



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

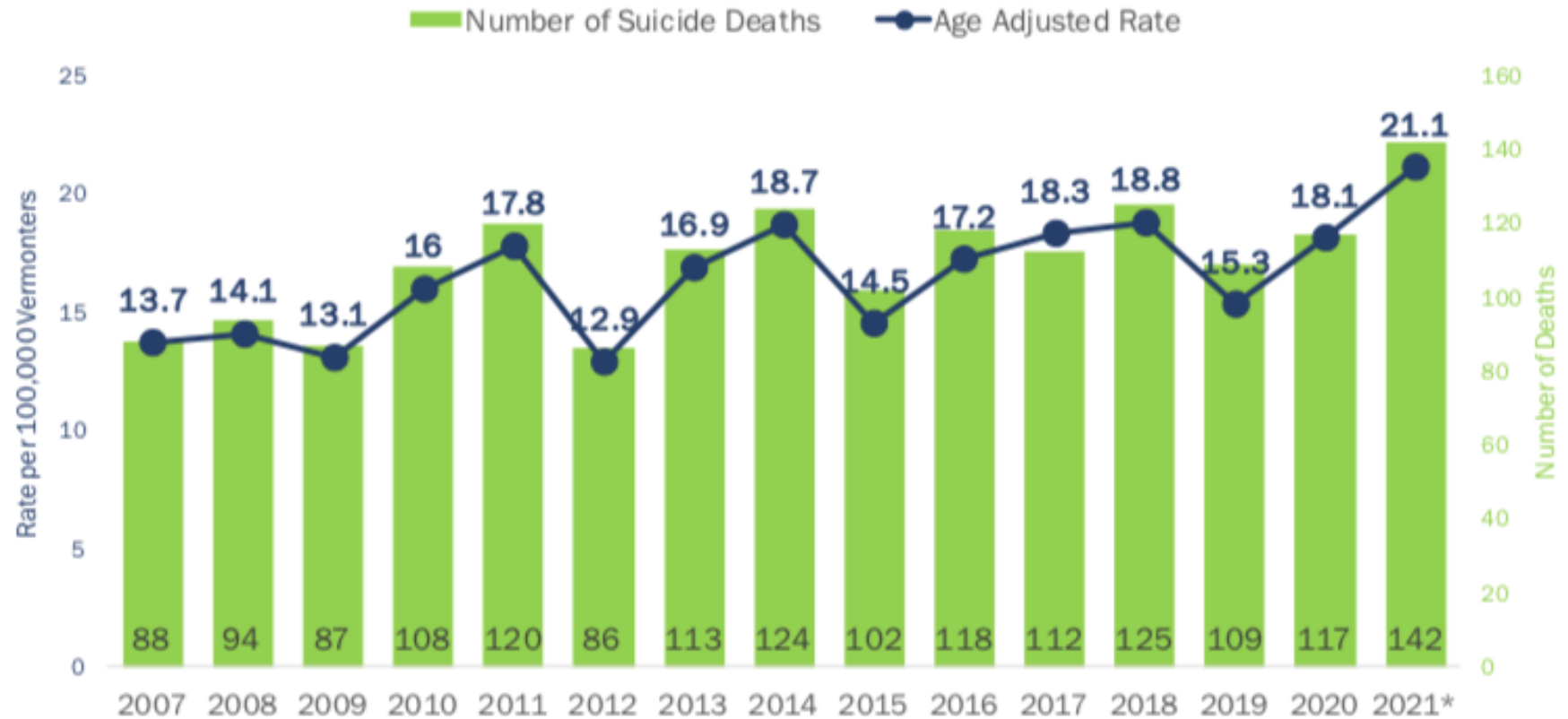
SUICIDE PREVENTION

Alison Krompf, Deputy Commissioner

4.6.22

SUICIDE DEATH RATES IN VERMONT

The number and rate of suicide deaths over the past 15 years.



*2021 data is preliminary and subject to change.

CURRENT COLLABORATIONS



- DMH
- VDH
- Center for Health and Learning
- Designated Agencies
- VT Child Health Improvement Program
- VPQHC
- Office of Veteran's Affairs
- Blueprint for Health
- **Suicide Prevention Coalition**
- Suicide Prevention Data Workgroup

ADDRESSING SUICIDE PREVENTION

Expanding Zero Suicide to all 10 Designated Agencies and two Special Service Agencies

Expand Statewide Leadership and Coordination

Expand programs and supports for older Vermonters



SUICIDE PREVENTION & 988 BUDGET REQUEST

Coordinator Position and Contract for Suicide Prevention

Coordinator Gross: \$115,000 General Fund Equivalent: \$115,000

Contract Gross: \$100,000 General Fund Equivalent: \$100,000

Statewide coordinator position and a contract to expand programs and supports for older Vermonters.

Zero Suicide

Gross: \$260,000 General Fund Equivalent \$260,000

This is the grant portion of the Zero Suicide initiative. DMH will partner with the Center for Health and Learning for training support, and to bolster the VT Suicide Prevention Center. This will expand Zero Suicide to all 10 designated agencies and two specialized service agencies.

Maintain 988 Suicide Prevention Line

Gross: \$440,159 General Fund Equivalent: \$440,159

This is the cost to maintain the 988 Suicide Prevention line to staff 24/7 programs.

ZERO SUICIDE - A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

- DMH, the Center for Health and Learning, and the Designated Agencies have done a great deal of work with the ~190K to bring Zero Suicide to 7 out of 10 Designated Agencies. Additional funding will allow those 7 to take the necessary next steps of implementation and bring on the additional 3 DA's
- Zero Suicide has proven effective in other states. It has also been evaluated in our state – provider assessments illustrate it builds competencies for suicide safe care and changes protocols and practices towards best practice

SUICIDE IS PREVENTABLE:
ZERO
SUICIDE
IN VERMONT

ELDERCARE OUTREACH

- Funding will expand an existing program that provides mental health services to older Vermonters in their homes
- Older Vermonters have been at higher risk for suicide for many years - and the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing quarantine increased isolation and thereby increased risk for anxiety, depression and suicidality



SUICIDE PREVENTION POSITION

- A recent Suicide Prevention Resource Center survey indicated that 90% of states have a designated position for suicide prevention
- VT is one of the 10% that does not, yet our rate of suicide is higher than the national average, and
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for Vermonters aged 15-34
- Suicide prevention efforts are expanding through multiple opportunities - Direction and coordination are imperative for this work to be effective



9-8-8

- Providers directing all calls to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to 988 by July 16, 2022.
- In state call response provides Vermont callers with referral options to local resources such as mental health counseling, economic or housing supports, which can help them manage the life stressors that may be contributing to their suicidality.
- On average, 245 Vermonters use the service each month.

