

SD SUICIDE PREVENTION NEWSLETTER



2025 SD Behavioral Health Conference Your Journey Matters

Join us for "Your Journey Matters," a statewide conference highlighting critical behavioral health efforts in South Dakota. The conference will be held at the Sioux Falls Convention center on Monday and Tuesday, August 4th - 5th, 2025.

At the conference, you will learn more about prevention, treatment, recovery supports, burnout, compassion fatigue and at-risk populations in South Dakota when it comes to behavioral health. Over the two days there will be speakers that are experts in the fields of suicide prevention, traumatic brain injuries and its correlation to mental health as well as lived experience with suicide loss.

Interested in being a vendor? Applications are available [here](#) and must be received by Friday, May 16th.

For additional information on speakers and conference information including hotel reservations, visit <https://sdbehavioralhealth.gov/conference>. Registration opens May 1st.

Keynote Speakers



Kim Gorgens, Ph.D., ABPP



David A. Jobes, Ph.D., ABPP



Jamie Tworowski

EVENTS

For more information or to add an event, Visit the SDSP [Calendar](#)

April

15th, 22nd, & 29th – Helpline Center’s – [Free Surviving After Suicide Support Class](#), 6:00pm -7:30pm, Sioux Falls*

May

6th, 13th, 20th and 27th – Helpline Center’s – [Free Surviving After Suicide Support Class](#), 6:00pm -7:30pm, Sioux Falls*

17th – [NAMI Walks South Dakota](#), 8:00am - 11:30am, Sioux Falls,

June

3rd – Helpline Center’s – [Free Surviving After Suicide Support Class](#), 6:00pm -7:30pm, Sioux Falls*

*Helpline Center - 3817 S Elmwood Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to shine a spotlight on the importance of mental well-being and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health challenges. During the month, we encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect on their mental health, seek support if needed, and promote conversations about mental wellness. Whether it's through practicing self-care, connecting with loved ones, or reaching out to a professional, prioritizing mental health is crucial for leading a balanced and fulfilling life. For resources and guidance, visit <https://sdbehavioralhealth.gov/>, where you can find support and information to help navigate mental health challenges. Let's continue to break the silence, support one another, and work together to create a world where mental health is treated with the same care and attention as physical health.

988 Georouting

In October 2024, the FCC approved new rules requiring U.S. wireless carriers to implement georouting for calls to the 988 Lifeline, ensuring that calls are directed to local crisis centers based on geographic location rather than area code. These changes aim to enhance access to region-specific mental health services. The rules have already taken effect for nationwide providers and will take effect within 24 months for smaller providers. In the future, text providers will also be required to support georouting to improve local crisis response for text-based users.



Population of Focus

Each newsletter will feature a special infographic for populations of focus in the [SDSP strategic plan](#). This newsletter is highlighting [Veteran Suicide in South Dakota](#). Veterans accounted for approximately 15% of suicides in South Dakota from 2019-2022. Two-thirds (68%) of Veteran Suicides are among individuals aged 50 years and older. Self-inflicted gunshot wounds accounted for 76% of Veteran suicides. The Department of Health has added the populations of focus to the data dashboard, found [here](#).

