

Suicide Facts & Figures: Kentucky 2020



On average, one person died by suicide every 11 hours in the state.

Almost six times as many people died by suicide in Kentucky in 2018 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 15,878 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Kentucky a total of **\$746,659,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,183,295 per suicide death.**



11th leading cause of death in Kentucky

- 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

- 9th leading**
cause of death for ages 55-64
- 17th leading**
cause of death for ages 65+

Suicide Death Rates

	Number of Deaths by Suicide	Rate per 100,000 Population	State Rank
Kentucky	800	17.42	21
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 Suicide Prevention Consortium of Kentucky (spcky.org), established by the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID, dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh/sp.aspx), is supported by a State Suicide Prevention Coordinator; meetings are open to all. DBHDID released the state's 2013-2018 Strategy for Suicide Prevention, available online at <http://bit.ly/2tN9h6N>.
- Kentucky law (KRS § 156.095) requires 1 hour of suicide prevention training every other year for public school and public charter school employees having direct contact with students in grades 6-12; requires administrators to annually disseminate suicide prevention awareness information to students in grades 6-12; and requires the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) to post on its website suicide prevention awareness information that includes recognizing warning signs of a suicide crisis.
- Kentucky law (KRS § 210.366) requires 3-6 hours of training at least once every 6 years for certified or licensed social workers, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, pastoral counselors, alcohol and drug counselors, psychologists, and occupational therapists and requires CHFS to develop a model list of related training programs.
- Kentucky law (KRS § 210.365) requires DBHDID to develop Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for law enforcement officers that includes suicide prevention techniques and requires the CHFS to create a telephonic behavioral health jail triage system to screen prisoners for mental health and suicide risk upon admittance.
- Beginning 8/1/2020, ID cards issued to students in grades 6-12 and college students enrolled in public and private institutions of higher education must contain contact information for a national suicide prevention hotline and other crisis services (SB 42, adopted 3/27/2020).

Get Involved

The **AFSP Kentucky 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 Kentucky
kentucky@afsp.org

Become an Advocate

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

Visit afsp.org/advocate to sign up!