

Tutorial: Life Tables in Stata

Life tables list the death rates experienced by a population over a given period of time. They have many practical uses. For example, insurance companies use them to determine premiums and annuities; the government uses them to plan for social security.

Life tables are easy to compute in Stata through the use of the `ltable` command. To begin, download the `lifetable.dta` data set from the course website and open it in Stata. This data set was generated from one of the first life tables recorded, dating back to the late 17th century.

1) What is the mean life span? What is the median?

2) What does the histogram of age at death look like? Is it symmetric?

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3) Use the `ltable` command to generate a life table.

- a. What is the chance of surviving from birth until age 80?
- b. What is the proportion of individuals alive on their 50th birthday who die before their 55th birthday?
- c. What is the chance that a 25-year-old will survive 10 years?
- d. What is the chance that a 10-year old will survive to age 60?