



Board Certification

Recognized Certifying Boards

The Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) through its Specialty Board Recognition Committee (SBRC) recognizes certifying boards in podiatry.

- It is the policy of APMA and CPME to recognize one certifying board in each area of specialization.
- The two current recognized areas of specialization recognized in podiatry are medicine and surgery.
- This policy of one specialty board in each recognized area was reaffirmed by a Blue-Ribbon Panel conducted in 2020 in which both ABFAS and ABPM participated.

Blue-Ribbon Panel Recommendation

In a report to the 2020 APMA House of Delegates (HOD) the following was included in the recommendations of the Blue-Ribbon Panel:

“The long-standing APMA policy of recognizing only one certifying board for each unique area of clinical practice should be reaffirmed. This is believed to be critical in serving the public interest and mitigating confusion in the health-care community that already embraces the one board per one specialty area concept for other medical and dental professions.”

Recognized Certifying Boards

American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS)

- Certifies in two areas of surgery—Foot Surgery and Reconstructive Rearfoot and Ankle Surgery (RRA)
- DPMs are eligible to become board qualified after completion of residency

American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM)

- Certifies in Podiatric Medicine
- DPMs are eligible upon completion of residency
- May sit for certification exam at conclusion of residency training

ABFAS

Board Qualification in Foot Surgery

indicates a demonstrated level of capability in the diagnosis of general medical problems, including the diagnosis and surgical management of pathologic foot conditions, deformities, and/or traumatic injuries.

Board Qualification in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle (RRA) Surgery

indicates a demonstrated level of capability in the diagnosis of general medical problems, including the diagnosis and surgical management of pathologic foot and ankle conditions, deformities, and/or trauma, and of structures that affect the foot, ankle, and leg. Board Qualification in Foot Surgery is a prerequisite for Board Qualification in RRA.

ABFAS Steps to Certification

Must become board qualified first:

- Pass didactic exam and computer-based patient simulation (CBPS) exam
- Perform surgical cases that are the basis for a case review. Upon successful completion of case review, DPMs become board certified.
- Same process for both foot surgery and RRA. DPMs can become board qualified in both at the same time but must first become board certified in foot surgery prior to becoming board certified in RRA.

ABPM

- **Upon completion of residency, you are board eligible.**
- **You can then sit for the board certification exam**
- **No case review necessary**

ABPM Certification Exam

Two sections:

- The **didactic section** consisting of 125 multiple choice questions.
- The **case section** consisting of nine clinical case scenarios.

Upon passage you are board certified!

Relevance of each certifying board

ABFAS:

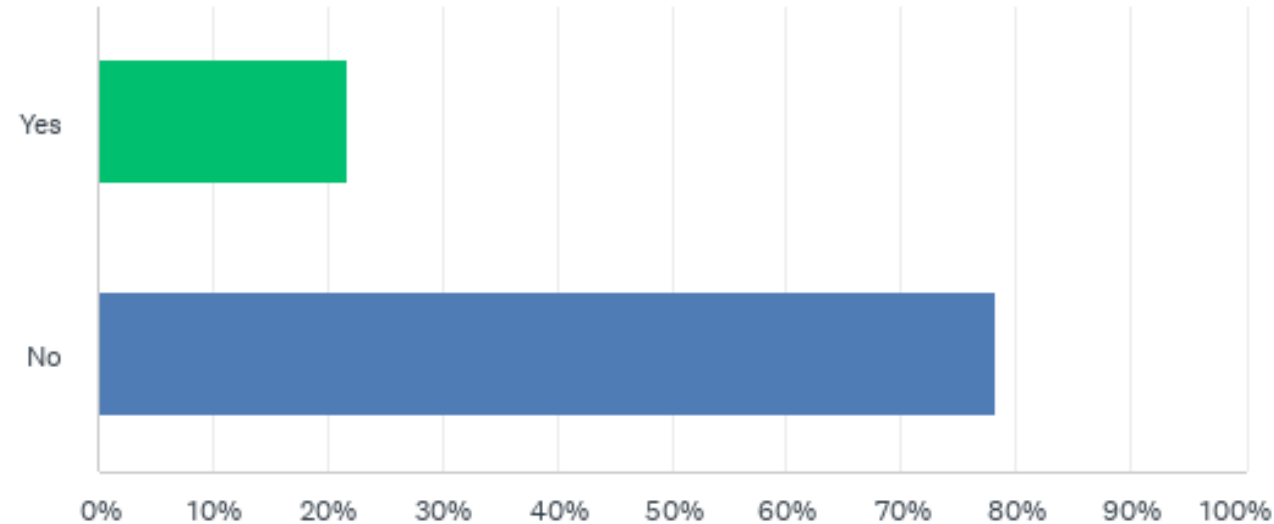
- Eligible to take qualification exam upon completion of residency
- May help obtain hospital surgical privileges upon entering practice
- Certification represents passage of exam and review of cases

