

ABSTRACT:

This thesis explores several econometric approaches to making empirical welfare comparisons. It is divided into three separate, but closely related chapters. In the first chapter, empirical likelihood-based methods of inference are proposed for decomposable poverty measures which utilize relative poverty lines. In the second chapter, methods of statistical inference for vectors of inequality and poverty measures are considered. In the final chapter, a statistical test of bivariate stochastic dominance which uses a generalized framework for testing inequality constraints is developed.