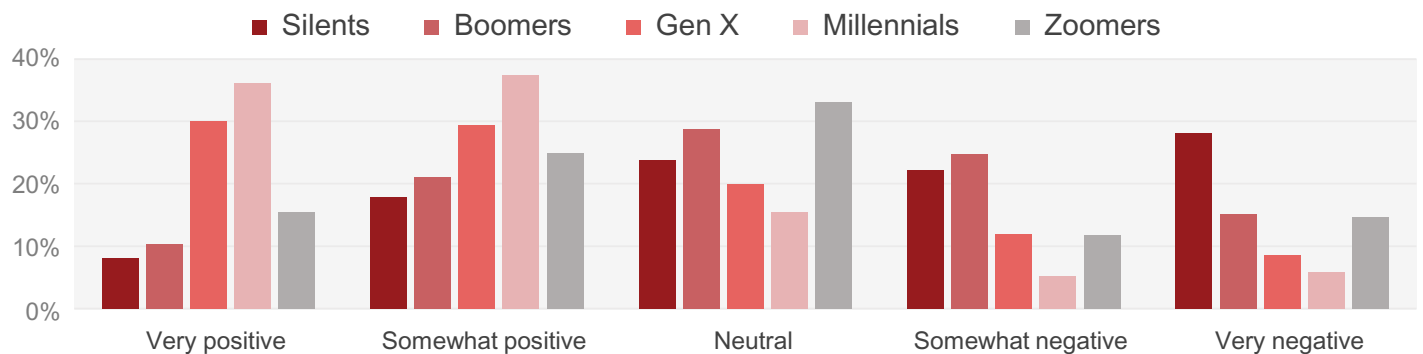


## COVID-19 June 2020 Update: Senior Housing

Reports suggest that over 40,000 long-term care residents and workers have died of COVID-19 in the US,<sup>1</sup> making them among the groups hardest hit by the pandemic. This brief highlights changes in attitudes and perceptions concerning the senior housing industry in the context of COVID-19. The MIT AgeLab conducted its initial survey in March 2020, and then a follow-up survey in May and early June.

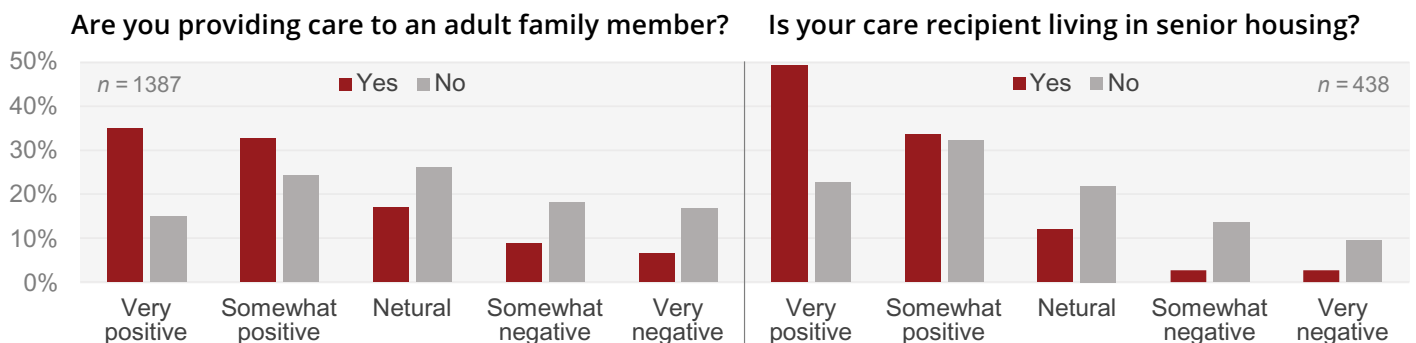
<sup>1</sup>Kwiatkowski, M., Nadolny, T.L., Priest, J., and Stucka, M. (June 1, 2020), 'A national disgrace': 40,600 deaths tied to US nursing homes.' USA TODAY (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2020/06/01/coronavirus-nursing-home-deaths-top-40-600/5273075002/>).

