

# Demographic Methods - Practical 11 (Migration)

2025-11-28

## Exercise 1: Survival Method

### The heading of the R script

The R script begins by clearing the workspace. It requires the `data.table` package for high-performance data manipulation, `tidyverse` package for analysis, and `ggplot2` package for plots—please ensure these packages are installed.

```
rm(list = ls())
#install.packages("data.table")
#install.packages("tidyverse")
#install.packages("ggplot2")
library(data.table)
library(tidyr)
library(ggplot2)
```

### The data

In this exercise, we are given census enumerations by 5-year age groups ( ${}_nN_x$ ) for the female population of England and Wales in 1891 and 1901 (in thousands), as well as the number of person-years lived in each age interval ( ${}_nL_x$ ) from a life table representing the mortality conditions between the two censuses.

```
x = seq(5, 35, by = 5)
n = rep(5, 7)
nNx_1891 = c(1702, 1613, 1486, 1399, 1239, 1049, 916)
nNx_1901 = c(1748, 1671, 1639, 1648, 1496, 1274, 1111)
nLx = c(3885, 3812, 3747, 3665, 3564, 3445, 3255)
data = data.table(x, n, nLx, nNx_1891, nNx_1901)
as.data.frame(data)
```

```
##      x n  nLx nNx_1891 nNx_1901
## 1  5 5 3885      1702      1748
## 2 10 5 3812      1613      1671
## 3 15 5 3747      1486      1639
## 4 20 5 3665      1399      1648
## 5 25 5 3564      1239      1496
## 6 30 5 3445      1049      1274
## 7 35 5 3255       916      1111
```

One method to quantify migration is to use the balancing equation to calculate the number of net migrants indirectly, based on population counts at two points in time and the number of deaths between them. A life table can serve as a substitute for the number of deaths by providing survivorship ratios (i.e.,  ${}_nL_{x+n}/{}_nL_x$ ). Hence, the number of net migrants in a cohort can be calculated as the difference between the observed population in a census and the projected population of the same cohort from a previous census when it was younger, as shown:

$${}_nNM_{x+n}(t+n) = {}_nN_{x+n}(t+n) - {}_nN_x(t) \cdot \frac{{}_nL_{x+n}}{{}_nL_x} \quad (1)$$

Using a backward projection, the number of net migrants of the same cohort at the exact time  $t$  can be also calculated as:

$${}_nNM_x(t) = {}_nN_{x+n}(t+n) \cdot \frac{{}_nL_x}{{}_nL_{x+n}} - {}_nN_x(t) \quad (2)$$

## Example Questions:

a. Using the  ${}_5L_x$  values, calculate survivorship ratios ( ${}_5S_x$ ) for a five-year period.

Hint: this is a straightforward calculation, considering the five-year length of the age intervals.

$${}_5S_x = \frac{{}_5L_{x+5}}{{}_5L_x}$$

```
nSx      = tail(data[["nLx"]],-1)/head(data[["nLx"]],-1)
x        = seq(5, 30, by = 5)
n        = rep(5,6)
S5       = data.table(x, n, nSx)
print(data.frame(S5), row.names = FALSE)
```

```
##    x  n      nSx
##    5  5 0.9812098
##   10  5 0.9829486
##   15  5 0.9781158
##   20  5 0.9724420
##   25  5 0.9666105
##   30  5 0.9448476
```

b. Calculate survivorship ratios ( ${}_{10}S_x$ ) for a 10-year period.

Hint: this can be approached as the ratio of survival across two consecutive age intervals of five years each.

$${}_{10}S_x = \frac{{}_5L_{x+10}}{{}_5L_{x+5}} \cdot \frac{{}_5L_{x+5}}{{}_5L_x} = \frac{{}_5L_{x+10}}{{}_5L_x}$$

```
nSx      = tail(data[["nLx"]],-2)/head(data[["nLx"]],-2)
x        = seq(5, 25, by = 5)
n        = rep(10,5)
S10      = data.table(x, n, nSx)
print(data.frame(S10), row.names = FALSE)
```

```
##    x  n      nSx
##    5 10 0.9644788
##   10 10 0.9614376
##   15 10 0.9511609
##   20 10 0.9399727
##   25 10 0.9132997
```

c. Using the survivorship ratios and the population in 1891, calculate the number of survivors after five years of exposure to the risk of dying (i.e., the expected population in 1896).

