

Understanding Diet and Sleeping Patterns Across a Lifespan

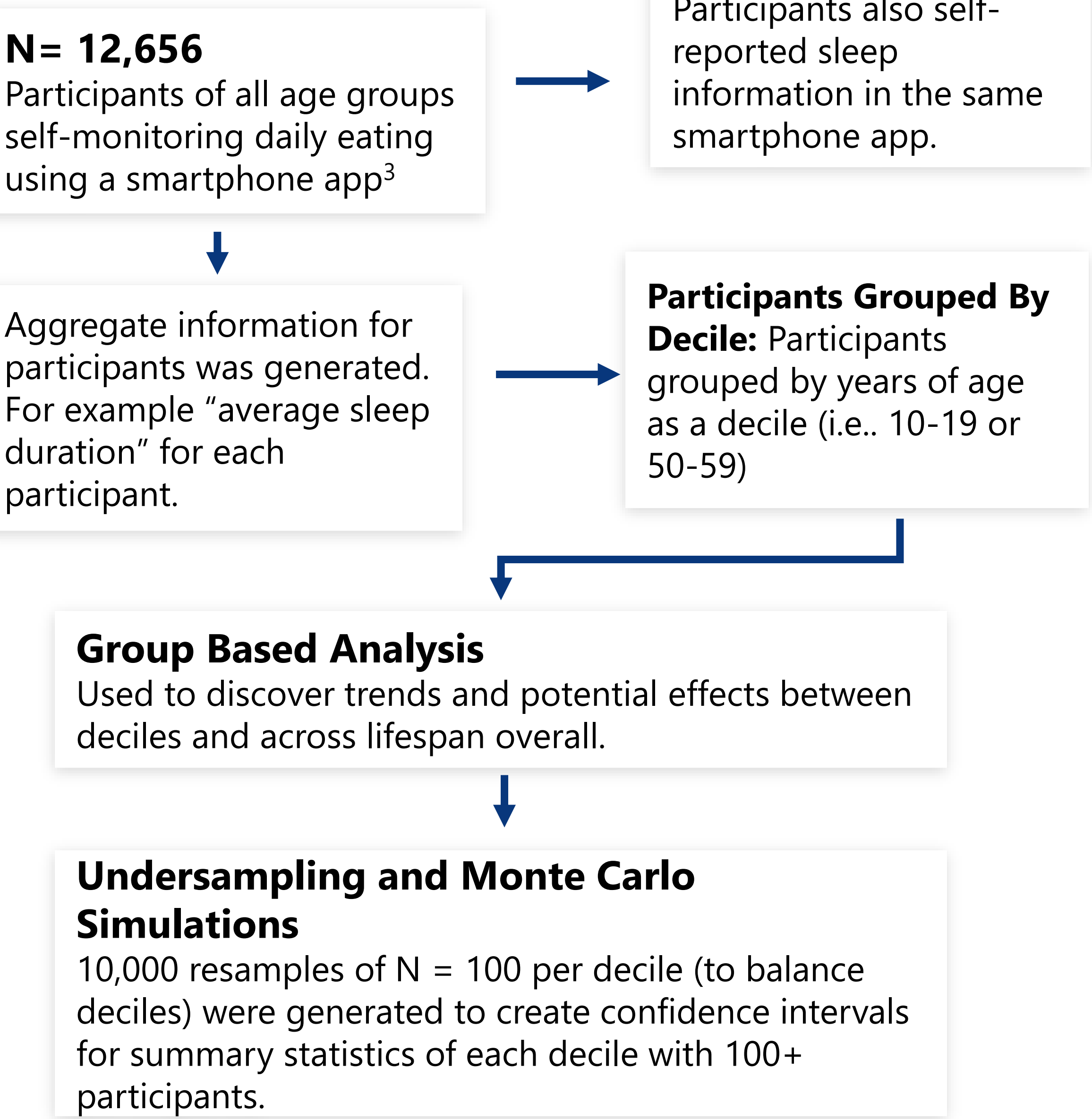
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BACKGROUND

Circadian clocks are a biological timing system that temporally regulates daily behaviors and physiology. These clocks are controlled by activity-rest and food consumption cycles that optimize health² using external signals, such as light or nutrient intake, to sync our internal biology with our surroundings.¹ Poor circadian health stemming from erratic eating and rest patterns can lead to impaired muscle function, poor sleep quality and increases a person’s risk of several chronic diseases associated with aging.³ Furthermore, modern lighting and electronic devices have elongated the typical eating window, allowing more opportunity for circadian disruption from extended wakefulness and irregular eating. Although these irregularities become more potent with age as circadian rhythms deteriorate³, consistent daily eating and rest patterns can help maintain circadian health. Therefore, it becomes crucial to understand the progression of these daily habits across age groups.

