

According to the American Association of Suicidology 2017 Final Data, Nevada currently has the 11th highest rate in the nation with 627 deaths and a rate of 20.9. Suicide rates increased in nearly every state from 1999 through 2016, whereas only Nevada reduced its suicide rate by 1%. Preliminary 2018 information from the Nevada Electronic Death Registry System shows numbers across almost all age groups held steady or even decreased with a rate of 19.5. There was a sharp rise in the suicide rate for youth under 18 years of age, where Clark County experienced a 90% increase in suicide death between 2017 (10 deaths) and 2018 (19 deaths). Youth rates for the remaining counties increased 60%, from 5 deaths in 2017 to 8 deaths in 2018. Suicide is the leading cause of death among Nevadans 12-19 years old. Youth can experience multiple risk and protective factors increasing the complexity of suicide. No single event, behavior, or risk factor can explain this increase, although state child fatality review teams and the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities seek to find trends and areas for improved communication and prevention across systems.

The Division of Public and Behavioral Health continues to work on lowering Nevada's rate with two main initiatives: Crisis Now and Zero Suicide. Crisis Now focuses on community-level crisis care with four core elements: 1) High-Tech Crisis Call Centers; 2) 24/7 Mobile Crisis; 3) Crisis Stabilization; and 4) Essential Principles and Practices. Zero Suicide is based on seven tenants geared toward shifting from fragmented suicide care toward a holistic and comprehensive approach to patient safety and quality improvement within healthcare systems.

Nevada's response to this rise in youth rates includes multiple efforts from the Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP), the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) and the Division of Public Safety (DPS) along with many community partners. Actions include applying for a second round of funding for Project Aware, focused on Clark County students. Project Aware has implemented strategies to increase the ability for schools to be safe and respectful, and increase the ability for all students to be socially, emotionally, and mentally healthy with seamless access to mental health support when needed. The strongest part of this initiative is working with an integrated and comprehensive multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) enabling individuals, families, communities, schools, emergency services and health care systems to talk about mental health and suicide. MTSS ensures appropriate intervention and follow up. NDE and DPS oversee the statewide SafeVoice program. SafeVoice is a very successful and effective bystander reporting program where any concerned individual can make a report by phone, on the computer or via the mobile application when they fear for their safety or the safety of others, in schools or in communities. Multiple children's lives across Nevada have been saved because a concerned individual had the courage to speak up and report the information to SafeVoice. Other efforts include Signs of Suicide student curriculum/screening process, addressing recommendations from the School Safety Task Force report, sustaining/educating social workers in schools and attaining Medicaid dollars for school-based behavioral health services.