



Università di Padova, Facoltà di Scienze Statistiche  
Laurea Magistrale in Scienze Statistiche  
Corso: **Teorie e modelli demografici**

# The life table and single decrement process

---

**Maria Letizia Tanturri**

Dipartimento di Scienze Statistiche  
[tanturri@stat.unipd.it](mailto:tanturri@stat.unipd.it)

**Lezione 8**

# Riferimenti

---

- Preston et al. (2001), ch. 3

# Life Table

---

- A statistical model for measuring the mortality (or any other type of “exit”) experiences of a population, controlling for age distributions

# Why is it so important?

---



- The life table is the most important device used in demography.
- It is only one way to summarize a cohort mortality experience (but simple!).
- It allows to calculate life expectancy at birth (or a certain age  $x$ ), one of the most used indicators

# Un'idea intuitiva della speranza alla vita alla nascita

---

- Ined

<http://www.ined.fr/fr/tout-savoir-population/videos/animation-mesurer-esperance-vie/>

# Types of Life Tables

---

- Current/Period vs. Generation/Cohort
- Complete vs. Abridged
- Single vs. Multiple Decrement
- (Increment/Decrement Tables)



Università di Padova, Facoltà di Scienze Statistiche  
Laurea Magistrale in Scienze Statistiche  
Corso: **Teorie e modelli demografici**

# Demographic probabilities

---

**Lezione 8**

# Period & Cohort Rates & Probabilities

---

$${}_nM_x^{\text{Cohort } C} = \frac{\text{Deaths to Cohort } C \text{ between ages } x \text{ and } x+n}{\text{Person-years lived by Cohort } C \text{ between ages } x \text{ and } x+n}$$

$${}_nM_x^{\text{Year } t} = \frac{\text{Deaths between ages } x \text{ and } x+n \text{ in Year } t}{\text{Person-years lived between ages } x \text{ and } x+n \text{ in Year } t}$$

$${}_nq_x^{\text{Cohort } C} = \frac{\text{Deaths to Cohort } C \text{ between ages } x \text{ and } x+n}{\text{Number of persons in Cohort } C \text{ who reached their } x^{\text{th}} \text{ birthday}}$$



Università di Padova, Facoltà di Scienze Statistiche  
Laurea Magistrale in Scienze Statistiche  
Corso: **Teorie e modelli demografici**



# The life tables

---

**Lezione 8**

# The Life Table

---

- One of the most important demographic techniques
- Describes the dying out of a cohort
- Age or more generally “duration” is the most important dimension along which a life table is organized

# The Life Table

---

- Contains a number of columns
  - Age (age groups),
  - Numbers of deaths in each age group
  - Probability of dying in each age group
  - Number of survivors to the beginning of each age group
  - Number of person years lived in each age group
  - Average additional years to live for those who survive to beginning of each age group, etc.

# Life Table Columns: $l_x$

---

$l_x$

- Number left alive at age  $x$

# Life Table Columns: ${}_n d_x$

---

$${}_n d_x = l_x - l_{x+n}$$

- Number dying between ages  $x$  and  $x+n$

# Life Table Columns: ${}_nq_x$

---

$${}_nq_x = \frac{{}_nd_x}{l_x}$$

- Probability of dying between ages  $x$  and  $x+n$

# Life Table Columns: ${}_np_x$

---

$${}_np_x = \frac{l_{x+n}}{l_x} = \frac{l_x - {}_nd_x}{l_x} = 1 - {}_nq_x$$

- Probability of surviving from ages  $x$  to  $x+n$

# Life Table Columns: ${}_nL_x$

---

$${}_nL_x = n \cdot l_{x+n} + {}_na_x \cdot {}_nd_x$$

- Person-years lived between ages  $x$  and  $x+n$



# Life Table Columns: $T_x$

---

$$T_x = \sum_{a=x}^{\infty} {}_nL_a$$

- Person-years lived at ages older than  $x$
- (=Serie retrocumulata degli anni vissuti)

