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7 November 2019

INFSCI 1040

Final Project Basic Description

For my final project, I will be analyzing a dataset documenting global suicide rates from 1985-2016. I will compare the statistics found in this dataset to the conclusions drawn by Emile Durkheim for his foundational sociology book from 1897, *Le suicide*. This topic is interesting to me because I am minoring in sociology, and *Le suicide* is a text that most sociology students are required to read. Durkheim reaches a number of conclusions in his book, such as that suicide rates are higher in Protestant-majority countries than Catholic-majority ones, suicide rates are higher for men than women, suicide rates are higher in Scandinavian countries, and suicide is more common in times of low social integration. My goal is to take the contemporary data I have found and see if Durkheim’s conclusions still hold up. To do this, I will first clean the data and add a categorical variable denoting countries that are either majority Catholic or majority Protestant. I will then make graphs that will compare such variables as male vs. female suicide rates, suicide rates in Scandinavia vs. the rest of Europe, suicide rates in Catholic vs. Protestant countries, etc. I will also make graphs that take into account modern historical events that could potentially impact rates that wouldn’t have been present in Durkheim’s time. For example, I could investigate how the collapse of the Soviet Union impacted suicide rates in Eastern Bloc countries over time, and compare how suicide rates there compare to the rates of Western nations. Most of this will likely take the form of line graphs and bar charts.