

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
September 2, 2025

Proclaiming September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Los Angeles County

Across the nation, September is known as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Suicide is a complex problem that requires collaborative solutions at multiple levels, including by individuals, families, communities, and systems of care. That is why the Los Angeles County (County) Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and of Public Health (DPH) provide various outreach efforts and services to address the problem and provide people with the mental health support that they need.

In 2023, suicide was the 14th leading cause of death among all residents in the County and the 3rd leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24.¹ Additionally, in 2023, 112 young people ages 10 to 24 living in the County died by suicide.² Suicide attempts and suicide deaths can also impact the health of others, including family, friends, colleagues, and the community, who often experience the negative impacts of sudden loss through sadness, anger, guilt, and depression. The healing journey for those who have experienced this kind of loss can require a unique treatment approach called suicide postvention for loss survivors.

¹ [CDC WONDER](#)

² Los Angeles County Annual 2023 Data File, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

MOTION

SOLIS

MITCHELL

HORVATH

HAHN

BARGER

Suicide Prevention Month helps raise awareness and promote education, training, and engagement for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention in the County. For example, in 2023, DPH's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) received a grant from the State of California (State) to pilot a Youth Suicide Prevention Pilot program. As part of this pilot, OVP worked to improve the identification of youth suicide deaths and youth suicide attempts in emergency rooms, with a goal of using the data to develop, strengthen, and expand local crisis response programs that provide support after a young person's suicide death or attempt. Other activities funded by the pilot included support groups for youth who have experienced a loved one die by suicide, and OVP hosted a series of trainings for contractors and other agencies that serve youth. While the grant funding and pilot have ended, OVP will be able to continue funding the support groups and providing these trainings that will focus on a range of topics including suicide prevention strategies for youth, recognizing warning signs of suicide risk, learning how to respond in a crisis and how to access resources, and providing post-crisis support.

OVP also works to increase community knowledge of warning signs and intervention strategies. In 2023, 875 County residents died by suicide; 294, or just about one-third of these deaths, involved a firearm. Most victims were male (76%), 43% were White, 35% were over the age of 55, and 13% were young people ages 10 to 24.³ This data highlights the importance of keeping firearms locked and unloaded, especially in the home. Part of OVP's firearm safety campaign distributes free gun locks via mail or pick up and at Gun Buy Back events hosted by Supervisor Hahn in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies. Additionally, OVP has dedicated Gun Violence Restraining

³ Los Angeles County Annual 2023 Data File, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Order (GVRO) System Navigators to assist community members with filing petitions to remove a firearm from the home during moments of danger or concern.

Throughout the year, DMH works to raise awareness about suicide prevention. The Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center, funded by DMH, provides Suicide Prevention trainings and crisis services to thousands of people each year. Didi Hirsch is also the 9-8-8 suicide crisis line provider for the County, responding to calls, chats, and texts from community members who are in the midst of a mental health crisis. According to data from Didi Hirsch, in fiscal year 2024-2025, within the County, 43% of callers who dialed 9-8-8 and were under 18 called with suicidal desires. For callers who were over 18, 38% of the 9-8-8 calls were for suicidal desires.

Across the nation, September 8, 2025, is being recognized as 9-8-8 Day to spread awareness about the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and to emphasize the importance of mental health and suicide prevention. DMH also provides emotional support services, substance abuse referrals, and veteran support services that are available to County residents via the Los Angeles County Help Line for Mental Health and Substance Use Services (800-854-7771) where caring listeners provide support, referrals, and resources to the community. From fiscal year 2024-2025, DMH's ACCESS help line took 165,749 calls that ranged from crisis calls to referrals for services.

On September 12 and September 13, 2025, the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Networks and DMH are hosting the 15th annual Suicide Prevention Summit at Pasadena City College from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., which brings together attendees from across the County who will participate in learning about new suicide prevention and postvention research, interventions, and safe messaging strategies. To get involved, you can email: info@LASuicidePreventionNetwork.org.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim September 2025 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Los Angeles County to increase awareness of suicide prevention in order to help reduce the number of suicide deaths in Los Angeles County;
2. Proclaim September 8, 2025, as 9-8-8 Day⁴; and
3. Direct the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Public Health to promote awareness of suicide prevention resources including the 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Line, Teen Line, the Trevor Project LGBTQ+ Suicide Hotline, and California Department of Public Health's Never a Bother Campaign.

#

JH:kc/ap

⁴ <https://www.samhsa.gov/mental-health/988/newsroom/988-day>