

# Mental Health in West Virginia



## Many West Virginians struggle with their mental health.

It is more important than ever to build a stronger mental health system that provides the care, support, and services needed to help people build better lives.

# 367,000

adults in West Virginia have a mental health condition. That's more than **2x** the population of **Charleston**.



## 1 in 5

adults experience a **mental illness** each year.

More than **1 in 20 U.S. adults** experience a **serious mental illness** each year.



## 1 in 6

U.S. adolescents aged 12-17 experience a **major depressive episode** each year.

**25,000** West Virginia adolescents experience a **major depressive episode** each year.

# 90,000

West Virginia adults have a **serious mental illness**.

**1 in 4** of the more than **1,000 people** in West Virginia **who are unhoused** have a **serious mental illness**.



## 1 in 20

adults have **serious thoughts of suicide** each year.

**80,000** West Virginia adults have **serious thoughts of suicide** each year.

## 1 in 9

adolescents aged 12-17 have **serious thoughts of suicide** each year.

**18,000** West Virginia adolescents have **serious thoughts of suicide** each year.



## 22%

of youth aged 0-17 in West Virginia have **experienced 2+ adverse childhood experiences**, which are linked to mental illness and substance misuse in adulthood.

# 353

lives were **lost to suicide** in West Virginia in 2022.

# Mental Health in West Virginia



More than  
**760,000**

people in West Virginia live in a community without enough mental health professionals.

The need to address access to mental health care in West Virginia is urgent.

**2x**

more likely for a West Virginian to be **forced out-of-network** for mental health care than for primary care.

**14,680**

calls were made to West Virginia's **988 Suicide & Crisis Line** call centers in 2023.

**1 in 1,752**

ratio for school psychologists to students in West Virginia's K-12 public schools. This is **worse** than the recommended ratio of one school psychologist for every 500 students.

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
is facing a mental health crisis.

**96,000**

adults in West Virginia reported needing mental health treatment but not receiving it between 2018-2019. **Cost is a prevailing factor** in not receiving treatment.

West Virginians deserve to get the mental health care they need, when they need it.



NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. Learn more at [namiwheeling.org](https://namiwheeling.org). For data citations, visit [nami.quorum.us/mhpolicystats/](https://nami.quorum.us/mhpolicystats/).

This fact sheet was compiled based on data available in March 2025.