

My perspective of COVID-19.

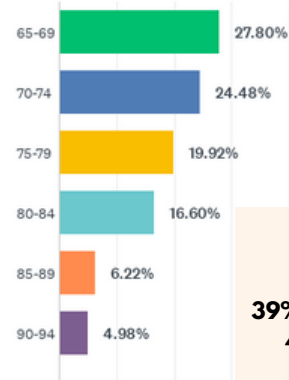
A TECHNOLOGY-FOCUSED SURVEY DISTRIBUTED TO OLDER ADULTS DURING THE PANDEMIC, DESIGNED TO GAIN THEIR FIRST-HAND PERSPECTIVE.

In April of this year, Link-age Connect launched an electronic survey containing 15 questions designed to gain knowledge from older adults related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey addressed topics such as adoption of new technologies, thoughts on the pandemic itself, and what, if anything, do these individuals compare this experience with that they have experienced in their lives.

The survey was launched in April of 2020 and ran through July of 2020. Most responses (71%) came in early April, with another 14% in the month of May. The survey was fielded in an electronic format via various social media platforms and with assistance from senior living organizations across the United States.



Respondent demographics



67% female
33% male
39% live in the community
41% live in senior living

The Link-age Connect survey revealed that, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic:

60%

Reported video chatting with friends and family.

29%

Reported using telehealth services for the first time.

27%

Reported ordering groceries through the internet.

25%

Reported that using technology was easier than they originally thought.

40%

Reported finding more benefits to using technology.

70%

Reported feeling more connected with technology than they would feel without.

Seniors speak: Technology use during the time of COVID-19.

"(Going forward) Home internet access will be as necessary as electricity."

"I've started taking advantage of things like Instacart at Kroger, Door Dash and Grub Hub."

"Communication technology will go from nice to necessary."

"I am more techy than I thought!"

Final thoughts...

Sue Viox

Executive Director, Link-age Connect



Overall, this project has shown us that, despite being accustomed to life one way, older adults have and continue to adapt to changes and circumstances to meet their needs - including through the use of new technologies. It is extremely important to this age group to stay connected and remain a contributor to society.

We will continue to watch, listen, and learn from this demographic regarding their lifestyle, their practices, and their opinions to see if these changes remain.