

Suicide Facts & Figures:

South Carolina 2020



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

Almost three times as many people died by suicide in South Carolina in 2018 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 16,605 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost South Carolina a total of **\$748,610,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,175,213 per suicide death.**



11th leading cause of death in South Carolina

3rd leading

cause of death for ages 10-24

2nd leading

cause of death for ages 25-34

4th leading

cause of death for ages 35-44

6th leading

cause of death for ages 45-54

10th 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
South Carolina	811	15.47	27
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 SC Department of Mental Health (DMH) was awarded a federal Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) grant in 2015 to fund the SC Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (SCYSPI, scyspi.org), an intensive community-based effort with a goal of reducing suicide among youth and young adults statewide 20% by 2025 (adopted from AFSP's Project 2025, afsp.org/project2025).
- The SC State Suicide Prevention Coalition, relaunched in 2016, includes representation from the legislature, state agencies, and organizations such as AFSP-SC, MHA-SC, and NAMI-SC; the Coalition released the South Carolina Strategy for Suicide Prevention 2018-2025 (<https://bit.ly/2PXBbUp>), to be updated annually.
- The Office of Suicide Prevention of SC DMH, funded via a GLS grant for SCYSPI and a 2018 Zero Suicide grant, is charged with implementation of the Zero Suicide Initiative, policy and protocol development, follow-up/aftercare planning and development, training, and postvention consultation and psychological autopsies, among other activities.
- SC DMH was awarded a FY20-21 State Capacity Building Initiative Grant by Vibrant Emotional Health (administrator of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255) to expand capacity to answer Lifeline calls in-state. The line is managed by Mental Health America of Greenville County.
- The Community Crisis Response & Intervention program (CCRI, <https://bit.ly/2vwmFxU>) was implemented statewide in 2019 to provide services 24/7/365, including community crisis on-site emergency psychiatric screening and assessment.
- South Carolina law (§ 59-26-110) requires 2 hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention for the renewal of credentials every 5 years for middle and high school personnel.

Get Involved

The **AFSP South Carolina 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 South Carolina
southcarolina@afsp.org

Become an Advocate

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

Visit afsp.org/advocate to sign up!