

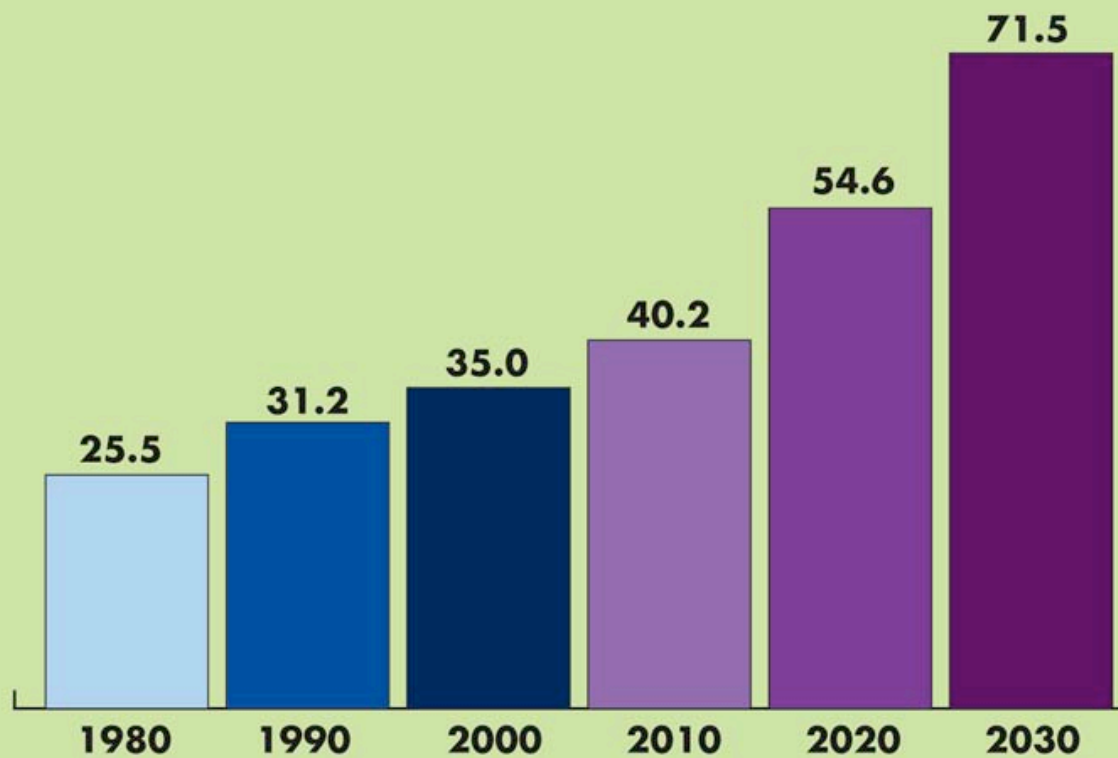
Old, Poor & Vulnerable: The Other Side of the Baby Boom

Gero–Ed Forum

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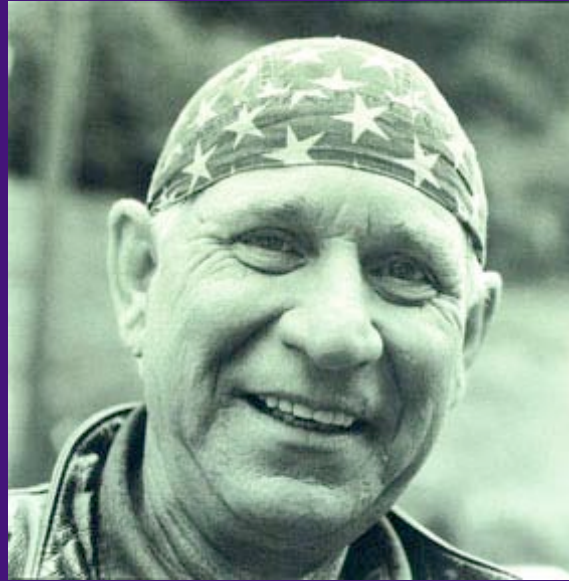
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Number of Persons Aged 65+ 1980 - 2030 (in millions)



January 1, 2006

The first of the baby boomers (those persons born between 1946 – 1964) turned 60.



