



## Club Vita - US Public Plan Mortality Assumption Benchmarking Results, 2025

July 2025

Confidential and Proprietary. Copyright © 2025 Club Vita. All rights reserved. We are pleased to share the results of Club Vita's **1st** US Public Plan Mortality Assumption benchmarking results!

## 148 US Public Pension Plans with157 Distinct Longevity Assumptions

In August of 2024, the <u>National Association of State Retirement</u> <u>Administrators (NASRA)</u> released a comprehensive survey outlining the mortality assumptions for some of the largest Public Pension Systems across the United States.

To benchmark these assumptions across systems, we modeled the life expectancy **(LE)** at age 65 for both males and females based on each system's reported assumptions. This analysis incorporates base mortality tables, improvement scales and any scaling factors or adjustments applied to either the base and improvement components.

We hope that you find our report insightful. We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss the survey findings and elaborate further on the analysis included in this report.

Source: NASRA Mortality Assumption Search Tool – Only Available to Members



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This analysis is for informational and illustrative purposes only and should not be relied upon for actuarial valuations or decision-making. Calculations are based on publicly available data from the NASRA August 2024 survey. The data in the survey is taken primarily from actuarial valuations dated in FY23 and may not reflect subsequent assumption updates or plan-specific nuances. While care was taken in the modeling process, errors or simplifications may exist. Users should consult the original sources or a qualified actuary before applying these findings to specific cases.



### **Executive Summary**

Below are 3 key finding which we outline in the paper:

#### 1. Large variation in assumed life expectancy within plan type

- The range of assumed life expectancies across plans varies by plan type:
  - o General Plans: 5.0 years (males), 3.5 years (females)
  - o Teacher Plans: 3.9 years (males), 2.9 years (females)
  - Public Safety Plans: 4.0 years (males), 5.9 years (females)
- Traditional mortality modeling often falls short of capturing the full range of life expectancy variation. Multi-factor approaches offer a best-in-class solution by accounting for key drivers where disparities exist.

#### 2. Little to no regional variation observable in plan assumptions

- Statewide life expectancies show clear regional differences. These differences are much less pronounced, and sometimes absent, based on the life expectancies implicit in the assumptions used by individual plans.
- Plan level experience appears more driven by differences in socioeconomic status, affluence, and other demographic factors among plan populations, than by geographic location. This diversity is difficult to reflect using SOA Tables.

## **3.** Plan assumptions typically reflect shorter lifespans than SOA baselines

- Our analysis reveals (pgs 13, 19, and 24) that the assumptions used by a majority of plans result in shorter life expectancies than the unadjusted SOA PUB tables with MP-2021 improvements.
- Pub 2016 tables generally predict lower life expectancies than Pub 2010, but still higher than the average public plan in the study.



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## 1. All Public Plans



## National Geographic Regions

Longevity is not a one-size fits all assumption and regional differences in life expectancy can be significant, driven by factors such as access to healthcare, lifestyle, income levels, and population demographics.

We've used the five-region model defined by <u>National Geographic</u> – **Northeast, West, Midwest, Southwest & Southeast** – to categorize states. We have grouped Washington D.C in with the Southeast. The map below serves as a visual reference to understand which states belong to each defined region. For clarity, we have retained this colorcoding scheme for the remainder of this report.









## Statewide Life Expectancy at age 65 (CDC 2021) – **Period LE**



- Distinct regional differences can be observed. The Northeast and West data points are more concentrated to the upper right (higher LE) of the chart while the Southeast data points are concentrated to the bottom left (lower LE).
- Data points are tightly clustered along a 'trend' line, suggesting a strong correlation in life expectancy between males and females.





## US Public Plans – Assumed Life Expectancy at age 65 by Region – **Period LE**



Source: Club Vita modeled LE using NASRA 2024 Assumption Survey; base tables rolled to 2021 with plan-specific improvements. None applied beyond 2021.

- Assumed Period Life Expectancy of US Public Pension are approximately 2.5 to 4 years higher across all regions when compared to statewide averages.
- There are still clear regional patterns however, the gap between regional averages is smaller. The variation in LE between plans is noticeably higher both within and between regions. Additionally, the data points are not as tightly clustered around a 'trend' line.





