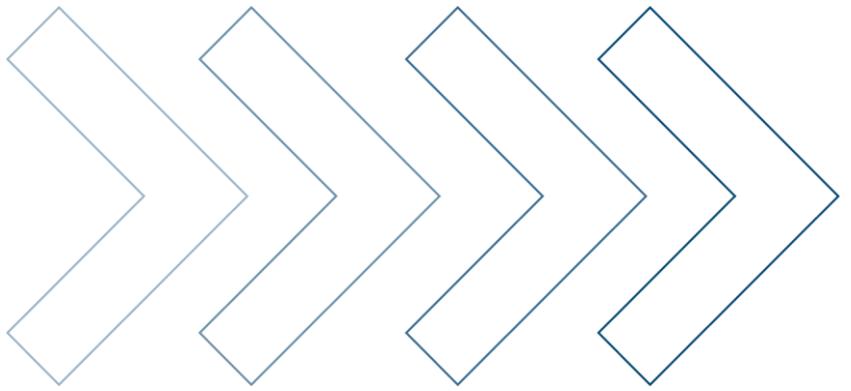
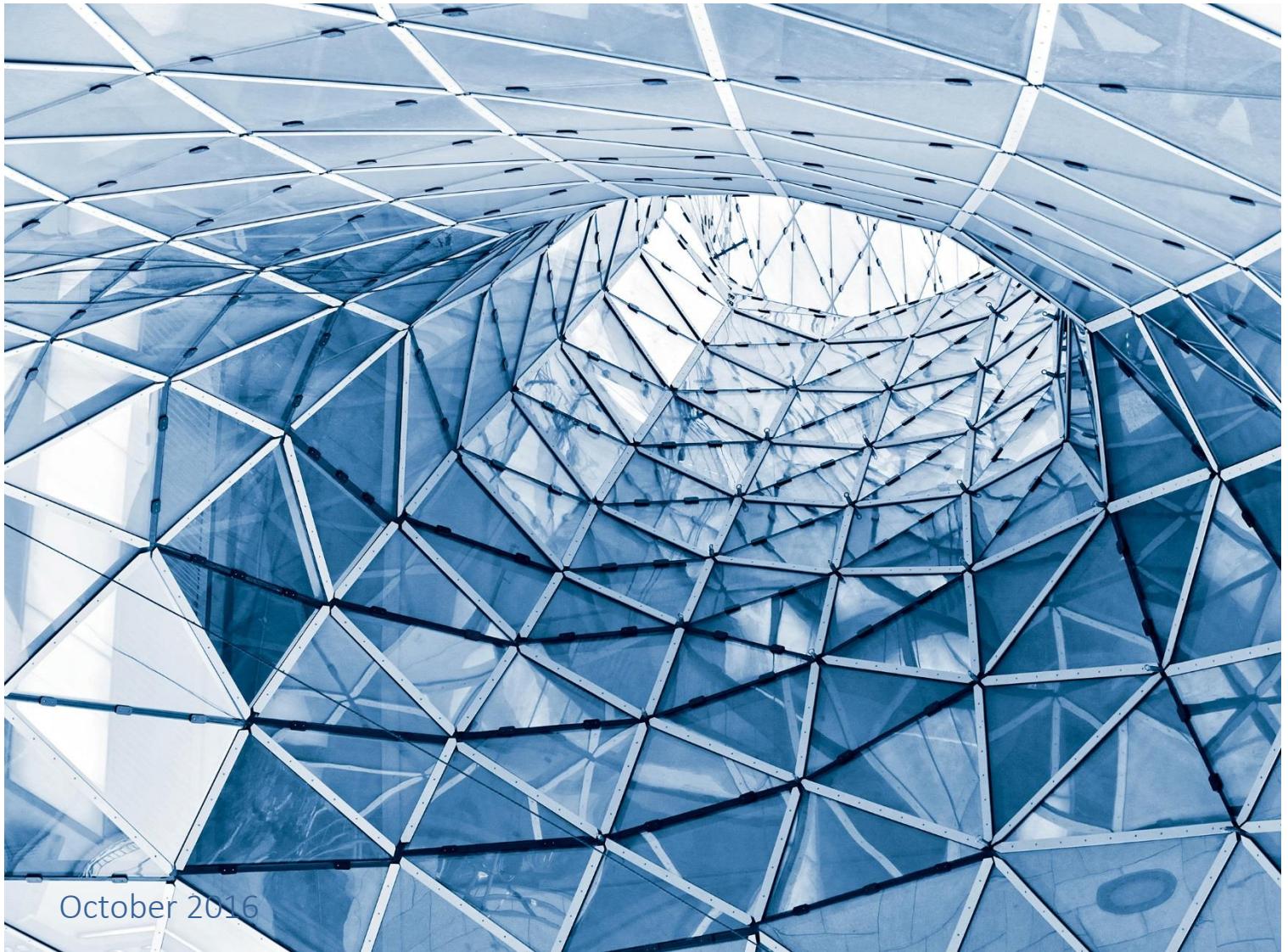




SOCIETY OF  
ACTUARIES



# Mortality Improvement Scale MP-2016





# Mortality Improvement Scale MP-2016

**AUTHOR(S)** Mortality Improvement  
Subcommittee of the Retirement  
Plans Experience Committee

## Caveat and Disclaimer

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# Mortality Improvement Scale MP-2016

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## Section 1: Executive Summary

As announced in the Mortality Improvement Scale MP-2015 Report (the “MP-2015 Report”) [SOA 2015], the Retirement Plans Experience Committee of the Society of Actuaries (RPEC) intends to publish annual updates to the RPEC\_2014 model and corresponding mortality improvement scales. The resulting 2016 version of the model presented in this report reflects three additional years of historical U.S. population mortality data<sup>1</sup> (for 2012, 2013 and 2014) and modification of two input values (described in Section 4) designed to improve the model’s year-over-year stability. Scale MP-2016 is based on this 2016 version of the RPEC\_2014 model along with the committee-selected assumption set for 2016.

For the ten years ending in 2009 the average annual age-adjusted mortality improvement rates<sup>2</sup> in the United States for those between ages 50 and 95 were 1.93% for males and 1.46% for females. The corresponding averages for the five-year period ended in 2014 were 0.60% and 0.42%, respectively. As a result of this pattern, the Scale MP-2016 rates presented in this report are generally lower than Scale MP-2015 rates, which were lower than Scale MP-2014 rates.

The following table indicates that starting with RP-2014 base mortality rates adjusted back to 2006 and a 4.0% discount rate, most 2016 pension obligations calculated using Scale MP-2016 are anticipated to be approximately 1.5% to 2.0% lower than those calculated using Scale MP-2015.

<b>Monthly Deferred-To-62 Annuity-Due Values</b>						
Generational @ 2016; Discount rate = 4.0%						
Projection Scale →	Males			Females		
	MP-2015	MP-2016	% Change	MP-2015	MP-2016	% Change
Age						
25	3.5833	<b>3.5209</b>	-1.74%	3.8040	<b>3.7521</b>	-1.36%
35	5.1996	<b>5.1082</b>	-1.76%	5.5332	<b>5.4543</b>	-1.43%
45	7.5491	<b>7.4202</b>	-1.71%	8.0563	<b>7.9398</b>	-1.45%
55	11.0552	<b>10.8736</b>	-1.64%	11.7975	<b>11.6252</b>	-1.46%
65	13.6553	<b>13.4451</b>	-1.54%	14.5090	<b>14.3142</b>	-1.34%
75	9.7658	<b>9.5990</b>	-1.71%	10.6216	<b>10.4270</b>	-1.83%
85	5.8532	<b>5.6847</b>	-2.88%	6.5737	<b>6.3661</b>	-3.16%

RPEC believes that Scale MP-2016 produces a reasonable mortality improvement assumption for measuring obligations for most retirement programs in the United States within the context of the “assumption universe” as described in Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 35 (“ASOP No. 35”) [ASB 2014]. However, the Committee also believes that other mortality improvement scales, including those created with assumptions different than those selected by the Committee also could fall within the ASOP No. 35 assumption universe.

<sup>1</sup> The inclusion of three additional years of mortality data has enabled RPEC to reduce the lag time (between the first year of mortality projection and the year of mortality improvement scale release) from five years in 2015 to three years in 2016. See Appendix Section B1.1 for additional details.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix B2 for the methodology used to calculate average annual age-adjusted mortality improvement rates.

The SOA has made available on its website an Excel-based tool that incorporates the updated mortality data through 2014, and that permits users to generate alternate two-dimensional mortality improvement scales based on user-selected assumption sets.

## Section 2: Overview of the RPEC\_2014 Model

### 2.1 Underlying Methodology

As described in Section 3.1 of the Mortality Improvement Scale MP-2014 Report (the “MP-2014 Report”) [SOA 2014b], three concepts underpin RPEC’s current mortality improvement methodology:

- Short-term mortality improvement rates should be based on recent experience.
- Long-term mortality improvement rates should be based on expert opinion.
- Short-term mortality improvement rates should blend smoothly into the assumed long-term rates over an appropriate transition period.

The resulting gender-specific model, denoted RPEC\_2014, is developed through the following steps:

1. Two-dimensional Whittaker-Henderson graduation based on the natural logarithm of the historical U.S. population mortality rates (starting from 1950) published by the Social Security Administration (SSA) in conjunction with their annual releases of the OASDI Trustees’ Reports.
2. Projection of future mortality improvement rates (after a step-back from the most recent year of graduated rates to mitigate “edge effects” introduced through the graduation process) using two sets of interpolating cubic polynomials,<sup>3</sup> one set projecting future rates horizontally along fixed ages and the other projecting future rates diagonally along fixed year-of-birth cohorts. Each of the cubic polynomials is determined by two specific values and two specific slopes as follows:
  - The starting value is the last improvement rate obtained from the graduation, after step-back.
  - The ending value is the assumed long-term rate of mortality improvement for the corresponding age or year of birth.
  - The starting slope is determined from the last two graduated improvement rates (after step-back) subject to a maximum absolute value, along fixed ages for the horizontal projection component and along fixed year-of-birth cohorts for the diagonal projection component.
  - The ending slope is zero.
3. Blending the values generated by the horizontal and diagonal interpolating polynomials.

---

<sup>3</sup> The general formulas for the interpolating cubic polynomials can be found in Appendix B of the MP-2014 Report.

## 2.2 Assumption Sets: Committee-Selected and User-Selected

The calculation of the specific cubic polynomials described in step 2 of the preceding section requires the selection of assumptions regarding the long-term rates of future mortality improvement and the convergence periods for both the horizontal and diagonal interpolating polynomials.<sup>4</sup> The third assumption above specifies the relative weighting of the separate horizontal and diagonal projection components.

Scale MP-2014 and Scale MP-2015 were both developed using the same set of committee-selected assumptions:<sup>5</sup>

- Long-term mortality improvement rates equal to 1.00% through age 85 with a linear decrease from 1.00% at age 85 to 0.85% at age 95, followed by a linear decrease from 0.85% at age 95 to zero at age 115
- Convergence periods of 20 years for both of the horizontal and diagonal interpolations and
- An equal (50%/50%) weighting of the resulting horizontal and diagonal projection components.

Alternate mortality improvement scales developed with inputs other than those selected by RPEC could lie within an appropriate assumptions universe.<sup>6</sup> Software is available on the SOA website that enables users to develop two-dimensional mortality improvement scales based on assumption sets other than those selected by the Committee; see Section 6.2 for additional details.