ABPM:

- Can become certified right after completion of residency
- Certification may be helpful and necessary to gain participation in insurance panels
- Certification represents passage of exam and knowledge base related to podiatric medicine

Survey Data

Q1 Have you encountered difficulties obtaining hospital privileges related to your board certification status?



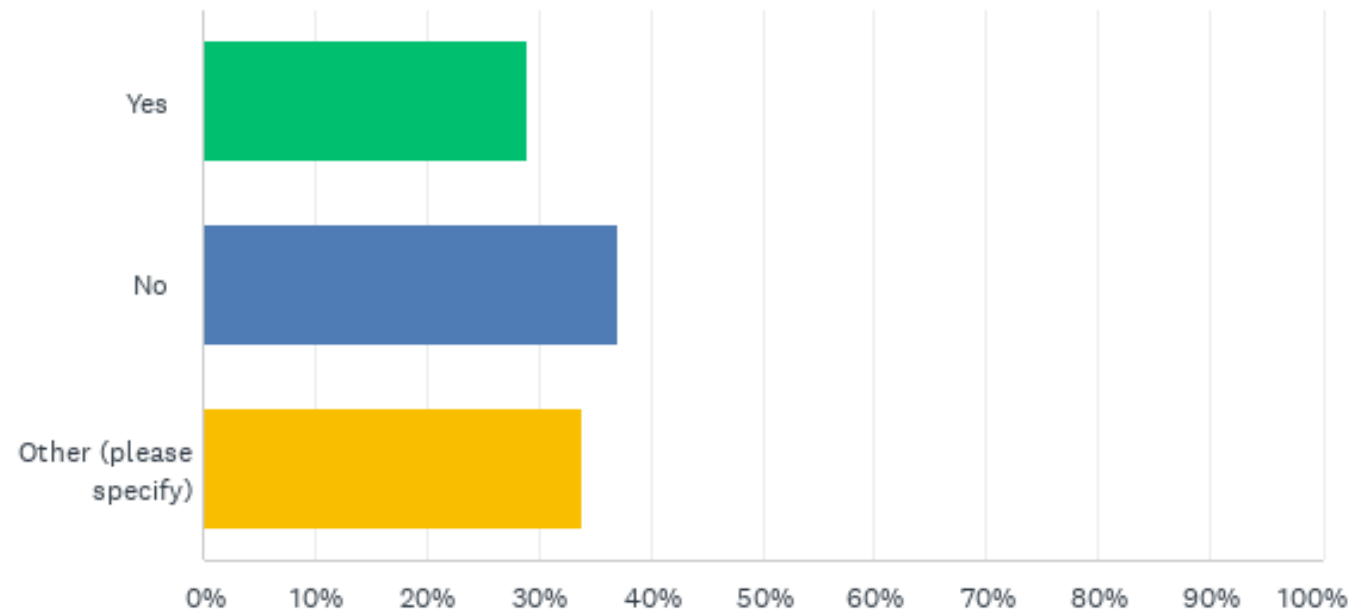
Survey Data

Q2 What type of issue did you experience obtaining hospital privileges?

required within years t ABPM accepted ankle obtain certified Requirement
recognized surgical procedures ABFAS even though ABPM due
Unable even hospital ABMSP
board certification insurance
certification ABPS board board certified surgical
hospital accept privileges limited hospital privileges qualification
rearfoot Didn't privileges without years
ABPM lose ABFAS Hospital years certified
board certification hospital privileges without
Yes unable hospital privileges ABPS accepts board Hospitals require
certification
without surgical board recognized require years surgery certification
Unable surgical privileges ABPM needed Yes foot
hospital x ABFAS Unable surgical board certification
surgical privileges without certified

Survey Data

Q3 Was your problem resolved (were you able to get privileges)?



