The Grand Challenge: An Aging Society

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Change in Population by Age, 2010-2050

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Projections
Baby Boom: U.S. Births, 1940-1980

The graph illustrates the number of births in thousands from 1940 to 1980. The peak years of the baby boom are highlighted, indicating a significant increase in births during this period.
Boomers’ Progress
January 1, 2011
Life Expectancy, 1840-2000

Source: Oeppen and Vaupell Broken Limits to Life Expectancy, Science, May 10, 2002
Boomer Net Worth, 2004-2009

Source: Federal Reserve Board Survey of Consumer Finance
## Ethnic Make-up of U.S. 65+ Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Non-Hispanic White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>75.6</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2040</td>
<td>63.9</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2050</td>
<td>57.7</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Treas & Carreon, *Generations*, Fall 2010
Two Visions for the Future of Aging
Prevalence of Disability in the 65+ population, 1985-2005

Source: NIA, 2006
Prevalence of Disability by Age, 2009

Source: Administration on Aging, A Profile of Older Americans: 2009.
1. The systems and solutions developed over the past half century to support later life in the US (e.g., Social Security, Medicare, Older Americans Act) will not scale up to support the next generation(s) of seniors.
In a time of constrained public resources, the old paradigm of how we solve problems....

- identify the problem
- develop a program to address the problem
- fund the program
- problem solved

....is no longer working reliably.
1. Therefore, to address the growing needs of an aging population, we need a new wave of entrepreneurial innovation, in both the public and private sectors, that will operate mainly on the local grass-roots level.
7 Challenges for an Aging Society
Challenge 1: Reinventing Healthcare

Annual Per Capita Healthcare Costs by Age

- US
- Germany
- UK
- Sweden
- Spain

Healthcare Spending vs Life Expectancy

![Graph showing healthcare spending per capita vs. average life expectancy among OECD countries.](www.forbes.com/sites/danmunro/2012/12/30/2012-the-year-in-healthcare-charts/)
Expanding our View of Health

Exworthy, Health Policy Plan. 2008
Challenge 2: Reinventing Senior Services
Challenge 3: Reinventing Senior Housing/Long Term Care
Challenge 4: Reinventing Community
Challenge 5:
Reinventing Retirement

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Challenge 6:
Reinventing Life Stages
Challenge 7: Reinventing Social Work
Projected Number of Professional Social Workers Needed in Long Term Care

Source: HHS, BLS, 2006
Social Work and the Elderly

The majority of social work students complete their studies with no specific coursework in aging and with no knowledge of services available for elders or any understanding of the diversity in the aging population.

Social work students perceive that all work with the elderly involves caring for demented and bed bound clients, in unpleasant settings, and with care leading to poor outcomes.

Despite an increasing need for social workers trained to work with older adults, government sponsored training programs have declined.

No significant national resource presently exists for supporting social work students interested in aging.

-- *The Supply and Demand of Professional Social Workers Providing Long-term Care Services*, HHS, 2006
The Future of Aging: Which Will It Be?