## 2.3 Naming Conventions

With the advent of annual updates to the RPEC mortality improvement model, it has become more important for actuaries to be very clear in identifying the appropriate version of the model being utilized in a given application. The Committee requests that the model be referred to with the calendar year of release;<sup>7</sup> specifically:

- “[RPEC\\_2014\\_v2014](#)” for the model underpinning Scale MP-2014
- “[RPEC\\_2014\\_v2015](#)” for the model underpinning Scale MP-2015
- “[RPEC\\_2014\\_v2016](#)” for the model underpinning Scale MP-2016

In this report, these models are generally referred to as the 2014, 2015, and 2016 “versions”, respectively, of the underlying model.

---

<sup>4</sup> See Section 4 of the Scale MP-2014 Report for a discussion of these assumptions.

<sup>5</sup> While not required as part of the underlying methodology, the same assumption sets were used to develop both the male and female mortality improvement rates in Scale MP-2014 and Scale MP-2015.

<sup>6</sup> RPEC directs actuaries to the relevant standards of practice, including ASOP No. 35, for guidance on the selection of reasonable assumption sets that could be used in connection with the RPEC\_2014 model.

<sup>7</sup> This represents a change from the naming convention previously proposed for the 2015 version of the model; compare with footnote # 1 of the MP-2015 Report.

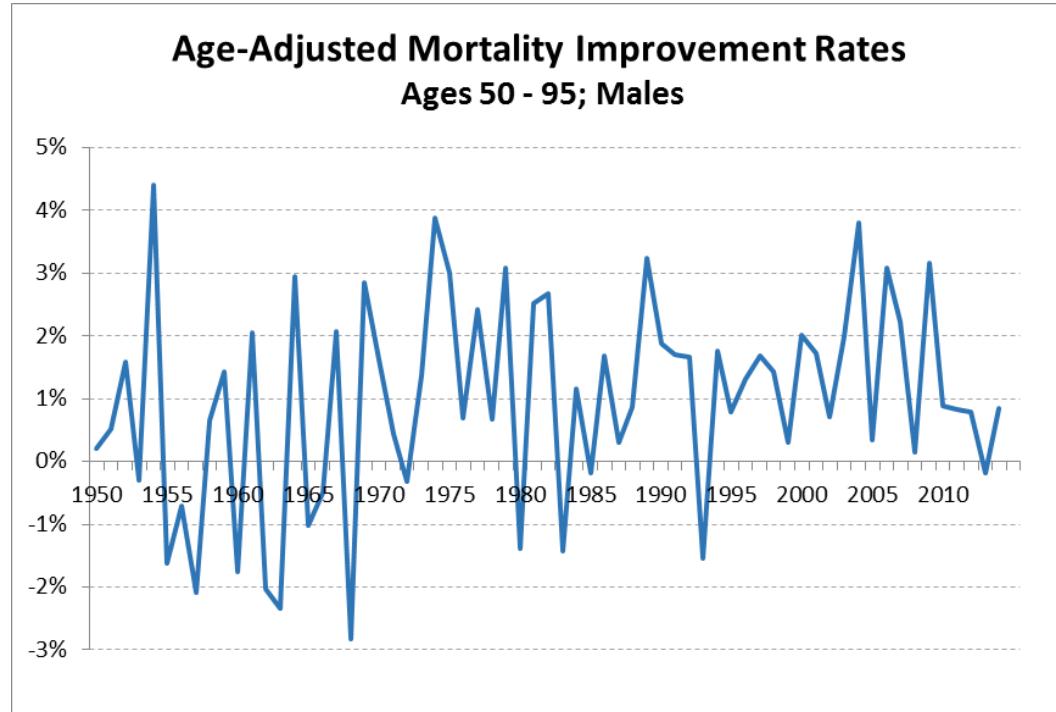
## Section 3: U.S. Population Mortality Experience

### 3.1 Data Sources

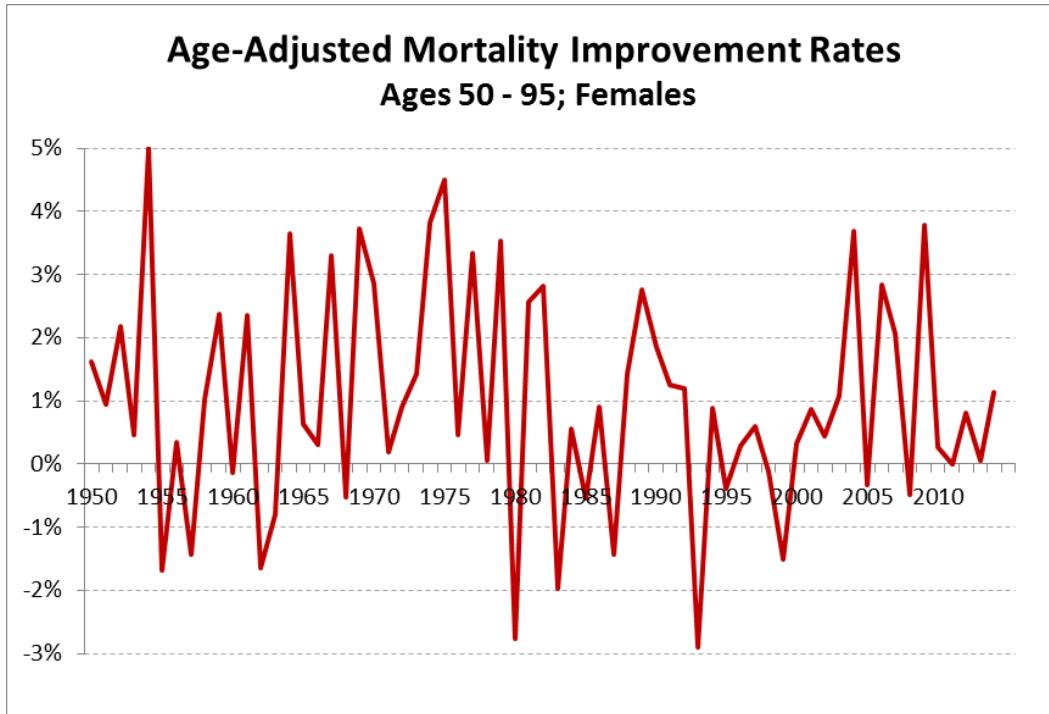
The historical mortality rates published by the SSA in conjunction with the annual release of their Trustees' Reports underpin the data component of the RPEC\_2014 model. The original model from which Scale MP-2014 was constructed reflected historical SSA mortality data for the years 1950 through 2009, and the 2015 version of the model included two additional years (2010 and 2011) of SSA-published mortality data. The 2016 version presented in this report incorporates two additional years of SSA data (for 2012 and 2013), along with preliminary mortality rates for 2014 that RPEC has constructed following procedures described in SSA's Actuarial Study No. 120 [SSA 2005]; see Appendix B1 of this report for additional details.

### 3.2 U.S. Population Mortality Improvement Experience Since 1950

The following two charts display the ungraduated annual age-adjusted mortality improvement rates<sup>8</sup> for males and females (covering ages 50 through 95) for each year starting in 1950 through 2014 based on the mortality data described in Section 3.1.



<sup>8</sup> See Appendix B2 for the methodology used to calculate annual age-adjusted mortality improvement rates.



These charts display with striking clarity the year-over-year volatility of historic U.S. mortality improvement rates. Although the average annual trend since 1950 for this age grouping has been very close to 1.0% for both genders, mortality improvement rates for any individual calendar year have frequently fallen below –1.0% or exceeded 3.0%. In fact, the standard deviations of the annual age-adjusted rates between 1950 and 2014 are 1.64% for males and 1.77% for females.

In addition to the wide range of historical mortality improvement values, it is interesting to note how frequently a calendar year with an unusually high (low) mortality improvement rate is soon followed by a year with a relatively low (high) rate.

### 3.3 A Closer Look at Mortality Experience Since 2000

Continuing to focus on the 50 – 95 age grouping, the average annual age-adjusted mortality improvement rate<sup>9</sup> from 2000 through 2009 was 1.93% for males and 1.46% for females. The corresponding rates for the period 2010 through 2014 dropped to 0.60% and 0.42%, respectively.

Preliminary analysis by the CDC [CDC 2016] indicates that the overall age-adjusted death rate in the United States (per 100,000 of population) of 728.0 in 2015 was slightly higher than the corresponding value of 724.6 in 2014. Hence, the trend of lower levels of U.S. mortality improvement starting in 2010 seems to have continued through 2015. It should be noted, however, that the same CDC release reported that the age-adjusted death rate of 772.3 for the first quarter of 2016 was lower than the rate of 800.9 experienced in the first quarter of 2015.

<sup>9</sup> Average age-adjusted mortality improvement rates were calculated using a log-linear least squares regression of the age-adjusted mortality rates over the indicated calendar years.

### **3.4 Implications for the RPEC\_2014 Model**

The significant fluctuations in the annual pattern of historical U.S. mortality improvement present a challenge to those attempting to model the future pattern of these rates. RPEC's goal has been to smooth out the year-by-year fluctuations in a way that neither puts too much emphasis on the most recent history nor completely ignores it.

More refined backtesting analysis<sup>10</sup> performed by RPEC has confirmed that the overall "MP" methodology (underlying RPEC\_2014 model plus committee-selected assumption sets) used in 2014 and 2015 has exhibited a higher degree of year-over-year volatility than the Committee considers desirable for a long-term demographic assumption. That ongoing research also revealed that modifying two inputs to the model enhanced the year-over-year stability in backtesting analysis. The 2016 version of the model and the resulting Scale MP-2016 described in this report incorporate those modifications, as described in Section 4.2.

## **Section 4: 2016 Updates to the RPEC\_2014 Model and Scale MP-2016**

### **4.1 Impact of Adding More Recent Data to the RPEC Model**

As presented in Section 3, U.S. population mortality improvement experience over the five-year period covering 2010 through 2014 was lower than the long-term average since 1950 and considerably lower than the average over the period 2000 through 2009. The inclusion of two additional years of SSA mortality data (for 2010 and 2011) to the underlying graduation process resulted in a notable decrease in the Scale MP-2015 mortality improvement rates relative to those in Scale MP-2014, with a concomitant reduction in the actuarial present value of retirement program obligations.

The Committee initially developed a set of 2016 mortality improvement rates based on the 2015 version of the RPEC\_2014 model updated to reflect the newly available mortality data for all three calendar years 2012 through 2014, with the same committee-selected assumption set used to develop Scales MP-2014 and MP-2015. This process revealed that the combined impact of (1) the graduation methodology, (2) the initial slopes of the interpolating polynomials and (3) the length of the convergence periods has produced an unacceptably high level of volatility, even when a single year of new historical data is reflected, let alone three years of new data.<sup>11</sup>

### **4.2 Updates to the Underlying Model and Committee-Selected Assumption Set for 2016**

Since the release of the MP-2014 Report in October 2014, the Committee has been committed to an ongoing assessment of the RPEC methodology and model inputs. Specifically, RPEC's Mortality Improvement subcommittee has been performing extensive backtesting analyses comparing the effectiveness of the 2014 and 2015 versions of the RPEC model to a number of alternate approaches. The goal of this activity is to identify mortality improvement models that exhibit year-over-year stability while

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<sup>10</sup> For additional details on RPEC's ongoing research efforts, see Section 6.4.

<sup>11</sup> A table of deferred-to-age-62 annuity values (calculated at a discount rate of 4.0%) that resulted from this "no changes other than three additional years of historical data" approach can be found in Appendix B4.

simultaneously satisfying certain historical fit and forecast accuracy criteria. A more detailed summary of the Committee's ongoing research is included in Section 6.4.