METHODS



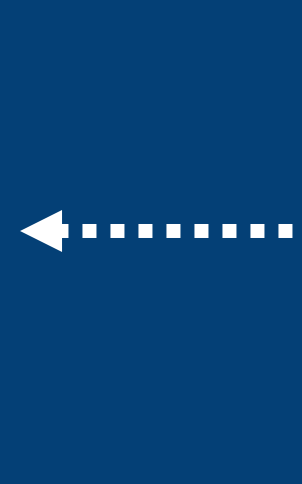
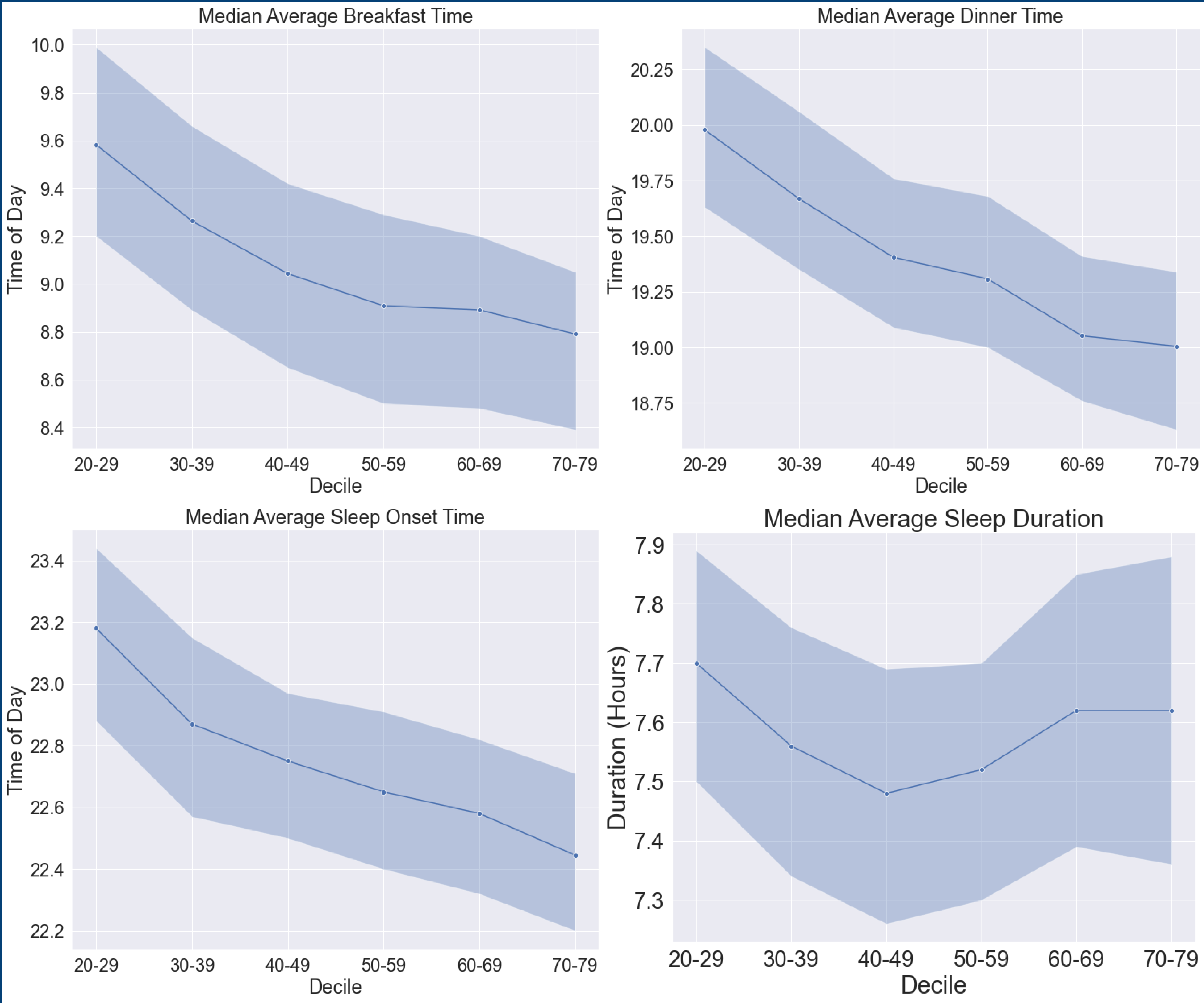
CITATIONS

