



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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## GOOD RESEARCH READS



### COMPLETED EXPERIENCE STUDIES

#### INDIVIDUAL ANNUITY STUDY

The Individual Annuity Experience Committee has completed an experience study of individual payout annuities, covering calendar years 2005 through 2008. The study includes immediate annuities, annuitizations and life settlement options. The overall by amount A/E ratios, based on the Annuity 2000 Basic Table, for all data combined were 0.895 for males and 0.932 for females. These compare to values of 0.929 for males and 0.977 for females in the 2000-04 report and imply yearly 0.8 percent mortality improvement for males and 1.1 percent for females over the 4.5 years between the two studies.

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

### COMPLETED RESEARCH STUDIES

#### UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGING MIDDLE MARKET FOR LIFE INSURANCE IN CHINA

A new report examining the Chinese middle market for life insurance has been released. Supported by the Marketing and Distribution Section and the International Section, plus the Research Expanding Boundaries Pool, this research provides insight into the financial situations and needs for life insurance among middle market families. A Chinese translation of this report is also available.

#### COMMUNICATING THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF PUBLIC PENSION PLANS

The focus of this report is to address the need for a concise but comprehensive and detailed report summarizing the financial health and prospects of state and municipal

plans. The overall objective is to provide information to assess potential changes to the structure of these plans. Sandy Mackenzie, the author of the report, has also created prototype reports on two example state pension systems.

### SUSTAINED LOW INTEREST RATE ENVIRONMENT: CAN IT CONTINUE? WHY IT MATTERS

Authored by Max Rudolph, this report describes the impact on insurers and products when interest rates remain low for an extended period of time. It also describes strategies for addressing such scenarios and aims to help readers make conscious decisions based on an entity's risk profile, culture and appetite for risk.

### STRETCHING THE CORRIDOR: THE EFFECTS OF EXTENDED RATE STABILIZATION ON DEFINED-BENEFIT PLAN FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

A new report by the SOA's data-driven in-house research team examines the effects of extending interest rate stabilization provisions used in the determination of funding requirements for U.S. private sector single-employer, defined-benefit plans. When established in 2012, the stabilization provisions were expected to temporarily liberalize funding requirements by modifying the interest rates used to calculate plan liabilities. The Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (HATFA-14), signed into law on Aug. 8, extended the period of expected liberalization and increased the degree of flexibility that sponsors have. The report

goes on to demonstrate the implications of further extensions, including a fundamental shift in how plan funding is targeted.

#### **2014 LIVING TO 100 MONOGRAPH NOW ON SOA WEBSITE**

If you were not able to attend January's Living to 100 Symposium, the papers presented are now available in the 2014 Living to 100 Symposium online monograph. The topics covered include marriage and mortality, longevity drivers, behavior and causes of death, mortality trends and

projection methodologies, and implications for aging populations.

#### **REGULATORY RISK AND NORTH AMERICAN INSURANCE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT RELEASED**

This report contains a comprehensive look at regulatory risk and is based on a compilation of interviews with regulators and industry leaders, discussions with industry government relations personnel, and personal experience of the authors —Tom Herget and Dave Sandberg. The report identifies regulatory structures and

influences in North America; provides examples that illustrate regulatory risk; and suggests mitigation ideas for both insurers and their regulators.

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

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