



**Center for Research and Intervention on Suicide and
Euthanasia**

**Evaluation of the Implementation and
Effectiveness of Telephones and Signs
Along At-Risk Areas of Track to Prevent
Railway Suicides**

Brian L. Mishara, Ph.D., Director
Professor, Psychology Department
and
Cécile Bardon, M.S., Project Coordinator

Université du Québec à Montréal

Centre for Research and Intervention on Suicide and Euthanasia
Université du Québec à Montréal
C.P. 8888, Succ. Centre-Ville, Montreal (Quebec) H3C 3P8

Telephone: (514)987-4832
Fax: (514) 987-0350
E-mail: railway_suicides@ugam.ca

This document describes the proposed evaluation of the implementation and the effects of the proposal (described in a separate document on this web site) to use signs and telephones along at-risk areas of track to prevent railway suicides. Research has shown that when a person is experiencing a suicidal crisis and help is made immediately available, the suicide may be preventable. We proposed the installation of posters promoting telephone help and help seeking, along with telephones with free direct access to helplines. The present document describes the evaluation of the implementation, effectiveness, and costs of a pilot project for a “telephones and signs” railway suicide prevention strategy in Canada.

Evaluation plan

This project’s implementation would be evaluated. An evaluation of the implementation would assess how well the interventions have been implemented as planned. There would also be an evaluation of the effects. We would assess if people in crisis use the telephones and if there is a significant impact in reducing the incidence of railway suicides.

Evaluation process – telephones and signs

Timeline	Phases of implementation evaluation	Phases of effect evaluation
Month 1-3	Identification and negotiation with implementation partners	Data collection, establishing protocols with coroners, railway companies and helplines
Month 1-3	Design of evaluation documents and protocols	
Month 3	Data collection after implementation	
Month 4	Implementation data analysis	
Month 4-5	Post implementation report (1)	
Month 4-12	Data collection year 1	Data collection year 1
Month 13	Data analysis Year 1	Data analysis Year 1
Month 13-14	Year 1 report (2)	Year 1 report (1)
Month 13-24	Data collection year 2	Data collection year 2
Month 25	Data analysis Year 2	Data analysis Year 2
Month 25-26	Year 2 report (3)	Year 2 report (2)
Month 25-36	Data collection year 3	Data collection year 3
Month 37	Data analysis Year 3	Data analysis Year 3
Month 37-38	Year 3 report (4)	Year 3 report (3)
Month 37-48	Data collection year 4	Data collection year 4
Month 49	Data analysis Year 4	Data analysis Year 4



Month 49-50 Final implementation evaluation Final effect evaluation report (4)
report (5)

Evaluation of the implementation

The evaluation of implementation aims at describing and testing how the telephones and signs were implemented in the chosen area. To achieve this objective, different aspects of the implementation of the project would be measured:

- Obstacles and facilitators to the installation of equipment (negotiations with local government, physical, architectural and geographical difficulties)
- Collaboration of local helplines (offering support, monitoring calls from dedicated telephone booths)
- Maintenance of the equipment (telephones and signs)
- Changes from the original implementation plan (changes in locations of telephones and posters)

Type of data to be gathered

Qualitative data:

- Information on negotiations with different partners (town governing bodies, railways, telephone companies, signs companies and helplines).
- Information on potential media coverage of the implementation of the project and on mental health and/or suicide prevention campaigns during the time of experimentation

Quantitative data: This data will be collected by different partners of the project with the support of the research team.

- Telephone companies will provide us with descriptive data for telephones (equipment, location, costs, maintenance and number of call made from telephones)
- Helplines will provide us with number of calls received
- Also we have to monitor the condition of the signs throughout the 4 years of the



project. This part will be sub-contracted to local helplines.

- Railway companies will also provide us with the traffic data and its variation on selected tracks



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Telephones and Signs as a railway suicide prevention strategy in Canada
Contact: railway_suicides@uqam.ca Website: XXXXX

There are no existing standard instruments we can use to perform these evaluative tasks. Instruments will have to be designed in collaboration with partners who will use them locally.

This data will be compiled and gathered in reports on the process of implementation of telephones and signs at different stages of the project (after first implementation, yearly and at the end of the project – 5 reports).

Evaluation of effects

There are two steps in the evaluation of the effects of the telephones and signs project. First we would evaluate the use of the service. Secondly, we will assess changes in the targeted behaviours (numbers of trespassers and suicides). This evaluation would take place over a 4 years period so that we could eventually demonstrate a potential significant impact. Since the number of suicides each year is quite low, it is important to obtain data from several years in order to be able to determine if there are significant changes in suicide rates.

Types of data to be gathered

- Railway companies will provide us with their incident reports and if possible, we would like to have crew members take note of what happened along the areas of tracks involved in the pilot testing.
- We will monitor the suicide rates in the areas covered by the pilot testing and the rest of Canada in order to evaluate the impact of the preventive measure on overall suicide rates as well as railway suicide rates.



Evaluation costs

Budget for the evaluation of telephones and signs

Salaries	
1 research assistant 2 days / week for 48 months (4 years) who will organise data collection and compilation with onsite partners throughout the project - 23\$ / hour	67 000
1 Project coordinator 2 day/week for 50 months and 60 days of data analysis and report writing – 47\$/hour	170 000
Services and Equipment	
Computers – one high performance lap top to manage interactive maps	1 500
Telephone calls (28h of calls)	1 000
Ink, prints, stationary, post office	2 000
Indirect fees 40%	96 600
Project final reports design and printing for 50 copies	2 000
Transportation and lodging employees	
We plan at least 2 visits per year by a research assistant to each site	24 032
○ One trip to the Québec Sites: car rental 45\$/day x3 days, 3 nights (90\$ per night and per diem 53\$) = 564\$ (x8 visits = 4 512\$)	
○ One trip to the Toronto areas: car rental 45\$/day x4 days, 3 nights (130\$/night and per diem 85\$), train ticket (160\$ or plane 250\$) = 1 075\$ (x8visits = 8 600\$)	
○ One trip to Vancouver sites: plane ticket 800\$, car rental 45\$/day x3days, 2 nights (130\$ per night and per diem 85\$) = 1 365\$ (x8visits = 10 920\$)	
Transportation and lodging partners	10 000
We will have to compensate local partners for their travels to conduct data gathering	5 000
Presentations of results in scientific meetings	
Knowledge transfer activities	
2 conferences	4 000
Professional services (translation) 23cents per word	20 000
Total	403 132

