

About the Pulse Poll

The Colorado Health Foundation believes in listening first, and that's why we've created an annual poll to hear the perspectives of adults from across the state. From affordable housing and food access to mental health and child care, our poll takes the pulse of Coloradans on a range of important health issues this year and every year – to inform policy far into the future.

Learn more about
The Colorado Health
Foundation's Pulse Poll:



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Poll Snapshot: Colorado's Most Pressing Challenges

For the better part of a decade, the Colorado Health Foundation's Pulse Poll has demonstrated that rising costs and lack of affordability are Coloradans' top concerns. The data show that the high cost of living is forcing residents to make difficult tradeoffs, delay health and dental care, reduce spending and reconsider whether they can afford to remain in the state long term. At the same time, many Coloradans are expressing deep frustration with the government's ability to address these challenges and a growing desire for leadership that can restore confidence, deliver results and improve the quality of life.

- 85%+ of Coloradans rate cost of living and housing as serious problems, once again putting those issues at the top of their concerns.
- Cost of living has been rated a top concern by ~85–90% of respondents since 2022, showing sustained intensity.

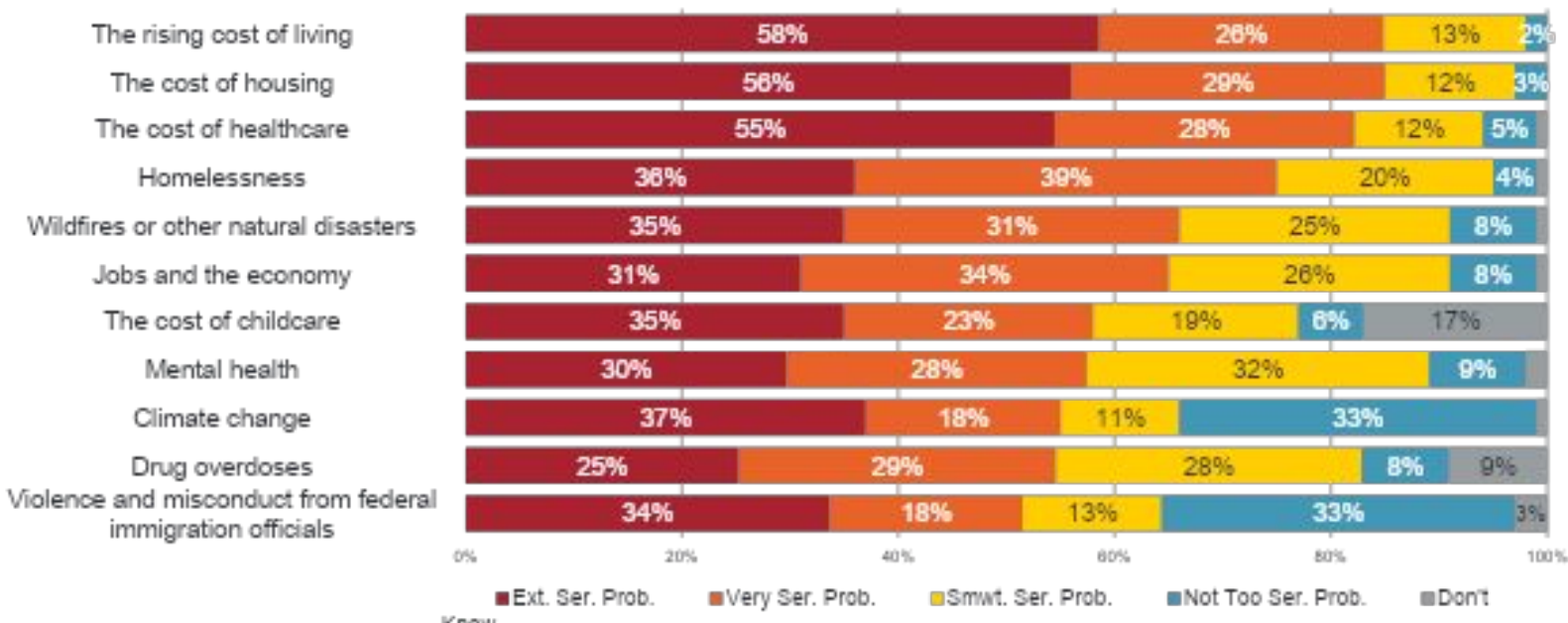
Coloradans' concerns about the government are rising just as quickly. For the second year in a row, in an open-ended question, respondents identified government and politics as the top issue facing the state. In an open-ended question about top concerns, the government/politics held its #1 position in 2026 (28%), edging out the cost of living (25%) for the second straight year.

"What we're hearing in year seven of our Pulse Poll, even at the higher end of the income spectrum, is that **Coloradans are under continuous, long-term financial pressure with a growing level of frustration toward government and politics.** Affordability issues create a level of daily anxiety and stress that are becoming the norm."

-Katie Peshek

Pulse Poll Snapshot: Colorado's Challenges

More than four in five say the cost of living, housing, and healthcare are very serious problems.



“The fact that three-in-five Coloradans have experienced a serious financial challenge in the last year – an eight point increase from one year ago – is the more ominous portent that frustration could turn to real anger. **Coloradans are most dissatisfied with how government responds to these economic concerns** – fully 72% are dissatisfied which is the highest of any responsibility we tested.”

-Lori Weigel, New Bridge Strategy

Coloradans express dissatisfaction with the state government's performance across a series of potential goals.

Goals of state government	% Dissatisfied
Making Colorado a safe & welcoming place	44%
Supporting the health & well being of all Coloradans	56%
Providing transparency to the public in how state government operates	62%
Ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly & effectively	68%
Responding to the economic concerns of Coloradans	72%

Dive deeper & customize the poll results at www.copulsepoll.org