As a result of the research performed to date, RPEC has been able to identify the following modifications that are expected to enhance the current RPEC model (and consequently the resulting mortality improvement scales), particularly with respect to year-over-year stability:

- The initial slope constraint (the absolute value of the maximum permitted slope for each interpolating polynomial at the beginning of the convergence period) was recharacterized from an internal model parameter (fixed at 0.003) to a user-selected assumption, and the 2016 committee-selected value for this assumption was set equal to zero.
- The 2016 committee-selected convergence period for the horizontal interpolation component of the model was reduced from 20 years to 10 years.<sup>12</sup>

The impact of each of these changes on 2016 monthly deferred-to-age-62 annuity values can be found in Appendix B4. Note that constraining the initial slope to zero means that 50% of the difference between the beginning and ending values of each interpolating polynomial is attained at precisely half way through the convergence period.

A summary of the RPEC\_2014 model versions and committee-selected assumption sets for 2014, 2015 and 2016 can be found in Section 6.1.

### **4.3 Rationale for Changes to the Model for 2016**

In its original development of the RPEC\_2014 model, the Committee determined that adding a maximum absolute value component to the starting slope of the interpolating polynomials moderated the year-over-year volatility of the model. At that time, the Committee was of the opinion that an initial slope constraint of 0.003 would produce sufficiently stable mortality improvement scales.

As part of its ongoing research project, RPEC has determined that the initial slopes of the interpolating cubic polynomials have a more significant impact on the model's year-over-year volatility than originally anticipated. In fact, the backtesting analyses performed by the Committee indicated that reducing the absolute value of initial slope of the interpolating polynomials substantially enhanced the model's stability without diminishing its overall forecast accuracy.

Historical analysis of the U.S. mortality data performed by the Committee has suggested that the average length of the horizontal period of the mortality improvement rates is likely shorter than 20 years. Moreover, the backtesting analyses revealed that reducing the horizontal (age/period) convergence period from 20 years to 10 years improved the RPEC\_2014 model's stability and forecast accuracy. The Committee continues to investigate the persistence of the diagonal (cohort) effects, as well as alternate cohort component methodologies. Given the ongoing nature of that cohort research, RPEC has decided to retain a 20-year convergence period for the diagonal component of Scale MP-2016.

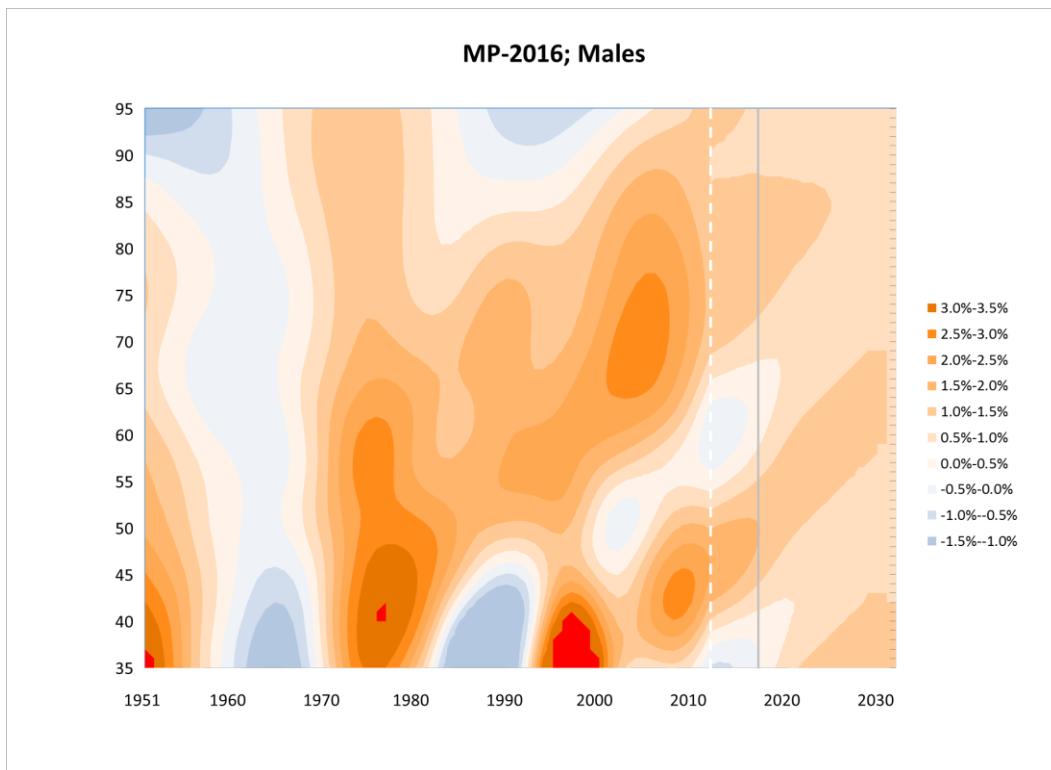
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<sup>12</sup> The 2016 committee-selected convergence period for the diagonal interpolation component remains at 20 years.

#### 4.4 Scale MP-2016 Rates and Heat Maps

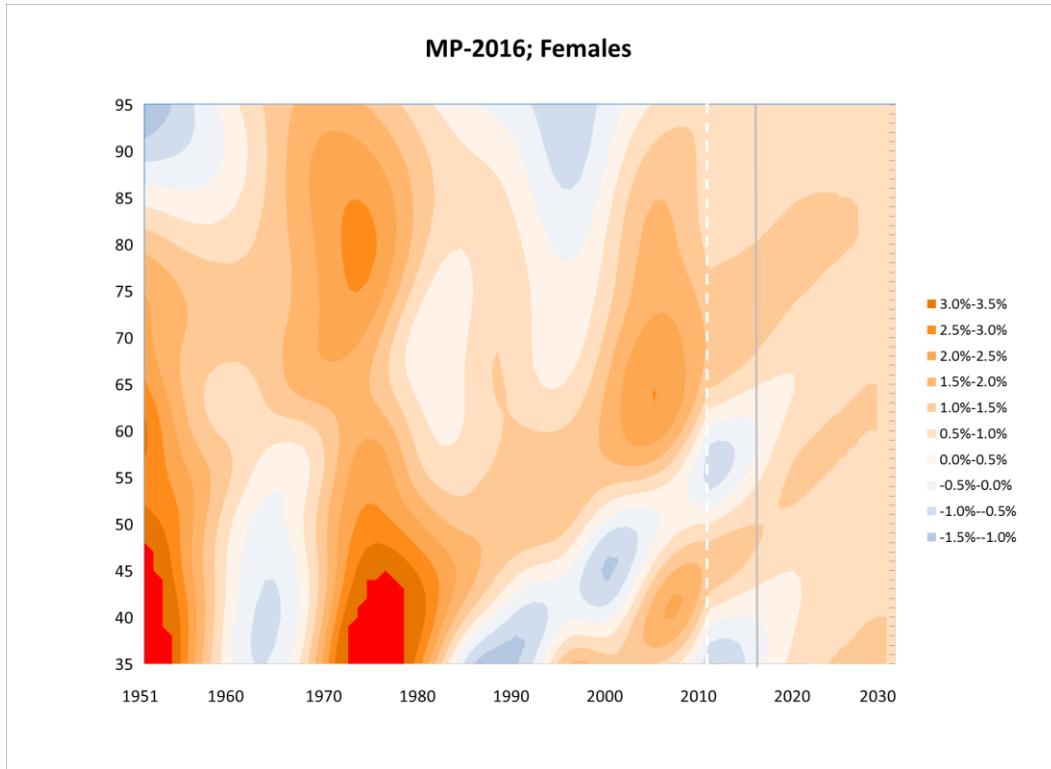
Gender-specific tables of the Scale MP-2016 rates are shown in Appendix A. The rates are also available in electronic format in the [Excel file](#) that accompanies this report.

Heat maps of the final gender-specific Scale MP-2016 rates for calendar years 1951 through 2032 are displayed below. To assist those who have certain types of color blindness, the palette used in these heat maps was converted from the “rainbow” palette<sup>13</sup> used in the Scale MP-2014 Report to the palette described in CMI’s Working Paper #82 [CMI 2015]. Due to the two-year step-back, 2012 is the final year of graduated historical data included explicitly<sup>14</sup> in the Scale MP-2016 rates, and 2013 is the first year of the projected rates; the vertical dashed white lines on the heat maps distinguish between these rates. The thin vertical gray lines indicate the current 2016 rates.



<sup>13</sup> Heat maps developed using the prior “rainbow” palette can be found in Appendix B3.

<sup>14</sup> The historical graduation process reflected mortality rates for 2013 and 2014, and hence those years implicitly influenced the final RREC\_2014\_v2016 model.



For the purposes of measuring most retirement program obligations, RPEC believes that Scale MP-2016 represents a reasonable mortality projection assumption within the context of the “assumption universe” described in ASOP No. 35. The Committee nevertheless believes that other mortality improvement scales, including the 2016 version of the RPEC\_2014 model used in conjunction with assumption sets other than that selected by the Committee, could also produce reasonable projections of future mortality rates.

## Section 5: Impact of Scale MP-2016

### 5.1 Comparison of 2016 Annuity Values

The following tables present comparisons of monthly deferred-to-age-62 annuity-due values, all calculated generationally as of 2016 (“Generational @ 2016”) with the following:

- Two sets of starting base mortality rates:
  - Unadjusted RP-2014 rates; Employee rates for ages below 62 and Healthy Annuitant rates for ages 62 and older.
  - Adjusted<sup>15</sup> RP-2014 rates; Employee rates for ages below 62 and Healthy Annuitant rates for ages 62 and older.
- Mortality projection (starting with the 2014 unadjusted RP-2014 base rates and the 2006 adjusted RP-2014 base rates) using Scale MP-2015 for the first columns of annuity values and using Scale MP-2016 for the second columns of annuity values.
- A discount rate of 4.0%.

<sup>15</sup> Adjusted RP-2014 means that the applicable set of RP-2014 base rates was adjusted back to 2006 by removing the Scale MP-2014 improvements between calendar years 2007 and 2014.

<b>Monthly Deferred-To-62 Annuity-Due Values</b>						
Base Rates: <b>RP-2014</b> (Unadjusted)						
Generational @ 2016; Discount Rate = 4.0%						
Males				Females		
Projection Scale →	MP-2015	MP-2016	% Change	MP-2015	MP-2016	% Change
Age						
25	3.6043	3.5710	-0.92%	3.8345	3.8067	-0.72%
35	5.2325	5.1839	-0.93%	5.5796	5.5374	-0.76%
45	7.6002	7.5337	-0.87%	8.1262	8.0644	-0.76%
55	11.1335	11.0414	-0.83%	11.9051	11.8137	-0.77%
65	13.7796	13.6767	-0.75%	14.6622	14.5671	-0.65%
75	9.9378	9.8707	-0.68%	10.8250	10.7394	-0.79%
85	5.9937	5.9286	-1.09%	6.7847	6.6932	-1.35%

<b>Monthly Deferred-To-62 Annuity-Due Values</b>						
Base Rates: <b>Adjusted RP-2014</b>						
Generational @ 2016; Discount Rate = 4.0%						
Males				Females		
Projection Scale →	MP-2015	MP-2016	% Change	MP-2015	MP-2016	% Change
Age						
25	3.5833	3.5209	-1.74%	3.8040	3.7521	-1.36%
35	5.1996	5.1082	-1.76%	5.5332	5.4543	-1.43%
45	7.5491	7.4202	-1.71%	8.0563	7.9398	-1.45%
55	11.0552	10.8736	-1.64%	11.7975	11.6252	-1.46%
65	13.6553	13.4451	-1.54%	14.5090	14.3142	-1.34%
75	9.7658	9.5990	-1.71%	10.6216	10.4270	-1.83%
85	5.8532	5.6847	-2.88%	6.5737	6.3661	-3.16%

Therefore, 2016 measurements of retirement plan obligations calculated using Scale MP-2016 with adjusted RP-2014 base rates (and a 4.0% discount rate) will likely be 1.5% – 2.0% lower than the corresponding measurements calculated using Scale MP-2015.

