

## 1.1

This research project aims to determine whether or not divorce trends across the globe, and more specifically the accessibility and freedom to pursue divorce, explain the growth in suicide rates across the world. While the relationship between these variables has been investigated before, it has not been conducted on a global scale and has not considered the role of government involvement. Rather, previous studies have largely been localized to single countries and their various regions and have examined the correlation between the prevalence of both with no consideration of the underlying policies. By examining these perspectives, the legal freedom of divorce and how they affect suicide rates across countries, this study aims to determine whether or not there exists an optimal level of divorce accessibility which minimizes suicide risk. The idea behind this study is that there likely does exist a correlation between these variables. This has frequently been established by other studies. However, since divorce does not always encourage suicide but often prevents it in abusive situations, it is likely the relationship is not entirely linear in that a decrease in divorce results in a decrease in suicides. By examining the correlation between suicide rates and accessibility to divorce, it may be possible to determine if an optimal level of divorce accessibility exists which minimizes suicide rates.

## 1.2.

Source 1.

*Marc Matre, Kevin Breault. (2020) A history of the mid-south sociological association. Sociological Spectrum 40:5, pages 329-361.*

This source examined the relationship between the two variables and found a strong correlation between them. However, the study was limited to the U.S. and only proved a correlation in one direction (an increase in divorce lead to an increase in suicide rates). This study also suggested that individuals directly involved in divorce or separation experienced an increased risk of suicide whereas my study aims to see the overall affect upon society.

Source 2.

*Trovato, F. (1986). The relationship between marital dissolution and suicide: The Canadian case. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 48(2), 341. <https://doi.org/10.2307/352401>*

Again, this study showed a strong correlation, but made no connection to underlying policies.

DATA:

Human Freedom Index:

<https://www.cato.org/human-freedom-index/2022>

Suicide Rates:

<https://ourworldindata.org/suicide>