

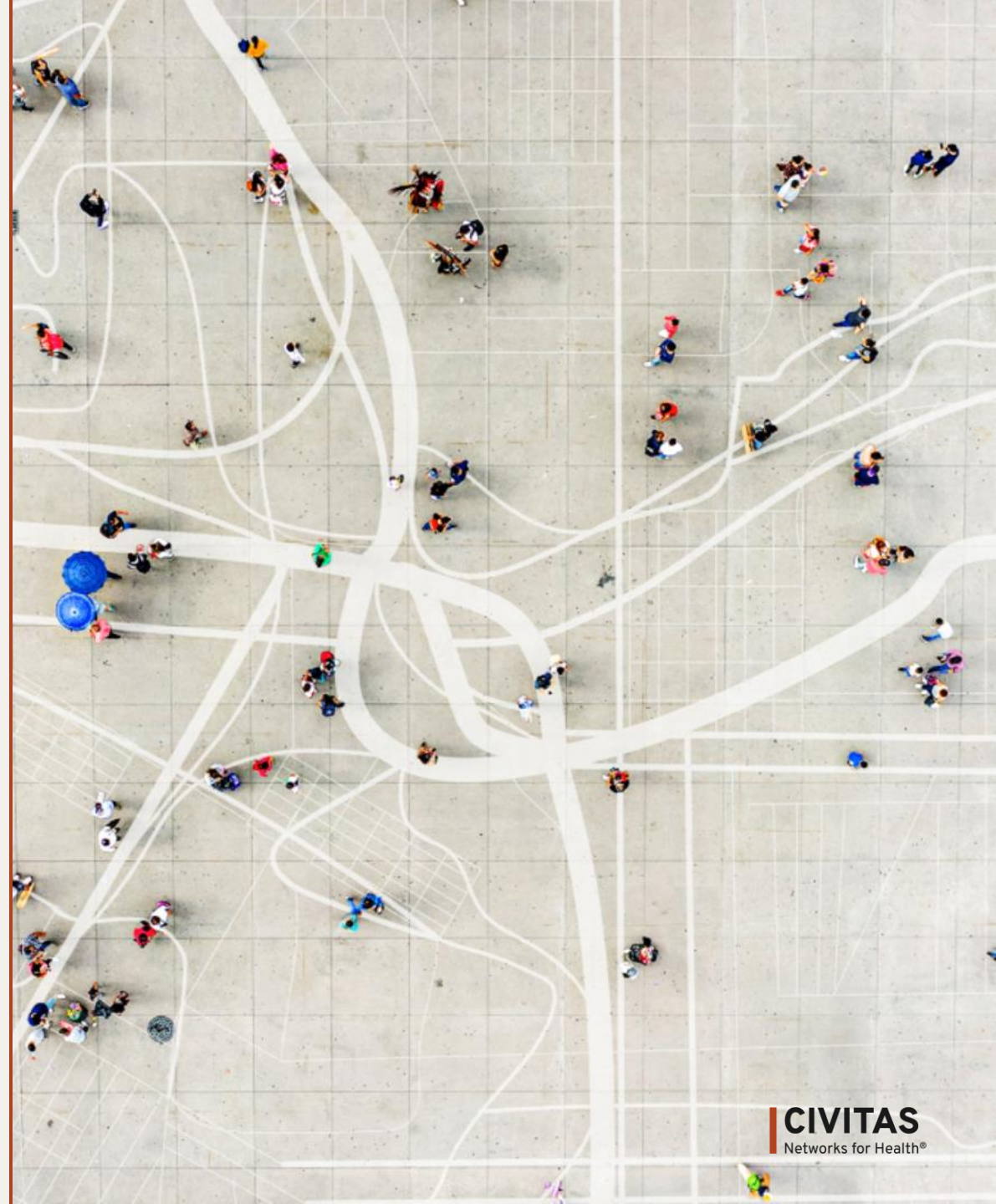
Network News

August 2026



Housekeeping Reminders

- This is a webinar where all participants are automatically muted and your video is not displayed.
- If you would like to ask a question, please use the Q&A function on the right-side taskbar.
- This webinar is being recorded, and the recording will be shared after today's event.
- For questions following the webinar, please reach out to contact@civitasforhealth.org.



