

Suicide in S.D. & the Black Hills

Suicide in the Black Hills is a public health problem that deserves attention, and the **AFSP-Black Hills Out of the Darkness Walk** in Sturgis on October 17, 2009 will bring the Black Hills together as a single community to make suicide prevention a priority throughout the Hills.

2006 U.S. State Suicide Rankings, Deaths, Rates

Rank	State [Division] (2005 rank)....	Deaths.....	Rate
1	Wyoming [M] (4T).....	116.....	22.5
2	Alaska [P] (3).....	135.....	20.1
3	Montana [M] (1).....	189.....	20.0
4	Nevada [M] (2).....	486.....	19.5
5	New Mexico [M] (4T).....	352.....	18.0
6	South Dakota [WNC] (9).....	125.....	16.0
7	Arizona [M] (8).....	979.....	15.9
8	Oregon [P] (10).....	579.....	15.6
9	Colorado [M] (6).....	730.....	15.4
10	Idaho [M] (7).....	222.....	15.1

In 2006, S.D. had the sixth-highest suicide rate in the U.S.

S.D. (Black Hills) RESIDENT DEATHS DUE TO SUICIDE BY RESIDENT COUNTY, 2003-2007				
	Total Population	Deaths (2003-07)	Suicide Rate	Deaths/yr (average)
Custer	7,275	8	22.0	
Fall River	7,453	15	40.3	
So. Hills	14,728	23		4+/year
Butte	9,094	11	24.2	
Lawrence	21,802	21	19.3	
Meade	24,253	26	21.4	
No. Hills	55,149	58		12/year
Pennington	88,565	66	14.9	12+/year
TOTAL	158,442	147		29/year

County	Rate/100K	County Rank
Fall River	40.3	4 th
Butte	24.2	8 th
Custer	22	10 th
Meade	21.4	11 th
Lawrence	19.3	14 th
<i>S.D. statewide</i>	<i>15</i>	
Pennington	14.9	20 th

Source: South Dakota Department of Health
 Rates are per 100,000 population and are based on the 2000 Census.
 *Dept. of Health policy prohibits publishing vital events in cells of less than three, except for statewide reporting.

- Once every 12 or 13 days in the Black Hills, someone dies by suicide (two deaths per month).
- The suicide rate for five of the six counties in the Black Hills is significantly higher than for the rest of S.D.
- 26% of the suicides in S.D. occur in the Black Hills (while 21% of the population lives there).