



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

# The Actuary Magazine

April/May 2014 – Volume 11, Issue 2

## GOOD RESEARCH READS



### COMPLETED EXPERIENCE STUDIES

**SOA and LIMRA Release New Study on Variable Annuities**—The SOA and LIMRA are proud to release a new study of variable annuity guaranteed benefit options. Researchers examined more than 3.4 million contracts with a guaranteed lifetime withdrawal benefit, guaranteed minimum withdrawal benefit, guaranteed minimum accumulation benefit or guaranteed minimum income benefit option. The analysis is based on 2011 experience and looks at how policyholders use these guaranteed options and exhibit other behaviors involving step-ups, cash flow and persistency. See the report for the findings in this important new study.

To view a complete listing, visit [SOA.org/Research](http://SOA.org/Research) and click on Completed Experience Studies.

### COMPLETED RESEARCH STUDIES

**Paper Summarizes Natural Resource Sustainability Summit**—The SOA's Research Department announces the release of a paper summarizing its December 2012 Natural Resource Sustainability Summit. The paper contains a synopsis of presentations and discussions and outlines many considerations for the SOA on natural resources sustainability and how actuaries might get involved in this area.

**Health Section Sponsoring Project: Actuarial Model for Wellness**—The SOA's Health Section is sponsoring a multi-phase project on the current wellness environment and an actuarial model for wellness. The phases of the project include a literature search, a survey of the actuarial and vendor community, and interviews with researchers in the field. The literature search summarizing pertinent research is now available. The

report of findings from the survey and interviews are forthcoming. A team from Sibson Consulting, which includes Steve Cyboran, Leonard Spangher and Matthew Kersting, is conducting the research.

**Applying Fuzzy Logic to Risk Assessment and Decision Making**—The CAS/CIA/SOA Joint Risk Management Section's new report explores areas where fuzzy logic models may be applied to improve risk assessment and risk decision-making. The report, authored by Kailan Shang and Zakir Hossen, discusses the methodology, framework and process of using fuzzy logic systems for risk management. An Excel tool showing examples of some simple fuzzy logic modeling is included.

**SOA Releases New Report: Improving Retirement Outcomes**—The SOA's Pension Section recently published a report evaluating several of the more common retirement timing and claiming strategies using a retirement simulation model that incorporates investment, inflation, health and long-term care risks. Results of the simulations provide insight into the comparative risk exposures and costs of various retirement timing and claiming strategies for typical retiree households. The authors, Anna Rappaport, Vickie Bajtelsmit and LeAndra Foster, also provide background on U.S. trends in the timing of retirement, the claiming of benefits behavior, the timing of commencement of Social Security, phased retirement alternatives, work as part of retirement, and the effects of retirement plan participation on these decisions.

To view a complete listing, visit [SOA.org/Research](http://SOA.org/Research) and click on Completed Research Studies. 