

988

SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE



STRENGTHENING CRISIS CARE



NH'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS



More than one in five NH high school students **seriously considered attempting suicide**.¹

247

In NH, 196 males and 51 females were **lost to suicide** in 2024.²

21.4

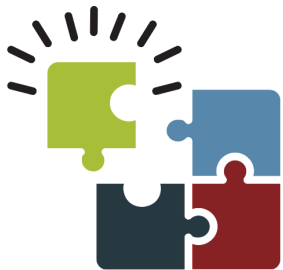
Granite State **veterans** face a **suicide rate** about **1.5 times higher** than the general population.³

33.3



In 2020, the **U.S. Congress unanimously passed, and President Trump signed, the National Suicide Designation Act**, establishing 988 as the nationwide behavioral health crisis lifeline.

The act authorized states to fund these services by **enacting telecommunications surcharges**, mimicking the national 911 system.



THE MISSING PIECE

New Hampshire's behavioral health crisis system **lacks stable, long-term funding**.

However, **forthcoming 2026 legislation** proposes a fiscally responsible solution recommended by bipartisan groups of lawmakers at the state and federal level.

This **permanent funding** model has worked for our 911 system for decades.

While providing critical services, the crisis care system also prevents unnecessary, expensive hospitalizations. This reduces uncompensated care and wait times at local hospitals' emergency departments.⁴ In addition, investments in crisis care reduce the burden of first responders by minimizing unnecessary 911 calls and dispatches.

Moving to a long-term funding model is critical to ensure the system continues to meet the needs of all Granite Staters.

OUR CRISIS CARE SYSTEM

New Hampshire's Behavioral Health Crisis Care System **serves children and adults in crisis**. Its proven interventions are **cost-effective** for health plans, the state, and municipalities.⁵ It follows national guidelines with its three pillars:



Someone To Contact

The **NH Rapid Response Access Point** provides 24/7 crisis counseling. The program assisted Granite Staters via phone, text message, and online chat more than 46,000 times⁶ in 2024.



Someone To Respond

Mobile crisis response teams across the state provide rapid on-site assessment and support to resolve crisis situations.



A Safe Place For Help

Crisis stabilization centers in Derry and Plymouth offer immediate, supervised care.



new-futures.org



Concord, NH



@NewFuturesNH

Updated 2025-11-12

TAKE ACTION



STAY IN THE LOOP

Sign up to receive email and/or text message action alerts about this legislation and follow @NewFuturesNH on social media.

new-futures.org/sign-up



SCAN HERE



CONTACT LAWMAKERS

Use your voice to urge elected officials to strengthen our crisis care system.

new-futures.org/988



SCAN HERE



SHARE YOUR STORY

Have you, a loved one, or a client/patient accessed care through NH's crisis care system? Share your experience to make a difference.

new-futures.org/988

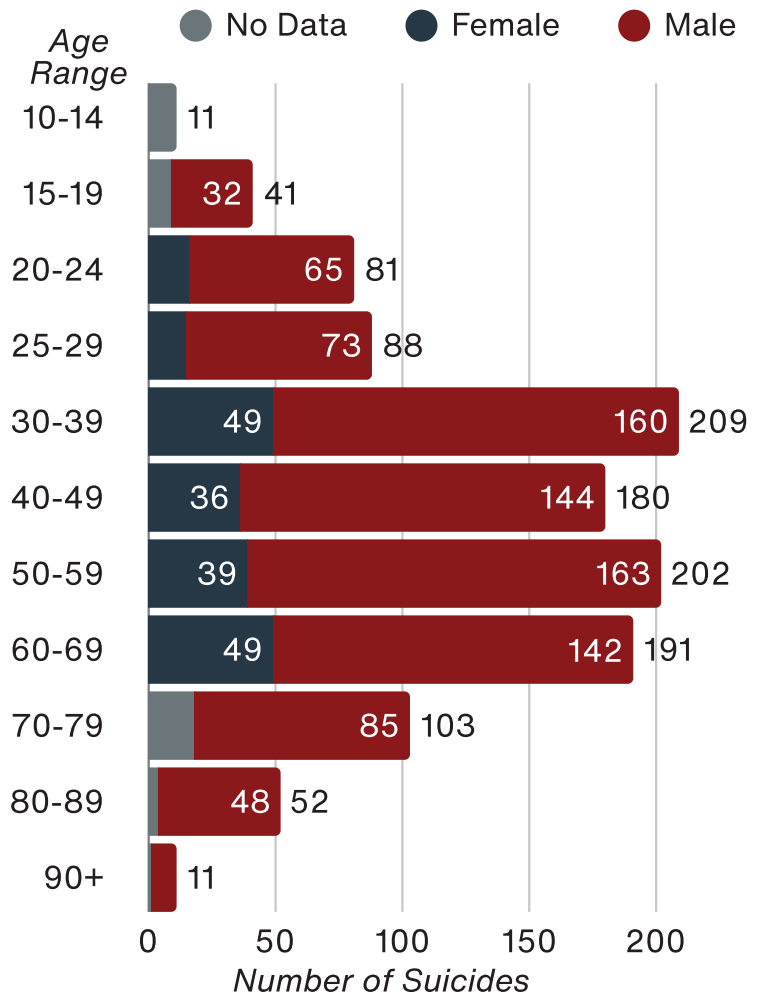
STRONG AS GRANITE

This campaign from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services is raising awareness of the mental health and substance use support and resources available throughout the state, including the NH Rapid Response Access Point.



The campaign aims to shift perceptions, letting Granite Staters know that seeking and accepting help is not a sign of weakness. Rather, it requires courage and strength.

NH SUICIDE COUNTS BY AGE 2020-2024²



The **Veterans/ Military Crisis Line** exists to address high suicide rates among Veterans.

This program was sought out by Granite Staters 2,168 times in 2024.⁶

Veterans Crisis Line



DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

References available at www.new-futures.org/988



new-futures.org



Concord, NH



@NewFuturesNH

References:

1. "2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey results: New Hampshire High School Survey," State of New Hampshire: Department of Health & Human Services, released October 3, 2024. <https://wisdom.dhhs.nh.gov/wisdom/assets/content/resources/yrbs-2023/2023NHH%20Summary%20Tables.pdf>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Provisional Mortality on CDC WONDER Online Database. Data are from the final Multiple Cause of Death Files, 2018-2023, and from provisional data for 2024, November 10, 2025. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-provisional.html>
3. "New Hampshire Veteran Suicide Data Sheet, 2022," United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Updated November 2024. https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2022/2022_State_Data_Sheets_New_Hampshire_508.pdf
4. "Crisis Services: Effectiveness, Cost Effectiveness, and Funding Strategies," HHS Publication No. (SMA)-14-4848. Rockville, MD: United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2014. <https://library.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/sma14-4848.pdf>
5. "National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care: Best Practice Toolkit," United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2020. <https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/samsha-national-guidelines.pdf>

Page 42-43: *"The table on page 44 shows the very real cost savings that can be realized by implementing mobile crisis and facility-based crisis services in your community... When mobile team and facility-based crisis services are included in optimal ratios...total cost drops by 52% in these projections despite engaging all of these individuals. This means that 32% more individuals are served with programs that align better to the unique level of clinical need while costs are reduced by 52%."*
6. "988 data." Email from Division for Behavioral Health: New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. March 3, 2025.