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How Big is Big? Re-Examining the Natural Rate of Suicides Hypothesis Using US Panel Data

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ABSTRACT

This paper introduces a new approach to test the hypothesis of natural rate of suicides. Cluttered type of the Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operation (LASSO) framework is used to select the determinants of the suicide rate and Least Squares Dummy Variable (LSDV) approach is used to estimate the natural rate. Our model suggests that natural rates for US states ranged from 5.5 (DC) per 100,000 population per year to 18.8 (Montana). Our results support the natural rate hypothesis with more robust specification.

KEYWORDS LASSO; Natural rate of suicides; USA

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