1. Welcome	2. Introduction	3. Buyer Profiles	4. Age Analysis 1	5. Age Analysis 2	6. Owner Profiles	7. Benefit Base/ Contract Value Summary	8. Contract Value vs. Benefit Base by Quarter of Issue	9. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Quarter of Issue	10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base
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Variable Annuity Guaranteed Living Benefits Utilization

2016 Experience

Guaranteed Minimum Withdrawal Benefits (GMWB)

A Joint Study Sponsored by the Society of Actuaries and LIMRA

1. Welcome 2. Introduction 3. Buyer Profiles 4. Age Analysis 1 5. Age Analysis 2 6. Owner Profiles 7. Benefit Base/ Contract Value Summary 8. Contract Value vs. Benefit Base by Quarter of Issue 9. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Quarter of Issue	10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base
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Variable Annuity Guaranteed Living Benefits Utilization

2016 EXPERIENCE

Participants' Report About the Study

LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute and Society of Actuaries Variable Annuity Guaranteed Living Benefit Utilization Study (VAGLBUS) — 2016 Experience is an update of earlier investigations, conducted since 2006.

The study examines the GLB utilization of over 4.9 million contracts that were either issued during or in force as of 2016. Twenty insurance companies participated in this study. These 22 companies made up 67 percent of all GLB sales in 2016 and 69 percent of GLB assets at year-end, and thus provide a substantial representation of this business. Few product innovations have transfigured the variable annuity (VA) industry as much as guaranteed living benefits (GLBs). Evolving from simple income benefits over a decade ago, they are now offered in a variety of forms on the vast majority of VA products sold today.

Research on GLBs generally focuses on sales and elections rather than on how annuity owners actually use their benefits. However, knowing more about benefit utilization — as well as the connection with behaviors such as persistency — can assist insurers with assessing and managing the long-term risks of these GLBs.

Note that confidentiality rules have been applied to the results displayed in all of the tabs in this report in order to ensure that no individual company data can be inferred by the users.

Click on the tabs at the top of the screen to move between pages. The buttons and menus on the right side of each screen allow you to filter results.

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1. Welcome 2.	2. Introduction	3. Buyer Profiles	4. Age Analysis 1	5. Age Analysis 2	6. Owner Profiles	7. Benefit Base/ Contract Value Summary	8. Contract Value vs. Benefit Base by Quarter of Issue	9. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Quarter of Issue	10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base
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Buyer Profiles

Guaranteed minimum withdrawal benefits (GMWBs) were introduced in the early 2000s. Early GMWBs permitted annual withdrawals of a certain percentage of the benefit base balance until the guaranteed payments were exhausted, even if the contract value itself had already fallen to zero. The benefit base was usually the sum of premium payments and there was no lifetime guarantee. Later versions enhanced the benefit base balance to include step-ups or bonuses prior to withdrawals, or optional step-ups to reflect investment growth after withdrawals had commenced.

Although GMWBs do not guarantee income for life, investors can use GMWBs effectively to provide period-certain payments while keeping control of their assets and remaining invested in the market. Also, the maximum annual withdrawal amount (as a percentage of the benefit base balance) for a GMWB is generally higher than that of a GLWB.

During the last few years, there has been little innovation with GMWB riders. New sales for GMWB riders remain low and GMWB election rates, when any GLB was available, remained low, around 1 percent. In 2007, GMWBs enjoyed an election rate around 8 percent. With lifetime withdrawal guarantees becoming more popular, the period-certain withdrawal guarantee has become almost nonexistent.

This study represents two-thirds of industry GMWB assets from a total of 30 GMWB riders introduced between 2000 and 2016.

	Average	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile	Issue Year Gender
2003	63	57	64	70	Cost Structure Distribution Channel
2004	63	57	63	70	0 00000000000
2005	61	55	62	68	
2006	61	56	62	68	
2007	63	57	64	70	
2008	62	55	63	70	
2009	62	55	62	69	
2010	63	56	63	70	
2011					
2012					
2013					

Some issue years are suppressed due to confidentiality safe harbors.

1. Welcome	2. Introduction	3. Buyer Profiles	4. Age Analysis 1	5. Age Analysis 2	6. Owner Profiles	7. Benefit Base/ Contract Value Summary	8. Contract Value vs. Benefit Base by Quarter of Issue	9. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Quarter of Issue	10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base
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Percentage of Buyers Over Age 60 at Time of Purchase





Age Break 60

Some issue years are suppressed due to confidentiality safe harbors.



This tab provides a second level of detail around buyer age distributions by issue year.

Across all issue years, the largest percentages of contracts tend to be sold to buyers between ages 60 to 70.

1. Welco me	2. Introduction	3. Buyer Profiles	4. Age Analysis 1	5. Age Analysis 2	6. Owner Profiles	7. Benefit Base/ Contract Value Summary	8. Contract Value vs. Benefit Base by Quarter of Issue	9. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Quarter of Issue	10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base	11. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Age
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Owner Profiles

This tab provides a summary of GMWB owner and contract characteristics at EOY 2016.

Key Findings

• Close to 60 percent of the in-force GMWB owners were aged 70 or older.

• Most of the contracts were issued by career agents or independent agent/independent broker-dealers (B-Ds).

• Nearly 3 in 4 contracts had ending contract values under \$249,999.