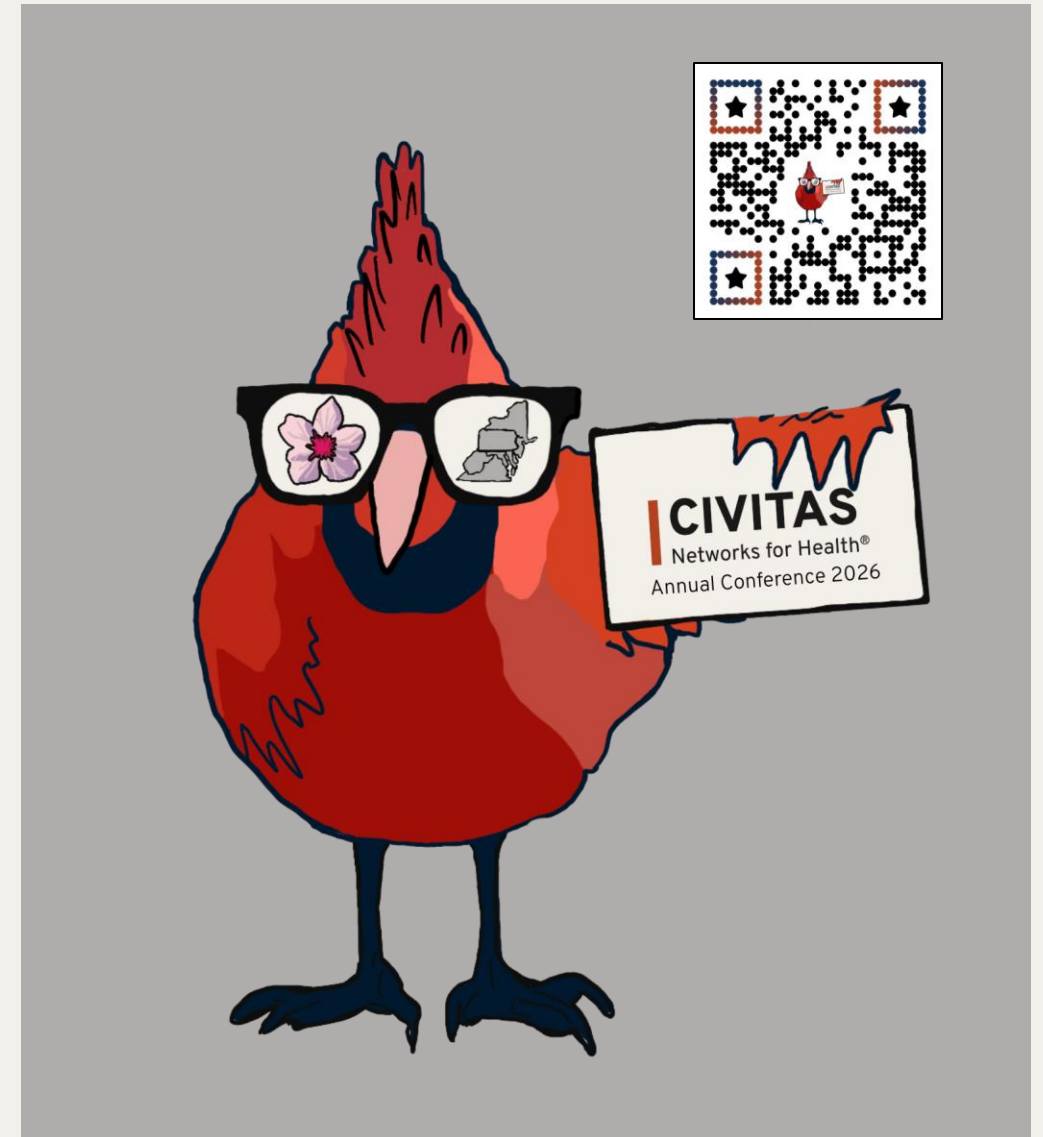
Agenda

- Welcome & Civitas Updates
 - Jolie Ritzo, CEO, Civitas
 - Jessica Little, Chief Operating and Programs Officer, Civitas
 - Demri Henderson, Grants and Programs Manager, Civitas
 - Karen Ostrowski, Director, Health Policy and Partnerships, Civitas
- Civitas 2026 Platinum Sponsor: InterSystems Presentation
 - Greg James, Senior Advisor, Public Sector Health & Human Services, InterSystems
- DirectTrust: Introducing the New AI Accreditation Program
 - Lesley Berkeyheiser, Senior Assessor, DirectTrust
- West Health: American Health Care Affordability Findings 2026
 - Amy Herr, Senior Director, Health Policy, West Health
 - Ellyn Maese, Senior Research Consultant, Gallup

Join Us at the Civitas 2026 Annual Conference!

Join 750+ leaders from across the health data and improvement ecosystem. Hosted in collaboration with our Mid-Atlantic Host Committee, just minutes from Washington, D.C. in Arlington, VA.

- [Registration is open](#) – secure your spot today!
- Plan early and save with [discounted hotel and flight options](#).
- [Get your Civitas merchandise](#) before the conference – 100% of proceeds go to Doorways for Women and Families Virginia.
- Interested in sponsoring? We still have a select few opportunities available for you to get in front of a national audience shaping interoperability, data exchange, and health transformation. Review the [Sponsorship Prospectus](#) and email contact@civitasforhealth.org if you're interested in learning more.



Submit a Community Excellence Award Nomination by August 31

The Civitas 2026 Community Excellence Awards recognize outstanding Civitas member organizations and individuals advancing community health through innovation, leadership, and partnership. These awards highlight impactful contributions in areas such as data use, quality improvement, governance, and mentorship. Please browse this year's award categories below and submit a Civitas member organization or one of your peers that you think exemplifies the award description.

Thank you in advance for helping us recognize the amazing organizations across our networks!

[Learn more](#) and [submit a nomination](#) by August 31 to be considered.



Register to Attend the Remaining Virtual Preconference Sessions (Open to the Public!)

Join us for virtual preconference sessions designed to deepen learning and spark meaningful discussion ahead of the Civitas Annual Conference. Register to attend:

- **September 10, 3-4:30 p.m. ET** – [From Data to Impact: Using APCD Analytics to Shape Policy and Improve Population Health](#)
- **September 16, 2-3:30 p.m. ET** – [Co-Designing Trusted CIEs: Privacy, Coordination, and Data Systems for Whole Person Health](#)

Thank you to our returning virtual preconference sponsor, J2 Interactive!



Conference Keynotes to Look Forward To

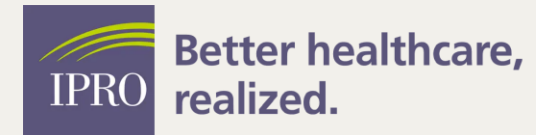
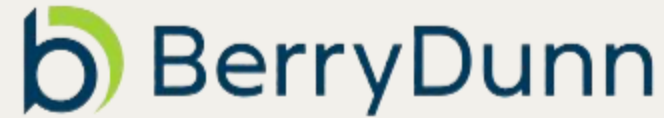
- **Tuesday, September 22** – *Bridging Federal and State Policy with Local Implementation for Transformation*, featuring Dr. Ayanna Bennett (DC Department of Health), Dr. B. Cameron Webb (Virginia Department of Health), and Dr. Joseph Kanter (Association for State and Territorial Health Officials; Panel Moderator)
- **Wednesday, September 23** – *Real World Considerations for Deploying AI in High-Stakes Environments*, a fireside chat hosted by Civitas CEO Jolie Ritzo with Dr. S. Craig Watkins (IC² Institute at the University of Texas at Austin).
- **Thursday, September 24** –
 - *Putting Patients at the Heart of Health Care and Health Technology*, featuring Anthony Polizzi (Chief Patient Experience & Innovation Officer, CMS), Regina Holliday (Resident, Art Teacher, Artist, Muralist, Patient Rights Arts Advocate, & Founder, Walking Gallery & the Medical Advocacy Mural Project), Sarah DeSilvey (Terminology Director, Gravity Project), and Jessica Little (Chief Operating and Programs Officer, Civitas; Moderator)
 - As part of our *Public Policy Briefing*, sponsored and hosted in partnership with Troutman Strategies, Dr. Tom Keane (National Coordinator for Health IT) will join Craig Behm (President & CEO of CRISP - Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients and Chair of the Civitas Government Relations and Advocacy Committee (GRAC)), for a fireside chat focused on the federal health IT landscape and the future of interoperability, health data exchange, and digital health infrastructure.



Thank You to Our Civitas 2026 Annual Conference Upgrade Sponsors



...And Thank You to Our Civitas 2026 Annual Conference Silver & Host Committee Sponsors



Membership Dues Increase in 2027

- Civitas adopted the existing SHIEC dues structure upon inception in 2021 and has not increased dues since then
- Over the past five years, Civitas has expanded and strengthened member benefits in many ways, to name a few:
 - The annual conference has doubled in size and highlights hundreds of member, partner programs, and overall success
 - We have significantly expanded the amount and type of member workgroups, events, and promotions via blogs and social media, and have built a much more robust website with specific resources and information articulating the value that Civitas members bring to health improvement (growing followers on social and our reach through distribution lists)
 - We have expanded advocacy efforts by hosting 2 DC Fly-Ins, hosting our 3rd on May 20th, and have coordinated over 80 Fly-In meetings with Civitas members and their federal partners to date. We have secured legislative language for HDU in appropriations, become known to HHS agency leaders, and have a strong presence in DC while also offering quarterly Public Policy Briefings and sending regular government relations updates via email.

Membership Dues Increase Structure in the Year Ahead

- Civitas will be implementing an incremental dues increase beginning with an approximately 5% increase in 2027 to right-size dues aligned with benefits and to support long-term sustainability of the organization.
- Civitas will also be adding a membership tier to align the revenue range across all tiers. The current tier 3 is a wide revenue range of \$10-50M. The plan is to create an additional tier so the new tier 3 and 4 each have a range of \$20M (details on the next slide).
- The membership dues increase and revenue tier addition have been reviewed and approved by Civitas' Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee and by the full Board of Directors.

