

Suicide Facts & Figures:

Arkansas 2020



On average, one person died by suicide every 16 hours in the state.

More than four times as many people died by suicide in Arkansas in 2018 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 11,608 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Arkansas a total of **\$540,251,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,208,615 per suicide death.**



10th leading cause of death in Arkansas

2nd leading

cause of death for ages 10-34

4th leading

cause of death for ages 35-44

5th leading

cause of death for ages 45-54

8th leading

cause of death for ages 55-64

18th leading

cause of death for ages 65+

Suicide Death Rates

	Number of Deaths by Suicide	Rate per 100,000 Population	State Rank
Arkansas	554	18.35	20
Nationally	48,344	14.21	

CDC, 2018 Fatal Injury Reports (accessed from www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html on 3/1/2020).

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Suicide Prevention Programs and Initiatives

- The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH, <https://bit.ly/2x1bABp>) is the designated state agency in charge of suicide prevention; the ADH Injury and Violence Prevention Section works with the Arkansas Suicide Prevention Council, AFSP Arkansas Chapter, and others to promote prevention programs including Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), safeTALK, Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR), and the Arkansas Lifeline Call Center (ALCC).
- Arkansas law (§ 20-45-302) establishes the Arkansas Suicide Prevention Council to serve as a central body on suicide prevention efforts and make recommendations for implementing a statewide program to be funded by ADH.
- The ADH 2013-2018 plan, *Creating Conditions in Arkansas Where Injury Is Less Likely To Happen...* addresses suicide among other leading causes of injury; see <https://bit.ly/2VAAd4s>.
- Arkansas law (§ 20-45-303) mandates that ADH establish and maintain, to the extent that funding is available, a 24/7 Suicide Prevention Hotline with statewide accessibility that is part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) network; the ALCC is the first local call center for the NSPL to be funded and operated by a state government agency and is run by the Department's full-time Emergency Communication Specialists housed within the new Substance Misuse and Injury Prevention Branch.
- Arkansas law (§ 6-17-708) requires the Department of Education to require 2 hours of in-service training in teen suicide awareness and prevention every 4 school years for licensed personnel.
- Arkansas law (§ 6-60-112) requires institutions of higher education to provide information to entering students on (1) available mental health and suicide prevention services; and (2) early warning signs and interventions for persons considering suicide.

Get Involved

The **AFSP Arkansas Chapter** brings together people of all backgrounds in communities throughout the state to fight suicide. We help fund research, offer educational programs, advocate for public policy and support those affected by suicide.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

AFSP Arkansas
arkansas@afsp.org

Become an Advocate

AFSP's Arkansas advocacy volunteers build relationships with public officials and advocate on behalf of sound suicide prevention policy.

Visit afsp.org/advocate to sign up!