Data Validation and Measurement of Cohort Mortality among Centenarians in Quebec (Canada) According to Ethnic Origin

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Presented at the Living to 100 and Beyond Symposium

Orlando, Fla.

January 7-9, 2008

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Abstract

Recent trends in mortality suggest that future gains in life expectancy will occur after age 80. This fact stresses the need and the importance to obtain precise measures of mortality at the highest ages, which are always subject to uncertainty due to misreporting of age at death. In Quebec, the available data on deaths of centenarians according to ethnic origin allows the differentiation of mortality based on this characteristic. For French-Canadians, data on the ages at death of centenarians can be validated using parish registers, leading to an improvement in the extreme age mortality measurement. A comparison between validated and nonvalidated data can also be performed.

First results indicate there is a slowing down in the rise of mortality rates with age. Mortality estimates according to ethnic origin among Quebec-born centenarians suggest a lower mortality for French-Canadians from age 100 to 104.