

The Society of Actuaries in Ireland

Press Release

Male smokers aged forty and upwards are twice as likely as their non-smoking counterparts to die within a given year, according to a new study into Irish mortality prepared by the Society of Actuaries in Ireland. The news is almost equally bad for female smokers and both sexes can expect to reduce their life-span by seven years if they are smokers.

The Society of Actuaries study investigated the experience of 11 Irish life insurance companies over the years 1995-97. It was carried out by a working group chaired by Society member Gareth Colgan, lecturer in statistics and actuarial studies at UCD, who stated that, "this is the first time such detailed research has been carried out into the Irish insured experience and these results confirm the results of other international research projects."

The President of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland, Jimmy Joyce, welcomed "this pioneering piece of work. It represents an important addition to the data available to industry and public bodies who need to project demographic trends. Such information has tremendous value in a number of areas including pension planning or in determining life assurance premiums."

7 February 2000

The full report is commercially sensitive and has been issued only to life insurance companies participating in the survey