

Suicide Facts & Figures:

Montana 2020



On average, one person died by suicide every 33 hours in the state.

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

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 5,786 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Montana a total of **\$253,380,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,116,213 per suicide death.**



8th leading cause of death in Montana

2nd leading
cause of death for ages 10-44

4th leading
cause of death for ages 45-54

7th 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
Montana	265	24.86	2
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

- Montana employs a Suicide Prevention Coordinator within the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) (MCA § 53-21-1101). This position is responsible for distributing public awareness campaign materials and resources; delivering training; funding regional training and interventions; developing and maintaining media campaigns; disseminating materials to Veterans; and maintaining the State Suicide Prevention Lifeline. See <https://bit.ly/2CRVw8E>.
- The Montana Strategic Suicide Prevention Plan 2019 (<https://bit.ly/2Se7eAe>), as required by MCA § 53-21-1102, includes goals, objectives, and strategies designed to strengthen current work and support a statewide, coordinated, and evidence-based approach to reducing suicide.
- HB 696 (adopted 5/9/19) appropriated \$500,000 to DPHHS to be used to implement strategies developed as part of the Mayor's Challenge or the Governor's Challenge to prevent suicide among Service members, Veterans, and their families, and to continue state and tribal efforts in implementing the action steps of the 2017 Montana Native Youth Suicide Reduction Strategic Plan (<https://bit.ly/2SNvcF3>).
- Montana law (MCA § 20-7-1310) requires the Office of Public Instruction to provide guidance, technical assistance, and training materials to schools on youth suicide awareness and prevention and encourages educators to complete at least 2 hours of training every 5 years; requires school districts to establish suicide prevention and response policies, procedures, or plans.
- Montana law (MCA §§ 53-21-1208 to 1210) directs DPHHS to adopt rules to administer a Mobile Crisis Unit Program and to award grants, subject to appropriation, to local communities for establishing mobile crisis units; at least one grant must be awarded to a rural community; rules may include training and licensure requirements for unit personnel.

Get Involved

The **AFSP Montana 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 Montana
montana@afsp.org

Become an Advocate

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

Visit afsp.org/advocate to sign up!