



The following outlines the key findings of a survey on the statewide Oklahoma study on healthcare practitioners conducted by co/efficient, a national Republican pollster. The survey comprised 853 likely Republican primary voters and was conducted between April 27 and April 29, 2025, using mobile text responses and live telephone interviews. The survey is balanced by the age, gender, education level, race, and congressional district of the true voting population and has a margin of error of +/- 3.34%.

#### **Key Findings:**

- A physician-led healthcare team to oversee a patient's care is important, according to 87% of Oklahomans
- 81% oppose nurses without formal training being able to interpret imaging results
- Seniors and conservative primary voters are most likely to be concerned about nurses and non-physicians taking on more of a role in patient care without physician oversight
- Two-thirds are concerned about the overprescribing of opioids by under-trained healthcare staff
  - Most prominent among voters aged 18-34 (90%) and seniors (75%)
- On the initial ballot, the proposed law has 58% opposition; after messages on the costs, overprescribing, and increased necessary care, 67% are opposed

#### **Oklahoma Healthcare:**

Across the state, Oklahomans reveal a broad and deeply rooted preference for physician-led healthcare, with 87% of respondents agreeing with the importance of having a licensed physician oversee patient care. The sentiment is even stronger among senior (65+) residents, with 93% indicating their support for physician leadership, and signals the overwhelming preference for the effective and efficient method for healthcare teams.

Initially, 58% indicated they opposed the law allowing non-physicians to practice medicine without physician oversight. Further evidence of this consensus is seen in the overwhelming favorability of physicians and specialists, who are viewed favorably by nearly two-thirds of the population. Although nurse practitioners and physician assistants are highly regarded, with over 70% favorability, Oklahomans draw a line regarding under-trained healthcare providers practicing without physician supervision.

Three-fourths of respondents support physician leadership of all healthcare teams, with support nearing 80% among Trump-aligned, seniors, and high-propensity primary voters. Furthermore, there is near universal disapproval for allowing individuals without formal imaging to interpret results - specifically strong among youth (90%) - proving the wide-ranging physician preference.

The concerns of overprescription, particularly of opioids and other controlled substances, originating from non-physicians or insufficiently supervised providers, elicit high levels of opposition to laws removing physicians from oversight roles, leading two-thirds of Oklahomans to be opposed and pronounced among youth (90%) and seniors (75%). Further, knowing that overprescribing by under-qualified nurses leads to higher healthcare costs, 66% are opposed.

#### **Conclusion:**

The data presents a clear and consistent narrative: Oklahomans overwhelmingly trust and prefer physician-led healthcare. The proposed law to increase the authority of non-physicians initially has 58% opposition; after being informed of the overprescription of controlled substances, increased healthcare costs, and additional referrals and testing, opposition grows to 67% - with nearly one-half of those previously unsure now opposed to this legislation. The support for physician-led teams reaches supermajority levels in nearly every subgroup - especially seniors and conservative Republicans - indicating the public mandate for legislative protection of physician oversight in healthcare is both substantial and stable.