

# Suicide Facts & Figures:

## Washington 2019 \*



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

**More than seven as many people died by suicide in Washington in 2017 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.**

The total deaths to suicide reflect a total of 25,767 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Washington a total of **\$1,114,435,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,164,509 per suicide death.**

\*Based on most recent 2017 data from CDC. Learn more at [afsp.org/statistics](http://afsp.org/statistics).



## 8th leading cause of death in Washington

### 2nd leading

cause of death for ages 15-34

### 3rd leading

cause of death for ages 35-44

### 4th 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 & older

## Suicide Death Rates

	Number of Deaths by Suicide	Rate per 100,000 Population	State Rank
Washington	1,297	16.86	23
Nationally	47,173	14.00	

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## Suicide Prevention Programs and Initiatives

- The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) released the Washington State Suicide Prevention Plan in 2016, see <https://bit.ly/2IRz3gh>. In 2009, the Washington State Youth Suicide Prevention Steering Committee released Washington State's Plan for Youth Suicide Prevention, which was updated with data and goals in 2014, see <https://bit.ly/2k6n3cZ>.
- Washington law requires that certified school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and counselors receive training on youth suicide screening and referral (RCW 28A.410.226); that school districts adopt a plan to recognize and respond to youth suicide (RCW 28A.320.127); that Educational Service Districts develop and maintain the capacity to provide related training (RCW 28A.310.500); and that suicide prevention and mental health education be included in student health and fitness requirements (RCW 28A.230.095).
- Washington law (RCW 43.70.442) requires 6 hours of suicide prevention training at least once every 6 years for mental health professionals, a one-time training for primary care professionals and pharmacists, and that all trainings taken for certification be from the state's model list to meet minimum standards established by DOH (originally the Matt Adler Suicide Assessment, Treatment, and Management Training Act of 2012).
- Washington law (RCW 43.70.445-446) establishes the Suicide-Safer Homes Task Force and Suicide-Safer Homes Project and Project Account focusing on public awareness and prevention education with firearms dealers and ranges, pharmacies, health care providers, and law enforcement officers.
- WA SB 6514 (2018) requires the development of a statewide resource for behavioral health and suicide prevention for postsecondary institutions (RCW 28B.20.510); establishes the Suicide Prevention in Higher Education Grant Program (RCW 28B.77.120); and requires postsecondary institutions to report annually on student behavioral health, student suicides, institutional training, and campus crisis plans (RCW 28B.20.515).

## Get Involved

The **AFSP Washington 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 Washington**  
[washington@afsp.org](mailto:washington@afsp.org)

### Become an Advocate

AFSP's Washington 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!**