



# Variable Annuity Policyholder Behavior: Are We Out of the Dark Yet?

## Guaranteed Minimum Withdrawal Benefits

**Stephen Turer FSA, MAAA**



# Agenda

- ▶ Brief Product Description – Lifetime GMWB
  - ▶ GMWB is a feature in a variable annuity
- ▶ Know Your Sales Story
- ▶ Policyholder Behavior Assumptions
  - ▶ Income Utilization
  - ▶ Income %
  - ▶ Dynamic Lapse / Base Lapse
  - ▶ Spousal / Beneficiary Continuation
  - ▶ Fund Selection / Investor Behavior
- ▶ Experience Reporting – The Key



# Brief Product Description

## Lifetime GMWB

- ▶ Cost 40 – 80bps
- ▶ Withdrawal Rates
  - ▶ 5% for all ages
  - ▶ Varies by age
- ▶ Enhancements Rates
  - ▶ 5% simple – 10% simple
  - ▶ 5% compound – 7.25% compound
- ▶ Investment Restrictions
  - ▶ Fund of Funds or Asset Allocation Models
  - ▶ BYOP (Build Your Own Portfolio)
  - ▶ Involuntary Transfers



# Know Your Sales Story

- ▶ What is your Value Proposition?
  - ▶ Selling Client Solutions or Features
  - ▶ Are you pricing what your wholesalers are selling
- ▶ Client Profiles
  - ▶ Income Solution
  - ▶ Protection Solution
  - ▶ Deferred Income Solution
- ▶ Lincoln's Story
  - ▶ Investment Story
  - ▶ Up-market designs





# Income Utilization – Dynamic Utilization

- Withdrawals Begin upon Market Decline
- Modeling Challenges
  - What Market Drop Begins Withdrawals
  - Incentives to delay withdrawals
- Pro's
  - Withdrawal protected money first
  - Higher income needs in a down market
- Con's
  - Is policyholder behavior that optimal?
  - Are customers purchasing for future income needs?
  - Should changes in rho and vega influence income start?
  - High Sensitivity in Greeks
  - Hard to Measure and Update Assumption



# Income Utilization – Time Based Utilization

- Withdrawals based on Life Events
  - Key Age or Key time since issue
- Modeling Challenges
  - % of Income Buyers vs Comfort Buyers
- Pro's
  - Consistent with Client Profiling
  - Lower complexity in assumptions
  - Easy to evaluate experience
- Con's
  - Customers are not ostriches – they look at market
  - What if you are wrong?



# Income Utilization

## Comparison of Time Based vs Dynamic Utilization

- ▶ Time Based vs Dynamic Utilization
- ▶ Ratio of Valuation Premium
  - ▶ Time Based / Dynamic Utilization
  - ▶ Age 60
  
- ▶ 4Q06 – 1.14
- ▶ 1Q08 - 1.50
  
- ▶ Why?





# Income %

- Does it vary by:
  - Market – Qualified vs Non-Qualified
  - Age
  - Gender
  - Version of WB





# Dynamic Lapse / Base Lapse

- ▶ Base Lapse
  - ▶ Vary by distribution channel
  - ▶ Vary by income vs comfort buyer
  - ▶ Vary by age
  
- ▶ Dynamic Lapse Assumption
  - ▶ What is the slope of the decrease?
  - ▶ At what level of market drop are lapses impacted?
    - ▶ AV versus Present Value of Future Withdrawal?
  - ▶ Sensitivity depends on base lapse assumptions



# Spousal / Beneficiary Continuation

- ▶ Upon death the spouse or beneficiary can continue the benefit until the benefit base equals zero
- ▶ Methods
  - ▶ Non-lifetime models may have assumed  $q_x=0$
  - ▶ Dynamic Continuation
    - ▶ Continuation Depends on Market Level
  - ▶ Static Continuation, continuation =  $x\%$
- ▶ Complications
  - ▶ Age differential in the lives
  - ▶ Multiple continuations possible
  - ▶ Death Benefits
  - ▶ When  $AV=0$ , continuation should be 100%



# Fund Selection / Investor Behavior

- ▶ Formula for Investor Volatility
  - ▶ Classification – High Vol, Med Vol, Low Vol, Limit
- ▶ Allocation by Investment Model / FOF
- ▶ Gender Impacts
  - ▶ Does gender impact investment choices?



# Experience Reporting – The Key

- Capture and Analyzing Experience is Key
- Key Reports
  - Income Utilization
    - Are your reports biased
    - Systematic vs Non-Systematic Withdrawals
    - Time Based ,Market Based, Both?
  - Income Percentage
    - Qualified vs Non-Qualified Split
  - Investment Reporting
  - Lapse Reporting
    - Validate Dynamic Formula



# Disclosure

- ▶ *Variable annuities are long-term contracts designed for retirement purposes. Certain benefits or features may be available through a variable annuity. Such benefits or features may have additional charges and expenses along with limitations and restrictions associated with them, which may or may not be advantageous in meeting long-term goals. These additional charges and expenses should be considered carefully before purchasing. Early withdrawals are subject to surrender charges and taxes including a 10% penalty if taken prior to age 59 1/2. **Variable annuities are sold by prospectus. For product and feature information, including fees, charges, limitations, and restrictions are provided in the prospectus.***
- ▶ *Insurance products and state variations are issued by insurance affiliates of Lincoln Financial Group.*