

# Suicide Facts & Figures:

## Oklahoma 2020



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

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

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 16,749 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Oklahoma a total of **\$778,731,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,260,082 per suicide death.**



## 9th leading cause of death in Oklahoma

### 2nd leading

cause of death for ages 10-34

### 3rd leading

cause of death for ages 35-44

### 5th leading

cause of death for ages 45-54

### 8th 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
Oklahoma	790	20.00	10
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

- State suicide prevention activities are overseen by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS, see <https://bit.ly/35fDskY>). This is mandated by state law (the Suicide Prevention Act, 43A Okl. St. §§ 12-101 to 12-105).
- With funding from a federal Garrett Lee Smith grant, ODMHSAS initiated the Oklahoma Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Initiative (<https://bit.ly/32ZFPqu>), which provides evidence-based youth suicide prevention programs through local mental health service providers, schools, youth-serving agencies, tribal governments, and colleges and universities.
- In 2015, the Oklahoma Suicide Prevention Council (established by state law in 2001) issued the 2015-2020 Oklahoma Strategy for Suicide Prevention (<https://bit.ly/2wZ9dIM>). The Council oversees development of different stages of the strategy and assists communities in implementing activities to address the specific needs of their population(s). While no longer mandated by state law, the Council continues to meet and carry out these duties.
- Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and the Governor's office have partnered with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs as part of the Governor's and Mayor's Challenges to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families.
- Oklahoma law (70 Okl. St. § 24-100.7) requires ODMHSAS to develop and make available a suicide awareness and prevention curriculum for school districts; requires school personnel to immediately notify parents/guardians of students at risk for suicide; allows school districts to adopt suicide awareness policies and provide training to students in grades 7-12 and to staff; and allows school districts to enter into agreement with Youth Services Agencies for the provision of intervention and prevention services.

## Get Involved

The **AFSP Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma**  
[oklahoma@afsp.org](mailto:oklahoma@afsp.org)

### Become an Advocate

AFSP's Oklahoma 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!**