

# Suicide Facts & Figures: South Dakota 2020



**On average, one person died by suicide every 52 hours in the state.**

**More than three times as many people died by suicide in South Dakota in 2018 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.**

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 4,371 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost South Dakota a total of **\$181,751,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,298,218 per suicide death.**



## 10th leading cause of death in South Dakota

**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

**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
<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>19.20</b>	<b>15</b>
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

- South Dakota Suicide Prevention ([sdsuicideprevention.org](https://sdsuicideprevention.org)) is a nonprofit organization, affiliated with the South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS), that provides regional suicide data, best practice recommendations, community toolkits, information on statewide trainings, and guides on how to help individuals at-risk for suicide.
- The Helpline Center ([helplinecenter.org](https://helplinecenter.org)) is the state's only accredited suicide prevention, intervention, and after-care organization whose services include a 24/7 crisis line as part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network (1-800-273-8255). The Center also offers suicide prevention and mental health trainings; loss survivor support services, including 24/7 support by phone (dial 211); crisis texting for high school students through the Text4Hope program (text "icare" to 898-211); and school- and community-based suicide prevention resources and behavioral health guides.
- The South Dakota Suicide Prevention State Plan 2020-2025 was co-developed by the South Dakota Departments of Health, Social Services, Education, Tribal Relations, and Agriculture, as well as the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board; see <https://bit.ly/3bFNwqr> for the full plan and <https://bit.ly/2Jr4JrG> for 2020 priority strategies.
- South Dakota law (§ 13-42-71) requires a minimum of 1 hour of suicide awareness and prevention training for initial and renewal certificates as a teacher, administrator, or other educational professional; requires the SD Board of Education to identify evidence-based resources that will fulfill the training requirement and to make a list of those resources available to school districts ([doe.sd.gov/SuicidePrevention](https://doe.sd.gov/SuicidePrevention)).

## Get Involved

The **AFSP South Dakota 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 Dakota**  
[southdakota@afsp.org](mailto:southdakota@afsp.org)

## Become an Advocate

AFSP's South Dakota 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!**