

Suicide Facts & Figures:

Rhode Island 2020



On average, one person died by suicide every 3 days in the state.

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

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 1,852 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Rhode Island a total of **\$168,566,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,306,717 per suicide death.**



12th leading cause of death in Rhode Island

4th leading

cause of death for ages 10-24

2nd leading

cause of death for ages 25-44

5th leading

cause of death for ages 45-54

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
Rhode Island	106	9.59	48
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

- The Rhode Island Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP, health.ri.gov/violence/about/suicide), housed within the Rhode Island Department of Health, gives communities and policy-makers data and technical assistance to implement programs and policies that aim to reduce suicides.
- The Suicide and Suicide Attempt Prevention section (pp. 32-39) of the 2011-2016 Rhode Island Strategic Plan: Preventing Violence and Injuries in Rhode Island includes evidence-based strategies and recommendations developed by a Suicide Prevention Subcommittee consisting of stakeholders from government agencies, community-based organizations, private entities, and those affected by suicide (<https://bit.ly/2RZezYv>).
- The VIPP oversees the planning and implementation of the Rhode Island Youth Suicide Prevention Project (riyouthsuicidepreventionproject.org); maintains and disseminates resources for educators (<https://bit.ly/2YGwp2K>); identifies and refers youth to mental health professionals through a partnership with Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (risas.org) and the Bradley Hospital; combats the stigmatization of mental illness and seeking treatment in partnership with the Campaign to Change Direction (changedirection.org); and engages with colleges through the Rhode Island Higher Education Suicide Prevention Advisory Group.
- Rhode Island law (§ 16-22-14) requires the department of elementary and secondary education to develop and prescribe a suicide prevention awareness program for public school students in grades 9-12; the program must be incorporated into existing health education courses (<https://bit.ly/2YFIfdY>), and workshops must be developed and provided by the Samaritans, Inc. for teachers designated to teach the program.

Get Involved

The **AFSP Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island
rhodeisland@afsp.org

Become an Advocate

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

Visit afsp.org/advocate to sign up!