2005 White House Conference on Aging

- “The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action”
- Focused less on need for government programs – more on individual responsibility

The Problem is Overstated

“In our view, to suggest that America’s demographics precipitates a crisis overstates the problem...”

AARP’s Blueprint for the Future



- America is the richest nation in the world
- There is a 4 in 10 chance that a person will be poor at some time after age 60
- We may be facing entitlement “economic train wreck”



Federal Reserve Base

- The burden on American taxpayers is the lowest in nearly half a century
- The US ranks near the bottom of developed countries in its willingness to pay for social commitments

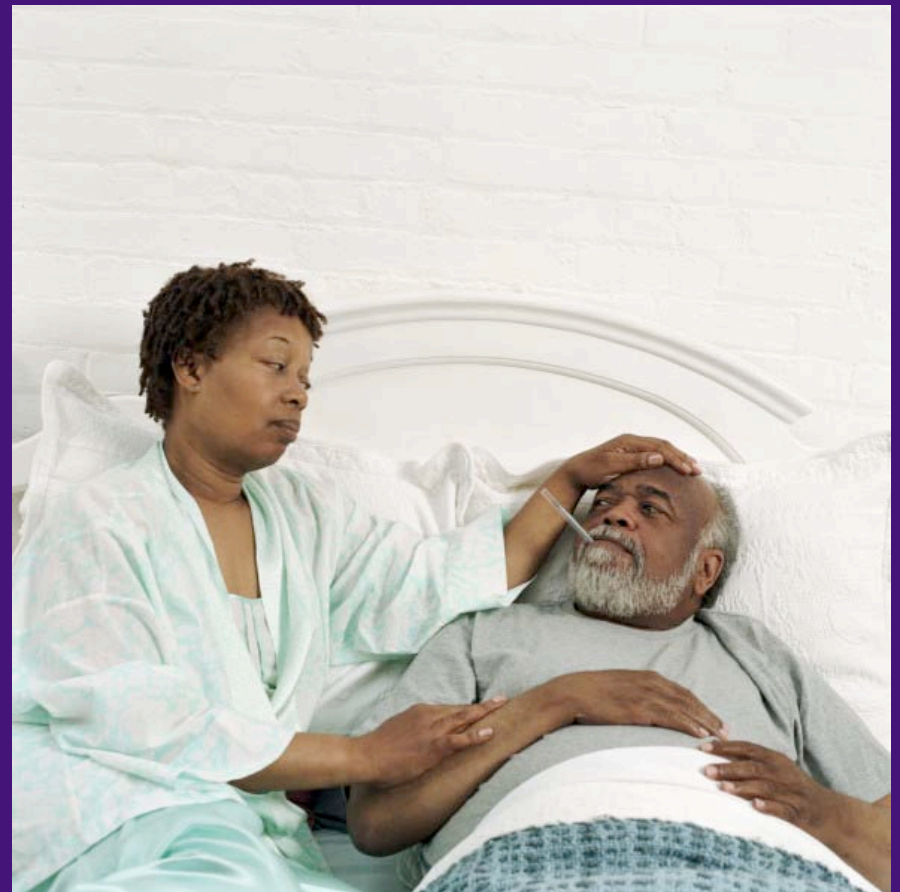
Retiring Boomers

- 70% of boomers report they expect to continue working beyond age 65
- More than 4 million boomers have already left the workforce due to disability or early retirement



Health of the Boomers

- Americans are living longer
- Chronic illness is America's highest cost and fastest growing health care problem



Health of the Boomers (continued)

- 83% have one chronic condition
- 50% have three or more
- 25% have five or more
(15 MD visits /
50 prescriptions
per year)



Saving for Retirement

- Increased retirement savings are necessary to meet needs of seniors
- Savings rate falls to lowest level since Depression



Housing

- 80% of seniors own their own homes
- 7.8 million older families live in unaffordable housing or poor quality dwellings



