



International Actuarial Association
Association Actuarielle Internationale

International Actuarial Association (IAA) Mortality Working Group

Website: www.actuaries.org/mortality

International Mortality and Longevity Update #15

This is an International Update from the IAA Mortality Working Group (MWG) covering research in the areas of Mortality and Longevity reviewed by the MWG at its virtual meeting in May 2020.

Note: click underlined phrases to access the papers/presentations

1. Welcome and Introductions:

The Mortality Working Group (MWG) held a shorter virtual meeting in May 2020. With effect from January 2020, Marc Tardif has assumed the chairperson role of the MWG, replacing Brian Ridsdale, with Leza Wells and Ermanno Pitacco assuming the co-vice chair positions. The new chairperson of the MWG Marc Tardif welcomed everyone to the Zoom virtual meeting and introduced new members to the group including Anja Kuys from South Africa, Dan Ryan as the new UK representative and Aldona Skucaite the representative from Lithuania.

2. IAA Restructure Update:

Marc Tardif gave a brief [presentation](#) providing the background and direction on the IAA restructure proposed and recently approved by the IAA Council. The IAA Working Groups are now being moved to become Forums. The main goal of a Forum will be a 'sharing entity' to share knowledge and expertise among the FMAs. The membership criteria for the newly proposed Forums would be a member of a Full Member Association (FMA) or an Associate Member Association (AMA) of the IAA who is nominated by that association with only FMA members having voting rights. There could be more than one representative member from one FMA on a Forum (one primary FMA member will have voting rights) and any interested persons also need to be nominated and supported by their respective FMA to participate. Each Forum will be reviewed every 2 years to ensure that they are and continue to be a valuable entity serving the objectives to the IAA and assessing how active members are and activity/s being achieved by the Forum.

3. Updates on Mortality Working Group Projects:

- Long Term Drivers of Future Mortality – Al Klein provided a brief update and status of the project. He advised that a paper has been put together but now needs to be reviewed and updated which he hoped to be completed later in the year.
- Underwriting Around the World – Al Klein advised that 2 papers have been published on this topic. This includes information from 19 countries to date and awaiting information from a further 5 countries. An update or further work can be taken up next year if there is interest on this topic.

- Cause of Death – Dov Raphael presented a detailed [report](#) on the work done within the project.
- Epidemics – A paper has been completed and is currently going through the Scientific Committee for final review before published.
- Gyula Horváth has assumed the role of Project Manager of the MWG. Gyula and Marc confirmed that due to the pending IAA restructure, any further proposals of projects would be discussed and requested once the Advance Committee is in place and the approval process is known.

4. Research reports:

Dale Hall: [Research in Mortality – US](#)

- Overview of the COVID-19 experience in the US including comparative statistics in countries around the world.

Dan Ryan: [Research in Mortality – UK](#)

- Overview of the UK experience and data of excess mortality due to COVID-19.
- The presentation showed factors and existing conditions people had was also a contributing factor to the increase in count in overall deaths, as well as those number of people who did not seek medical treatment during this time.

Assia Billig: [Research in Mortality – Canada](#)

- Overview of the Canadian experience.
- The report contained information on mortality trends and projections from the available population data that was done pre-COVID and the effects of COVID that will inevitably change the projections.
- Assia stated that updated data for population 65+ covered by a universal Old Age Security Program was expected in summer.

5. Next MWG meeting:

Marc advised that the next meetings originally scheduled to take place in Ottawa, Canada in the Fall will not be taking place due to the COVID situation but will now be held virtually. We will attempt to hold our next virtual MWG meeting in September at a date to be determined.