

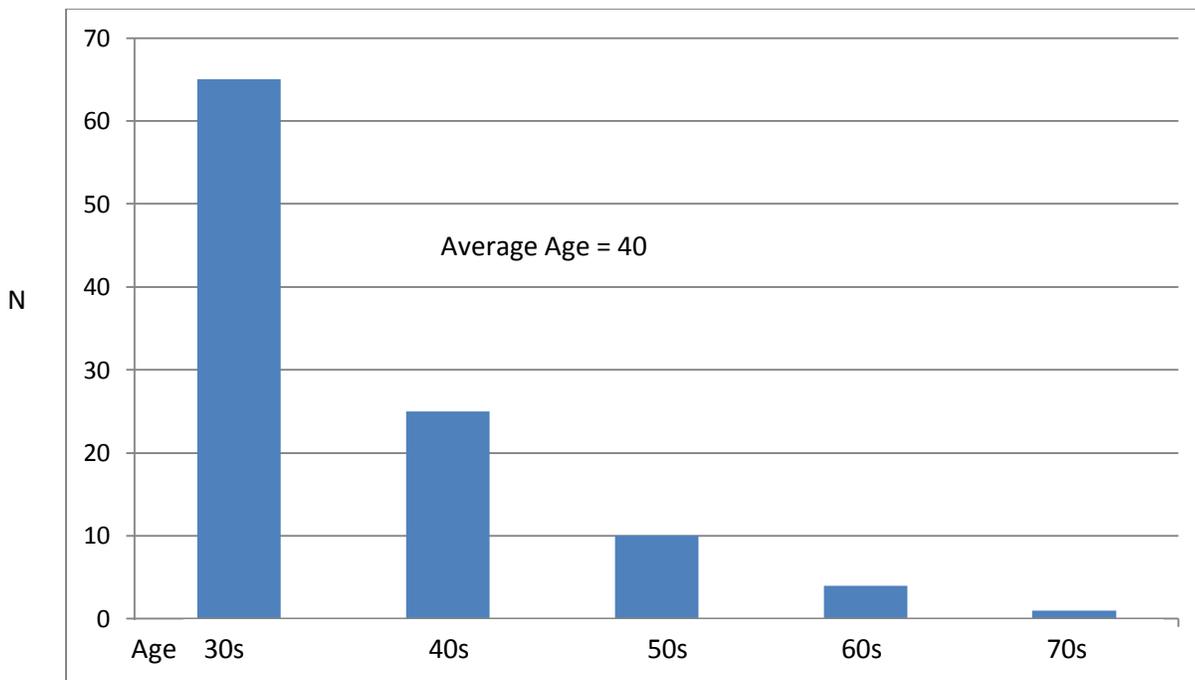
NAME Forensic Pathologist Age Analysis
Prepared by Randy Hanzlick, December 11, 2020

This document attempts to clarify age distribution data concerning board certified forensic pathologist member/fellows of NAME.

A goal of this summary is to define the age data for board certified forensic pathologist NAME members who are still likely to be actively working. Emeritus members are basically retired, so they are excluded from this analysis, realizing that some may still engage in consulting, part-time work, or other activities. Analyses of NAME data from 2020 indicate that about 11% of NAME forensic pathologist members have Emeritus status. The age range of 92 Emeritus members is 59-93 with an average age of 77 years. Excluding Emeritus members will obviously impact age analysis because that group is older. But again, the goal is to hopefully characterize the age statistics of those who are still regularly working.

First to be considered is the most recent data available concerning ages.

Figure 1. Age Group of 106 Forensic Pathologists who Joined NAME in Years 2011-2020 For Whom Birthdate is Known.