Membership Dues Increase Structure for 2027

	Full/Affiliate		SB&T	
Additional Tier consideration	Current	5% increase*	Current	5% increase
Tier 1 <\$5M	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 8,000
Tier 2 \$5M - \$10M	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,750	\$ 12,500	\$ 13,500
Tier 3 \$10M - \$30M	\$ 16,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 19,000
Tier 4 \$30M-\$50M	\$ 22,000	\$ 23,500	\$ 27,500	\$ 29,000
Tier 5 > \$50M	\$ N/A	\$ 28,000	\$ N/A	\$ 32,500

Upcoming Events

- **August 20, 2-3 p.m. ET** – [Realizing the Promise of RHTP: Transforming Infrastructure into Sustainable Rural Care, Hosted by Elimu and BerryDunn](#)
- **August 25, 1-2 p.m. ET** – [Lessons from Accountable Health Communities Model Participants: Preparing for Future Innovation](#)
- **August 27, 2-3 p.m. ET** – [Using an Integration AI Agent to Optimize Data Feeds: Practical Lessons for Modern HIEs, Hosted by Rhapsody](#)
- **September 1, 5-6 p.m. ET** – [Comagine Health Webinar: Don't Chase Shiny Objects: Five Fundamentals to Succeed in Value-Based Payment](#)
- **September 2, 3-4 p.m. ET** – [Who Is the Patient, Who Is the Provider? Trusted Identity for Health Care Transformation, Hosted by Verato](#)
- **September 16-17, San Diego, CA** – [California Quality Collaborative: BHI Health Care Leadership Summit](#)
- **September 22-24, Arlington, VA** – [Civitas 2026 Annual Conference](#)
- **September 24-25, Washington D.C.** – [AcademyHealth: 2026 Health Datapalooza](#)
- **October 4-7, Atlanta, GA** – [NCQA Health Innovation Summit 2026](#)
- **October 7, Wisconsin Dells, WI** – [WISHIN Annual Summit](#)
- **October 14, New York, NY** – [Healthix 4th Annual Conference](#)
- **October 14-16, Oakland, CA** – [Putting Care at the Center 2026](#)
- **October 20-21, Kansas City, MO** – [DirectTrust 2026 Annual Conference](#)
- **October 21, 1-2 p.m. ET** – [October Network News](#)

Member News

- [VITL Partnered with Outcome Healthcare to Strengthen State Health Data Network](#)
- [ASTHO Released a U.S. Disease Tracker](#)
- [WISHIN Released WISHIN 2.0, a Next Generation Solution for Secure, Real-Time Clinical Info Sharing](#)
- [Virginia Health Information Launched Distance to Delivery, Examining Geographic Access to Maternity Care](#)
- [EMI Advisors, Patient Centric Solutions, LACIE, Velatura, and Tiger Institute Worked Together to Implement an HL7 eLTSS FHIR IG Statewide in Missouri](#)
- [DirectTrust Launched Its New AI Accreditation Program \(Which We Will Hear About Today!\)](#)
- [Comagine Health Published a Blog on Medicaid Community Engagement and Supporting Maintained Access](#)
- [West Virginia Health Information Network Saw an 82.6% Increase in Launches of InContext Clinical Information in FY26](#)
- [Two Civitas Members – SacValley Medshare and KONZA Health – Nominated to TEFCA's Governing Council](#)

Member News

- [LANES Partnered Locally to Reduce Homelessness Related ED Visits for Behavioral Health Needs by 70%](#)
- [DirectTrust Announced a New Chapter for Its Members](#)
- [Delaware Health Information Network Partnered with State Agencies to Support RHTP Initiatives \(Insurance Verification and Prior Authorization\)](#)
- [Verato Published a Case Study on Trusted Provider Intelligence](#)
- [West Health Worked with Gallup to Publish 2026 Health Care Affordability Research \(Which We Will Hear About Today!\)](#)
- [North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority Released Its Inaugural Annual Report](#)
- [CareQuest Institute for Oral Health Published a Report on Dental Tourism](#)
- [Cotiviti Published a Case Study on Improving Risk Capture with Advanced Pre-Visit Prep](#)
- [Centauri Health Solutions' MedAllies Achieves CMS Aligned Network General Availability as Consumer Access Volume Surges 124% and Document Retrievals Increase Eightfold](#)

Program Updates

Demographic Data Element Modernization (DEMo) Initiative

- The [DEMo Initiative](#) is a multi-phased collaborative effort between Civitas, AHIP, and HL7 to modernize demographic data content and standards. The effort has been sponsored by HL7's Cross Group Projects Workgroup and the final content is being guided through the HL7 standards development process. An [updated Phase 1 Report](#) was recently published to include results from cognitive testing.

Patient Centered Data Home (PCDH)

- The PCDH Governance Council is working to build a dashboard that shows up-to-date data on the volume of transactions that move through the network and what this means for patients, providers, and other key stakeholders. This dashboard will be launched at the Civitas Conference.

Supporting Implementation of Gravity Standards Across New York State

- Civitas is continuing to provide technical assistance in the implementation of Gravity standards to NYeC through March 31, 2027, as part of the 1115 NYHER Waiver.
- **Join us at the Annual Conference!** Attend the "Building Connected Social Care Data Infrastructure: Lessons from New York's 1115 Waiver and Emerging Standards for Eligibility, Navigation, and Longitudinal Insights" session on September 22 and the Gravity Project breakfast on September 24.

If you are interested in learning more about Civitas programs or are interested in partnering with Civitas, please reach out to Madelynn Valu at mvalu@civitasforhealth.org

Advocacy and Policy Updates

- Federal agency / admin updates
 - NIH: Dr. Kristen Honey named inaugural Chief Partnerships Officer
 - CDC: Dr. Erica Schwartz confirmed by Senate as CDC Director
- Regulatory updates:
 - Medicare fee schedules released
 - Medicaid 1115 Waiver Fast-Track Rescission - eliminated expedited review process for all 1115 renewals, all demonstrations face full standard review + budget neutrality certification (SMD #26-003)
 - Senate Finance Committee RFI on health insurance market – seeks broad input on private insurance reform focused on coverage and affordability, simplifying and expanding coverage options, and transparency and reporting
 - Civitas is planning to submit a response - APCDs, quality-related activities, reducing costs through innovation
- 2027 Advocacy Agenda in Development

InterSystems –
a creative data
technology company
with a passion for
excellence and
client success



InterSystems Healthcare Footprint Highlights



> **1B**

Health records are managed globally

600+

Hospitals use InterSystems EHRs

3/5

Largest US health insurers

> **150M**

People in US Health Information Exchanges

> **400B**

Healthcare messages a year in the US alone

> **49.7M**

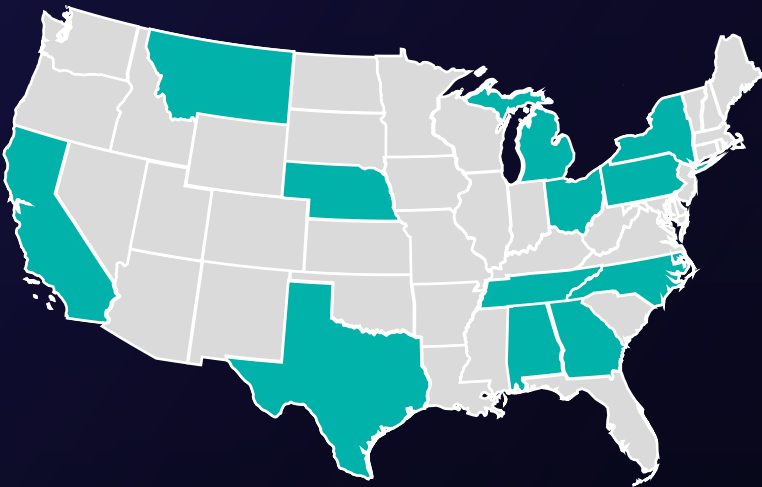
Community care referrals for US veterans

