SOCIETAL COLLABORATION TO PREVENT RAILWAY SUICIDE

WHERE: Skåne County in southern Sweden: a region with 33 municipalities, with about 1.2 million inhabitants and elements that are both densely populated with high frequency of train services but also less populated areas.

WHY: The purpose of the measure is to create good circumstances for a proactive societal collaboration when there is a threat of suicide, and thereby reduce the number of railway suicides and injuries resulting from suicide attempts.

WHAT: The train traffic is adapted to prevent a collision from happening and the involved stakeholders go to the identified site to perform the search and rescue. The temporary traffic shutdown or speed reduction ensures the safety both of the person at risk, but also the safety for the police, rescue services and ambulance, the parties responsible for conducting search and rescue.

RESULTS: Societal collaboration is a method of suicide prevention that saves lives and all the involved parties believe that their work makes a difference. A first attempt of assumption and calculation show that the train service is less disturbed by short traffic stop on more occasions than of an actual accident. Along with increased fencing and developed camera surveillance this societal cooperation is an effective measure to prevent suicide.

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