

# Suicide Facts & Figures:

## Mississippi 2020



**On average, one person died by suicide every 21 hours in the state.**

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

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 8,390 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Mississippi a total of **\$456,045,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,175,372 per suicide death.**



## 13th leading cause of death in Mississippi

### 3rd leading

cause of death for ages 10-34

### 4th leading

cause of death for ages 35-44

### 9th leading

cause of death for ages 45-54

### 12th leading

cause of death for ages 55-64

### 15th leading

cause of death for ages 65+

## Suicide Death Rates

	Number of Deaths by Suicide	Rate per 100,000 Population	State Rank
Mississippi	421	13.69	37
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

- Mississippi's Department of Mental Health (DMH) facilitates the statewide youth suicide prevention campaign entitled Shatter the Silence: Suicide, The Secret You Shouldn't Keep ([dmh.ms.gov/shatter-the-silence](http://dmh.ms.gov/shatter-the-silence)), facilitates gatekeeper training, and distributes educational packets and presentations. Funding for training is appropriated through DMH and the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE).
- A 5-year federal Garrett Lee Smith grant was awarded to DMH, Mississippi State University, and Region 8 Mental Health Services in 2019 to: expand suicide awareness and gatekeeper training for families, schools, communities and youth-serving organizations; improve identification and clinical services for at-risk youth; and develop rapid response services to help families and communities after a suicide loss.
- A workgroup was formed in 2016 to develop a formal statewide suicide prevention plan; the resulting MS Suicide Prevention Plan FY17-FY19 is accessible at <https://bit.ly/2Hj5uF7>. A cumulative FY17-FY19 Progress Report is also available at <https://bit.ly/2Q1YxtR>.
- The mobile and online app, Students Against Violence (SAV, [studentsagainstv violence.app/ms](http://studentsagainstv violence.app/ms)) was launched in 2019 by the MS Attorney General and the nonprofit Jason Foundation as a resource for students on self-harm and suicide, depression and anxiety, bullying, violence, and substance abuse.
- Mississippi law (MS Code § 37-3-101) requires school districts to adopt a policy on student suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention; requires MDE to establish a model policy in consultation with DMH for use by school districts; and required all school district employees to receive a related one-time training in the 2017-2018 school year. The law (MS Code § 37-3-103) also requires MDE to conduct an annual in-service training on suicide prevention education for all newly employed district employees.

## Get Involved

The **AFSP Mississippi 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 Mississippi**  
[mississippi@afsp.org](mailto:mississippi@afsp.org)

### Become an Advocate

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

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