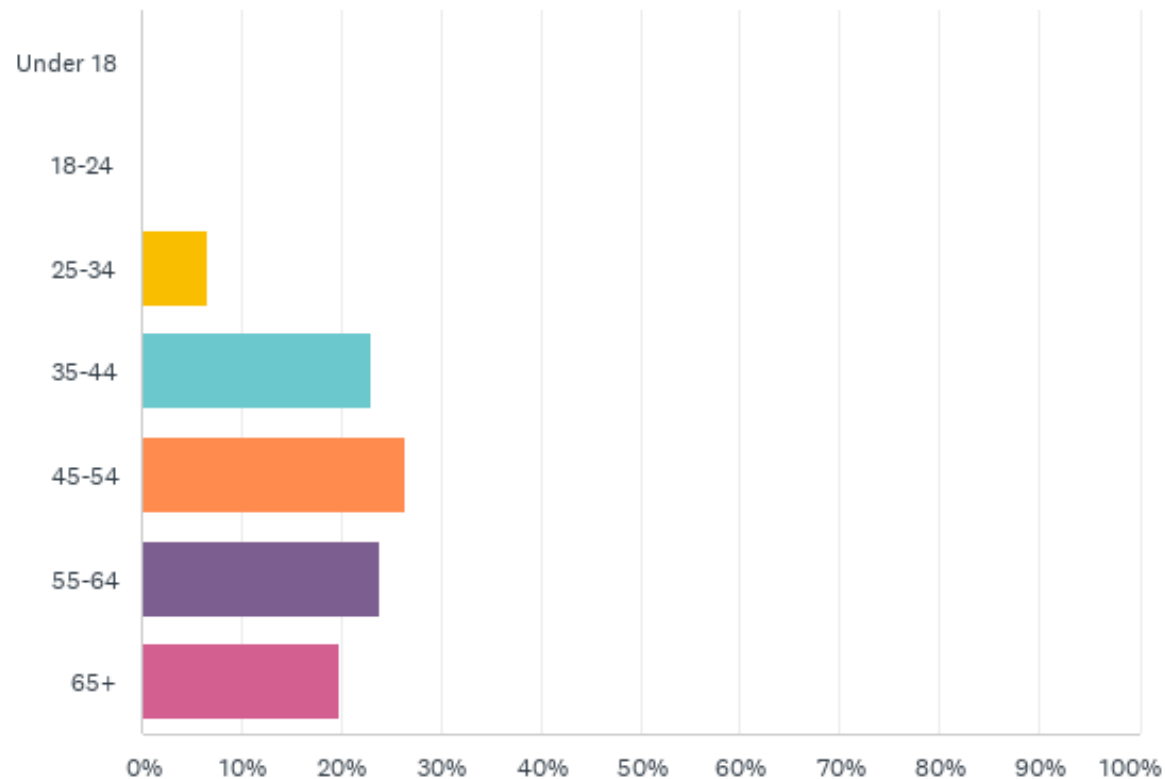
Survey Data

Q4 Please list any other concerns with board certification.

test area passing attempt required difficult specialty feel surgical certification
physicians ABPS fail also staff ABMSP ACFAS certifying board everyone
believe started surgeons even years accepted training
certification process concerns long surgical board problem time
members cases many boards will offered process patients
certified trying need surgical privileges hospitals without
ABPM qualified board certification give
certification many ABFAS now
profession making boards organization surgery
going podiatry never None medicine one pathway
podiatrists multiple boards board certified used
residency way one board seems surgical ABFAS ABPM
practice people allow standard take requirements think know confusing
board qualified APMA credential best due hospital privileges able exam ridiculous
recognized obtain S qualification issue provide ABPM ABFAS privileges