Hint: Mind the ages. The population from 5 to 9 in 1896 cannot be calculated, as the population from 0 to 4 five years earlier was not available for this exercise.

$${}_5N_{x+5} = \frac{{}_5L_{x+5}}{{}_5L_x} \cdot {}_5N_x$$

```
data[["nNx_1896p"]] = c(NA,S5[["nSx"]]*head(data[["nNx_1891"]],-1))
print(data.frame(data[, c("x", "n", "nNx_1896p")]), row.names = FALSE)
```

```
##    x  n nNx_1896p
```

```
##    5 5      NA
##   10 5 1670.0190
##   15 5 1585.4961
##   20 5 1453.4801
##   25 5 1360.4464
##   30 5 1197.6305
##   35 5  991.1451
```

Congratulations! If you have reached this point, you have learned how to project a population five years forward using a life table with five-year age intervals. This topic will be revisited in *Population Dynamics and Projections*.

## Compulsory Questions:

a. Using the survivorship ratios and the population in 1891, calculate the number of survivors after 10 years of exposure to the risk of dying (i.e., the expected population in 1909).

Hint: Mind the ages. The population from 5 to 14 in 1901 cannot be calculated, as the number of births and population from 0 to 4, 10 years earlier was not available for this exercise. Report your results using the function “print()”.

$${}_5N_{x+10} = \frac{{}_5L_{x+10}}{{}_5L_x} \cdot {}_5N_x$$

```
data[["nNx_1901p"]] = c(rep(NA,2),S10[["nSx"]]*head(data[["nNx_1891"]],-2))
print(data.frame(data[, c("x", "n", "nNx_1901p")]), row.names = FALSE)
```

```
##    x n nNx_1901p
##    5 5      NA
##   10 5      NA
##   15 5 1641.543
##   20 5 1550.799
##   25 5 1413.425
##   30 5 1315.022
##   35 5 1131.578
```

b. Using the result of the previous question and the population in 1901, calculate the estimated number of (net) migrants in 1901.

Hint: Calculate the difference between observed and projected population in 1901.

```
data[["NM_1901"]] = data[["nNx_1901"]] - data[["nNx_1901p"]]
print(data.frame(data[, c("x", "n", "NM_1901")]), row.names = FALSE)
```

```
##    x n    NM_1901
##    5 5         NA
##   10 5         NA
##   15 5 -2.542857
##   20 5  97.201207
##   25 5  82.574860
##   30 5 -41.021828
##   35 5 -20.578283
```

### c. Why are these values treated as estimates? Mention one key assumption.

The resulting values are based on the projected number of survivors rather than the actual number (e.g., subtracting the observed number of deaths for each cohort).  ${}_nL_x$  could come from either a period or a cohort life table, and they are exact estimates if derived from a cohort life table. However, the same life table with 5-year age intervals was used to project the population 10 years forward, making an implicit assumption of a synthetic cohort (i.e., each cohort is projected using the mortality schedules of two adjacent cohorts).

**Assumptions:** Censuses are complete. The life table accurately represents the mortality conditions between the two censuses. No mortality selection on migration (i.e., migrants face the same mortality schedules).

### d. Calculate the total sum of (net) migrants aged 15 to 39 in 1901.

Hint: Sum all estimates of net migration, either by collapsing the table or by using the “sum()” function.

```
print(data.frame(data[, list(NM_1901 = sum(NM_1901, na.rm = TRUE))]), row.names = FALSE)

##   NM_1901
## 115.6331
```

### e. Use the survivorship ratios to project the 1901 population 10 years backward.

Hint: Divide the population by the survivorship ratios to project the population backward.

```
data[["nNx_1891p"]] = c(1/S10[["nSx"]]*tail(data[["nNx_1901"]],-2),rep(NA,2))
print(data.frame(data[, c("x", "n", "nNx_1891p")]), row.names = FALSE)

##   x n nNx_1891p
##   5 5 1699.363
##  10 5 1714.100
##  15 5 1572.815
##  20 5 1355.358
##  25 5 1216.468
##  30 5      NA
##  35 5      NA
```

