# The Historical Experience of Three Cohorts of Older Americans: A Timeline of Selected Events 1923–2008

| 1943 Cohort | 1933 Cohort | 1923 Cohort | Year | Historical Events | Legislative Events |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Born | 1923 | | |
| | | 5 years old | 1928 | ***1929*** - Stock market crashes | |
| | Born | | 1933 | | ***1934*** - Federal Housing Administration created by Congress; ***1935*** - Social Security Act passed; ***1937*** - U.S. Housing Act passed, establishing Public Housing |
| | 5 years old | 15 years old | 1938 | | |
| Born | | | 1943 | ***1941*** - Pearl Harbor; United States enters WWII | |
| 5 years old | 15 years old | 25 years old | 1948 | ***1945*** - Yalta Conference; Cold War begins<br>***1946*** - Baby Boom begins | |
| | | | 1953 | ***1950*** - United States enters Korean War | |
| 15 years old | 25 years old | 35 years old | 1958 | ***1955*** - Nationwide polio vaccination program begins | ***1956*** - Women age 62–64 eligible for reduced Social Security benefits; ***1957*** - Social Security Disability Insurance implemented; ***1959*** - Section 202 of the Housing Act established, providing assistance to older adults with low income; ***1961*** - Men age 62–64 eligible for reduced Social Security benefits; ***1962*** - Self-Employed Individual Retirement Act (Keogh Act) passed; ***1964*** - Civil Rights Act passed; ***1965*** - Medicare and Medicaid established; Older Americans Act passed; ***1967*** - Age Discrimination in Employment Act passed |
| | | | 1963 | ***1964*** - United States enters Vietnam War; Baby Boom ends | |
| 25 years old | 35 years old | 45 years old | 1968 | ***1969*** - First man on the moon | |
| | | | 1973 | | ***1972*** - Formula for Social Security cost-of-living adjustment established; Social Security Supplemental Security Income legislation passed; ***1974*** - Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) passed; IRAs established; ***1975*** - Age Discrimination Act passed; ***1978*** - 401(k)s established |
| 35 years old | 45 years old | 55 years old | 1978 | ***1980*** - First AIDS case is reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | |
| | | | 1983 | | ***1983*** - Social Security eligibility age increased for full benefits; ***1984*** - Widows entitled to pension benefits if spouse was vested<br>***1986*** - Mandatory retirement eliminated for most workers; ***1987*** - Reverse mortgage market created by the HUD Home Equity Conversion Program |
| 45 years old | 55 years old | 65 years old | 1988 | ***1989*** - Berlin Wall falls<br>***1990*** - United States enters Persian Gulf War | ***1990*** - Americans with Disabilities Act passed |
| | | | 1993 | | |
| 55 years old | 65 years old | 75 years old | 1998 | | ***1996*** - Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act passed, creating access to community based long-term care for all enrollees; ***1997*** - Balanced Budget Act passed changing Medicare payment policies; ***2000*** - Social Security earnings test eliminated for full retirement age; ***2003*** - Medicare Modernization Act passed |
| | | | 2003 | ***2001*** - September 11-Terrorists attack United States<br>***2003*** - United States enters Iraq war | |
| 65 years old | 75 years old | 85 years old | 2008 | ***2008*** - First Baby Boomers begin to turn 62 years old and become eligible for Social Security retired worker benefits | ***2005*** - Deficit Reduction Act passed realigning Medicaid incentives to provide noninstitutionalized long-term care; ***2006*** - Medicare presciption drug benefit implemented; Pension Protection Act passed |