MUS
Suicide Prevention and Mental Health

Board of Regents—March 2019
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Montana has the highest rate of suicide in the nation at 29.6 per 100,000.

12% of college students have seriously considered suicide.

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among college students.

LGBTQ youth are 4 times more likely and questioning youth are 3 times more likely to attempt suicide than their cisgender and heterosexual peers.

For 2014-2015, the rate of suicide for Montana’s veterans is 65.7 per 100,000.

Suicide rates for American Indians in Montana are significantly higher than the state’s overall rate.
Suicide and Mental Health report to BOR

May 2015

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Task Force formed

Summer 2015

Suicide Prevention Summit @ MSU

Feb. 2016

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Task Force Report and Recommendations to BOR

Sept. 2016

Update on Recommendations to BOR

Nov. 2017

Active Minds Presentation at Campus Input Session

Dec. 2018

Reconvene Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Task Force

Jan. 2019
1. Each campus should have a licensed clinician.
2. Establish guidelines to ensure appropriate individuals and groups are receiving evidence-based suicide prevention training.
3. Develop formal process for cross-campus consultation on programming and services.
5. Campuses complete depression screening survey to establish baseline practices, obstacles, needed resources, and follow-up assessment.
6. MUS should provide resources for ongoing training and form depression screening consortium.
7. Assess access to lethal means; create policies and services to reduce access to lethal means; review policies and practices related to lethal means.
8. Review programs and policies that could enhance student safety and implement system-wide protocol for tracking suicide attempts and completions.
9. Increase partnerships with other mental health and suicide prevention stakeholders.
10. MUS explore funding and resources for enhancing mental health services.
11. MUS host a biennial summit on student mental health and suicide prevention.
Incidents

- 2015-2016: 5
- 2016-2017: 10
- 2017-2018: 20
- 2018-2019: 45

Awareness is power. Report it.
Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Task Force

What’s Next?
Depression is Treatable and Suicide is Preventable

dphhs.mt.gov/suicideprevention/suicideresources