## Key Life Insurance Topics

Kevin Larsen Boyang Meng Houston Perrett Karen Grote Mike LeBoeuf November 16, 2022



wtwco.com © 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. wtw

# Thoughts on Mortality

Southeastern Actuaries Conference Actuaries' Club of the Southwest Annual Meeting November 16, 2022

Kevin Larsen, ASA, MAAA Actuary, Actuarial Analytics Symetra Life Insurance Company



Symetra Life Insurance Company 777 108<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Suite 1200, Bellevue, WA 98004



# Thoughts on Mortality

- Excess all-cause mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Changes in specific causes of death over past three years
- Mortality Improvement before, during, after pandemic



Symetra Life Insurance Company 777 108<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Suite 1200, Bellevue, WA 98004





	Excess Deaths as a % over 2015-2019 Average					Excess Deaths as a % over 2015-2019 Average					Excess Deaths as a % over 2015-2019 Average							
	2020	2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	2022 Proj	2020	2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	2022 Proj	2020	2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	2022 Proj
wtwco.cc	30%	37%	39%	18%	24%	24%	20%	29%	23%	6%	7%	8%	33%	52%	48%	33%	27%	29%





















#### **Cause of Death Trend – Amounts > \$50,000 - Company S**



## Mortality Improvement Thoughts

- Long-term slope over time
  - 1959-2016 average ~1.0% each year for both males and females
  - Fluctuation over any 10- to 15- year period between 0.25%-2.0%
  - Fluctuation over any two consecutive periods (25-30 yrs) between 0.75%-1.5%

 Source: SOA Research Institute Analysis of Historical US Population Mortality Improvement Drivers 1959-2016

Period	Male	Female		
1959-1970	0.17%	0.81%		
1970-1980	2.06%	2.17%		
1980-1995	1.01%	0.65%		
1995-2010	1.55%	1.02%		
2010-2016	0.32%	0.22%		
1959-2016	1.10%	1.00%		

## Mortality Improvement Thoughts

Immediately Preceding
 Pandemic

- Top two quintiles only
- While 2010-16 were nearly flat, 2017-19 had exceeded 1% again
- Big fluctuation point at age 45
  - Impact to overall is small, though because vast majority of deaths are age 45+





# Spikes and Waves (Pandemics and Temporary Events)



When temporary mortality events arise, layer as additive mortality on top of baseline MI trend

Magnitude and duration should be monitored and based on best research available

When temporary event complete should expected mortality return to the baseline trend line or pre-event level?



## Life Insurance Mortality Insights

Boyang Meng

wtwco.com

© 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.





Boyang Meng, ASA MAAA Manager

Boyang has nearly 10 years of life insurance industry experience with a focus on experience studies, predictive analytics and financial modeling for individual life insurance. He is also a core member of the team responsible for developing and executing the TOAMS Industry Experience Studies with a focus on predictive modeling and analysis.

wtwco.com © 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.



### Mortality Improvement – Cause of Death



#### wtwco.com

© 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.

#### **WtW** 23

### Mortality Improvement – Cause of Death



	Sum of D	eaths	Percentage to Total Death without Covid		
Row Labels	2016	2020	2016	2020	
Heart Disease	633,677	695,546	23.66%	23.43%	
Malignant Neoplasms	595,276	599,888	22.22%	20.21%	
All Other	464,018	561,214	17.32%	18.90%	
COVID-19	-	350,223	0.00%	0.00%	
Alzheimer's Disease	231,872	259,200	8.66%	8.73%	
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	154,164	152,259	5.75%	5.13%	
Cerebrovascular Disease	141,719	159,839	5.29%	5.38%	
Accidents (Unintentional Injuries)	88,109	99,133	3.29%	3.34%	
Diabetes Mellitus	79,811	101,814	2.98%	3.43%	
Drug and Substance Abuse	69,613	103,591	2.60%	3.49%	
Influenza and Pneumonia	50,992	53,043	1.90%	1.79%	
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis	49,893	52,412	1.86%	1.77%	
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	40,491	51,590	1.51%	1.74%	
Septicemia	40,134	39,747	1.50%	1.34%	
Intentional Self-harm (Suicide)	39,058	39,564	1.46%	1.33%	
Grand Total	2,678,827	3,319,063	100.00%	100.00%	

#### wtwco.com

© 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.