	0	wner and	I Contract	Characte	ristics
	Issued Before 2016	Issued In 2016	Overall	Avg. Premium for Contracts Issued in 2016	
59 and under	13%	23%	13%	\$131,541	Select Breakout Age of Owner Qualified by Age Non-qualified by Age Gender
60 to 64	11%	26%	11%	\$169,002	Market Type Distribution Channel Cost Structure Contract Value EOY
65 to 69	17%	23%	17%	\$149,839	
70 to 74	20%	14%	20%	\$142,617	
75 to 79	17%	8%	17%	\$119,619	
80 or older	22%	6%	22%	\$208,086	

2. Introd uction	3. Buyer Profiles	4. Age Analysis 1	5. Age Analysis 2	6. Owner Profiles	7. Benefit Base/ Contract Value Summary	8. Contract Value vs. Benefit Base by Quarter of Issue	9. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Quarter of Issue	10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base	11. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Age	12. 2016 Withdrawal Activity
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Benefit Base and Contract Value Comparison

	Benefit Base	Contract Value	CV as % of BB Time of Year
Sum	\$17,338,324,793	\$17,448,459,417	100.6% C End of Year
Mean	\$110,044	\$110,743	100.6% Market Type
Median	\$68,531	\$70,808	103.3% (All
			O Qualified
			○ Non-qualified
	Percent of contracts where benefit base was greater than contract value: 56.3%		Age of Owner All Age 59 & under 60 to 64 65 to 69 70 to 74 Age 75 & older

At beginning-of-year (BOY) 2016, 56 percent of contracts with GMWBs issued before 2016 had benefit base balances that exceeded contract values.

In 2016, the S&P 500 index was up nearly 10 percent, excluding dividends. The average contract value increased by 0.5 percent and the average benefit base decreased 3 percent. As a result, the percent of GMWB contracts that had a benefit base balance amount greater than the contract value at EOY 2016 was 36.3%.

	3. Buyer Profiles	4. Age Analysis 1	5. Age Analysis 2	6. Owner Profiles	7. Benefit Base/ Contract Value Summary	8. Contract Value vs. Benefit Base by Quarter of Issue	9. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Quarter of Issue	10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base	11. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Age	12. 2016 Withdrawal Activity	13. Withdra wals by So urce of
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Contract Value and Benefit Base by Quarter of Issue

Time of Year Beginning of Year C End of Year

Economic Data

10-year Treasury Yield
 S&P 500

Average or Median

None

Average

For GMWB contracts that incurred withdrawals in 2016, the average benefit base balance decreased by 7 percent during the year. The improved investment performance over 2015 also led to an increase in the contract value for this group. For GMWB contracts that did not take withdrawals during the year, the average benefit base balance increased by 1.8 percent and the average contract value increased by just under 1 percent.

The average contract value remained slightly below the average benefit base for contracts issued between 2005 and 2007 and was slightly above the average benefit base for contracts issued in 2008 and later.



Source: Oxford Economics



5. Age Analysis 2	6. Owner Profiles	7. Benefit Base/ Contract Value Summary	8. Contract Value vs. Benefit Base by Quarter of Issue	9. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Quarter of Issue	10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base	11. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Age	12. 2016 Withdrawal Activity	13. Withdrawals by Source of Funds and Age of Owner	14. Taking First Withdrawal from Annuity	15. First Wi thdrawals by Age
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Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base



Overall, the average benefit base balance for GMWB contracts dropped 3.3 percent during the year and the improved investment performance led to a slight increase in the contract value. This led to a narrowing of the difference in average contract value and average benefit base during the year.

6. Owner Profiles	7. Benefit Base/ Contract Value Summary	8. Contract Value vs. Benefit Base by Quarter of Issue	9. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Quarter of Issue	10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base	11. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Age	12. 2016 Withdrawal Activity	13. Withdrawals by Source of Funds and Age of Owner	14. Taking First Withdrawal from Annuity	15. First Withdrawals by Age	16. Systematic Withdrawal Activity
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Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Age

This tab shows the BB/CV ratios by age at BOY and EOY 2016. At BOY, between 82 and 91 percent of contracts had benefit bases at less than 110 percent of contract value, with percentages slightly lower at older ages than younger ages. The results are generally consistent with this for both qualified and non-qualified business and across different contract sizes where there is credible data.

As expected the percentage of contracts with ratios over 110 percent generally decreased during the year.



7. Benefit Base/ Contract Value Summ	8. Contract Value vs. Benefit Base by Quarter of Issue	9. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Quarter of Issue	10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base	11. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Age	12. 2016 Withdrawal Activity	13. Withdrawals by Source of Funds and Age of Owner	14. Taking First Withdrawal from Annuity	15. First Withdrawals by Age	16. Systematic Withdrawal Activity	17. Average Withdrawal Amount by Withdrawal Type
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Withdrawal Activity 2016

Percent of owners who have taken withdrawals in 2016:



More than half of contracts with GMWB riders issued before 2016 and still inforce at EOY had at least some withdrawal activity during 2016. Eight in 10 of these contracts had systematic withdrawals. Non-qualified contracts had only 40 percent of owners taking withdrawals in 2016 but a large percentage of withdrawals were taken on a systematic basis (85%).

Of those taking withdrawals in 2016:

Systematic Withdrawals Non-systematic Withdrawals

Systematic Withdrawals

80%



9. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value b	10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base	11. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Age	12. 2016 Withdrawal Activity	13. Withdrawals by Source of Funds and Age of Owner	14. Taking First Withdrawal from Annuity	15. First Withdrawals by Age	16. Systematic Withdrawal Activity	17. Average Withdrawal Amount by Withdrawal Type	18. Summary of Withdrawals as Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum	19. Withdra wals as a P ercent
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To better understand owners' inclinations to take withdrawals, we analyzed owner withdrawal behavior by considering at what age or in what year of the annuity ownership the owner is likely to initiate their first withdrawal. Also, once they start taking withdrawals, how many will continue taking withdrawals? Based on that analysis, we might expect to find corollary relationships among other variables like when owners decide to take their first withdrawals, whether their withdrawal amounts remain within or around the prescribed withdrawal maximum amount allowed in the contract, or whether the persistency of these contracts is different from contracts that have not experienced withdrawals or excess withdrawals.

