



# SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS

DBHDS Department of Behavioral Health Wellness

Major public health concern  
41,000+ people die by suicide each year in the United States  
11th leading cause of death overall in VA

Suicide is a complex issue with very individualistic factors

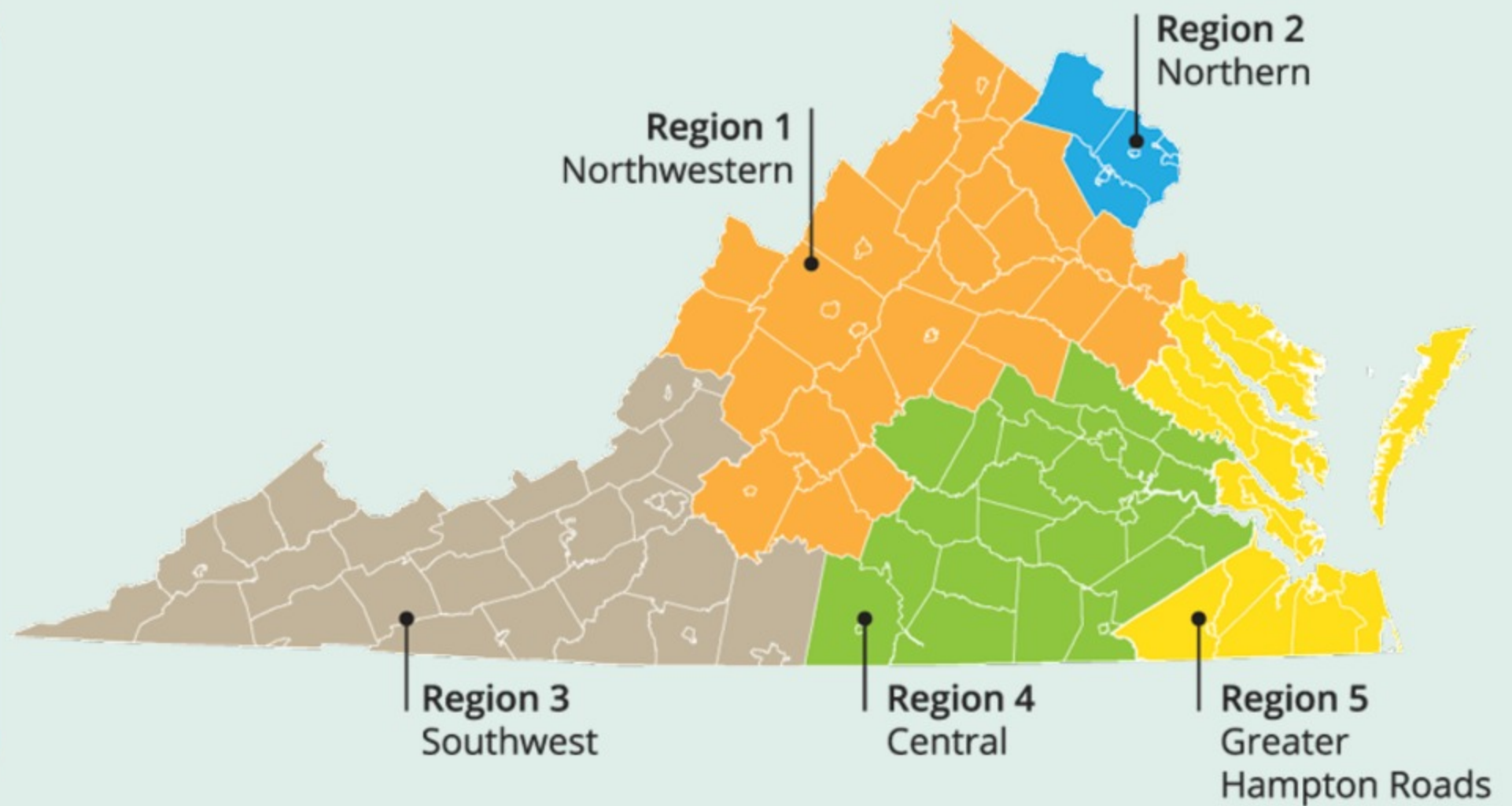
Studies show that people who know the signs of suicide and resources are more likely to take action that could save a life

While every suicide may not be prevented, suicide is preventable and people with suicidal thoughts and feelings can be treated



## Regional Suicide Prevention Initiatives

In an effort to increase capacity to address suicide and the stigma of mental illness from a prevention standpoint, DBHDS Behavioral Health Wellness provides funding for regional suicide prevention plans (based on local need and data) which implement evidenced based programs and strategies.



## Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

ASIST is a two-day interactive workshop in suicide first-aid. ASIST teaches participants to recognize when someone may be at risk of suicide and work with them to create a plan that will support their immediate safety.

\*39 active trainers  
\*1,010 trained

## Suicide Prevention Interagency Advisory Group

DBHDS coordinates the activities of the agencies of the Commonwealth pertaining to suicide prevention in order to develop & carry out a comprehensive suicide prevention plan addressing public awareness, the promotion of health development, early identification, intervention and treatment, and support to survivors. We utilize the [Suicide Prevention across the Lifespan Plan for the Commonwealth](#) as our framework.



## Zero Suicide

The Zero Suicide Initiative is a commitment to suicide prevention in health and behavioral health care systems. We serve as a liaison to partners across the commonwealth to; assist in development and implementation of work plans for their locality, encourage sharing of ideas, and promote best practices for the Commonwealth.