

Final Report of Traineeship Program 2024

On

Analyzing Age Difference at Death Between Left-Handers and Right-Handers

MEDTOUREASY

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ABSTRACT

A National Geographic survey in 1986 resulted in over a million responses that included age, sex, and hand preference for throwing and writing. Researchers Avery Gilbert and Charles Wysocki analyzed this data and noticed that rates of left-handedness were around 13% for people younger than 40 but decreased with age to about 5% by

the age of 80. They concluded based on analysis of a subgroup of people who throw left-handed but write right-handed that this age-dependence was primarily due to changing social acceptability of left-handedness. This means that the rates aren't a factor of *age* specifically but rather of the *year you were born*, and if the same study was done today, we should expect a shifted version of the same distribution as a function of age. Ultimately, we'll see what effect this changing rate has on the apparent mean age of death of left-handed people, but let's start by plotting the rates of left-handedness as a function of age.

1.1 About the Company

edTourEasy, a global healthcare company, provides you the informational resources needed to evaluate your global options. MedTourEasy provides analytical solutions to our partner healthcare providers globally

1.2 About the Project

we will explore this phenomenon using age distribution data to see if we can reproduce a difference in average age at death purely from the changing rates of left-handedness over time, refuting the claim of early death for left-handers. This notebook uses `pandas` and Bayesian statistics to analyze the probability of being a certain age at death given that you are reported as left-handed or right-handed.

Introduction:

The purpose of this project is to investigate the age difference at death between right-handers and left-handers, aiming to provide insights into mortality patterns associated with handedness. By utilizing Bayesian statistics, historical data on handedness rates, and death distribution data, we seek to understand whether there exists a significant age gap at death between the two groups and explore the underlying factors contributing to any observed differences.

Methodology:

Data Acquisition and Preprocessing: We obtained death distribution data from the United States for the year 1999, which includes the number of deaths at each age for both sexes. Additionally, we utilized historical data on left-handedness rates to estimate probabilities of handedness given age. **Bayesian Analysis:** Employing Bayes' theorem, we calculated the probability of dying at a certain age given an individual's handedness (left-handed or right-handed). This involved combining death distribution data, overall probabilities of left-handedness and right-handedness in the population, and estimated probabilities of handedness given age. **Comparison and Interpretation:** We compared the calculated probabilities of dying at various ages for left-handers and right-handers to understand any differences in mortality patterns between the two groups. Additionally, we analyzed the average age at death for both groups and examined the implications of our findings.

Utilize death distribution data from the US in 1999. Apply Bayesian statistics to calculate conditional probabilities of age at death given handedness. Conduct data visualization to compare mortality patterns between left-handers and right-handers.

2.3 Language and Platform Used

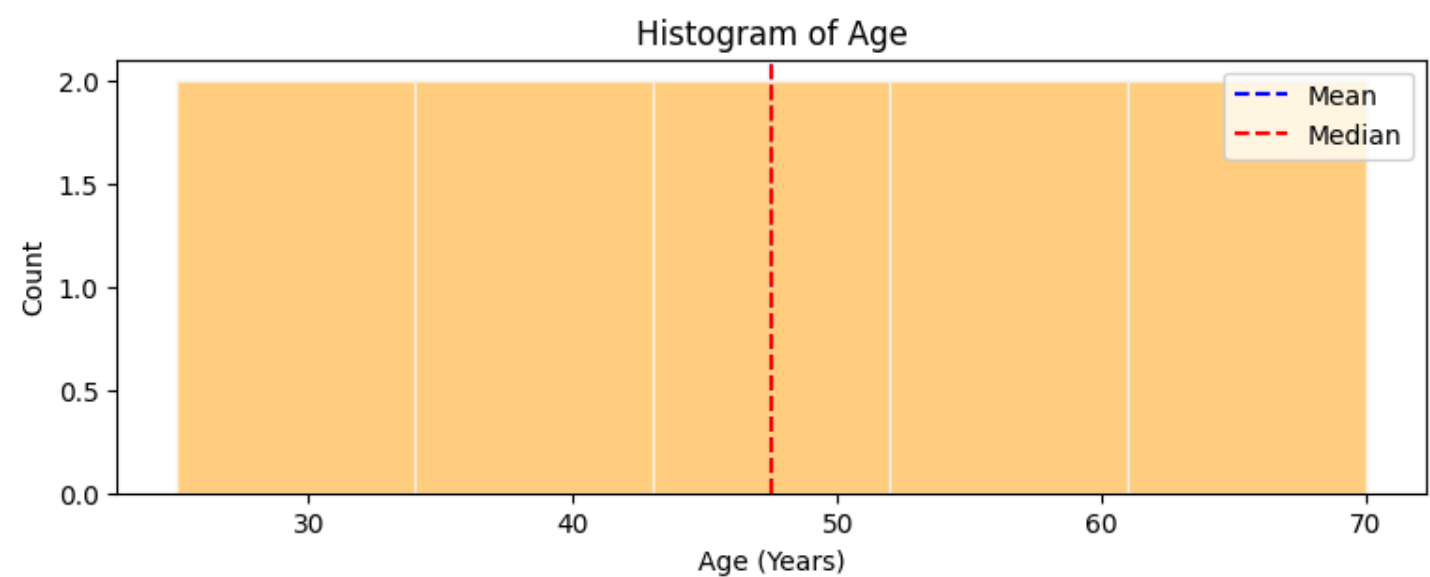
Python is a [high-level, general-purpose programming language](#). Its design philosophy emphasizes [code readability](#) with the use of [significant indentation](#).^[32]