Analysis of when owners are likely to take first withdrawals provides important information about withdrawal risk. These findings can help insurance companies to assess risks more precisely by identifying clusters of owners who are likely to start withdrawals in their first year, second year, etc., after purchase. There are two ways to analyze withdrawal activity: First, we can determine the percentage of owners who have initiated their first withdrawals in the current year (2016 for this report), by their age and source of money, to provide various trends and relationships. Second, we can analyze the first withdrawal history for owners from a particular issue year, and track how age and source of money influence their first withdrawal activities.

For qualified business the need to take RMDs leads to the highest percent of owners taking first withdrawals occurring at ages 70 and 71. Many insurance companies encourage annuity buyers to take withdrawals, particularly to satisfy RMDs as they turn age 70¹/₂. Most companies do not treat RMDs as excess withdrawals, even if they exceed the annual guaranteed income amount.

For non-qualified business, rates of first withdrawal increase gradually by age through the 60s and then begin to decrease again in the 70s.

10. Average Contract Value vs Benefit Base	11. Ratio of Benefit Base to Contract Value by Age	12. 2016 Withdrawal Activity	13. Withdrawals by Source of Funds and Age of Owner	14. Taking First Withdrawal from Annuity	15. First Withdrawals by Age	16. Systematic Withdrawal Activity	17. Average Withdrawal Amount by Withdrawal Type	18. Summary of Withdrawals as Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum	19. Withdrawals as a Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum by Age	20. Withdrawal Activity by Contract Year	
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First Withdrawals by Age





12. 2016 Withdra wal Acti vity	13. Withdrawals by Source of Funds and Age of Owner	14. Taking First Withdrawal from Annuity	15. First Withdrawals by Age	16. Systematic Withdrawal Activity	17. Average Withdrawal Amount by Withdrawal Type	18. Summary of Withdrawals as Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum	19. Withdrawals as a Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum by Age	20. Withdrawal Activity by Contract Year	21. Average Withdrawal Amount by Owner Age	22. Ratio of Withdrawal s to
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Average Withdrawal Amount by Withdrawal Type

					Average Wi	thdrawal A	mount						Market Type All
		Syste	ematic			Occa	sional			All With	drawals		O Qualified
	Me	an	Me	dian	Mea	an	Me	dian	Mea	an	Me	dian	Contract Size
	Non-qualified	Qualified	Non-qualified	Qualified	Non-qualified	Qualified	Non-qualified	Qualified	Non-qualified	Qualified	Non-qualified	Qualified	 All
Under age 60	\$14,215	\$9,542	\$7,934	\$6,380	\$28,804	\$21,920	\$8,292	\$10,000	\$23,695	\$15,766	\$8,946	\$7,723	O Under \$100,000
Age 60-69	\$10,257	\$12,037	\$6,552	\$8,653	\$19,670	\$20,898	\$8,601	\$9,565	\$13,452	\$15,401	\$7,078	\$9,146	○ \$100,000 to \$249,999
Age 70 or older	\$8,308	\$7,794	\$5,654	\$5,204	\$16,636	\$10,642	\$7,194	\$5,800	\$9,839	\$8,817	\$6,000	\$5,476	0 \$250,000 or more
Grand Total	\$8,672	\$8,598	\$5,861	\$5,820	\$18,446	\$13,478	\$7,600	\$6,558	\$10,766	\$10,249	\$6,036	\$6,048	

The table shows the mean and median withdrawal amounts for occasional and SWP withdrawals for both qualified and non-qualified contracts. Some GMWB riders offer the owner the ability to select which withdrawal rate they want, allowing owners to choose between a lower payout and a longer duration vs. a higher payout with a shorter duration.

Based on the average withdrawal amounts at younger ages, many of these GMWB owners — particularly those who take occasional withdrawals — may be partially surrendering their contracts.

13. With drawals by Sour ce of	14. Taking First Withdrawal from Annuity	15. First Withdrawals by Age	16. Systematic Withdrawal Activity	17. Average Withdrawal Amount by Withdrawal Type	18. Summary of Withdrawals as Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum	19. Withdrawals as a Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum by Age	20. Withdrawal Activity by Contract Year	21. Average Withdrawal Amount by Owner Age	22. Ratio of Withdrawals to Average Contract Value and Benefit Base	23. Ratio of Total Withdrawa.
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Summary of Withdrawals as Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum



Here we look at the relationship between customers' actual withdrawal amounts in calendar year 2016 and the maximum withdrawal amount allowed in the contract. Participating companies were asked to provide this maximum amount as of BOY 2016. If companies did not provide the maximum withdrawal amount but provided the benefit base balance, as well as the maximum percentage of this base that could be withdrawn each year, then we estimated the maximum amount. We calculated the maximum withdrawal amount based on the reported maximum annual withdrawal percentage multiplied by the average benefit base balance.

The chart shows the percent of owners taking withdrawals — and their withdrawal amounts — in relation to maximum withdrawal amount allowed in the contracts. Three-quarters of owners who took withdrawals in 2016 withdrew within 110 percent of the maximum withdrawal amount allowed in the contract.

14. Taki ng First Withdra wal	15. First Withdrawals by Age	16. Systematic Withdrawal Activity	17. Average Withdrawal Amount by Withdrawal Type	18. Summary of Withdrawals as Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum	19. Withdrawals as a Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum by Age	20. Withdrawal Activity by Contract Year	21. Average Withdrawal Amount by Owner Age	22. Ratio of Withdrawals to Average Contract Value and Benefit Base	23. Ratio of Total Withdrawals to Total Contract Value	24. Historical ITM Trends
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Total Withdrawals as a Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum by Age



Looking at the age of owners and their withdrawal amounts in relation to the maximum withdrawal amount allowed, we see that most GMWB owners' withdrawal amounts are likely to remain within 110 percent or lower of the amount allowed. Some older owners may have taken withdrawals that exceeded 100 percent of the maximum limit in order meet RMD requirements.