### Perception of Senior Housing Industry's Response to COVID-19



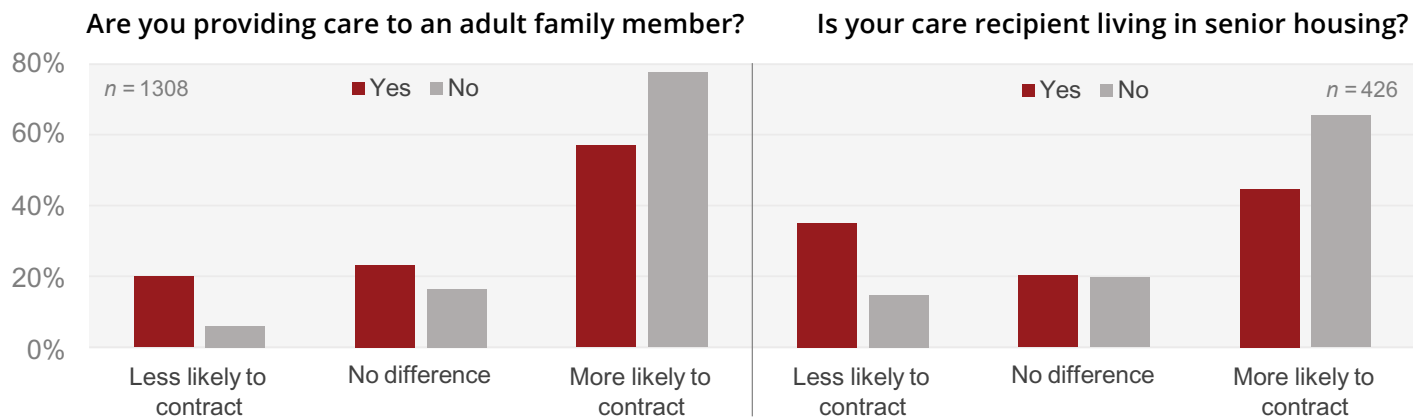
On average, survey participants reported neutral feelings regarding senior housing companies' response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Older generations rated the response of senior housing more negatively than did younger generations, however, with Millennials most likely to report positive reactions. Residents of urban areas were more likely to rate the response of senior housing companies positively than those of suburban and rural areas.

### Caregiving and Perception of the Senior Housing Industry's Response to COVID-19



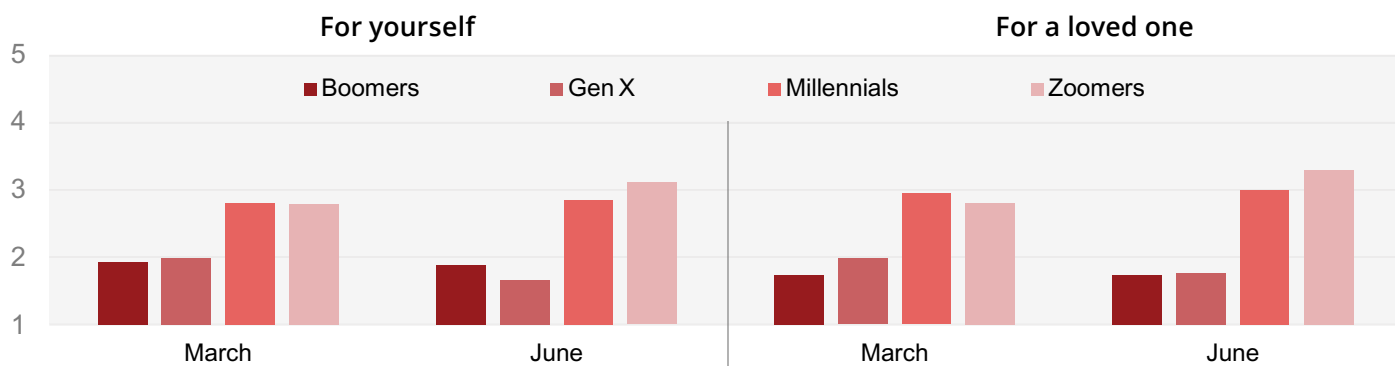
People providing care to an adult family member ranked the response of the senior housing industry more positively than did those not providing care. Caregivers for residents of long-term group housing (e.g., nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and continuing care retirement communities) ranked senior housing's response more positively still. Caregivers with a higher annual household income were more likely to rank the response of senior housing companies positively, as compared to those with a lower household income. Although only a small percentage of the overall sample was living in senior housing (5%; n = 65), this group viewed the response of senior housing companies more favorably than not.

## Belief in senior housing residents' likelihood of contracting COVID-19



In general, most respondents expressed belief that people in senior housing are more likely than average to contract COVID-19, although respondents providing care to an adult family member were slightly less likely to ascribe elevated risk to residents of senior housing. Caregivers of someone living in senior housing were even less likely to believe that senior housing residents were at elevated risk.

## Likelihood of considering senior housing in the future: March to June



Most respondents reported being unlikely to consider senior housing for themselves or their loved ones, an outcome that did not change significantly from the March to June survey waves. Compared to older respondents, however, younger respondents reported being more likely to consider senior housing for themselves or their loved ones.

\*Level of likelihood asked using the following answer options:

1 = extremely unlikely, 2 = slightly unlikely, 3 = neither likely nor unlikely, 4 = somewhat likely, and 5 = extremely likely

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 426 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 at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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