## Exercise 2: Migration Expectations (Application of Sullivan’s Method to Migration Data)

### The data

In this exercise, we are given age-specific, one-year mobility data for the United States—excluding immigration from abroad—for the period 2020–2021. The dataset includes mid-year population totals and three types of relocation (in thousands): within the same county, within the same state but a different county (intra-state), and between different states (inter-state); Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey: 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement*,

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2021/demo/geographic-mobility/cps-2021.html>. To quantify lifetime exposure, we use the  $l_x$  and  ${}_na_x$  columns from the 2020 U.S. life table for both sexes combined as input, which also reports a life expectancy of 6.106 years at age 85 and above; Source: *National Vital Statistics Reports: United States Life Tables, 2020*, [https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/118055/cdc\\_118055\\_DS1.pdf](https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/118055/cdc_118055_DS1.pdf).

For ease of access, the file has been temporarily stored in a GitHub repository and can be retrieved using the following lines of code. No additional data preparation is required.

```
GitHub = "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Romero-Prieto/teaching/main/Demographic%20Metri
data = read.csv(GitHub)
data = as.data.table(data)
```

```
e85 = 6.106
print(data.frame(data), row.names = FALSE)
```

##	x	population	within_counties	within_states	between_states	lx	nax
##	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	100000.0	0.12903
##	1	15504	1168	408	267	99460.6	0.41357
##	5	20194	1015	375	269	99377.3	0.46679
##	10	20651	884	249	261	99323.1	0.61840
##	15	12839	525	192	119	99241.6	0.54687
##	18	7816	470	195	109	99098.3	0.51705
##	20	21022	2158	1025	592	98951.7	0.53045
##	25	22592	2514	879	563	98414.8	0.51776
##	30	22691	1760	678	522	97725.1	0.51702
##	35	21607	1198	523	343	96855.7	0.51535
##	40	20397	897	325	267	95793.7	0.52079
##	45	19406	752	241	214	94470.9	0.52687
##	50	20273	694	262	204	92680.5	0.53153
##	55	20682	457	327	147	90114.9	0.52840
##	60	8677	189	144	67	86375.5	0.50829
##	62	12417	327	136	110	84469.9	0.51076
##	65	18162	273	133	141	81181.3	0.52171
##	70	14878	198	77	87	74465.9	0.52451
##	75	10172	162	38	23	65564.9	0.52443
##	80	6632	68	26	32	53346.0	0.51624
##	85	5992	95	36	37	37700.2	NA

## Example Questions:

a. Using the columns  $l_x$  and  ${}_n a_x$ , calculate the number of person-years lived in the age interval ( ${}_n L_x$ ).

Hint: Reuse code from previous lectures.

```
x = data[["x"]]
lx = data[["lx"]]
nax = data[["nax"]]
n = c(diff(x,1),NA)
sEL = !is.na(n)
ndx = c(-diff(lx,1),lx[!sEL])
nLx = n*(lx - ndx) + n*nax*ndx
nLx[!sEL] = e85*lx[!sEL]
print(data.frame(x, n, nax, lx, ndx, nLx), row.names = FALSE)
```

##	x	n	nax	lx	ndx	nLx
##	0	1	0.12903	100000.0	539.4	99530.2
##	1	4	0.41357	99460.6	83.3	397647.0
##	5	5	0.46679	99377.3	54.2	496742.0
##	10	5	0.61840	99323.1	81.5	496460.0
##	15	3	0.54687	99241.6	143.3	297530.0
##	18	2	0.51705	99098.3	146.6	198055.0
##	20	5	0.53045	98951.7	536.9	493498.0
##	25	5	0.51776	98414.8	689.7	490411.0
##	30	5	0.51702	97725.1	869.4	486526.0
##	35	5	0.51535	96855.7	1062.0	481705.0

```
## 40 5 0.52079 95793.7 1322.8 475799.0
## 45 5 0.52687 94470.9 1790.4 468119.0
## 50 5 0.53153 92680.5 2565.6 457393.0
## 55 5 0.52840 90114.9 3739.4 441757.0
## 60 2 0.50829 86375.5 1905.6 170877.0
## 62 3 0.51076 84469.9 3288.6 248583.0
## 65 5 0.52171 81181.3 6715.4 389847.0
## 70 5 0.52451 74465.9 8901.0 351167.8
## 75 5 0.52443 65564.9 12218.9 298769.8
## 80 5 0.51624 53346.0 15645.8 228885.9
## 85 NA NA 37700.2 37700.2 230197.4
```