Just over one in five owners took less than 75 percent of the maximum withdrawal amount allowed in the contract and a significant percentage of them (80 percent) were aged 70 and older. It is notable that the percent of owners taking 150 percent or more than the maximum withdrawal amount allowed in the contract is lowest for owners aged 70 and older — ranging from 8 to 12 percent for each individual age.

Other items of note:

• The majority of owners taking withdrawals are aged 65 or older. There are very few instances where these older owners take significantly more than the annual benefit maximum.

• Younger owners, particularly under age 60, are more likely to take 200 percent or more of the benefit maximum allowed in the contract.

• For qualified contracts, there is a noticeable jump in the percentage of contracts taking less than 90 percent of the benefit maximum. At these ages, contract owners tend to be taking distributions related to RMDs and therefore there may be lower amounts taken.

Percentage of GMWB Contracts (only those taking withdrawals)

Withdrawals Type All Withdrawals Systematic

	Under 75%	75% to <90%	90% to <110%	110% to <150%	150% to <200%	200% or more
Under 50	33%	3%	17%	6%	6%	35%
50 to 54	28%	9%	15%	6%	6%	35%
55 to 59	29%	8%	22%	7%	5%	29%
60 to 64	19%	9%	36%	9%	6%	22%
65 to 69	15%	8%	49%	9%	6%	13%
70 to 74	27%	9%	44%	7%	5%	9%
75 to 79	26%	12%	43%	6%	5%	8%
80 to 85	19%	14%	46%	7%	5%	9%
85 or older	12%	12%	44%	12%	7%	12%
Grand Total	22%	11%	44%	8%	5%	11%

○ Non-Systematic

15. First Withdra wals by Age	16. Systematic Withdrawal Activity	17. Average Withdrawal Amount by Withdrawal Type	18. Summary of Withdrawals as Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum	19. Withdrawals as a Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum by Age	20. Withdrawal Activity by Contract Year	21. Average Withdrawal Amount by Owner Age	22. Ratio of Withdrawals to Average Contract Value and Benefit Base	23. Ratio of Total Withdrawals to Total Contract Value	24. Historical ITM Trends	25. Withdrawal Rates for Contracts In-the- Money vs
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Withdrawal Activity by Contract Year

Non-qualified Contract duration (i.e., how long ago the contract was purchased) is important for determining what proportion of new GMWB buyers or existing GMWB owners take withdrawals from their annuities. Companies can also use contract duration to gauge their company's marketing effectiveness, and value in setting expectations with customers. Immediate utilization of the Age of Owner GMWB is appropriate for certain customers, but there are also circumstances in which delayed withdrawals make sense. By comparing their own withdrawal activity by contract duration) All to that of the industry, companies can assess the extent to which their customers' usage patterns match both their own expectations and the experience of other VA companies. The comparison could also facilitate internal forecasts by estimating when and how GMWB customers might take withdrawals and the resulting cash flow needed to manage the existing book of business. This chart examines withdrawal activity for contracts issued between 2002 and 2009. Just over half of the GMWB owners who bought their contracts in 2009 took 0 65 to 69 withdrawals from their annuities in 2016. As the contract duration increases, withdrawal activity remains within a tight range. 0 70 to 74

O Age 75 & older The growth pattern in withdrawal rates for GMWBs differs from GLWBs (where we see a steady increase in the percent of owners taking withdrawals for longer duration contracts). It appears that a significant portion of GMWB owners who take withdrawals are likely to utilize their withdrawal benefits within one to two years of purchase. After that, the incremental growth over the duration is very slow, caused by owners reaching RMD age. However, this generalization assumes that most customers maintain their withdrawal behavior, at least in the short term.

Some contract years are suppressed due to confidentiality safe harbors.

O Age 59 & under

0 60 to 64

Market Type

) All O Qualified



16. Syst ematic Withdra wal Ac	17. Average Withdrawal Amount by Withdrawal Type	18. Summary of Withdrawals as Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum	19. Withdrawals as a Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum by Age	20. Withdrawal Activity by Contract Year	21. Average Withdrawal Amount by Owner Age	22. Ratio of Withdrawals to Average Contract Value and Benefit Base	23. Ratio of Total Withdrawals to Total Contract Value	24. Historical ITM Trends	25. Withdrawal Rates for Contracts In-the-Money vs Not-In-the-Money	26. Summary of Withdrawal Rates by Selected



Median Withdrawal Amount
Lower Quartile of Withdrawal Amount
Upper Quartile of Withdrawal Amount

Number of Contracts

Average Withdrawal Amount by Owner Age

At some ages in the 50s, withdrawals averaged more than \$20,000. However, there were not a lot of contracts that had withdrawals from this age group so data should be interpreted accordingly. As a result, we only show average withdrawal amounts beginning at age 61. It is safe to assume that many of these withdrawals were partial surrenders of the contracts, unconnected to regular withdrawals as part of the GMWB benefit and were taken sporadically, not through an SWP.

After age 60, as the number of GMWB owners increases, a more smooth withdrawal pattern and average withdrawal amount emerges. Withdrawals by owners aged 60 to 69 are a mix of both occasional and systematic withdrawals. A relatively level trend appears for owners over age 70, with average withdrawal amounts around \$9,000 and median withdrawal amounts from \$5,100 to \$6,400. These withdrawal amounts are commensurate with (or slightly above) the maximum withdrawal amount for this age group.

As expected, average and median withdrawal amounts increase with increasing contract size.

