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Reporting Accurate and Objective Information Based on Facts, not Agenda-Setting Theories

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Elder Abuse

The Expiration of Baby Boomers

Series – Part 3

[\(Part 1\)](#) [\(Part 2\)](#)

Baby Boomers the ["me generation"](#): *"Will boomers really give something back?"* . . they already are.

"The me generation is morphing into the [we generation](#)". "Nationally, boomers (33%) have higher volunteer rates than either seniors (24%) or young adults (24%), reports the Corporation for National and Community Service. This is the most schooled and traveled generation in history . . ."

Boomers were the generation conceived between 1946 and 1964 who gave hope to society [after World War II](#). We created social change, questioned authority and distanced ourselves from [religions with boundaries](#). Our generational statements to society were in the forms of music, demonstrations, protests, social experimentations and 'free love'. We redefined the world, or so we thought. Realism was softened through self-medicating and substance abuse.

Dr. Eric Broderick of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSA](#)) stated that the Woodstock generation [continues to use](#) illicit drugs as they age and the Baby Boomer generation uses drugs more than any comparative generation with 90% of them abusing substances before the age of 30 years old.

[According to SAMHSA](#), by the year 2020, there will be 4.4 million older substance abusers compared with 1.7 million users in 2001. Because the Baby Boomers are an aging generation, the side effects of drugs and alcohol will create the necessity of medical care since one in five older adults suffers and may not know it.

The ["me generation"](#) has continued to abuse substances well into their 60's and are considered the most damaged regarding memory loss. Mental impairment from substance abuse will also make them more vulnerable to abuse by perpetrators. Living in the fast lane has taken its toll and will become more noticeable as the the Baby Boomer generation resorts to nursing homes and institutions for long term care.

The [Handbook of Hospital Security and Safety](#) by James T. Turner highlights *"Issues in Long Term Care Facilities"* by Michael Clay Smith and discusses how to counter the high rate of crime within those systems. According to the [National Elder Mistreatment Study](#), the most vulnerable within an institutional environment are those who are [physically or mentally challenged](#). Those who have cognitive impairment are often unable to report the crime and are designated for repetitive violence. Resident violence is the

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most common type of elder abuse. The National Institute of Justice and the Medical University of South Carolina conducted a phone survey regarding elder abuse. The targeted age group was 60 years plus. The questionnaire contained [50 questions](#) (English - Pgs. 81-131 Spanish - Pgs. 131-183) of a personal and intimate nature. **I would not recommend to give data to any unknown person whose ID is not verifiable during a phone call.**

The age of idealism promoted the forever young attitude, thus future planning and a family support system were often not included in this formula. The irony is the Baby Boomers gave birth to [Generation X](#). We'd like to think that "X" equals hope for the future and that our generation can count on them to be there for us. Generation X will make the necessary positive changes that will improve our society and yes, my optimism is showing.

Suggested Additional Reading:

[Florida Elder Abuse Survey](#)

[The National Center for Victims of Crime](#)

[Health, United States, 2010 Report](#)

[Get Connected](#)

[Jack W. Plunkett Research](#)