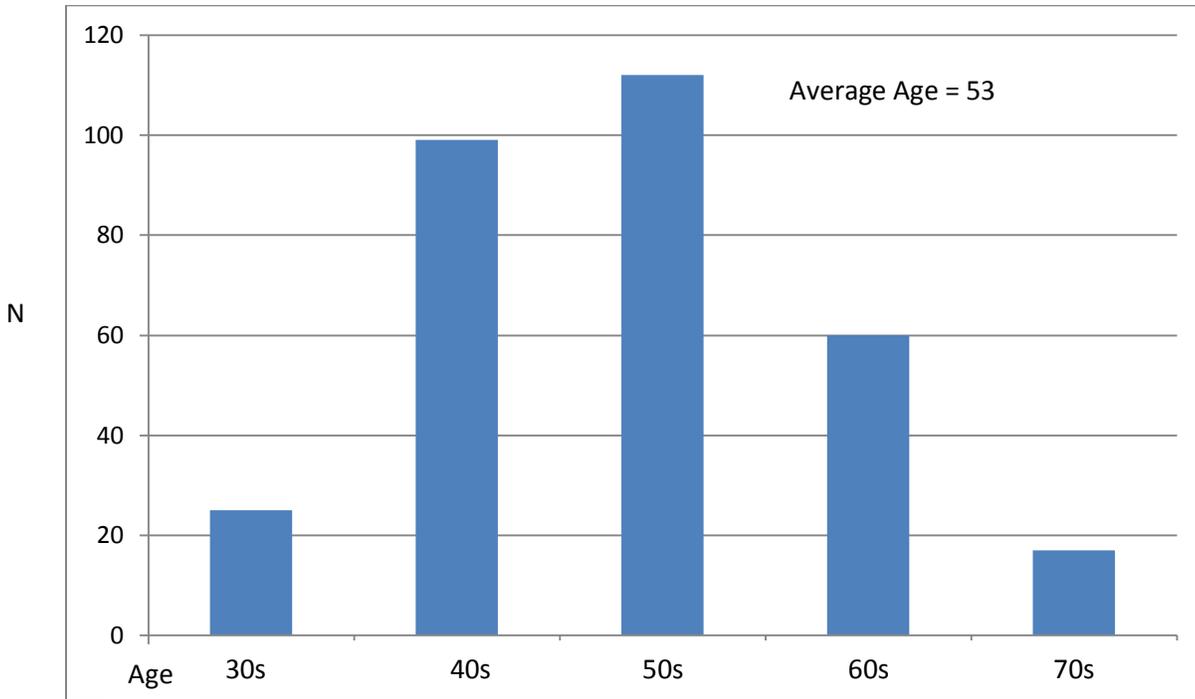


Note: 412 people were trained and board certified in forensic pathology in the years 2011 to 2020. 335 Forensic Pathologists joined NAME in those years. It seems reasonable to assume that the 335 people who joined NAME mostly came from that pool of 412 trainees. Thus, it appears that 81% of forensic pathology trainees joined NAME. We know from past data that about 80% of persons getting their FP board certification go on to practice FP either full time (67%) or part time. Thus, perhaps the ones who did not join NAME are not practicing FP, and/or the most recent graduates may not yet have had time to join.

Whether the data for the 106 with known birthdates is representative of the entire group is not known, but it would be a 32% sample rate which could be valid. If the sample size accurately reflects the entire group, then the average age of 335 forensic pathologists joining NAME in 2011-2020 is roughly 40 years.

We can take a similar look at the age distribution of longer term forensic pathologist members of NAME.

Figure 2. Ages of 311 forensic pathologist members of NAME with known ages in Year 2010.



The average age of NAME forensic pathologists in year 2010 was 53 years. If those persons' ages are recalculated for what their age would be in 2020, and those who would now be 80 or older and likely Emeritus status are excluded, then the average age of that group would now be 63. If the data from those who joined NAME in 2011-2020 are added (for which the average age was 40 if the sample was representative), then it can be estimated that the average age of a NAME forensic pathologist in 2020 is 51 years, slightly less than in the past.

The basic formula used to calculate this was:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 (311 \text{ FPs}) \times (\text{average age of } 63) = 19,593 \text{ person years} \\
 + (335 \text{ FPs}) \times (\text{average age of } 40) = 13,400 \text{ person years} \\
 \hline
 646 \text{ FPs} \qquad \qquad \qquad 32,993 \qquad \qquad \qquad 32,993/646 = 51 \text{ year average age}
 \end{array}$$

This also assumes that the data for the group in Figure 2 is representative of those for whom ages were lacking. Age data were available for about 77% of NAME board certified pathologists in 2010.

If we look at the graphs of annual forensic pathology board certifications, the data suggest that average age of forensic pathologists should be declining somewhat.

Figure 3. Annual FP Boards Certifications 2010-2020

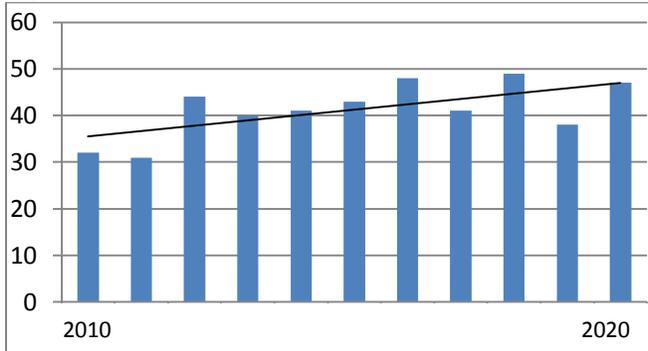
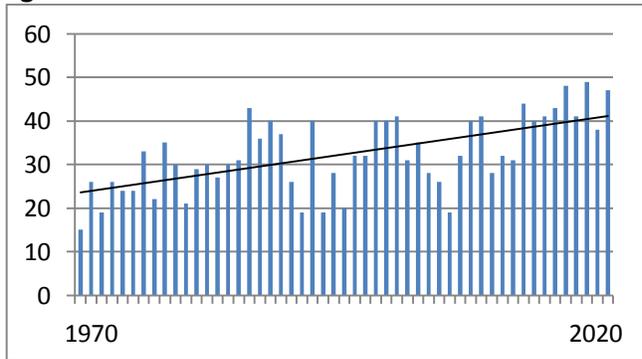


Figure 4. Annual FP Boards Certifications 1970-2020



Both the short term (Figure 3) and longer term (Figure 4) graphs show an upward trend in forensic pathology board certifications. Since most people training in forensic pathology and passing their board examination are relatively young (most probably in their 30s, see Figure 1), it makes sense that the addition of more young people each year should have a lowering effect on average forensic pathologist age. Not all people board certified in forensic pathology join NAME, but those who do join would tend to boost the number of younger people in the organization.

Bottom line.... Although one might expect that the average age of the board certified forensic pathologist members of NAME might be increasing because the general population is aging, such does not appear to be the case. It appears that the average age of forensic pathologist members of NAME has declined slightly, with an average age of 51 for those who are still in the workforce.

To better enable age analyses in the future, it might be helpful if NAME could have complete data on the birthdate/age of every member.

In the near future, an effort will be made to determine what the workforce loss may be as a result of retirement.