**WW** 24

#### Mortality Improvement – Gender & Age





#### wtwco.com

© 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.

**WtW** 25

### TOAMS Geo-dem process



© 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.

**WtW** 26

## Predictive modeling results

9 geo-demographic factors were assessed to be significant predictors of mortality

Median Home Value (Owner- Occupied)	Food Stamps Utilization <ul> <li>x Attained Age</li> </ul>	Education – Masters Plus
Commute Alone by Car Ratio	Dependency Ratio	Cardiovascular Rx Expenditure
Latitude ■ x Smoking Status	Latitude • x Attained Age	Latitude • x Longitude

© 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.

## Food Stamps Utilization

% households with at least one member receiving Food Stamp/SNAP program in the past 12 months





#### wtwco.com

© 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.

**WtW** 28

#### Education – Masters Plus

% population (age 25+) who have attained a graduate or professional degree





© 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.

**WtW** 29

## Aggregate Geo-Demographic Factor



30, M, NS

65, M, NS



#### wtwco.com

© 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.

**wtw** 30

### Aggregate Factor Distribution



Zip Code Rank Distribution

wtwco.com

© 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.

**WtW** 31





TOAMS 5 -

wtwco.com

© 2022 WTW. All rights reserved. Proprietary and Confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only. Not suitable for unintended purpose or use by unauthorized recipient.

### Company Differentials

#### **TOAMS 5** Company Classical Rank vs Predictive Rank

Company	Classical Rank	Predictive Rank (AA35)	Predictive Rank (AA85)	Company	Classical Rank	Predictive Rank (AA35)	Predictive Rank (AA85)
Α	1	6	1	L	12	4	12
В	2	2	7	М	13	5	14
С	3	18	6	N	14	13	18
D	4	3	8	0	15	13	18
E	5	9	15	Р	16	1	4
F	6	10	2	Q	17	21	21
G	7	16	3	R	18	13	18
Н	8	7	11	S	19	17	5
l I	9	8	13	Т	20	13	18
J	10	19	9	U	21	13	18
K	11	20	10				



# STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT MORTALITY

HOUSTON PERRETT, FSA, CERA AVP & ACTUARY

Information contained herein is hypothetical and provided for illustration purposes only

## **OVERVIEW**

Issued by life insurers to provide income streams to claimants or dependents after an event such as a workers' compensation claim or a car accident.



Common Impairments:

- Cerebral Palsy
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Traumatic Brain Injury

#### wtwco.com

1 https://www.soa.org/49be3c/globalassets/assets/files/resources/research-report/2020/2005-17-structured-settlement-mortality.pdf Information contained herein is hypothetical and provided for illustration purposes only

Strictly Confidential - Not for Distributio

## RATED AGE

#### THE PREDOMINANT APPROACH

Assigns a shorter life expectancy than standard mortality would imply based on impairment.

Industry experience shows a poor fit.

- Very competitive market led to aggressive underwriting.
- Medical advances and block experience not reflected.
- Mortality curvature is not like a traditional annuitant.



Overall A/E By Expected Basis<sup>1</sup>



#### Example:

A 31-year-old male with a traumatic brain injury may have a rated age of 56 or a 25 year "rate up".
## ALTERNATIVES



Estimation of Future Mortality Rates and Life Expectancy in Chronic Medical Conditions (Strauss 2005)

#### wtwco.com

# MORTALITY



wtwco.com

FORTITUDE RE.

Strictly Confidential - Not for Distribution

# LIFE EXPECTANCY



wtwco.com

# RESERVES



wtwco.com

Strictly Confidential - Not for Distribution

FORTITUDE RE.

# QUESTIONS

wtwco.com

FORTITUDE RE.

