

***Research report***

**Canadian Individual Life Experience  
for Policy Year 2018–2019**

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## 1 Executive Summary

This is the 70th annual report of the intercompany mortality experience for Canadian individual life insurance policies. The study covers the one-year period beginning with the policy anniversary in 2018 on an age-nearest-birthday basis.

The main things to note are that mortality improvement has continued (Section 5) except in the case of female smokers, that the decrease in mortality with increasing size of policy face amount remains significant (Section 4.4), and that the experience for preferred and residual are closer together than one might expect (Section 4.3).

The study this year has a number of changes from prior studies.

1. The name of the report has changed to reflect current usage; it was previously called “Canadian Standard Ordinary Life Experience”.
2. Over half of the data now include province of residence; see Section 4.6.
3. After an absence of five years, cause of death is again part of the data submitted, although not all contributing companies were able to provide cause of death at this time. Of the cases for which a cause of death (Section 4.7) is identified, cancer is the leading cause with 51% of deaths, by amount, followed by heart disease at 19%.
4. Records are now submitted for substandard policies, if the rating is a multiple of standard rates; substandard experience is included only in Section 4.8.
5. Data over attained age 100 are not included because they are considered unreliable (Section 4.9). Previously records were included to age 120.

The amount of insurance in the study continues to grow. It is 27% larger than four years ago. The data included represent a significant proportion of the population of Canada.

*\*Note: This document has been updated since its original release with corrections to the databases and the tables accompanying this report. Section 7 describes the updates made and is the only part of the report that was changed since original release.*

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### 3 Data and Method

#### 3.1 Overview

This study has been called “standard ordinary” for 69 years, but its name has been changed now to “individual” to reflect more common terminology. “Standard” was dropped because the data collected are broader than standard, but the study continues to show experience exclusively for standard policies unless otherwise stated.

Records were submitted by eight companies for individual life policies and riders issued in Canada. The submissions include business issued as joint, converted, substandard, simplified issue, and guaranteed issue, but all of these categories are excluded from the main study. The records included are for single life policies that required normal underwriting and excluding business rated as substandard. Records for attained ages over 100 are excluded (see Section 4.9).

This report includes an analysis of substandard business compared to standard in Section 4.8. It is expected that in future years analyses of simplified and guaranteed issue policies, converted policies, and joint policies will be included, but in this report these are always excluded.

There were a total of 13.2 million records submitted for the 2018–2019 policy year, with a total face amount of \$2.28 trillion. Included in the total was \$0.19 trillion of insurance on new issues of 2018. (According to CLHIA the total individual insurance industry included \$3.06 trillion, and according to LIMRA, the sales of 2018 were \$0.25 trillion.) Thus the data submitted include about three-quarters of the industry face amount.

Table 1 shows the quantity of data, both exposure and deaths, included in this study and in the previous four.

**Table 1. Totals included in the study**

Policy Year of Study	Exposure		Deaths	
	Policies	Amount k\$	Policies	Amount k\$
2014–2015	8,632,273	1,498,521,212	69,435	3,068,637
2015–2016	9,027,113	1,565,230,017	68,458	3,095,533
2016–2017	8,497,829	1,493,924,827	68,056	2,980,574
2017–2018	9,058,927	1,730,483,682	72,229	3,572,599
2018–2019	9,239,176	1,819,102,019	71,756	3,548,157
Total	44,455,319	8,107,261,757	349,933	16,265,500

The numbers for the previous studies are adjusted to be consistent with the method used in this study. The impact is too small to warrant highlighting it here. More detail on the method can be found in Appendix 1.

To put the size of this dataset in perspective, one should note that according to Statistics Canada, at the beginning of 2019 the population of Canada was estimated at 37.6 million, and the number of deaths in the 12 months centred on that date was 281,000. Therefore, the study for the 2018–2019 policy year (also centred on the beginning of 2019) includes as much as one-quarter of the population of Canada. This is an upper limit because some people may have

more than one policy in the study, and the profile of the insured lives may be quite different from that of the population.

### 3.2 Contributing companies

Table 2 lists the contributing companies in the current and previous studies. The percentages shown are the proportion of the total exposure that was submitted by each company, calculated by amount.

<b>Table 2. Contributing companies</b>		
Company	Exposure %, by amount	
	2017–2018	2018–2019
Canada Life	24.6%	23.4%
Desjardins	3.6%	4.8%
Equitable Life	5.1%	5.4%
Industrial-Alliance	12.3%	12.3%
ivari	9.9%	10.1%
Manulife	21.5%	20.9%
RBC Life	6.2%	6.2%
Sun Life	16.9%	16.8%
Total exposure by amount	100.0%	100.0%

On behalf of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries (CIA), we thank these companies for their willingness to contribute, for the effort expended, and for their care to maintain the quality of the study.

Of course, not all companies have the same experience. However, this year the actual to expected (A/E) ratios on CIA9704 by company were more closely grouped than usual. All companies were within 5% of the intercompany A/E ratio. In comparison, only three of eight companies were within 5% last year.

## 4 Experience for Policy Year 2018–2019

### 4.1 Overall results

Table 3 shows the overall results for all lives included in the study. Note that this table is comprised of three sections: select experience by policy year, select experience by issue age, and ultimate experience (based on 15-year select<sup>1</sup>) by attained age. So the first two sections cover the same experience but group the data differently. Standard deviations are calculated on CIA9704 only. If calculated on CIA8692 they would be proportionately smaller because of the A/E ratios being smaller on CIA8692. Tables 4 and 5 present the same data as Table 3, but split between females in Table 4 and males in Table 5 (in alphabetical order).

It is evident that experience is significantly different both from CIA9704 and from CIA8692. Not only is the overall level far from 100% of either table, but the variation in A/E ratios by age group is substantial, especially in the ultimate period.

Incidentally, the Experience Research Committee (ERC) has an active project to construct a new mortality table. That new table will be used in future studies after it is available.

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<sup>1</sup> The select period was set at 15 years because both mortality tables for calculating expected deaths have a 15-year select period. For juvenile ages the mortality rates in both tables vary by attained age rather than issue age and duration, with a few exceptions.

<b>Table 3. Experience for all data included in the study for policy year 2018–2019</b>										
	CIA9704				CIA8692		Exposure		Actual deaths	
	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Act/Exp					
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols k	Amt m\$	Pols	Amt k\$
<i>Select by policy year</i>										
1st	72.5%	68.0%	6.4%	18.2%	50.1%	47.6%	352.7	148,486	114	39,697
2nd	84.1%	61.9%	4.9%	12.9%	68.4%	48.4%	350.3	145,557	223	53,411
3rd	67.0%	48.9%	4.3%	11.5%	54.4%	37.9%	382.9	160,605	235	58,391
4th	64.2%	56.9%	4.1%	10.9%	52.0%	43.6%	338.2	136,272	239	68,684
5th	73.5%	62.6%	3.9%	11.7%	58.7%	47.4%	303.0	117,910	303	80,089
6–10th	65.8%	50.7%	1.5%	3.6%	49.9%	36.9%	1 460.2	500,288	1,964	403,823
11–15th	70.3%	60.1%	1.4%	4.6%	50.3%	42.1%	969.9	223,911	2,217	344,233
<i>Subtot</i>	68.8%	55.7%	0.9%	2.6%	51.4%	40.6%	4 157.2	1,433,030	5,295	1,048,326
<i>Select by issue age</i>										
0–9	73.1%	66.4%	10.8%	35.5%	44.0%	39.7%	421.9	48,165	47	4,711
10–19	94.6%	79.2%	9.3%	35.0%	61.4%	50.4%	220.5	36,411	73	9,548
20–29	66.1%	60.3%	4.6%	9.4%	47.4%	43.8%	683.4	204,715	200	51,453
30–39	70.9%	61.7%	2.8%	4.7%	49.4%	43.4%	1 187.9	540,750	573	205,627
40–49	68.4%	60.5%	2.1%	4.7%	48.1%	41.6%	922.7	403,669	994	311,322
50–59	59.3%	48.3%	1.7%	5.0%	46.8%	36.5%	516.1	162,787	1,304	249,206
60–69	67.4%	42.3%	1.8%	7.2%	51.8%	33.0%	176.5	32,562	1,288	118,866
70–79	85.7%	62.1%	2.9%	15.4%	63.3%	46.9%	26.2	3,724	629	68,144
80–100	129.7%	135.8%	6.5%	24.0%	110.7%	118.5%	2.1	247	190	29,450
<i>Subtot</i>	68.8%	55.7%	0.9%	2.6%	51.4%	40.6%	4 157.2	1,433,030	5,295	1,048,326
<i>Ultimate by attained age</i>										
15–19	69.6%	71.1%	18.7%	45.4%	38.3%	39.2%	65.1	4,223	14	915
20–29	102.3%	87.5%	6.6%	17.3%	75.7%	64.7%	307.8	18,198	162	8,081
30–39	100.8%	81.1%	4.8%	16.5%	64.8%	52.7%	428.4	24,132	308	13,426
40–49	103.9%	117.6%	2.9%	6.4%	65.8%	75.6%	646.0	60,338	834	85,892
50–59	82.7%	74.6%	1.3%	3.0%	55.0%	47.7%	1 147.0	125,385	3,130	273,544
60–69	66.9%	58.7%	0.7%	1.9%	51.4%	43.1%	1 215.5	98,709	8,228	515,205
70–79	75.9%	61.0%	0.6%	2.0%	54.0%	42.2%	788.3	39,370	15,195	563,878
80–89	90.2%	77.5%	0.5%	2.5%	67.1%	56.2%	388.6	13,253	24,120	681,838
90–100	77.1%	75.0%	0.6%	3.1%	74.2%	73.1%	95.3	2,464	14,471	357,051
<i>Subtot</i>	80.2%	69.0%	0.3%	1.1%	61.9%	50.4%	5 082.0	386,072	66,461	2,499,831
<b>Total</b>	79.2%	64.4%	0.3%	1.1%	61.0%	47.0%	9 239.2	1,819,102	71,756	3,548,157