HIEs Powered by InterSystems Technology



HIE	Unique Lives
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Alabama: Alabama One Health Record	6M
California: Manifest MedEx	38M
Georgia: Georgia Health Information Network	6M
Michigan: Michigan Health Information Network	13M
Montana: Big Sky Care Connect	1M
Nebraska: CyncHealth	5M
New York: HEALTHeLINK	2M
New York: Healthix	21M
New York: Hixny	5M
North Carolina: North Carolina HealthConnex	25M
Ohio: CliniSync	10M
Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Patient & Provider Network	13M
Tennessee: Tennessee Health Information Exchange	3M
Texas: HealthConnect Texas	23M



> 150M
Individuals Covered

Health Information Exchanges

U.S. State, Regional, and National Networks **powered** by InterSystems



InterSystems Regional Health Connections



AI Infused



Civitas Conference

**Platinum Reception
Tuesday, September 22**

InterSystems booth 110





AI Implementation: Practical Lessons Learned

2026

Presented by Lesley Berkeyheiser
Senior Director of Accreditation Strategy Development



What We Learned by Looking Under the Hood

Today

1. Who DirectTrust is
2. How the AI Accreditation Program works
3. What beta candidates taught us
4. Steps you can take now

DirectTrust's Four Focus Areas

As a non-profit, we're committed to establishing trust in a connected world through four areas:



Membership

Gathering health and cybersecurity constituents in community to develop policy and best practices, share knowledge, and advance industry efforts



Standards

Developing conformity practices for disparate organizations to trust, communicate, and exchange with each other



Accreditation

Verifying and certifying conformance with established policies and criteria governed by EHNAC (Electronic Healthcare Network Accreditation Commission)



Trust Services

Supporting industry through HITRUST assessment, trust frameworks, promoting identity proofing/credentials, network facilitation, Directory services, certificate issuance



DirectTrust® Enabled Transactions

We are **proven** interoperability!

Q1 2026

**588+ Million
Direct
Messages**

Cumulative 2014-2026

**8.54 Billion
Direct
Messages**

Promote Trust, Security & Manage Risk

Program Overview

- *Developed using NIST AI Risk Management Framework.
- *Supports organizations in establishing policies for AI risks, bias, and compliance.
- *Offers foundational and comprehensive levels, with future standards integration.

Key Components

Governance: Policies for AI use.

Management: Oversight of AI deployment.

Mapping: Documentation of AI factors.

Measurement: Monitoring effectiveness and risk mitigation.



**DirectTrust® Artificial Intelligence
Accreditation Program**

Benefits and Audience

Demonstrates trustworthiness and proactive compliance.

Suitable for health data handlers.

Provides industry-standard roadmaps and ongoing updates.

Analyze AI risk management framework usage

Draft policies for AI governance and management

The Beta Turned Governance into Evidence

AI Accreditation Program

1. DirectTrust advances trust in health information exchange.
2. Built on the voluntary, use-case-agnostic NIST AI RMF.
3. Candidates documented how AI is governed—not just what it can do.



GOVERN • MAP • MEASURE • MANAGE

Govern is cross-cutting; the other functions apply risk management to specific AI systems and lifecycle stages.

Lesson 1: AI Is an Enterprise Initiative

Governance before deployment

1. The strongest programs brought the right voices together early.

- Executive leadership
- Clinical
- Legal
- Privacy
- Security
- HR
- Operations



Lesson 2: Discovery Changes the Conversation

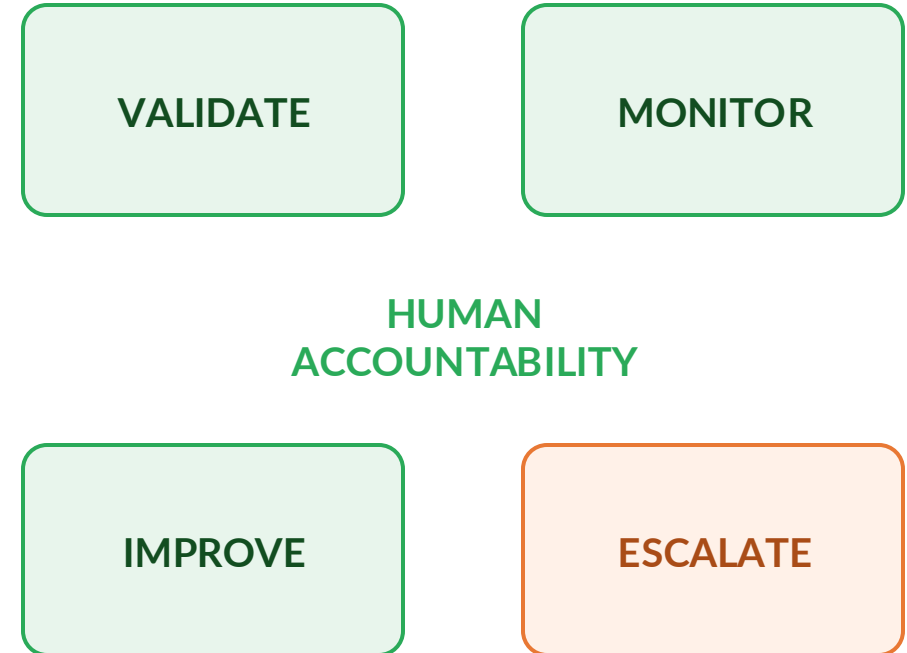


1. Look beyond the approved application list.
2. AI can enter through browsers, workforce tools, vendors and embedded software.

Lesson 3: Oversight Starts at Go-Live

Continuous, human-accountable monitoring

1. AI should augment—not replace—human judgment.
2. Define owners, thresholds, escalation and rollback before performance drifts.



Lesson 4: AI Creates Two New Governance Fronts

Information + third parties

1. AI-generated information needs classification, retention and destruction rules.
2. Vendor AI needs contract language, attestations and ongoing review.

INFORMATION

Classification
Retention
Destruction

THIRD PARTIES

BAAs / MSAs
Attestations
Monitoring

Steps You Can Take Now

Start practical

1. The goal is not paperwork. It is visibility, accountability and the ability to intervene.

1

**Find real use
cases**

2

**Build the
inventory**

3

**Name the
owners**

4

**Set oversight
triggers**

5

**Tighten vendor
terms**

Responsible AI is a governance practice—not a deployment milestone.

