SUICIDE: VIRGINIA 2015 FACTS & FIGURES

## Suicide Death Rates

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Number of Deaths  by Suicide | Rate per 100,000  Population | State  Rank |
| Virginia | 1,072 | 12.52 | 35 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Nationally | 41,149 | 12.57 |  |

Suicide cost Virginia a total of **$1,124,664,000** of combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **$1,167,876** per suicide death.

#### 

**2nd leading** cause of death for ages 15-34

**4th leading** cause of death for ages 10-14

On average, one person dies by suicide

**every eight hours**

in the state.

IN VIRGINIA, SUICIDE IS THE...

Suicide is the **11th leading** cause of death overall in Virginia.

**4th leading** cause of death for ages 35-54

**9th leading** cause of death for ages 55-64

**16th leading**

cause of death for ages 65 & older

**Over three times as many** people die by suicide in Virginia annually than by homicide; the total deaths by suicide reflect a total of **21,105** years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.

Based on most recent 2013 data from CDC



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SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Virginia’s Suicide Prevention Program ([www.preventsuicideva.org](http://www.preventsuicideva.org/) ) is housed within the Virginia Department of Health’s Division of Prevention and Health Promotion.

The Program coordinates statewide training for school personnel, human service providers, faith communities and others on suicide prevention and intervention, including identification of those at risk, screening, counseling and referral.

Virginia’s suicide prevention plan, Suicide Across the **Life Span Plan for the Commonwealth of Virginia**, was released in 2004; available online at [http://leg2.](http://leg2/) state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/SD172004/$file/SD17\_2004.pdf.

The Virginia Suicide Prevention Program and the Virginia Suicide Prevention Coalition released the 3rd edition of the **Virginia Suicide Prevention Resource Directory** in 2010; available online at <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/ofhs/prevention/> preventsuicideva/documents/2012/pdf/Virginia\_Suicide\_Prevention\_Directory.pdf.

Virginia law (§22.1-272.1) requires that licensed administrative or instructional personnel in Virginia public schools, who have reason to believe that a student is at imminent risk of suicide, contact at least one of such student’s parents as soon as practicable to ask whether the parent is aware of the student’s mental state and whether the parent wishes to obtain or has already obtained counseling for such student. Such contact must be made in accordance with guidelines developed by the Board of Education.

GET INVOLVED

Two AFSP Chapters serve communities across Virginia. For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

#### AFSP – VIRGINIA

[virginia@afsp.org](mailto:virginia@afsp.org)

#### AFSP – NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

[nationalcapitalDC@afsp.org](mailto:nationalcapitalDC@afsp.org)

**BECOME AN ADVOCATE IN VIRGINIA**

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

To get involved, contact: Nicole Gibson

AFSP Senior Manager of State Advocacy [ngibson@afsp.org](mailto:ngibson@afsp.org)

Virginia law (§23-9.2:8) requires the governing boards of each public institution of higher education to develop and implement policies that advise students, faculty, and staff of the proper procedures for identifying and addressing the needs of students exhibiting suicidal tendencies or behavior, and to provide for training.

# LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST SUICIDE

#### We fund research, offer educational programs, advocate for public policy and support those affected by suicide. Headquartered in New York, AFSP has 75 local chapters with programs and events nationwide.

