

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FOOD SAFETY & GENERATIONS

The purpose of this study was to investigate the generational differences among Florida residents with regards to food safety knowledge and food safety behaviors. The UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources surveyed 510 Florida residents and found a significant association between some food safety behaviors and generation. This study also revealed that regardless of generation, Floridians are highly knowledgeable about food safety.

A GENERATIONAL COMPARISON OF FOOD SAFETY BEHAVIORS

The UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education surveyed Florida residents to learn how food safety practices differed among generations. The study revealed the Millennials and Younger, Generation X, and Old Baby Boomers learned more about food safety from their parents. On the contrary, the Young Baby Boomers and Silent and Older generations reported learning more about food safety from television.

Further, 29.7 percent of Millennials, 29.2 percent of Generation X, and 29.5 percent of Young Baby Boomers said they learned about food safety from their parents, while 28.7 percent of the Silent and Older generation said they learned the most about food safety from television.

While the sources of food safety information varied by generation, six of the 10 food safety behaviors tested were not associated with generation. These behaviors included washing fruits and vegetables before eating, peeling edible skins of fruits and vegetables, and reading food labels for food safety information.



GENERATION BREAKDOWN

MILLENNIALS AND YOUNGER
1977-1996

GENERATION X
1965-1976

YOUNG BABY BOOMERS
1955-1964

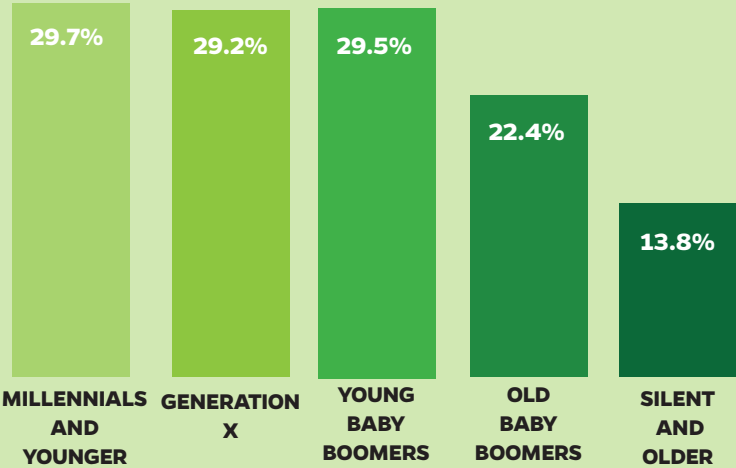
OLD BABY BOOMERS
1946-1954

SILENT AND OLDER
1945 AND EARLIER

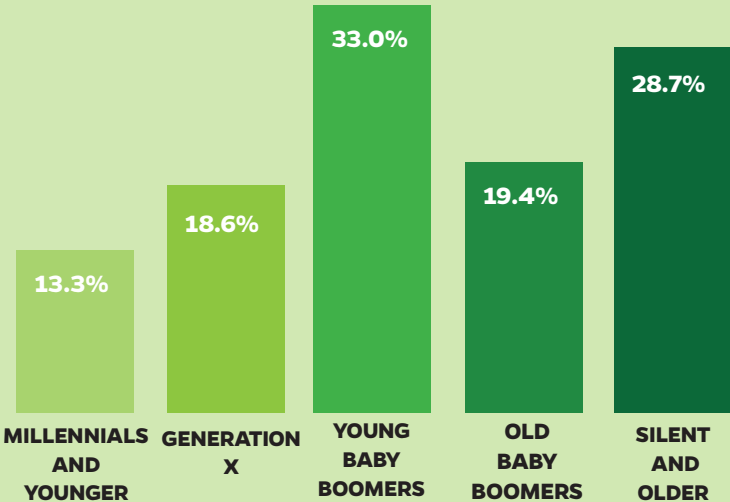


SOURCES OF FOOD SAFETY KNOWLEDGE

PARENTS



TELEVISION



FOOD SAFETY KNOWLEDGE

GENERATION	SCORE
1. MILLENNIALS	9.67
2. GENERATION X	10.35
3. YOUNG BABY BOOMERS	10.28
4. OLD BABY BOOMERS	10.28
5. SILENT AND OLDER	9.97

*FOOD SAFETY KNOWLEDGE WAS BASED ON A 12-POINT SCALE.

GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN FOOD SAFETY PRACTICES

A significant association was identified with four food safety behaviors between generations. Seventy-nine percent of the Silent and Older generation defrost frozen foods in the refrigerator or microwave often or always; however, only 41 percent of Millennials and Younger participate in this food safety practice.

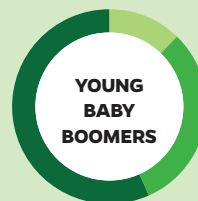
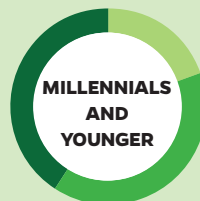
The results also confirmed a difference in the practice of separating raw meat from ready-to-eat products. Ninety-one percent of Young Baby Boomers often or always implement this practice, in comparison to 74 percent of the Silent and Older generation who participate in this food safety practice. Please visit the citation at the bottom of the page to read the full article and learn more information.

ACTIONS TO ENSURE FOOD SAFETY

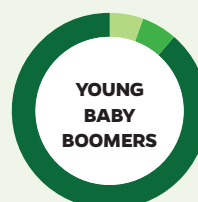
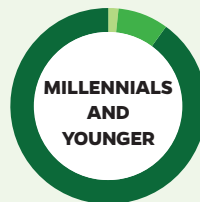
NOTE: ADDITIONAL GENERATIONS WERE SURVEYED FOR THIS PROJECT BUT ARE NOT LISTED DUE TO INSIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES.

OFTEN/ALWAYS **SOMETIMES** **NEVER/RARELY**

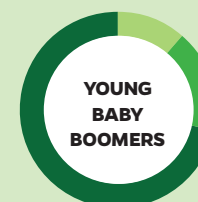
“I DEFROST FROZEN FOODS IN THE REFRIGERATOR OR MICROWAVE.”



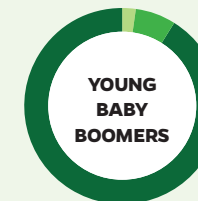
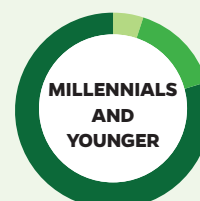
“I LOOK FOR EXPIRATION DATES ON FOOD BEFORE EATING.”



“I DISINFECT COUNTERS BEFORE PREPARING FOOD.”



“I SEPARATE RAW MEAT, POULTRY AND SEAFOOD FROM READY-TO-EAT PRODUCTS.”



Data from this survey were collected in Fall 2014 and this issue guide was published in March 2017.