Trust Is Built Before—and After—Go-Live



Lesley Berkeyheiser

Senior Director of Accreditation Strategy Development, CCSFP, Senior Assessor

Lesley.Berkeyheiser@DirectTrust.org

[Connect with us on LinkedIn](#)

[DOWNLOAD the AI Criteria for FREE:](#)

GO TO
<https://forms.zohopublic.com/directtrust1/form/CurrentCriteriaRequest/formperma/G1ildYA8lYELZpYplateNZnJO3uSsgGIBt0Bju8sk3Q>



west health | GALLUP®
**Center on
Healthcare**

U.S. Adults' Ability to Afford Healthcare at a Five-Year Low

Gallup News — Healthcare Affordability Index | Collected Oct.–Dec. 2025,
Gallup Panel





Cost and Affordability Findings

Healthcare Affordability Index, 2021–2025

West Health – Gallup Team



West Health

Amy Herr, MHS, PMP

Senior Director, Health Policy



Gallup

Ellyn Maese, PhD

Senior Research Consultant

About the Research

A continuing measure of healthcare affordability in America

About the Index

- West Health and Gallup developed the Healthcare Affordability Index in 2021, through the West Health-Gallup Center on Healthcare in America.
- The Index categorizes U.S. adults as Cost Secure, Cost Insecure, or Cost Desperate based on self-reported ability to pay for needed care and medicine.

Methodology

- Oct. 27–Dec. 22, 2025 study by the West Health-Gallup Center on Healthcare in America.
- Nationally representative sample of 5,660 U.S. adults age 18+, via the Gallup Panel (web and mail).
- Trend comparisons draw on parallel surveys fielded annually since 2021.

What is the Affordability Index ?



Fewer Than Half of Americans Can Now Afford Healthcare

For the first time since measurement began in 2021, less than half of U.S. adults are classified as “Cost Secure.”

49%

of U.S. adults are “Cost Secure” in 2025

51%

are Cost Insecure or Cost Desperate

-7 pts

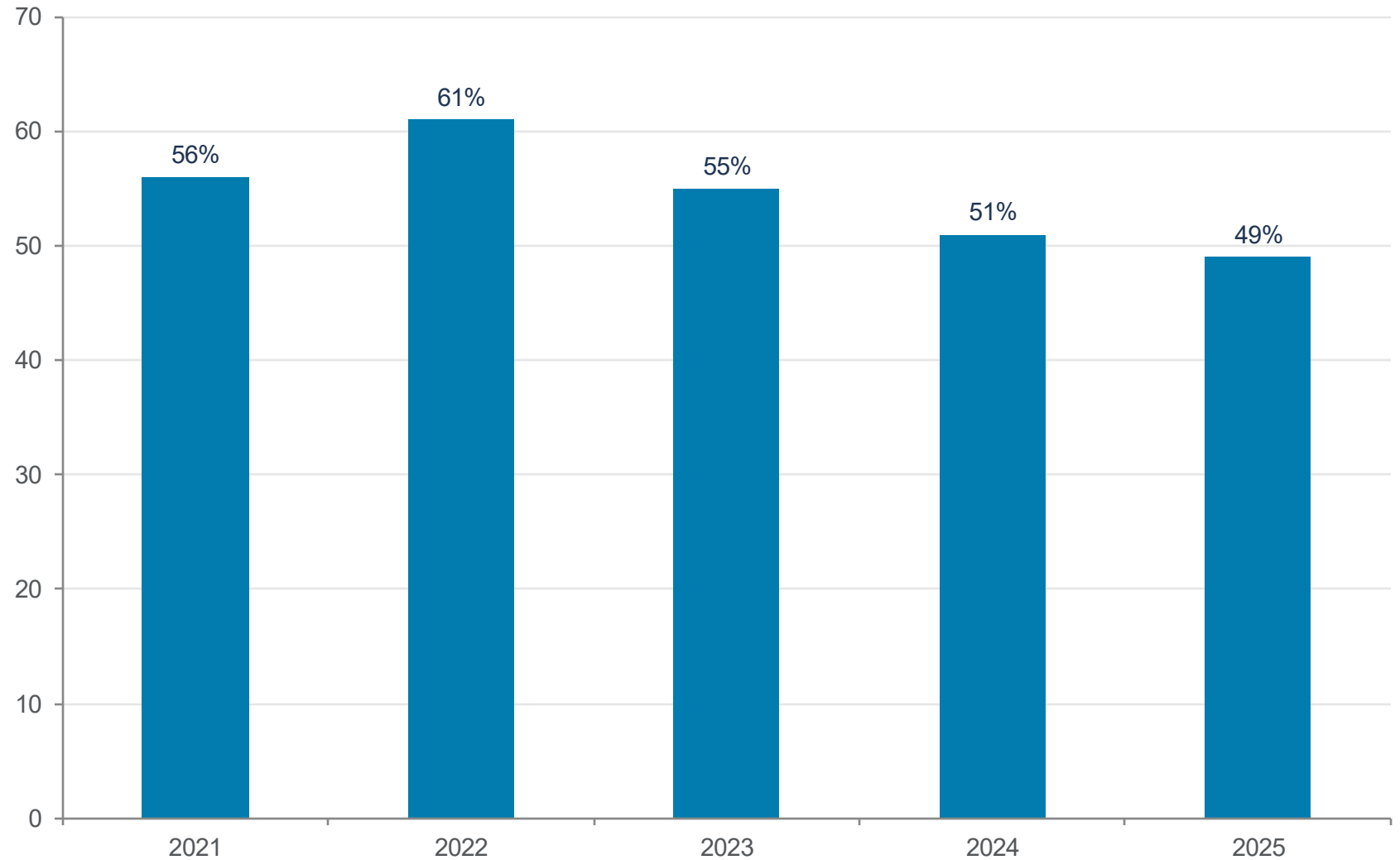
decline in Cost Secure share since 2021 (56% → 49%)

