

Uma Vaidyanathan - Technical Exercise: Part 1

Analysis of Life Expectancy at Birth

The data presented here were obtained using the World Bank API. Yearly data on life expectancy at birth (in years) for males and females from all countries from 1960 - 2011 were downloaded. Only countries that had data for at least a third or more of this time span were utilized in analyses (192 out of 211 listed in the WDI). In brief, the graphs below show that life expectancy at birth has been increasing in a linear manner from 1960 till 2011. This pattern is the same for both females and males (graph on left, with solid and dotted lines respectively). It is also the same across all countries in various income levels ranging from low to high (graph on right), suggesting a strong consistency to results. Another striking finding is that women have a higher life expectancy at birth than men regardless of the year they were born in from 1960 - 2011, and regardless of the country's income level as well. While increased income level of country is also related to increased life expectancy, the gender effect of being female on greater life expectancy holds strong regardless of income level of country.

