

Suicide Facts & Figures:

Tennessee 2020



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

Almost five times as many people died by suicide in Tennessee in 2018 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 22,646 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Tennessee a total of **\$1,145,767,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,215,023 per suicide death.**



9th leading cause of death in Tennessee

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

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
Tennessee	1,161	16.60	22
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 Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN; <http://tspn.org/>) works with the state as its own public-private partnership but is overseen by a gubernatorial appointed Advisory Council; other state suicide prevention initiatives are housed within the TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (<https://bit.ly/34aIP3X>).
- The Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention (<https://bit.ly/34aHb2h>) was revised in 2017; Tennessee's Older Adult Suicide Prevention Plan (<https://bit.ly/35gnVBC>) and Youth Suicide Prevention Plan (<https://bit.ly/2RDFsQt>) were revised in 2018.
- Tennessee law (§§ 49-6-1901 to 1902) requires all school employees to attend the annual in-service training in suicide prevention required for teachers and principals under the Jason Flatt Act (§ 49-6-3004 (c) (1)) and all school districts to adopt a policy on student suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.
- Tennessee law (§ 49-7-172) requires each state institution of higher education to develop and implement a plan for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention and provide that plan to students, faculty, and staff at least once each semester (HB 1354, adopted 5/29/19).
- Tennessee law (§ 63-1-125) requires certain certified or licensed behavioral health professionals to receive at least 2 hours of training at least once every 4 years in suicide prevention, assessment and screening, treatment, management, and postvention (originally SB 489, adopted 5/19/17, amended by SB 204, adopted 4/15/19).
- The Suicide Prevention Act of 2018 (§§ 68-3-701 to 703, adopted 5/23/18, expires 6/30/21) authorizes the Health Commissioner to create the Tennessee suicide prevention program and to establish a team to identify and address factors contributing to suicide deaths, facilitate state system changes, and report findings by 6/30/20.

Get Involved

The **AFSP Tennessee 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 Tennessee
tennessee@afsp.org

Become an Advocate

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

Visit afsp.org/advocate to sign up!