

What does it drive the relationship between suicides and economic conditions? New evidence from Spain

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RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Suicide mortality varied slightly by age and time period, although the highest differences are found by gender.
- Socioeconomic urban-rural suicide differentials exist and its slope continues over time
- Mediterranean regions are more prone to suicides
- Variables regarding material deprivation, like unemployment and people at risk of poverty, are more important during the economic crisis.

Abstract

In this paper we analyse suicides across the 17 Spanish regions over the period 2002-2013. In doing so, we estimate count panel data models considering gender differences taking into account before and during economic crisis periods. A range of aggregate socioeconomic regional-level factors have been considered. Our empirical results show that: (i) a socioeconomic urban-rural suicide differentials exist, (ii) there exists a Mediterranean suicide pattern; and (iii) unemployment levels have a marked importance during the crisis period. The results of this study may have usefulness for suicide prevention in Spain.

Keywords Suicide; Material Deprivation; Count Panel Data; Economic conditions