

Economic Modelling of Suicide When a Person's Income is at Risk*

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Abstract

The risk of income fluctuations affects suicidal behaviour. First, an increase in this risk makes risk-averse households more likely to commit suicide by reducing their expected utility. Second, the increased risk makes them less likely to commit suicide by creating a value to waiting for the economy to improve. This paper lays out a theoretical model of suicide to assess the net impact of income fluctuations on suicidal behaviour by taking into account a household's ability to delay the action.

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