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Exploring Policy Solutions
Suicide Death Rate

Results WA Goal 2020: 14.0 per 100,000

- Firearm: WA 47.7%, US 50.6%
  - WA: 2704, US: 111371
- Suffocation: WA 25.6%, US 26.4%
  - WA: 1450, US: 58041
- Poisoning: WA 17.7%, US 15.2%
  - WA: 1003, US: 33513
- Others: WA 5.9%, US 5.5%
  - WA: 332, US: 12172
- Falls: WA 3.2%, US 2.5%
  - WA: 180, US: 5209

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WA Firearm Deaths Number by Intent

Number of Firearm Deaths

Suicide | Homicide | Other*
---|---|---
2012: 529 | 136 | 14
2013: 476 | 114 | 30
2014: 544 | 118 | 33
2015: 535 | 160 | 19
2016: 512 | 145 | 25
2017: 637 | 164 | 44

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Governor Inslee Executive Order 16-02

EXECUTIVE ORDER 16-02

FIREARM FATALITY PREVENTION – A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH
Reducing and preventing gun-related violence, crime, fatalities and injuries, and implementing the Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan.

WHEREAS, in Washington State:
• firearm deaths now exceed motor vehicle crash deaths;
• suicides account for nearly 80 percent of all firearm deaths;
• suicide is the second leading cause of death in our youth and young adults (ages 10-34), and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth have higher suicide attempts than the general population;
• men are more than six times as likely to die by suicide with a firearm;
• veterans are at higher risk of suicide compared to the general population of
WASHINGTON STATE
Suicide Prevention Plan

INSTITUTE OF HEALTH POLICY FORUM

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Suicide Prevention Plan Strategies

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1
Healthy and Empowered Individuals, Families and Communities

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2
Clinical and Community Preventative Services

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3
Treatment and Support Services

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4
Surveillance, Research and Evaluation
Statewide System for Suicide Prevention

- Train frontline staff
- Raise awareness
- Reduce stigma
- Educate community
- Support veterans and youth
- Statewide specialists
- Implement state plan
- Crisis hotlines
- Connect to resources
- Fund community programs

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Students & Higher Education

- HB 1163 (2011) – student education & funding
- HB 1336 (2013) – school capacity
- HB 1135 (2015) – higher ed task force
- HB 1379 (2016) – prevention in higher ed
- HB 2513 (2018) – higher ed veterans
- SB 6514 (2018) – higher ed task force recommendations
- HB 1593 (2019) – Behavioral health innovation and integration campus within UW School of Medicine
- HB 1216 (2019) – Youth suicide prevention in schools
Education for Health Professionals

• ESHB 2366 (2012)
  • Continuing education for mental health professionals

• HB 2315 (2014)
  • One-time training for health professionals
    • HB 1424 (2016)
      • Minimum standards for training
      • Adds issues specific to veterans and access to lethal means
    • HB 2793 (2016) – Pharmacists
    • HB 1612 (2017) – Dentists and dental hygienists
Safer Homes

HB 2793 (2016)
  • Safer Homes Task Force
  • Certifying firearms dealers and ranges

SB 5552 (2017)
  • Temporary transfer of firearms

HB 1612 (2017)
  • Reduce access to lethal means

HB 1047 (2018)
  • Collection of unwanted medications

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Other initiatives and future funding

• HB 2671: Agricultural industry task force
• Joint Suicide Prevention Decision Package
  • Full funding to implement the Suicide Prevention Plan

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