

Suicide Facts & Figures: West Virginia 2020



On average, one person died by suicide every 22 hours in the state.

Almost seven times as many people died by suicide in West Virginia in 2018 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of 7,555 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost West Virginia a total of **\$307,058,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,100,568 per suicide death.**



10th leading cause of death in West Virginia

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

16th leading
cause of death for ages 65+

Suicide Death Rates

	Number of Deaths by Suicide	Rate per 100,000 Population	State Rank
West Virginia	395	21.11	8
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

- Prevent Suicide WV, West Virginia's statewide suicide prevention program, is a result of a consolidation of the WV Council for the Prevention of Suicide program and the Adolescent Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention (ASPEN) project. Prevent Suicide WV receives funding from the Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) and the Bureau for Public Health through federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grants.
- Prevent Suicide WV provides suicide prevention education and trainings; improves protocols for assisting individuals at risk; provides technical assistance and consultation services; and builds the capacity of organizations serving vulnerable sub-populations to deliver coordinated care.
- West Virginia's state plan, Preventing Suicide in West Virginia: A Plan to Address a Silent Epidemic, was published in 2006 and revised in 2011; see <https://bit.ly/2JHz411>.
- HB 4006 (adopted 6/8/18) repealed the Jason Flatt Act of 2012 (§ 18A-3A-2) that required routine suicide prevention education for professional educators.
- WV law (§§ 18-2-40, 18B-1B-7) requires that suicide prevention awareness information is disseminated to all middle and high school students, and that all public and private colleges and universities provide students and staff with information about depression and available suicide prevention resources. The law (§ 27-6-1) also requires the posting of certain suicide prevention information online, which is maintained by BBH and can be found at <https://bit.ly/2DpsyyW>.
- WV law (§ 30-1-7a) requires that 2 hours of the continuing education required for licensed nurses, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, and counselors be on mental health conditions common to Veterans and include training on suicide risk and prevention, depression and grief, and screening for conditions such as PTSD.

Get Involved

The **AFSP West Virginia 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 West Virginia
westvirginia@afsp.org

Become an Advocate

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

Visit afsp.org/advocate to sign up!