Market Type All Qualified Non-qualified

Contract Size All Under \$100,000 \$100,000 to \$249,999 \$250,000 or more

17. Ave age Wit hdrawa Amoun	r 18. Summary of Withdrawals as I Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum	19. Withdrawals as a Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum by Age	20. Withdrawal Activity by Contract Year	21. Average Withdrawal Amount by Owner Age	22. Ratio of Withdrawals to Average Contract Value and Benefit Base	23. Ratio of Total Withdrawals to Total Contract Value	24. Historical ITM Trends	25. Withdrawal Rates for Contracts In-the-Money vs Not-In-the-Money	26. Summary of Withdrawal Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	27. Additional Premium	
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Ratio of Withdrawals to Average Contract Value and Benefit Base



Current Age of Owner

Note: The ratio of withdrawals to average contract values is calculated as the average of withdrawal amounts divided by the average of beginning and ending contract values. The ratio of withdrawals to average benefit base balances is calculated as the average of withdrawal amounts divided by the average of beginning and ending benefit base balances. In both cases, only GMWB contracts that were sold before 2016, were still in force at EOY 2016, had withdrawals in 2016, and with benefit base balance information were considered.

In order to provide some context, we assessed withdrawal amounts in relation to both contract values and benefit base balances. This chart shows the median withdrawal amount for all ages and the quartile distribution of the withdrawal amounts in 2016.

The distribution of the withdrawals as a percent of average contract value withdrawn shows that, for owners aged 65 or over, the upper quartile and lower quartile values are within four percentage points of the median. The pattern also indicates that the majority of older owners taking withdrawals do so at similar ratios to their contract values. For owners under age 60, the median of the ratios remains around 8 to 10 percent.

The distribution of withdrawal amount to the average benefit base balance ratio supports the same conclusion that we reached earlier: that the withdrawal amount is unduly weighted by very large withdrawals taken by a few younger owners. The distribution of ratios of withdrawal amount to benefit base balance shows that the upper quartile and lower quartile values are within a relatively tight range of the median for owners aged 65 or over. This is similar to what we saw with the withdrawal to average contract value ratio. The ratios also indicate that the majority of owners taking withdrawals do so at a rate of around 8 percent of their benefit base values — a reasonable GMWB maximum payout rate for this age.

For most GMWB contracts, the ratio of average withdrawal amount to average contract value (average of contract values at BOY and EOY) is similar to the ratio of withdrawal to average benefit base balance value. The fluctuations in the ratios for owners under age 60 are due to low sample sizes.

4%

3%

2%

1%

0%

Total Withdrawals/Total Contract Value BOY Total Withdrawals/Total Contract Value EOY

of withdrawal amounts to EOY contract values is another measure of GMWB risk originating in customer behavior. This measure can be calculated at two levels. First, the risk associated with all contracts in the book can be ascertained by analyzing the ratio of total withdrawals in 2016 to total contract values at BOY and EOY, for all contracts inforce. Second, the same ratios can be computed for only the subset of contracts that experienced withdrawals in 2016. The first measure provides a view of risk from total withdrawals in terms of the total book of business and how total withdrawals (cash outflow) impact the overall risk.

19. V drav as a cent	Nith vals Per	20. Withdrawal Activity by Contract Year	21. Average Withdrawal Amount by Owner Age	22. Ratio of Withdrawals to Average Contract Value and Benefit Base	23. Ratio of Total Withdrawals to Total Contract Value	24. Historical ITM Trends	25. Withdrawal Rates for Contracts In-the-Money vs Not-In-the-Money	26. Summary of Withdrawal Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	27. Additional Premium	28. N	let Flows	29. Surrender Rates by Contract Year
	Numb	per of Contracts Issued befor	ore Calendar Year	200	Historical I ^{09 2010} M 0.23M	TM Trends 2011 0.18M	2012 2013 0.22M 0.19M	3 2014 I 0.19M	2015 0.17M	2016 0.16M	Time of Year Beginning of Ye End of Year	ear
	Perce	ent of Contracts where Bene	efit Bases > Contract Values	s 96	% 75%	57%	75% 53%	9 19%	29%	56%		

The 2008–2009 market downturn caused large losses in contract values of annuity contracts, causing most GMWB contracts to have benefit base balances that were higher than the contract values. Many of these contracts experienced gains due to the market recovery that began in the later part of 2009 and continued through 2014. For 2016, market gains improved over 2015 and by EOY 2016, 36 percent of GMWB contracts had benefit base balances greater than the contract values as compared to 56 percent at the BOY. Our findings indicate that GMWB benefit base balances being larger than the contract values was not a major driver in customers' decisions to take withdrawals in 2016.

In order to understand the impact this relationship had on withdrawal activities, it helps to understand the severity and spread of the benefit base balance compared to the contract value among owners by age and by duration of contracts. We should also consider other factors, like market performance, investor confidence, market volatility, the state of the economy, and confidence in the financial strength of financial service providers. In order to conclude that the benefit base balance being greater than the contract value influenced the owners' withdrawal activity, we would expect to see increased withdrawal activity irrespective of age when the contracts benefit base balance exceeded the contract value.

For GMWB contracts issued before 2016, it is evident that:

• A majority of GMWB contracts that had benefit base balances significantly larger than the contract values at BOY were held by older owners. These contracts are also more likely to have a higher representation of longer duration contracts.

• A majority of older GMWB owners with older duration contracts initiated withdrawals in previous years and continued taking withdrawals in subsequent years. Older owners — particularly those aged 65 or older — are more likely to take and continue withdrawals over a longer period of time. Since their withdrawal amounts typically remain within the maximum amount offered in the GMWB contracts, their contract values are likely to decline over a period (unless they experience growth due to large and consistent market gains). Meanwhile, their benefit base balances are likely to remain level or proportionately adjusted with withdrawals, causing the gap between the benefit base balance and contract value to grow as the withdrawals continue. As a result, we expect that the percentages of owners taking withdrawals by the amount the benefit base balance exceeded the contract value will be skewed both by older owners who started withdrawals years ago and contracts with longer duration. We also expect that the percentage of owners who take withdrawals in a particular year where the benefit base balance was greater than the contract value may grow in the future.

