



Preventing Suicide in Arizona

Kelli Donley Williams, MPH

Suicide Prevention Specialist

Suicide Facts & Figures:

Arizona 2019 *



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

Almost five times as many people died by suicide in Arizona in 2017 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.

The total deaths to suicide reflect a total of 25,732 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost Arizona a total of **\$1,246,006,000** combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of **\$1,139,987 per suicide death.**

*Based on most recent 2017 data from CDC. Learn more at afsp.org/statistics.



8th leading cause of death in Arizona

2nd leading
cause of death for ages 15-34

3rd leading
cause of death for ages 35-44

5th leading
cause of death for ages 45-54

7th leading
cause of death for ages 55-64

15th leading
cause of death for ages 65 & older

Suicide Death Rates

	Number of Deaths by Suicide	Rate per 100,000 Population	State Rank
Arizona	1,327	18.14	20
Nationally	47,173	14.00	

afsp.org/StateFacts



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

What does the data tell us?

Men, age 65 and older are most at risk.

80% of gun deaths in Arizona are suicides.

Increased rate of suicide among all ages

What are we doing?

- Interagency collaboration
 - ADHS, DVS, DES, ADE
 - Project AWARE
- Community collaboration
 - Be Connected
 - VA hospitals
 - Schools
 - Tribal partners

Support Statewide

- Mitch Warnock Act – suicide prevention for schools
- Veteran suicide prevention count
 - Improved data, relationships
- Behavioral Health in Schools
 - 16,000 students per month

Framework:

LEAD

- system-wide culture change committed to reducing suicides

TRAIN

- a competent, confident, and caring workforce up-to-date in suicide care

IDENTIFY

- patients with suicide risk via comprehensive screenings

ENGAGE

- all individuals at-risk of suicide in a suicide care management plan

TREAT

- suicidal thoughts and behaviors using evidence-based treatments

TRANSITION

- individuals through care with warm hand-offs and supportive contacts

IMPROVE

- policies and procedures through a continuous quality improvement plan

Questions?

Kelli
Donley
Williams

- Kelli.Williams@azahccs.gov