

# **Suicide-Related Research in Canada: A Descriptive Overview**

## **UPDATED REFERENCE LIST**

**A Project for Health Canada**

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# Introduction

A literature review *Suicide-Related Research in Canada: A Descriptive Overview* (White, 2003) was prepared as a background document for the Workshop on Suicide-Related Research, hosted by the Mental Health Promotion Unit of Health Canada and the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addictions of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. In response to a request made by workshop participants, Health Canada agreed to prepare a second bibliography to supplement the original literature review and to provide a more complete picture of Canadian suicide research.

The updated bibliography is a collaborative effort of the Centre for Suicide Prevention in Calgary and the Centre for Research and Intervention on Suicide and Euthanasia (CRISE) in Montréal. Each of these organizations houses an extensive library of research and information, the Centre for Suicide Prevention in English, and CRISE in French.

Together, the two bibliographies provide a gateway to research on suicide in Canada published during the period 1985 through 2003.

## Methodology and Parameters

Exhaustive efforts were made to ensure the updated reference list is a comprehensive addition to White's original review. Searches were conducted following the parameters developed for the first document and refinements of these guidelines as specified by Health Canada.

Both the Centre for Suicide Prevention and CRISE did numerous searches including their in-house databases, PubMed, PsycInfo, Medline, Sociological Abstracts, ERIC, and FRANCIS. The databases were searched by subject terms, keywords, and authors. Preliminary reference lists were compiled and items were then selected for inclusion using the criteria set out below:

- Research articles published in peer-reviewed journals.
- Publication date of 1985 to December 2003.
- Research was about Canada. Authors may have been from other countries.
- Suicide was the primary focus of the research.

Items not meeting these criteria were excluded. This meant that literature reviews, theoretical papers, evidence-based reviews, book chapters, newsletter submissions, letters to the editor, and unpublished manuscripts were not included in the update. Research conducted by Canadians but not about suicide in Canada was not included. Additionally, research on assisted suicide, euthanasia, and self-mutilation was excluded.

White (2003) defined and organized the background document and references using the following categories:

- Biomedical Research
- Clinical Research
- Health Services and Systems
- Health of Populations and Sociocultural Determinants
- Health Information and Epidemiology
- Knowledge Development and Policy Research

References in the update are organized using the same categories. Category of best-fit was determined according to the definitions provided in the original document and information from the research abstract.

**References were neither reviewed nor assessed for quality of research design, methodological rigour, or conclusions reached.**

## Quality Control

Systematic efforts were made to ensure the quality of the updated reference list. The English- and French-language reference lists were reviewed for duplication within themselves, against each other, and against White's first bibliography. Duplicate references were eliminated and the two lists were then combined. Every reference was reviewed to ensure it met inclusion criteria. The accuracy of each reference was checked by comparing it to the published paper. When a published version was not available, references were checked against external databases and/or online table of contents.

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