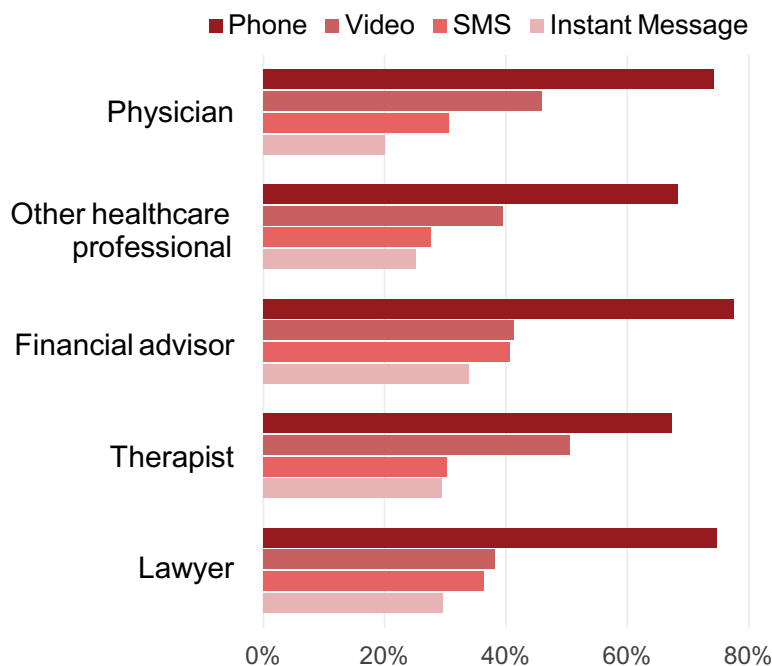


COVID-19 June 2020 Update: The Intersection of COVID-19 and the Law

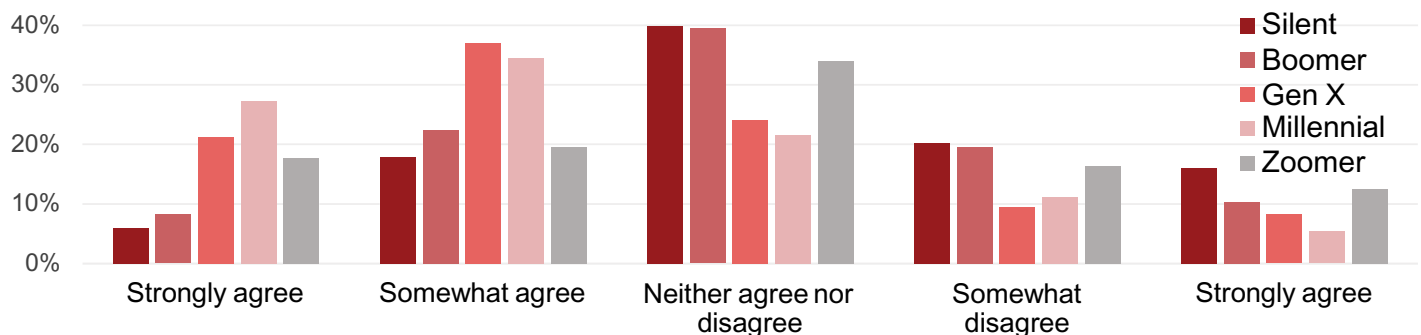
In the months following the initial COVID-19 outbreak in the US, states have experimented with lifting stay-at-home orders and implementing phased reopening plans. The MIT AgeLab surveyed people of different generations, working in various industries, to understand their reactions to the shifting norms and uncertainties of the COVID era. The most recent survey wave included questions relevant to the legal field, concerning the legal profession itself as well as novel sources of legal exposure elsewhere in the economy.