Strictly Confidential - Not for Distribution



# CONTACT ME

wtwco.com

# The U.S. Pension Risk Transfer (PRT) Marketspace – Updates in Market and Pricing

November 2022



### PRT 101

- Defined benefit (DB) plans are offered by employers to their employees and specify a pension payment (or lump sum) upon retirement
  - Benefit amount is determined by a number of factors including years of service, age at retirement, and salary
- PRT is the transfer of risk from defined benefit pension plans
- Many associated risks:
  - Longevity
  - Investment risk
  - Interest rate risk
  - Asset/liability risk
- Effort and cost of administration of the plan
- Plans can be restructured or participants can be offered lump sums, but we focus on transfers of liabilities and assets to insurance companies

#### Terminology

Plan sponsor = Employer which maintains the pension plan
In-pays/retirees = plan participants receiving monthly payments
Deferred lives = plan participants who have not yet begun
receiving monthly payments

- Actives = still employed with the plan sponsor
- Terminated vested = former employee who became vested (i.e., eligible to receive pension payments) before employment terminated with the plan sponsor

**Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC)** = A U.S. government agency established in 1974 aimed at protecting retirement incomes from DB plans in the event of sponsor bankruptcy

### A Return to Market Growth

- Plan sponsors abruptly pulled back from the PRT market in early 2020 due to high levels of uncertainty associated with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Insurer interest in PRT did not wane
- Result was only a small downturn in the amount of liabilities transferred that year, followed by a return to market growth in 2021
- Through June 2022, sales were approximately \$18B (as opposed to about \$9B in the first half of 2021)
- \$16B IBM deal in Q3
- Looking ahead:
  - 2022 expected to be record breaking
  - Still over \$3T in plan sponsor pension liabilities
    - PBGC costs continue to rise
  - Likely will see at least one additional player over the next year
  - Growing reinsurance interest



Estimated

#### Pension Plan Performance – 2022



- Willis Towers Watson Pension Index
  - Funded ratio (market value of assets/projected benefit obligation) for a benchmark pension
  - Asset value changes from month to month based on investment performance (60% equity/40% fixed income portfolio)
  - Provides an indicator of capital market effects on pension plan financing
  - Higher funding ratios mean less contributions if transferring
- 2020 ended right where it started, but experienced significant volatility
  - Low point was March 2020, at 67.0
  - Unsurprising that plan sponsors pulled back in Q2 2022
- Since then, significant increases in funding ratios as interest rates have increased, leading to decreases in liabilities

 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{\sc 0}}$  2022 WTW. Proprietary and confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only.

## MetLife's 2022 PRT Survey

- Surveyed 251 U.S. defined benefit plan sponsors
- 64% predict the number of large PRT transactions will increase over the next 5 years
- Most intend to divest all DB plan liabilities at some point in the future, of which 57% said PRT most likely to be used
  - Up from 34% in 2020
- 92% say rising interest rates are making it more likely they would move forward with PRT
- Inflation poses risks for inflation-linked benefits

#### Impact of Market Forces on De-risking Plans (n=251)



Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

#### Source: 2022 MetLife PRT Survey

wtwco.com © 2022 WTW. Proprietary and confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only

#### **WW** 47

### **PRT** Players

- Need to be competitive on price key drivers:
  - Investment strategy
  - Base mortality
  - Capital levels
  - Profit goals
- May take a while to get traction in market
  - New entrants can have higher bar
- Plans and their advisors will assess whether insurer meets Department of Labor (DOL) guidelines on "safest available"
- Need available capital, staffing and administrative capabilities
- · Have to consider which segment of market to target
  - Small to jumbo
  - Retiree only, or willing to take some deferred obligations
  - Implications of lump sum offers/availability on pricing

#### **Current Direct Players**

- AIG
- Athene
- CUNA
- F&G
- Great American (exiting as now part of MassMutual)
- L&G
- MassMutual
- MetLife
- Mutual of America
- Mutual of Omaha

- Nationwide
- NY Life
- OneAmerica
- Pacific Life
- Principal
- Prudential
- Sammons
- Securian
- Western & Southern Life

## WTW Pension Risk Transfer Surveys

# WTW has performed three industry surveys of U.S. pension risk transfer (PRT) pricing assumptions, among leading PRT writers

#### 2022 WTW Pension Risk Transfer Study (2022 WTW PRT Survey)

Information was requested on pricing practices and methodologies used in the most recent pricing exercise taking place prior to **12/31/2021** 

Includes 13 PRT market players representing over 95% of the 2021 market share and covers:

- Context of Survey Participants
- Investment Assumptions

Profit Metrics and Targets

- Mortality and Deferred Life Assumptions
  - Pricing Methodology

- Reserves
- Capital

wtwco.com

Expenses

#### 2020 WTW Pension Risk Transfer Study (2020 WTW PRT Survey)

Information was requested on pricing practices and methodologies used in the most recent pricing exercise taking place prior to **12/31/2019** The survey covered 2 main topical areas:

