



SAN FRANCISCO
**SUICIDE
PREVENTION**



OUR HISTORY

In 1962, San Francisco Suicide Prevention opened its services in a Tenderloin hotel with six volunteers, all personally trained by Bernard Mayes, the agency's founder. To publicize services, they distributed matchbooks in the bars of the Tenderloin. Thirty calls were received during the first month alone.

Now the agency receives nearly 200 calls a day, saving lives phone call by phone call.

Our mission is to provide emotional support, education, assistance, and intervention as necessary to all persons in crisis and those impacted by them, with the goal of reducing suicides and self-destructive behaviors.



About San Francisco Suicide Prevention

Founded in 1962, San Francisco Suicide Prevention is the oldest community-based telephone crisis center in the United States.

The agency provides emotional support and crisis intervention, answering more than 300 calls every day; has trained over 4,800 youth in the warning signs of suicide and risk-reduction tactics; and helped 250 community members process the loss of loved one, ensuring that all members of the community are empowered with tools to help each other through moments of crisis.





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SAN FRANCISCO SUICIDE PREVENTION HAS LIFE-SAVING PROGRAMS

The **HIV/AIDS Nightline** remains the only line of its kind in the country offering 24/7 emotional support for those living with, caring for and affected by HIV/AIDS. Today we continue to work with community partners to provide 24/7 support to ensure callers receive referrals, information, support, and nonjudgmental, low barrier care to over 20,000 callers across the United States.

Our **Youth Risk Reduction Program** provides in-person training and discussions to young people and school and program administrators on the warning signs of suicide and the tools to help those in crisis. SFSP has provided this training to over 6,000 middle and high schools in the SF Unified School District as well as in participants in youth focused community programs.

Our **Community Outreach & Education Program** visits businesses, schools, hospitals, mental health agencies, community centers and more to raise awareness about suicide and provide training in crisis intervention and de-escalation. We also hold continuing education classes for our volunteers to provide them with updated information, current issues, and practices to empower them with the most up-to-date tools to provide quality care to our callers.

The **Grief Support Program** provides no-cost, in-person counseling to those grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide and other types of death. This program served 250 individuals in 2020, adding an additional group at the end of year. Services include an 8-week Support Group Program, weekday and weekend drop-in meetings, and on-scene emotional support where a tragic event may occur.

For more information on our services, programs and how to become involved with San Francisco Suicide Prevention (SFSP) please visit www.sfsuicide.org.