Python is [dynamically typed](#) and [garbage-collected](#). It supports multiple [programming paradigms](#), including [structured](#) (particularly [procedural](#)), [object-oriented](#) and [functional programming](#). It is often described as a "batteries included" language due to its comprehensive [standard library](#).^{[33][34]}

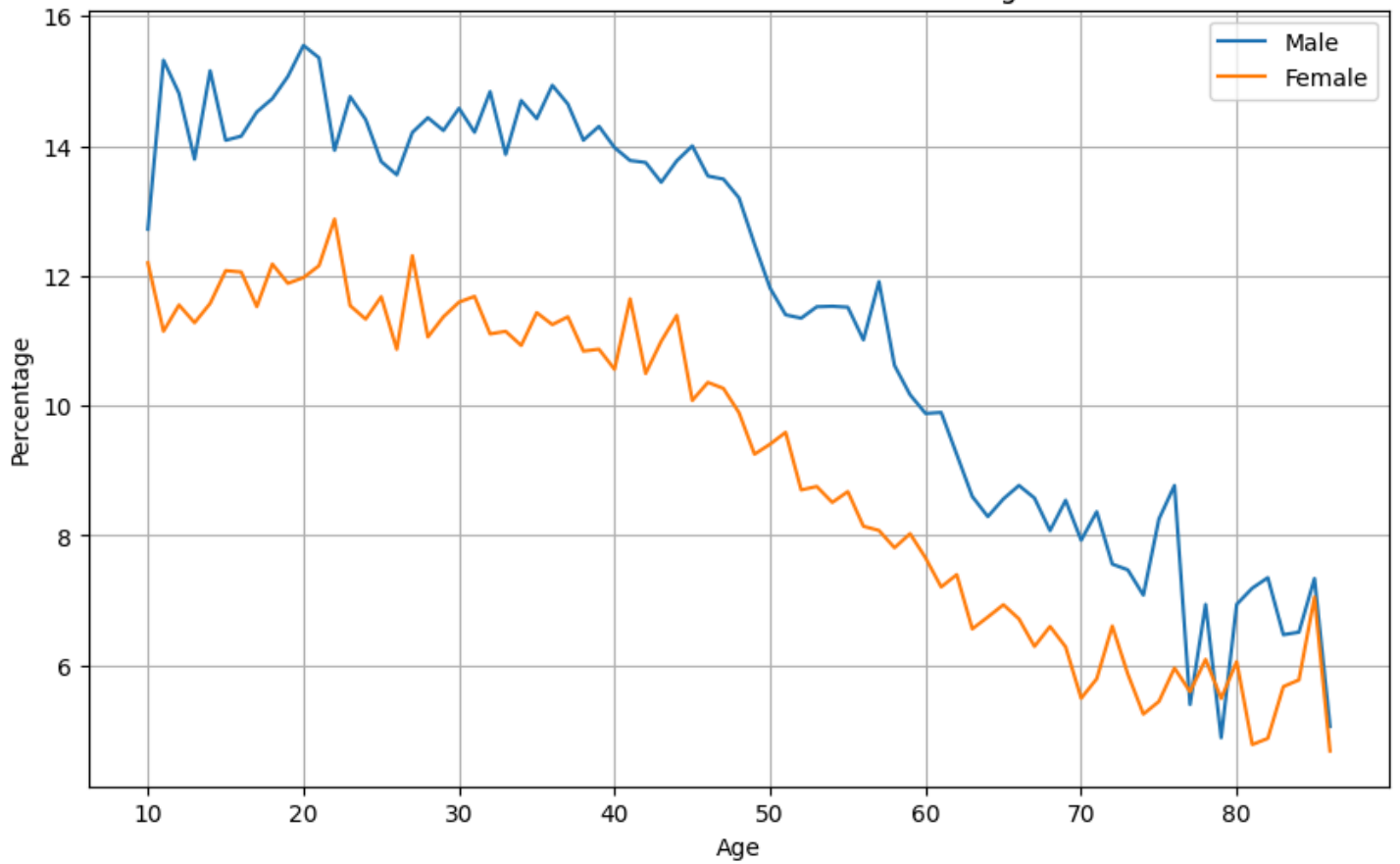
[Guido van Rossum](#) began working on Python in the late 1980s as a successor to the [ABC programming language](#) and first released it in 1991 as Python 0.9.0.^[35] Python 2.0 was released in 2000. Python 3.0, released in 2008, was a major revision not completely [backward-compatible](#) with earlier versions. Python 2.7.18, released in 2020, was the last release of Python 2.^[36]

