

# Suicide Facts & Figures:

## Montana 2018\*



**On average, one person dies by suicide every 33 hours in the state.**

**More than six times as many people die by suicide in Montana annually than by homicide.**

The total deaths to suicide reflect a total of 6,232 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Montana a total of **\$253,380,000** of combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,116,213 per suicide death.**

\*Based on most recent 2016 data from CDC. Learn more at [afsp.org/statistics](http://afsp.org/statistics).



## 8th leading cause of death in Montana

**2nd leading**  
cause of death for ages 15-44

**5th leading**  
cause of death for ages 45-54

**7th leading**  
cause of death for ages 55-64

**18th leading**  
cause of death for ages 65 & older

### Suicide Death Rates

|            | Number of Deaths by Suicide | Rate per 100,000 Population | State Rank |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Montana    | 267                         | 26.01                       | 1          |
| Nationally | 44,965                      | 13.42                       |            |

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## Suicide Prevention Programs and Initiatives

- Montana employs a Suicide Prevention Coordinator within the Department of Public Health and Human Services (MCA § 53-21-1101). This position is responsible for distributing public awareness campaign materials, toolkits, and other resources; delivering training; funding regional training and interventions; developing and maintaining media campaigns; disseminating materials to Veterans; and maintaining the State Suicide Prevention Lifeline. See <http://dphhs.mt.gov/suicideprevention/suicideresources>.
- The Montana Suicide Mortality Review Team's 2016 final report is available online at <http://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/suicideprevention/2016SuicideMortalityReviewTeamReport.pdf>.
- The *Montana Strategic Suicide Prevention Plan 2017* includes progress and challenges from previous years, statewide statistics, goals and objectives, and suggested prevention activities; see <http://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/suicideprevention/StateSuicidePlan2017.pdf>.
- HB 118 (adopted 4/25/17) provides for community suicide prevention grants; current grant amounts include \$250,000 to implement the suicide prevention plan for American Indian youth, \$250,000 for schools to implement evidence-based practices, and \$500,000 to communities with an emphasis on treating adults and veterans.
- The 2013 legislature appropriated funds for the creation of a universal suicide screening tool for all county jails and detention facilities, integrating Mental Health First Aid into the core curriculum at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy.
- Montana law (MCA § 20-7-1310) requires the office of public instruction to provide guidance, technical assistance, and training materials to schools on youth suicide awareness and prevention and encourages educators who work directly with students to complete at least 2 hours of training every 5 years. HB 381 (adopted 5/3/17) requires school district trustees to establish policies, procedures, or plans related to suicide prevention and response.

## Get Involved

The **AFSP Montana 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 Montana**  
[montana@afsp.org](mailto:montana@afsp.org)

### Become an Advocate

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

Visit [afsp.org/advocate](http://afsp.org/advocate) to sign up!