6.0 Research Limitations:

In any study there are limitations on what is considered in analysis. We only considered a limited set of inputs and analysis measures in the allotted time and would perform more had there been more. A breakdown of the research limitations of scope, what was considered, and methodology, how it was analyzed, are described below.

6.1 Scope:

There were issues with some of our inputs, but when drilling down to just the inputs used in the model, we can see room for improvement in data quality. When we used GDP per Capita as a proxy for income, other measures such as country-level median income should have been considered in the future. This would have given a non-uniform distribution of wealth in the country rather than a uniform distribution which is not the case with income inequality. When measuring the liters of alcohol consumed, we assumed a uniform consumption country-wide consumption rate. This doesn’t consider incidence of substance abuse. For Suicide Policy (NSPS), the effectiveness of organizational response hard per country is hard to gauge since local response vs federal not accounted for in measurement. We did not consider local/cultural/interactional measures making it difficult to make country-specific inferences in some cases.

6.2 Methodology:

For our analysis we chose to use a country level scope, however this cannot drill down to local or individual level, essentially limiting our level of fidelity of reflecting on reality. For each country we only used one year, as such our model assumes effects of each input are fixed rather than temporally differing. When considering our inputs, we cannot completely untangle the effect of variable interactions between another. Higher level interactions and additional factors which may influence suicide rates could be considered in the future. Finally, model formulation limited our analysis strength. We chose to use multiple linear regression for inferential and descriptive reasons, but more complicated / non-linear relationships could be characterized better with more complex approaches.