

SOUTH DAKOTA SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN 2020-2025

2020 PRIORITY STRATEGIES OUTCOMES REPORT

[View the 2020 Priority Strategies](#)

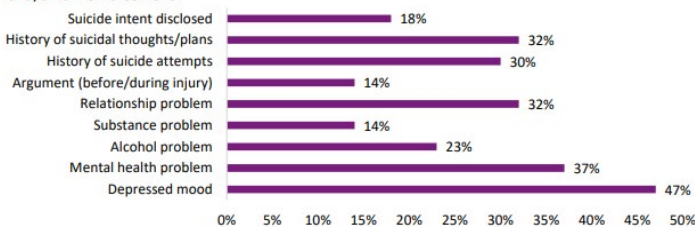
DATA

The data dashboards on SDSuicidePrevention.org/data were upgraded utilizing a new software to provide the public, partners, and other state agencies the ability to have the most recent data available to them. The data dashboards are interactive and provide more detail to help inform areas of focus and evaluate impact of prevention strategies. For example, within the data dashboard there is a map that includes suicide rates by county, which can help inform response efforts at the local level.

The South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) started data collection for the **South Dakota Violent Death Reporting System** in 2019 in Minnehaha and Pennington counties. The SD-VDRS collects information about the who, what, where, and how on violent deaths and provides insight about why they occurred. The first SD-VDRS report was created in 2020 utilizing the data collected in 2019 and showed that of the 68 violent deaths that occurred in those 2 counties, 57 of them were suicides. And some of the contributing circumstances surrounding those 57 suicides include;

Factors Contributing to Suicide Deaths

Contributing circumstances surrounding suicide deaths were documented in the records by coroners and/or law enforcement.



The full 2019 SD-VDRS report and future reports are available on the [DOH website](#). The SD-VDRS started statewide data collection on January 1, 2020.

The DOH administers the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which collects health related data on our high school students every other year on odd years, so valid data was collected in 2019 and reported in 2020. Three different questions on suicide are included within the survey; have you seriously considered attempting suicide, have you made a plan about how you would attempt suicide, and have attempted suicide. All of which have increased since 2009. The 2009-2019 report is available on the [DOH website](#).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

On August 6, the South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS), South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) and the DOH presented to the Associated School Board on suicide data, current resources and training available, and information on model school policies. This information was also included newsletters and blogs through the Associated School Board.

The DSS received and approved 61 suicide prevention and mental health awareness trainings, in which trained 1179 individuals. Trainings included Mental Health First Aid, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Question Persuade and Refer and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many trainings have been adapted to be provided virtually, making them more accessible to South Dakota residents. To request training go to sdsuicideprevention.org/get-help/request-training/.

Instead of a "Bright Spot" event in 2020, DSS showcased success stories through Zoom interviews with five organizations; Lost&Found (1,000 views), Wani Waceen (74 views), Capital Area Counseling (187 views), Rapid City School District (111 views) and Veteran's Affairs (377 views) and posted to the South Dakota Prevention [Facebook page](#) and the South Dakota Suicide Prevention [website](#).

The DSS supported the continued implementation of Zero Suicide through six Community of Learning (CoL) calls, with representation from 21 behavioral health and primary care providers in South Dakota. The DOH provided training to 100 health care providers on how to assess and talk to their patients about mental health and suicide. Veteran Affairs (VA) provides gatekeeper and role specific training to their own employees as well as military culture education to law enforcement and fire departments and included suicide prevention resources within those trainings.



Responsible media reporting around suicide is extremely important, so when the 2020-2025 Suicide Prevention Plan was launched in January 2020 and in September during Suicide Awareness Month guidelines were sent to our media partners on this. These guidelines are also located on the sdsuicideprevention.org/professionals/media/.

COMMUNICATIONS

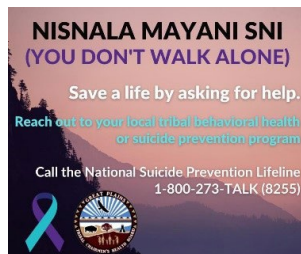
A Suicide Prevention Plan e-newsletter was created in 2020 and provided updates on a monthly basis through 2020. Sign up at sdsuicideprevention.org/ to learn about new resources and programs available.

Various social media platforms were utilized to provide awareness and education;

- BeThe1: [Instagram](#)
- SD Prevention: [Facebook](#)
- Black Hills VA: [Facebook](#)
- Cor Health & Wellbeing: [Facebook](#)
- GPTLHB: [Facebook](#)
- SD Department of Tribal Relations: [Facebook](#)
- DOH: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)
- DSS: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)

With a huge push on this effort in September, Suicide Awareness Month it generated 7,981 visits to sdsuicideprevention.org/, almost double the monthly average of 4,000 visits.

Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board and Native Connections developed social media graphics in support of the Tribal Communities they serve. One of the graphics stating “You don’t walk alone” in Lakota language (Nisnala Mayani Sni) had 440 shares and a video featuring GPTLHB staff around that same statement had over 9,000 views.



Black Hills Veteran’s Affairs organized Signs of Support, where approximately 500 community members engaged throughout the Black Hills.

The DSS provided suicide prevention materials promoting the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL), warning signs of suicide and information on how to help at no-costs to schools, youth serving organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, tribal organizations and behavioral health providers. From June 1, 2019-May 31, 2020, 52 Bethe1SD and 32 Reach for Life toolkits were disseminated. To order materials go to <https://sdsuicideprevention.org/get-help/order-materials/>.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The DOH funded 4 organizations to implement the Communities That Care model (CTC) including Capital Area Counseling (Hughes and Stanley counties), Missouri Breaks Research (Ziebach and Dewey counties), Lakota Youth Development (Gregory county) and Avera St. Luke’s (Brown county). This is a 2-year project. Through other funding Rapid City is also implement CTC.

The DOE hosted a webinar on September 29 to educate school personnel on crisis and post-vention model policies, where 144 individuals attended. These model policies are located sdsuicideprevention.org/professionals/school-staff/ along with other educator resources.

The DOH provided four resiliency trainings for 41 high trauma professionals and also developed a self-care toolkit on sdsuicideprevention.org/specific-populations/high-trauma-professionals/.



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