



988 and the

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1 in 5

people above the age of 12 has a mental health condition

316

For every one person that dies by suicide annually, 316 people seriously consider suicide

90%

Of people who attempt suicide go on to live out their lives



On July 16, 2022, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) will transition to an easy-to-remember 3-digit number (988).

Why Do We Need 988?

America is experiencing a mental health crisis. But the crisis is not irreversible.

- From 2016-2017 alone, there was a 10% increase in suicides of young people between 15-24 years old in the US.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people, and the tenth leading cause of death in the US.
- **More Americans died from mental health crises and substance abuse in 2018 alone than have died in combat in every war combined since World War II.**
- However, suicide is most often preventable. For every person who dies by suicide annually, there are 316 people who seriously consider suicide but do not kill themselves.

For too long, our system for mental health crisis services has been underfunded and undervalued. We will now meet this challenge with the evidence-based crisis intervention that the 988 crisis line will provide.

What Is 988?

A direct three-digit line to trained National Suicide Prevention Lifeline counselors will open the door for millions of Americans to seek the help they need, while sending the message to the country that healing, hope, and help are happening every day. In 2020, the Lifeline received nearly 2.4 million calls. **With an easy to remember and dial number like 988, the Lifeline hopes to reach many more people in emotional crisis.**

A 988 crisis line that is effectively resourced and promoted will be able to:

- Connect a person in a mental health crisis to a trained counselor who can address their immediate needs and help connect them to ongoing care.
- Reduce healthcare spending with more cost-effective early intervention.
- Reduce use of law enforcement, public health, and other safety resources.
- Meet the growing need for crisis intervention at scale.
- Help end stigma toward those seeking or accessing mental healthcare.

When you have a police, fire or rescue emergency, dial 911.

When you have an urgent mental health need, dial 988.

For additional assistance, please contact:

Heart of United Way (Orange, Osceola, Seminole counties) at www.hfuw.org
Brevard 211 at www.211brevard.org