**Additional file 2: Model for constructing race/ethnic-specific life tables using a continuous interaction term between race and age**

where denotes age in years, denotes race/ethnicity, denotes the age- and race/ethnic-specific counts of deaths in the population, denotes the coefficient at baseline (i.e. the log of the mortality rate at the reference age for the reference race/ethnic group), denotes a restricted cubic spline function on age, denotes a restricted cubic spline function on the continuous interaction between race and age, is the coefficient for the main effect of (i.e. how mortality differs at the reference age in race/ethnic group compared to the reference race/ethnic group), and denotes the age- and race/ethnic-specific person-years at risk in the population.

In addition to the knots on age specified in Additional file 1, three knots were initially specified for the continuous interaction between race/ethnicity and age, at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles of their distributions. An algorithm embedded in *mvrs* [[9](#_ENREF_9)] and based on the Akaike Information Criterion, then enabled us to identify the number of knots to be included in the final model.