<b>Table 4. Experience for all females included in the study for policy year 2018–2019</b>										
	CIA9704				CIA86-92		Exposure		Actual deaths	
	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Act/Exp					
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols k	Amt m\$	Pols	Amt k\$
<i>Select by policy year</i>										
1st	66.0%	88.5%	11.4%	30.2%	39.2%	51.5%	172.3	63,566	34	12,758
2nd	67.5%	43.7%	8.1%	21.9%	55.6%	34.4%	170.8	62,539	69	11,309
3rd	67.2%	47.7%	6.9%	18.7%	56.8%	38.2%	187.5	69,547	94	18,212
4th	55.8%	38.7%	6.6%	18.1%	47.8%	31.4%	165.9	58,454	85	14,940
5th	76.1%	71.7%	6.3%	21.1%	64.7%	58.1%	148.0	50,051	129	30,211
6–10th	64.4%	47.4%	2.3%	5.4%	52.4%	37.6%	720.4	210,520	787	121,566
11–15th	74.0%	64.0%	2.1%	6.9%	56.0%	48.4%	496.0	99,295	1,059	138,415
<i>Subtot</i>	69.1%	55.0%	1.4%	4.0%	54.4%	42.7%	2,060.9	613,973	2,257	347,412
<i>Select by issue age</i>										
0–9	72.6%	56.6%	17.9%	62.4%	45.4%	35.2%	207.9	24,298	18	1,631
10–19	124.1%	105.6%	19.0%	62.4%	81.0%	67.7%	106.2	17,787	25	3,357
20–29	72.4%	69.4%	7.8%	13.5%	50.7%	49.3%	368.2	106,025	77	19,374
30–39	73.4%	62.5%	4.6%	6.9%	51.3%	43.7%	596.9	240,560	233	68,873
40–49	66.4%	56.7%	3.4%	7.9%	52.7%	43.7%	436.5	155,293	402	94,102
50–59	57.7%	42.0%	2.7%	7.8%	51.2%	36.6%	239.4	55,510	528	64,642
60–69	69.6%	36.1%	2.8%	11.5%	54.2%	28.8%	89.4	12,129	569	33,683
70–79	81.0%	68.7%	4.1%	18.9%	58.3%	50.3%	15.2	2,175	308	39,535
80–100	117.3%	128.8%	8.5%	28.1%	97.1%	110.6%	1.2	196	99	22,216
<i>Subtot</i>	69.1%	55.0%	1.4%	4.0%	54.4%	42.7%	2,060.9	613,973	2,257	347,412
<i>Ultimate by attained age</i>										
15–19	75.7%	48.5%	37.0%	74.9%	43.6%	27.9%	32.2	2,148	5	191
20–29	106.5%	97.8%	13.2%	40.8%	80.6%	74.0%	152.3	9,234	48	2,660
30–39	95.2%	74.9%	8.9%	23.6%	56.7%	46.4%	209.8	11,739	95	4,051
40–49	97.1%	84.2%	4.6%	9.5%	61.1%	55.0%	326.5	29,054	326	24,137
50–59	77.2%	77.0%	2.1%	4.3%	60.9%	58.9%	559.8	51,581	1,269	100,288
60–69	65.6%	59.4%	1.2%	3.0%	59.8%	50.9%	557.4	35,411	3,116	149,197
70–79	84.7%	71.4%	1.1%	3.6%	61.9%	50.3%	342.4	12,695	5,437	150,122
80–89	99.1%	83.7%	0.9%	4.9%	72.0%	59.2%	171.7	4,812	9,120	205,478
90–100	83.3%	80.7%	0.9%	3.9%	74.8%	73.5%	49.2	1,141	6,834	150,356
<i>Subtot</i>	85.5%	74.1%	0.5%	1.8%	67.9%	57.4%	2,401.1	157,812	26,248	786,480
<b>Total</b>	83.9%	67.0%	0.5%	1.9%	66.6%	51.9%	4,462.0	771,785	28,505	1,133,892

<b>Table 5. Experience for all males included in the study for policy year 2018–2019</b>										
	CIA9704				CIA86-92		Exposure		Actual deaths	
	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Act/Exp					
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols k	Amt m\$	Pols	Amt k\$
<i>Select by policy year</i>										
1st	75.6%	61.3%	7.7%	22.0%	56.7%	45.9%	180.5	84,921	80	26,938
2nd	94.6%	69.6%	6.2%	15.9%	76.3%	54.4%	179.4	83,018	154	42,102
3rd	66.9%	49.5%	5.4%	14.4%	53.0%	37.8%	195.4	91,058	141	40,179
4th	70.1%	65.4%	5.3%	13.5%	54.6%	48.9%	172.2	77,818	154	53,744
5th	71.7%	58.2%	5.0%	14.1%	54.9%	42.6%	155.0	67,858	174	49,877
6–10th	66.8%	52.3%	1.9%	4.6%	48.4%	36.7%	739.8	289,768	1,177	282,256
11–15th	67.2%	57.8%	1.9%	6.0%	46.0%	38.7%	473.9	124,616	1,158	205,817
<i>Subtot</i>	68.6%	56.1%	1.2%	3.3%	49.3%	39.6%	2,096.3	819,057	3,038	700,914
<i>Select by issue age</i>										
0–9	73.4%	73.1%	13.4%	41.8%	43.2%	42.5%	214.0	23,868	29	3,079
10–19	84.2%	69.7%	10.6%	42.0%	54.5%	44.2%	114.2	18,624	48	6,191
20–29	62.7%	55.8%	5.6%	12.3%	45.5%	41.0%	315.3	98,690	123	32,080
30–39	69.3%	61.4%	3.5%	6.1%	48.2%	43.3%	590.9	300,190	341	136,754
40–49	69.8%	62.3%	2.7%	5.8%	45.4%	40.7%	486.2	248,376	592	217,220
50–59	60.4%	50.9%	2.2%	6.4%	44.2%	36.4%	276.7	107,277	776	184,564
60–69	65.7%	45.3%	2.4%	9.2%	50.1%	35.1%	87.1	20,433	719	85,183
70–79	90.8%	54.8%	4.2%	24.7%	69.0%	42.9%	11.0	1,549	321	28,609
80–100	146.4%	163.2%	10.0%	42.6%	130.4%	151.7%	0.9	51	91	7,234
<i>Subtot</i>	68.6%	56.1%	1.2%	3.3%	49.3%	39.6%	2,096.3	819,057	3,038	700,914
<i>Ultimate by attained age</i>										
15–19	67.0%	81.1%	21.5%	56.4%	36.2%	43.9%	32.9	2,075	10	724
20–29	100.7%	83.2%	7.6%	17.5%	73.8%	60.9%	155.6	8,964	114	5,421
30–39	103.5%	84.0%	5.6%	21.7%	69.1%	56.0%	218.7	12,393	213	9,374
40–49	108.8%	139.1%	3.7%	8.6%	69.3%	88.5%	319.5	31,284	508	61,755
50–59	87.0%	73.3%	1.7%	4.0%	51.6%	42.9%	587.2	73,803	1,861	173,256
60–69	67.8%	58.5%	0.9%	2.4%	47.3%	40.6%	658.1	63,299	5,112	366,008
70–79	71.8%	57.9%	0.7%	2.4%	50.4%	39.9%	445.9	26,676	9,759	413,756
80–89	85.5%	75.1%	0.6%	2.9%	64.4%	55.0%	216.9	8,442	15,001	476,361
90–100	72.3%	71.4%	0.7%	4.4%	73.7%	72.9%	46.1	1,324	7,637	206,695
<i>Subtot</i>	77.1%	66.8%	0.3%	1.3%	58.6%	47.7%	2,680.9	228,260	40,213	1,713,351
<b>Total</b>	76.4%	63.3%	0.3%	1.4%	57.8%	45.1%	4,777.2	1,047,317	43,251	2,414,265

A few of the numbers in the above tables are influenced by very large death claims. *Female select ages 80–100* includes a \$10 million claim, almost half the total death claims for that age group. *Male select ages 80–100* includes a \$4.5 million claim, over half the total for the age

group. *Male ultimate ages 40–49* includes four policies on the same life for claims of almost \$20 million, almost one-third of the total for the age group.

Later tables in this report show A/E ratios on CIA9704 only, and not on CIA8692. However, all tables in the Excel workbook associated with this study calculate A/E on both mortality tables.

## 4.2 Distinguishing by smoking status

Table 6 shows the experience for each sex and each smoking status. Note that the A/E ratio for female smokers is much higher than for the others. Little can be said about smoking unknown in the select period because the variability is too high; note the large standard deviations, particularly by amount. For attained ages under 16, all experience is included under *Smoking unknown*. For all issue ages, smoking is shown as submitted when attained age exceeds 15.

<b>Table 6. Summary of experience, by sex and smoking, policy year 2018–2019. Expected mortality on CIA9704</b>								
Risk Class	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Exposure		Actual Deaths	
	Pol\$	Amt	Pol\$	Amt	Pol\$ k	Amt m\$	Pol\$	Amt k\$
Select experience								
Female non-smoker	65.9%	54.0%	1.5%	4.2%	1,656.5	553,068	1,723	301,576
Female smoker	76.0%	62.7%	3.9%	14.4%	170.9	32,398	428	44,148
Female unknown	117.1%	47.7%	9.2%	59.6%	233.5	28,507	106	1,688
Male non-smoker	64.9%	57.1%	1.4%	3.6%	1,612.2	724,088	2,156	613,956
Male smoker	67.1%	49.2%	2.5%	7.7%	242.1	66,753	627	83,420
Male unknown	150.3%	62.7%	6.4%	40.7%	242.0	28,216	255	3,538
All	68.8%	55.7%	0.9%	2.6%	4,157.2	1,433,030	5,295	1,048,326
Ultimate experience								
Female non-smoker	79.5%	68.2%	0.7%	2.3%	1,243.5	118,481	9,576	521,062
Female smoker	103.7%	99.5%	1.5%	3.6%	437.6	21,857	4,068	143,588
Female unknown	85.5%	79.8%	0.7%	1.9%	720.0	17,474	12,604	121,829
Male non-smoker	75.5%	65.0%	0.6%	1.9%	1,255.5	172,742	11,856	1,093,083
Male smoker	77.3%	67.3%	1.0%	2.6%	445.8	27,478	4,766	212,955
Male unknown	77.8%	72.1%	0.5%	1.3%	979.7	28,039	23,591	407,313
All	80.2%	69.0%	0.3%	1.1%	5,082.0	386,072	66,461	2,499,831
All experience								
Female non-smoker	77.1%	62.2%	0.6%	2.2%	2,900.0	671,549	11,299	822,638
Female smoker	100.2%	87.4%	1.4%	5.3%	608.5	54,255	4,496	187,737
Female unknown	85.7%	79.1%	0.7%	2.3%	953.5	45,982	12,710	123,517
Male non-smoker	73.7%	61.9%	0.6%	1.8%	2,867.7	896,830	14,012	1,707,039
Male smoker	76.0%	61.0%	0.9%	3.2%	687.9	94,231	5,393	296,375
Male unknown	78.2%	72.1%	0.5%	1.4%	1,221.6	56,255	23,846	410,851
All	79.2%	64.4%	0.3%	1.1%	9,239.2	1,819,102	71,756	3,548,157

### **4.3 Distinguishing by preferred underwriting**

Table 7 shows the experience for different classes of preferred, separately for males and females. The three classes presented are non-preferred (preferred rates were not available for this plan), residual (preferred rates were available, but the life insured did not qualify), and preferred (the life insured qualified for preferred rates).

