

The Chapman University Survey of American Fears, Wave 12



The Complete List of Fears 2026

The following is a complete list of all fears addressed by the Chapman University Survey of American Fears Wave 12 (2026), ranked by the *percentage of Americans who reported being afraid or very afraid*. They have been sorted by percentage, from highest to lowest.

1. Corrupt Government Officials	61.1
2. U.S. Becoming Involved in Another World War	58.0
3. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Harming the Political Process	51.9
4. People I Love Becoming Seriously Ill	51.8
5. People I Love Dying	50.6
6. Economic/Financial Collapse	50.6
7. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hurting the Economy	49.7
8. Government Tracking of Personal Data	48.9
9. Biological Warfare	48.2
10. Terrorist Attack	47.3
11. Pollution of Drinking Water	46.5
12. Russia Using Nuclear Weapons	45.9
13. Not Having Enough Money for the Future	45.9
14. Cyber-Terrorism	45.7
15. Corporate Tracking of Personal Data	45.5
16. Collapse of the Electrical Grid	45.5
17. Widespread Civil Unrest	44.6
18. High Medical Bills	44.1
19. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hurting the Environment	43.2
20. Pollution of Oceans, Rivers, and Lakes	42.9
21. Global Warming and Climate Change	42.8
22. Iran Using Nuclear Weapons	42.4
23. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Replacing People in the Workforce	42.0
24. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Harming Personal Relationships	42.0
25. Nuclear Accident/Meltdown	41.7
26. Terrorism	41.1

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27. Becoming Seriously Ill	40.5
28. North Korea Using Nuclear Weapons	40.3
29. New Pandemic or a Major Epidemic	39.9
30. Air Pollution	39.9
31. Random/Mass Shooting	39.4
32. Identity Theft	39.1
33. Extinction of Plant and Animal Species	37.2
34. Climate Change Impacting Where I Live	37.0
35. Losing My Health Insurance Coverage When I Need Medical Care	36.4
34. Credit Card Fraud	35.9
35. Devastating Drought	35.0
36. Government Use of Drones Within the U.S.	34.2
37. U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) in My Community	33.7
38. Devastating Tornado	33.6
39. Devastating Wildfire	33.5
40. Violent Overthrow of the U.S. Government	33.4
41. Oil Spills	32.3
42. Heights	31.1
43. Murder by a Stranger	30.5
44. Dying	30.3
45. Devastating Flood	30.0
46. Not Having Enough Money to Pay My Rent or Mortgage	29.7
47. Devastating Earthquake	29.2
48. Theft of Property	29.0
49. Public Speaking	28.9
50. Devastating Hurricane	28.9
51. Sharks	28.4
52. Sexual Assault by a Stranger	27.1

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53. Devastating Blizzard/Winter Storm	27.0
54. Government Restrictions on Firearms and Ammunition	26.7
55. Being Unemployed	25.7
56. Accidents/Busy Intersection	25.3
57. Illegal Immigration	25.2
58. Walking Alone at Night	25.1
59. Racial/Hate Crime	24.2
60. Technology That I Don't Understand	23.5
61. Small, Enclosed Spaces	21.8
62. Murder by Someone You Know	21.4
63. Crime in Your City	20.6
64. Not Being Able to Pay Off College Debt of Myself or a Family Member	19.9
65. Sexual Assault by Someone You Know	19.4
66. Having Your Work Evaluated by Artificial Intelligence (AI)	19.3
67. Reporting to an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Manager at Work	19.1
68. Flying	19.0
69. Mass Societal Unrest if We Discovered That Extra-terrestrials Are Real	18.8
70. Catching Influenza (the Seasonal Flu)	18.2
71. Crime in Your Neighborhood	17.9
72. Working with Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled Technologies	17.2
73. Falling/Tripping on Uneven Sidewalks	16.0
74. Needles	15.6
75. Strangers	15.0
76. Whites No Longer Being the Majority in the U.S.	14.4
78. Technological Change at Work	12.6

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