

**DISABILITY AND DEATH PROBABILITY TABLES
FOR INSURED WORKERS BORN IN 1999**

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Introduction

The Social Security program is not just a program for providing income during retirement. Workers who meet certain requirements for insured status may receive monthly cash benefits before retirement age if they have impairments resulting in disability.¹ Survivors may receive benefits after the death of an insured worker, retired worker, or a disabled worker. This note illustrates the likelihood that a young worker, while maintaining insured status, will become disabled or die, resulting in payment of disability or survivor benefits prior to becoming eligible for full retirement benefits. We make these illustrations using the intermediate assumptions of the 2019 Trustees Report. This note succeeds *Actuarial Note Number 2018.6*, which was based on the intermediate assumptions of the 2018 Trustees Report.

We make projections of the number of insured workers who die or become disabled each year for the next 75 years. These projections depend on age-sex-specific mortality and disabled-worker incidence rates, and age-sex-duration-specific disabled-life mortality and recovery rates. Additional information regarding these projections is provided in annual reports of the Board of Trustees of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds (Trustees Reports) and in actuarial studies.²

Using projected rates of disabled-worker incidence, death, and recovery under the intermediate assumptions, we estimate the probability that an illustrative worker will become disabled or die before reaching normal retirement age (NRA). We define an illustrative worker in this note as one who: (a) is born in 1999, that is, belongs to the 1999 birth cohort; (b) becomes insured at age 20 in 2019; (c) maintains insured status thereafter; and (d) retires at NRA. The NRA, the age at which a person may first become entitled to retirement benefits without reduction based on age, is age 67 for our illustrative worker. Tables A and B compare these estimates

using the 1999 birth cohort with those published in prior years. The projected probabilities of death before NRA have decreased between the 1966 and 1999 birth cohorts, reflecting in part the actual improvement in mortality experience between 1986 and 2019. The projected probability of becoming disabled before NRA has decreased for insured men between the 1966 and 1999 birth cohorts, but has increased for insured women. For the 1999 birth cohort, we project that the probability of surviving from age 20 to NRA without ever being disabled is 65 percent for males and 69 percent for females. Comparable probabilities projected for the 1966 birth cohort are 58 percent for males and 70 percent for females.

Table B shows the total projected probability of death as the sum of the probability of death and disability and the probability of death and no disability. Between the 1998 and 1999 birth cohorts, the projected probability of death before NRA increased for both males and females. However, the projected probability of becoming disabled (as shown in Table A) decreased between these cohorts.

Assumptions and Methods

Tables C and D provide illustrations of the expected survival and disability status of 1,000,000 insured males and females, respectively, who were born in 1999. These illustrations reflect projected annual death and disability rates by sex and single year of age (20 through 67) for the active, disabled, recovered, and total insured population. The active group is composed of insured workers who are alive and have never become disabled worker beneficiaries. The disabled group consists of workers who are currently entitled to receive a Social Security disabled-worker benefit. The recovered group consists of insured workers who have had a prior disability, but are not currently entitled to receive a disabled-worker benefit. The total group is the sum of the active, disabled, and recovered groups, otherwise known as the insured population. All workers are assumed to be fully and disability insured at all times after reaching age 20.³ For each age, we calculate

¹ Disabled means inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity as a result of medically determinable physical or mental impairments that can be expected to result in death or to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. Special rules apply for workers at ages 55 and over whose disability is based on blindness.

² These publications may be found at: <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/pubs.html>.

³ Computing disabled-worker incidence rates by age using insured workers gives a larger probability of disability entitlement than if all workers were included in the calculations.

deaths, entitlements to disabled-worker benefits, and recoveries from the disability rolls. For each population group (active, disabled, recovered, and total), we determine the number of persons alive at the beginning of the next year by adding or subtracting the relevant components of change to the number of persons alive at the beginning of the year.