2.8M

more Americans became Cost Insecure, 2024–2025

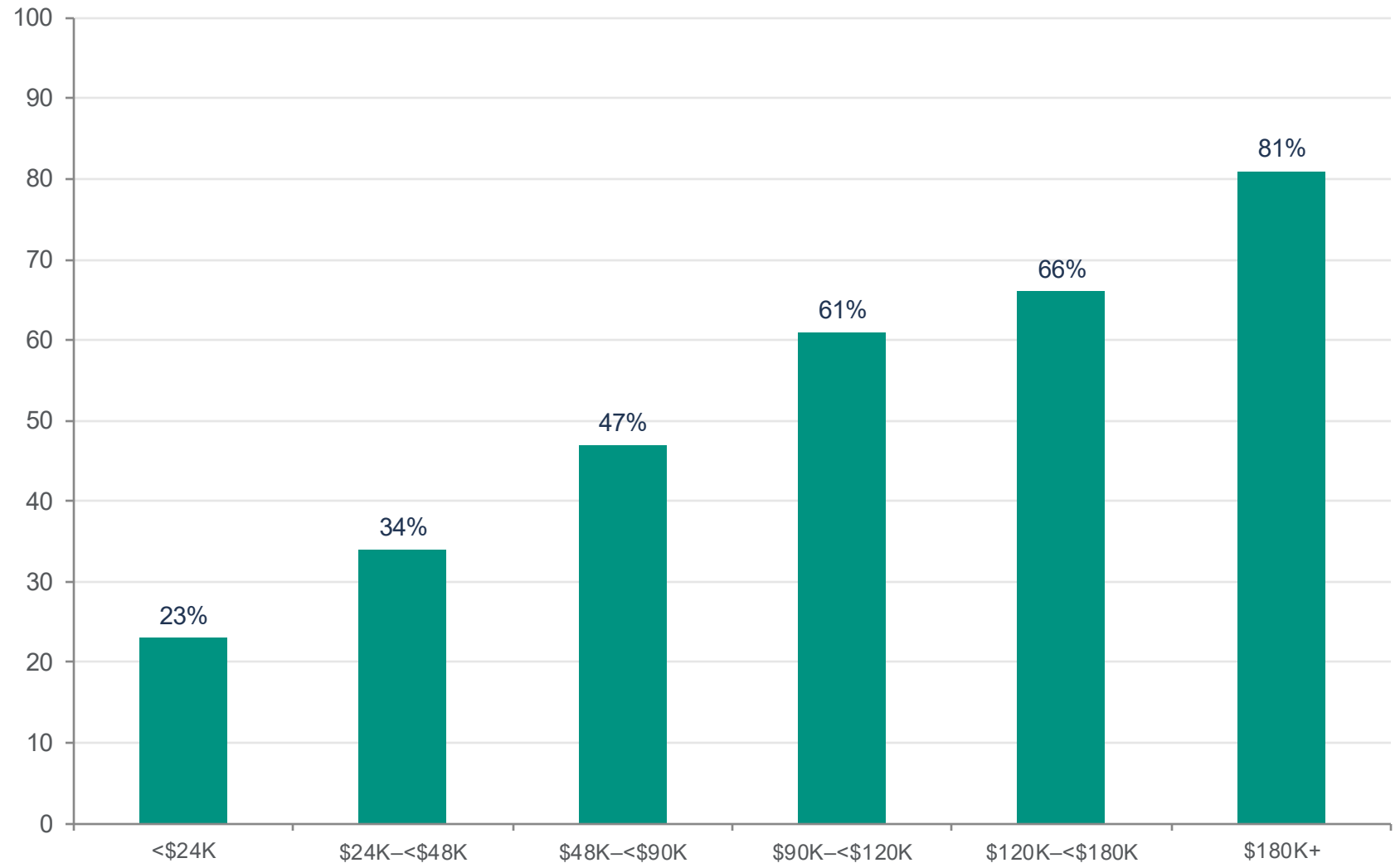
Healthcare Affordability Has Fallen to a Five-Year Low

- **Cost security has declined meaningfully since 2021.** The share of U.S. adults who are Cost Secure fell from 56% in 2021 to 49% in 2025 — the first time it has dropped below half.
- **The decline follows a 2022 peak.** Cost security peaked at 61% in 2022 before falling in each subsequent year, including a 2-point drop between 2024 and 2025 alone.
- **These findings predate ACA subsidy changes.** The 2025 data reflect conditions prior to the expiration of enhanced ACA subsidies, suggesting further pressure may be ahead.



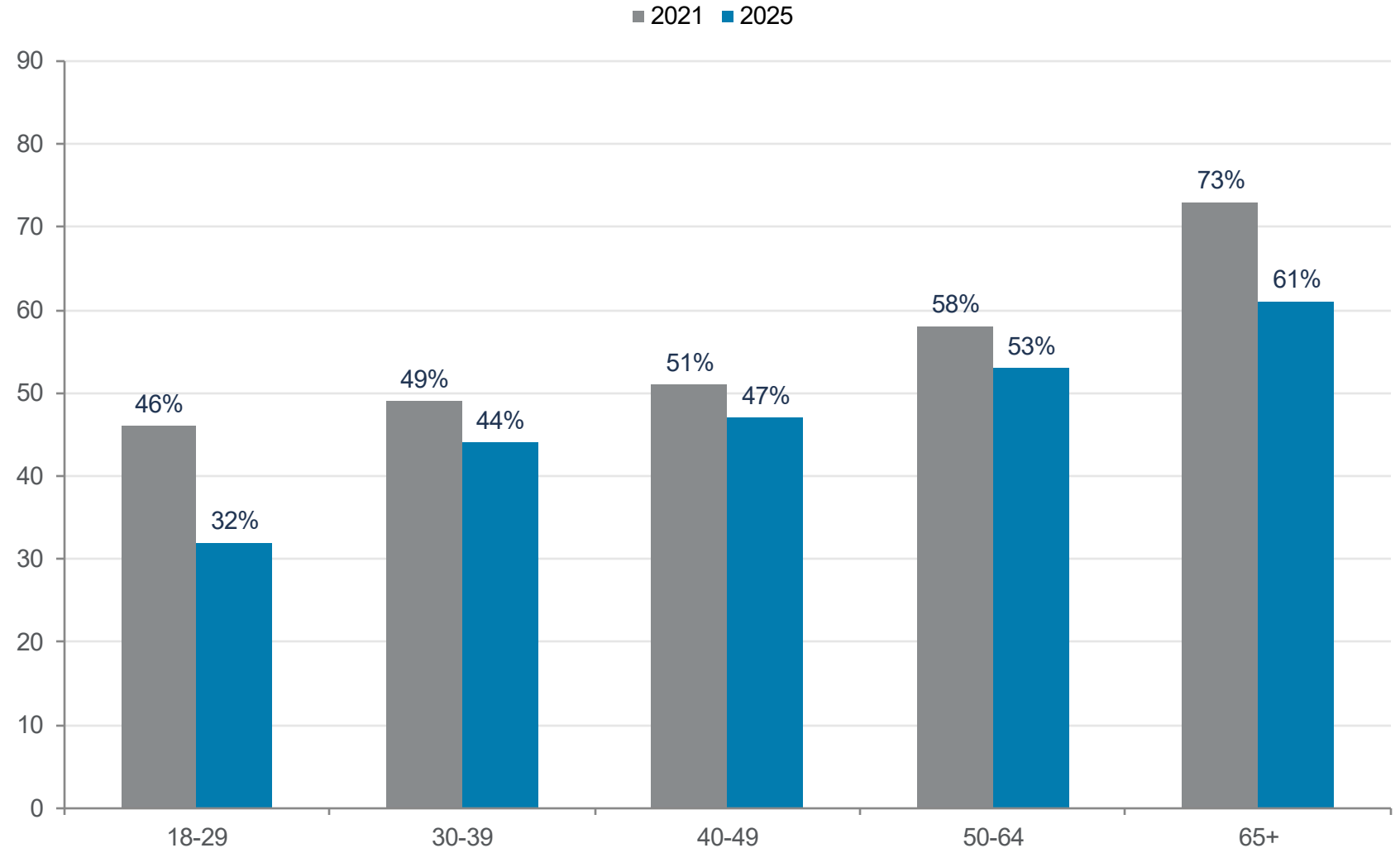
Affordability Rises With Income — but Gaps Persist Even at the Top

- **Cost security scales with household income.** Just 23% of households earning under \$24,000 are Cost Secure, compared with 81% of those earning \$180,000 or more.
- **Even higher earners aren't fully immune.** About a third of households earning \$120,000–\$179,999 are not Cost Secure, nor are roughly one in five earning \$180,000+.
- **Middle-income strain is growing.** The share of middle- and upper-middle-income households that are not Cost Secure increased from 2024 to 2025.