Python consistently ranks as one of the most popular programming languages, and has gained widespread use in the [machine learning](#) community.^{[37][38][39][40]}

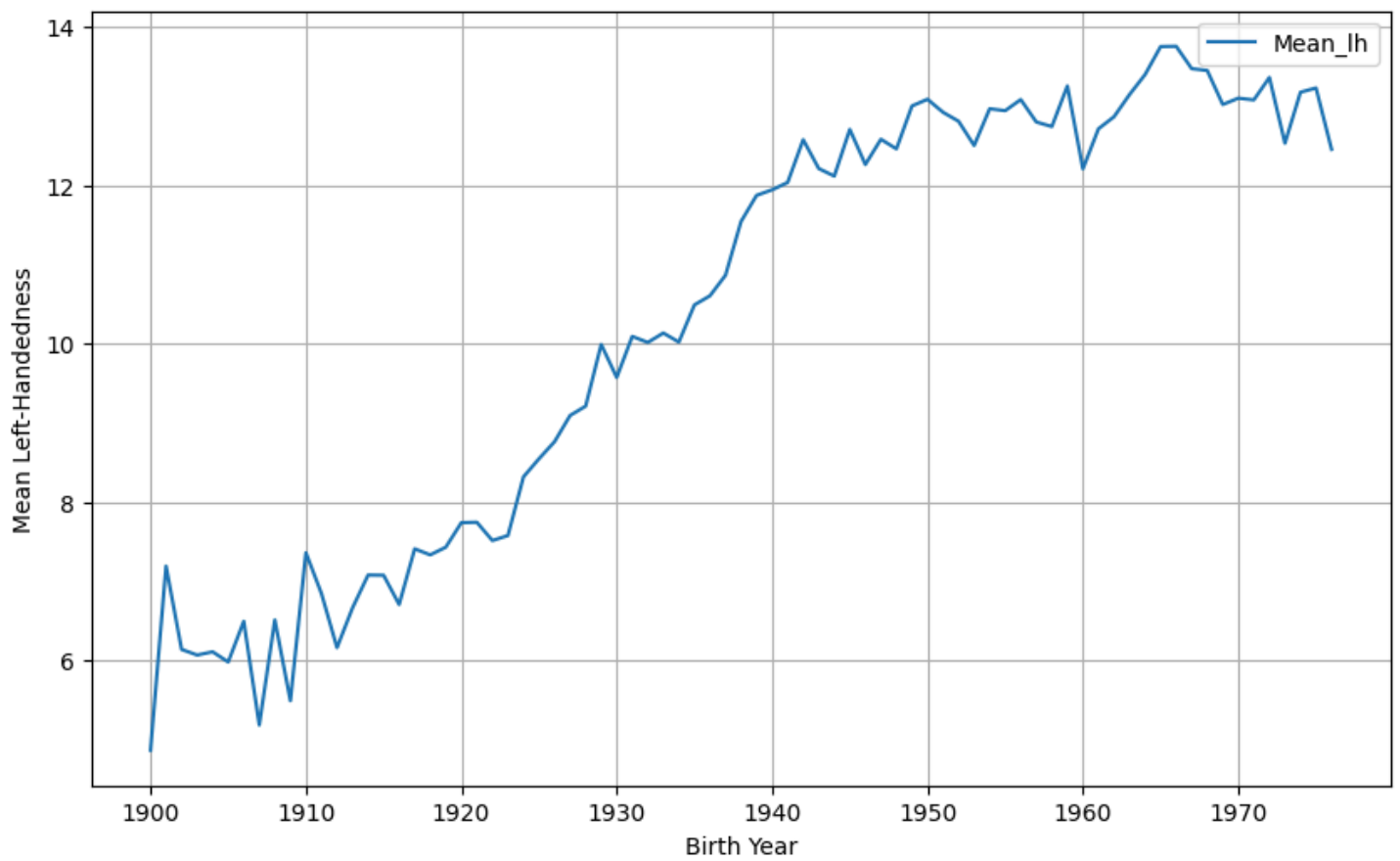
Sample Screenshots and Observations