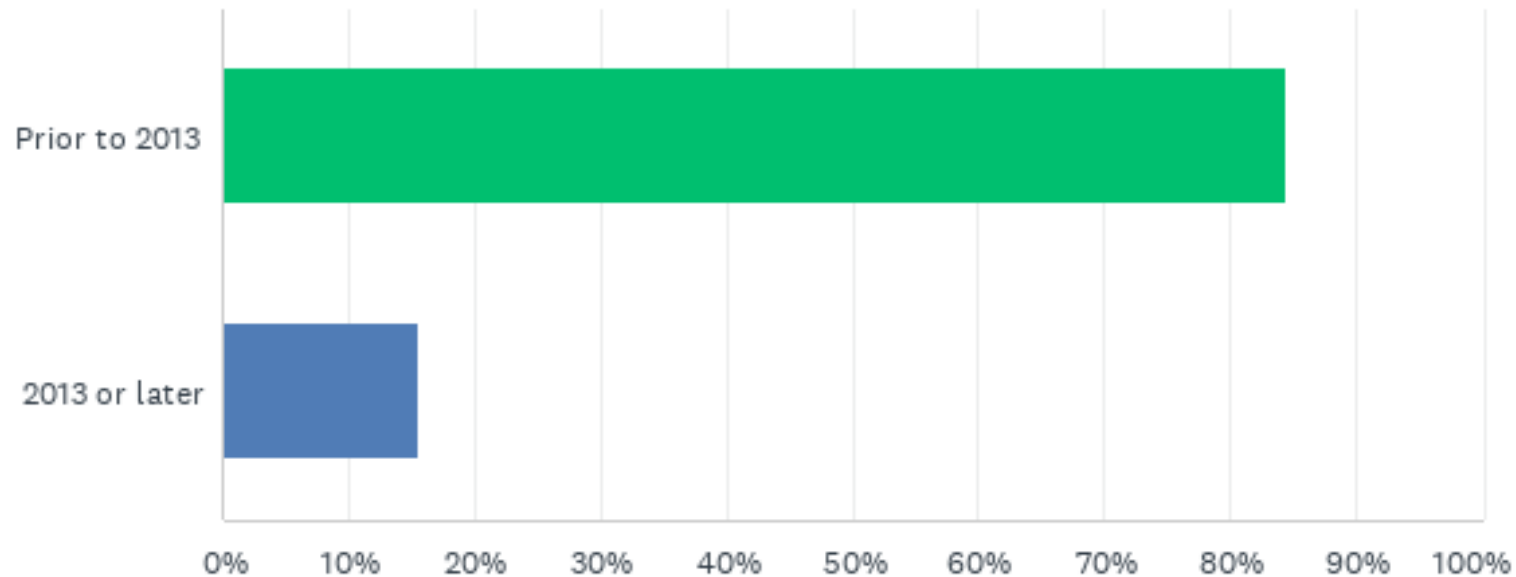
Survey Data

Q5 Age



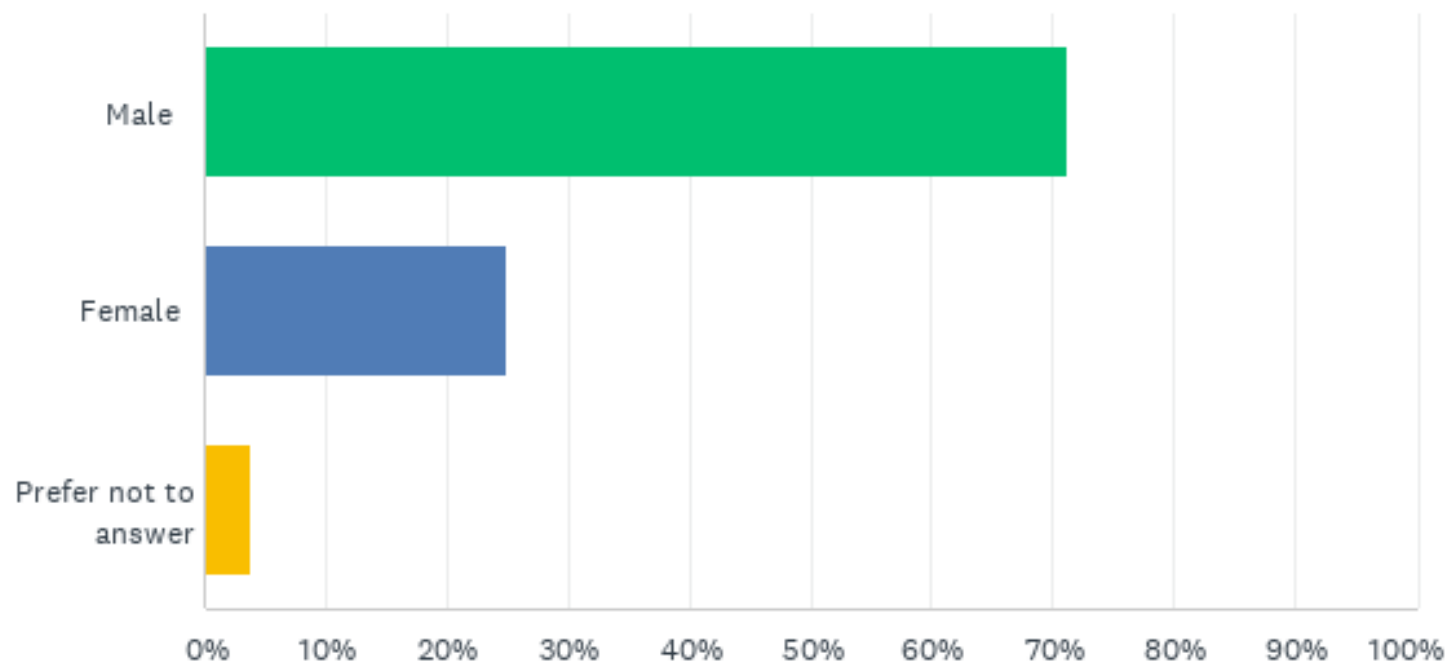
Survey Data

Q6 Date of graduation from podiatric medical school.



