

## Where Is the Level of the Mortality Plateau?

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# Where Is the Level of the Mortality Plateau?

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Using data from the “International Database on Longevity”, Gampe (2010) found a plateau of mortality — which is implied in a logistic model — at ages 110 and above. In her study, Gampe pursued a nonparametric approach. Hence this plateau was not the consequence of forcing a certain parametric shape of the mortality trajectory. Gampe estimated a level of the force of mortality of about  $\mu_{110+} = 0.7$ , corresponding to a probability of dying of approximately 0.5. Gampe’s results strengthened the initial findings that were reported at the “Living to 100” conference in 2005 (Robine et al., 2005).

Our research question can be expressed simply as: Can we find support for this upper limit of the force of mortality of 0.7, i.e. the chance to survive another year is approximately the chance of tossing a fair coin?

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