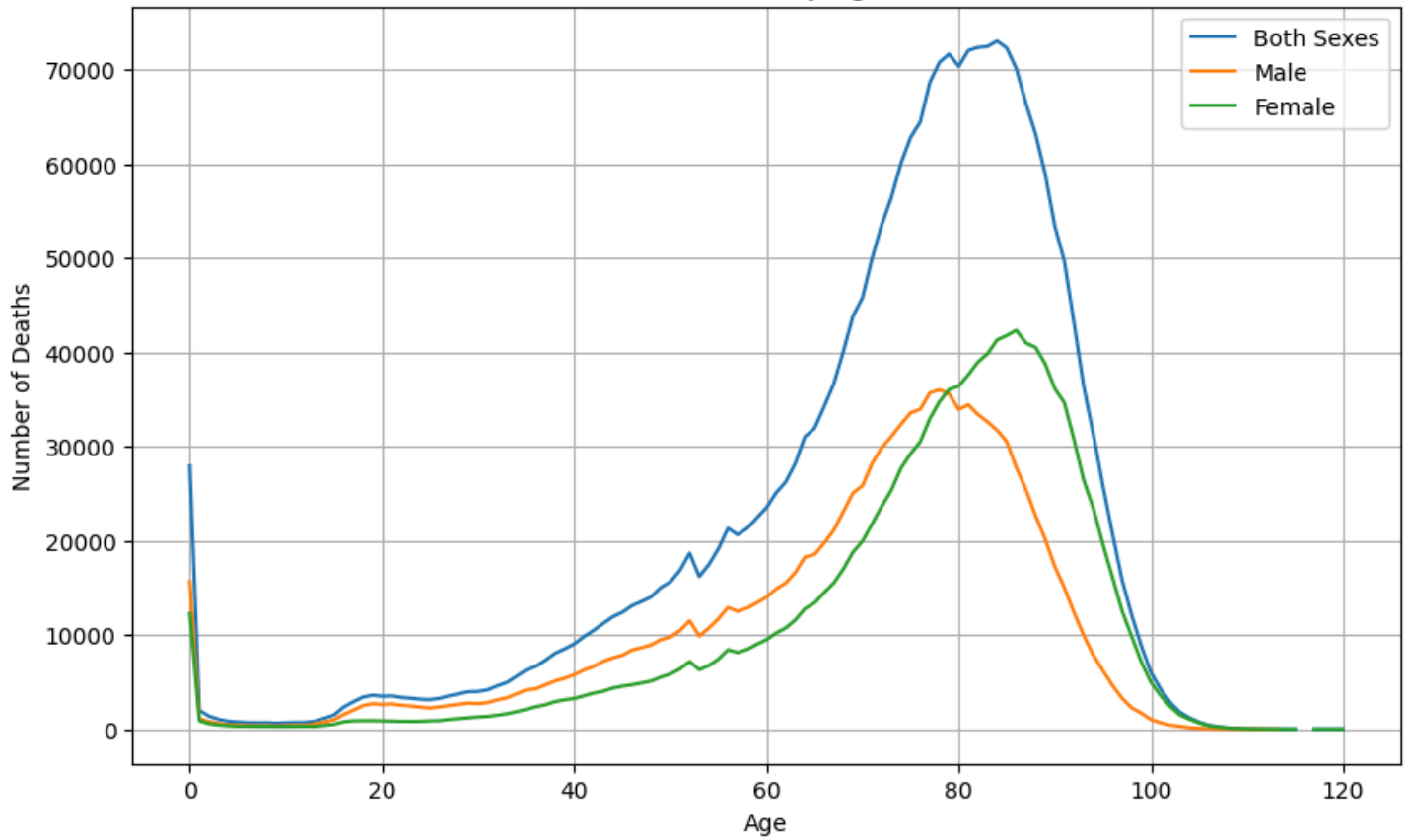
Male and Female Left-Handedness vs. Age



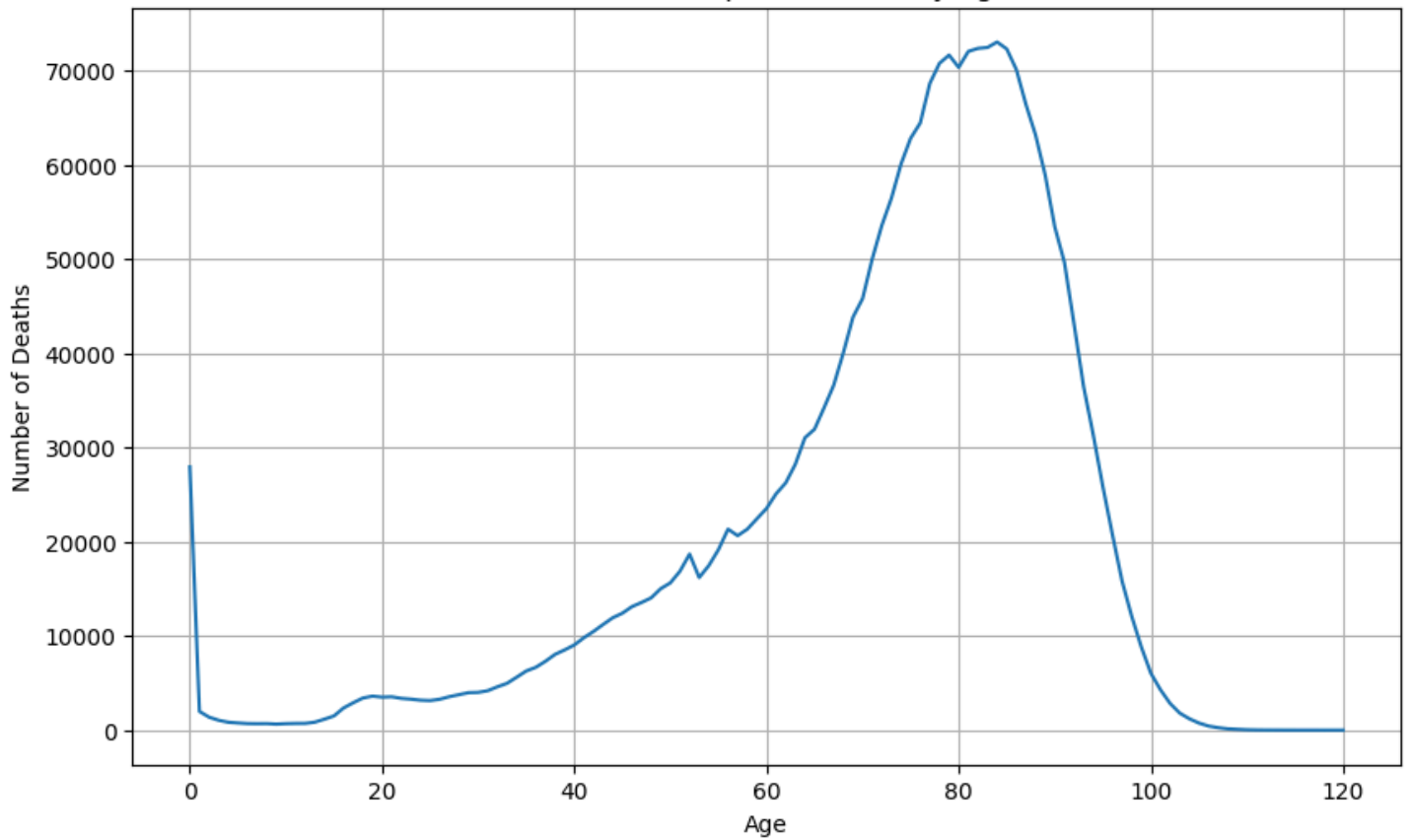