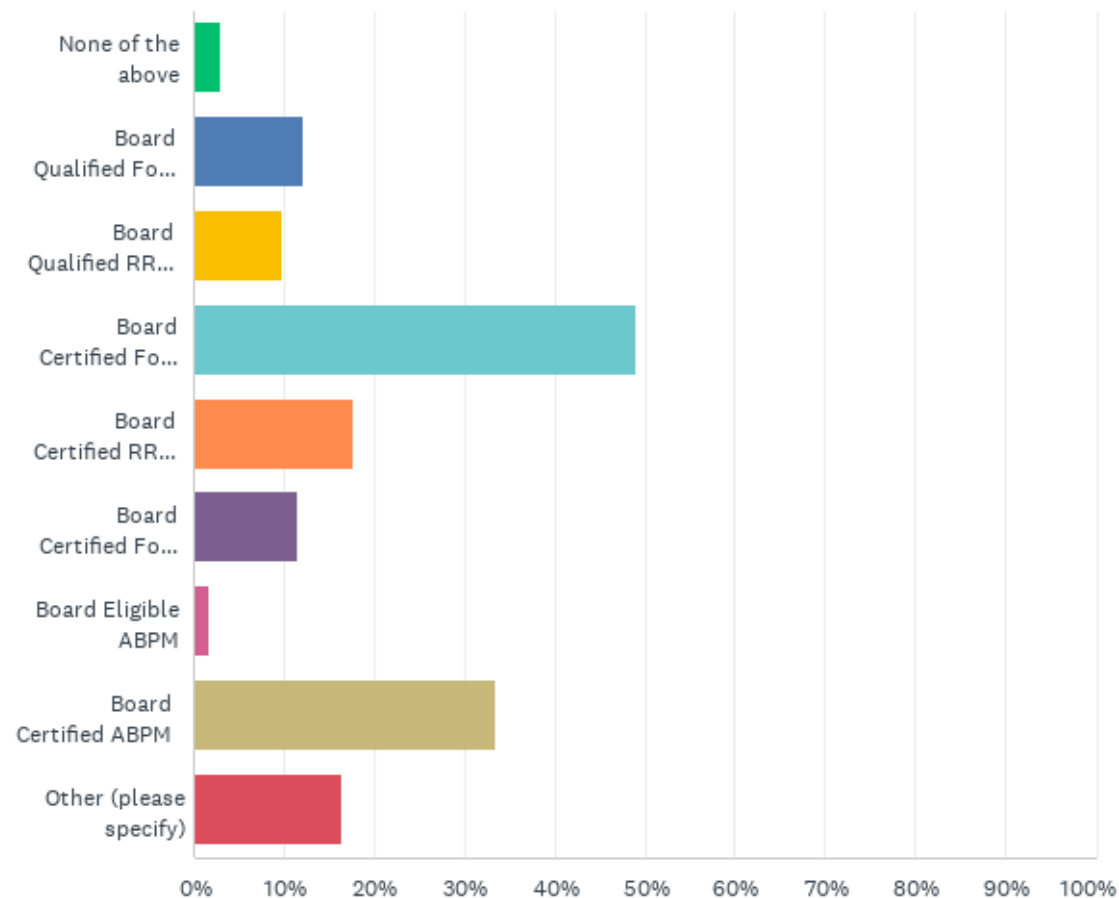
Survey Data

Q7 Sex



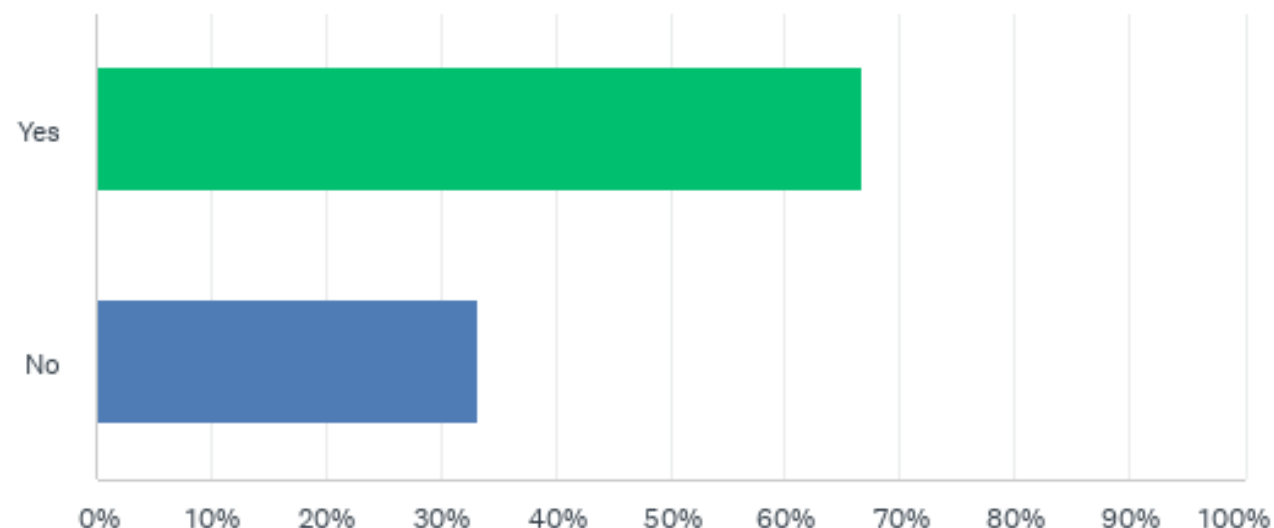
Survey Data

Q8 Certification Status (Check all that apply)



ASPE Data

Q1 Have you heard from members about issues with board certification affecting their ability to practice (hospital privileges, insurance panels, etc.)?



ASPE Data

Q2 How frequently have you heard from members about these issues?