b. Calculate the number of person-years lived above age  $x$  ( $T_x$ ) and the life expectancy ( $e_x$ ), to complete a life table.

```
Tx = rev(cumsum(rev(nLx)))
ex = Tx/lx
print(data.frame(x, n, nax, lx, ndx, nLx, Tx, ex), row.names = FALSE)
```

```
## x n nax lx ndx nLx Tx ex
## 0 1 0.12903 100000.0 539.4 99530.2 7699500.1 76.995001
## 1 4 0.41357 99460.6 83.3 397647.0 7599969.9 76.411864
## 5 5 0.46679 99377.3 54.2 496742.0 7202322.9 72.474527
## 10 5 0.61840 99323.1 81.5 496460.0 6705580.9 67.512803
## 15 3 0.54687 99241.6 143.3 297530.0 6209120.9 62.565707
## 18 2 0.51705 99098.3 146.6 198055.0 5911590.9 59.653807
## 20 5 0.53045 98951.7 536.9 493498.0 5713535.9 57.740654
## 25 5 0.51776 98414.8 689.7 490411.0 5220037.9 53.041188
## 30 5 0.51702 97725.1 869.4 486526.0 4729626.9 48.397258
## 35 5 0.51535 96855.7 1062.0 481705.0 4243100.9 43.808479
## 40 5 0.52079 95793.7 1322.8 475799.0 3761395.9 39.265587
## 45 5 0.52687 94470.9 1790.4 468119.0 3285596.9 34.778931
## 50 5 0.53153 92680.5 2565.6 457393.0 2817477.8 30.399899
## 55 5 0.52840 90114.9 3739.4 441757.0 2360084.9 26.189730
## 60 2 0.50829 86375.5 1905.6 170877.0 1918327.9 22.209167
## 62 3 0.51076 84469.9 3288.6 248583.0 1747450.9 20.687261
## 65 5 0.52171 81181.3 6715.4 389847.0 1498867.9 18.463217
## 70 5 0.52451 74465.9 8901.0 351167.8 1109021.0 14.893004
## 75 5 0.52443 65564.9 12218.9 298769.8 757853.1 11.558824
## 80 5 0.51624 53346.0 15645.8 228885.9 459083.4 8.605769
## 85 NA NA 37700.2 37700.2 230197.4 230197.4 6.106000
```

## Compulsory Questions:

a. If you aim to collect similar data for a different country, what question would you add to a population census or survey?

What was your place of residence 12 months ago?

a. Same county b. Different county, same state c. Different state d. Different country

**b. Why are mobility data missing for individuals less than one year old? How are mobility data collected for children who can be included in a survey or census but cannot be actually interviewed?**

Since they were not alive 12 months ago, the population less than one year old at the time of the survey is not eligible for migration questions. Surveys and censuses may rely on proxy respondents, with this information provided by parents or legal guardians.

**c. In your opinion, what would be the reason for reporting mobility data for ages 15–19 and 60–64 using irregular breakdowns?**

The need to provide detailed rates for ages affected by college enrollment and retirement. Two reasons for internal migration in the United States.

**d. Which types of migratory movements are missing from these data?**

The table does not include migratory movements from abroad or those representing outmigration. International out-migrants cannot be interviewed; however, these movements may be reported by family members who remain in the country.