Mean Left-Handedness vs. Birth Year

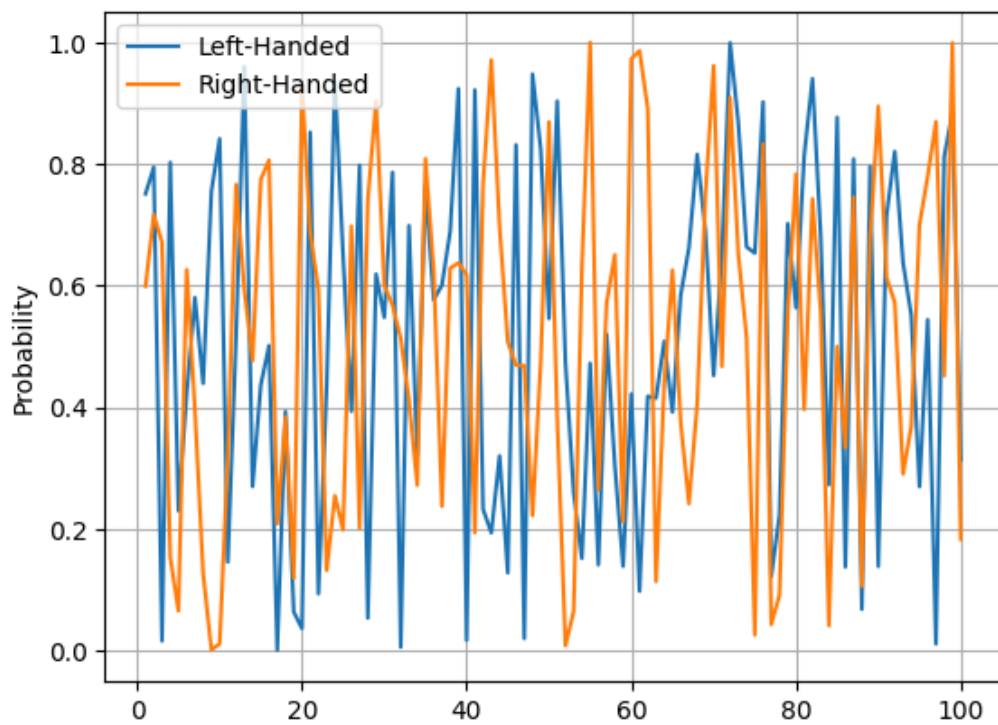
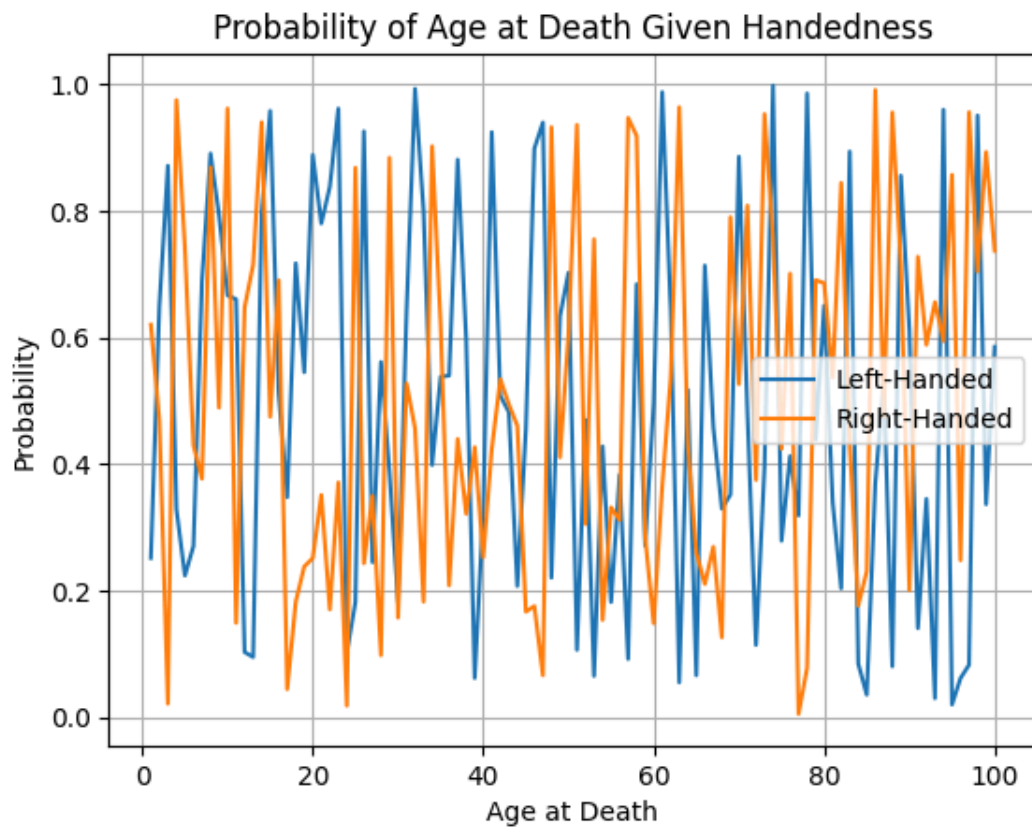


