



Suicide Is an Urgent Public Health Issue in America

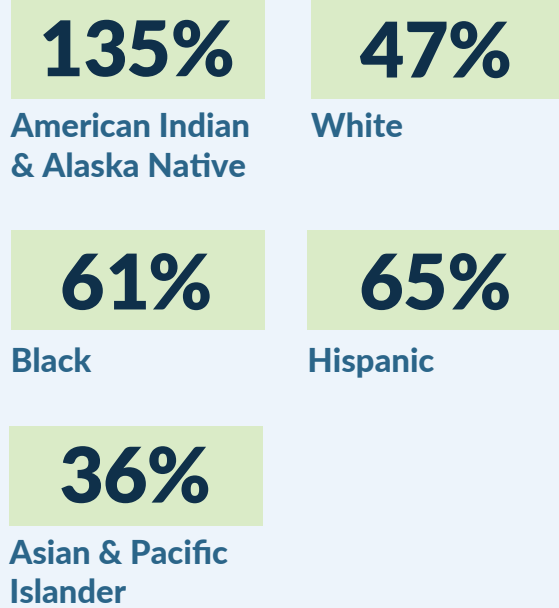
Screening for suicide risk can save lives

More than
48,000
people
died by suicide
in 2021.¹

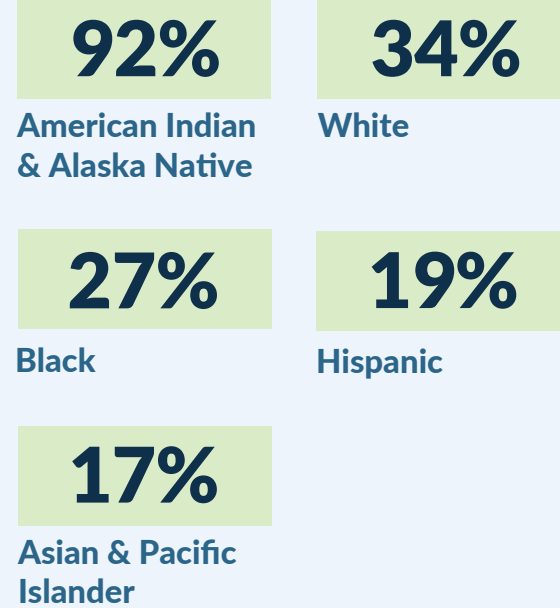
Suicide was the
11th-leading
cause of death
in the country
in 2021.²

From 2000 to 2020, the suicide rate **increased 30%** across all sexes, races, and ethnicities.³

 Rate increase
among females:



 Rate increase
among males:



Screening tools for suicide risk can **help reduce death and connect people to treatment**, but these tools are not widely used.

About half

of all people who die by suicide interact with the health care system within a month of their death, giving health care providers a critical opportunity to screen for suicide risk.⁴

Eight hospital emergency departments found

30% fewer suicide attempts

among patients who were screened for suicide risk and received evidence-based care, such as additional screening and follow-up phone calls, compared with patients who were not screened.⁵



Hospitals and health systems can implement evidence-based suicide screening to identify patients at risk and connect them to lifesaving care.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call or text the *Suicide and Crisis Lifeline* at 988 or visit [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org) and click on the chat button.

1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2018-2021 on CDC WONDER Online Database, accessed March 3, 2023, <http://wonder.cdc.gov>.

2 Ibid.

3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, accessed March 23, 2023, <http://wonder.cdc.gov>.

4 B.K. Ahmedani et al., "Health Care Contacts in the Year Before Suicide Death," *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 29, no. 6 (2014), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4026491/>.

5 I.W. Miller et al., "Suicide Prevention in an Emergency Department Population: The ED-SAFE Study," *JAMA Psychiatry* 74, no. 6 (2017): 563-70, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28456130/>.