Although the non-preferred class continues to dominate in the ultimate period, it is remarkable that the non-preferred class, measured by amount, has become the smallest class in the select period. The A/E ratios by amount are not as one would expect. Non-preferred has the lowest A/E ratios of the three classes in the select for females and highest for males. The difference between residual and preferred is not statistically significant for either male or female, select or ultimate. However, when reviewing the five-year results in the supplemental file referred to in Section 7.1, the preferred mortality is observed to be lower than non-preferred by count and amount, particularly for amounts of \$100k–\$2m.

**Table 7. Summary of experience, by sex and preferred class, policy year 2018–2019. Expected mortality on CIA9704**

Risk Class	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Exposure		Actual Deaths	
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols k	Amt m\$	Pols	Amt k\$
Select experience								
Female non-pref	75.8%	47.9%	2.1%	8.9%	778.3	144,312	1,143	96,718
Female residual	68.2%	60.3%	2.4%	5.0%	689.5	185,225	769	110,223
Female preferred	54.5%	56.8%	3.2%	6.3%	593.1	284,435	345	140,472
Male non-pref	78.2%	58.7%	1.8%	8.4%	734.9	164,627	1,450	184,644
Male residual	63.3%	55.5%	2.0%	4.8%	721.4	277,522	961	232,033
Male preferred	59.5%	55.0%	2.4%	4.6%	640.0	376,908	627	284,238
All	68.8%	55.7%	0.9%	2.6%	4,157.2	1,433,030	5,295	1,048,326
Ultimate experience								
Female non-pref	85.6%	74.0%	0.5%	1.8%	2,247.3	133,645	25,717	724,008
Female residual	84.0%	74.7%	3.9%	7.3%	85.4	8,281	367	21,461
Female preferred	68.1%	76.6%	5.2%	10.6%	68.5	15,885	164	41,010
Male non-pref	77.2%	67.1%	0.4%	1.3%	2,526.2	193,122	39,592	1,606,404
Male residual	75.8%	74.3%	3.4%	7.5%	81.6	11,875	397	44,927
Male preferred	62.8%	57.9%	4.1%	9.7%	73.1	23,262	224	62,020
All	80.2%	69.0%	0.3%	1.1%	5,082.0	386,072	66,461	2,499,831
All experience								
Female non-pref	85.2%	69.5%	0.5%	2.1%	3,025.6	277,958	26,860	820,726
Female residual	72.6%	62.2%	2.1%	4.5%	774.9	193,507	1,136	131,684
Female preferred	58.2%	60.3%	2.7%	5.5%	661.6	300,321	509	181,482
Male non-pref	77.2%	66.1%	0.3%	1.5%	3,261.1	357,749	41,042	1,791,048
Male residual	66.5%	57.9%	1.7%	4.3%	803.0	289,397	1,358	276,960
Male preferred	60.4%	55.5%	2.1%	4.1%	713.1	400,170	851	346,257
All	79.2%	64.4%	0.3%	1.1%	9,239.2	1,819,102	71,756	3,548,157

The difference between residual and preferred is startling. One would expect that the A/E ratios for preferred would be much lower than residual in the early policy years and gradually converging at higher durations. In fact there is very little difference, by amount, in the select period, and for males at least, the difference is wider in the ultimate.

One might wonder if the differences are clouded by differing distributions between preferred and residual with respect to size and age, but after adjusting for the differences in distribution, the same pattern is observed. When looking at the last five years of experience, one sees that preferred has consistently higher A/E than residual in the early policy years, gradually changing to lower A/E with increasing duration. The ultimate A/E ratios for preferred are about 75% of those for residual. Because less than 10% of the exposure for residual and preferred is in the ultimate, one should not be quick to draw conclusions.

This aspect of the mortality study warrants close attention in the future.

#### 4.4 Distinguishing by size

Table 8 shows the experience for eight size bands for the face amount, separately for females and males. Note that each band is closed-open; that is, it begins with the specified amount and ends less than the second specified amount. The findings in this table are particularly significant. There is a very strong downward trend in A/E ratios with increasing size.

<b>Table 8. Summary of experience, by sex and size, policy year 2018–2019. Expected mortality on CIA9704</b>								
Size Band	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Exposure		Actual Deaths	
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols k	Amt m\$	Pols	Amt k\$
<b>Female</b>								
0–10k	87.0%	93.5%	0.8%	1.0%	342.7	1,284	9,988	36,767
10–50k	90.4%	86.6%	0.7%	0.8%	1,200.3	28,008	12,835	237,227
50–100k	71.6%	72.4%	1.4%	1.4%	764.5	44,633	2,546	147,871
100–250k	68.3%	67.9%	1.4%	1.4%	1,139.8	155,250	2,313	293,291
250–500k	62.3%	61.8%	2.8%	2.7%	561.8	174,172	523	155,667
500k–1m	61.8%	61.4%	4.2%	4.2%	339.3	195,847	223	127,087
1–2m	50.6%	49.5%	7.3%	7.3%	94.7	105,669	60	66,547
2m+	43.0%	46.2%	12.6%	18.0%	18.8	66,922	17	69,435
All	83.9%	67.0%	0.5%	1.9%	4,462.0	771,785	28,505	1,133,892
<b>Male</b>								
0–10k	77.0%	82.0%	0.6%	0.7%	381.3	1,618	13,477	57,988
10–50k	82.6%	80.3%	0.5%	0.6%	1,201.8	28,048	18,532	374,713
50–100k	71.1%	70.9%	1.0%	1.0%	755.6	44,976	4,864	289,671
100–250k	67.7%	67.5%	1.0%	1.0%	1,181.4	159,907	4,452	569,694
250–500k	63.1%	63.4%	1.9%	1.9%	599.6	185,725	1,113	337,819
500k–1m	57.0%	56.8%	2.6%	2.6%	424.6	245,853	526	300,744
1–2m	52.2%	52.8%	3.9%	3.9%	180.3	201,448	213	241,976
2m+	53.9%	48.1%	6.6%	9.1%	52.7	179,742	75	241,660
All	76.4%	63.3%	0.3%	1.4%	4,777.2	1,047,317	43,251	2,414,265

#### 4.5 Distinguishing by policy type

Table 9 shows the experience for various policy types (also known as plans of insurance or products), separately by sex. “First” refers to the first term of a renewable term plan, and “renewal” refers to all subsequent terms. One expects the A/E ratios to be much lower for “first” because it is newly underwritten and because one rarely accepts the rates for subsequent terms unless one cannot requalify for a new policy at the renewal.

<b>Table 9. Summary of experience, by sex and policy type, policy year 2018–2019. Expected mortality on CIA9704</b>								
Policy Type	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Exposure		Actual Deaths	
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols k	Amt m\$	Pols	Amt k\$
<b>Female</b>								
Whole Life	86.7%	69.0%	0.6%	3.1%	1,978.3	146,419	20,176	370,648
T10 first	51.2%	47.0%	3.9%	5.9%	308.9	143,643	232	66,800
T10 renewal	101.0%	112.6%	5.0%	6.5%	87.8	20,456	277	54,713
T20 first	59.2%	54.0%	3.2%	4.2%	527.7	242,470	384	105,142
T20 renewal	106.5%	139.0%	20.1%	23.0%	4.7	696	18	3,047
UL-YRT	80.0%	64.3%	2.7%	8.3%	310.0	49,465	695	61,440
UL-LCOI	71.2%	65.4%	1.6%	6.1%	458.9	61,614	1,840	217,485
UL-LP	69.9%	67.9%	6.0%	21.1%	168.0	21,312	127	13,813
T100	84.4%	72.8%	1.5%	4.7%	203.5	18,310	2,411	139,537
OtherTerm(1st/unk)	87.5%	102.8%	17.6%	35.6%	9.0	2,005	19	2,923
Other renewal	85.8%	99.8%	5.6%	7.5%	71.5	13,301	192	21,926
Other	83.1%	74.0%	1.6%	3.9%	333.8	52,094	2,134	76,418
All	83.9%	67.0%	0.5%	1.9%	4,462.0	771,785	28,505	1,133,892
<b>Male</b>								
Whole Life	78.1%	69.2%	0.4%	2.1%	2,180.3	180,599	32,195	942,597
T10 first	56.9%	51.1%	2.5%	4.9%	409.6	253,123	539	216,186
T10 renewal	102.5%	111.1%	3.4%	5.2%	98.1	28,029	527	125,913
T20 first	60.5%	60.9%	2.4%	3.8%	565.3	310,386	645	252,635
T20 renewal	109.6%	107.1%	15.0%	19.7%	4.8	873	30	4,775
UL-YRT	76.2%	63.7%	2.1%	7.6%	311.0	58,429	1,043	131,679
UL-LCOI	64.2%	44.0%	1.4%	4.4%	449.7	89,119	2,019	254,088
UL-LP	60.5%	68.3%	5.5%	15.7%	139.0	18,983	124	18,166
T100	74.7%	67.0%	1.3%	4.0%	185.2	25,307	2,733	282,413
OtherTerm(1st/unk)	50.0%	46.4%	13.4%	31.0%	10.0	2,759	17	2,811
Other renewal	87.6%	89.8%	3.9%	6.3%	79.2	16,213	352	47,822
Other	75.4%	66.1%	1.2%	3.9%	345.0	63,498	3,027	135,179
All	76.4%	63.3%	0.3%	1.4%	4,777.2	1,047,317	43,251	2,414,265

#### 4.6 Distinguishing by province/region

Contributing companies were asked to provide information on province for the first time last year. At that time, the definition was province at time of issue, but few companies were able to provide that information reliably. This year the definition was changed to province of residence, and more companies were able to provide the information. It is expected that the information will be very nearly complete next year.

