Your project title

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Introduction and Data

By telling us the average age of death in a population, life expectancy is a key metric for understanding a country's health. According to Max Roser, Esteban Ortiz-Ospina and Hannah Ritchie from Our World in Data, "Broader than the narrow metric of the infant and child mortality, which focus solely at mortality at a young age, life expectancy captures the mortality along the entire life course."[1] Over the course of history, life expectancy has risen dramatically. It is estimated that in pre-modern times, life expectancy worldwide was only about 30 years. Since the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries, many countries had huge gains in this number. And since the beginning of the 20th century, global average life expectancy has risen to about 70 years. However, there remain huge inequalities in this number. Currently (as of 2019), the Central African Republic has the lowest life expectancy of 53 years while Japan has the highest with 83.

In addition to the more obvious health-related connections to life expectancy, numerous pieces of academic literature have delved into the non-medical factors behind life expectancy. A major example is a longitudinal study conducted by Charles Lin, Eugene Rogot, Norman Johnson, Paul Sorlie, and Elizabeth Arias, which examined life expectancy by socioeconomic factors.[2] Academic literature such as this provides us with motivations to examine this topic on an international level, looking at various health-related and non-health-related factors that connect to life expectancy.

In terms of initial hypotheses of model selection, we expect that the strongest predictors of life expectancy will be `Adult Mortality`, `infant deaths`, and `GDP`. We also predict that countries that have `status` equal to "Developed" will have higher life expectancy than those that have `status` equal to "Developing". We also predict that, on average, life expectancy will have increased internationally in the 15 years that are documented in the data set.

Our selected data set is comprised of information that others gleaned from the websites of the World Health Organization and the United Nations. Every entry describes the health, social, and economic conditions for one of 193 countries in a given year from 2000 to 2015. Additional information can be found on https://www.kaggle.com/kumarajarshi/life-expectancy-who.

We also combined this data set with another data set downloaded from https://www.kaggle.com/fernandol/countries-of-the-world.

Exploratory Data Analysis

First, we will look at some summary statistics of our response variable, 'Life expectancy'. Though it is possible to analyze the entire dataset over all years, this creates difficulties with creating models. As one might expect, the average global life expectancy increased from 2000 to 2015. This relationship might make it unclear whether a rise in life expectancy is explained by our predictor variables or if it is simply due to human development over time. As a result, we will only use data from one year to perform our analysis.

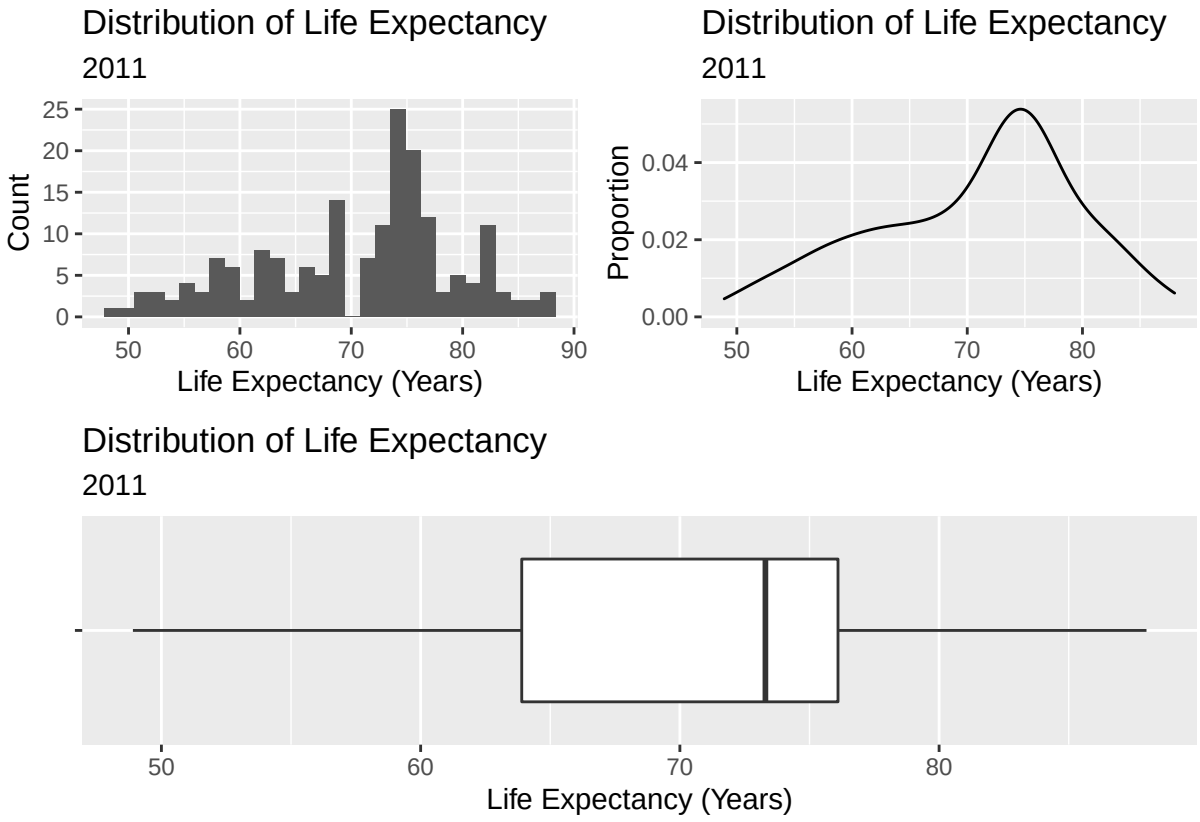
We will only analyze life expectancy for the year 2011, because it offered the most complete data (the most data without missing values).

Table 1: Summary Statistics of Response Variable, Life Expectancy

min	max	range	mean	median	Q1	Q3	iqr	sd
48.9	88	39.1	70.654	73.3	63.9	76.1	12.2	8.925

These summary statistics give a rough idea of the distribution of the response variable. The median life expectancy (~73.3 yrs) is almost 3 years larger than the mean (~70.7 yrs). Additionally, the median is closer to the third quartile than the first quartile. This suggests that life expectancy may be left-skewed, which we will evaluate further with visualizations.

Now, we will look at some summary visualizations of life expectancy.



Here we see that life expectancy is left skewed with a center just over 70 years. Life expectancy ranges from about 50 years to 90 years.

Methodology

In this project we plan on using various regression analysis methods including, but not limited to, multiple linear regression, statistical inference, analysis of variance, and model selection in an attempt to understand country and region-level life expectancy, as well as the health, social, and economic relationships behind this number.

The response variable we will be using in this project is `Life expectancy`. This is a measure of the average age of death in a year for the given country during that year. In terms of regression model technique, we will be using multiple linear regression because our response variable is quantitative.

Results

Sources

[1] https://ourworldindata.org/life-expectancy
[2] https://europepmc.org/article/med/12785422/reload=0#impact