**988 Advocacy Fast Stats**

**The Need**

* 1 in 5 people shot by police since 2015 had a mental illness, according to a database maintained by *The Washington Post[[1]](#endnote-32702)*
* 2 million times per year, people with mental illness are booked in jails[[2]](#endnote-31705) - nearly 230 times *per hour*
* 90% of people who die by suicide had shown signs of a mental health condition[[3]](#endnote-5402)
* 48,000+ people died by suicide in 2021[[4]](#endnote-32373)

**The 988 Lifeline**

* Over 4 million contacts to the 988 Lifeline[[5]](#endnote-31630) between July 2022 and May 2023
* 2.5 million+ calls
* 1.5 million+ texts and chats
* 988 offers 3 specialized options *(press 1 for Veterans, 2 for Spanish-language, and 3 for LGBTQ+ youth)*
* The 988 network has approximately 200 local crisis centers[[6]](#endnote-30297)
* Avg. Answer Time for the Lifeline improved by 75% in the last year *(from 140 seconds in May 2022 to 35 seconds in May 2023)[[7]](#endnote-31247)*
* 40% increase in call volume to Lifeline *(July 2022 through April 2023)*
* 938% increase in texts to the Lifeline *(May 2022 compared to May 2023)*
* You can find [**monthly** Lifeline performance metrics for the **nation** here](https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/performance-metrics)
* You can find [**monthly** Lifeline performance metrics by **state** here](https://988lifeline.org/our-network/) (click “State-based monthly reports”)

**Awareness**

* After one year of nationwide availability, only 17% of Americans are familiar with 988
* 2 in 5 Americans don’t know what to do if someone they love is experiencing a mental health crisis or suicidal – the exact situations 988 is intended to help

**Support**

* About 2 in 3 Americans say funding for mental health care should be a high or the highest priority for Congress
* Half of Americans say funding for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline should be a high or the highest priority for Congress
* 85% of Americans believe a mental health crisis deserves a mental health, not a police, response
* 90% of Americans support creating 24/7 mental health, alcohol/ drug, and suicide crisis call centers that can respond effectively to callers and follow-up later
* 88% of Americans support requiring all health insurers to cover mental health crisis services
* 84% of Americans support providing state funding for 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline call center operations and crisis response services
* 83% of Americans support providing federal funding for 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline call-center operations and crisis response services

**Legislation**

* Find information on state legislation by the numbers at [reimaginecrisis.org/map](https://reimaginecrisis.org/map/)
* Find information on federal legislation at our [bill tracker](https://nami.quorum.us/federalpolicy/)
* Find more statistics about mental illness at [nami.org/mhstats](http://www.nami.org/mhstats)

1. Police Shootings Database, Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-32702)
2. Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness Among Jail Inmates, Psychiatry Online, <https://ps.psychiatryonline.org/doi/full/10.1176/ps.2009.60.6.761>. [↑](#endnote-ref-31705)
3. Psychological autopsy studies--a review, PubMed, [https://www.google.com/url?q=https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11728849/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1689092449867606&usg=AOvVaw3JEN\_a1WG4iSay\_mVvS\_7Z](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11728849/). [↑](#endnote-ref-5402)
4. Suicide Data and Statistics, CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/suicide-data-statistics.html>. [↑](#endnote-ref-32373)
5. 988 Lifeline Performance Metrics, SAMHSA, <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/performance-metrics>. [↑](#endnote-ref-31630)
6. Our Network, 988 Lifeline, <https://988lifeline.org/our-network/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-30297)
7. 988 Lifeline Performance Metrics, SAMHSA, <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/performance-metrics>. [↑](#endnote-ref-31247)