Nursing Homes

- The demand for long-term care services will rise two-fold by 2020 (expenditures will increase from \$123–207 billion)
- Only 6% of Americans have long-term care insurance

Nursing Homes

- At any given time only 5% of the 65+ population are in nursing homes
- 1/3 of Americans over 65 will spend some time in nursing homes

Transportation

- Older Americans rely on their car for 90% of their trips
- Drivers over 65 are more likely to die in car accidents than those under 64



Geographic Location

- 9.2 million (25%) of the nation's older persons live in rural areas



- Rural seniors are among the oldest old and frail

Grandparenting

- 2.4 million grandparents are responsible for 4.5 million grandchildren under 18
- This care is at great personal cost, physically, emotionally and financially



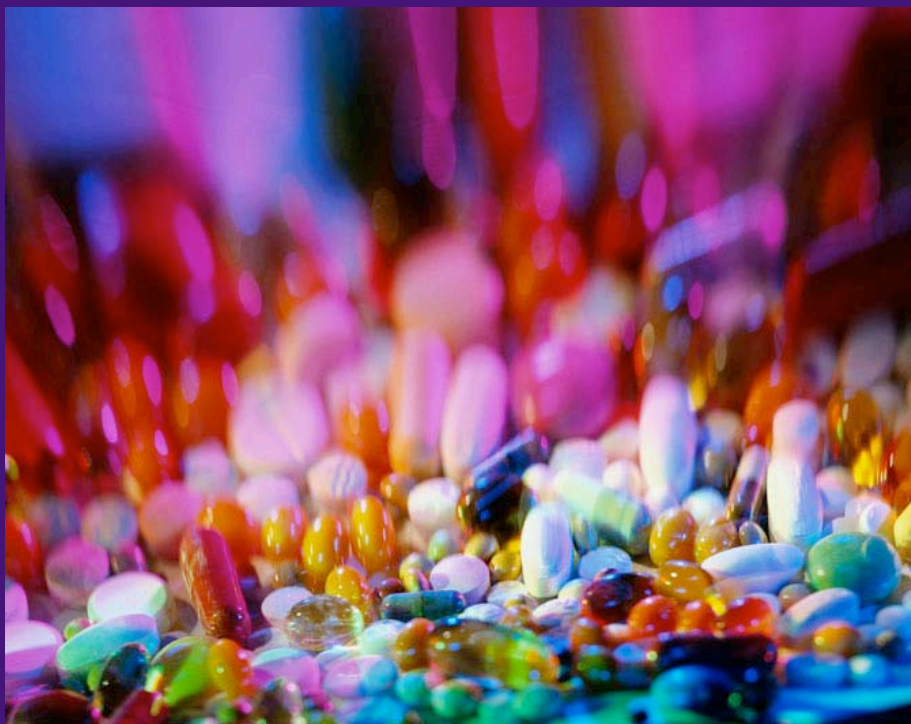
Elder Abuse

- Estimated 1–8 million cases of elder abuse annually
- APS estimated that older Americans paid \$68 million in fraud schemes in 2004
- Inadequate supply of APS case managers

- 15% of adults over 65 will experience depression, and many will go undiagnosed or untreated



- 8 million older Americans have addictive disorders –1/3 are late onset addictions



Health Care Utilization

- People 65 and over use
 - 23% of ambulatory visits
 - 48% of hospital days
 - 69% of home health services



Health Care Utilization

- 43 million Americans are uninsured



The Social Work Mandate

Social work has a moral mandate
to be part of the debate and part
of the solution (at the table)

MANDATE

- Need to assure a sufficient and trained social work workforce for meeting the needs of the boomer population



MANDATE

- Redouble our advocacy efforts at the community, state and federal levels to advance essential social policies and legislative improvements



MANDATE

- Develop creative collaboration and innovative partnerships – do things differently



MANDATE

- Document social work effectiveness (EBP)



MANDATE

- Create the future needed to address the new realities of aging



Establish a Unified Social Work Aging Agenda

- Educators
- Researchers
- Practitioners
- Policy Analysts / Elected Officials

