



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

The Actuary

October 1998 – volume 32 - Issue 5

by public policy analysts in the retirement income arena.

Health news

The SOA has awarded a grant to the National Association of Health Data Organizations to enhance the National Health Information Resource Center (NHIRC) Web site. Enhancements include a topic indexing/search/retrieval system, a module called Health Database Locator, and access to outcomes and performance measurement research. The NHIRC site (www.nhirc.org) is an online interactive resource for information about current health data/information projects and databases.

David Eisenberg, M.D., of the Center for Alternative Medicine Research at Harvard Medical School,

has completed a study entitled "Integrated Medicine" with funds from the SOA, the John E. Fetzer Institute, and the National Institute for Health. Dr. Eisenberg has submitted his paper to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for publication consideration.

"Credibility Seminar for Health Insurance Actuaries" will be presented Nov. 2-3 in Chicago, covering credibility theory using practical examples from health insurance. More information is available from the SOA Continuing Education Department (phone: 847/706-3545; fax: 847/706-3599).

Keep in touch with Research
The "Resources from Research"
brochure presents concise information

about SOA research reports and how to obtain them. The fall 1998 edition will be available at the SOA annual meeting in New York and through the SOA Research Department. Copies are free of charge. Information on the Society's research activities regularly appears on the SOA Web site (www.soa.org). Requests for proposals, calls for papers, research reports, "Resources from Research," and other research news and information are available.

Questions and comments about any SOA research activity can be directed to the Research Department at 847/706-3500.

New accidental death experience report and mortality table available

Accidental death rates in the United States population declined by more than 40% between 1953 and 1994 while homicide rates doubled, according to a new report available from the Society of Actuaries (SOA). The report, *Accidental Death Experience: A Review of Recent Experience for the Practicing Actuary and The 1996 Accidental Death Mortality Table*, finds that the combined rate of death by accident or homicide has decreased by 30% over the period.

The report was authored by Jay Jaffe, president of Actuarial Enterprises, Ltd., Highland Park, Ill., and was completed with a grant from the SOA's Committee on Knowledge Extension and Research.

The new accidental death benefit (ADB) table is the first the SOA has produced since 1959. The table breaks down data by sex, something the previous ADB table did not, and makes use of sources other than most recent insurance company experience. It also provides several sources for actuaries interested in more information about accidental death mortality.

The report looks at recent accidental death mortality experience applicable to both ordinary life policies and other accident products. In his introduction to the report, Jaffe writes, "Accidental death mortality patterns have changed over the past four decades. There is a need for an accidental death valuation mortality table that not only reflects current levels of accidental death mortality but also is applicable for accidental death benefits included in accident and health, special risk, blanket, group, or other policies."

The new report includes the tables:

- Individual Life Insurance Accidental Death Rates per 1,000 from SOA Studies
- 1953 and 1996 U.S. Population Accidental Death Rates per 100,000 (Excluding Homicides)
- U.S. Population Accidental Death Rates per 100,000 by Cause for 1953 and 1994
- Accidental Death Rates Table Summary
- 1959 Accidental Death Benefits Table Summary

- Recent Population Accidental Death and Homicide Mortality Rates per 1,000
- Ratio of 1980 SOA Accidental Death Rates to U.S. Population Accidental Death Rates
- Basic 1996 Accidental Death Benefits Table by Age Groups
- 1996 Accidental Death Benefits Mortality Table for Individually Underwritten Insureds (including the loadings per 1,000 at central ages)
- 1996 Accidental Death Benefits Mortality Table for Individually Underwritten Insureds (for individual ages and by sex)

Paper copies of the report can be ordered from the SOA Books Department for \$5 (U.S.), and the report can be accessed on the SOA Web site (Books Department — phone: 847/706-3526; fax: 847/706-3599; e-mail: bhaynes@soa.org; Web site — www.soa.org under *Library* and then *Research*). It will also be published in a future volume of the *Transactions of the Society of Actuaries*.