

# Suicide Facts & Figures:

## New Jersey 2020



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

More than six times as many people died by suicide in New Jersey in 2018 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 14,766 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost New Jersey a total of **\$813,656,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,131,650 per suicide death**.



## 13th leading cause of death in New Jersey

### 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

### 20th leading

cause of death for ages 65+

## Suicide Death Rates

	Number of Deaths by Suicide	Rate per 100,000 Population	State Rank
New Jersey	778	8.25	50
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

- The NJ legislature (§ 30:9A-25) established the Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council in 2004 to advise and make recommendations to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for youth suicide reporting, prevention, and intervention. DCF is the lead agency for youth suicide prevention in the state and provides staff support to the Council (<https://bit.ly/2BxMI6Q>). View their 2017 Youth Suicide Report at <https://bit.ly/2LO6VxF>.
- NJ Law (§ 30:9A-29) charges DCF with developing and adopting a statewide youth suicide prevention plan in consultation with the Council and the Department of Human Services. The NJ Strategy for Youth Suicide Prevention (2015) is available at <http://bit.ly/2FGp64R>.
- Funded by DCF, the Traumatic Loss Coalitions for Youth Program at Rutgers-University Behavioral HealthCare (<http://ubhc.rutgers.edu/tlc/>) offers support to professionals working with school-age youth and provides assistance to schools after a loss.
- The NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services' Suicide Prevention Committee developed the state's Adult Suicide Prevention Plan 2014-2017 (<http://bit.ly/2DwSJj7>). The Committee is responsible for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the plan
- NJ law (§ 18A:6-112) requires public school teaching staff to complete at least 2 hours of suicide prevention instruction per professional development period; instruction must be provided by a licensed health care professional with training/experience in mental health. The law also requires educators to report when they believe that a student has attempted or completed suicide (§ 30:9A-24); that suicide prevention (§ 18A:6- 113) and mental health (§ 18A:35-4.39) be included within elementary, middle, and high school curriculum; and that institutions of higher education have health care professionals available 24/7 who focus on reducing student suicides and attempted suicides (§ 18A:3B-73).

## Get Involved

The **AFSP New Jersey 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 New Jersey**  
[newjersey@afsp.org](mailto:newjersey@afsp.org)

### Become an Advocate

AFSP's New Jersey 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!**