



**Mental Health FIRST AID**

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING



# MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

## WHY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

On average,

**130**

people die by  
suicide every day.

Source: American Foundation  
for Suicide Prevention

From 1999 to 2019,

**841,000**

people died from  
drug overdoses.

Source: Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

Nearly

**1 IN 5**

in the U.S. lives  
with a mental illness.

Source: National Institute  
of Mental Health

## WHO NEEDS TO KNOW MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

- Employers.
- Police officers.
- Hospital staff.
- First responders.
- Caring individuals.

## WHAT IT COVERS

- Common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges.
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
  - How to interact with a person in crisis.
  - How to connect a person with help.
- Expanded content on trauma, substance use and self-care.

## TWO WAYS TO LEARN

- **In-person (2nd Edition)** – Learners receive their training during a 7.5-hour, Instructor-led, in-person session.
- **Blended** – Learners complete a 2-hour, self-paced online course, and participate in a 4.5- to 5.5-hour, Instructor-led training.

Learn how to respond with the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan (**ALGEE**):

- A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- G**ive reassurance and information.
- E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.

### Sources

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. (n.d.). *Suicide statistics*.  
<https://afsp.org/suicide-statistics/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Drug overdose deaths*. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/index.html>

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). (n.d.). *Mental illness*.  
<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>



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**Go to [www.alleganymhm.org](http://www.alleganymhm.org)**

**Or email [achd.bhso@maryland.gov](mailto:achd.bhso@maryland.gov)**