Age-Friendly Insights: How Do Older Adults Feel About Nursing Homes?

The John A. Hartford Foundation (JAHF) asked older adults how the COVID pandemic affected their perceptions of nursing homes, and one thing is clear:

Now is the time to redesign nursing home care.

Nursing homes are facing an existential crisis. The pandemic has created a moment of urgency.

71% of older adults are unwilling to live in a nursing home in the future.

57% of older adults say COVID influenced whether they’d be willing to live in a nursing home.

Almost everyone wants a new future for nursing home care. People of color are especially concerned about nursing home safety.

Nearly 90% of older adults say changes are needed to make nursing homes appealing to them.

Black and Hispanic older adults are more likely to say nursing homes are unsafe.

The poll is part of Age-Friendly Insights, a series measuring opinions on issues related to improving the care of older adults. Learn more.

To ensure all in America have access to high-quality long-term care as they age, JAHF and its partners are redesigning nursing homes for the future by supporting projects including:

1. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes’ recommendations and general principles for improving the quality of care in today’s nursing homes.

2. The Convergence Dialogue on Reimagining Care for Older Adults’ plan for public support of consensus-based recommendations to reimagine the care of older adults in nursing homes and the range of settings they call home.

3. The creation of a contemporary Teaching Nursing Home model demonstrating how enhanced partnerships between academic nursing schools and skilled nursing facilities can improve quality and cost outcomes.