

Liars, Cheaters and Procrastinators:
How They Upset Mortality Studies

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1 Abstract

Odd patterns in mortality curves can be caused by bad data. The author hypothesizes that the negatively sloped mortality rates at the highest ages for U.S. males are caused by overstating age at death, and the low mortality rates for Japanese females by failure to report deaths. The paper upholds the first hypothesis but soundly defeats the second. The paper also demonstrates the impact of mishandling incurred but unreported deaths.