

Youth Dominates the Quantitative Reasoning Class

Math Q114, section 3, Quantitative Reasoning, is a class dominated by young students under the age of 20. Ninety percent of the class is between 15 and 19 years of ages as seen in the histogram, which is strongly skewed to the left toward this age interval. In addition, 95% of the class is under the age of 25. In fact, there is only one student who is over the age of 30. Half of the class (11 out of 22 students) is age 18 (the mode). 18 is also the median age for the class. The mean age is 19, slightly higher than the median or middle age. This is due to the one older student who acts as an outlier. If I had to say what is the “average” age of this class I would answer 18 since it is the true middle and most commonly occurring age.

Is this surprising? I don't think so. This is a freshmen class so I would expect that the majority of students are in the typical freshman age range, which fits exactly with the 15-19 year age interval where most of the class falls. What is a bit surprising is that there are no students between 25 and 29 years of age and only one student over 30. The reason this is surprising is that UMass Boston attracts a lot of transfer students as well as students attending college after first working a few years following high school. This is supported by the Fast Facts 2003 data, which shows that the mean age for undergraduates is 27 and the median age 24. In conclusion, I would say our class is typical for a freshman class but slightly atypical for a UMass Boston freshman class because there are so few students over the age of 24.

Intervals	Rel. Freq.
15 to 19	90.5%
20 to 24	4.8%
25 to 29	0.0%
30 to 34	4.8%
Total	100%

