



Society of Actuaries in Ireland

Press Release
06th March 2019

Smokers twice as likely to die within a year as non-smokers

A major investigation into Irish death rates has found that, at any given age between 40 and 80, smokers are twice as likely to die within a year as non-smokers. The study, conducted by the Society of Actuaries in Ireland Demography Committee, is one of the largest of its kind and examined the mortality rates of one million policyholders from across the life assurance sector in Ireland over the years 2009-2015.

The Committee noted: “These results, based on our investigation of over 10,000 deaths from a population of one million Irish policyholders, underline the harmful impact of smoking on public health. Whilst the public are generally aware of the harmful impact of smoking, we hope that this report will highlight the extent of that harm and encourage individuals and Government to take more steps to reduce the prevalence of smoking in Irish society.”

Welcoming the Report, the President of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland Maurice Whyms said: “The Society of Actuaries is pleased to present the results of this important Irish research which has taken place over a number of years. The Society seeks to make an impartial contribution to public debate on social policy and public interest matters, and I am sure that this work undertaken by the Demography Committee will be valuable in that regard.”

The full Report is available from the Society’s website www.actuaries.ie.

Ends

If interpreting or applying information from the report, judgement must be exercised in relation to the appropriateness, sufficiency and suitability of this information for the particular purpose.

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Society of Actuaries in Ireland

The Society of Actuaries in Ireland is the professional body for actuaries practising in Ireland. Actuaries provide advice on and relevant solutions for financial, business and societal issues involving uncertain future events. Most of the Society's members work in the financial services industry, and members of the profession hold statutory or regulated roles relating to the financial management of pension schemes and insurance companies. The Society seeks to make an impartial contribution to public debate on social policy and public interest matters where an actuarial perspective can add value.