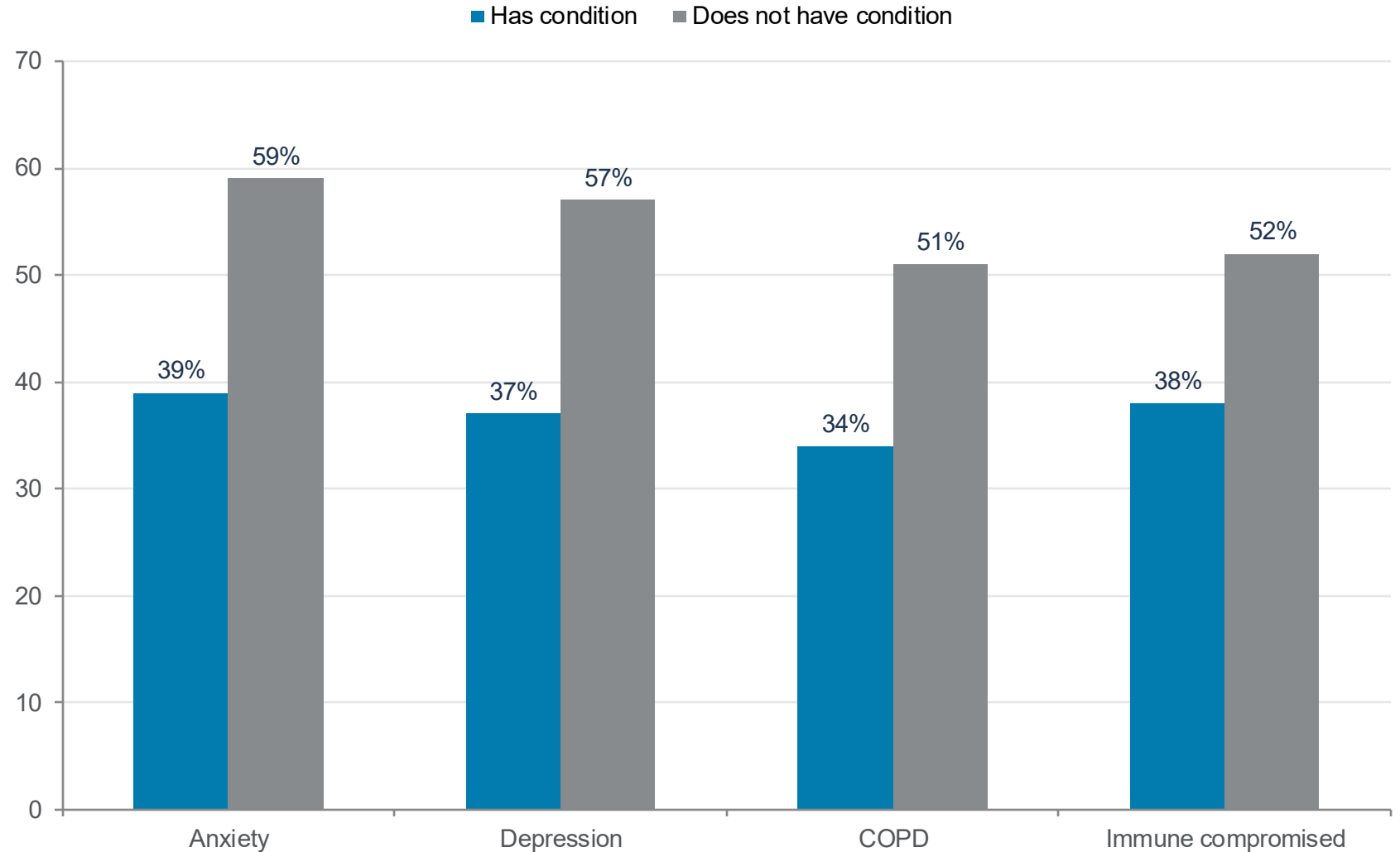
Younger and Older Adults Show the Sharpest Declines

- **18- to 29-year-olds fell furthest.** Cost security for this group dropped from 46% in 2021 to 32% in 2025 — a 7-point decline in the last year alone.
- **Older adults are not immune despite Medicare.** Adults 65+ remain the most likely to be Cost Secure, but their share fell from 73% in 2021 to 61% in 2025, including an 8-point drop since 2024.
- **Middle-aged adults have held up somewhat better.** Adults 40–64 saw smaller declines over the same period, though all age groups moved in the same direction.



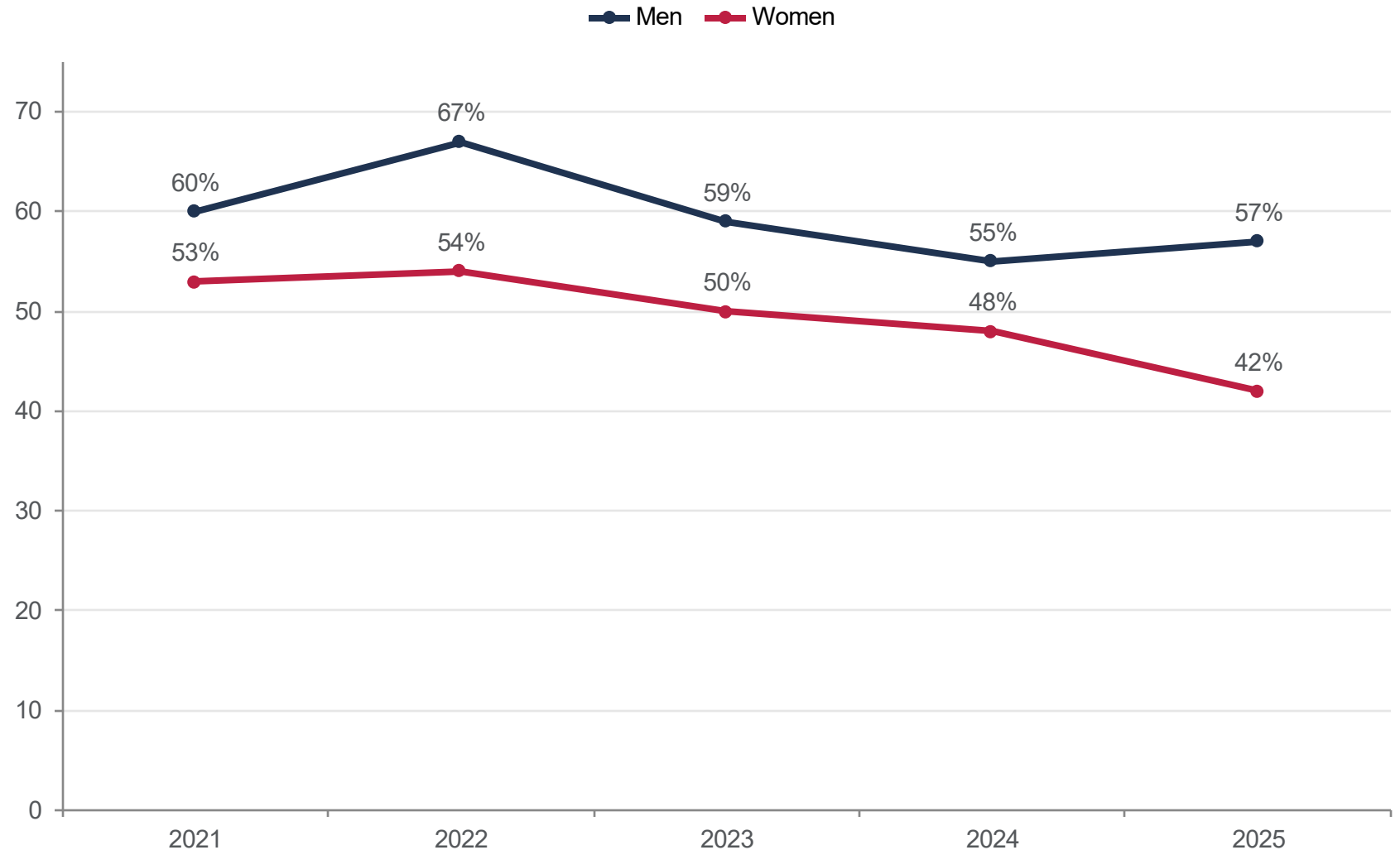
Chronic and Mental Health Conditions Widen Affordability Gaps