# Life Table Columns: $e_x$

---

$$e_x^0 = \frac{T_x}{l_x}$$

- Expectation of life at age  $x$ ; average additional years of life that someone who survives to age  $x$  can expect to live

# Life Table Columns: ${}_n m_x$

---

$${}_n m_x = \frac{{}_n d_x}{{}_n L_x}$$

- Death rate in the cohort between ages  $x$  and  $x+n$

# Life Table Columns: ${}_n a_x$

---

${}_n a_x$

- Average number of years lived in the age interval by those dying in the age interval

# Note

---

- Some functions refers to a single exact age:
  - $l_x$
  - $T_x$
  - $e_0x$
- Other functions refers to age intervals, that begin with exact age  $x$  and extend for  $n$  years:
  - $ndx$
  - $np_x$
  - $nq_x$
  - $nm_x$
  - $na_x$

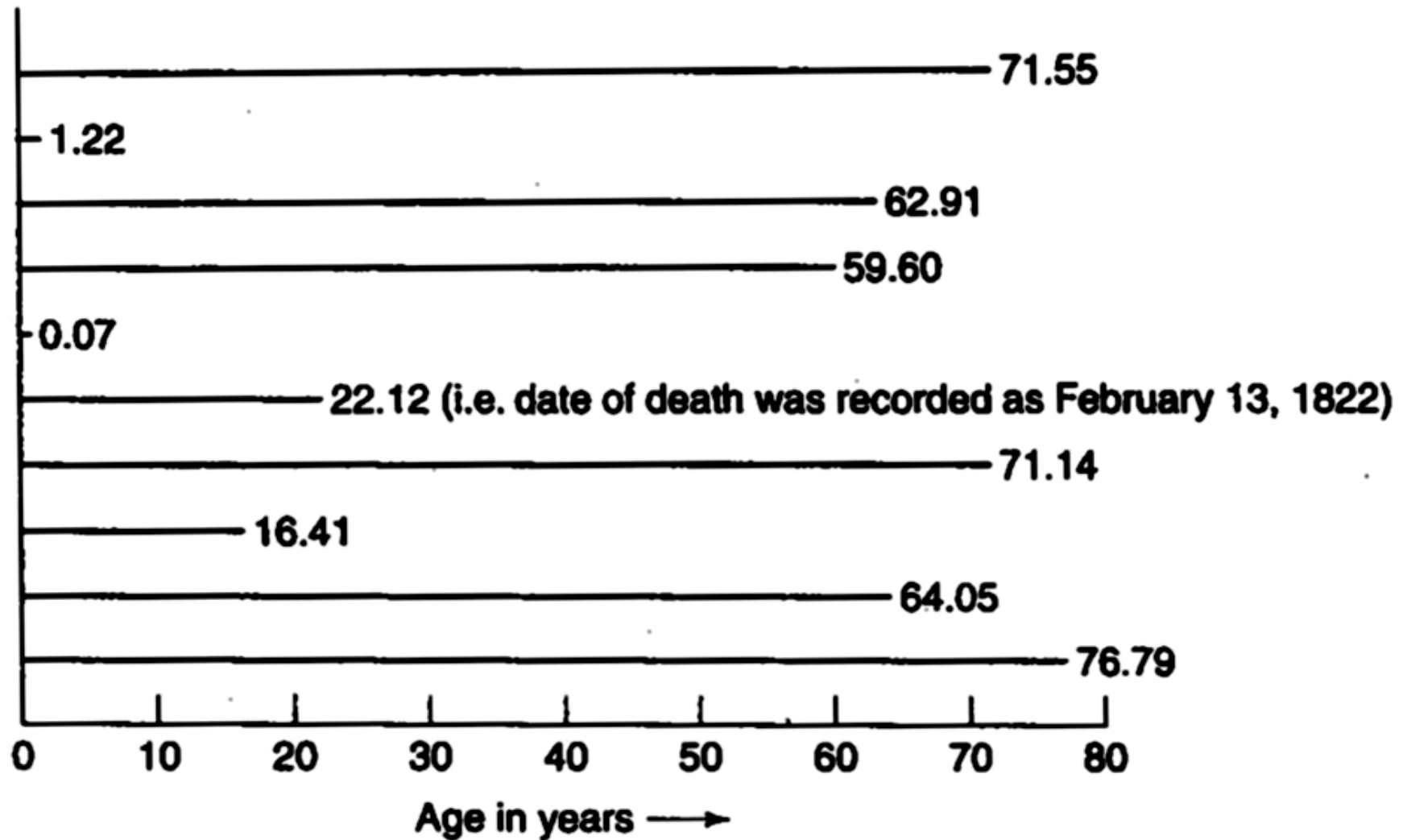
# Esercitazione

---

- Come costruire una tavola di mortalità per una coorte
- (es.Lifetable1\_preston\_esercizio\_Preston\_p39)

**Example:** age at death and life line of an hypothetical cohort of births (10). Date of birth: January 1800

---



**Table 3.1: Life table for hypothetical cohort of 10 births shown in figure 3.1**

Exact age $x$	Number left alive at age $x$ $l_x$	Number dying between ages $x$ and $x + n$ ${}_n d_x$	Probability of dying between ages $x$ and $x + n$ ${}_n q_x$	Probability of surviving from age $x$ to age $x + n$ ${}_n p_x$	Person-years lived between ages $x$ and $x + n$ ${}_n L_x$	Person-years lived