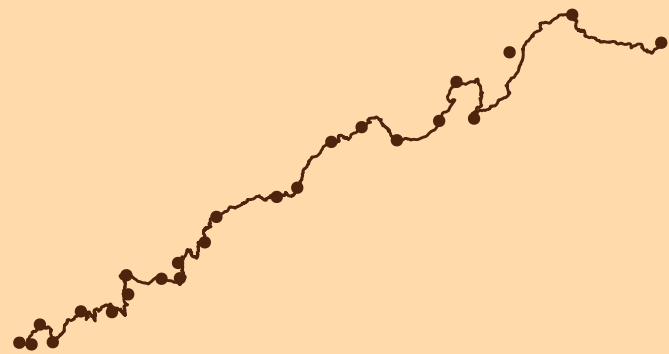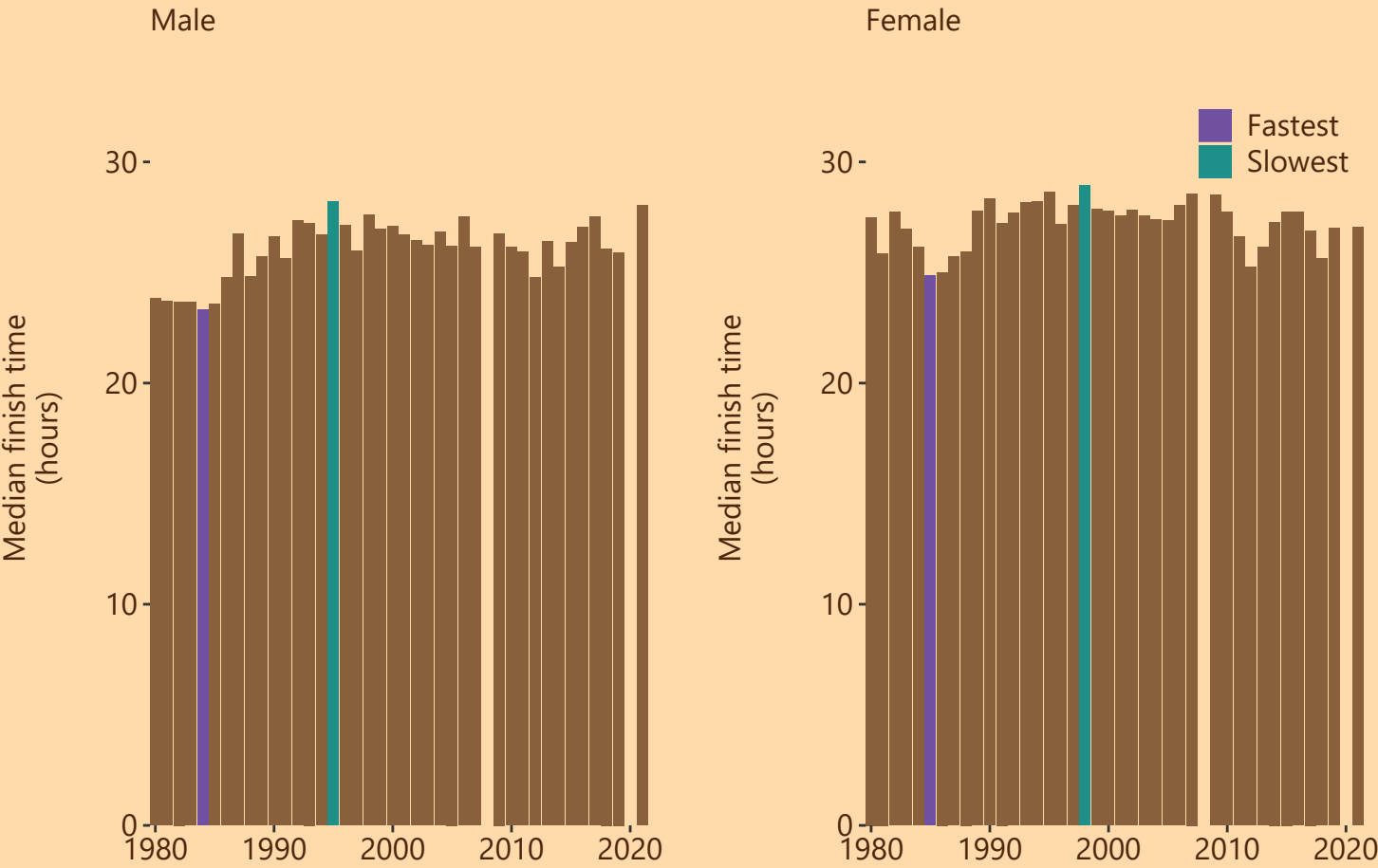# Western States 100

The Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run
is the world's oldest 100 mile trail race.
The run starts in Olympic Valley, California,
near the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics,
and ends 100.2 miles later in Auburn, California.
In the decades since its inception in
1974, Western States has come to represent
one of the ultimate endurance tests in the
world.

The Hardest Years

By looking at the median finish times, we can determine which year* was the hardest
(and the easiest). The slowest year was 1995 for men, and 1998 for women. The fastest
year was 1984 for men and 1985 for women.

*Since 1980.

Male

Female

N. Rennie | Data: www.wser.org

Male vs Female Finishers

Jim Walmsley set the male course record of 14:09:28 in 2019. The female course record has stood
at 16:47:19 since 2012, run by Ellie Greenwood. The first female runner completed the race in 1978.
Since then, the proportion of female finishers has been slowly increasing, but is still less than 25%.

Does age matter?

There is little difference in the ages of male and female finishers, though female finishers tend
to be slightly younger. The average female finisher is 40.2 years old, and the average male is
42.5 years old. There is some correlation between age and finish time, with faster finishing
times more likely to come from younger athletes.