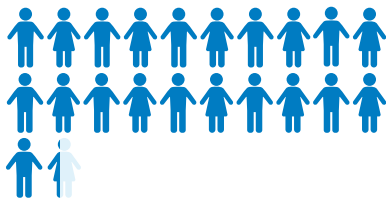
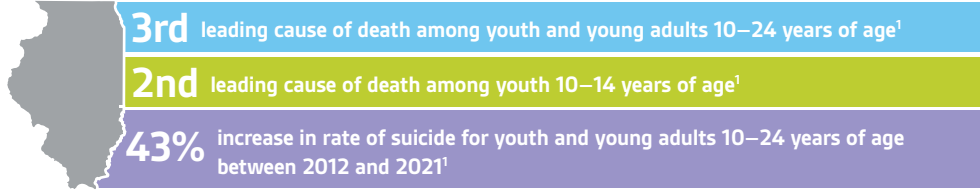
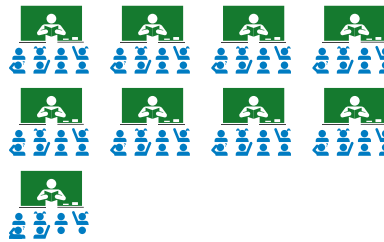


Suicides Among Illinois Youth and Young Adults Ages 10–24



213

youth and young adults
ages 10–24 years
died by suicide in 2021²



Over
9 classrooms
of youth

11,400
years of potential life lost
in 2021 due to youth and
young adult suicide¹



Approximately
1 death
every
2 days



34% of youth and
young adults 10–24 years
of age who died by suicide
were identified as having
mental health problems²

\$140 million
total lifetime costs
(medical and work loss) of
youth who died by suicide³



Nearly
2 in 5
youth and young adults
who died by suicide used a **firearm⁴**

RISK FACTORS⁴

- Mental health conditions
- Stressful life events
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity
- Previous suicide attempt
- Access to lethal means
- Family history of suicide, abuse or neglect

AGES 10–14

20% had a school problem
that likely contributed
to their death.²

AGES 15–19

22% were in treatment
for a mental health
or substance use
problem at the time
of their death.²

AGES 20–24

27% had problems with
an intimate partner
that likely contributed
to their death.²

SUMMARY OF AGES 10–24 WHO DIED BY SUICIDE²

10% disclosed plans
to commit suicide
within a month prior
to the fatal injury.

16% had a history of
attempting suicide
before the fatal
accident.

19% were perceived to be
depressed at the time
of the injury.

Call to Action



FUNDING

- Increase funding for the Illinois Suicide Prevention Call Centers so all Illinois calls can be answered in our state
- Require the State to negotiate equitable insurance reimbursement for behavioral health services
- Allocate funding to allow the State to expand the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System to all counties and produce an annual report on statewide findings
- Provide resources to the Department of Public Health to ensure compliance with the provisions of 20 ILCS 2310/2310-455 to implement activities associated with the Suicide Prevention, Education, and Treatment Act
- Support loan forgiveness and related programs to expand the behavioral healthcare workforce and address provider shortages in underserved areas
- Support reimbursement for telepsychiatry and school-based mental health services
- Designate funding toward initiatives that will train primary care providers on evidence-based suicide screening and assessment practices

TRAINING

- Ensure all professionals serving children are trained in evidence-based suicide prevention, intervention and postvention (intervention/support after a suicide occurs)
- Require suicide prevention as a core educational requirement for the licensing of medical and behavioral health systems and professionals
- Support the creation of a behavioral health provider pipeline
- Support and promote Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for law enforcement officers

COMPLIANCE

- Require the Illinois State Board of Education to monitor and enforce compliance with suicide prevention and anti-bullying laws directed at primary and higher education institutions and to annually report their findings to the State legislature
- Implement an anti-bullying policy required by 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7, regularly review its effectiveness and revise the policy as needed
- Require the Departments of Insurance and Health and Family Services to strictly enforce compliance with Illinois' parity law (215 ILCS 5/370c and 370c.1), including implementation of the annual treatment limitation reporting format for use by commercial and Medicaid health plans mandated by Public Act (PA) 100-1024

DATA

- Increase the efficiency of state-based processes for certifying, amending and reporting vital records related to suicide death

RESOURCES

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
Suicide Prevention
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/suicide-prevention>

Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan 2020
<https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/files/publications/illinoisstrategicplan2020reduced.pdf>

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)
Save Lives and Bring Hope to Those Affected by Suicide: <https://afsp.org/>

Crisis Text Line
Text HOME to 741741
Text from anywhere in the United States, anytime, about any type of crisis
<https://www.crisistextline.org/>

TrevorLifeline for LGBTQ youth
866.488.7386
Web Chat: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/webchat>
Texting: Text START to 678-678
Trained counselors who understand the challenges LGBTQ young people face are available for support 24/7. They will listen without judgment and all conversations are confidential.
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
988 (English and Spanish)
Provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or loved ones, and best practices professionals in the United States.
<https://988lifeline.org/> (English)
<https://988lifeline.org/es> (Spanish)

DATA SOURCES AND CITATION

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2. Illinois Violent Death Reporting System. Maryann Mason, PhD (Director); Northwestern University; maryann-mason@northwestern.edu.
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