## US Public Plans – Assumed Life Expectancy at age 65 by Region – **Generational LE**



Source: Club Vita modeled LE using NASRA 2024 Assumption Survey; Assumptions use plan-specific base mortality and improvement scales.; Calc year = 2024

- Accounting for assumed improvements in LE, results in an increase of about 1 year to LE across all regions when compared to period LE averages.
- Although the Northeast and Southeast continue to show the highest and lowest life expectancies, respectively, the differences are marginal. The regional longevity patterns seen at the population level are not reflected in the assumptions made by the Plans.



# US Public Plans – Assumed Life Expectancy at age 65 by Employment Type – **Generational LE**



Source: Club Vita modeled LE using NASRA 2024 Assumption Survey; Assumptions use plan-specific base mortality and improvement scales.; Calc year = 2024

- Clear differences in average life expectancy and patterns emerge across employment type.
- Teachers are assumed to have the longest (LE).
- For females, General employees are assumed to have longer LE than Public Safety employees. For males, the assumed average life expectancy of Public Safety employees slightly exceeds that of General employees.





## What is driving the spread in life expectancy assumptions?

Variation in life expectancy assumptions may be influenced by more than just regional factors. Key drivers likely include socioeconomic status, levels of affluence, and occupational characteristics unique to each plan's membership. These underlying factors, such as income, education, job type and access to healthcare, can vary significantly within a single geographic region.

Below is a snapshot from Club Vita's longevity maps, which overlay our multi-factor longevity model onto Google Maps. As illustrated in the example of the Hoboken and Jersey City region, areas in close proximity can exhibit substantial differences in life expectancy. Identifying and quantifying these variations is critical for developing more accurate, equitable, and plan-specific mortality assumptions.



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https://maps.clubvita.us/

#### Key Questions to ask about your Plan's mortality

- How would the underlying demographic factors of your plan membership be expected to influence longevity?
- Are your current mortality assumptions adequately capturing the diversity within your membership?
- How do your members differ from the general population or from those in other public plans?







## 2. General Plans





### General Plans

**76 of the 157** plan assumptions reviewed were categorized as "General" coming from **67 Retirement Systems** across State, Local, Municipal and other types. (See full list of Plans in the appendix.) Regional counts included:





## General – Assumed Life Expectancy at age 65 by Region – **Generational LE**



Avg. LE	Northeast	West	Midwest	Southwest	Southeast (& DC)	Avg.
Female	88.4	88.5	88.2	88.3	87.7	88.2
Male	86.0	86.4	85.5	85.0	84.7	85.6

Source: Club Vita modeled LE using NASRA 2024 Assumption Survey; Assumptions use plan-specific base mortality and improvement scales.; Calc year = 2024

#### **Key Insights & Observations**

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- There is an approximately 4.5-year gap between the highest and lowest LE for males and 3.5 years for females.
- Southeastern plans tend to assume lower LE, with no other distinct regional patterns.
- Average assumed LE at 65 are lower than the Pub G-2010 with MP-2021
  improvements: 88.2 vs. 88.9 for females, 85.6 vs. 86.5 for males.



## General Plans

## Mortality Assumption Table Benchmark Statistics



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### **Base Tables**

- PUB G-2010
- Own Experience
- RP-2014
- RP-2006
- PUB S-2010



#### Of the Plans using SOA tables...





## General Plans

Mortality Assumption Table Benchmark Statistics





- A Majority (75%) of the General Public Plans are using the Pub-2010 General mortality base table for healthy annuitants.
- All eight iterations of the MP Improvement scales released by the SOA are being used by at least one General public pension plan
- 87% of plan assumptions reflect shorter life expectancies for both males and females compared to the Pub-2010 General table with MP-2021 improvements
- 59% of Plans added scaling to their base line assumption The average scaling factor for these plans was 108%







## 3. Teachers' Plans





### Teachers' Plans

**45 of the 157** plan assumptions reviewed were categorized as "Teacher" coming from **45 Retirement Systems**. (See full list of Plans in the appendix.) Regional counts included:



## Teachers – Assumed Life Expectancy at age 65 by Region – **Generational LE**



Avg. LE	Northeast	West	Midwest	Southwest	Southeast (& DC)	Avg.
Female	89.8	90.2	89.3	N/A	88.6	89.4
Male	87.6	88.0	87.1	N/A	85.9	87.0

Source: Club Vita modeled LE using NASRA 2024 Assumption Survey; Assumptions use planspecific base mortality and improvement scales.; Calc year = 2024

- There is an approximately 4-year gap between the highest and lowest LE for males and 3 years females.
- Southeastern plans tend to assume lower LE, with no other distinct regional patterns.
- Average assumed LE at 65 are lower that the Pub T-2010 with MP-2021 improvements: 89.4 vs. 90.2 for females, 87.0 vs. 88.1 for males.



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## Teachers' Plans

Mortality Assumption Table Benchmark Statistics



### **Base Tables**

- PUB T-2010
- PUB G-2010
- Own Experience
- RP-2014
- RP-2006



#### Of the Plans using SOA tables...



## Teachers' Plans

Mortality Assumption Table Benchmark Statistics





- Approximately half of the Teacher Public Plans are using the Pub-2010 Teacher mortality base table for healthy annuitants.
- 7 of the 8 iterations of the MP Improvement scales released by the SOA are being used by at least one Teacher public pension plan
- 88% of plan assumptions reflect shorter life expectancies for both males and females compared to the Pub-2010 Teacher table with MP-2021 improvements
- 65% of Plans added scaling to their base line assumption The average scaling factor for these plans was 102%.







## 4. Public Safety Plans



## Public Safety Plans

**37 of the 157** plan assumptions reviewed were categorized as "Public Safety" coming from **37 Retirement Systems**. (See full list of Plans in the appendix.) Regional counts included:



# Public Safety – Assumed Life Expectancy at age 65 by Region – Generational LE



Avg. LE	Northeast	West	Midwest	Southwest	Southeast (& DC)	Avg.
Female	88.4	87.9	87.7	87.4	86.7	87.1
Male	86.1	86.2	85.4	85.5	85.2	85.7

Source: Club Vita modeled LE using NASRA 2024 Assumption Survey; Assumptions use planspecific base mortality and improvement scales.; Calc year = 2024

- There is an approximately 4-year gap between the highest and lowest LE for both males and females.
- There are no strong regional patterns, but six of the seven plans with the highest assumed LE are in the Northeast or West regions.
- Average assumed LE at 65 are lower that the Pub S-2010 with MP-2021 improvements: 87.1 vs. 88.0 for females, 85.7 vs. 86.1 for males.



## Public Safety Plans Mortality Assumption Table Benchmark Statistics



#### Of the Plans using SOA tables...

CLUB



## Public Safety Plans

Mortality Assumption Table Benchmark Statistics





- A majority (64%) of the Public Safety Plans are using the Pub-2010 Public Safety mortality base table for healthy annuitants.
- 5 of the 8 iterations of the MP Improvement scales released by the SOA are being used by at least one public safety pension plan
- As seen in the chart on page 22, most plans use assumptions that produce life expectancies less than the baseline table
  - 54% of Plans added scaling to their base line assumption. The average scaling factor for these plans was 104%.







## 5. Benefits of Club Vita





## Capturing Member Diversity The benefits of multi-factor modeling

The graphic below illustrates how life expectancy at age 65 for a healthy male pensioner can vary by over 9 years, depending on a few key personal characteristics. While traditional models use broad averages (like age and gender), multifactor mortality modeling breaks longevity down further using data points like ZIP+4 (which captures local socioeconomic conditions), income or benefit amount, occupation type (blue-collar vs. white-collar), and the form of pension received. Each of these factors contributes additional insight, allowing actuaries to move from a single plan level assumption to a personalized longevity forecast.

For public pension plans, this approach can significantly improve the precision of liability estimates and funding strategies, especially among subgroups. By understanding the longevity patterns within different segments of the membership, rather than relying on averages, plans can better allocate resources, evaluate fairness across tiers, and support more accurate actuarial valuations. It also lays the groundwork for more equitable and data-driven discussions around benefit design and sustainability.



