporate Tracking of Personal Data	45.5	-5.7
Corrupt Government Officials	69.1	Corrupt Government Officials	61.1	-8.0
Credit Card Fraud	48.8	Credit Card Fraud	35.9	-12.9
N/A	N/A	Crime in Your City	20.6	N/A
N/A	N/A	Crime in Your Neighborhood	17.6	N/A
Cyber Terrorism	55.9	Cyber Terrorism	45.7	-10.2
Devastating Blizzard/ Winter Storm	28.0	Devastating Blizzard/ Winter Storm	27.0	-1.0
Devastating Drought	39.0	Devastating Drought	35.0	-4.0
Devastating Earthquake	33.0	Devastating Earthquake	29.2	-3.8
Devastating Flood	35.6	Devastating Flood	30.0	-5.6
Devastating Hurricane	34.1	Devastating Hurricane	28.9	-5.2
Devastating Tornado	38.5	Devastating Tornado	33.6	-4.9
Devastating Wildfire	40.5	Devastating Wildfire	33.5	-7.0
Dying	28.6	Dying	30.3	1.7
Economic/Financial Collapse	58.2	Economic/Financial Collapse	50.6	-7.6
Extinction of Plant and Animal Species	43.5	Extinction of Plant and Animal Species	37.2	-6.3
N/A	N/A	Falling/Tripping on Uneven Sidewalks	16.0	N/A

The Chapman University Survey of American Fears



Wave 11 (2025) and Wave 12 (2026) Compared

WAVE 11 2025	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	WAVE 12 2026	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	TOTAL DIFFERENCE
Flying	17.7	Flying	19.0	1.3
Global Warming and Climate Change	48.8	Global Warming and Climate Change	42.8	-6.0
Government Restrictions on Firearms and Ammunition	31.7	Government Restrictions on Firearms and Ammunition	26.7	-5.0
Government Tracking of Personal Data	52.7	Government Tracking of Personal Data	48.9	-3.8
Government Use of Drones Within the U.S.	31.2	Government Use of Drones Within the U.S.	34.2	3.0
N/A	N/A	Having Your Work Evaluated by Artificial Intelligence (AI)	19.3	N/A
Heights	34.3	Heights	31.1	-3.2
High Medical Bills	46.2	High Medical Bills	44.1	-2.1
Identity Theft	50.7	Identity Theft	39.1	-11.6
Illegal Immigration	28.2	Illegal Immigration	25.2	-3.0
Iran Using Nuclear Weapons	48.0	Iran Using Nuclear Weapons	42.4	-5.6
N/A	N/A	Losing My Health Insurance Coverage When I Need Medical Care	36.4	N/A
N/A	N/A	Mass Societal Unrest if We Discovered That Extra-terrestrials Are Real	18.8	N/A
Murder by a Stranger	33.5	Murder by a Stranger	30.5	-3.0

The Chapman University Survey of American Fears



Wave 11 (2025) and Wave 12 (2026) Compared

WAVE 11 2025	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	WAVE 12 2026	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	TOTAL DIFFERENCE
Murder by Someone You Know	25.0	Murder by Someone You Know	21.4	-3.6
Needles	18.6	Needles	15.6	-3.0
New Pandemic or a Major Epidemic	45.2	New Pandemic or a Major Epidemic	39.9	-5.3
North Korea Using Nuclear Weapons	49.8	North Korea Using Nuclear Weapons	40.3	-9.5
Not Being Able to Pay Off College Debt of Myself or a Family Member	43.1	Not Being Able to Pay Off College Debt of Myself or a Family Member	19.9	-23.2
Not Having Enough Money for the Future	52.4	Not Having Enough Money for the Future	45.9	-6.5
Not Having Enough Money to Pay My Rent or Mortgage	44.9	Not Having Enough Money to Pay My Rent or Mortgage	29.7	-15.2
Nuclear Accident/ Meltdown	43.4	Nuclear Accident/ Meltdown	41.7	-1.7
Oil Spills	38.4	Oil Spills	32.3	-6.1
People I Love Becoming Seriously Ill	58.9	People I Love Becoming Seriously Ill	51.8	-7.1
People I Love Dying	55.3	People I Love Dying	50.6	-4.7
Pollution of Drinking Water	54.5	Pollution of Drinking Water	46.5	-8.0
Pollution of Oceans, Rivers, and Lakes	53.5	Pollution of Oceans, Rivers, and Lakes	42.9	-10.6
Public Speaking	33.7	Public Speaking	28.9	-4.8

The Chapman University Survey of American Fears

Wave 11 (2025) and Wave 12 (2026) Compared



WAVE 11 2025	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	WAVE 12 2026	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	TOTAL DIFFERENCE
Racial/Hate Crime	31.3	Racial/Hate Crime	24.2	-7.1
Random/Mass Shooting	44.3	Random/Mass Shooting	39.4	-4.9
N/A	N/A	Reporting to an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Manager at Work	19.1	N/A
Russia Using Nuclear Weapons	53.7	Russia Using Nuclear Weapons	45.9	-7.8
Sexual Assault by a Stranger	31.2	Sexual Assault by a Stranger	27.1	-4.1
Sexual Assault by Someone You Know	22.4	Sexual Assault by Someone You Know	19.4	-3.0
Sharks	35.2	Sharks	28.4	-6.8
Small, Enclosed Spaces	25.4	Small, Enclosed Spaces	21.8	-3.6
Strangers	14.6	Strangers	15.0	0.4
N/A	N/A	Technological Change at Work	12.6	N/A
Technology That I Don't Understand	25.9	Technology That I Don't Understand	23.5	-2.4
Terrorism	42.0	Terrorism	41.1	-0.9
Terrorist Attack	49.9	Terrorist Attack	47.3	-2.6
Theft of Property	37.5	Theft of Property	29.0	-8.5
U.S. Becoming Involved in Another World War	55.3	U.S. Becoming Involved in Another World War	58.0	2.7

The Chapman University Survey of American Fears



Wave 11 (2025) and Wave 12 (2026) Compared

WAVE 11 2025	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	WAVE 12 2026	% AFRAID OR VERY AFRAID	TOTAL DIFFERENCE
N/A	N/A	U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) in My Community	33.7	N/A
Violent Overthrow of the U.S. Government	36.1	Violent Overthrow of the U.S. Government	33.4	-2.7
Walking Alone at Night	27.5	Walking Alone at Night	25.1	-2.4
Whites No Longer Being the Majority in the U.S.	13.0	Whites No Longer Being the Majority in the U.S.	14.4	1.4
Widespread Civil Unrest	45.3	Widespread Civil Unrest	44.6	-0.7
N/A	N/A	Working with Artificial Intelligence (AI)- enabled Technologies	17.2	N/A

Created by Henley Lab Research Fellows Will Basnight ('27) and Yasmine Hourie ('27)