

# Youth Suicide in Montana



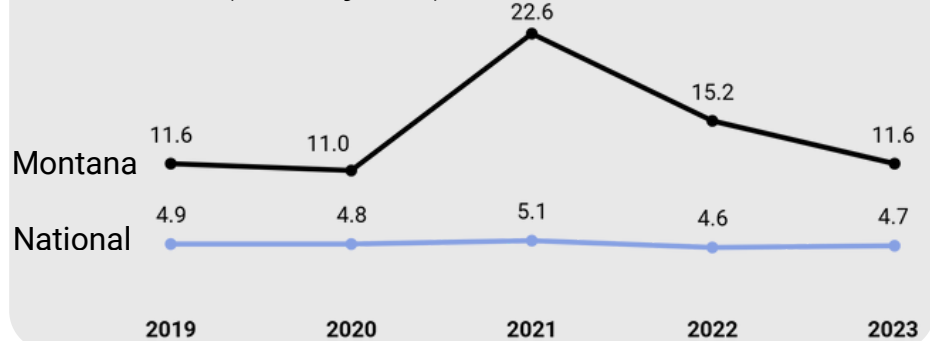
MONTANA  
VIOLENT DEATH  
REPORTING SYSTEM

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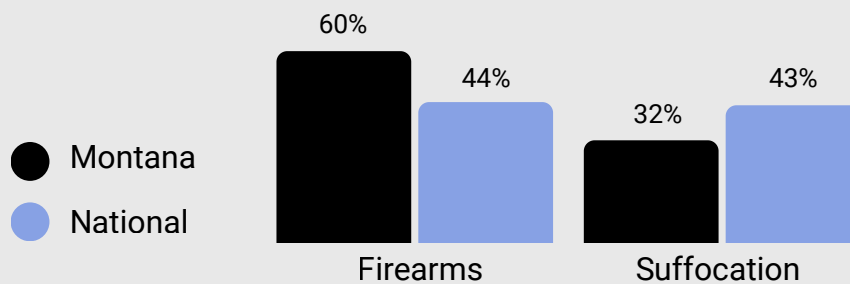
The youth suicide rate in Montana was consistently more than double the national rate<sup>1</sup>

Suicide was the **#1** cause of preventable death for Montana youth ages **10-14 years**<sup>3</sup>

## Youth (10-17 years) Suicide Rate Per 100k<sup>1</sup>



60% of Montana's youth suicides were firearm-related<sup>1</sup>  
Ages 10-17 Years, 2019-2023



**30%**

of Montana's adult firearm owners living with someone under 18 years old had an **unlocked** firearm in their home<sup>5</sup>



**1 in 4 high schoolers** seriously considered **attempting suicide** in the last year<sup>4</sup>

Most youth suicide victims didn't show that they were at risk<sup>2</sup>

Youth (10-17 years) in the **hidden risk group** had minimal contact with mental health or legal systems, fewer documented social problems, and were more likely to use firearms than youth in the visible risk



## What Montana is Doing to Prevent Youth Suicide

Suicide Prevention and  
Mental Health Crisis  
24/7 Lifeline



**MT988**

Youth-Focused  
Prevention Resources

Visit DPHHS' **Suicide Prevention** and **Crisis Systems** websites for school-based programs, toolkits, and training

Strengthening Data  
to Guide Prevention

**Montana VDRS** compiles contextual information about every suicide to effectively target interventions

1. CDC WISQARS 2. MT-VDRS (2019-2023) 3. MT Vital Statistics Annual Report (2023) 4. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2023) 5. MT BRFS (2024)