6.0 Research Limitations:

In any study there are limitations on what is considered in analysis. Analysis of the topic was limited to the chosen set of inputs. 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. We used GDP per Capita as a proxy for income. Other measures such as country-level median income should be considered in the future as a more accurate measure of income. This would have given a non-uniform distribution of wealth in the country rather than a uniform distribution, which is not the case due to income inequality. When measuring the liters of alcohol consumed, we assumed a uniform country-wide consumption rate. This study only considered the relationship between alcohol consumption and suicide and did not consider the relationship between substance abuse and suicide. For Suicide Policy (NSPS), the effectiveness of organizational response per country is hard to gauge since local vs federal response is not accounted for in the 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 each other. 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 sophisticated approaches.