

General Register Office: The Registrar General's Statistical Review of England & Wales 1956; London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1958, p. 68.

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THE
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S
STATISTICAL REVIEW
OF
ENGLAND AND WALES
FOR THE YEAR
1956

PART III
COMMENTARY

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1958

S3-6-1956

Expectation of life

The expectation of life is the average number of years which would be lived by a group of people of given age who are continuously subject to a given mortality experience, usually that of a selected year or years.

An abridged life table, based on the total deaths in 1954 to 1956, is shown in Table XL below. The columns headed l_x show the number of persons who would survive to a given age x , and those headed e_x show the average length of life which would be lived by persons aged x if they continued to be subject to the death rates obtaining in 1954-56. On this basis 96 per cent of males and 97 per cent of females might expect to reach the age of 15; 68 per cent of males and 80 per cent of females to reach age 65 and 9 per cent of men as against 21 per cent of women to reach age 85.

Table XL.—Abridged life table, 1954-56, England and Wales

Males		Age x	Females	
l_x	e_x		l_x	e_x
10,000	67.62	0	10,000	73.11
9,721	68.56	1	9,787	73.70
9,705	67.67	2	9,773	72.80
9,695	66.74	3	9,764	71.87
9,688	65.79	4	9,758	70.91
9,681	64.83	5	9,752	69.96
9,658	59.98	10	9,736	65.07
9,638	55.10	15	9,721	60.16
9,598	50.32	20	9,701	55.28
9,544	45.59	25	9,673	50.44
9,490	40.84	30	9,636	45.62
9,426	36.10	35	9,584	40.85
9,334	31.43	40	9,510	36.15
9,190	26.88	45	9,398	31.55
8,944	22.55	50	9,226	27.10
8,509	18.58	55	8,968	22.80
7,808	15.02	60	8,587	18.70
6,790	11.90	65	7,996	14.90
5,452	9.20	70	7,089	11.49
3,879	6.92	75	5,753	8.57
2,241	5.15	80	4,002	6.23
929	3.90	85	2,124	4.53

This abridged life table is constructed from the estimated home population in 1954, 1955 and 1956, and the total deaths registered in those years.

The column headed l_x shows, for each sex, the numbers who would survive to exact age x out of 10,000 born who were subject throughout their lives to the recorded age death rates of the period.

Column e_x is the "expectation of life", that is, the average future lifetime which would be lived by persons aged exactly x , if likewise subject to those death rates.

Table XLI (page 69) shows that in 1841 the expectation of life at birth was 40 years for males and 42 for females. Those who survived the first year of life then had expectations of 47 and 48 years, respectively. The decrease in the

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Table XLI.

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From an
Abridged Life

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