Table 10 shows experience by province (or region) of residence. It is of interest primarily for comparison to all of Canada. Only half of the companies were able to provide province codes;

Table 10 includes their data only. *Other* includes the territories and business that was issued as Canadian but the residence is now outside of Canada.<sup>2</sup> The four Atlantic provinces are combined into one region.

One should interpret this table with caution. The distribution by size and by plan could be quite different between provinces; the differences in A/E ratio may reflect that distribution more than a real difference in mortality.

<b>Table 10. Summary of experience by sex and province, policy year 2018–2019. Excluding companies that could not distinguish provinces. Expected mortality on CIA9704</b>								
Prov/Region	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Exposure		Actual Deaths	
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols k	Amt m\$	Pols	Amt k\$
<b>Female</b>								
Atlantic	96.2%	75.3%	2.9%	11.0%	98.6	12,582	773	22,348
Quebec	88.4%	69.8%	1.0%	3.7%	884.4	79,854	6,363	142,479
Ontario	84.2%	68.6%	1.2%	3.9%	649.1	124,111	3,796	162,847
Manitoba	81.9%	63.6%	5.6%	11.8%	44.8	9,776	176	9,985
Saskatchewan	84.2%	76.7%	6.2%	17.8%	36.8	8,995	152	12,195
Alberta	77.6%	58.9%	3.2%	10.7%	192.5	53,861	506	38,452
British Columbia	76.6%	63.5%	2.7%	8.4%	207.6	54,356	697	55,805
<i>Provinces</i>	86.2%	67.7%	0.7%	2.5%	2,113.7	343,534	12,463	444,111
Other	76.8%	69.6%	4.9%	28.0%	117.9	18,438	225	13,994
<i>Total</i>	86.0%	67.8%	0.7%	2.6%	2,231.6	361,972	12,688	458,105
<b>Male</b>								
Atlantic	83.5%	66.2%	2.2%	6.2%	109.4	16,862	1,168	43,612
Quebec	79.7%	64.7%	0.9%	3.4%	841.5	100,756	7,100	257,974
Ontario	77.9%	66.5%	1.0%	3.3%	637.4	147,305	5,423	310,802
Manitoba	77.6%	63.0%	3.9%	10.7%	51.2	12,984	330	22,024
Saskatchewan	84.3%	72.3%	4.0%	12.2%	42.9	11,929	344	21,975
Alberta	71.8%	60.1%	2.2%	7.7%	202.1	67,953	935	86,816
British Columbia	69.6%	61.4%	1.9%	5.7%	215.9	64,465	1,268	111,415
<i>Provinces</i>	78.1%	64.6%	0.6%	2.0%	2,100.4	422,255	16,568	854,617
Other	61.0%	48.7%	3.3%	21.7%	133.7	27,729	374	25,657
<i>Total</i>	77.6%	64.0%	0.5%	2.1%	2,234.1	449,984	16,942	880,275

#### 4.7 Distinguishing by cause of death

Cause of death has returned to our mortality study. (It was excluded from the data specifications for 2014–2018.) Cause of death is particularly important for COVID-19. There are no deaths by that cause in this study, but it will be of interest in future studies.

Table 11 shows the causes of death identified in this study. The number and amount of death claims (in thousands) are shown in the second and third columns. The fourth and fifth columns

<sup>2</sup> There were only 20 deaths for the territories, and as such it is not reasonable to distinguish them in the table.



show the distribution of the number of deaths and amount of death claims over those for which the cause of death is identified (neither *No code* nor *Other/unknown*) in the study. “No code” means that no cause of death was provided on the death record; three of the eight companies did not give cause-of-death codes, and a small number of records for the other companies left the cause of death blank. Most cases in *Other/unknown* are ones for which the company indicated that it did not know the cause; there are also some for which the company indicated a cause of death not otherwise covered by the 14 codes used by the CIA.

Cause of death	Number of deaths	Death Claims k\$	Ratio to number identified	Ratio to amount identified
Malignant neoplasms	12,360	752,043	48.1%	51.3%
Diseases of heart	5,486	277,115	21.4%	18.9%
Accidents	970	87,311	3.8%	6.0%
Cerebrovascular	1,640	77,889	6.4%	5.3%
Influenza and pneumonia	1,896	68,434	7.4%	4.7%
Intentional self-harm	473	67,727	1.8%	4.6%
Alzheimer's	1,152	56,099	4.5%	3.8%
Chronic lower respiratory	964	36,485	3.8%	2.5%
Liver disease and cirrhosis	260	18,395	1.0%	1.3%
Nephritis, etc	279	14,591	1.1%	1.0%
Assault	34	6,191	0.1%	0.4%
Diabetes mellitus	159	3,804	0.6%	0.3%
Other/unknown	18,359	732,983	71.5%	50.0%
No code	27,724	1,349,090	108.0%	92.0%
Total	71,756	3,548,157	279.5%	242.0%

#### 4.8 Distinguishing by rating

This year the study began to accept substandard policies for which the mortality rating was a multiple of standard, but not those with flat extras. Previously companies were asked not to submit records for substandard<sup>3</sup> policies. All companies but one were able to submit substandard policies. These substandard policies are excluded from all the data presented in this study except in this section. Table 12 compares the experience for standard policies with that for substandard. The expected is on CIA9704 in both cases, with no adjustment for the rating. The data submitted indicate whether a policy is substandard, but the rating assigned in the underwriting process is not provided.

It is obvious (and expected) that there is much less substandard experience than standard, and accordingly standard deviations are much higher for substandard. The summaries do not distinguish by smoking status because the standard deviations for substandard are so large, particularly for smokers and unknown, that no inferences can be drawn.

<sup>3</sup> Some age-rated policies may be included with standard because they cannot be identified as substandard.

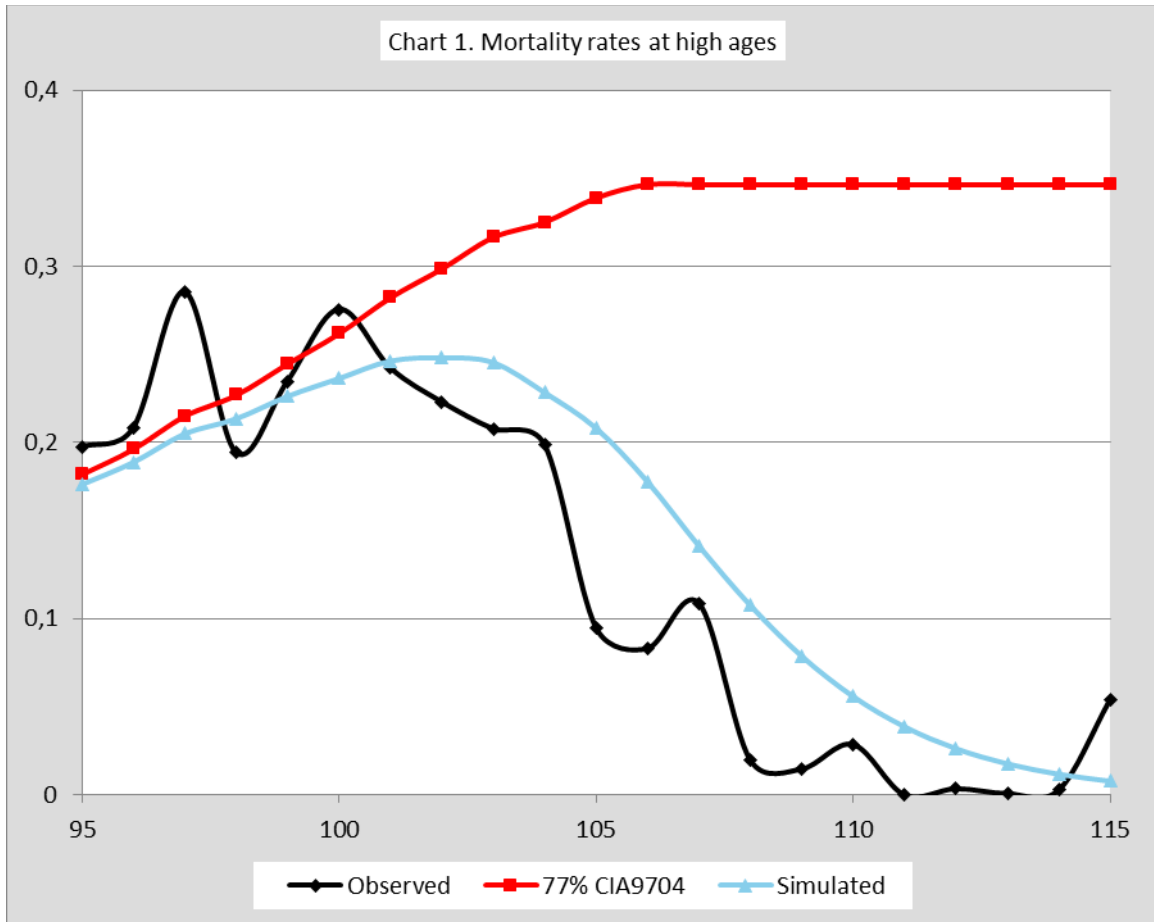
<b>Table 12. Summary of experience by rating, policy year 2018–2019. Expected mortality on CIA9704</b>								
	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Exposure		Actual Deaths	
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols k	Amt m\$	Pols	Amt k\$
All								
Standard	79.2%	64.4%	0.3%	1.1%	9,239.2	1,819,102	71,756	3,548,157
Substandard	122.1%	98.6%	1.8%	10.2%	318.5	97,787	3,565	253,649
Female select								
Standard	69.1%	55.0%	1.4%	4.0%	2,060.9	613,973	2,257	347,412
Substandard	98.9%	111.3%	6.0%	22.5%	111.2	32,732	309	59,839
Male select								
Standard	68.6%	56.1%	1.2%	3.3%	2,096.3	819,057	3,038	700,914
Substandard	104.2%	91.0%	4.7%	15.2%	132.2	59,681	428	115,181
Female ultimate								
Standard	85.5%	74.1%	0.5%	1.8%	2,401.1	157,812	26,248	786,480
Substandard	134.8%	117.3%	3.0%	11.1%	41.6	2,109	1,653	31,802
Male ultimate								
Standard	77.1%	66.8%	0.3%	1.3%	2,680.9	228,260	40,213	1,713,351
Substandard	121.3%	93.9%	3.0%	25.7%	33.5	3,264	1,175	46,828

## 4.9 Oldest ages

As mentioned earlier, this study excludes attained ages over 100. This section explains why. Further detail on the data at attained ages over 100 is included in Appendix 2, but it is strongly cautioned that the **data over age 100 not be used for any actuarial assumptions** because it cannot be considered reliable.