For those born in 1999, we develop cohort insured life tables for each sex, from age 20 to age 67. To calculate total deaths for the insured population, we apply the age-sex-specific mortality rates of the general population to the total insured population at the beginning of the year.⁴

We calculate deaths for the disabled-worker population by applying age-sex-duration-specific⁵ disabled-life mortality rates to the disabled-worker population at the beginning of the year. We assume that newly entitled disabled-worker beneficiaries, that is, those in duration 0, are exposed for half a year, because on average they become entitled at mid-year. We calculate deaths for those who have recovered from disability (“recovered deaths”) by applying the age-sex-specific mortality rates of the general population to the recovered population at the beginning of the year, with adjustments. To make these adjustments, we add half of the newly recovered population and subtract half of those newly disabled from the recovered population for that year. Active deaths are the residual: we subtract the disabled deaths and recovered deaths from the total population deaths.

We develop cohort disabled-worker incidence rates for each sex, from age 20 to age 67, for those born in 1999. To calculate the number of newly entitled disabled-worker beneficiaries, we apply the age-sex-specific incidence rates to the active and recovered populations at the beginning of the year.

Finally, we develop rates of recovery from disability for each sex, from age 20 to age 67, for those born in 1999. To calculate the number of recoveries from the disabled-worker population, we apply age-sex-duration-specific⁵

⁴ Using general population mortality rates may slightly overstate death rates for the insured population because the group excluded, the uninsured, are likely to have higher death rates than the general population.

⁵ Age is age at entitlement to a disabled-worker benefit. Duration refers to the complete number of years since entitlement to a disabled-worker benefit.

recovery rates to the beginning of the year disabled-worker population. We assume that newly entitled disabled-worker beneficiaries (in duration 0) are exposed for half a year in the year of their initial entitlement.

Results

Table C provides illustrations which allow for the computation of various probabilities of survival, death, and disability for insured males born in 1999. Table D provides the same information for insured females born in 1999. For example, the probability that an insured female, age 25 in 2024, will survive to age 60 without ever becoming disabled is 78 percent. To get this result, we divide the number of active lives at age 60 (775,910) by the number of active lives at age 25 (991,070).

Table E uses the illustrations in tables C and D to derive various probabilities of disability, death, and survival for insured males and females born in 1999. We calculate the probability of survival without disability from age 20 to age x by dividing the active insured population at the beginning of the year at age x by the active insured population at the beginning of the year at age 20. The probability of dying or becoming disabled after age 20 and before age x is calculated as the complement, that is, 1 minus the probability of surviving without disability from age 20 to age x . For example, we project that an insured male worker who attained age 20 in 2019 has a 65 percent chance of surviving to age 67 without ever becoming disabled and a 35 percent chance of either dying or becoming disabled prior to age 67.

Table E also includes probabilities of an insured worker becoming disabled and of an insured worker dying and never becoming disabled. These probabilities are shown from age 20 to age x . We calculate these values by dividing the total newly disabled and the total deaths from the active insured population from age 20 to age x , respectively, by the active insured population alive at the beginning of the year of attaining age 20. For example, we project that an insured female worker who attained age 20 in 2019 has a 19 percent chance of becoming disabled between age 20 and age 60. In addition, the probability that she will die between age 20 and age 60 without ever receiving Social Security disability benefits is only 3 percent.

Table A: Probability of Disability and Death for Illustrative Cases of Insured Workers

Trustees Report Year ¹ (Year of Attainment of Age 20)	Year of Birth	Probability of Disability Before NRA			Probability of Death And Never Disabled Before NRA			Probability of Survival to NRA With No Disability		
		Male	Female	Total ²	Male	Female	Total ²	Male	Female	Total ²
1986	1966	0.322	0.240	0.281	0.095	0.060	0.077	0.583	0.700	0.642
2011	1991	0.276	0.260	0.268	0.091	0.049	0.070	0.633	0.691	0.662
2012	1992	0.276	0.264	0.270	0.090	0.048	0.069	0.634	0.688	0.661
2013	1993	0.275	0.264	0.270	0.085	0.044	0.065	0.639	0.692	0.666
2014	1994	0.277	0.263	0.270	0.082	0.042	0.062	0.641	0.695	0.668
2015	1995	0.279	0.265	0.272	0.078	0.040	0.059	0.643	0.695	0.669
2016	1996	0.277	0.262	0.270	0.078	0.041	0.059	0.645	0.697	0.671
2017	1997	0.275	0.260	0.268	0.080	0.042	0.061	0.645	0.697	0.671
2018	1998	0.277	0.262	0.269	0.081	0.042	0.062	0.642	0.696	0.669
2019	1999	0.264	0.261	0.262	0.090	0.046	0.068	0.647	0.693	0.670

¹ Calculations are based on the intermediate assumptions of that year's Trustees Report (alternative II-B for the 1986 Trustees Report).

