



- Home
- Top News
- Entertainment
- Odd News
- Business
- Sports
- Science
- Technology
- Health
 - Pet Parade
- Real Estate
- Photos
- Analysis

You are here: [Home](#) / [Health News](#) / [Mortality rate after age 80 underestimated](#)

Health News

Mortality rate after age 80 underestimated

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(2) | |



An elderly Chinese woman sits in the midday sun in downtown Beijing March 11, 2011. UPI/Stephen Shaver

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Published: Feb. 6, 2012 at 9:57 PM

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CHICAGO, Feb. 6 (UPI) -- Due to an error in computation, the odds of living to a ripe old age in the United States are much lower than previously thought, researchers said.

Leonid A. Gavrilov and Natalia S. Gavrilova of NORC at the University of Chicago, formerly known as the National Opinion Research Center, said the findings contradict a long-held belief that the mortality rate of Americans flattens out after age 80.

The researchers' work explains why the U.S. Census Bureau was wrong when it predicted six years ago that there would be 114,000 centenarians in the country by 2010 when the actual number turned out to be half that at 53,364.

The findings were based on accurate information about the date of birth and the date of death of more than 9 million Americans born from 1875 to 1895 from the Social Security Administration Death Master File.

"It is a remarkable resource that allowed us to build what is called an extinct birth cohort that corrects or explains a number of misunderstandings about the mortality rate of our oldest citizens," the researchers said in a statement.

The study, published in the North American Actuarial Journal, found the rate of mortality growth with age of the oldest Americans is the same as that for those who are younger.

The mortality rate for those ages 30-80 follows Gompertz Law, named for Benjamin Gompertz, who observed in 1825 that a person's risk of death in a given year doubles every eight years of age.

The Gavrilovs found Gompertz Law holds at least through age 106, and probably higher, but the researchers said mortality data for those older than 106 is unreliable.

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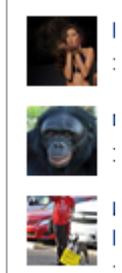
Newest first

Leonid Gavrillov (1 week ago)

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Greetings,

You can meet the authors of this study, listen their lecture, ask your own questions and participate in discussions this Tuesday, March 13, in Chicago.

Just Google for the "Chicago Actuarial Association", then click "Future Events" there, and then go to

1:45 p.m. Workshop Session A:
"A4: Mortality at Advanced Ages (Life)"

What: Lecture by Gavrilov & Gavrilova "Mortality at Advanced Ages" (session A4) with subsequent Discussion

When: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Chicago, Illinois (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, 300 East Randolph Street), room Train 3

For those who are interested, the meeting will be followed by informal discussion, which will become increasingly informal by 5:15 p.m. (cocktail reception) and even more so later by 5:45 p.m. (dinner).

Hope to see you at this meeting!

If you can not come to Chicago at this time, and would like to have a similar event at your organization, feel free to contact the authors

Reply

Jesse (1 month ago)



"Mortality rate after age 80 underestimated" Come on Guys, can you put a little more effort into your titles? Now just stop and think for a moment; isn't the mortality rate after any age, 100%?

How can that possibly be underestimated?
What, do some not die when they reach a certain age?

Reply

Additional Health News Stories

Top News

Birther suit questions Romney eligibility

SACRAMENTO, March 22 (UPI) -- People aligned with the birthers movement sued California Secretary of State Debra Bowen, demanding she verify all presidential candidates' eligibility.

- Police: OWS Protesters dumped human waste
- Bear that bit Florida woman killed
- Report: France gunman on U.S. no-fly list
- S. Korea seeks longer-range missiles

Entertainment News

How Mara became 'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo'

NEW YORK, March 22 (UPI) -- American actress Rooney Mara says she was given a list of challenging things she would have to do to play Lisbeth Salander before she even auditioned for the role in director David Fincher's English-language version of the Swedish-set mystery "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo."

- 'Young' tops U.S. record chart
- People in the news
- Underwood, Urban to perform at ACM Awards
- 'Happy Feet Two' is top-selling DVD

Odd News

Business News

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Cat falls 19 stories, only minor injuries

BOSTON, March 22 (UPI) -- A Boston woman said it was a "miracle" when her cat survived a 19-story fall without any serious injuries.

- Porn stars banned from school's prom
- Woman bragged about jury lies on radio
- Man called 911 to make wife go to bed
- City hires firm to find source of booms; slight earthquake recorded Tuesday

Greece falls quiet

This news just in: Greece has not gone anywhere; it is still in Greece.

- Iraq ascendant as power shifts in OPEC
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