

## 988 Advocacy Fast Stats

### The Need

- 1 in 5 people shot by police since 2015 had a mental illness, according to a database maintained by *The Washington Post*
- 2 million times per year, people with mental illness are booked in jails - nearly 230 times *per hour*.
- 90% of people who die by suicide had shown signs of a mental health condition.
- 48,000+ people died by suicide in 2021

### The 988 Lifeline

- Over 4 million contacts to the 988 Lifeline between July 2022 and May 2023
- 2.5 million+ calls nationwide
- 1.5 million+ texts and chats nationwide
- Over 6,000 calls per month in Virginia, up from about 4,500 per month average one year ago.
- 988 offers 3 specialized options (*press 1 for Veterans, 2 for Spanish-language, and 3 for LGBTQ+ youth*)
- The 988 network has approximately 200 local crisis centers
- Avg. Answer Time for the Lifeline improved by 75% in the last year (*from 140 seconds in May 2022 to 35 seconds in May 2023*)
- 40% increase in call volume to Lifeline (*July 2022 through April 2023*)
- 938% increase in texts to the Lifeline (*May 2022 compared to May 2023*)

### Awareness

- After one year of nationwide availability, only 17% of Americans are familiar with 988
- 2 in 5 Americans don't know what to do if someone they love is experiencing a mental health crisis or suicidal – the exact situations 988 is intended to help

### Support

- 85% of Americans believe a mental health crisis deserves a mental health, not a police response
- 90% of Americans support creating 24/7 mental health, alcohol/ drug, and suicide crisis call centers that can respond effectively to callers and follow-up later
- 88% of Americans support requiring all health insurers to cover mental health crisis services
- 84% of Americans support providing state funding for 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline call center operations and crisis response services
- 83% of Americans support providing federal funding for 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline call-center operations and crisis response services