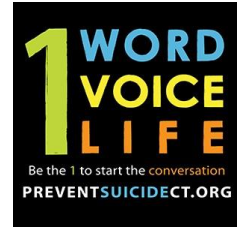




## **CT Suicide Advisory Board** **Advocacy Talking Points**



### ***Suicide in Connecticut***

Suicide is a major public health problem associated with the mental health crisis that has far-reaching personal, social, and economic implications.

In 2021, 367 Connecticut residents died by suicide, most over 18 years old, and there were 39,092 Emergency Room visits in Connecticut for suicide ideation or attempt combined, most under age 24 (CT DPH, 2021).

### ***Suicide Prevention in Connecticut***

The [Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board](#) (CTSAB) is the single state-level advisory board in Connecticut that seeks to eliminate suicide by instilling hope and promoting prevention, intervention and response evidence-based strategies across the lifespan. The CTSAB is tri-chaired by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Department of Children and Families, and Connecticut Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and is made up of diverse advocates, educators, researchers, organizations, healthcare systems and persons with lived experience with suicide.

[Connecticut's Suicide Prevention Plan 2025 \(PLAN 2025\)](#) developed by the CTSAB identifies five goals with objectives aligned with the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, as well as evidence-based strategies informed by national frameworks including the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's [Comprehensive Approach to Suicide Prevention](#), and the [Zero Suicide Approach](#) for Health and Behavioral Healthcare Systems.

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING SUICIDE PREVENTION - Raised Senate Bill Number 368***

[Raised S.B. No. 368](#) will formalize the CTSAB in State Statute as the leading entity for Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Grief Support in Connecticut. This legislation recognizes the CTSAB's infrastructure, addressing suicide prevention across the life-span with a system's approach for individuals, families, schools, workplaces and communities. The proposed legislation also supports the infrastructure by linking the five Regional Suicide Advisory Boards that cover the state to the CTSAB.

### ***Will the bill shift focus away from preventing youth suicide by expanding to all ages?***

No, the mental health of children is a priority of the CTSAB. The CTSAB recognizes that children are connected to the adults in their lives- parents, grandparents, caregivers, family, teachers, and other adults, and to improve children's mental health, these adults need support as well. Building a system that supports children and adults cooperatively will create healthier, resourced environments so they may thrive.

### ***What you can do***

- 1) [Find Your Legislators](#) and advocate for suicide prevention in Connecticut;
- 2) Follow the [Connecticut General Assembly website](#) to find opportunities to testify; and
- 3) Visit the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board at [preventsuicidect.org](https://preventsuicidect.org) for resources and contact information.