

## **Road Traffic Suicides: Current Knowledge and Future Research Needs**

15. Other

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### **Abstract text**

Road suicides have long been recognized as a method of suicide. However, it is generally believed that they are underreported. Furthermore, little is known about why people choose this specific method. Even less is known about the consequences for the possible second party, such as heavy vehicle drivers. In my presentation, I will address these three issues (the prevalence of road suicides, why some people choose to die in road traffic, and the consequences for the second party) by presenting the results of our work over the last ten years. We have (i) analyzed suicides by crashing a motor vehicle (n=138, years 2011-2016) and (ii) pedestrian and cyclist suicides (n=97, years 1997-2018) investigated by multidisciplinary investigation teams, (iii) surveyed a representative sample of heavy vehicle drivers (n=863), (iv) carried out a one-year follow-up study of 15 heavy vehicle drivers involved in crashes caused by suicidal drivers, (v) organized a focus group discussion with six heavy vehicle drivers who experienced this kind of deliberate crash, and (vi) performed a systematic review on the topic of road suicides. I will also present the preliminary findings of our study that explores the reasons why some individuals choose to end their lives in road traffic in a sample of sixty attempted road suicides.