

There is hope.



# 988 and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline



## What is 988?

A direct three-digit line to trained National Suicide Prevention Lifeline counselors will open the door for millions of Americans to seek the help they need, while sending the message to that healing, hope, and help are happening every day.

A 988 crisis line that is effectively resourced and promoted will be able to:

- Connect a person in a mental health crisis to a trained counselor who can address their immediate needs and help connect them to ongoing care.
- Reduce healthcare spending with more cost-effective early intervention.
- Reduce use of law enforcement, public health, and other safety resources.
- Meet the growing need for crisis intervention at scale.
- Help end stigma toward those seeking or accessing mental healthcare.

## Why do we need 988 in Nevada?

Nevada ranks 12th highest in the nation for suicide. In the silver state, the age-adjusted rate for deaths from suicide in 2020 was 19.2 per 100,000 population, which is higher than the national rate at 14.0 per 100,000.

On average, roughly 632 Nevadans die by suicide each year, and approximately 12% of the suicides from 2017-2020 were among young adults (ages 18-24) and youth (ages 10-17).

## Bringing 988 to NV

The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, federal legislation designating 988 as the three-digit dialing code for the Lifeline, was signed into law in October 2020.

Senate Bill 390 was introduced to the State Legislature in March 2021 to provide that suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline to Nevadans.

How does funding work? While the Lifeline is a national program, federal funding goes toward managing call routing, best practice standards, public messaging, capacity-building opportunities, and technical assistance for the nationwide network. On the state level, funding for 988 comes from the the Covid Supplemental Grant, the American Rescue Plan Act, the SAMHSA Cooperative Agreement, and Medicaid.

## Impacts on Youth

Deaths by suicide are the leading cause of death in Nevada for ages 10-17. From 2017-2020, there were 14,949 emergency room visits with a suicide ideation code included in the visit (age 10-24). Among the age group of 10 to 17, there has been a steady increase in suicide ideation from 2017-to 2020, with the highest crude rate of 519.4 per 100,000 (n=1,799) in 2020.

However, suicide is most often preventable. For every person who dies by suicide, there are 280 people who seriously consider suicide but do not kill themselves. More than 90% of people who attempt suicide go on to live out their lives.

12th  
in the Nation



SB390  
brings  
hotline to  
silver state

1 in 5

people above the age of 12  
has a mental health condition