Examining the withdrawal behavior of contract owners and the relationship between the benefit base balance and the contract value can shed some light on these issues. Just looking at owner's age and the relationship between the benefit base balance and the contract value, in isolation, may not provide a complete picture. Similar to GLWBs, it is likely that age and source of funds — not the amount the benefit base balance exceeds the contract value— drive owner withdrawal behavior, although there may be a small effect driven mainly by withdrawals among younger owners. The percentage of owners who took withdrawals in 2016 was higher for contracts where the benefit base balance was greater than the percentages of owners are 60 and older who took withdrawals remained within a tight range. The fact that the vast mainrity of owners who

20. With drawal Activity by C	21. Average Withdrawal Amount by Owner Age 22. Ratio of Withdrawals to Average Contract Value and Benefit Base	23. Ratio of Total Withdrawals to Total Contract Value	24. Historical ITM Trends	25. Withdrawal Rates for Contracts In-the-Money vs Not-In-the-Money	26. Summary of Withdrawal Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	27. Additional Premium	28. Net Flows	29. Surrender Rates by Contract Year	30. Surrender Rates by Years Left in the Surrender
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Withdrawal Rates for Contracts In-The-Money vs. Not-In-The-Money

Just looking at owner's age and the relationship between the benefit base balance and the contract value, in isolation, may not provide a complete picture of drivers of withdrawal activity. Similar to GLWBs, it is likely that age and source of funds — not the amount the benefit base balance exceeds the contract value — that are greater drivers of owner withdrawal behavior, although there may be a small ITM effect driven mainly by withdrawals among younger owners.

The percentage of owners who took withdrawals in 2016 was higher for contracts where the benefit base balance was higher than the contract value. The gap between the percentages of owners age 60 and older remained within a small range. The contracts where contract values were greater than or equal to the benefit base balance were likely either issued recently and have not been as exposed to market volitility or were issued years ago, did not take withdrawals and so experience growth in their contract values. This helps to explain why contracts owned by older people taking withdrawals from longer duration contracts have a widening gap.

21. Aver age Wit hdrawal Amoun	22. Ratio of Withdrawals to Average Contract Value and Benefit Base	23. Ratio of Total Withdrawals to Total Contract Value	24. Historical ITM Trends	25. Withdrawal Rates for Contracts In-the-Money vs Not-In-the-Money	26. Summary of Withdrawal Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	27. Additional Premium	28. Net Flows	29. Surrender Rates by Contract Year	30.Surrender Rates by Years Left in the Surrender Charge Period	31. Surrender Rates by Surrender Charge Percentage
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Summary of Withdrawal Rates by Selected Characteristics

	Unweighte	ed	Weighted by BOY 2016 Contract Value						
Gender	Percent of Owners Taking Withdrawals	Percent of Owners Taking Withdrawals Through SWP's	Percent of Owners Taking Withdrawals	Percent of Owners Taking Withdrawals Through SWP's					
Male	54%	43%	56%	44%					
Female	53%	42%	53%	42%					
Age of Owner									
Under 50	9%	18%	5%	11%					
50 to 54	9%	14%	5%	8%					
55 to 59	12%	17%	7%	12%					
60 to 64	24%	32%	16%	24%					
65 to 69	41%	47%	32%	37%					
70 to 74	69%	69%	54%	54%					
75 to 79	74%	72%	61%	57%					
80 or older	69%	62%	59%	51%					
Market Type									
Non-qualified	40%	34%	39%	32%					
Qualified	62%	49%	65%	51%					
Distribution Channel									
Bank/S&L									
Career Agent	50%	34%	53%	35%					
Direct Response									
Full Service National B-D									
Independent Agent		170/	570/	100/					
Independent B-D	55%	47%	57%	48%					
Contract Value (EOY)									
Under \$25,000	51%	41%	60%	45%					
\$25,000 to \$49,999	55%	45%	59%	47%					
\$50,000 to \$99,999	55%	45%	58%	46%					
\$100.000 to \$249.999	53%	42%	55%	43%					
\$250.000 to \$499.999	52%	41%	54%	42%					
\$500,000 or higher	48%	38%	48%	37%					

22. Rati o of Wit hdrawal s to	23. Ratio of Total Withdrawals to Total Contract Value	24. Historical ITM Trends	25. Withdrawal Rates for Contracts In-the-Money vs Not-In-the-Money	26. Summary of Withdrawal Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	27. Additional Premium	28. Net Flows	29. Surrender Rates by Contract Year	30.Surrender Rates by Years Left in the Surrender Charge Period	31. Surrender Rates by Surrender Charge Percentage	32. Surrender Rates by Timing of Withdrawa.
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Many retail VAs allow owners to add premium after issue, though in practice most contracts do not receive ongoing deposits. For some GMWBs, the calculation of the benefit base balance will incorporate premium that is received within a certain time period after the issue of contract. Among contracts sold in 2016 or earlier:

• Only 2 percent received additional premium during 2016.

• Younger owners were more likely to add premium than older owners. For example, 6 percent of owners under age 60 added premium, compared with less than 1 percent of owners aged 70 or older.

• Non-qualified contracts received additional premium slightly more often that qualified contracts.