- **Conditions with high care demands show the widest gaps.** Only 34% of adults with COPD and 38% with a compromised immune system are Cost Secure, reflecting the cost of intensive, ongoing care.
- **Mental health conditions carry similar burdens.** Just 39% of adults with anxiety and 37% with depression are Cost Secure — meaning more than 6 in 10 struggle to afford care.
- **The gap holds even after controlling for demographics.** Age, gender, race/ethnicity, and income don't fully explain it: people with chronic conditions are still more likely to struggle affording care.



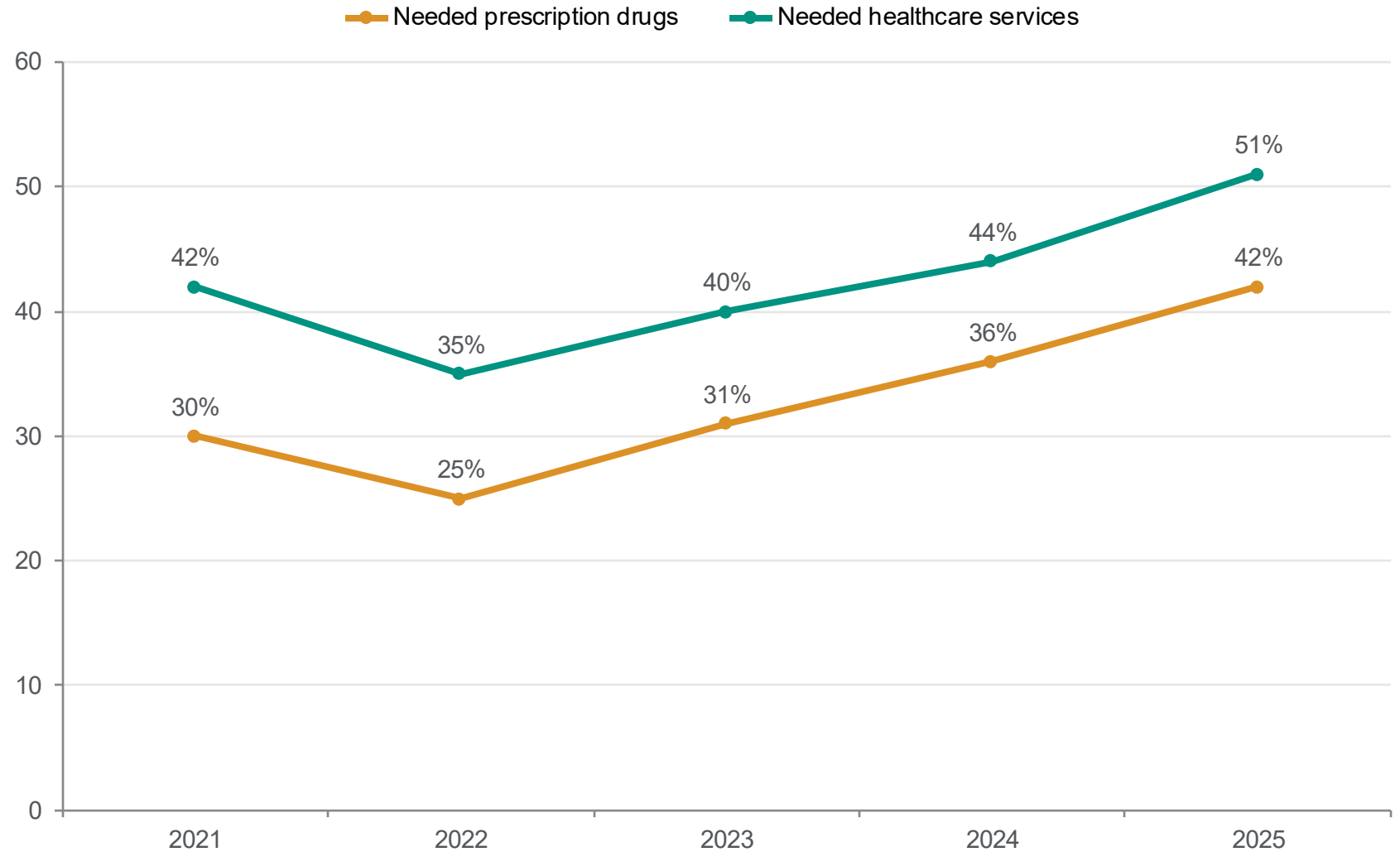
The Gender Gap in Healthcare Affordability Is the Widest on Record

- **Women have trailed men on cost security since tracking began.** The gap averaged about 9 points from 2021–2024, then widened sharply to 15 points in 2025 — the largest gap recorded to date.
- **The decline for women has accelerated.** Cost security among women fell from 48% to 42% between 2024 and 2025 alone, the steepest single-year drop of the period.
- **Men's cost security has also declined, but less sharply.** Men fell from 60% in 2021 to 57% in 2025, a comparatively smaller and less consistent decline.



Concern About Affording Care in the Year Ahead Hits a New High

- **Worry about prescription drug costs has climbed steadily.** Concern about affording needed prescription drugs rose from 30% in 2021 to 42% in 2025.
- **Concern about healthcare services has followed a similar path.** Worry about paying for needed healthcare services rose from 42% to 51% over the same period.
- **Both measures are now at their highest point since tracking began.** The rise suggests a broad and increasing sense of financial strain tied to healthcare costs heading into 2026.



% who say they are "concerned" or "extremely concerned" about affording each in the next 12 months.

Implications

- For the first time since tracking began in 2021, fewer than half of Americans can consistently afford the care they need.
- Healthcare costs continue to outpace inflation and wage growth: national health spending reached \$5.3 trillion (\$15,474 per person) in 2024, up 7.2% — more than double the rate of inflation.
- Younger adults face the sharpest declines, likely reflecting less stable incomes, coverage, and savings; even Medicare-eligible adults 65+ have seen cost security erode.
- Women and people managing chronic or mental health conditions have experienced some of the steepest drops in affordability, widening long-standing gaps.

Bottom line: Declining cost security and rising concern about future affordability point to healthcare costs as one of the most significant financial pressures facing Americans in 2026 — risking delayed care, worse outcomes, and greater medical debt if left unaddressed.

Stay in Touch with Civitas



Scan for Civitas Resources

www.civitasforhealth.org