What Accounts for Increasing Jobs in Healthcare?

Having speculated, students learn why jobs in healthcare are on the rise, through their analysis of the Baby Boomers and Healthcare infographic.

**PREP**

Be prepared to explain the terms: **booming, baby boomers**

**MATERIALS**

- *The Future of Health: Baby Boomers* infographic (two pages)

**PAGE ONE**

Distribute the first page of the infographic and ask students to read it for understanding of who baby boomers are.

**DISCUSS**

According to the graphic, who are baby boomers?

- *People born between 1946 and 1964.*

How old are baby boomers now? Do the math.

- *53-71*

What do they have to do with healthcare?

- *They are aging and have a lot of health concerns.*

Approximately how many baby boomers are turning or have already turned 65 and will likely need more healthcare in the coming years?

- *Roughly 80 million.*

Explain that the baby boomer generation was the longest generation of the 20th century (1900s) and so this is the largest amount of aging people our modern healthcare system has ever had to care for.

What kinds of health concerns do baby boomers have according to the infographic?

- *Obesity, arthritis, diabetes.*

Do you have any people in your life in this age bracket who have some of these health concerns? What additional health concerns do you think baby boomers have?
What are causes of health concerns in baby boomers in your family and community?

- Results of physical strain due to many years working in physically demanding jobs, such as ones in construction, food service, custodial; unhealthy diets; exposure to pollution; lack of preventive care, such as regular check-ups and health screenings; stress, due to financial, family and work concerns.

PAGE TWO

Distribute the second page asking students to read it and explain in further detail the connections between baby boomers and healthcare.

DISCUSSION

How do you think the aging of baby boomers will affect healthcare employment?

- There will be a dramatic increase in healthcare jobs.

What are some of the reasons there are so many new jobs in healthcare?

- People are living longer, and with more health problems.
- There are a lot of tech jobs due to the computerization of the healthcare industry.
- Healthcare research creates a lot of laboratory jobs.

Which patient care jobs do you think will have openings?

- Nurses, home health aides, physical therapists

Which administrative jobs do you think will be in need?

- Medical coders and billers, medical receptionists

What related jobs could increase due to the healthcare needs of baby boomers?

- Sales of medical and healthcare equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, bathroom grab bars and ramps.

For the careers that do not involve working with patients, where do you think this work is conducted and what kind of work is it? What kind of interests do you think someone in these careers should have?

Location and Type

- Laboratory, Lab Techs
- Offices, Medical Record Technicians

Interests

- An interest in machines and computers
- Someone who prefers not to come in contact with patients’ personalities, pain, questions, blood, etc.
Healthcare Infographic

A BRIEF HISTORY
Following the end of World War II, the United States experienced a boom of 79 million births between 1946 and 1964. Since then, this generation of “Baby Boomers” has made its mark on everything from classrooms to automobiles to music.

Now, as this generation continues to reach seniorhood, Baby Boomers are expected to transform the future of healthcare...

AN INCOMING SENIOR BOOM

2010:
40 MILLION
SENIORS

2030:
120 MILLION
SENIORS

BABY BOOMERS
TURN 65 EACH
YEAR

...THAT'S 1 SENIOR
BABY BOOMER EVERY
10 SECONDS

BABY BOOMERS
LIVING IN THE
UNITED STATES

Source: http://visual.ly/future-health-baby-boomers
UNIT 1 • ANALYZING THE HEALTHCARE LABOR MARKET

Section 3.3

PROJECTED AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY IN 2030

87.0

COMPARED TO AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY IN 1950

78.9

SENIOR BOOM CONTRIBUTORS

HEALTHCARE

BABY BOOMER EFFECT

IMMIGRATION

BOOMER HEALTH IN 2030

6/10 WILL BE LIVING WITH MORE THAN 1 CHRONIC CONDITION

1/4 WILL BE LIVING WITH DIABETES

1/3 WILL BE CONSIDERED OBESE

56%

1/2 WILL BE LIVING WITH ARTHRITIS

OF HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS WILL BE PATIENTS 65+