Channels used to communicate with professionals during COVID-19



With the threat of COVID-19 imposing limits on face-to-face interactions, survey participants reported the alternative channels they rely on to communicate with lawyers, healthcare providers, and financial professionals. Despite any role the COVID-19 pandemic may be playing in accelerating consumer adoption of new telecommunications technologies, the phone call remains the primary mode by which people communicate with professionals. Respondents reported contacting doctors and other healthcare providers most often, and lawyers the least. Second only to phone calls, participants were most likely to have engaged in video calls while communicating with lawyers.

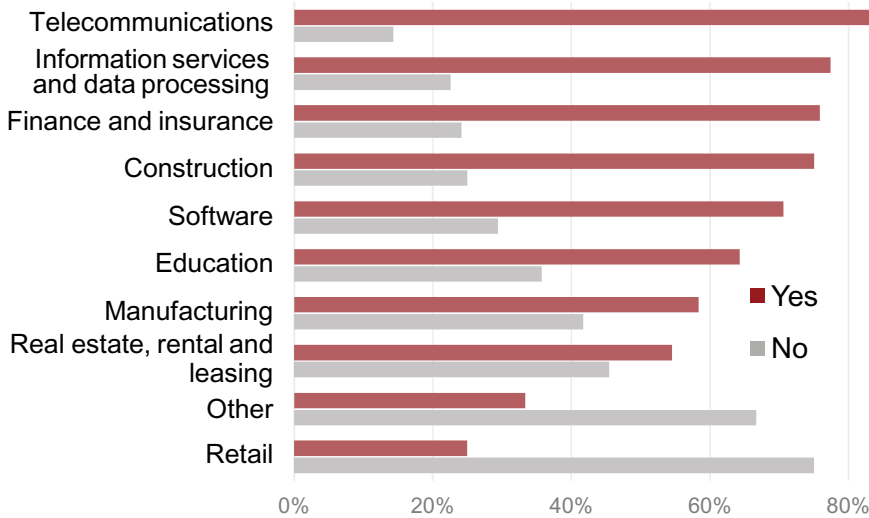
I would trust results from a virtual trial as much as results from an in-person trial.



Despite states' various stages of reopening, many courts have not yet resumed in-person trials, causing legal proceedings to either be postponed or moved online. Millennials and members of Generation X were significantly more likely to trust the results of virtual trials than other generations, while members of the Silent generation trusted online trials the least. Higher levels of self-reported technology adoption were associated with greater trust in virtual trials.

Employers, employees, and new sources of legal exposure: Has your employer conducted a legal analysis of reopening?

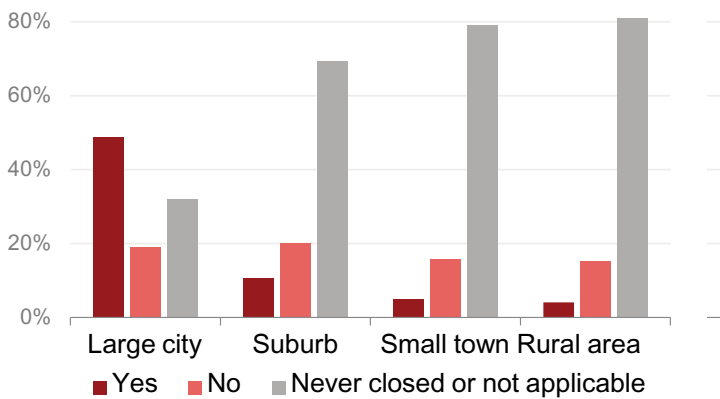
Reported response by industry



Of industries surveyed, telecom and information services workers were most likely to report that their employer had analyzed their company's legal risk regarding reopening. Real estate and retail workers were least likely to report such measures.

* Response options "Don't know" and "Not applicable" excluded from analysis. Responses shown only shown for industries with more than 10 respondents. Respondents work within industries.

Reported response by region



Relationship between trust and reported legal analyses by employers



Compared to those working in suburbs, small towns, and rural areas, only employees working in large cities gave significantly divergent answers to the question of whether or not their company had analyzed the legal risks of reopening.

Levels of employee trust correlated positively with a company's likelihood of having conducted an analysis of legal risk regarding reopening, as reported by employees.

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.