#### Mastering your longevity risk: 5 essential considerations for Public Plans



1 Understand the demographic profile of your participants and benchmark against your peers.

2 Use the latest available data to validate your assumptions and understand how emerging trends and evolving best practice might impact your Plan in the wake of COVID-19. US Weekly Deaths

Number of pension recipients identified as dead

Potentially recoverable payments



3 Regular data quality screenings, leading to potential record cleansing and identification of areas where immediate cost savings can be made.

4 ZIP code modeling empowers Public Plans to capture the diversity of their specific participants rather than relying on national averages.





5 Annual experience studies to fine tune your assumptions to Plan experience and stay up-to-date with the latest information.



If you would like to discuss the survey results, please do not hesitate to contact us. We hope you found these results insightful!



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## Appendix – Full List of Modeled Plans



### General Plans

Below is a list of 73 systems and plans whose assumptions were included in the report, organized by state.

Please contact Club Vita if your plan is not listed and you're interested in participating in future analyses.

#### Alabama

Employees Retirement System of Alabama

#### Alaska

Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska

#### Arizona

- City of Pheonix Employees' Retirement System
- Arizona State Retirement System

#### Arkansas

- Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System
- Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System

#### California

- California Public Employees' Retirement System
- Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association
- Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association
- Orange County Employees Retirement System
- San Diego County Employees Retirement Association
- San Francisco Employees' Retirement System

#### Colorado

- Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association Local Government Division
- Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association State Division
- Denver Employees Retirement Plan



#### Connecticut

Connecticut State Employees Retirement System

#### Delaware

Delaware Public Employees' Retirement System

#### Florida

• Florida Retirement System

#### Georgia

Employees' Retirement System of Georgia

#### Hawaii

· Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawaii

#### Idaho

Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho

#### Illinois

- Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund
- State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois
- Municipal Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago

#### Iowa

- Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System State Division
- Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System General Division

#### Kansas

- Kansas Public Employee Retirement System State
- Kansas Public Employee Retirement System Local







#### Kentucky

Kentucky Employees Retirement System

#### Louisiana

- Louisiana Parochial Employees' Retirement System
- Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System

#### Maine

- Maine Public Employees Retirement System Local Government
- Maine Public Employees Retirement System State Government

#### Maryland

- Maryland State Retirement and Pension System State Employees
- Maryland State Retirement and Pension System Municipal Employees

#### Massachusetts

Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System

#### Michigan

- Michigan Municipal Employees' Retirement System
- Michigan State Employees' Retirement System

#### Minnesota

- Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association
- Minnesota State Employees Retirement System

#### Mississippi

Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi





#### Missouri

- Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System
- Missouri State Employees Retirement System

#### Montana

Montana Public Employees' Retirement Association

#### Nevada

Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada

#### **New Hampshire**

New Hampshire Retirement System

#### **New Jersey**

New Jersey Public Employees' Retirement System

#### New Mexico

New Mexico Public Employees' Retirement System

#### **New York**

- New York City Employees' Retirement System
- New York State and Local Retirement System

#### North Carolina

- North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System
- North Carolina Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System

#### North Dakota

North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System



#### Ohio

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

#### Oklahoma

Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System

#### Oklahoma

Oregon Public Employees' Retirement System

#### Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System

#### **Rhode Island**

- Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island
- Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island

#### South Dakota

South Dakota Retirement System

#### Tennessee

Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System

#### Texas

- City of Austin Employees' Retirement System
- Employees Retirement System of Texas
- Texas County & District Retirement System
- Texas Municipal Retirement System





#### Vermont

Vermont State Employees' Retirement System

#### Virginia

- Virginia Retirement System General Employees
- Virginia Retirement System State Employees
- Virginia Retirement System Political Subdivision Employees

#### West Virginia

West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System

#### Wyoming

• Wyoming Retirement System

#### Washington

- Washington Public Employees' Retirement System
- Washington School Employees' Retirement System







### Teachers' Plans

Below is a list of 45 systems and plans whose assumptions were included in the report, organized by state.