Expenses

Future Mortality Improvement (FMI)

#### 2018 WTW Pension Risk Transfer Study (2018 WTW PRT Survey)

Information was requested on pricing practices and methodologies used in the most recent pricing exercise taking place prior to 6/29/2018

### **Refining Mortality**

- Respondents listed mortality as one of the top pricing considerations (second only to investment yield)
- Various approaches to base mortality and mortality improvement
- Mortality expected to vary widely based on deal population characteristics
- Mortality assumption setting are growing in sophistication
- Insurers have moved to greater used of experience and predictive analytics
- Zip code now a key mortality variable



#### Use of PRT Mortality Assumption Variables

### **COVID** Mortality Impacts

- · Few adjusted base mortality assumptions for COVID impacts
- · No consensus among respondents with regards to COVID mortality sensitivities



- Short term increase only
- Short term decrease only
- Long term increase only
- Long term decrease only
- Short term increase followed by long term decrease
- Short term decrease followed by long term increase
- None
- Other

### Chasing Yield

- Net earned rates varied widely among participants
- Public IG bonds continue to generally be the largest allocation within survey participants. However, there has been a shift away from public IG bonds to higher yielding asset classes
- Other assets showed the widest range in earned rates
  - Other assets included RML, alternatives and private credit, commercial real estate CLO, agricultural mortgages, residential mortgages, taxable municipal bonds, treasuries, and bank loans



2018 2022

### Looking Abroad

- Players in the US are also looking abroad
- Growing market and interest in Canada, as seen in the chart to the right
- In the UK, pension scheme de-risking is set to be the biggest on record with £65bn of bulk annuity and longevity swap transactions expected to be completed in 2022
  - According to recent WTW research, one in three (30%) pension schemes anticipate de-risking their liabilities in the next three years
- In 2020, the UK pensions regulator paved the way for superfunds
  - Can take over the employee pension scheme obligations
  - Not insurance companies less onerous regulations
  - Early indications are the superfund pricing is advantageous relative to insurer pricing – though insurers are viewed as offering greater benefit security
  - There is also the possibility that superfunds will aggregate pensions liabilities for a few years then wholesale sell them on to traditional insurers
  - Clara-Pensions opened late 2021, first deal expected soon

#### WTW Annuity Purchase Index<sup>1,2,3</sup>



Chart showing yearly annuity sales in billions of dollars from 2013 through 2021, as well as an average for 2008-2012. Sales (\$ Billion)

<sup>1</sup> For 2008 to 2012, the breakdown of sales between buy-in and buy-out for terminated plans and buy-out for ongoing plans is not available.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes longevity insurance agreements.

<sup>a</sup> Sources of data: LIMRA, Assumption Life, Beneva, BMO Financial Group, Brookfield Annuity, The Canada Life Assurance Company, Co-operators Life Insurance Company, Desjardins Financial Security, IA Financial Group, RBC Insurance and Sun Life Financial.

53

# Primer on Bermuda Reinsurers

Mike Lebeouf

November 2022

wtwco.com © 2022 WTW. Proprietary and confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only.

wtw

#### Glossary

- ALM Asset Liability Management
- BEL Best Estimate Liability
- BMA Bermuda Monetary Authority
- BSCR Bermuda Solvency Capital Requirement
- EBS Economic Balance Sheet
- SBA Scenario Based Approach
- TAC Total Available Capital

### Bermuda EBS

#### Overview

- The EBS framework is used to calculate the capital requirements for commercial (re)insurers.
- Assets and Liabilities are valued on a market value basis.





Assets

 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{\text{\scriptsize C}}}$  2022 WTW. Proprietary and confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only.

**WtW** 57

#### Bermuda EBS Liabilities + TAC



Liabilities + TAC

wtwco.com

© 2022 WTW. Proprietary and confidential. For WTW and WTW client use only.

**WtW** 58

## Best Estimate Liability

#### Standard Approach



There are two approaches to calculate BEL:

- 1. Standard Approach
- 2. Scenario-Based Approach (SBA)

Standard Approach BEL is equal to projected liability cashflows discounted at the BMA prescribed Standard Corporate yield curve.