- <https://doi.org/10.1177/0748730419892105>
- <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-nutr-082018-124320>
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.arr.2016.12.006>
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cmet.2015.09.005>
- <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aau6200>

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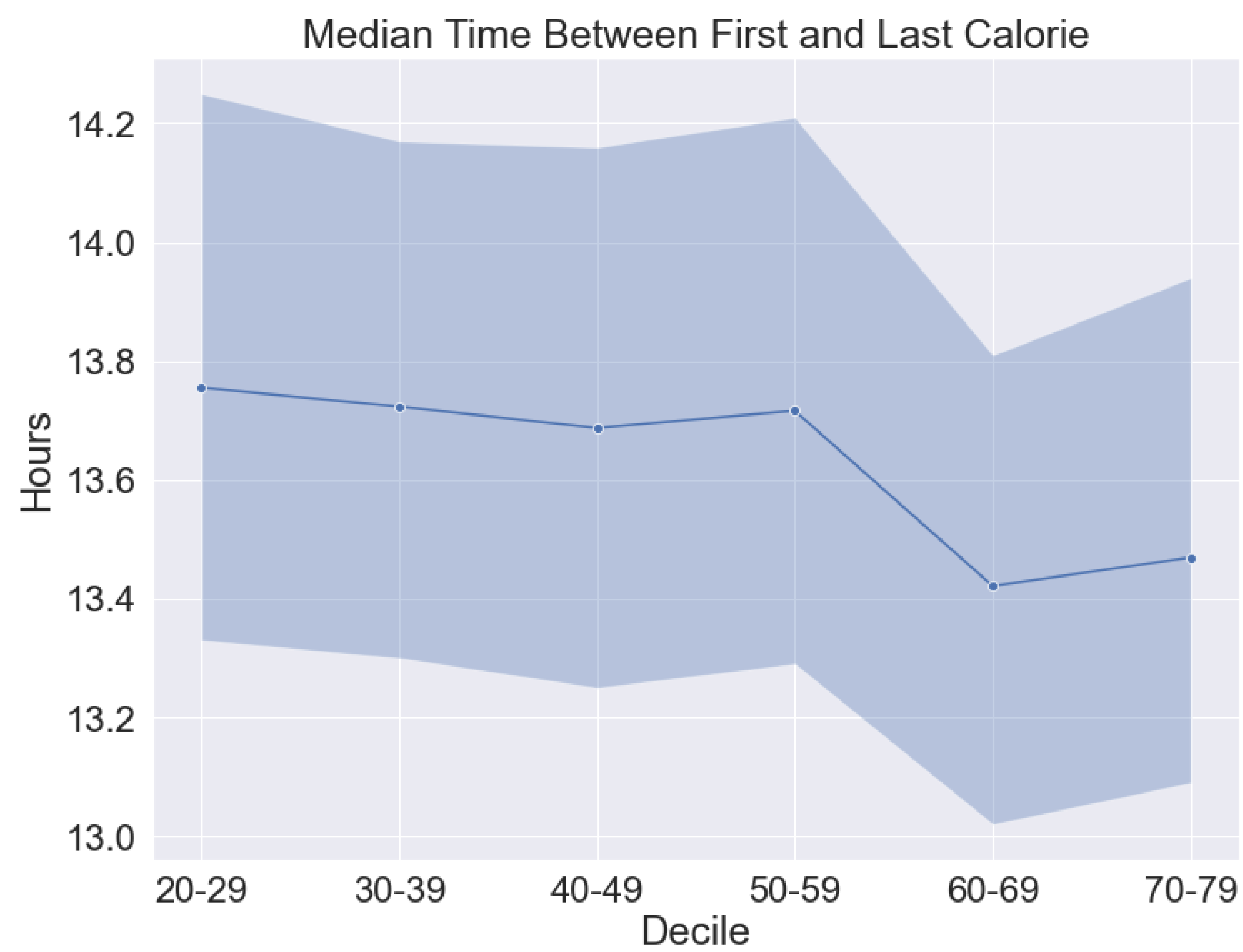
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Meal times and sleep onset shifts earlier with age. Sleep duration decreases throughout working years.