**e. Calculate the migration rates.**

Hint: As usual, age-specific migration rates can be calculated by dividing the number of moves during the past year by the mid-year population. The reported moves are mutually exclusive; therefore, the total number of internal moves is equal to the sum of all categories. Create a subsidiary table of migratory movements and divide it by the mid-year population to estimate rates. Define the total migration rate as the sum of all categories. Report your results using the function “print()”.

```
rates = data[,c("within_counties", "within_states", "between_states")] / data[["population"]]
rates[["all"]] = rowSums(rates)
print(data.frame(x, n, rates), row.names = FALSE)
```

##	x	n	within_counties	within_states	between_states	all
##	0	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
##	1	4	0.07533540	0.026315789	0.017221362	0.11887255
##	5	5	0.05026245	0.018569872	0.013320788	0.08215311
##	10	5	0.04280664	0.012057527	0.012638613	0.06750278
##	15	3	0.04089104	0.014954436	0.009268635	0.06511411
##	18	2	0.06013306	0.024948823	0.013945752	0.09902764
##	20	5	0.10265436	0.048758444	0.028160974	0.17957378
##	25	5	0.11127833	0.038907578	0.024920326	0.17510623
##	30	5	0.07756379	0.029879688	0.023004716	0.13044820
##	35	5	0.05544499	0.024205119	0.015874485	0.09552460
##	40	5	0.04397706	0.015933716	0.013090160	0.07300093
##	45	5	0.03875090	0.012418840	0.011027517	0.06219726
##	50	5	0.03423272	0.012923593	0.010062645	0.05721896
##	55	5	0.02209651	0.015810850	0.007107630	0.04501499
##	60	2	0.02178172	0.016595598	0.007721563	0.04609888
##	62	3	0.02633486	0.010952726	0.008858823	0.04614641
##	65	5	0.01503138	0.007322982	0.007763462	0.03011783
##	70	5	0.01330824	0.005175427	0.005847560	0.02433123
##	75	5	0.01592607	0.003735745	0.002261109	0.02192293
##	80	5	0.01025332	0.003920386	0.004825090	0.01899879
##	85	NA	0.01585447	0.006008011	0.006174900	0.02803738

f. Calculate the lifetime migration expectancy at age 1 for migratory movements within counties, within states, between states, and for all internal migration movements. Interpret your results.

Hint: Following Sullivan's method, multiply the table of migration rates by the number of person-years lived within the age interval ( ${}_nL_x$ ) to estimate the person-years lived while changing place of residence. Then, calculate the corresponding number of person-years lived above age  $x$  and the lifetime expectancy associated with each category of internal migration. To do so, reuse code from previous lectures to calculate  $T_x$  as the reverse cumulative sum of multiple columns, each representing a category of internal migration.

```
nLx_M      = rates*nLx
Tx_M       = apply(apply(apply(nLx_M, 2, rev), 2, cumsum), 2, rev)
ex_M       = Tx_M/lx
print(data.frame(x, n, ex_M), row.names = FALSE)
```

##	x	n	within_counties	within_states	between_states	all
##	0	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
##	1	4	3.67953481	1.45105798	1.01701606	6.1476089
##	5	5	3.38117302	1.34697464	0.94895921	5.6771069
##	10	5	3.13164182	1.25483666	0.88285614	5.2693346
##	15	3	2.92007170	1.19554892	0.82035601	4.9359766
##	18	2	2.80152412	1.15237894	0.79371439	4.7476174
##	20	5	2.68531642	1.10415036	0.76697743	4.5564442
##	25	5	2.18520896	0.86567631	0.62994932	3.6808346
##	30	5	1.64220642	0.67653711	0.50933828	2.8280818
##	35	5	1.26732847	0.53251809	0.39835283	2.1981994
##	40	5	1.00256964	0.41670471	0.32294319	1.7422175
##	45	5	0.79511909	0.34228995	0.26153703	1.3989461
##	50	5	0.61475263	0.28617610	0.21089061	1.1118193
##	55	5	0.45850102	0.22872781	0.16582013	0.8530490
##	60	2	0.36534071	0.15776731	0.13664777	0.6597558
##	62	3	0.32951964	0.12775467	0.12411027	0.5813846
##	65	5	0.26222902	0.09939189	0.10201154	0.4636325
##	70	5	0.20718414	0.07001756	0.07056743	0.3477691
##	75	5	0.16403179	0.05180329	0.04882784	0.2646629
##	80	5	0.11240766	0.04274641	0.04734828	0.2025023
##	85	NA	0.09680741	0.03668491	0.03770394	0.1711963

**Interpretation:** The U.S. population is expected to live 76.412 years at age 1, of which 6.148 years will involve changing their place of residence. 1.017 years migrating from one state to another, 5.131 years migrating within the same state, and 3.68 migrating within the same county.

