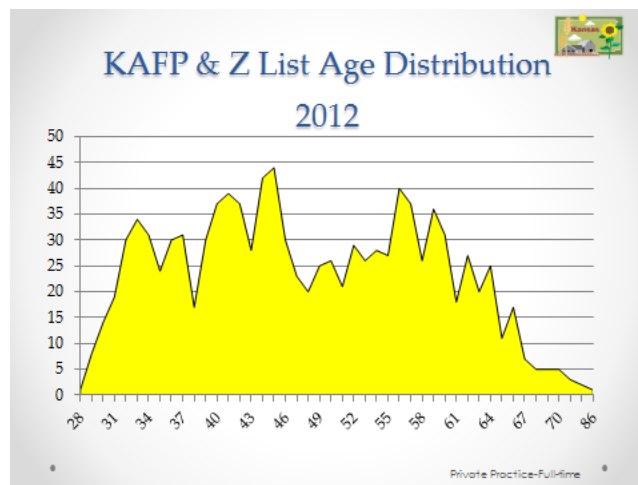
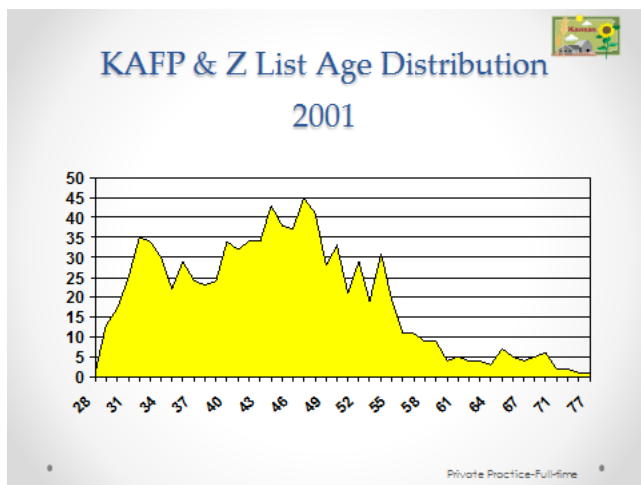


Age Distribution of Practicing Kansas Family Medicine Physicians

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The first of the 'baby boomers' reached retirement age of 65 in 2011. Through sheer size of numbers, the "baby boom" demographic bulge remodeled American society. As this generation ages and requires more medical care, many American policy makers are concerned about possible medical workforce shortages.

Concurrently, Kansas has an existing physician workforce shortage. Seventy of 105 counties in Kansas are designated as medically underserved areas by the governor of Kansas¹. In addition, a 'front wave' of Kansas family physicians has reached the traditional retirement age of 65.



These graphs illustrate the ages of physicians in the years 2001 and 2012 who were listed as active members of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) plus those eligible for KAFP membership². The names of individual physicians were cross-referenced with information provided on the Kansas Board of Healing Arts website to determine the age of each physician.

The median age of a Kansas family physician increased from 44 in 2001 to 49 in 2012. The age distribution curve has shifted to the right. Starting in 2012 twenty to forty family physicians are reaching retirement each year.

Kansas has not experienced a significant number of retirements by family physicians in well over a generation. In addition to the existing shortage of family physicians in Kansas, future work force projections for family physicians should take the age distribution and retirement of experienced physicians into account.

1. <http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/download/PCUARpt.pdf>, accessed 11/25/2013.
2. Kansas Academy of Family Physicians active membership list and the list of family physicians who could be members of KAFP