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MODEL LIFE TABLES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



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PREFACE

This study, carried out by the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, presents new model life tables for developing countries. The pioneering effort in the development of model life tables was carried out by the United Nations a quarter of a century ago and resulted in the publication of *Age and Sex Patterns of Mortality: Model Life Tables for Under-developed Countries*.^{*} Approximately a decade later, in 1966, Ansley Coale and Paul Demeny at Princeton University published a new set of model life tables^{**} based mainly on historical European experience. Those tables have become the most commonly used set of model life tables within the demographic community. Recent evidence indicates that age patterns of mortality in many developing countries differ systematically from those of historical European experience, and the Coale and Demeny tables are therefore not fully suitable to demographic research in developing countries.

^{*}United Nations publication, Sales No. E.55.XIII.9.

^{**}A. J. Coale and P. Demeny, *Regional Model Life Tables and Stable Populations* (Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 1966).

The present study gives new sets of age-sex patterns of mortality which are based on reliably documented developing country data and hence may be more applicable to demographic analysis within the developing regions.[†] Future publications related to the model life table project, being prepared by the Population Division, will include studies on stable populations, estimated unabridged life tables, and computer programs to facilitate use of the tables.

Acknowledgement is due to Mr. Hervé Le Bras of the Institut national d'études démographiques, consultant to the Population Division for methodological considerations, and to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for their collaboration in providing an extensive collection of mortality and population data which was a major data source for this project.

Acknowledgement is also due to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities whose grant made the printing of this publication possible (GLO/78/PO9).

[†]A report was issued in 1979 outlining the rationale for new model life tables and a work plan for their preparation. See *Model Life Tables for Developing Countries: an interim report* prepared by the Population Division, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, January 1979 (ESA/P/WP.63).

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1
<i>Chapter</i>	
I. Description of the data base	2
II. Construction of the model life tables	5
III. Overview of the model age patterns	10
IV. Use of the model tables	16
V. Sex differentials in mortality	28
VI. Description of the annexes	31

ANNEXES

I. United Nations model life tables	33
Latin American pattern, males	34
Latin American pattern, females	55
Chilean pattern, males	76
Chilean pattern, females	97
South Asian pattern, males	118
South Asian pattern, females	139
Far Eastern pattern, males	160
Far Eastern pattern, females	181
General pattern, males	202
General pattern, females	223
II. Single-year mortality under age 5	245
Latin American pattern, males	246
Latin American pattern, females	247
Latin American pattern, both sexes combined	248
Chilean pattern, males	249
Chilean pattern, females	250
Chilean pattern, both sexes combined	251
South Asian pattern, males	252
South Asian pattern, females	253
South Asian pattern, both sexes combined	254
Far Eastern pattern, males	255
Far Eastern pattern, females	256
Far Eastern pattern, both sexes combined	257
General pattern, males	258
General pattern, females	259
General pattern, both sexes combined	260
III. Five-year life table survival ratios	261
Latin American pattern, males	262
Latin American pattern, females	263
Chilean pattern, males	264
Chilean pattern, females	265
South Asian pattern, males	266
South Asian pattern, females	267
Far Eastern pattern, males	268
Far Eastern pattern, females	269
General pattern, males	270
General pattern, females	271
IV. Ten-year life table survival ratios	273
Latin American pattern, males	274
Latin American pattern, females	275
Chilean pattern, males	276
Chilean pattern, females	277
South Asian pattern, males	278
South Asian pattern, females	279
Far Eastern pattern, males	280
Far Eastern pattern, females	281
General pattern, males	282
General pattern, females	283
V. Description of life table construction for the input life tables	285

LIST OF TABLES

<i>Table</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. Life tables constructed for the United Nations model life table project	3
2. Distribution of input life tables, by expectation of life at birth	3
3. Correlations among ${}_nD_{ij}^{ij}$ values calculated from male life tables.....	5
4. Correlations among ${}_nD_{ix}^{ij}$ values calculated from female life tables	6
5. Average pattern of mortality for each cluster defined by logit $[\ln q_x]$ values	7
6. First three principal components.....	8
7. Proportion of variation in mortality explained by component and age.....	8
8A. Calculation of loading factors (a_m values) for fit of Cuban data to the Latin American pattern: an example in which a full set of ${}_nq_x$ values is available.....	17
8B. One-, 2- and 3-component fits to Cuban data using the Latin American pattern as a model	18
9A. Calculation of the loading factors (a_m values) for fit of Afghan data to the South Asian pattern: an example in which a partial set of ${}_nq_x$ values is available.....	18
9B. One-, 2- and 3-component fits to Afghan data using the South Asian pattern as a model	20
10A. Calculation of loading factors (a_m values) for fit of Afghan data to the Indian mortality pattern: an example in which the life table for another country is used as the standard	20
10B. One-, 2- and 3-component fits to Afghan data using the Indian life table as a model	22
11. Probability of dying (${}_nq_x$) for Egyptian males: actual values for 1938-1942 and 1958-1962, and predicted values for 1958-1962 based on first principal-component vector.....	22
12. Observed ${}_nq_x$ values for Ngayorheme, Senegal, 1963-1973, and smoothed values for ages 10 and over based on 3-component fit to the general pattern.....	22
13. Hypothetical West African model life tables, males	23
14. Hypothetical West African model life tables, females	25
15. Orthogonal regression estimates of female life expectancy as a function of male life expectancy	29
16. Female minus male life expectancy at birth	29

LIST OF FIGURES

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Deviations of developing country patterns from Coale and Demeny West region (males)	10
II. Deviations of developing country patterns from Coale and Demeny West region (females)	12
III. Deviations of Brazilian and Argentinian life tables from Coale and Demeny West region	14
IV. Life expectancy at birth for males <i>versus</i> life expectancy at birth for females and fitted over-all orthogonal regression line.....	28
V. Life expectancy at age 10 for males <i>versus</i> life expectancy at age 10 for females and fitted over-all orthogonal regression line	28
VI. Life expectancy at birth for males <i>versus</i> life expectancy at birth for females and fitted regional orthogonal regression lines	29
VII. Life expectancy at age 10 for males <i>versus</i> life expectancy at age 10 for females and fitted regional orthogonal regression lines.....	29
VIII. Guyana: registered infant mortality rates and indirect estimates from 1946 census	301
IX. Guyana: registered infant mortality rates and indirect estimates from 1946 census (indirect estimates plotted one half year prior to calculated reference date)	301

Explanatory notes

The following symbols have been used in the tables throughout the report:

A blank in a table indicates that the item is not applicable

A minus sign (-) indicates a deficit or decrease, except as indicated.

A full stop (.) is used to indicate decimals

Use of a hyphen (-) between dates representing years, e.g., 1971-1973, signifies the full period involved, including the beginning and end years.

Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals, because of rounding.