Please contact Club Vita if your plan is not listed and you're interested in participating in future analyses.

#### Alabama

· Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama

#### Alaska

Teachers' Retirement System of Alaska

#### Arkansas

Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System

#### California

California State Teachers' Retirement System

#### Colorado

- Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association School Division
- Denver Public Schools Retirement System

#### Connecticut

Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Board





#### **District of Columbia**

• District of Columbia Teachers' Retirement Plan

#### Florida

• Florida Retirement System

#### Georgia

• Teachers Retirement System of Georgia

#### Hawaii

· Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawaii

#### Illinois

- Public School Teachers' Pension and Retirement Fund of Chicago
- Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois
- State Universities Retirement System of Illinois

#### Indiana

Indiana State Teachers' Retirement Fund

#### Iowa

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System – Teachers Division

#### Kansas

Kansas Public Employees Retirement System – School Employees

#### Kentucky

Teachers' Retirement System of Kentucky



#### Louisiana

Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

#### Maine

Maine Public Employees Retirement System

#### Maryland

Maryland State Retirement and Pension System

#### Massachusetts

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System

#### Michigan

Michigan Public Employees' Retirement System

#### Minnesota

- Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association
- St. Pauls Teachers Retirement Fund

#### Missouri

- Public School Retirement System of the City of St. Louis
- Public School Retirement System of Missouri

#### Montana

Montana Teachers' Retirement System





#### Nebraska

Nebraska School Employees Retirement System

#### **New Jersey**

• Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund of New Jersey

#### **New York**

- New York State Teachers' Retirement System
- Teachers' Retirement System of the City of New York

#### North Carolina

North Carolina Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System

#### North Dakota

North Dakota Teachers' Fund for Retirement

#### Ohio

- School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
- State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio

#### Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System

#### **Rhode Island**

· Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island





#### South Dakota

• South Dakota Retirement System

#### Tennessee

Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System

#### Texas

Teacher Retirement System of Texas

#### Vermont

Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System

#### Virginia

Virginia Retirement System

#### West Virginia

West Virginia Teachers' Retirement System

#### Washington

Washington State Teachers' Retirement System







## Public Safety Plans

Below is a list of 37 systems and plans whose assumptions were included in the report, organized by state.

Please contact Club Vita if your plan is not listed and you're interested in participating in future analyses.

#### Alabama

· Employees' Retirement System of Alabama

#### Alaska

Alaska Public Employees' Retirement System

#### Arizona

Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System

#### California

- California Public Employees' Retirement System
- Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association
- Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association
- Orange County Employees Retirement System
- San Francisco Employees' Retirement System

#### Colorado

- Colorado PERA Local Government Division
- Colorado PERA State Division

#### Connecticut

Connecticut State Employees Retirement System





## Public Safety Plans (cont.)

#### **District of Columbia**

• District of Columbia Police Officers and Firefighters' Retirement Plan

#### Florida

• Florida Retirement System

#### Idaho

Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho

#### Illinois

Illinois State Employees' Retirement System

#### Iowa

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System

#### Kansas

Kansas Public Employees Retirement System

#### Maryland

Maryland State Retirement and Pension System





## Public Safety Plans (cont.)

#### Nevada

· Nevada Public Employees' Retirement System

#### **New Hampshire**

New Hampshire Retirement System

#### **New Jersey**

New Jersey Police and Firemen's Retirement System

#### **New York**

New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System

#### **North Carolina**

- North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System
- North Carolina Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System

#### North Dakota

North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System

#### Ohio

Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund

#### **Rhode Island**

Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island

#### South Carolina

South Carolina Police Officers Retirement System





## Public Safety Plans (cont.)

#### South Dakota

• South Dakota Retirement System

#### Texas

- · Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund
- Texas Employees Retirement System Law Enforcement and Custodial Officers

#### Virginia

- Virginia Retirement System State Police Officers' Retirement System
- Virginia Retirement System Political Subdivisions with Hazardous Duty Coverage
- Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System

#### Washington

- Washington Public Safety Employees' Retirement System
- Washington Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement
  System
- Washington State Patrol Retirement System



