

Suicide Facts & Figures:

California 2020



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

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

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 84,137 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost California a total of **\$4,246,494,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,085,227 per suicide death.**



11th leading cause of death in California

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

16th leading

cause of death for ages 65+

Suicide Death Rates

	Number of Deaths by Suicide	Rate per 100,000 Population	State Rank
California	4,491	10.81	44
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 Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) component of California's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA, <https://bit.ly/2P0oPwK>) supports many state and local suicide prevention activities.
- SB 1004 (2018) directed California's Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) to establish priorities and a statewide strategy for PEI services, including suicide prevention across the lifespan; a Suicide Prevention Subcommittee made up of MHSOAC Commissioners was formed to lead this work and build upon the former (2008) state plan. The updated plan, Striving for Zero: California's Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention 2020-2025, <https://bit.ly/32vt0Wq>) was released in early 2020.
- California law (Education Code §§ 215-216) requires all local education agencies (LEAs) serving K-12 students to adopt an age appropriate policy on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention that specifically addresses the needs of high-risk groups and considers suicide awareness and prevention training for teachers, and to review said policy at least every 5 years; the California Department of Education is responsible for developing and maintaining a model policy to serve as a guide for LEAs and to identify available evidence-based training programs.
- California law (Education Code § 215.5) requires that all schools serving students in grades 7-12 and all institutions of higher education include the number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) on either side of student identification cards.
- California law requires an applicant for licensure as a psychologist (AB 89, adopted 9/1/17) and, starting January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, or professional clinical counselor (AB 1436, adopted 9/19/18) to complete at least 6 hours of coursework or applied experience in suicide risk assessment and intervention.

Get Involved

The **AFSP California Chapters** bring 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 California
california@afsp.org

Become an Advocate

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

Visit afsp.org/advocate to sign up!