## 5.2 Comparison of 2016 Cohort Life Expectancy Values

The following table presents a comparison of 2016 complete cohort life expectancy values<sup>16</sup> at the indicated ages, all calculated using the following:

- Base mortality rates equal to RP-2014 Employee rates adjusted to 2006 for ages below 62 and RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant rates adjusted to 2006 for ages 62 and older and
- Mortality projection starting in 2006 using Scale MP-2015 for the first columns of annuity values and using Scale MP-2016 for the second columns.

2016 Cohort Life Expectancies (Complete)						
At the Indicated Ages						
Projection Scale:	Males			Females		
	MP-2015	MP-2016	% Change	MP-2015	MP-2016	% Change
Age						
25	62.6523	61.9359	-1.14%	65.1696	64.5337	-0.98%
35	51.9097	51.2297	-1.31%	54.3939	53.7593	-1.17%
45	41.2034	40.5796	-1.51%	43.6843	43.0691	-1.41%
55	30.7789	30.2001	-1.88%	33.1765	32.5759	-1.81%
65	21.2662	20.7835	-2.27%	23.2673	22.7703	-2.14%
75	13.2471	12.9353	-2.35%	14.7920	14.4060	-2.61%
85	7.0276	6.7826	-3.49%	8.0648	7.7509	-3.89%

## Section 6: Related Topics

### 6.1 Summary of RPEC Model Versions and Assumption Sets

The following table summarizes the features reflected in each of the three versions of the RPEC model.

Model Component	RPEC_2014_v2014	RPEC_2014_v2015	RPEC_2014_v2016
Underlying Mortality Data	SSA-published through 2009	SSA-published through 2011	SSA-published through 2013, plus preliminary data for 2014
Graduation Technique	2D Whittaker-Henderson; Order 3		
W-H Smoothing Parameters	100 in the calendar year direction; 400 in the age direction		
Edge Effect Step-back	2 Years		
Interpolating Polynomials	Cubics, matching the value and initial slope (subject to the initial slope constraint) at beginning of the interpolation period and matching the value of the appropriate long-term rate with zero slope at the end of the interpolation period.		
Initial Slope Constraint	0.003		User-selected

<sup>16</sup> In contrast to the monthly annuity values calculated generationaly with a 0.0% discount rate displayed in Appendix D-3 of the RP-2014 Report [SOA 2014a], the life expectancy values presented in this report were calculated as complete cohort life expectancies, which are smaller than the corresponding 0.0% monthly annuity values by a constant 1/24<sup>th</sup> of a year.

RPEC\_2014\_v2016 requires selection of the following four assumptions to produce mortality improvement rates:

- Long-term rates of mortality improvement: This vector of anticipated age-specific average annual mortality improvement rates beyond the end of the interpolation periods.
- Convergence periods: The number of years included in the interpolation periods. The convergence periods for the horizontal and diagonal components need not be the same.
- Initial slope constraint:<sup>17</sup> The maximum absolute value of each interpolating polynomial's slope at the beginning of the convergence period.
- Blending percentages: The two (nonnegative) percentages that determine the relative balance between anticipated horizontal (implicit age/period) and diagonal (implicit year-of-birth cohort) components that will be reflected in the final set of mortality improvement rates. The sum of the blending percentages must equal 100%.

The following table summarizes the committee-selected assumption sets underpinning Scales MP-2014, MP-2015, and MP-2016.

Assumptions	Scale MP-2014	Scale MP-2015	Scale MP-2016
Long-Term Rate	Flat 1.0% rate to age 85; decreasing linearly to 0.85% at age 95; then decreasing linearly to 0.0% at age 115		
Convergence Period – Horizontal	20 Years	10 Years	
Convergence Period – Diagonal		20 Years	
H/D Blending Percentages		50% / 50%	
Initial Slope Constraint	0.003*		0.0

\* The initial slope constraint was an internal parameter in the 2014 and 2015 versions of the RPEC model.

## 6.2 Tools Available on the SOA Website

The SOA has made available three Excel workbooks that users may find helpful.

- Scale MP-2016 rates can be downloaded in Excel format at <https://www.soa.org/Files/Research/Exp-Study/mortality-improvement-scale-mp-2016-rates.xlsx>.
- A tool for constructing Scale MP-2016 or other scales based on the same graduated historical mortality data. This tool is referred to as [RPEC\\_2014\\_v2016](#). The workbook implements the RPEC\_2014 model with the data that was available in 2016. Users can vary the inputs to the model to produce alternate mortality improvement scales; see the workbook for instructions.
- A tool for calculating a one-dimensional improvement scale (by attained age) approximately equivalent to Scale MP-2016 and a corresponding base mortality table can be downloaded at

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<sup>17</sup> In the Scale MP-2014 and Scale MP-2015 Reports, the initial slope constraint was an internal parameter fixed at 0.003. Starting with this report, the initial slope constraint is an assumption that can be varied by the user.

<https://www.soa.org/Research/Experience-Study/Pension/2d-to-1d-conversion-tool.aspx>. A similar tool was made available in conjunction with Scales MP-2014 and MP-2015. Please note that RPEC does not expect to make a similar tool available after 2016.

### 6.3 Rounding Conventions

Starting with this MP-2016 Report, the values produced by the horizontal and diagonal interpolating polynomials should be left unrounded until after they have been blended together (step 3 of Section 2.1), at which point they should be rounded to the nearest four decimal places. This rounding convention differs slightly from that described in Appendix B of the MP-2014 Report, which stipulated that the pre-blended interpolated values should first be rounded to the nearest five decimal places before being rounded to four decimal places after blending.

### 6.4 Overview of RPEC's Ongoing Research Efforts

The conceptual framework for and development of the RPEC\_2014 mortality improvement model were presented in Sections 3 and 4, respectively, of the MP-2014 Report. Since that time, RPEC has continued to review its methodology in an effort to improve the overall effectiveness of the model, especially with respect to year-over-year stability and forecast accuracy.

RPEC is currently investigating a number of mortality improvement model features, including:

- Underlying mortality data used to develop historical MI rates; e.g., rates as published by the SSA, raw SSA rates, or potentially some other source;
- Parameters for two-dimensional Whittaker-Henderson graduation (both “order” and “smoothing”);
- Number of step-back years;
- Methodology used to isolate historical age/period and cohort effects;
- Interpolation methodology, including families of interpolating functions and the influence of initial slopes;
- Long-term mortality improvement rates and convergence periods (and the interaction between the two); and
- The balance between horizontal and diagonal projections.

The primary techniques for assessing model effectiveness have been advanced backtesting tools that compare alternative mortality improvement models relative to a set of key metrics.

Since the research being performed by the Committee will be continuing beyond the release of this report, it is possible that RPEC could identify a new model that is more effective at meeting the Committee’s mortality improvement objectives than RPEC\_2014\_v2016. Any significant changes to the underlying RPEC model (other than updates for additional years of historical mortality data or modified committee-selected assumption sets) that arise as a result of this ongoing research project will be subject to a full exposure cycle before being published as a final report by the SOA.

## Section 7: Questions and Answers

### **Q1. Wasn't the “initial slope constraint” already part of the user-selected assumption set within the 2014 and 2015 versions of the RPEC model?**

A1: Technically speaking, the initial slope constraint was not part of the user-selected assumption set. Section 3.3 of the Scale MP-2014 Report describes the  $\pm 0.003$  constraint as a fixed internal parameter within the RPEC\_2014 model, and Section 5 of that report does not mention the initial slope constraint as one of the three types of assumptions required by users to generate rates under the RPEC\_2014 model. The preceding comments notwithstanding, the Committee is aware that some actuaries have already been treating the initial slope constraint as a user-selected assumption.

### **Q2. Why did RPEC recharacterize the initial slope constraint instead of simply changing the internal parameter within the RPEC\_2014\_v.2016 model to zero?**

A2: The Committee considered the simplified approach, given how nonzero slopes could lead to unwarranted volatility. However, incorporating a separate initial slope constraint assumption within the underlying model provides additional flexibility to users. For example, actuaries who believe that the slope of recent mortality improvement rates will continue into the near future can now continue to reflect that slope with more control over the initial size of that slope.

### **Q3. RPEC described the committee-selected assumption set as its “best estimate” in the MP-2014 Report. Is there a reason why RPEC has stopped referring to the committee-selected assumptions as its “best estimate”?**

A3: Yes. For U.S. GAAP purposes, ASC 715 requires “each significant assumption used shall reflect the best estimate solely with respect to that individual assumption.” Similarly, there might be other relevant professional standards (notably accounting standards) that also refer to “best estimate.” As a result, the inclusion of the “best estimate” language in the Scale MP-2014 Report has, in some instances, created the unintended consequence that any other mortality improvement scale — or even the use of an assumption set different from the one selected by the Committee — needed be proven to be superior to those selected by RPEC.

RPEC reconfirms its belief that for purposes of measuring most U.S. retirement program obligations, mortality improvement Scales MP-2014, MP-2015 and MP-2016 are reasonable within the context of the “assumption universe” described in ASOP No. 35. That statement notwithstanding, the Committee believes that other mortality improvement scales, including those created using a version of the RPEC\_2014 model with user-selected assumptions sets, could also be considered reasonable.

### **Q4. When using any versions of RPEC\_2014 models, should the long-term rate assumption be based on (1) the average assumed mortality improvement rate for all years after the release date of the applicable MP scale or (2) the average assumed mortality rate for all years starting after the end of the RPEC\_2014 convergence periods?**

A4: The latter. As stated in Section 3.1 of the Scale MP-2014 Report, the third of the three key concepts underpinning RPEC’s mortality improvement methodology is: “Near-term rates should transition smoothly into the assumed long-term mortality improvement rates over appropriately selected convergence periods.” The intent of RPEC was to treat the mortality improvement rates

interpolated over the convergence period as “select” rates, followed by an “ultimate” set of long-term rates.

**Q5. Question number 4 in the MP-2015 Report dealt with issues that exist with “supplementing SSA historical data with data from other sources, such as CMS<sup>18</sup> (Medicare), CDC, and HMD.” The answer to that question addressed data from CMS and CDC, but did not provide any insight into HMD. Can RPEC use HMD data to supplement its current mortality data sources?**

A5: The Committee has considered the possibility of using HMD mortality data to extend the historical data to more recent years available from the SSA, CDC and CMS. However, the HMD information currently has three problematic features:

- HMD doesn’t currently use Medicare mortality data, which is generally considered to be more accurate than other U.S. population mortality sources for ages 65 and older because of the more rigorous age-verification process used by CMS
- The timetable for updates to U.S. population mortality data has been somewhat unpredictable and
- HMD uses an exposure methodology that is appropriate for comparisons between countries, but is different than that used by CDC and CMS.

Until these issues are resolved, it is unlikely that the HMD data could be helpful in supplementing the historical mortality data used by the Committee.

**Q6. What are the implications for base mortality rates in 2016?**

A6: As described in Section 5.4 of the Scale MP-2014 Report and Section 2.3 of the Scale MP-2015 Report, the base RP-2014 mortality rates implicitly reflect Scale MP-2014 assumptions for years 2007 through 2014. For many applications, it might be appropriate to adjust the RP-2014 tables to reflect the updated mortality improvement rates of Scale MP-2016. Along with the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale, RPEC published a [set of factors](#) to adjust the RP-2014 values to base year 2006. These resulting values can be projected beyond 2006 using Scale MP-2015, Scale MP-2016 or a user-developed scale as the actuary believes is appropriate.

## Appendix A: Scale MP-2016 Rates

The gender-specific Scale MP-2016 rates for calendar years 2000 and beyond are displayed in this Appendix A. These rates, as well as those for calendar years starting in 1951 (e.g., for use in conjunction with Entry Age cost methods), are available in electronic format in the [Excel file](#) that accompanies this report.

