Mortality Rates at Oldest Ages

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Abstract

Because of a lack of data, the highest age mortality rates in most tables are conjectural. This paper presents a method for using death records to infer exposure on nonextinguished cohorts, thereby allowing the development of a credible table for high ages. The method uses Whittaker-Henderson graduation in a number of unusual ways. The paper also validates the method by applying it to stochastically generated sets of death records for which the underlying mortality and improvement tables are known. There are some surprising results.