## Optional Questions:

a. An expert suggests that 2020–21 is a problematic period for analyzing migration due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdowns and mobility restrictions. Propose a research design to test this hypothesis, quantifying the effect of the pandemic on lifetime migration expectancy (use 250 words or fewer).

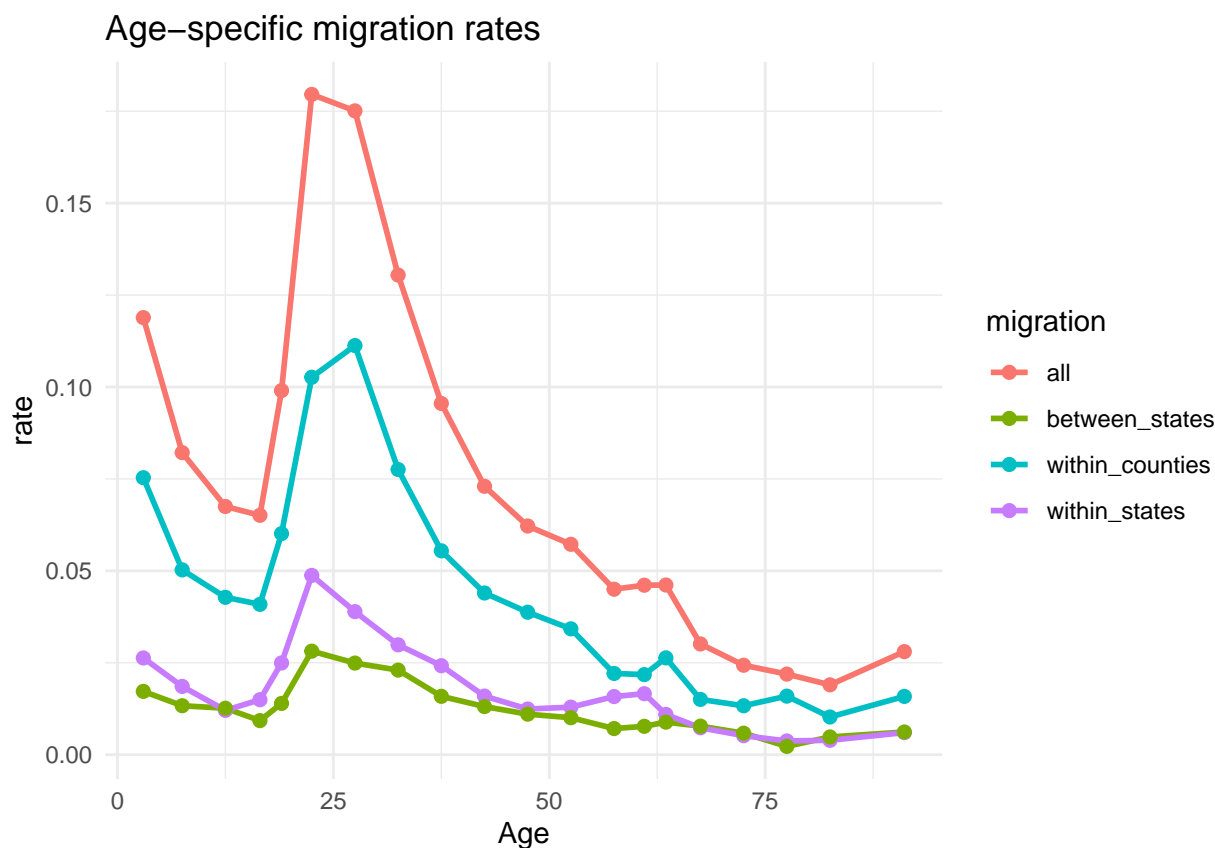
Age-specific migration rates during the COVID-19 pandemic can be compared with those observed before and after the pandemic. Since mortality increased during the same period, the difference in lifetime migration expectancy can be decomposed into two main effects: the decline in migration rates and the rise in mortality rates. Data requirements include age-specific migration rates and life tables for periods before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Inasmuch as year-to-year differences may be small, statistical methods should be applied to estimate confidence intervals (e.g., bootstrapping techniques for migration survey estimates).