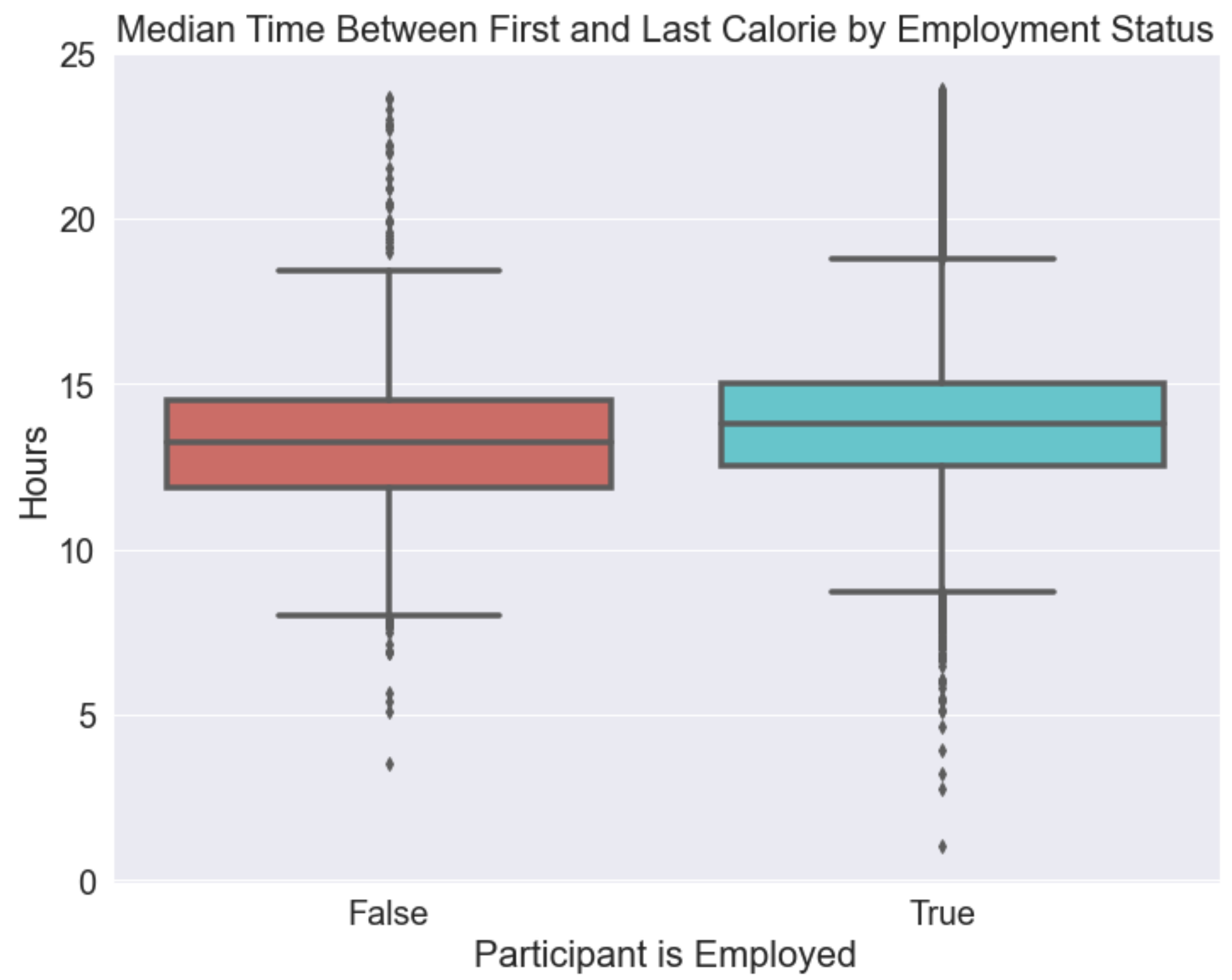


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RESULTS



- Meal times are shifted ← with age:
 - Median Average Breakfast: **49 minutes earlier**
 - Median Average Dinner: **61.5 minutes earlier**
 - Eating Interval Duration: **- 20 minutes** for participants 60-69
- Sleep duration **-13.2 minutes** from 20-29 to 40-49, but participants in older deciles see some recovery
- Unemployed participants eat and sleep later but have shorter eating windows. Same trends with age.



DISCUSSION

- ↑ Sleep critical to pos. health outcomes (such as learning retention⁵) but there is a **↓ in sleep duration with age**
- Eating Interval for all age deciles **↑ than recommended**¹
- Limitations**
 - Findings exclude ages ↓ 20 and ↑ 79
 - # of participants aged 70-79 ↓ than other deciles
 - Eating and sleep information was self-reported