Chart 1 shows observed ultimate mortality rates for policy years 2014–2019 compared to the corresponding expected on 77%<sup>4</sup> of CIA9704. There is a third line, called “Simulated”, which is described below.

<sup>4</sup> The A/E ratio for ages 90–95 in the ultimate is 77% on CIA9704.



To understand how the discrepancy between observed and expected can be so large, consider a hypothetical example in which actual mortality follows 77% of the table. (The Simulated line in Chart 1 is calculated from this example.) Consider lives insured at age 85. Of them, 99% are assumed to be careful with their life insurance policies; they are in touch with their insurance advisor, their policies are kept in a safe place where they will be readily found, or their beneficiaries have complete information on the policies, and consequently their deaths will be reported in a timely manner. But 1% are careless; the insurance policy is lost and forgotten and the beneficiary is unaware that a claim could be made on death. The careless ones will die (as estimated by the table) but the insurance company will never know. The impact on the apparent mortality rate is initially small, but it becomes huge. By age 95, the “careless” represent about 3% of the policies thought to be still in force; by age 100, 10%; by age 105, 39%; and by age 115, 98%.

Note how close the Simulated line is to the Observed. That does not prove that the insurance companies have lost contact with many older lives insured who have already died, but it shows the hypothesis to be reasonable.<sup>5</sup> Experience over age 100 cannot be considered sufficiently reliable for actuarial purposes.

<sup>5</sup> There may be other explanations for some of these policies. If the problem is a lack of information, it will not be feasible to study the matter further.

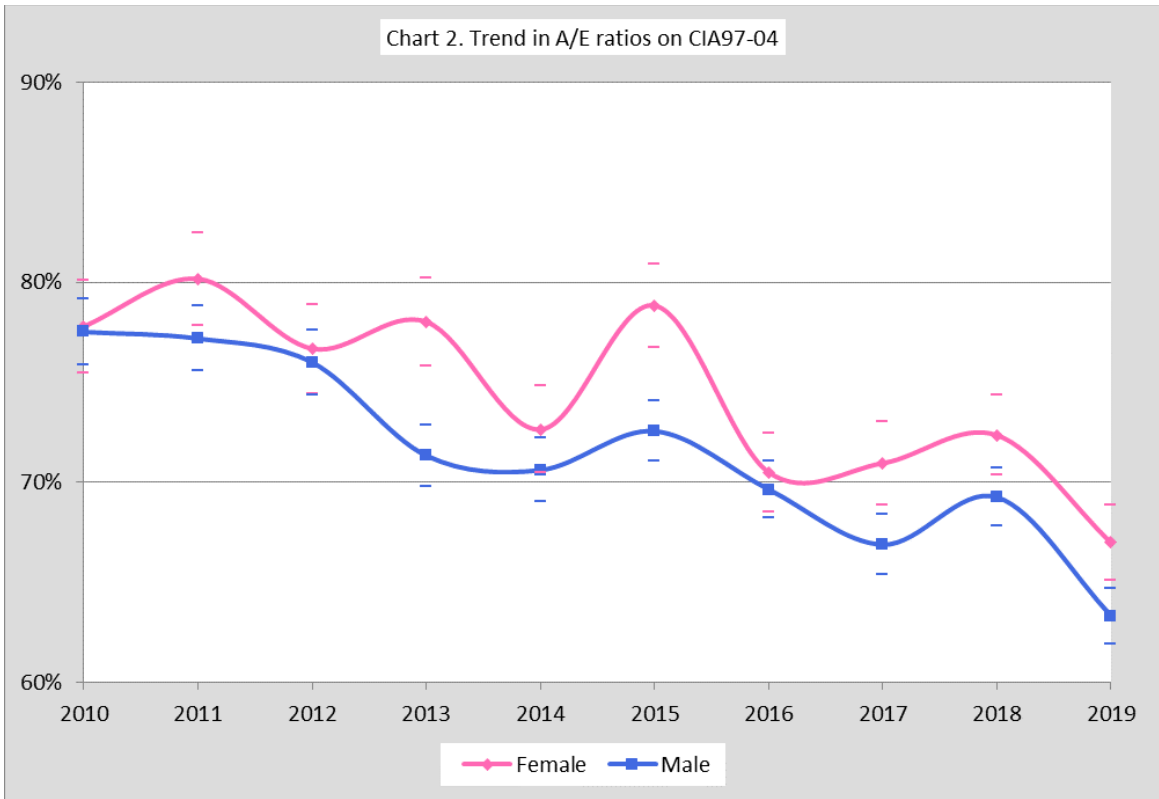
## 5 Experience for Last Five (or 10) Years

Although it is important to observe the experience of each year closely, one cannot get the full picture of mortality within the Canadian life insurance industry from one year alone. It is better to examine at least five years. Over that time the effect of statistical fluctuation will be of less concern and the trend in mortality may emerge. Detailed tables are included in the Excel workbook associated with this report, available on the [CIA website](#). Some summary information follows.

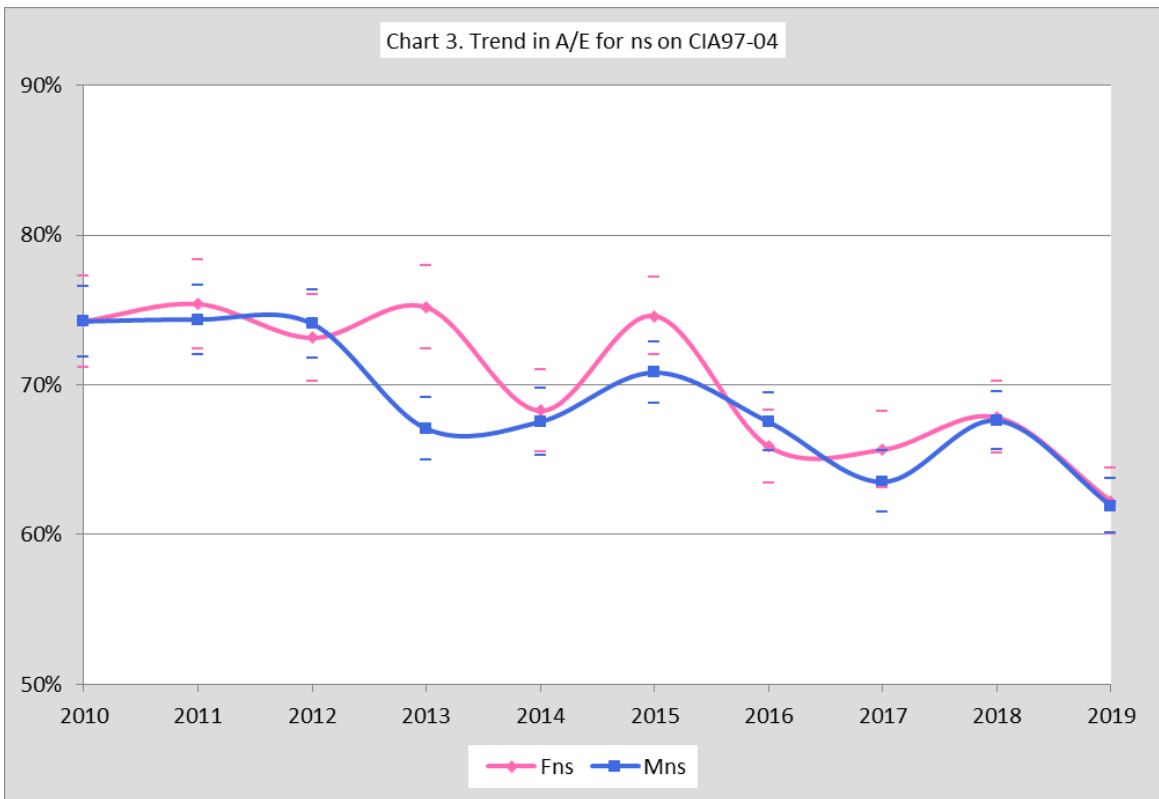
Table 13 shows the A/E ratios for each of the last five years and for the five years combined.

