

Journal Contents

SEARCH

Current Volume

Volumes

Articles

Special Collections

General Information

About the Journal

Information for Authors

Copyright Information

Register for e-mail alerts

Submit a Paper

Estimating health expectancies from two cross-sectional surveys

The intercensal method

Michel Guillot
Yan Yu

VOLUME 21 - ARTICLE 17
PAGES 503 - 534

Date Received: 2 Oct 2008
Date Published: 16 Oct 2009

<http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol21/17/>

doi:10.4054/DemRes.2009.21.17



Click the icon to view and/or download the PDF file. Once you are in the PDF file, use your browser back button to return to this page.

Abstract

Health expectancies are key indicators for monitoring the health of populations, as well as for informing debates about compression or expansion of morbidity. However, current methodologies for estimating them are not entirely satisfactory. They are either of limited applicability because of high data requirements (the multistate method) or based on questionable assumptions (the Sullivan method). This paper proposes a new method, called the "intercensal" method, which relies on the multistate framework but uses widely available data. The method uses age-specific proportions "healthy" at two successive, independent cross-sectional health surveys, and, together with information on general mortality, solves for the set of transition probabilities that produces the observed sequence of proportions healthy. The system is solved by making realistic parametric assumptions about the age patterns of transition probabilities. Using data from the Health and Retirement Survey (HRS) and from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), the method is tested against both the multistate method and the Sullivan method. We conclude that the intercensal approach is a promising framework for the indirect estimation of health expectancies.

Author's affiliation

[Michel Guillot](#)

University of Pennsylvania, United States of America

[Yan Yu](#)

University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States of America

Keywords

[disability](#), [health expectancies](#), [indirect estimation methods](#), [multistate life tables](#)

Word count (Main text)

7925





References

▶ [View the references of this article](#)

Services

▶ [Bookmark this page](#)
▶ [Send this article to a friend](#)

Download to Citation Manager

 [Refman format \(RIS\)](#)
 [ProCite format \(RIS\)](#)
 [EndNote format](#)
 [BibTeX format](#)

Citations and Similar Articles

PubMed

▶ [Articles by Michel Guillot](#)
▶ [Articles by Yan Yu](#)

Google Scholar


▶ [Articles by Michel Guillot](#)
▶ [Articles by Yan Yu](#)
▶ [Article and its Citations](#)

Other articles by the same author/authors (in
Demographic Research)

 [20-24] The effect of changes in fertility on the age
distribution of stable populations

 [14-1] Tempo effects in mortality: An appraisal

Similar articles in *Demographic Research*

 [3-9] Change in the Prevalence of Diseases Among Older
Americans: 1984-1994 (disability)

[[Back to previous page](#)]