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<sup>18</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Male Age	Calendar Year										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
≤ 20	0.0100	0.0028	-0.0019	-0.0030	-0.0005	0.0055	0.0141	0.0234	0.0314	0.0363	0.0375
21	0.0064	-0.0012	-0.0062	-0.0075	-0.0050	0.0008	0.0093	0.0187	0.0269	0.0320	0.0335
22	0.0038	-0.0044	-0.0098	-0.0114	-0.0092	-0.0034	0.0050	0.0144	0.0226	0.0278	0.0294
23	0.0025	-0.0066	-0.0126	-0.0147	-0.0127	-0.0071	0.0011	0.0104	0.0185	0.0237	0.0253
24	0.0025	-0.0076	-0.0144	-0.0171	-0.0155	-0.0102	-0.0022	0.0069	0.0148	0.0198	0.0213
25	0.0038	-0.0074	-0.0151	-0.0185	-0.0176	-0.0126	-0.0049	0.0038	0.0113	0.0160	0.0173
26	0.0065	-0.0059	-0.0146	-0.0189	-0.0186	-0.0143	-0.0071	0.0011	0.0082	0.0125	0.0136
27	0.0103	-0.0032	-0.0130	-0.0182	-0.0187	-0.0151	-0.0085	-0.0010	0.0054	0.0093	0.0100
28	0.0149	0.0006	-0.0102	-0.0164	-0.0177	-0.0150	-0.0093	-0.0026	0.0032	0.0065	0.0069
29	0.0199	0.0049	-0.0066	-0.0135	-0.0158	-0.0139	-0.0092	-0.0034	0.0015	0.0042	0.0042
30	0.0249	0.0096	-0.0024	-0.0100	-0.0129	-0.0120	-0.0083	-0.0035	0.0006	0.0027	0.0022
31	0.0293	0.0140	0.0019	-0.0059	-0.0094	-0.0093	-0.0065	-0.0027	0.0005	0.0019	0.0010
32	0.0328	0.0179	0.0061	-0.0016	-0.0054	-0.0058	-0.0039	-0.0011	0.0013	0.0020	0.0006
33	0.0351	0.0210	0.0098	0.0025	-0.0012	-0.0019	-0.0007	0.0014	0.0030	0.0030	0.0011
34	0.0361	0.0230	0.0128	0.0062	0.0029	0.0021	0.0030	0.0045	0.0054	0.0049	0.0026
35	0.0360	0.0240	0.0149	0.0093	0.0067	0.0062	0.0069	0.0081	0.0085	0.0076	0.0048
36	0.0350	0.0241	0.0162	0.0116	0.0098	0.0098	0.0107	0.0118	0.0120	0.0107	0.0076
37	0.0331	0.0234	0.0167	0.0131	0.0122	0.0129	0.0142	0.0154	0.0157	0.0142	0.0109
38	0.0307	0.0221	0.0164	0.0138	0.0138	0.0152	0.0171	0.0188	0.0192	0.0178	0.0144
39	0.0279	0.0203	0.0155	0.0139	0.0146	0.0168	0.0194	0.0215	0.0223	0.0211	0.0178
40	0.0248	0.0181	0.0142	0.0133	0.0149	0.0177	0.0210	0.0236	0.0248	0.0239	0.0208
41	0.0214	0.0157	0.0126	0.0124	0.0146	0.0180	0.0218	0.0250	0.0265	0.0260	0.0232
42	0.0179	0.0132	0.0108	0.0113	0.0139	0.0178	0.0220	0.0255	0.0274	0.0272	0.0249
43	0.0144	0.0105	0.0089	0.0099	0.0129	0.0171	0.0215	0.0252	0.0274	0.0276	0.0257
44	0.0110	0.0079	0.0069	0.0083	0.0116	0.0159	0.0204	0.0242	0.0266	0.0272	0.0259
45	0.0080	0.0054	0.0048	0.0065	0.0100	0.0144	0.0189	0.0227	0.0252	0.0261	0.0253
46	0.0054	0.0031	0.0028	0.0046	0.0081	0.0124	0.0169	0.0208	0.0234	0.0245	0.0242
47	0.0035	0.0011	0.0008	0.0025	0.0059	0.0102	0.0147	0.0185	0.0212	0.0226	0.0227
48	0.0023	-0.0003	-0.0010	0.0005	0.0036	0.0078	0.0122	0.0161	0.0189	0.0205	0.0208
49	0.0019	-0.0011	-0.0023	-0.0013	0.0015	0.0055	0.0098	0.0136	0.0165	0.0182	0.0186
50	0.0023	-0.0012	-0.0029	-0.0025	-0.0001	0.0034	0.0075	0.0112	0.0140	0.0157	0.0163
51	0.0033	-0.0005	-0.0027	-0.0028	-0.0011	0.0019	0.0055	0.0089	0.0116	0.0132	0.0137
52	0.0049	0.0010	-0.0015	-0.0022	-0.0012	0.0011	0.0040	0.0069	0.0092	0.0105	0.0110
53	0.0069	0.0032	0.0005	-0.0006	-0.0003	0.0011	0.0032	0.0053	0.0070	0.0080	0.0084
54	0.0092	0.0058	0.0032	0.0017	0.0014	0.0019	0.0030	0.0042	0.0052	0.0058	0.0059
55	0.0116	0.0086	0.0063	0.0046	0.0038	0.0034	0.0036	0.0038	0.0041	0.0041	0.0038
56	0.0139	0.0115	0.0095	0.0078	0.0065	0.0055	0.0048	0.0042	0.0037	0.0031	0.0023
57	0.0161	0.0143	0.0125	0.0109	0.0095	0.0080	0.0067	0.0054	0.0042	0.0029	0.0016
58	0.0181	0.0167	0.0153	0.0139	0.0124	0.0107	0.0090	0.0072	0.0054	0.0036	0.0015
59	0.0199	0.0188	0.0177	0.0165	0.0151	0.0135	0.0116	0.0095	0.0073	0.0049	0.0022
60	0.0213	0.0206	0.0198	0.0188	0.0176	0.0161	0.0143	0.0121	0.0096	0.0067	0.0034
61	0.0224	0.0220	0.0215	0.0208	0.0198	0.0186	0.0169	0.0147	0.0120	0.0089	0.0051
62	0.0233	0.0232	0.0229	0.0225	0.0218	0.0208	0.0193	0.0172	0.0144	0.0111	0.0070
63	0.0238	0.0240	0.0241	0.0239	0.0235	0.0227	0.0214	0.0193	0.0166	0.0131	0.0090
64	0.0241	0.0247	0.0250	0.0252	0.0250	0.0243	0.0231	0.0211	0.0184	0.0150	0.0109

Male Age	Calendar Year										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
≤ 20	0.0356	0.0318	0.0315	0.0304	0.0288	0.0269	0.0247	0.0224	0.0202	0.0182	0.0166
21	0.0319	0.0284	0.0298	0.0289	0.0275	0.0258	0.0238	0.0218	0.0198	0.0180	0.0165
22	0.0280	0.0247	0.0263	0.0272	0.0260	0.0246	0.0229	0.0212	0.0194	0.0178	0.0165
23	0.0240	0.0208	0.0226	0.0238	0.0245	0.0233	0.0219	0.0205	0.0190	0.0176	0.0164
24	0.0199	0.0167	0.0186	0.0202	0.0213	0.0220	0.0209	0.0197	0.0186	0.0174	0.0164
25	0.0159	0.0126	0.0146	0.0164	0.0179	0.0191	0.0199	0.0190	0.0181	0.0172	0.0163
26	0.0119	0.0085	0.0106	0.0126	0.0145	0.0161	0.0174	0.0183	0.0177	0.0170	0.0163
27	0.0082	0.0047	0.0067	0.0089	0.0111	0.0131	0.0149	0.0163	0.0173	0.0168	0.0162
28	0.0048	0.0011	0.0030	0.0053	0.0077	0.0101	0.0123	0.0142	0.0157	0.0166	0.0162
29	0.0019	-0.0020	-0.0002	0.0020	0.0046	0.0073	0.0098	0.0121	0.0140	0.0153	0.0161
30	-0.0004	-0.0045	-0.0030	-0.0008	0.0018	0.0046	0.0075	0.0101	0.0123	0.0140	0.0151
31	-0.0020	-0.0064	-0.0051	-0.0032	-0.0006	0.0023	0.0053	0.0081	0.0107	0.0127	0.0140
32	-0.0027	-0.0074	-0.0066	-0.0049	-0.0025	0.0004	0.0034	0.0064	0.0091	0.0113	0.0129
33	-0.0026	-0.0077	-0.0072	-0.0059	-0.0037	-0.0011	0.0018	0.0048	0.0076	0.0099	0.0117
34	-0.0016	-0.0071	-0.0071	-0.0061	-0.0044	-0.0020	0.0007	0.0035	0.0062	0.0086	0.0105
35	0.0002	-0.0057	-0.0061	-0.0056	-0.0043	-0.0024	0.0000	0.0025	0.0051	0.0075	0.0094
36	0.0027	-0.0036	-0.0044	-0.0044	-0.0036	-0.0022	-0.0003	0.0019	0.0042	0.0064	0.0083
37	0.0057	-0.0008	-0.0020	-0.0025	-0.0023	-0.0014	-0.0001	0.0017	0.0036	0.0056	0.0073
38	0.0090	0.0023	0.0009	0.0000	-0.0004	-0.0002	0.0006	0.0018	0.0033	0.0049	0.0064
39	0.0124	0.0056	0.0040	0.0028	0.0019	0.0016	0.0017	0.0023	0.0033	0.0045	0.0058
40	0.0156	0.0090	0.0073	0.0058	0.0045	0.0036	0.0031	0.0031	0.0035	0.0043	0.0053
41	0.0183	0.0121	0.0105	0.0088	0.0072	0.0058	0.0048	0.0042	0.0041	0.0044	0.0050
42	0.0205	0.0149	0.0134	0.0117	0.0099	0.0081	0.0066	0.0055	0.0049	0.0047	0.0050
43	0.0221	0.0171	0.0159	0.0142	0.0123	0.0103	0.0085	0.0070	0.0059	0.0053	0.0052
44	0.0229	0.0188	0.0178	0.0163	0.0144	0.0124	0.0103	0.0085	0.0071	0.0061	0.0056
45	0.0230	0.0197	0.0191	0.0178	0.0161	0.0141	0.0120	0.0100	0.0083	0.0070	0.0062
46	0.0226	0.0200	0.0197	0.0187	0.0173	0.0154	0.0134	0.0113	0.0095	0.0080	0.0070
47	0.0215	0.0195	0.0196	0.0190	0.0178	0.0163	0.0144	0.0125	0.0107	0.0091	0.0079
48	0.0200	0.0185	0.0188	0.0186	0.0179	0.0167	0.0151	0.0134	0.0117	0.0101	0.0089
49	0.0181	0.0169	0.0175	0.0177	0.0174	0.0166	0.0154	0.0140	0.0125	0.0110	0.0098
50	0.0158	0.0148	0.0157	0.0163	0.0164	0.0160	0.0153	0.0143	0.0131	0.0118	0.0107
51	0.0133	0.0125	0.0136	0.0144	0.0149	0.0151	0.0148	0.0142	0.0134	0.0124	0.0114
52	0.0107	0.0099	0.0112	0.0123	0.0132	0.0138	0.0140	0.0139	0.0135	0.0128	0.0120
53	0.0080	0.0073	0.0086	0.0100	0.0112	0.0122	0.0129	0.0133	0.0133	0.0130	0.0125
54	0.0054	0.0047	0.0061	0.0076	0.0091	0.0104	0.0116	0.0124	0.0128	0.0130	0.0127
55	0.0031	0.0022	0.0036	0.0052	0.0069	0.0086	0.0101	0.0113	0.0122	0.0127	0.0128
56	0.0013	0.0000	0.0012	0.0029	0.0048	0.0067	0.0085	0.0101	0.0114	0.0122	0.0126
57	-0.0001	-0.0019	-0.0008	0.0009	0.0028	0.0049	0.0070	0.0089	0.0104	0.0116	0.0123
58	-0.0008	-0.0033	-0.0024	-0.0009	0.0011	0.0033	0.0055	0.0076	0.0095	0.0109	0.0118
59	-0.0008	-0.0041	-0.0035	-0.0021	-0.0003	0.0019	0.0042	0.0064	0.0084	0.0101	0.0112
60	-0.0003	-0.0043	-0.0040	-0.0029	-0.0012	0.0009	0.0031	0.0054	0.0075	0.0092	0.0105
61	0.0008	-0.0038	-0.0038	-0.0031	-0.0017	0.0002	0.0023	0.0045	0.0066	0.0084	0.0098
62	0.0023	-0.0027	-0.0030	-0.0026	-0.0016	-0.0001	0.0018	0.0038	0.0058	0.0076	0.0090
63	0.0042	-0.0010	-0.0016	-0.0016	-0.0010	0.0001	0.0016	0.0034	0.0052	0.0069	0.0083
64	0.0061	0.0010	0.0001	-0.0002	0.0000	0.0007	0.0018	0.0032	0.0047	0.0063	0.0076