23. Rati o of Tot al Withd rawa	24. Historical ITM Trends	25. Withdrawal Rates for Contracts In-the-Money vs Not-In-the-Money	26. Summary of Withdrawal Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	27. Additional Premium	28. Net Flows	29. Surrender Rates by Contract Year	30.Surrender Rates by Years Left in the Surrender Charge Period	31. Surrender Rates by Surrender Charge Percentage	32. Surrender Rates by Timing of Withdrawals	33. Surrender Rates by Percentag of Annual Benefit M
				Net	Flows					
	In-Force BO	Y	D	ollars (in billions) \$16.8B		Number of Contracts 150,519		Average Contract \$111	Size ,520	
Pre Rec	mium Existing Con eived Newly Issue	tracts d Contracts		\$0.1B \$0.1B		669		\$150),577	
Ber Paie	efits Death/Disab Full Surrend	ility ers		\$0.1B \$0.2B \$1.5B		360 1,887 12,895		\$158 \$96 \$113	3,484 3,319 3,457	
<u> </u>	Partial Withd	Irawals		\$1.0B					1	
	Investment C	Growth		\$0.1B						
	In-Force EO	Y		\$17.9B		160,412		\$111	,490	

As the appeal of GMWB has declined, sales into new and existing contracts have constituted less than 10 percent of total outflows.

25. With drawal Rates fo r Con	26. Summary of Withdrawal Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	27. Additional Premium	28. Net Flows	29. Surrender Rates by Contract Year	30.Surrender Rates by Years Left in the Surrender Charge Period	31. Surrender Rates by Surrender Charge Percentage	32. Surrender Rates by Timing of Withdrawals	33. Surrender Rates by Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum Withdrawn	34. Surrender Rates by Withdrawal Method	35. Surrender Rates by Level of In- the- Moneyness
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Surrender Rates by Years Since Expiration of Surrender Charge

for contracts without surrender charges. The contract surrender rate in 2016 was 4.5 percent for contracts with surrender charges and over four times that amount (15.0 percent) for contracts that exited the surrender penalty period in 2016. Among contracts that exited the surrender penalty period in 2014 or earlier, the contract surrender rate was 8.4 percent, relatively unchanged from 2015 experience.

26. Sum mary of Withdra wal Ra	27. Additional Premium	28. Net Flows	29. Surrender Rates by Contract Year	30.Surrender Rates by Years Left in the Surrender Charge Period	31. Surrender Rates by Surrender Charge Percentage	32. Surrender Rates by Timing of Withdrawals	33. Surrender Rates by Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum Withdrawn	34. Surrender Rates by Withdrawal Method	35. Surrender Rates by Level of In-the-Moneyness	36. Surrender Rates by Selected Owner and Product C
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Surrender Rates by Surrender Charge Level

5 	Surrender rates are influenced by the presence of surrender charges. Contracts with higher surrender charges have lower surrender rates and vice versa. The contract surrender rates for contracts with no charge was 8.4 percent and around 4 percent for contracts with surrender charges between 1 and 6 percent. Contract surrender rates for qualified business were slightly higher han non-qualified for contracts where	 Contract Surrender Rate Cash Value Surrender Rate Market Type All Qualified Non-qualified Age of Owner All Age 59 & under 60 to 64 65 to 69 70 to 74 Age 75 & older
f t soor soor soor soor soor soor soor so	Adamote Deamote view of the surrender charges had gone to 0. Contract surrender rates were slightly ower for qualified than non-qualified business for surrender charges in the 1 o 6 percent range. For ages over 60, surrender rates tend to decrease with increased age for contracts that are beyond the surrender charge period. For this same group, surrender rates for contracts still in the surrender charge period vary within a harrow range with surrender rates generally between 2 and 4 percent.	() Age 75 & older

Surrender Rates by Timing of Withdrawals 12.2% 12% 11.1% Contract Surrender Rate 10.8% 11.4% O Cash Value Surrender Rate 10% (Withdrawals in Analysis Year 9.7% Withdrawals before Analysis Year 8.7% 9.1% 8.4% 8.9% 8.6% Market Type 8% All Qualified Non-qualified 6.8% 6.6% 5.8% 6% Did Not Take Withdrawals in 2016 Took Withdrawals in 2016 4.6% 4% •4.0% 4.1% Under 50 50 to 54 55 to 59 60 to 64 65 to 69 70 to 74 75 to 79 80 or older

Owners who did not take withdrawals in 2016 had higher surrender rates than those who took withdrawals. When GMWB owners — particularly those aged 70 and older — took withdrawals, the surrender rates were relatively low at just over 4 percent. Younger owners who take withdrawals, particularly those under age 65, have higher surrender rates than older owners who take withdrawals. We have already shown that even though younger owners own a significant portion of GMWB contracts, they are not likely to take withdrawals. When these younger owners take withdrawals, they typically do so with occasional withdrawals. Moreover, their average withdrawal amount is much higher, and not likely supported by the guaranteed benefit base in their contracts.

Past withdrawals (taken before the analysis year) can also indicate increased likelihood that owners will surrender earlier than expected. For those that have not taken past withdrawals, surrender rates increase by age until around age 65 and then begin to decrease with increasing age. For those who did take withdrawals in prior years, surrender rates are greatest at the youngest ages and are are nearly 2 percentage points below those who have not taken withdrawals by age 70.

28. Net Flows	29. Surrender Rates by Contract Year	30.Surrender Rates by Years Left in the Surrender Charge Period	31. Surrender Rates by Surrender Charge Percentage	32. Surrender Rates by Timing of Withdrawals	33. Surrender Rates by Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum Withdrawn	34. Surrender Rates by Withdrawal Method	35. Surrender Rates by Level of In-the-Moneyness	36. Surrender Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	37. Product & Benefit Characteristics

Surrender Rates by Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum Withdrawn

Current Age of Owner Under 60 60 to 64 65 to 69 70 to 74 75 to 79 80 or older 15.3% 14.0% 13.9% 14.1% 13.4% 13.3% 12.4% 12.3% 10.8% 2% 10 9.0% 9.1% 8.6% 8.1% 7.3% 6.5% 5.6% 5.8% 5.1% 4.8% 4.6% 4.2% 4.0% 3.6% 3.2% 3.3% 3.1% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6% 2.1% 1.6% 1.5% 1.2% Under 75% 110% to <150% 75% to <90% 150% to <200% 90% to <110% 200% or more

