



Florida Behavioral Health Association

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For Immediate Release

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September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day

Tallahassee, Fla. – September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day, a pivotal time for people to focus on prevention, education, and treatment services for those affected by suicide or struggling with suicidal thoughts.

“Preventing deaths by suicide continues to be a top priority for our provider members. Unfortunately, suicide rates increased last year, indicating that Floridians are struggling and that we must continue our efforts to inform and educate Floridians to recognize the signs, empower them to engage others in conversation, and know when to refer for help,” **said Melanie Brown-Woofter, President and CEO of the Florida Behavioral Health Association.**

According to vital statistics data reported by the Florida Department of Health,

- Suicide rates increased in 2021 and 2022;
- While teen death by suicide rates have decreased in the last two years, the rate has essentially doubled since 2010; and
- In 2022, overall, suicide death rates are highest among middle-aged and older adults.

Brown-Woofter continued, “Together, we can reduce stigma and foster supportive, resilient communities, not only for today, but tomorrow and every day.”

For Floridians struggling, there is help available.

- If you or someone you know is in crisis, dial 988 to get connected to a behavioral health professional or go to [988LifeLine.org](https://www.988lifeline.org) for more information, including information in Spanish.
- Call 211 to get connected to a local community provider.
- Visit First Lady Casey DeSantis’s [Hope for Healing](https://www.hopeforhealing.org) website to get connected to resources.
- Finally, [FBHA’s website](https://www.floridabha.org) has a list of members who provide services in every county in Florida.

One life lost to suicide is one too many.

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The Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA) is a non-profit organization that provides statewide leadership on behavioral health policy and practice. FBHA supports member agencies offering services to those in need of mental health and substance use disorder assistance and support. Its members include a broad range of provider types, ranging from small specialty organizations to comprehensive treatment organizations with multiple locations within a geographic region. For more information, please visit Floridabha.org.