



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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GOOD RESEARCH READS



COMPLETED RESEARCH STUDIES

KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES: UNDERSTANDING & MANAGING THE RISKS OF RETIREMENT

This report presents an overview of findings from the 2013 Risks and Process of Retirement Survey, which was conducted by Mathew Greenwald & Associates on behalf of the SOA's Committee on Post Retirement Needs and Risks. It includes commentary on the findings as well as related insights from an earlier series of eight focus groups, which probed participants on their decision process for retiring and their views on managing assets after retirement. To give further context to the findings, the report also provides perspectives written by project oversight group members. Upcoming highlight reports from the survey will explore personal risk management, the phases of retirement and retirement issues for women.

UNDERSTANDING THE VOLATILITY OF EXPERIENCE & PRICING ASSUMPTIONS IN LTC INSURANCE

Sponsored by the Long Term Care Insurance (LTCI) Section, this report provides a

framework to help actuaries better understand the volatility of LTCI and to compare the volatility and riskiness of different products and product portfolios. The authors, Actuarial Resources Corporation of Kansas, explore a number of questions in the paper including

how an actuary can differentiate between poor experience due to the inherent volatility in the underlying LTCI business and poor experience due to incorrect assumptions. To illustrate this, the authors describe how key product assumptions can be expressed as probability distributions and a company's block of business can be forecast using Monte Carlo simulation. A forthcoming report, to be authored by PwC, will provide further risk and market perspective on this topic.

UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGING MIDDLE MARKET FOR LIFE INSURANCE IN CHINA

This new report examines the Chinese middle market for life insurance. Supported by the Marketing and Distribution Section and 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. Performed by WZ Research + Consulting and Mathew Greenwald & Associates, nearly 2,000 families from 19 cities across China with annual household incomes between RMD 60,000 and 360,000 (roughly \$10,000 and \$60,000 USD) were surveyed

about their attitudes and behaviors for life insurance.

Utilizing the results of the survey, the research team identified three compelling segments to help life insurers better understand how to reach these middle market consumers.

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

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

COMMUNICATING THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF PUBLIC PENSION PLANS

The focus of this report is to address the need for a concise but comprehensive and focused report on the financial health and prospects of state and municipal plans. The intention is to provide stakeholders with an overview to come to informed opinions about 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. The reports include a narrative portion, a dashboard providing quantitative indicators, and a summary of the structure of benefits and actuarial assumptions. The proposed reports can be updated on a regular basis and can be a part of a plan's actuarial control cycle.

To view a complete listing, visit SOA.org/Research and click on Completed Research Studies. **A**