

Constructing life tables

The experience of the CONCORD programme

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Constructing life tables: CONCORD-3 study

322 population-based cancer registries

Three categories of data obtained for life tables:

1. Death and population counts

- Multivariable Poisson model with restricted cubic splines

2. Mortality rates from National Statistics

- Ewbank method for smoothing mortality rates

3. Abridged life tables from the UN Population Division

- Elandt-Johnson method

Multivariable Poisson model with restricted cubic splines

$$\log(d_x) = \beta_0 + f(x) + \log(pyrs_x)$$

Death counts by age

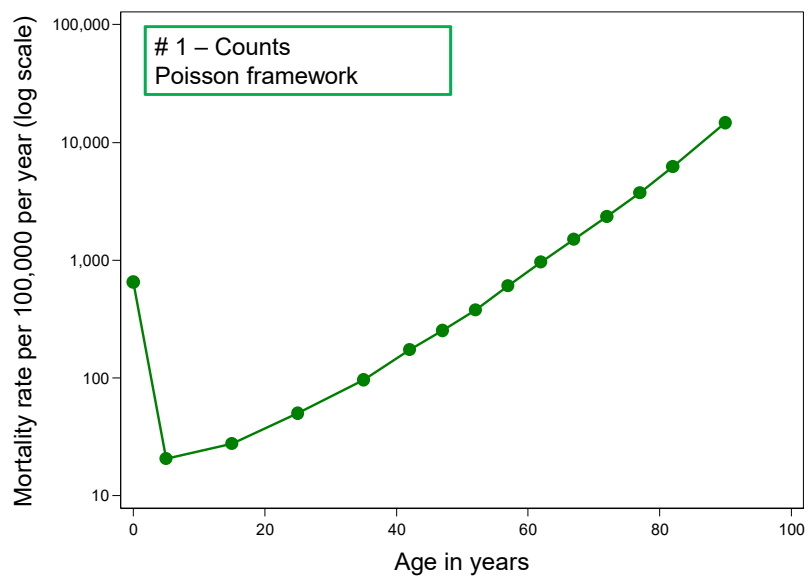
Spline function on age

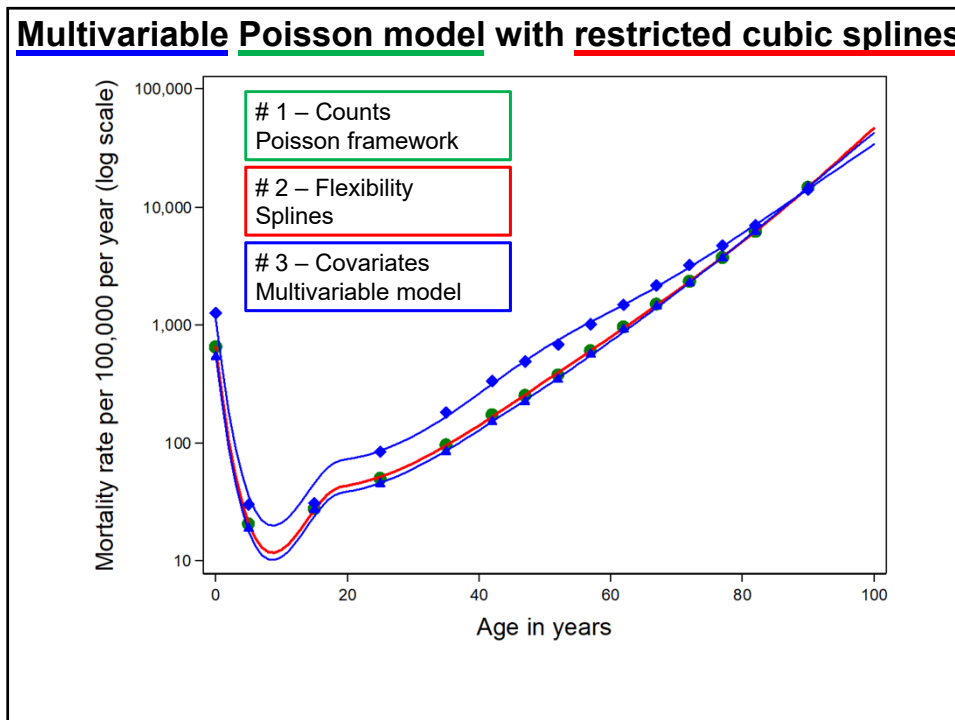
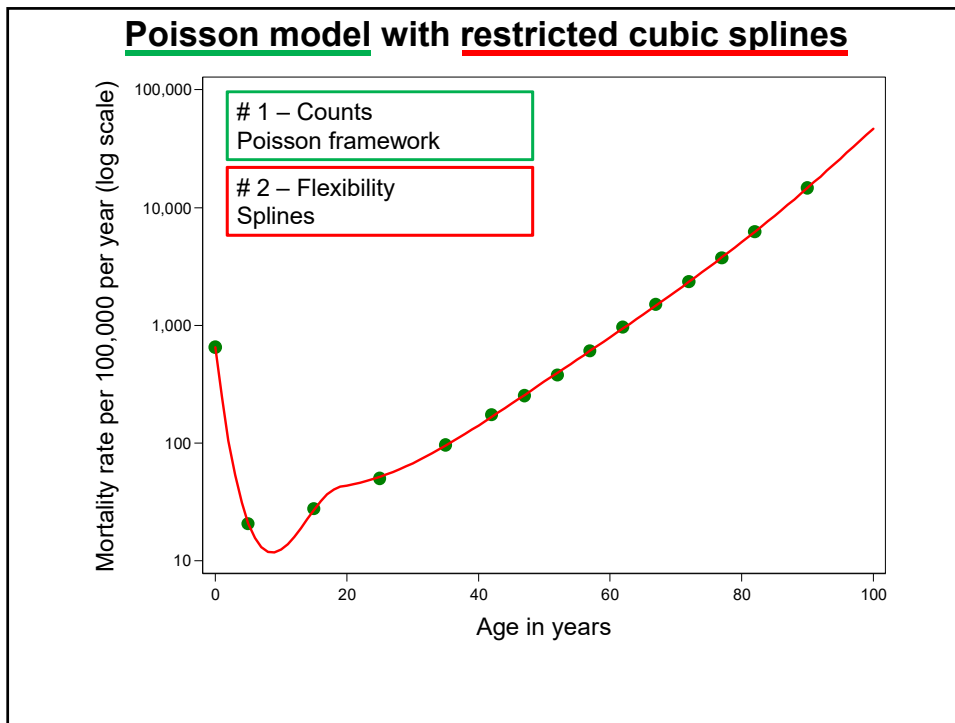
Age-specific
person-year at risk

$$\log(m_x) = \beta_0 + f(x)$$

Rachet et al, 2015

Poisson model





Multivariable Poisson model with restricted cubic splines

- Mortality rates for men and women modelled separately
- Number of knots and knots location
- Life tables by race/ethnicity or for different geographical areas

$$\log(d_{x,i}) = \beta_0 + f(x) + \sum_{i=2}^3 \beta_i \text{ethnicity}_i + g(\text{ageethnicity}) + \log(\text{pyrs}_x)$$

Main effect of ethnicity

Interaction between age and ethnicity

Smoothing raw mortality rates

Ewbank model – extension of Brass 2- parameter model

- ✓ Standard life table
- ✓ Model the $\text{logit}(l_x) = Y_x = 0.5 \ln \frac{1-l_x}{l_x}$
- ✓ Linear relationship between the two survivorship functions
- ✓ Introduce 2 parameters:

Increase/decrease mortality compared to the standard

$$\checkmark \text{logit}(l_x) = \alpha + \beta (\text{logit}(l_{xs}))$$

Younger/older mortality

Applies after the median age at death

$$\checkmark \text{logit}(l_x) = \alpha + \beta T(l_{xs}; \kappa; \lambda)$$

Applies before the median age at death

Ewbank et al, 1983