Death Distribution by Age and Sex



Number of People Who Died by Age





Results:

Average age at death for left-handers: 46.96 Average age at death for right-handers: 53.28 Difference in average ages: -6.33 Probability of dying at age 50 given LH/RH: 0.0065 (or 0.65%) Overall probability of left-handedness

(P(LH)): 0.1 (or 10%) Overall probability of right-handedness (P(RH)): 0.9 (or 90%) Difference in average ages between LH and RH: -6.33 years

Discussion:

In this analysis reveals a significant age gap at death between left-handers and right-handers, with left-handers tending to die at a younger age on average. While the calculated age difference was slightly lower than the nine-year gap reported in the original study, our findings corroborate the notion of a mortality disparity based on handedness. Possible factors contributing to the observed difference include historical shifts in left-handedness rates and variations in data sources and methodologies. Further analysis could involve simulating smaller samples to explore the variability in the age difference and projecting age distributions for different years to capture changing demographics.

Outcomes:

Validation of previous findings indicating a significant age gap between left-handed and right-handed individuals. Refutation of the notion that left-handedness inherently predisposes one to die younger. Identification of factors influencing the age difference, including historical trends in left-handedness rates and data sources.

Implications:

Highlight the importance of considering historical trends and sampling methodologies in mortality studies. Provide insights into the complex relationship between handedness and mortality, challenging prevailing assumptions. Further Investigations:

Explore variability in age difference due to random sampling. Project age distributions for left-handed and right-handed individuals in subsequent years to understand demographic shifts.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, analysis provides valuable insights into the mortality patterns associated with handedness, highlighting the need to consider historical trends and sampling methodologies in such studies. The observed age gap at death between right-handers and left-handers underscores the complexity of factors influencing mortality outcomes and opens avenues for further investigation into the interplay between handedness and mortality. This project sheds light on the age difference at death between left-handers and right-handers, challenging existing beliefs and emphasizing the need for nuanced analysis in mortality studies. Further investigations can refine our understanding of this complex relationship.