² Totals are obtained by combining tables C and D. For example, the probability of death and never disabled before NRA equals 6.8 percent for the 1999 birth cohort (89,683 + 45,507) / (1,000,000 + 1,000,000).

Notes: Probabilities are determined assuming all illustrative workers are disability insured throughout their working lives.

For a recent historical perspective, see Actuarial Study 123, Social Security Disability Insurance Program Worker Experience, at: <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/NOTES/actstud.html>.

Table B: Probability of Death for Illustrative Cases of Insured Workers by Disabled Status

Trustees Report Year ¹ (Year of Attainment of Age 20)	Year of Birth	(A) = (B) + (C)			(B)			(C)		
		Probability of Death Before NRA			Probability of Death and Disability Before NRA			Probability of Death and No Disability Before NRA ²		
		Male	Female	Total ³	Male	Female	Total ³	Male	Female	Total ³
1986	1966	0.221	0.129	0.175	0.121	0.067	0.094	0.100	0.062	0.081
2011	1991	0.155	0.096	0.125	0.061	0.045	0.053	0.094	0.050	0.072
2012	1992	0.153	0.095	0.124	0.061	0.045	0.053	0.092	0.049	0.071
2013	1993	0.149	0.090	0.119	0.061	0.045	0.053	0.088	0.045	0.066
2014	1994	0.145	0.088	0.116	0.061	0.045	0.053	0.084	0.043	0.064
2015	1995	0.143	0.087	0.115	0.063	0.045	0.054	0.080	0.042	0.061
2016	1996	0.142	0.087	0.115	0.062	0.045	0.053	0.081	0.042	0.061
2017	1997	0.144	0.088	0.116	0.061	0.045	0.053	0.082	0.043	0.063
2018	1998	0.146	0.090	0.118	0.063	0.046	0.055	0.083	0.044	0.063
2019	1999	0.152	0.093	0.122	0.060	0.046	0.053	0.092	0.047	0.069

¹ Calculations are based on the intermediate assumptions of that year's Trustees Report (alternative II-B for the 1986 Trustees Report).

² Includes workers who recovered from disabilities.

³ Totals are obtained by combining tables C and D. For example, the probability of death and disability before NRA equals 5.3 percent for the 1999 birth cohort (60,098 + 46,273) / (1,000,000 + 1,000,000).

Notes:

1. Probabilities are determined assuming all illustrative workers are disability insured throughout their working lives.

For a recent historical perspective, see Actuarial Study 123, Social Security Disability Insurance Program Worker Experience, at: <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/NOTES/actstud.html>.

2. Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

**Table E: Probabilities of Disability, Death, and Survival for Insured Workers Attaining Age 20 in 2019
(1999 Birth Cohort)**

