

is Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. of the Departme X



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There is no single answer to whether Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. is "confident," but his tenure as Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been marked by strong public confidence from his supporters and former President Donald Trump, while facing significant and widespread lack of confidence from the scientific and medical communities. [↗](#)

Confidence from Trump administration and supporters

- **Support for the "Make America Healthy Again" (MAHA) movement:** Kennedy was appointed to the position in February 2025 by former President Trump, who also signed an executive order establishing the "Make America Healthy Again" Commission to investigate the root causes of chronic disease. Kennedy's supporters praise his efforts to address what he calls the chronic disease epidemic.
- **Advocacy for new approaches:** The commission, led by Kennedy, released a report in September 2025 detailing a strategy that includes using "new approach methodologies" (NAMs) for research, which proponents suggest will lead to innovation.
- **Trump's endorsement:** At the time of his appointment, Trump expressed confidence in Kennedy's leadership and deep concern for the health of the American people. [↗](#)

Lack of confidence from medical and public health experts

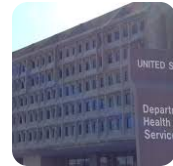
- **Erosion of trust in scientific expertise:** Major medical organizations have voiced a profound lack of confidence in Kennedy's leadership, citing his history of undermining trust in science.
- **Staff reduction and reorganization:** Actions such as cutting staff at key federal agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and reorganizing HHS have drawn sharp criticism. Some experts believe these moves weaken the nation's public health capabilities.
- **Calls for removal:** The American College of Physicians called for Kennedy's removal in September 2025, stating that his comments demonstrate a "clear disregard for data

and evidence" and that his leadership poses a danger to public health.

- **Misleading statements and controversial views:** Critics point to Kennedy's long record of spreading misinformation about vaccines and other health topics. For instance, despite his promise during his confirmation hearing to follow the data on vaccine safety, he later disregarded studies and relied on unsupported evidence.
- **Ignoring expert advice:** In September 2025, Kennedy advocated against school-based mental health screenings in an op-ed. This stance was met with strong criticism from mental health experts who called his claims misleading.
- **Departure of key personnel:** The departure of leading FDA vaccine official Dr. Peter Marks under Kennedy's administration is seen by critics as further evidence of his disregard for scientific expertise. [↗](#)

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American Public Health Association

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HHS.gov

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Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

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American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

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RFK Jr: Fact-checking his views on health policy

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