The Standard Corporate yield curve:

- Varies by currency
- · Is typically updated quarterly
- Equals: risk-free + corporate bond spreads from a representative portfolio with BMA adjustments





Liabilities + TAC



SBA BEL involves running an ALM model under 9
different economic scenarios: a base scenario and
8 BMA prescribed scenarios.

For each of the 8 BMA scenarios, the model:

- Compares liability and asset cashflows (Acceptable assets only)
- Reinvests when net cashflows are positive, and disinvests when net cashflows are negative
  - Positive net cashflows are invested into "theoretical" new assets, determined based on company specified reinvestment guidelines
- Calculates a scenario BEL (sBEL)
  - sBEL = market value of initial assets required to defray all future liability cashflows under the given economic scenario

Once all 8 sBELs are computed, final BEL is set equal to the maximum of the 8 sBELs.





Liabilities + TAC

Target BSCR

**Other Liabilities** 

**Risk Margin** 

**Best Estimate** 

Liability (BEL)

#### Best Estimate Liability

#### Standard Approach vs SBA – SBA is typically lower by up to 10% vs. Standard Approach

ee Surplus		Standard Approach	SBA
et BSCR	Liability Cashflows	Probability adjusted	
ties n	Risk-free rate	BMA prescribed	
	Spread	BMA prescribed	Based on company asset portfolio
(BEL) Reinvestmen	<b>Reinvestment yield</b>	Not modeled explicitly	Based on company reinvestment assumptions
	Economic Scenario	Single scenario with 35% uncertainty spread margin	Uses worst of 8 deterministic scenarios

Liabilities + TAC

#### TAC Target BSCR + Free Surplus

#### **BSCR** TAC **Free Surplus** Main components TAC = Assets - Liabilities - Market Risk: arising from fluctuations in values of, or - Valued through tiers of eligible capital income from, assets or in interest rates or exchange rates **Target BSCR** Tier 1: fully paid common • Covers fixed income, equities, currency, etc. shares, contributed surplus, - Credit Risk: the risk of loss arising from an insurer's statutory economic surplus inability to collect funds from debtors **Other Liabilities** Tier 2: hybrid capital • - Long-Term Insurance Risk: instruments, unpaid common **Risk Margin** Risk associated with premiums, reserves, and shares, certain approved catastrophic events letters of credit/guarantees Operational Risk: risk of loss arising from inadequate or Tier 3: short-term hybrid capital • failed internal processes, people, systems or external instruments, certain approved events. letters of credit/guarantees Also includes legal risks **Best Estimate BSCR** Ratio Transition BSCR Liability (BEL) Calculated as TAC / BSCR - BSCR is calculated with 2018 and 2019+ methodologies Transition BSCR is the result of applying weights to both, \_ where weights shift towards 2019+ rules each year after 2018 by 10%

Liabilities + TAC

## **Reinsurance Pricing Considerations**

- Key Drivers:
  - Investment strategy
  - Profit Expectations
  - Capital levels
- Bermuda Reinsurers audited financials are on a GAAP Basis
  - Will impact how income emerges
- Treaty Terms will also have important pricing implications
  - How assets are to held in collateral trusts
  - Does the structure require over-collateralization

Current Bermuda Reinsurance Players

- 777 Re.
- Aspida Life Re
- Athene Life Re
- Fortitude Re
- Global Atlantic Re
- Gibraltar Re
- Hannover Re
- Kuvare Life Re
- Martello Re

- Monument Re
- Pacific Life Re
- Partner Re
- Resolution Re
- RGA Re
- Somerset Re
- Talcott Re
- Transamerica Life Re
- Wilton Re

### **Reinsurance Structures**

- Coinsurance
  - Very common
  - Sends all risks over to reinsurer
- Coinsurance (Funds Withheld)
  - Also common and keeps assets close to the ceding company
- Modified Coinsurance
  - Less common, since it does not transfer the assets to the reinsurer
- Deposit Accounting
  - Some reinsurers do not want to participate in all the risks and may send the non-asset risks back to the ceding company
  - Can be acceptable if a swaption is desired

#### Targeted Risks for Bermuda Reinsurers

PRT

LTC

LTD

- Annuities
  - Fixed
  - Indexed
  - Variable
  - Structured Settlements
- Life Policies
  - UL W/ Long Term Secondary Guarantees
  - CAUL
  - Indexed UL
  - Term