Market Type) All O Qualified Non-qualified This tab shows the contract surrender rates among owners who took Contract Size All withdrawals in 2016 by the percentage of annual benefit maximum O Under \$100,000 withdrawn. Contract surrender rates were higher for owners who took Ō \$100,000 to \$249,999 withdrawals below 75 percent of the maximum allowed in the contracts, O \$250,000 or more and for owners who took 200 percent or more of the maximum allowed in the contracts. Similar to GLWBs, the GMWB surrender rates show a U-shaped relationship to the percentage of annual benefit maximum withdrawn --those with very low and very high ratios of withdrawals to the maximum allowed— have higher surrender rates than those in the middle categories. This relationship holds true across all age groups. In summary, the GMWB owners in two extremes - those taking less than

75 percent or 200 percent or more of the maximum withdrawal amount

allowed in their contracts - exhibited the highest rates of surrender on

not in line with the GMWB's maximum withdrawal amount is thus a

reliable indicator of surrender behavior.

both a contract and a cash value basis in 2016. Any withdrawal behavior

 Contract Surrender Rate O Cash Value Surrender Rate

28. Net Flows	29. Surrender Rates by Contract Year	30.Surrender Rates by Years Left in the Surrender Charge Period	31. Surrender Rates by Surrender Charge Percentage	32. Surrender Rates by Timing of Withdrawals	33. Surrender Rates by Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum Withdrawn	34. Surrender Rates by Withdrawal Method	35. Surrender Rates by Level of In-the-Moneyness	36. Surrender Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	37. Product & Benefit Characteristics
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Surrender Rates by Withdrawal Method

50 - 54 55 - 59 60 - 64 65 - 69 70 - 74 75 - 79 80 or older 14.7% Non-systematic Withdrawals Systematic Withdrawals 11.1% 10.8% 9.3% 8.7% 7.1% 6.3% 4.5% 4.2% 4.2% 3.5% 3.4% 3.4% 3.3%

Current Age of Owner

Overall, the contract surrender rate among owners who took non-systematic withdrawals in 2016 was 8.2 percent while the surrender rate among owners who withdrew systematically was 3.8 percent. Non-systematic withdrawals are more often linked with younger owners who have higher surrender rates.

28. Net Flows	29. Surrender Rates by Contract Year	30.Surrender Rates by Years Left in the Surrender Charge Period	31. Surrender Rates by Surrender Charge Percentage	32. Surrender Rates by Timing of Withdrawals	33. Surrender Rates by Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum Withdrawn	34. Surrender Rates by Withdrawal Method	35. Surrender Rates by Level of In-the-Moneyness	36. Surrender Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	37. Product & Benefit Characteristics
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Surrender Rates by Level of In-the-Moneyness

Contract Surrender Rate
 Cash Value Surrender Rate

- Market Type All Qualified Non-qualified
- Age of Owner All Age 59 & under 60 to 64 65 to 69 70 to 74 Age 75 & older

Another factor that influenced surrender rates involves whether contracts had benefit base balances that exceeded the contract values. In general, surrender rates are lower for contracts where the benefit base balance exceeds the contract value. GMWB owners appear to be sensitive to the amount that the benefit base balance exceeds the contract value when deciding whether to surrender their contracts. Actuaries need to account for this sensitivity when setting assumptions for lapse behavior.

28. Net Flows	29. Surrender Rates by Contract Year	30.Surrender Rates by Years Left in the Surrender Charge Period	31. Surrender Rates by Surrender Charge Percentage	32. Surrender Rates by Timing of Withdrawals	33. Surrender Rates by Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum Withdrawn	34. Surrender Rates by Withdrawal Method	35. Surrender Rates by Level of In-the-Moneyness	36. Surrender Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	37. Product & Benefit Characteristics
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Surrender Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics

		Contract Surrender Rate	Cash Value Surrender Rate
Year of Issue Age of Owner Contract Value BOY Gender Market Type Distribution Channel Cost Structure	Before 2006	7.2%	7.1%
	2006	9.8%	10.7%
	2007	6.8%	7.3%
	2008	7.5%	7.4%
	2009	8.1%	9.6%
	2010	6.1%	5.7%

This tab provides a summary of surrender rates by various product and owner characteristics.

28. Net Flows 29. Si by Co	Surrender Rates Contract Year	30.Surrender Rates by Years Left in the Surrender Charge Period	31. Surrender Rates by Surrender Charge Percentage	32. Surrender Rates by Timing of Withdrawals	33. Surrender Rates by Percentage of Annual Benefit Maximum Withdrawn	34. Surrender Rates by Withdrawal Method	35. Surrender Rates by Level of In-the-Moneyness	36. Surrender Rates by Selected Owner and Product Characteristics	37. Product & Benefit Characteristics
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Product & Benefit Characteristics

Average Charges and Number of Subaccounts by Issue Year

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Average Mortality and Expense Charge	1.26%	1.39%	1.37%	1.37%	1.35%
Average Benefit Fee	0.57%	0.53%	0.53%	0.56%	0.62%
Average Number Subaccounts	73.11	74.01	73.61	75.60	74.18
Average Wbn Max Age Elect	80.08	82.68	83.08	84.73	84.76

Product Features – Distribution by Issue Year									Product has fixed account
									Product still available as of EOY
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	O Rider still available as of EOY
No	26%	35%	34%	34%	82%	85%	98%	99%	Cap on benefits
Yes	74%	65%	66%	66%	18%	15%	2%	1%	Asset allocation restrictions
									O Step-up availability

O Benefit base automatically increases if withdrawals are deferred

O Impact on benefit base if excess withdrawals are taken

Maximum annual withdrawal percent