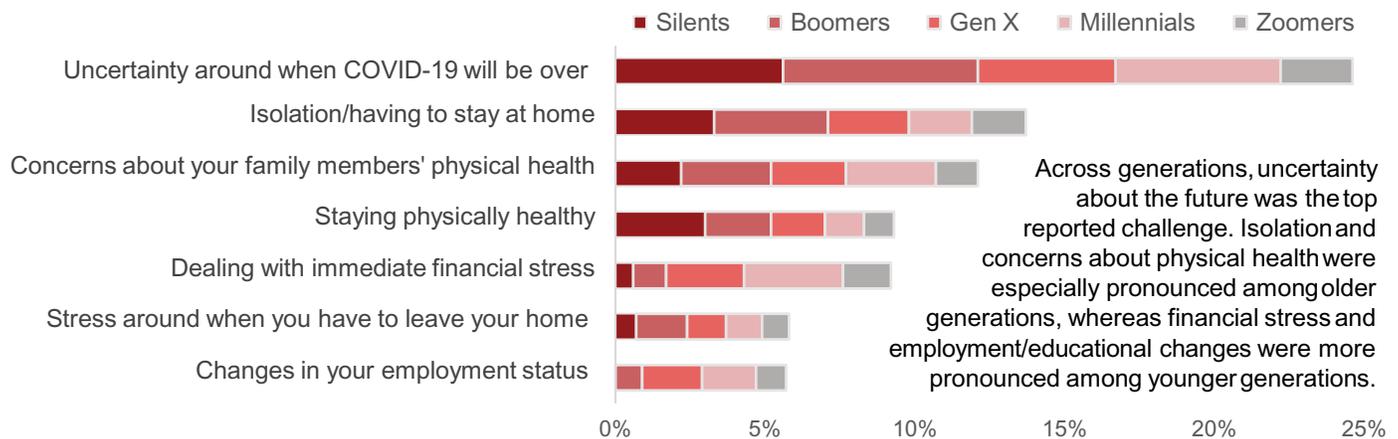


COVID-19 June 2020 Update: Perceptions by Generation

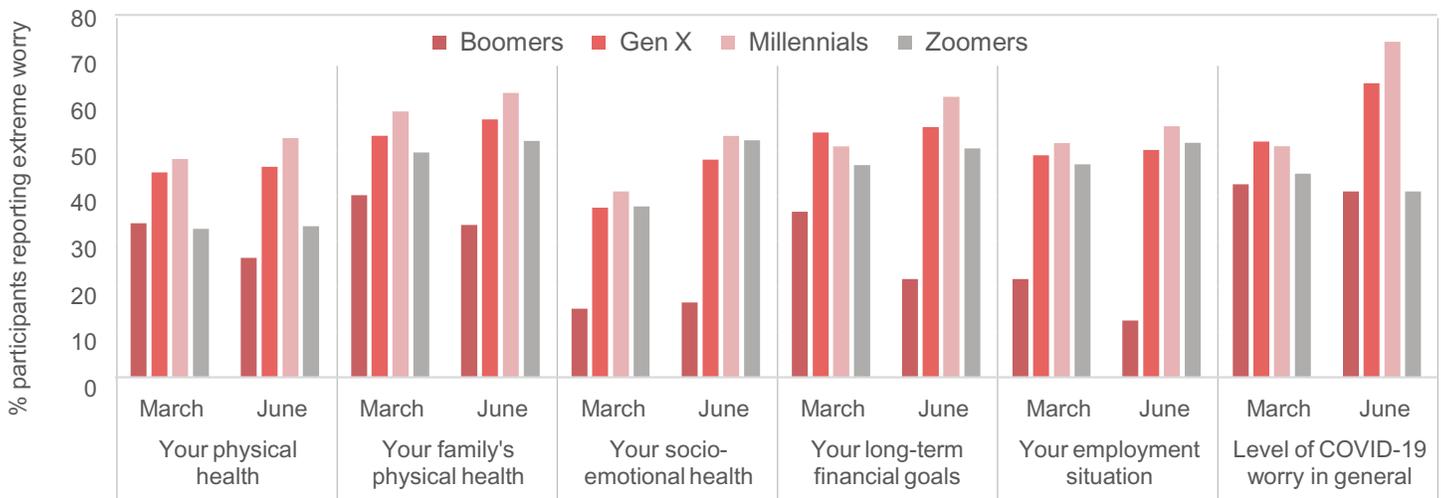
For people of all generations, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed virtually every facet of life. Following up on a survey conducted in March, 2020, the MIT AgeLab surveyed people again from May to early June, in an attempt to understand changing attitudes and experiences related to the pandemic.

COVID-19-related challenges and worries: What is the biggest challenge for you caused by the spread of COVID-19?



Other challenges (e.g., disruptions to educational plans, managing socio-emotional wellbeing, taking care of family, food insecurity, dealing with tension in the home) were selected by less than 5% of all respondents.