above age $x$ $T_x = \sum_{a=x}^{\infty} {}_a L_a$	Expectation of life at age $x$ $e_x^0 = T_x / l_x$	Death rate in the cohort between ages $x$ and $x + n$ ${}_n m_x$	Average person-years lived in the interval by those dying in the interval ${}_n a_x$
0	10	1	1/10	9/10	$9 \cdot .07 = 9.07$	$436.79 + 9.07 = 445.86$	$\frac{445.86}{10} = 44.586$	$\frac{1}{9.07}$	.07
1	9	1	1/9	8/9	$8 \cdot 4 + .22 = 32.22$	$404.57 + 32.22 = 436.79$	$\frac{436.79}{9} = 48.532$	$\frac{1}{32.22}$	.22
5	8	0	0	1	$8 \cdot 5 = 40$	$364.57 + 40 = 404.57$	$\frac{404.57}{8} = 50.571$	0	—
10	8	1	1/8	7/8	$7 \cdot 10 + 6.41 = 76.41$	$288.16 + 76.41 = 364.57$	$\frac{364.57}{8} = 45.571$	$\frac{1}{76.41}$	6.41
20	7	1	1/7	6/7	$6 \cdot 10 + 2.12 = 62.12$	$226.04 + 62.12 = 288.16$	$\frac{288.16}{7} = 41.166$	$\frac{1}{62.12}$	2.12
30	6	0	0	1	$6 \cdot 10 = 60$	$166.04 + 60 = 226.04$	$\frac{226.04}{6} = 37.673$	0	—
40	6	0	0	1	$6 \cdot 10 = 60$	$106.04 + 60 = 166.04$	$\frac{166.04}{6} = 27.673$	0	—
50	6	1	1/6	5/6	$5 \cdot 10 + 9.60 = 59.60$	$46.44 + 59.60 = 106.04$	$\frac{106.04}{6} = 17.673$	$\frac{1}{59.60}$	9.60
60	5	2	2/5	3/5	$3 \cdot 10 + 6.96 = 36.96$	$9.48 + 36.96 = 46.44$	$\frac{46.44}{5} = 9.288$	$\frac{2}{36.96}$	$(2.91 + 4.05)/2 = 6.96/2 = 3.48$
70	3	3	3/3	0	9.48	9.48	$\frac{9.48}{3} = 3.16$	$\frac{3}{9.48}$	$(1.55 + 1.14 + 6.79)/3 = 9.48/3 = 3.16$
80	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—