

# 09

**JANVIER**  
**2024**

**HEURE :**  
**12h-13h**

## Work-related suicide: evolving understandings of aetiology and intervention

**Résumé:** Previously published analyses of suicide case investigations suggest that work or working conditions contribute to 10-13% of suicide deaths. Yet, the role of work in contributing to (or mitigating) suicide risk is a relatively under-developed area of epidemiologic research. In this seminar, we propose a definition of work-related suicide from an occupational health and safety perspective, then review the case investigation-based and epidemiologic evidence for potential work-related causes of suicide, and published estimates of the proportion of suicides that may be work-related. We identified six broad categories of potential work-related causes of suicide, which are not mutually exclusive: (1) chemical, physical, and psychosocial job exposures; (2) exposure to trauma on the job; (3) access to means of suicide through work; (4) exposure to high stigma work environments; (5) exposure to normative environments promoting extreme orientation to work; and (6) adverse experiences arising from work-related injury or illness.

There are various implications of these findings for policy and practice. We summarise current evidence in a schema of potential work-related causes that can also be applied in suicide case investigations. Various principles- and evidence-based workplace suicide prevention intervention strategies exist, some of which have been shown to improve suicide prevention literacy, reduce stigma, enhance helping behaviours, and in some instances reduce suicide rates. Prevailing practice in workplace suicide prevention, however, overly emphasises individual- and illness-directed interventions, with little attention directed to addressing the working conditions that increase suicide risk. We conclude that a stronger emphasis on improving working conditions will be required in order for workplace suicide prevention to reach its full preventive potential.

**Biographie:** Professor Tony LaMontagne's career has been dedicated to developing the scientific and public understanding of work as a social determinant of health, and translating this research into policy and practice to improve workplace and worker health. Specific areas of interest include workplace mental health, improving job quality and psychosocial working conditions, and evaluating policy interventions. His research has influenced policy & practice in workplace health both nationally and internationally, including OH&S authorities, mental health NGOs, the (Australian) National Mental Health Commission, the US Occupational Safety & Health Administration, and the World Health Organisation.



**TONY LAMONTAGNE**

ScD, MA, MEd

Professor of Work, Health &  
Wellbeing, Institute for Health  
Transformation, Deakin University,  
Melbourne AUSTRALIA

**LIEU :**

**HSS, salle L0-19 Sanofi-aventis**

**VISIOCONFÉRENCE**

**TEAMS :**

[Cliquez ici pour rejoindre la réunion](#)

**ID de la réunion : 287 409 330 889**

**Code secret : bUcLDK**