Males Attaining Age 20 in 2019					Females Attaining Age 20 in 2019				
Age x	Probability of Survival With No Disability From Age 20 To Age x	Probability of Disability From Age 20 To Age x	Probability of Death And Never Disabled From Age 20 To Age x	Probability of Death or Disability From Age 20 To Age x	Age x	Probability of Survival With No Disability From Age 20 To Age x	Probability of Disability From Age 20 To Age x	Probability of Death And Never Disabled From Age 20 To Age x	Probability of Death or Disability From Age 20 To Age x
21	99.7	0.2	0.1	0.3	21	99.8	0.1	0.0	0.2
22	99.4	0.4	0.2	0.6	22	99.7	0.3	0.1	0.3
23	99.1	0.6	0.3	0.9	23	99.5	0.4	0.1	0.5
24	98.8	0.8	0.4	1.2	24	99.3	0.5	0.2	0.7
25	98.4	1.0	0.6	1.6	25	99.1	0.7	0.2	0.9
26	98.1	1.2	0.7	1.9	26	98.9	0.8	0.3	1.1
27	97.8	1.3	0.8	2.2	27	98.7	0.9	0.3	1.3
28	97.5	1.5	1.0	2.5	28	98.5	1.1	0.4	1.5
29	97.2	1.7	1.1	2.8	29	98.3	1.2	0.4	1.7
30	96.9	1.8	1.2	3.1	30	98.1	1.4	0.5	1.9
31	96.6	2.0	1.4	3.4	31	97.9	1.6	0.5	2.1
32	96.3	2.2	1.5	3.7	32	97.6	1.8	0.6	2.4
33	95.9	2.4	1.7	4.1	33	97.3	2.0	0.7	2.7
34	95.5	2.7	1.8	4.5	34	97.0	2.2	0.7	3.0
35	95.2	2.9	2.0	4.8	35	96.7	2.5	0.8	3.3
36	94.8	3.1	2.1	5.2	36	96.4	2.8	0.9	3.6
37	94.4	3.4	2.2	5.6	37	96.0	3.1	0.9	4.0
38	94.0	3.7	2.4	6.0	38	95.6	3.4	1.0	4.4
39	93.5	4.0	2.5	6.5	39	95.2	3.7	1.1	4.8
40	93.1	4.3	2.6	6.9	40	94.8	4.1	1.1	5.2
41	92.7	4.6	2.8	7.3	41	94.3	4.5	1.2	5.7
42	92.2	4.9	2.9	7.8	42	93.9	4.9	1.3	6.1
43	91.7	5.3	3.0	8.3	43	93.4	5.3	1.3	6.6
44	91.2	5.7	3.2	8.8	44	92.8	5.8	1.4	7.2
45	90.6	6.1	3.3	9.4	45	92.3	6.2	1.5	7.7
46	90.1	6.5	3.4	9.9	46	91.7	6.8	1.6	8.3
47	89.5	6.9	3.6	10.5	47	91.0	7.3	1.7	9.0
48	88.8	7.4	3.7	11.2	48	90.4	7.9	1.8	9.6
49	88.2	7.9	3.9	11.8	49	89.7	8.4	1.9	10.3
50	87.5	8.4	4.1	12.5	50	89.0	9.0	2.0	11.0
51	86.6	9.1	4.3	13.4	51	88.2	9.8	2.1	11.8
52	85.6	9.9	4.5	14.4	52	87.1	10.6	2.2	12.9
53	84.6	10.7	4.8	15.4	53	86.1	11.5	2.4	13.9
54	83.5	11.5	5.0	16.5	54	85.1	12.4	2.5	14.9
55	82.4	12.3	5.3	17.6	55	84.1	13.2	2.7	15.9
56	81.2	13.3	5.6	18.8	56	82.9	14.2	2.8	17.1
57	79.7	14.5	5.9	20.3	57	81.6	15.4	3.0	18.4
58	78.1	15.7	6.2	21.9	58	80.2	16.6	3.2	19.8
59	76.6	16.9	6.5	23.4	59	78.9	17.8	3.3	21.1
60	75.0	18.2	6.8	25.0	60	77.6	19.0	3.4	22.4
61	73.4	19.5	7.1	26.6	61	76.3	20.2	3.6	23.7
62	71.7	20.9	7.4	28.3	62	74.9	21.4	3.7	25.1
63	70.0	22.4	7.7	30.0	63	73.6	22.6	3.8	26.4
64	68.3	23.8	7.9	31.7	64	72.2	23.8	4.0	27.8
65	66.9	24.9	8.2	33.1	65	71.1	24.8	4.1	28.9
66	65.7	25.8	8.6	34.3	66	70.1	25.6	4.3	29.9
67	64.7	26.4	9.0	35.3	67	69.3	26.1	4.6	30.7

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components.