Male Age	Calendar Year										
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032+
≤ 20	0.0155	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
21	0.0155	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
22	0.0155	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
23	0.0155	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
24	0.0155	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
25	0.0155	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
26	0.0155	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
27	0.0155	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
28	0.0155	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
29	0.0155	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
30	0.0155	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
31	0.0146	0.0146	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
32	0.0137	0.0139	0.0138	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
33	0.0127	0.0131	0.0132	0.0131	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
34	0.0117	0.0123	0.0126	0.0126	0.0124	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
35	0.0107	0.0114	0.0119	0.0121	0.0120	0.0117	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
36	0.0096	0.0106	0.0112	0.0115	0.0116	0.0114	0.0111	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
37	0.0087	0.0097	0.0105	0.0109	0.0112	0.0112	0.0110	0.0107	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
38	0.0078	0.0089	0.0097	0.0104	0.0107	0.0108	0.0108	0.0106	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
39	0.0070	0.0081	0.0091	0.0098	0.0103	0.0105	0.0106	0.0104	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100
40	0.0064	0.0075	0.0084	0.0092	0.0098	0.0102	0.0103	0.0103	0.0102	0.0101	0.0100
41	0.0059	0.0069	0.0079	0.0087	0.0094	0.0099	0.0101	0.0102	0.0102	0.0101	0.0100
42	0.0056	0.0065	0.0074	0.0083	0.0090	0.0096	0.0099	0.0101	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
43	0.0056	0.0063	0.0071	0.0080	0.0087	0.0093	0.0097	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
44	0.0057	0.0062	0.0069	0.0077	0.0084	0.0091	0.0095	0.0098	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
45	0.0061	0.0064	0.0069	0.0075	0.0082	0.0089	0.0094	0.0097	0.0099	0.0100	0.0100
46	0.0066	0.0067	0.0070	0.0075	0.0081	0.0087	0.0092	0.0096	0.0099	0.0100	0.0100
47	0.0073	0.0071	0.0072	0.0076	0.0081	0.0086	0.0091	0.0096	0.0098	0.0100	0.0100
48	0.0081	0.0077	0.0076	0.0078	0.0082	0.0086	0.0091	0.0095	0.0098	0.0100	0.0100
49	0.0089	0.0084	0.0081	0.0081	0.0083	0.0087	0.0091	0.0095	0.0098	0.0099	0.0100
50	0.0097	0.0091	0.0086	0.0085	0.0085	0.0088	0.0091	0.0095	0.0098	0.0099	0.0100
51	0.0105	0.0098	0.0092	0.0089	0.0088	0.0089	0.0092	0.0095	0.0098	0.0099	0.0100
52	0.0112	0.0104	0.0098	0.0094	0.0092	0.0092	0.0093	0.0095	0.0098	0.0099	0.0100
53	0.0118	0.0110	0.0104	0.0099	0.0095	0.0094	0.0094	0.0096	0.0098	0.0099	0.0100
54	0.0122	0.0115	0.0109	0.0103	0.0099	0.0097	0.0096	0.0097	0.0098	0.0099	0.0100
55	0.0124	0.0119	0.0113	0.0107	0.0102	0.0099	0.0098	0.0098	0.0098	0.0100	0.0100
56	0.0125	0.0121	0.0115	0.0110	0.0105	0.0102	0.0099	0.0099	0.0099	0.0100	0.0100
57	0.0124	0.0121	0.0117	0.0112	0.0108	0.0104	0.0101	0.0100	0.0099	0.0100	0.0100
58	0.0121	0.0120	0.0118	0.0114	0.0109	0.0106	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
59	0.0117	0.0118	0.0117	0.0114	0.0110	0.0107	0.0104	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
60	0.0112	0.0115	0.0115	0.0113	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0102	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
61	0.0106	0.0110	0.0112	0.0112	0.0110	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
62	0.0100	0.0105	0.0108	0.0110	0.0109	0.0107	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
63	0.0093	0.0100	0.0104	0.0107	0.0107	0.0107	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
64	0.0087	0.0094	0.0100	0.0103	0.0105	0.0105	0.0104	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100







Female Age	Calendar Year										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
≤ 20	0.0020	-0.0003	-0.0009	0.0010	0.0052	0.0110	0.0174	0.0232	0.0274	0.0289	0.0279
21	0.0005	-0.0025	-0.0037	-0.0025	0.0009	0.0059	0.0117	0.0171	0.0210	0.0227	0.0221
22	-0.0001	-0.0037	-0.0057	-0.0053	-0.0027	0.0014	0.0064	0.0113	0.0150	0.0168	0.0166
23	0.0003	-0.0042	-0.0069	-0.0073	-0.0056	-0.0024	0.0018	0.0061	0.0096	0.0115	0.0116
24	0.0015	-0.0037	-0.0072	-0.0085	-0.0077	-0.0054	-0.0021	0.0016	0.0048	0.0068	0.0073
25	0.0034	-0.0025	-0.0067	-0.0089	-0.0090	-0.0076	-0.0051	-0.0020	0.0009	0.0028	0.0035
26	0.0058	-0.0007	-0.0055	-0.0084	-0.0093	-0.0088	-0.0071	-0.0047	-0.0023	-0.0005	0.0003
27	0.0085	0.0017	-0.0036	-0.0071	-0.0088	-0.0090	-0.0081	-0.0064	-0.0045	-0.0030	-0.0023
28	0.0112	0.0043	-0.0013	-0.0052	-0.0075	-0.0084	-0.0081	-0.0071	-0.0059	-0.0049	-0.0044
29	0.0137	0.0070	0.0014	-0.0028	-0.0055	-0.0069	-0.0072	-0.0068	-0.0063	-0.0059	-0.0058
30	0.0157	0.0094	0.0040	-0.0002	-0.0030	-0.0046	-0.0054	-0.0056	-0.0058	-0.0062	-0.0066
31	0.0169	0.0114	0.0065	0.0026	-0.0001	-0.0018	-0.0028	-0.0036	-0.0045	-0.0056	-0.0067
32	0.0173	0.0126	0.0085	0.0053	0.0030	0.0014	0.0002	-0.0009	-0.0024	-0.0042	-0.0061
33	0.0168	0.0131	0.0100	0.0077	0.0060	0.0047	0.0036	0.0022	0.0003	-0.0021	-0.0047
34	0.0155	0.0128	0.0108	0.0096	0.0087	0.0080	0.0071	0.0057	0.0035	0.0006	-0.0026
35	0.0134	0.0117	0.0109	0.0108	0.0109	0.0109	0.0104	0.0092	0.0070	0.0038	0.0000
36	0.0107	0.0099	0.0102	0.0112	0.0124	0.0132	0.0134	0.0126	0.0105	0.0072	0.0030
37	0.0076	0.0076	0.0088	0.0108	0.0131	0.0148	0.0157	0.0155	0.0138	0.0106	0.0062
38	0.0043	0.0048	0.0067	0.0097	0.0129	0.0156	0.0173	0.0178	0.0166	0.0138	0.0094
39	0.0010	0.0018	0.0043	0.0079	0.0119	0.0155	0.0181	0.0193	0.0188	0.0165	0.0123
40	-0.0021	-0.0012	0.0015	0.0056	0.0103	0.0146	0.0180	0.0200	0.0202	0.0185	0.0148
41	-0.0049	-0.0041	-0.0014	0.0030	0.0081	0.0130	0.0171	0.0198	0.0207	0.0197	0.0166
42	-0.0072	-0.0067	-0.0041	0.0002	0.0055	0.0108	0.0154	0.0188	0.0204	0.0201	0.0178
43	-0.0089	-0.0088	-0.0066	-0.0024	0.0028	0.0083	0.0132	0.0170	0.0192	0.0196	0.0181
44	-0.0098	-0.0102	-0.0085	-0.0048	0.0002	0.0055	0.0106	0.0146	0.0172	0.0183	0.0177
45	-0.0098	-0.0109	-0.0097	-0.0066	-0.0022	0.0028	0.0077	0.0118	0.0147	0.0163	0.0165
46	-0.0090	-0.0106	-0.0102	-0.0078	-0.0041	0.0004	0.0049	0.0089	0.0119	0.0139	0.0147
47	-0.0074	-0.0095	-0.0098	-0.0082	-0.0053	-0.0015	0.0024	0.0061	0.0090	0.0112	0.0124
48	-0.0051	-0.0077	-0.0086	-0.0078	-0.0057	-0.0028	0.0005	0.0036	0.0063	0.0084	0.0098
49	-0.0023	-0.0051	-0.0066	-0.0065	-0.0053	-0.0033	-0.0008	0.0017	0.0039	0.0058	0.0071
50	0.0007	-0.0022	-0.0039	-0.0045	-0.0040	-0.0028	-0.0012	0.0005	0.0022	0.0035	0.0045
51	0.0036	0.0010	-0.0009	-0.0018	-0.0019	-0.0015	-0.0006	0.0003	0.0011	0.0018	0.0023
52	0.0064	0.0042	0.0025	0.0014	0.0009	0.0007	0.0008	0.0009	0.0009	0.0008	0.0005
53	0.0088	0.0071	0.0058	0.0049	0.0042	0.0037	0.0031	0.0025	0.0016	0.0006	-0.0007
54	0.0108	0.0098	0.0089	0.0083	0.0078	0.0070	0.0060	0.0047	0.0031	0.0011	-0.0011
55	0.0124	0.0120	0.0118	0.0116	0.0113	0.0105	0.0093	0.0075	0.0052	0.0024	-0.0006
56	0.0135	0.0138	0.0142	0.0145	0.0145	0.0139	0.0126	0.0105	0.0078	0.0044	0.0006
57	0.0143	0.0151	0.0161	0.0169	0.0172	0.0169	0.0157	0.0136	0.0106	0.0068	0.0024
58	0.0148	0.0161	0.0174	0.0187	0.0194	0.0194	0.0184	0.0165	0.0135	0.0095	0.0048
59	0.0150	0.0166	0.0184	0.0200	0.0211	0.0214	0.0207	0.0190	0.0161	0.0123	0.0075
60	0.0150	0.0169	0.0189	0.0208	0.0222	0.0228	0.0225	0.0211	0.0185	0.0149	0.0102
61	0.0148	0.0170	0.0192	0.0213	0.0229	0.0238	0.0238	0.0227	0.0204	0.0170	0.0126
62	0.0145	0.0168	0.0192	0.0215	0.0233	0.0244	0.0246	0.0237	0.0217	0.0187	0.0147
63	0.0139	0.0165	0.0191	0.0215	0.0234	0.0246	0.0250	0.0243	0.0226	0.0199	0.0163
64	0.0133	0.0161	0.0188	0.0213	0.0234	0.0246	0.0251	0.0245	0.0230	0.0206	0.0173