## b. Plot the (internal) migration rates.

```
xn = x + n/2
xn[!sEL] = x[!sEL] + ex[!sEL]
df = tail(data.frame(xn, rates), -1)
df = df %>% pivot_longer(cols = c(within_counties, within_states,
                                  between_states, all),
                        names_to = "migration", values_to = "rate")

ggplot(df, aes(x = xn, y = rate, color = migration)) +
  geom_line(linewidth = 1) + geom_point(size = 2) +
  labs(title = "Age-specific migration rates", x = "Age", y = "rate") +
  theme_minimal()
```



## Exercise 3: Researching Migration (Optional)

The *Living Standards and Measurement Surveys* (LSMS) have been conducted by the World Bank since 1980 in order to improve data collection systems in low- and middle-income countries. The first Ghana LSMS was undertaken in 1988-89 and a sample of about 3,200 households was randomly selected. The survey included the following 10 questions on migration that are posed to all household members 7 years of age and older:

1. Were you born in [PRESENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE]?
2. Have you ever lived anywhere else?
3. At the time of your birth, was your birthplace a city, large town, medium town, small town, large village, small village, or other?

4. How old were you when you left your place of birth for the first time to live somewhere else? (recorded in years)
5. What was the main reason you left? a. To follow or join family b. Work related c. Marriage d. School e. Adventure f. Escape family problems g. Other
6. How long have you lived in [PRESENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE] since your last move? (recorded in years or months if less than 1 year)
7. What was the main reason you came to [PRESENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE]? a. To follow or join family b. Work related c. Marriage d. School e. Adventure f. Escape family problems g. Other
8. From which region of the country were you coming from? (including somewhere else in Africa or somewhere outside of Africa)
9. Was the place you were living before coming here a city, large town, medium town, small town, large village, small village, or other?
10. How many different places have you lived in for periods of more than 3 months in your life?

**Comment on this migration module in the LSMS. What is good about it, what is not so good? What would you do differently?**

**Good:**

The instrument includes questions about the reasons for migration.

**Not so good:**

The main purpose of questions 1 and 2 is simply to determine eligibility for questions 3–10. However, these questions could probe for the actual places.

The questionnaire is designed to identify who is a migrant and since when; however, it is not particularly effective at probing for the place of birth or previous residence (e.g., it only captures broad regions and emphasizes size rather than the actual location).

It is preferable to ask for the actual place and determine whether it is rural or urban, rather than allowing respondents—or enumerators—to decide if a place is small, medium, large, or a village.

Although question 3 could be used to estimate lifetime migration, it would be preferable to ask for the mother’s place of residence at the time of birth, given that people may migrate specifically for childbirth. This is particularly common in low- and middle-income countries, where expectant mothers often move to access medical care or family support.

The age at first migration (i.e., question 4) and the duration of the last settlement (i.e., question 6) could be useful for event history analysis. However, individuals may migrate several more times, which are not captured by this survey instrument.

The number of movements (i.e., question 10) is not useful unless the timing of these movements is probed or established.

**Different approach:**

I would define a retrospective period of 1 or 5 years before the date of the interview, and I would probe for the number of movements, previous places of residence (name of local government, municipality, state, and urban/rural), and the associated dates (or ages) of migration.

I would retain a question about the reasons for migration, but I would include additional relevant options such as violence, civil unrest, catastrophic natural events, adverse climate conditions, lack of economic opportunities, and retirement.

I would ask for the mother’s place of residence at the time of birth.

