



**Florida Behavioral  
Health Association**

Inform. Innovate. Influence.

**EMBARGOED UNTIL**

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**September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – On September 10, World Suicide Prevention Day, we pause to recognize that behind every statistic is a family, a friend, and a community forever changed, and to reaffirm our commitment to prevention and hope.

“Tragically, 3,558 Floridians lost their lives to death by suicide in 2023,” **said Melanie Brown Woofter, President and CEO of the Florida Behavioral Health Association.** “This heartbreaking number indicates that our friends could be silently suffering, and that we must continue our efforts to inform and educate so that all of us recognize when someone needs help, learn ways to have a safe conversation with them, and know how to get them help to prevent suicide. It is OK to not be OK, but it is not OK to not ask for help.”

An important resource for anyone struggling and looking for immediate assistance is Florida’s suicide prevention line, 988.

According to the Florida Department of Children and Families’ [988 Florida Lifeline](#), 988 answered 135,440 calls from Fiscal Year 2024-25, through May 31, 2025. Of those calls, 1,269 calls were an active suicide in progress that resulted in no life lost to a suicide.

During this same time,

- 4,056 callers were referred to one of Florida’s Mobile Response Teams,
- 14,800 callers scheduled for follow-up treatment, and
- 58,838 callers were referred to behavioral health services.

A first-of-its-kind study was published in the [June 2025 edition of Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior](#). This study found,

- 97.7% of callers reported that their call to the Lifeline was helpful; and
- 88.1% of callers reported that the call stopped them from acting upon suicidal ideations.

Most importantly, no lives have been lost during a 988 call in Florida.

**Brown Woofter added,** “Together, we can reduce stigma and foster supportive, resilient communities, not only for today, but tomorrow and every day. One life lost to a suicide is one too many.”

For Floridians struggling, help is 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://988lifeline.org) for more information, including information in Spanish.
- Call 211 to get connected to a local community provider.
- Finally, [FBHA's website](#) has a list of members who provide services in every county in Florida.

For Floridians interested in how to prevent suicide, training is available.

- [Mental Health Awareness Training](#) teaches individuals how to assist and support others who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge.
- [QPR \(Question, Persuade, Refer\) training](#) is a suicide prevention program that teaches people how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and intervene to save a life.
- [Zero Suicide](#), a training workshop focused on a systematic approach to improve suicide care through the adoption of evidence-based and best-practice safety standards. This approach, identified by the Zero Suicide initiative, encompasses screening, risk assessment, safety planning, follow-up care, treatment, training, and quality improvement.

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*[The Florida Behavioral Health Association \(FBHA\)](#) represents over 70 community mental health and substance use treatment providers throughout the state. FBHA's members span from Pensacola to Key West, serve over half a million individuals each year, and provide services in every county in Florida. These community providers are the safety nets, primarily serving the uninsured, underinsured, and Medicaid populations. Visit [Floridabhha.org](https://floridabhha.org) to find a list of community providers and get connected with mental health and substance use treatment, along with other services.*