Comparisons across time and generations: Domains in which people were very or extremely worried about the impact of COVID-19



Intragenerational levels of worry generally remained stable from the March survey to the survey ending in June. In both the March and June surveys, Boomers reported less intense worry than other generations, especially regarding socio-emotional health, long-term finances, employment situations, and family members' health. For younger generations, meanwhile, worries tended to increase from March to June—especially those related to socio-emotional health and COVID-19 in general. Millennials reported notable increases in worries about long-term financial goals and COVID-19 in general.

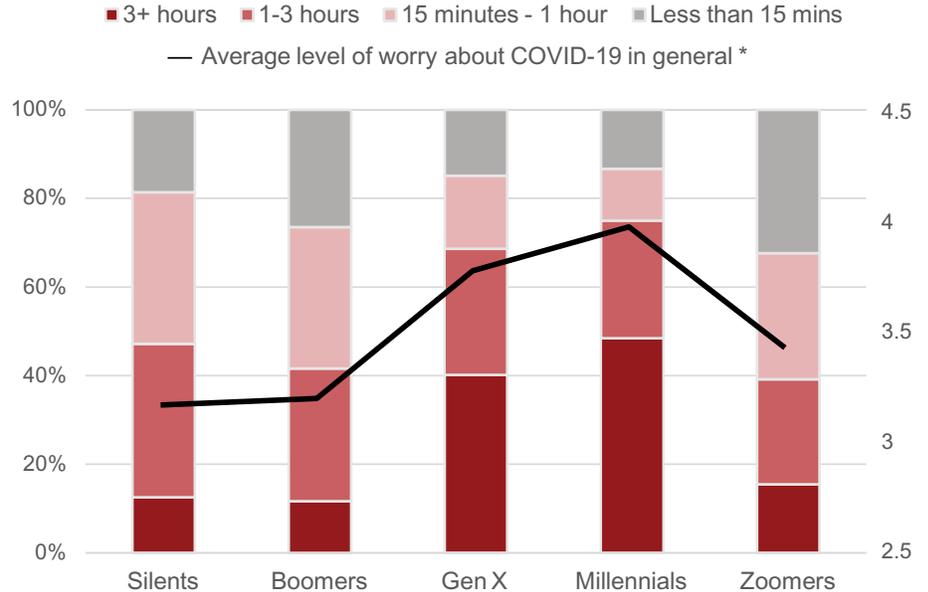
News consumption and general worry about COVID-19

In the June survey, most people across generations reported consuming at least one hour of COVID-19-related news per day, with 40% of Gen X'ers and 49% of Millennials consuming 3 hours or more. While news consumption was not directly correlated with personal worry about COVID-19, generations reporting higher news consumption also reported higher levels of worry about COVID-19 in general.

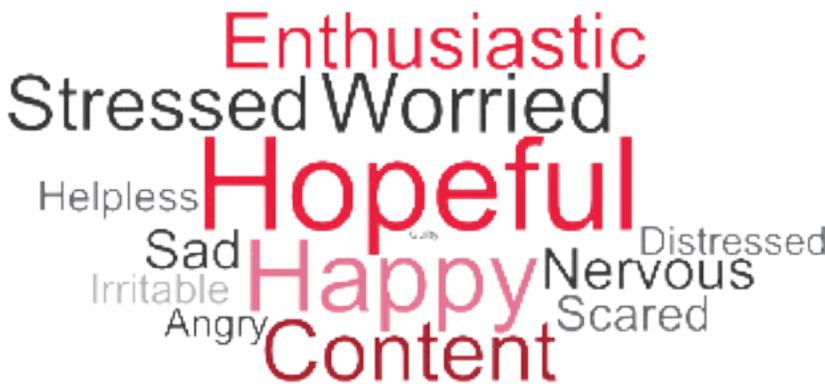
*Level of worry asked using the following answer options:

1 = not at all worried, 2 = slightly worried, 3 = somewhat worried, 4 = very worried, and 5 = extremely worried

How much time each day do you typically spend watching, reading, or listening to news related to COVID-19?



Recent emotions during the COVID-19 pandemic



The size of words represent the number of participants who reported feeling this emotion "extremely" within the past week in the June survey.

Words in red tones are positive; words in black and grey are negative.

Participants more often reported experiencing high levels of positive emotions than negative emotions in the week prior to taking the June survey.

For example, 22% felt extremely hopeful compared to 12% who felt extremely worried.

From March to June, participants' reports of negative emotions decreased significantly, while reports of positive emotions grew.

These results represent a snapshot of perceptions in the time window in which data were collected: May 8-June 8, 2020. Sample collected from Qualtrics Panels. Number of cases for analysis ranges from 1250 to 1387. Ages in 2020: Silents, 75-92; Baby Boomers, 56-74; Gen X, 40-55; Millennials, 24-39; and Zoomers, 18-23. Less than 6% of the March sample (March 17-19, 2020) was re-interviewed in the second survey; the balance represents a new cross-sectional sample.

The MIT AgeLab continues to monitor how different generations' attitudes and perceptions shift over time.

What is known about COVID-19 changes daily. For more information about preventing the spread of COVID-19 and keeping yourself and your family safe, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

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