Female Age	Calendar Year										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
≤ 20	0.0247	0.0202	0.0200	0.0195	0.0188	0.0179	0.0168	0.0158	0.0148	0.0138	0.0131
21	0.0196	0.0159	0.0179	0.0176	0.0171	0.0165	0.0158	0.0150	0.0143	0.0136	0.0130
22	0.0147	0.0117	0.0138	0.0157	0.0155	0.0151	0.0147	0.0143	0.0138	0.0134	0.0130
23	0.0103	0.0079	0.0099	0.0119	0.0140	0.0139	0.0138	0.0136	0.0134	0.0132	0.0129
24	0.0064	0.0045	0.0063	0.0084	0.0106	0.0128	0.0129	0.0130	0.0131	0.0130	0.0129
25	0.0030	0.0014	0.0031	0.0052	0.0075	0.0099	0.0122	0.0125	0.0127	0.0129	0.0128
26	0.0000	-0.0012	0.0003	0.0023	0.0046	0.0072	0.0097	0.0120	0.0125	0.0127	0.0128
27	-0.0025	-0.0034	-0.0021	-0.0002	0.0022	0.0047	0.0074	0.0099	0.0122	0.0126	0.0127
28	-0.0045	-0.0052	-0.0041	-0.0023	0.0000	0.0026	0.0053	0.0080	0.0105	0.0125	0.0127
29	-0.0062	-0.0068	-0.0057	-0.0040	-0.0018	0.0007	0.0035	0.0062	0.0088	0.0110	0.0127
30	-0.0073	-0.0080	-0.0071	-0.0055	-0.0033	-0.0008	0.0019	0.0047	0.0073	0.0096	0.0114
31	-0.0079	-0.0089	-0.0081	-0.0066	-0.0046	-0.0021	0.0006	0.0033	0.0060	0.0083	0.0102
32	-0.0079	-0.0095	-0.0089	-0.0075	-0.0055	-0.0032	-0.0005	0.0022	0.0048	0.0072	0.0091
33	-0.0073	-0.0098	-0.0093	-0.0081	-0.0062	-0.0039	-0.0014	0.0013	0.0039	0.0062	0.0081
34	-0.0061	-0.0096	-0.0093	-0.0083	-0.0066	-0.0044	-0.0020	0.0006	0.0031	0.0054	0.0073
35	-0.0043	-0.0089	-0.0089	-0.0081	-0.0066	-0.0046	-0.0023	0.0001	0.0025	0.0047	0.0065
36	-0.0020	-0.0076	-0.0079	-0.0074	-0.0062	-0.0044	-0.0024	-0.0001	0.0021	0.0041	0.0059
37	0.0007	-0.0057	-0.0064	-0.0062	-0.0054	-0.0040	-0.0022	-0.0002	0.0018	0.0037	0.0054
38	0.0036	-0.0033	-0.0043	-0.0045	-0.0041	-0.0031	-0.0017	0.0000	0.0018	0.0035	0.0050
39	0.0065	-0.0006	-0.0018	-0.0024	-0.0024	-0.0019	-0.0009	0.0004	0.0018	0.0033	0.0047
40	0.0093	0.0024	0.0010	0.0001	-0.0004	-0.0003	0.0001	0.0010	0.0021	0.0033	0.0045
41	0.0117	0.0054	0.0040	0.0028	0.0019	0.0015	0.0014	0.0018	0.0025	0.0033	0.0043
42	0.0136	0.0081	0.0068	0.0054	0.0043	0.0034	0.0029	0.0028	0.0030	0.0036	0.0043
43	0.0149	0.0104	0.0092	0.0079	0.0066	0.0054	0.0045	0.0039	0.0037	0.0039	0.0044
44	0.0154	0.0120	0.0112	0.0100	0.0086	0.0072	0.0060	0.0051	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046
45	0.0152	0.0129	0.0124	0.0115	0.0102	0.0089	0.0075	0.0064	0.0055	0.0051	0.0050
46	0.0142	0.0129	0.0128	0.0123	0.0113	0.0101	0.0088	0.0075	0.0065	0.0058	0.0055
47	0.0126	0.0120	0.0124	0.0123	0.0117	0.0108	0.0097	0.0085	0.0075	0.0067	0.0062
48	0.0104	0.0104	0.0112	0.0116	0.0115	0.0110	0.0103	0.0093	0.0084	0.0076	0.0070
49	0.0078	0.0080	0.0092	0.0101	0.0106	0.0107	0.0104	0.0098	0.0091	0.0084	0.0078
50	0.0051	0.0052	0.0067	0.0080	0.0091	0.0097	0.0100	0.0099	0.0096	0.0091	0.0086
51	0.0024	0.0021	0.0038	0.0055	0.0071	0.0084	0.0093	0.0097	0.0099	0.0097	0.0093
52	-0.0001	-0.0009	0.0008	0.0028	0.0048	0.0066	0.0081	0.0092	0.0099	0.0101	0.0100
53	-0.0021	-0.0037	-0.0021	0.0000	0.0024	0.0047	0.0067	0.0084	0.0096	0.0102	0.0104
54	-0.0034	-0.0059	-0.0046	-0.0025	0.0001	0.0027	0.0052	0.0073	0.0090	0.0101	0.0106
55	-0.0040	-0.0074	-0.0064	-0.0045	-0.0020	0.0008	0.0036	0.0062	0.0083	0.0098	0.0106
56	-0.0036	-0.0079	-0.0074	-0.0058	-0.0035	-0.0007	0.0022	0.0050	0.0074	0.0092	0.0103
57	-0.0024	-0.0075	-0.0074	-0.0063	-0.0044	-0.0018	0.0010	0.0038	0.0064	0.0084	0.0099
58	-0.0005	-0.0062	-0.0066	-0.0060	-0.0045	-0.0024	0.0002	0.0029	0.0054	0.0076	0.0092
59	0.0020	-0.0041	-0.0049	-0.0048	-0.0040	-0.0024	-0.0003	0.0021	0.0045	0.0067	0.0084
60	0.0046	-0.0015	-0.0026	-0.0030	-0.0027	-0.0018	-0.0002	0.0017	0.0038	0.0059	0.0076
61	0.0073	0.0013	0.0000	-0.0008	-0.0010	-0.0007	0.0003	0.0016	0.0033	0.0051	0.0067
62	0.0097	0.0041	0.0028	0.0017	0.0011	0.0008	0.0011	0.0019	0.0031	0.0045	0.0060
63	0.0118	0.0067	0.0054	0.0043	0.0033	0.0026	0.0023	0.0025	0.0032	0.0042	0.0054
64	0.0134	0.0089	0.0078	0.0066	0.0055	0.0045	0.0038	0.0035	0.0036	0.0041	0.0050

Female Age	Calendar Year										
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032+
≤ 20	0.0125	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
21	0.0125	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
22	0.0125	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
23	0.0125	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
24	0.0125	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
25	0.0125	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
26	0.0125	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
27	0.0125	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
28	0.0125	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
29	0.0125	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
30	0.0125	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
31	0.0115	0.0122	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
32	0.0104	0.0112	0.0118	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
33	0.0095	0.0104	0.0110	0.0114	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
34	0.0086	0.0096	0.0103	0.0108	0.0111	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
35	0.0079	0.0088	0.0096	0.0102	0.0106	0.0108	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
36	0.0072	0.0082	0.0090	0.0097	0.0102	0.0105	0.0105	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
37	0.0067	0.0076	0.0085	0.0092	0.0098	0.0101	0.0103	0.0103	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
38	0.0062	0.0072	0.0080	0.0088	0.0094	0.0098	0.0101	0.0102	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
39	0.0058	0.0068	0.0076	0.0084	0.0091	0.0096	0.0099	0.0101	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100
40	0.0055	0.0064	0.0073	0.0081	0.0088	0.0093	0.0097	0.0099	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
41	0.0053	0.0062	0.0070	0.0079	0.0086	0.0091	0.0096	0.0098	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
42	0.0051	0.0060	0.0068	0.0076	0.0084	0.0090	0.0094	0.0097	0.0099	0.0100	0.0100
43	0.0051	0.0058	0.0067	0.0075	0.0082	0.0088	0.0093	0.0097	0.0099	0.0100	0.0100
44	0.0051	0.0058	0.0066	0.0073	0.0081	0.0087	0.0092	0.0096	0.0098	0.0100	0.0100
45	0.0053	0.0058	0.0065	0.0072	0.0080	0.0086	0.0091	0.0095	0.0098	0.0100	0.0100
46	0.0056	0.0060	0.0066	0.0072	0.0079	0.0085	0.0091	0.0095	0.0098	0.0100	0.0100
47	0.0061	0.0063	0.0067	0.0072	0.0079	0.0085	0.0090	0.0095	0.0098	0.0099	0.0100
48	0.0067	0.0067	0.0069	0.0073	0.0079	0.0085	0.0090	0.0094	0.0097	0.0099	0.0100
49	0.0074	0.0072	0.0072	0.0075	0.0080	0.0085	0.0090	0.0094	0.0097	0.0099	0.0100
50	0.0081	0.0077	0.0077	0.0078	0.0081	0.0085	0.0090	0.0094	0.0097	0.0099	0.0100
51	0.0088	0.0084	0.0081	0.0081	0.0083	0.0086	0.0090	0.0094	0.0097	0.0099	0.0100
52	0.0095	0.0090	0.0087	0.0085	0.0086	0.0088	0.0091	0.0094	0.0097	0.0099	0.0100
53	0.0101	0.0096	0.0092	0.0089	0.0089	0.0090	0.0092	0.0095	0.0097	0.0099	0.0100
54	0.0105	0.0101	0.0097	0.0093	0.0092	0.0092	0.0093	0.0095	0.0098	0.0099	0.0100
55	0.0107	0.0104	0.0101	0.0097	0.0095	0.0094	0.0094	0.0096	0.0098	0.0099	0.0100
56	0.0107	0.0106	0.0104	0.0101	0.0098	0.0096	0.0096	0.0097	0.0098	0.0099	0.0100
57	0.0105	0.0106	0.0105	0.0103	0.0100	0.0099	0.0098	0.0098	0.0099	0.0100	0.0100
58	0.0101	0.0104	0.0105	0.0104	0.0102	0.0100	0.0099	0.0099	0.0099	0.0100	0.0100
59	0.0095	0.0101	0.0104	0.0104	0.0103	0.0102	0.0100	0.0099	0.0099	0.0100	0.0100
60	0.0088	0.0096	0.0101	0.0103	0.0103	0.0102	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
61	0.0080	0.0090	0.0097	0.0101	0.0102	0.0102	0.0102	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
62	0.0073	0.0083	0.0092	0.0097	0.0100	0.0102	0.0102	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
63	0.0066	0.0077	0.0086	0.0093	0.0098	0.0100	0.0101	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
64	0.0060	0.0071	0.0081	0.0089	0.0095	0.0098	0.0100	0.0101	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100







## Appendix B1: Development of Preliminary Mortality Rates for 2014

### B1.1 Reducing the Lag Time

Since the release of the MP-2014 Report, one of RPEC's main objectives has been to reduce the lag time between the first year of post-historical mortality projection and the release date of the corresponding set of mortality improvement rates. Scale MP-2014 was based on historical SSA-published mortality data through 2009, which after applying the two-year step-back to 2007, resulted in a lag of six years between the first projection year of 2008 and 2014. Scale MP-2015 had a lag of five years,<sup>19</sup> based on historical SSA-published mortality data through 2011.