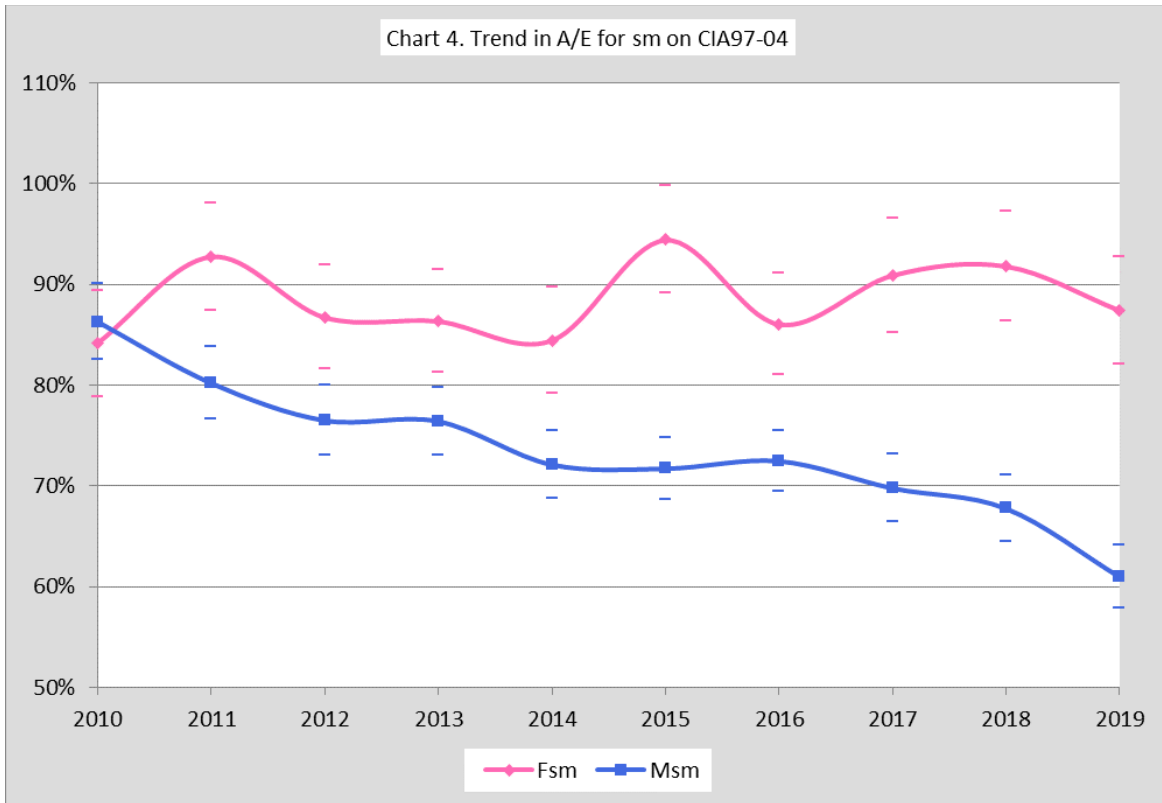
<b>Table 13. Summary of experience by sex, policy years 2014–2019. Expected mortality on CIA9704</b>								
Policy Year	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Exposure		Actual Deaths	
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols k	Amt m\$	Pols	Amt k\$
Female								
2014–2015	90.9%	78.8%	0.5%	2.1%	4,095.3	614,442	26,779	952,816
2015–2016	85.2%	70.5%	0.5%	2.0%	4,299.4	646,807	26,152	926,005
2016–2017	86.5%	71.0%	0.5%	2.1%	4,070.2	623,235	26,690	950,832
2017–2018	87.1%	72.3%	0.5%	2.0%	4,359.6	729,158	28,508	1,131,830
2018–2019	83.9%	67.0%	0.5%	1.9%	4,462.0	771,785	28,505	1,133,892
2014–2019	86.6%	71.6%	0.2%	0.9%	21,286.4	3,385,427	136,633	5,095,376
Male								
2014–2015	82.5%	72.6%	0.4%	1.5%	4,537.0	884,079	42,657	2,115,821
2015–2016	79.5%	69.6%	0.4%	1.4%	4,727.7	918,423	42,306	2,169,528
2016–2017	79.0%	66.9%	0.4%	1.5%	4,427.6	870,690	41,366	2,029,742
2017–2018	79.6%	69.3%	0.4%	1.5%	4,699.3	1,001,326	43,721	2,440,769
2018–2019	76.4%	63.3%	0.3%	1.4%	4,777.2	1,047,317	43,251	2,414,265
2014–2019	79.4%	68.1%	0.2%	0.7%	23,168.9	4,721,835	213,300	11,170,125

Chart 2 shows the A/E ratio for each of the last 10 years for females (in pink) and males (in blue). There are pink and blue tick marks above and below the A/E lines. These represent one standard deviation above and below the mean.



Charts 3 and 4 show the same information but separately for non-smokers and smokers. Except for female smokers, the A/E ratios in 2018–2019 are the lowest they have ever been.





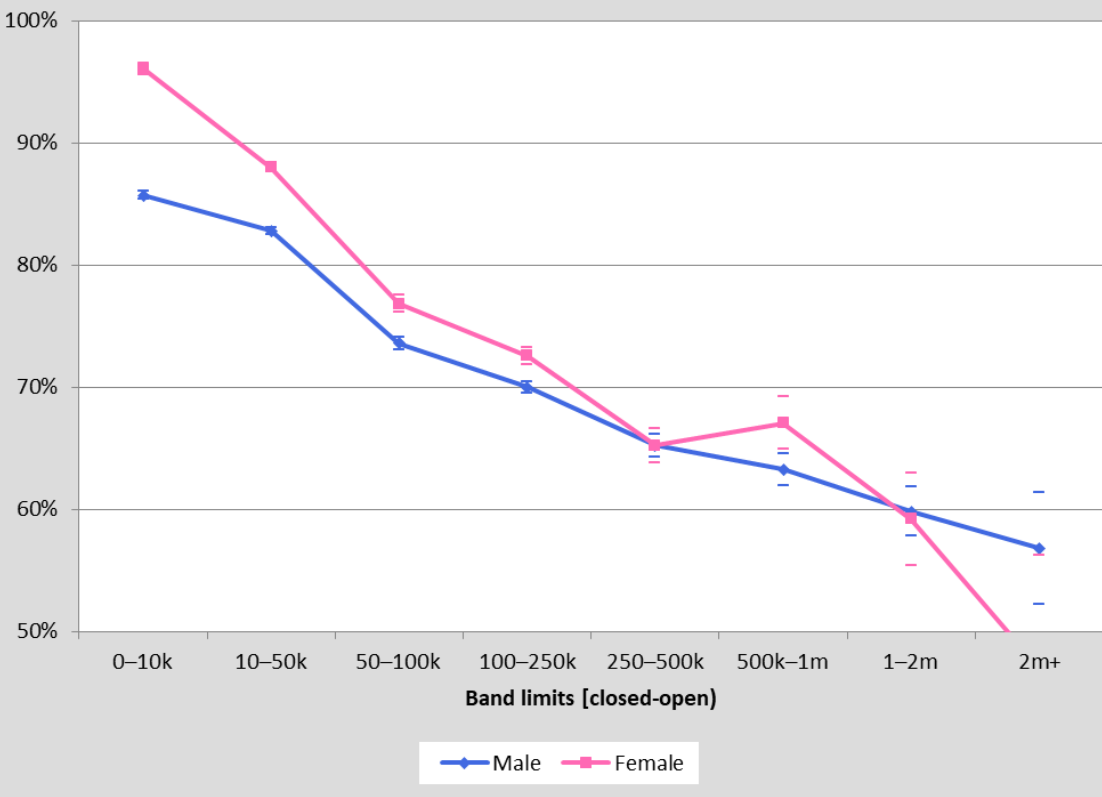
The trend for female smokers is markedly different from that of the others shown. There is no evident mortality improvement over the last 10 years for female smokers. Consequently the gaps in experience between male and female smokers and between female non-smokers and female smokers are widening. This widening is an important finding, although not a new one. It was observed before but not highlighted.

Because the correlation between size and mortality is so significant, it is good to look at the A/E ratios over a five-year period, to lessen the effect of fluctuation. Table 14 shows the ratios separately for females and males. (Recall that size bands are closed-open intervals.)

<b>Table 14. Summary of experience, by sex and size, policy years 2014–2019. Expected mortality on CIA9704</b>								
Size Band	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Exposure		Actual Deaths	
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols k	Amt m\$	Pols	Amt k\$
<b>Female</b>								
0–10k	89.6%	96.1%	0.4%	0.4%	1,910.5	7,149	53,326	194,594
10–50k	91.4%	88.0%	0.3%	0.4%	6,051.9	139,277	57,811	1,063,355
50–100k	76.4%	76.8%	0.7%	0.7%	3,659.9	213,969	11,604	673,074
100–250k	72.4%	72.6%	0.7%	0.7%	5,360.9	732,909	10,381	1,337,469
250–500k	65.0%	65.3%	1.4%	1.4%	2,464.4	775,817	2,216	678,954
500k–1m	65.6%	67.1%	2.2%	2.2%	1,392.3	827,106	934	556,948
1–2m	60.5%	59.2%	3.8%	3.8%	373.2	429,049	281	314,949
2m+	52.1%	47.0%	6.6%	9.2%	73.4	260,151	81	276,033
All	86.6%	71.6%	0.2%	0.9%	21,286.4	3,385,427	136,633	5,095,376
<b>Male</b>								
0–10k	80.5%	85.7%	0.3%	0.3%	2,151.3	9,155	73,278	314,254
10–50k	84.6%	82.8%	0.3%	0.3%	6,197.9	142,565	89,512	1,801,065
50–100k	73.7%	73.6%	0.5%	0.5%	3,649.9	218,028	22,180	1,328,104
100–250k	69.9%	70.0%	0.5%	0.5%	5,651.0	768,254	19,841	2,569,678
250–500k	64.3%	65.2%	0.9%	0.9%	2,712.4	852,942	4,771	1,482,474
500k–1m	63.1%	63.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1,827.0	1,090,482	2,409	1,413,174
1–2m	59.1%	59.8%	2.0%	2.0%	759.0	877,750	980	1,136,430
2m+	59.4%	56.8%	3.4%	4.6%	220.3	762,659	330	1,124,945
All	79.4%	68.1%	0.2%	0.7%	23,168.9	4,721,835	213,300	11,170,125

Chart 5 shows the A/E ratios by amount, the same information as in Table 14. The graphical display shows how strongly size and mortality are related, particularly for males. Note that the tick marks for one standard deviation above and below the observed mean are not evident for the first two bands because the numbers are so close together.

