Comment re 3 digit number for Suicide Prevention Hotline

Providing a 3 digit number is excellent, aiding memory and ease of passing the number on to someone else, especially when talking on the phone.

The number should go directly to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline where it will be answered by a counselor trained in suicide prevention, rather to any intermediary, such as a 211 operator, who will have to re-route it. 211 is not a universally known number and so there is no benefit from familiarity.

The media have done an excellent job over recent years in publicizing the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and there is no doubt they will continue to do so with the new 3 digit number. In fact the introduction of the new number will be a new opportunity to stress the importance of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

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