

# Suicide Facts & Figures:

## Louisiana 2020



**On average, one person died by suicide every 12 hours in the state.**

**More than three times as many people died by suicide in Louisiana in 2018 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.**

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 14,652 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Louisiana a total of **\$675,990,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,213,626 per suicide death.**



## 11th leading cause of death in Louisiana

### 3rd 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

### 10th 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
Louisiana	720	15.15	29
Nationally	48,344	14.21	

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

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## Suicide Prevention Programs and Initiatives

- Louisiana law (RS §§ 28:801-814) creates the Zero Suicide Initiative, to be administered by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Office of Behavioral Health (OBH); creates the Louisiana state suicide prevention plan as an initiative of OBH; and encourages stakeholder collaboration and coordination in both the Zero Suicide Initiative and in implementation of the state plan. The older (2001) S.T.A.R. Youth Suicide Prevention Plan is accessible at <https://bit.ly/2TORFBk>.
- Louisiana law (RS §§ 17:437.1 & 17:3996) requires that all public, approved non-public, and charter school teachers, school counselors, principals, and certain school administrators participate annually in at least 2 hours of in-service training in suicide prevention, and that the Department of Education (DOE) post on its website and update every 5 years a list of approved training programs; also requires the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to randomly survey school employees on their compliance and submit a related report to the legislature, and each secondary school to document and verify compliance to DOE.
- Louisiana law (RS § 17:282.4) directs BESE to prescribe rules and regulations for a statewide youth suicide prevention plan in public schools; DOE must designate a school system offering a related youth suicide prevention program as a Suicide Prevention Certified School and maintain an updated list of such schools on its website.
- Louisiana DOE offers a Model School District Policy (<https://bit.ly/2rFtyay>) and a Youth Suicide Prevention Training Module (<https://bit.ly/2PCMCBd>) for school employees.
- Louisiana law (RS §§ 37:24-27) requires LDH to offer certified, licensed, or registered mental health counselors, social workers, psychiatrists, medical psychologists, nurses, physicians' assistants, and addiction counselors access to an online list of training programs in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management (<https://bit.ly/2Gsyg5w>).

## Get Involved

The **AFSP Louisiana 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 Louisiana**  
[louisiana@afsp.org](mailto:louisiana@afsp.org)

### Become an Advocate

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

**Visit [afsp.org/advocate](https://afsp.org/advocate) to sign up!**