## Appendix

### The R Demographer’s Corner: Syntax Examples for Fast Calculations

Let’s define  $x$  as a sequence of numbers from 0 to 9, in increments of 1, as follows:

```
x          = seq(0, 9, 1)
x
```

```
## [1] 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
```

and  $r$  as a vector of the same dimension, indicating a constant value of 3.

```
r          = rep(3, length(x))
r
```

```
## [1] 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
```

The first difference of  $x$  is computed using the function “`diff(vector, order)`”, as given below:

```
diff(x, 1)
```

```
## [1] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

The sequence can also be reversed using:

```
rev(x)
```

```
## [1] 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
```

The function “`head(x, k)`” returns the first  $k$  elements of  $x$ , for example the first two:

```
head(x, 2)
```

```
## [1] 0 1
```

When using a negative number, `head(x, -k)` returns all elements except the last two, as shown below:

```
head(x, -2)
```

```
## [1] 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
```

The function “`tail(x, k)`” is the opposite of “`head(x, k)`”, and returns the last  $k$  elements of  $x$ , for example the last three:

```
tail(x, 3)
```

```
## [1] 7 8 9
```

Similarly, when using a negative number, `tail(x, -k)` returns all elements except the first three, as follows:

```
tail(x, -3)
```

```
## [1] 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
```

The function “`c(object1..., objectn)`”, consolidates  $n$  individual elements (either numbers or strings) into a single vector:”

```
c(2, 5, 4, 7)
```

```
## [1] 2 5 4 7
```

```
c("a", "b", "c")
```

```
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
```

The function “`cumsum()`” returns the cumulative sum of a vector:

```
cumsum(r)
```

```
## [1] 3 6 9 12 15 18 21 24 27 30
```

In the case of a table, consisting of multiple vectors, the function “`rowSums()`” returns the sum by rows:

```
rowSums(data.frame(x, r))
```

```
## [1] 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
```

Similarly, the function “colSums()” returns the sum by columns:

```
colSums(data.frame(x, r))
```

```
## x r  
## 45 30
```

The function “`apply(object, dimension, function)`” executes a specified function across a set of rows or columns (i.e., dimension 1 or 2) of a given table-like object, for example, the cumulative sum by columns of a table consisting of  $x$  and  $r$ .

```
apply(data.frame(x, r), 2, cumsum)
```

```
##      x r  
## [1,] 0 3  
## [2,] 1 6  
## [3,] 3 9  
## [4,] 6 12  
## [5,] 10 15  
## [6,] 15 18  
## [7,] 21 21  
## [8,] 28 24  
## [9,] 36 27  
## [10,] 45 30
```

The syntax “`df %>% pivot_longer(cols = c( $var_1, \dots, var_n$ ), names_to = “name of variables”, values_to = “name of values”)`” can be used to transform **wide form** to **long form** data. For example, using as an input a data frame consisting of  $x$  and two other variables  $y, z$  (defined as 10 random numbers from 1 to 25):

```
y = sample(1:25, length(x))  
z = sample(1:25, length(x))  
df = data.frame(x, y, z)  
df
```

```
## x y z  
## 1 0 6 10  
## 2 1 3 7  
## 3 2 21 22  
## 4 3 9 14  
## 5 4 7 19  
## 6 5 19 6  
## 7 6 1 11  
## 8 7 17 15  
## 9 8 23 24  
## 10 9 12 25
```

The function returns a column vector of  $y$  and  $z$ , all associated with the values of the variable  $x$ .

```
df = df %>% pivot_longer(cols = c(y, z),  
                        names_to = "variable",  
                        values_to = "value")  
print(as.data.frame(df), row.names = FALSE)
```

```
## x variable value  
## 0 y 6
```

```
## 0      z      10
## 1      y       3
## 1      z       7
## 2      y      21
## 2      z      22
## 3      y       9
## 3      z      14
## 4      y       7
## 4      z      19
## 5      y      19
## 5      z       6
## 6      y       1
## 6      z      11
## 7      y      17
## 7      z      15
## 8      y      23
## 8      z      24
## 9      y      12
## 9      z      25
```

Lastly, the function “`ggplot(data frame, aes(x = Abscissa or range, y = Ordinate or response, color = pivot))` + `geom_line()` + `theme_minimal()`” plots multiple lines using a data frame as input.

```
ggplot(df, aes(x = x, y = value, color = variable)) +
  geom_line() + theme_minimal()
```

