

AgeQuest 2030

Laying the Foundation for the Aging Super Highway

Abstract: Given the projected numbers of American older adults (65 years of age and older), research must be accomplished to understand current older adult needs as they contend with longer lives and increasing chronic illnesses. In short, the Baby Boomer generation is comprised of roughly 78 million individuals and is five+ years into its nineteen year run. Generation X (roughly 48 million) will begin turning 65 in 2030 and will complete the process in 2045. Generation Y (roughly 80 million), now known as “Millennials,” will begin turning 65 in 2046 and will complete the process in 2064. As a result, roughly 206 million boomers, Gen X’s and Millennials will turn 65 over the next 50 years. Longevity statistics reveal that young boomers will still be alive when millennials begin turning 65.

Presentation Description: This 90 minute interactive presentation is designed to heighten the awareness of the actors and factors which influence America’s aging process. Our pilot study included 292 older adults from statewide communities which disclosed the real time concerns of the cohort. Specifically, these actors and factors include the rapidly increasing numbers of older adults, economic, cultural and societal issues, medical & technology advances, the political landscape, media representation and the fear of the unknown. It also provided a socio-demographic snapshot and the ability to forecast the societal effects of these successive age waves, as well as demonstrating the need to adapt to them.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will list the nature and effects of a multi-generational age quest.
2. Participants will describe the importance of applying multiple assessment, forecasting and projection tools to frame aging’s actors and factors.
3. Participants will identify policy-related approaches to assessing, forecasting and projecting older adult needs.