

Suicide Facts & Figures: Pennsylvania 2020



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

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

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 37,933 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Pennsylvania a total of **\$1,857,068,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,178,343 per suicide death.**



11th leading cause of death in Pennsylvania

2nd leading
cause of death for ages 10-34

4th leading
cause of death for ages 35-54

8th 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
Pennsylvania	2,014	14.89	32
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

- In 2017, the former PA Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative and Adult/Older Adult Suicide Prevention Coalition were combined into Prevent Suicide PA (preventsuicidepa.org).
- In 2019, the Governor announced a statewide Suicide Prevention Task Force (<https://bit.ly/2E8uc6l>) made up of state agencies, legislators, and Prevent Suicide PA to: provide input on and promote a new 2020-2024 suicide prevention plan, to be developed by the Department of Health Services' Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; promote educational activities and trainings; work with stakeholders, county task forces, and individuals and families with lived experiences to coordinate efforts; and provide input on plan implementation, policy, communications, funding, and programmatic activities.
- PA law (24 Pa.C.S. § 15-1526, or Act 71) requires schools to adopt youth suicide prevention policies and procedures and at least 4 hours of training every 5 years for professional educators serving students in grades 6-12. Schools are also encouraged to include suicide prevention in student curriculum. See <https://bit.ly/2X3GDbj>.
- PA Law (24 Pa.C.S. §§ 7101-7104, or Act 110) requires that any college or university that implements a plan advising students and staff of available mental health and suicide prevention programs be designated as a "certified suicide prevention institution of higher education." See <https://bit.ly/2sjfZBi>.
- The Matt Adler Suicide Prevention Continuing Education Act (63 Pa.C.S. §§ 1221-1225) requires certain mental health professionals to receive at least 1 hour of continuing education in suicide assessment, treatment, and management as a condition of license renewal.
- The Bridge Fencing Safety Act (2018) requires the Dept. of Transportation to consider protective fencing related to suicide & attempted suicide on state-owned bridges.

Get Involved

The **AFSP Pennsylvania Chapters** bring 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 Pennsylvania
pennsylvania@afsp.org

Become an Advocate

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

Visit afsp.org/advocate to sign up!