In conjunction with the release of the 2016 OASDI Trustees' Report [SSA 2016], the SSA published updated U.S. population mortality rates for 2012 and 2013. Utilizing the same data sources and smoothing methodology used by the SSA to construct their annual sets of mortality rates, RPEC was able to develop estimated "SSA-style" mortality rates for 2014; see Section B1.3 below. By reflecting three additional years of mortality data in this 2016 release, RPEC has been able to reduce the lag time to three years.<sup>20</sup>

### B1.2 Data Sources and SSA Methodology

The raw mortality data underlying the SSA mortality rates come from two government sources, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Death counts and exposure lives<sup>21</sup> for ages 0 through 64 come from the CDC's "Multiple Cause of Death" databases, which can be found on their WONDER database website.<sup>22</sup> Death counts and exposures for ages 65 and older are based on CMS-produced datasets described as "Number of Aged Persons with HI or SMI and Covered by SSA or RRB Living" [CMS 2016].

It should be noted that a number of significant differences are evident in the composition and structure of the CDC and CMS databases. Most importantly:

- The CDC database includes the entire U.S. population, whereas the CMS database essentially includes just the subset covered by Medicare and
- The CDC exposures are measured as of July 1 of each calendar year, whereas the CMS enrollments are as of January 1. In a given calendar year,  $y$ , for example, SSA adjusts all exposures to July 1 by averaging the CMS enrollments on 1/1/ $y$  with those on 1/1/ $y+1$ .

Due to incomplete Medicare enrollment information, the SSA also adjusts the CMS age-65 deaths by a factor of 4/3.

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<sup>19</sup> The first year of projected rates in Scale MP-2015 was 2010.

<sup>20</sup> The first year of projected rates in Scale MP-2016 is 2013.

<sup>21</sup> CDC exposures are developed from U.S. Census Bureau data.

<sup>22</sup> <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>.

### B1.3 Development of SSA-Style Mortality Rates for 2014

RPEC followed the methodology described in the SSA's Actuarial Study No. 120 [SSA 2005] in its development of estimated mortality rates for 2014. The necessary deaths and exposures for ages below 65 were available directly from the CDC WONDER database. The 2014 deaths for ages 65 and above were made available to RPEC by CMS. As mentioned in Section B1.2 above, post-64 exposures for 2014 should be calculated as the gender-/age-specific averages of CMS enrollments as of January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015. However, at the time the model included in this Report was developed, only preliminary Medicare enrollment figures as of January 1, 2015 were available.

After reviewing the differences in the preliminary and final Medicare enrollment numbers for a number of recent years, RPEC decided that using the preliminary Medicare enrollments as of January 1, 2015 – slightly modified as described in the following two sentences – would be a suitable approach for extending the historical mortality improvement trend for one additional year. For ages 65 through 69, RPEC noticed that final CMS enrollments were consistently slightly higher than the corresponding preliminary enrollments,<sup>23</sup> with the largest differences at age 65. Hence, for ages 65 – 69, the preliminary January 1, 2015 CMS enrollments used to compute the July 1, 2014 exposures were increased by the same percentages as those observed when comparing the corresponding preliminary and final CMS enrollments as of January 1, 2014.

Once the raw gender-/age-specific death and exposure databases for calendar year 2014 had been developed, RPEC used the iterative process described in Actuarial Note No. 120<sup>24</sup> to develop graduated "SSA-style" mortality rates for 2014.

### Appendix B2: Calculation of Annual Age-Adjusted Mortality Improvement Rates

Age-adjusted mortality rates covering ages 50 through 95 were calculated for each calendar year 1950 through 2014 using the gender-specific dataset described in Section 3.1, weighted by the 2011 "exposure-to-risk" values in the U.S.A. section of the Human Mortality Database [[www.mortality.org](http://www.mortality.org)]. The age-adjusted mortality improvement rate for a given year,  $y$ , was calculated as the complement of the ratio of the age-adjusted mortality rate in year  $y$  to the age-adjusted mortality rate in year  $y-1$ .

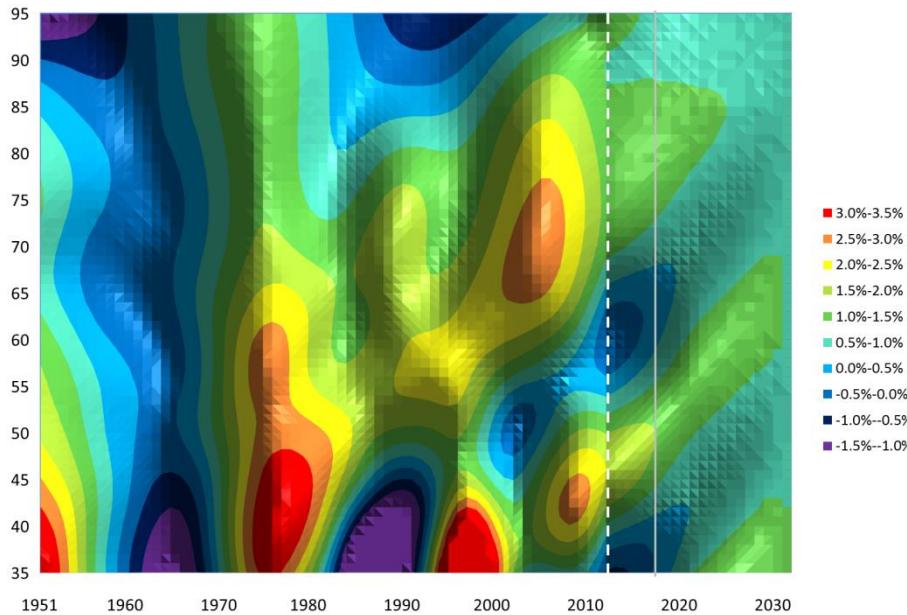
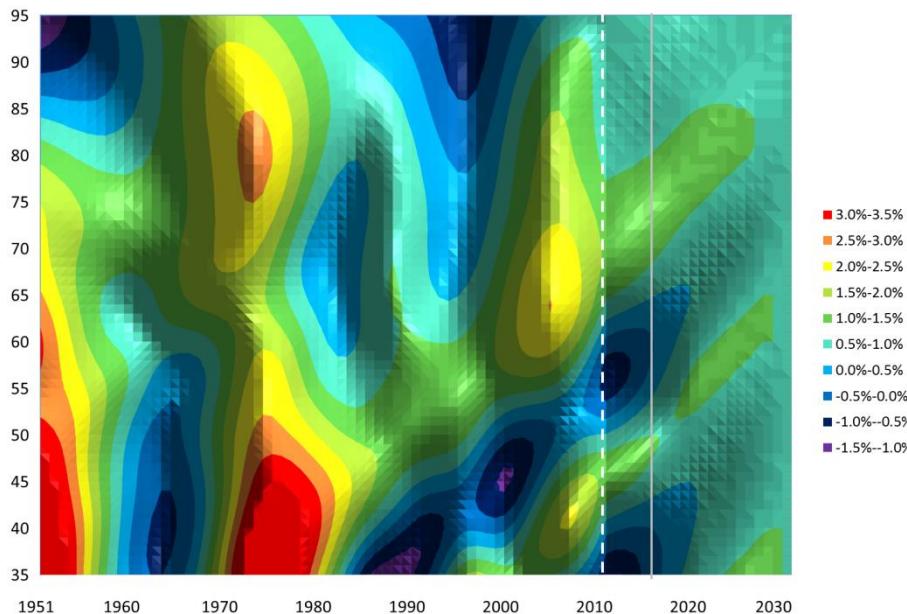
### Appendix B3: Scale MP-2016 Heat Maps with Rainbow Palette

The following Scale MP-2016 heat maps reflect the "rainbow" color palette used in the Scale MP-2014 Report.

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<sup>23</sup> CMS confirmed that this is has been a sustained trend due to some retroactive Medicare enrollments.

<sup>24</sup> While not explicitly stated in Actuarial Note No.120, one further adjustment is necessary before applying the Beers interpolation process. For ages 65 and above, the five-year age bands for deaths need to be constructed from four full years and two surrounding half-years.

**MP-2016; Males****MP-2016; Females**

## Appendix B4: Additional 2016 Annuity Value Comparisons

The following table summarizes 2016 deferred-to-age-62 annuity values calculated at various stages of updating the RPEC\_2014 model from the 2015 version to the 2016 version. All annuity values were calculated generationally using the following:

- Base mortality rates equal to RP-2014 Employee rates adjusted to 2006 for ages below 62 and RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant rates adjusted to 2006 for ages 62 and older, and
- A discount rate of 4.0%.

<b>Monthly Deferred-To-62 Annuity-Due Values</b>					
Generational @ 2016; Discount rate = 4.0%					
	(1)*	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)*
Historical Data Through Year →	2011	2014	2014	2014	2014
Horizontal Convergence Period →	20 Years	20 Years	10 Years	20 Years	10 Years
Initial Slope Constraint →	0.003	0.003	0.003	0	0
Male Ages					
25	3.5833	3.4444	3.4718	3.5186	3.5209
35	5.1996	4.9926	5.0340	5.1050	5.1082
45	7.5491	7.2458	7.3098	7.4137	7.4202
55	11.0552	10.6337	10.7188	10.8692	10.8736
65	13.6553	13.2060	13.2721	13.4578	13.4451
75	9.7658	9.4036	9.4442	9.6082	9.5990
85	5.8532	5.5996	5.6014	5.6908	5.6847
Female Ages					
25	3.8040	3.6921	3.7134	3.7494	3.7521
35	5.5332	5.3628	5.3952	5.4507	5.4543
45	8.0563	7.8021	7.8512	7.9346	7.9398
55	11.7975	11.4347	11.4973	11.6233	11.6252
65	14.5090	14.1077	14.1691	14.3134	14.3142
75	10.6216	10.2335	10.2901	10.4182	10.4270
85	6.5737	6.2706	6.2849	6.3649	6.3661

\* Columns (1) and (5) reflect the inputs for Scales MP-2015 and MP-2016, respectively.

The corresponding impact of the individual changes reflected in this report can be estimated by comparing the 2016 deferred-to-age-62 annuity values in various columns above. For example:

- A comparison of columns (1) and (2) indicates that reflecting three additional years of mortality data (for 2012, 2013 and 2014) with no other input changes relative to Scale MP-2015 reduced 2016 annuity values by approximately 3.0% – 4.0%.
- A comparison of columns (2) and (3) indicates that after reflecting the three additional years of data, reducing the horizontal convergence period from 20 years to 10 years increased 2016 annuity values by approximately 0.5% – 1.0%.

- A comparison of columns (2) and (4) indicates that after reflecting the three additional years of data and retaining the 20-year horizontal convergence period, reducing the initial slope constraint from 0.003 to zero increased 2016 annuity values by approximately 1.5% – 2.5%.
- A comparison of columns (2) and (5) indicates that after reflecting the three additional years of data, reducing both the horizontal convergence period and the initial slope constraint increased 2016 annuity values by approximately 1.5% – 2.5%. Note that the percentage changes resulting from reducing the horizontal convergence period only and reducing the initial slope constraint only are not additive.
- Finally, a comparison of columns (1) and (5) shows the full impact of Scale MP-2016 relative to Scale MP-2015 discussed earlier in Section 1 and Section 5.1.

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<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/vsrr/mortality-dashboard.htm> (2016)

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**[SSA 2016]** Social Security Administration; The 2016 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds (June 2016)