Chart 5. A/E by size band, policy years 2014–2019





## 6 Significant Observations

The more significant observations for the study are:

1. Neither CIA9704 nor CIA8692 fit the experience well. The experience for female smokers is particularly out of step with other classes. It is time for a new table. (As mentioned above, the ERC has an active project to construct a new table.)
2. The downward trend in mortality appears to be continuing, except for female smokers. The uptick last year has not continued.
3. The A/E ratios decrease strongly with increasing size of face amount. Size and mortality are strongly correlated. Size is probably the most significant factor not currently reflected in standard mortality tables.
4. The A/E ratios for preferred and residual are much closer together than one might have expected, and this warrants further study.
5. This continuing study provides a valuable, consistent, and accurate observation of a substantial block of policies, covering a significant proportion of the Canadian population.

## 7 For Further Study

### 7.1 Additional tables available

More detailed tables for the last five years (not for the current year only) are available in an Excel workbook on the [CIA website](#). The format of all tables is the same as shown above for Tables 3, 4, and 5. There is a worksheet, Index, which list all the tables available and provides a hyperlink to each one.

### 7.2 Database for independent study

The format for the database has changed this year, and there is a file for each of the current year and the prior<sup>6</sup> nine years. The database contains expected fields on CIA9704. The database is in comma-separated-value format. There is an Excel workbook which may be used to change the table for expected to any table desired by the member. Both CIA9704 and CIA8692 are supplied in the workbook. The member may use one of these tables, apply a multiple to them, or add a worksheet for a completely different table.

There is a zipped archive available on the [CIA website](#) containing the database and a text file for each of the 10 years. Each text file has a detailed description of the database and its codes. The archive also contains the workbook referred to above. There is a second archive available on the [CIA website](#) which contains the database for the last five years combined and the associated text file.

It is recommended that the new databases be used in place of the old because the new databases use the best information now available and because the algorithms are applied consistently across all years.

*\*The following was added to the document in December 2021, subsequent to publication of the original document.*

The databases originally published have been withdrawn and replaced for several reasons.

- It was requested to include an indication of base or rider in the database. The POG agreed to make this enhancement.
- Some found the "InitialTerm" field to be confusing. It has been redefined.
- A significant data error was discovered for five policy years ending in 2016 involving many misclassifications between base and rider. That error has been corrected. There were no errors in amount; only policy counts were incorrect. However, a study of experience between base and rider using databases published in earlier years may show

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<sup>6</sup> The totals from the new databases do not match exactly the totals of the old databases. Most years are close in the amount fields. Counts are consistently higher in the new databases. The amount exposed in the new database for 2013–14 is about 2% lower than for the old, and the actual and expected deaths are 4% lower. It is likely that the difference resulted from the handling of conversions; 2013–14 was the year in which codes for converted policies were added to the input records. The information currently available to the researcher does not allow for a reconciliation of the difference. However, it is clear that the new databases were constructed on a consistent manner across all 10 years.

a larger differential in experience than we now know to be justified. Accordingly, use of those old databases is discouraged.

- The databases published earlier this year incorrectly:
  - put all Renewable Term under the T20 policy type in the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 databases
  - classified OtherTerm vs. Other policy types in the 2011-2012 and later databases
 These have both been corrected.
- The work on the 2019–2020 policy year has found a few cases of incorrectly reported deaths. These have been corrected and are immaterial.

Because the aggregate effect of the changes referred to above is small, none of the tables in the report are being changed. However, a revised version of Table 13 is shown below for comparison. The aggregate A/E ratios by amount changed mostly by less than 0.05%. The aggregate change in A/E by count can be as much as 0.3% for 2014–2015 and 2015–2016.

The Revised Table 13 below gives an overall summary of the experience for the last five policy years after the above changes were made which can be compared to the original Table 13 in the report above.

<b>Revised Table 13. Summary of experience by sex, policy years 2014–2019. Expected mortality on CIA9704.</b>								
Policy Year	Act/Exp		Std Dev		Exposure		Actual Deaths	
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt	Pols k	Amt m\$	Pols	Amt k\$
<b>Female</b>								
2014–2015	90.7%	78.8%	0.5%	2.1%	4,313.4	614,442	26,942	952,816
2015–2016	85.4%	70.5%	0.5%	2.0%	4,307.4	646,807	26,237	926,005
2016–2017	86.5%	71.0%	0.5%	2.1%	4,070.2	623,235	26,690	950,832
2017–2018	87.1%	72.3%	0.5%	2.0%	4,359.6	729,158	28,508	1,131,830
2018–2019	83.9%	67.1%	0.5%	1.9%	4,462.0	771,786	28,506	1,135,128
2014–2019	86.7%	71.6%	0.2%	0.9%	21,512.5	3,385,428	136,882	5,096,612
<b>Male</b>								
2014–2015	82.4%	72.6%	0.4%	1.5%	4,774.8	884,079	42,938	2,115,821
2015–2016	79.7%	69.6%	0.4%	1.4%	4,731.3	918,423	42,454	2,169,528
2016–2017	79.0%	66.9%	0.4%	1.5%	4,427.6	870,690	41,366	2,029,742
2017–2018	79.6%	69.3%	0.4%	1.5%	4,699.3	1,001,326	43,721	2,440,769
2018–2019	76.4%	63.3%	0.3%	1.4%	4,777.2	1,047,317	43,245	2,414,588
2014–2019	79.4%	68.1%	0.2%	0.7%	23,410.3	4,721,835	213,723	11,170,448

## 8 Credits

This report was prepared by R.C.W. (Bob) Howard and approved by the CIA Research Council, the ERC, and the Project Oversight Group:

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Rita Wu

## **Appendix 1 Details of Data and Method**

### **1.1 History of changes**

#### **1.1.1 2018–2019**

1. Cause of death is requested for all death records.
2. Substandard business may be included if separately identified and the rating is a multiple of the standard class. Business with flat extras is still excluded.
3. Province code is to refer to current residence.
4. Guaranteed issue business may be included and separately identified.
5. Policies are counted after combining records with the same policy number and other identifying fields. Previously one policy was counted for each unique combination of policy number, sex, date of birth, and policy type. In both cases, riders were ignored for policy count.
6. The size band was determined by totalling the amounts for all records with the same policy number, date of issue, and date of birth. Previously the size band was determined for each record independently.

#### **1.1.2 2017–2018**

1. Province code was requested, based on province of residence at issue.
2. Codes were added to indicate whether blood, urine, or saliva were used in the underwriting process.

#### **1.1.3 2013–2014**

1. Codes to indicate the type of conversion and the date of conversion were added. In 2013–2014 and 2014–2015 conversions with issue date equal to conversion date were excluded. Subsequently all conversions were excluded.
2. Simplified issue business may be included and separately identified.
3. Not all companies were able to provide the data requested in the first year of the request.

The experience of prior years was restated to be consistent with the current method. The A/E ratios in prior reports are generally very slightly higher than shown in Table 1, but rarely more than 0.3% higher.

### **1.2 Policies and amounts**

Policies can be counted only approximately. Records identified as riders have no policy count associated with them. Some companies submit multiple records for a policy. An attempt is made to count each policy only once, but the process is not perfect. The current algorithm counts as one policy a group of records having all the same identifying fields (excluding amounts). For example, if there are two distinct issue dates for the same life and the same policy number, these would be counted as two policies. In the past they would likely have been

counted as one. The same algorithm applies to both exposure and deaths. Amounts are not affected by the change in algorithm.

“Amount” refers to the face amount of the policy or rider in the case of exposure and deaths. Some mortality studies have attempted to show the actual death benefit paid, which could be less than the face amount for a disputed claim. Although the data instructions (see Appendix 3) permit the death claim amount to be reported as less than the face amount, that distinction is not used in this study because few companies are able to make a distinction. The impact is very small except for the first two policy years, for which it is minor.

### **1.3 Policy year and duration**

By tradition, policy years are referred to as ordinals: *first, second, third, ...*, relative to the issue date or collectively as the calendar years in which the policy year starts and ends, as in 2018–2019. Durations are referred to as the exact number of years since issue, or as cardinals: *0, 1, 2, ...*, referring to entire years beginning at issue or on anniversaries of issue. Both terms are used in this report, although policy year is more common.

A policy year is taken as starting on a policy anniversary and ending just before the next anniversary. One might call this an “on-before” definition. This definition is consistent with how durations are defined, how annual premiums are billed, and how we typically refer to our own age (we go to the next number on our birthday).

However, some companies submit data on the basis of an “after-on” definition; that is, the policy year begins after an anniversary and ends exactly on the next anniversary. That is significant for the study because some deaths would be submitted on the first day of the next policy year (by the standard definition). The record is accepted nonetheless. It is counted as in-force for the entire current duration, and a death is recorded for the next duration, with all being reported in the policy year under study.

Note that the issue date is specified on the records provided by the contributing companies. But that date is not always, strictly speaking, the issue date of the policy; it could be a later effective date for the coverage described by the record. For example, if a term rider were added subsequently to the issue of the policy, the “issue” date on the record would be the date that the new rider becomes effective; it would not necessarily be a policy anniversary.

Deaths reported too late to be included in one study are submitted in the next study. They are counted as deaths at the appropriate duration, but there is no exposure in the current duration, because the life died earlier.

### **1.4 Age nearest and last birthday**

Age nearest birthday is used throughout this report. If the record indicates that age last birthday was used, age nearest birthday is calculated from the date of birth and the date of issue. If the record indicates age last birthday and the date of birth is not given, then the stated age at issue is used, and half of the exposure and deaths are assigned to the stated age, and the other half assigned to the next age. The policy year is calculated from the date of issue, and is the same regardless of the calculation of issue age.

## 1.5 Exposure and expected

Exposure is calculated using the Balducci hypothesis, as is traditional for mortality studies of the CIA. Therefore, exposure on deaths continues to the next anniversary. Exposure on non-death terminations stops at the date of termination. That is, exposure is calculated as the number of days plus one from the anniversary on or last before termination to the date of termination, divided by 365. (February 29 is ignored in this calculation.)

Expected mortality is calculated in all cases on CIA9704.<sup>7</sup> In many cases it is also shown on CIA8692.<sup>8</sup> Both mortality tables are extended so that there are reasonable mortality rates for all issue ages and durations not exceeding attained age 100.

