

Sample 2000 US adults
 Conducted August 31 - September 08, 2026
 Margin of Error ±2.5%

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Equal AI: September 2026 US Gen Pop Survey (Toplines)

1. How often do you personally use AI tools — such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Claude, or Meta AI where you type or speak a request and receive a generated response?

Multiple times a day	21%
About once a day	10%
A few times a week	18%
About once a week	5%
A few times a month	8%
Less often than that	11%
Never	23%
Not sure	4%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	2,000

2. Where have you learned most of what you know about AI?

News media	10%
Social media	25%
Work or school	4%
Friends and family	9%
Using AI tools myself	29%
I have taken a professional course or studied AI in a formal learning environment	1%
I don't feel I know much about AI	19%
Something else	2%
Totals	99%
Unweighted N	2,000

3. Which of the following, if any, would make you more confident that an AI system is trustworthy?

	Would increase my confidence a lot	Would increase my confidence somewhat	Would not increase my confidence
More Confidence in AI as trustworthy – The AI system was certified or audited by an independent third party	19%	41%	40%
More Confidence in AI as trustworthy – The company publicly explained how the AI system was tested	16%	39%	45%
More Confidence in AI as trustworthy – A government agency reviewed the AI system before it was released	12%	33%	55%
More Confidence in AI as trustworthy – Independent scientists or researchers evaluated the AI system positively	22%	41%	36%
More Confidence in AI as trustworthy – You had a positive experience using the AI system yourself	26%	45%	29%

More Confidence in AI as trustworthy – Someone you trust recommended the AI system	17%	47%	35%
More Confidence in AI as trustworthy – News coverage reported positively on the AI system	10%	34%	56%

4. How comfortable would you be with a company using an AI system that involves you, your data, or a service you use?

Comfortable, as long as the right safeguards are in place	33%
Uncomfortable no matter what safeguards are in place	46%
Not sure	21%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	2,000

5. If a company used an AI system that involved you, your data, or a service you use, how important would each of the following be to you?

	Essential	Important but not essential	Nice to have	Not necessary
If AI used by company – A specific person at the company is accountable for how the AI is used	46%	26%	17%	11%
If AI used by company – The company tells you what personal information the AI used about you	64%	15%	12%	8%
If AI used by company – You can correct information the AI has about you that is wrong	68%	13%	12%	7%
If AI used by company – An independent organization has tested the AI for fairness	49%	23%	18%	10%
If AI used by company – You can challenge or appeal a decision the AI made about you	65%	15%	12%	8%

6. Does your workplace have an AI use policy in place for all employees?

Yes	14%
No	27%
Not Sure	15%
Not Applicable	44%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	2,000

7. Has your employer offered formal training, written guidelines or education on how to use AI tools at work?

Yes, extensive training, guidelines or education	4%
Yes, some training, guidelines or education	14%
No, no training, guidelines or education	26%
Not Sure	5%
Not Applicable	50%
Totals	99%
Unweighted N	2,000

8. If you have received training from your employer on how to use AI, how do you feel about that training?

It was helpful and I feel better prepared and more confident in how to use AI tools	11%
I do not feel like I have received adequate training and would like more	6%
I have been offered training but am not interested in it	3%
I have not been offered training	17%
Not Sure	5%
Not Applicable	58%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	2,000

9. How well do you think American K-12 schools are preparing students to understand and work with AI?

Very well	5%
Somewhat well	19%
Not very well	24%
Not at all	15%
Not sure	37%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	2,000

10. How well do you think your own family's k-12 school prepares your family members to understand and work with AI?

Very well	5%
Somewhat well	14%
Not very well	14%
Not at all	12%
Not sure	17%
Not Applicable	38%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	2,000

11. How well do you think American colleges and universities are preparing students to understand and work with AI?

Very well	8%
Somewhat well	29%
Not very well	20%
Not at all	8%
Not sure	35%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	2,000

12. Who do you think should bear the most responsibility for helping the public understand AI?

Schools	8%
Employers	3%
Government	15%
Tech companies	37%
Media	3%
Not sure	33%
Totals	99%
Unweighted N	2,000

13. Should the federal government fund AI literacy programs?

Yes	37%
No	33%
Not sure	30%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	2,000

14. If free AI literacy training were available in your community, how likely would you be to take it?

Very likely	18%
Somewhat likely	30%
Not very likely	18%
Not at all likely	23%
Not sure	11%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	2,000

15. If Congress were to act on AI, what should it prioritize first?

Protecting personal information used by AI companies	13%
Requiring AI systems to be tested for safety before release	9%
Requiring clear labeling when content is generated by AI	6%
Preventing AI from discriminating in hiring, lending, or housing	3%
Supporting workers whose jobs are affected by AI	7%
Protecting children and teenagers from AI-enabled harm	12%
Making sure regulation does not slow American innovation	2%
Keeping the United States ahead of China on AI	4%
Congress should not be involved in regulating AI	4%
Protecting critical infrastructure (power grids, financial systems, healthcare) from AI-enabled attacks or failures	16%
Establishing international standards or agreements on AI	5%
Not sure	17%
Totals	98%
Unweighted N	2,000

16. How much will a candidate's position on AI impact your vote in this November's midterm elections?

It will be one of the main things I consider	8%
It will be one of several things I consider	28%
It will be a minor factor	19%
It will not be a factor at all	16%
Not sure	13%
I don't intend to vote	16%
Totals	100%
Unweighted N	2,000