



# National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 52, Number 14, United States Life Tables, 2001

Centers for Disease Control and Preventi



There are two types of life tables-the cohort (or generation) life table and the period (or current) life table. The cohort life table presents the mortality experience of a particular birth cohort, all persons born in the year 1900, for example, from the moment of birth through consecutive ages in successive calendar years. Based on age-specific death rates observed through consecutive calendar years, the cohort life table reflects the mortality experience of an actual cohort from birth until no lives remain in the group. To prepare just a single complete cohort life table requires data over many years. It is usually not feasible to construct cohort life tables entirely on the basis of observed data for real cohorts due to data unavailability or incompleteness (1). For example, a life table representation of the mortality experience of a cohort of persons born in 1970 would require the use of data projection techniques to estimate deaths into the future (2,3).

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