The smoking types for the published tables are “smoker”, “non-smoker”, and “combined”. Those types are used for experience with smoking classified as “smoker”, “non-smoker”, and “unknown”, respectively. In this study, smoking classifications are always kept distinct for calculating expected deaths and claims. When the smoking classifications are combined, the previously calculated expected deaths and claims are summed; the “combined” mortality rates are not applied to the aggregate exposure.

## 1.6 Standard Deviations

Several tables in this report show standard deviations in the A/E ratios. When comparing two ratios, it is important to note the standard deviation for each to determine if the difference between the ratios is significant. Generally we expect that the true mean lies within one standard deviation of the observed mean about two-thirds of the time.

These standard deviations are calculated on the assumption that the exposure of each life to death in the next year is independent of the exposure for all other lives, that the number of deaths for any group of lives with the same sex-smoke-age-duration is binomially distributed, and that the mean of the distribution is given by a multiple of the mortality table used for expected deaths. The formula for standard deviation is shown below, by face amount, where  $A_i$  is the face amount,  $n_i$  is the number of policies exposed with that face amount and that sex-smoke-age-duration,  $q_i$  is the mortality rate for that cell, and  $m$  is the ratio of actual to expected claim amounts separately for each sex-smoke over all ages and durations, not for each cell or a

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<sup>7</sup> CIA9704 was published to issue age 80 in CIA publication 210028. The table has an unofficial extension to issue age 85. It has been further extended to issue age 105. Select rates for issue age 105 were taken as 20% of the corresponding ultimate rate at duration 0, increasing by 10% each duration to 100% for durations 10–14. Rates for issue ages 86–104 were calculated by fitting an exponential to the rates for ages 85 and 105 for each duration. The minimum issue age published was 16 for smokers and non-smokers. The table is extended for all issue ages and durations using the rates for combined. Rates over attained age 100 are not used. Rates for smokers and non-smokers under attained age 16 are not used.

<sup>8</sup> CIA8692 was published to issue age 80 in CIA publication 9529 and extended to issue age 90 by CIA publication 215081. It has been further extended to issue age 105. Ultimate mortality rates were extended as 0.75 for ages 105–119. Select rates for issue age 105 were taken as 20% of the corresponding ultimate rate at duration 0, increasing by 10% each duration to 100% for durations 10–14. Rates for issue ages 91–104 were calculated by fitting an exponential to the rates for ages 90 and 105 for each duration. The minimum issue age published was 16 for smokers and non-smokers. The table is extended for all issue ages and durations using the rates for combined. Rates over attained age 100 are not used. Rates for smokers and non-smokers under attained age 16 are not used.

subset of the whole. The sum is over all records under consideration. The same formula may be used by count except that  $A_i$  is 1 in all cases.

$$\text{Standard deviation of A/E by amount} = \frac{\left( \sum_i A_i^2 n_i (1 - m q_i) m q_i \right)^{0.5}}{\sum_i A_i n_i q_i}$$

The factor,  $m$ , ensures that the standard deviation is reasonable even though the mortality table used for expected deaths differs substantially from the actual.

## 1.7 Size bands

It has been observed for many years that the A/E ratio tends to decrease with increasing policy size. The tendency is both strong and persistent in the annual study of life insurance mortality. It is generally believed that the determining factor is socio-economic status, for which the amount of insurance on a life is a proxy. (More stringent underwriting at higher amounts may be a factor as well.) Therefore, it is preferable to determine the size of a policy not by the individual elements in a policy, but by the total amount of insurance in the policy. In the past the size banding was set at the record level. In this report, records with the same policy number, date of issue, and date of birth are combined for the purpose of determining which size band is appropriate for each record. For example, if a policy consisted of \$75,000 of whole life insurance with a \$200,000 term rider, both records would be assigned to the size band \$250,000–499,999, although neither record is in that band by itself.

The change referred to in this section and the combining of records described in Section 1.2 of this appendix results in a small change in the distribution of exposure and of deaths. Table 15 shows the distribution of exposure into the eight size bands by the “new” method used in this report and the “old” method, which was used in the last several reports. The table also shows the A/E ratios. The change was significant for one contributing company that often had many records for one policy, but overall the impact of the change was small. The new method is more in line with the way banding is typically viewed in underwriting.

<b>Table 15. Comparing the impact of old and new banding method. All numbers are by amount</b>								
	Female				Male			
	Proportion		Act / Exp		Proportion		Act / Exp	
	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old
0–10k	0.2%	0.3%	93.5%	92.9%	0.2%	0.3%	82.0%	82.4%
10–50k	3.6%	4.6%	86.6%	83.9%	2.7%	3.6%	80.3%	78.8%
50–100k	5.8%	5.8%	72.4%	72.8%	4.3%	4.3%	70.9%	69.3%
100–250k	20.1%	20.7%	67.9%	67.7%	15.3%	15.7%	67.5%	67.2%
250–500k	22.6%	22.3%	61.8%	61.2%	17.7%	17.7%	63.4%	62.7%
500k–1m	25.4%	24.8%	61.4%	60.4%	23.5%	23.2%	56.8%	57.1%
1–2m	13.7%	13.3%	49.5%	51.3%	19.2%	18.9%	52.8%	53.3%
2m+	8.7%	8.2%	46.2%	46.6%	17.2%	16.4%	48.1%	47.8%



## Appendix 2 Data over Attained Age 100

Table 16 shows the amount of insurance sold by issue age in the 2018–2019 year of experience, as represented by exposure in the first policy year. Very little insurance is sold at age 80, and the number of policies sold drops off very rapidly over that age. There is no exposure for issue ages over 95. Experience for all of these issue ages are included in the main study until after attained age 100. There is too little exposure to infer anything of value from the data over issue age 80.

Issue Age	Female Exposure		Male Exposure	
	Pols	Amt	Pols	Amt
80	25.5	2,253,952	18.5	4,660,344
81	10.5	1,623,663	7.0	108,161
82	9.0	21,663	5.5	573,619
83	8.3	2,063,632	5.0	101,754
84	12.0	572,810	6.0	18,072
85	8.0	37,041	4.0	110,238
86	3.0	332	0.0	0
87	1.5	359	3.0	1,700
88	1.5	351	1.0	519
89	0.0	0	3.0	353
90	2.0	226	0.0	0
91	3.0	36,219	1.0	1,750
92	0.0	0	1.0	9,000
93	0.0	0	0.0	0
94	0.0	0	0.0	0
95	0.0	0	1.0	119

The exposure in the ultimate period is substantial over age 100, but it is difficult to believe that it can be accurate. Tables 17 and 18 show exposure, deaths, and mortality rates for each attained age 95 to 120, for females and males, respectively. The mortality rates look reasonable until about age 100, but after that they decrease precipitously. The reader is **strongly cautioned against using data over age 100 for any purpose**. As shown in Section 4.9, it is likely that too much of the exposure results from deaths that have not been reported. Incidentally, the submitted data included another 46 records over age 120. All of these are almost certainly from unreported deaths because only Jeanne Calment of France has ever had a verified age of 120 or older.

**Table 17. Female experience in ultimate period, by attained age.**  
**WARNING: Data over age 100 is not considered reliable and should not be used for actuarial assumptions**

Attained Age	Exposure		Deaths		Mortality Rate	
	Pols	Amt k\$	Pols	Amt k\$	Pols	Amt
95	3,915	97,418	631	15,902	0.161	0.163
96	2,992	58,246	558	15,918	0.187	0.273
97	2,342	47,542	448	9,138	0.191	0.192
98	1,749	32,437	295	5,157	0.169	0.159
99	1,171	17,788	216	5,547	0.184	0.312
100	748	12,712	116	2,077	0.155	0.163
101	539	4,294	82	1,398	0.151	0.325
102	462	3,308	60	1,118	0.129	0.338
103	351	1,579	33	191	0.094	0.121
104	231	1,273	17	79	0.071	0.062
105	133	265	7	24	0.049	0.089
106	133	1,501	7	39	0.049	0.026
107	105	285	2	118	0.019	0.413
108	73	108	1	1	0.014	0.009
109	80	143	0	0	0.000	0.000
110	54	101	0	0	0.000	0.000
111	55	99	0	0	0.000	0.000
112	44	66	0	0	0.000	0.000
113	30	57	0	0	0.000	0.000
114	26	18	0	0	0.000	0.000
115	10	15	0	0	0.000	0.000
116	14	29	0	0	0.000	0.000
117	9	43	0	0	0.000	0.000
118	14	43	0	0	0.000	0.000
119	6	11	0	0	0.000	0.000
120	2	16	0	0	0.000	0.000

**Table 18. Male experience in ultimate period, by attained age.**  
**WARNING: Data over age 100 is not considered reliable and should not be used for actuarial assumptions.**

Attained Age	Exposure		Deaths		Mortality Rate	
	Pols	Amt k\$	Pols	Amt k\$	Pols	Amt
95	3,165	75,685	619	15,061	0.195	0.199
96	2,390	53,900	485	10,832	0.203	0.201
97	1,742	49,029	379	22,404	0.217	0.457
98	1,243	20,538	239	4,117	0.192	0.200
99	821	12,146	130	2,042	0.158	0.168
100	635	6,501	75	1,571	0.118	0.242
101	481	3,441	60	1,336	0.124	0.388
102	417	2,686	31	295	0.073	0.110
103	365	2,923	25	1,283	0.067	0.439
104	267	724	8	25	0.028	0.035
105	187	656	7	83	0.035	0.127
106	197	1,140	4	3	0.018	0.003
107	142	482	1	100	0.007	0.207
108	95	215	0	0	0.000	0.000
109	74	285	0	0	0.000	0.000
110	75	238	1	22	0.013	0.093
111	65	186	0	0	0.000	0.000
112	52	81	0	0	0.000	0.000
113	43	118	0	0	0.000	0.000
114	28	133	0	0	0.000	0.000
115	18	62	0	0	0.000	0.000
116	20	56	0	0	0.000	0.000
117	34	336	0	0	0.000	0.000
118	35	256	0	0	0.000	0.000
119	7	30	0	0	0.000	0.000
120	7	21	0	0	0.000	0.000

### Appendix 3 Data Request

The text of the request for data which was sent to the companies is available upon request.



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