

General Definitions List

Emergent

An event that has occurred in the community involving the risk to life or safety that requires immediate action (e.g. suicide).

Explicit

Fully revealed or expressed without vagueness, implication, or ambiguity; leaving no question as to meaning or intent.

Implicit

Being without doubt or reserve, implied though not directly expressed; inherent in the nature of something.

Interrupted self-directed violence – by self or by other

By other – A person takes steps to injure self but is stopped by another person prior to fatal injury. The interruption can occur at any point during the act such as after the initial thought or after onset of behavior.

By self – A person takes steps to injure self but is stopped by self prior to fatal injury.

Non-emergent

Events happening in a community which are of concern, but do not involve a threat to life or safety.

Non-suicidal self-directed violence

Behavior that is self-directed and deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself. There is no evidence, whether implicit or explicit, of suicidal intent.

Other suicidal behavior including preparatory acts

Acts or preparation towards making a suicide attempt, but before potential harm has begun. This can include anything beyond a verbalization or thought, such as assembling a method (e.g., buying a gun, collecting pills) or preparing for one's death by suicide (e.g., writing a suicide note, giving things away).

Self-directed violence (analogous to self-injurious behavior)

Behavior that is self-directed and deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself.

This does not include behaviors such as parachuting, gambling, substance abuse, tobacco use or other risk taking activities, such as excessive speeding in motor vehicles.

Suicidal self-directed violence

Behavior that is self-directed and deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself. There is evidence, whether implicit or explicit, of suicidal intent.

Suicide

Death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior.

Suicide Attempt

A non-fatal self-directed potentially injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior.

Undetermined self-directed violence

Behavior that is self-directed and deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself.

Suicidal intent is unclear on the available evidence.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention [*Self-Directed Violence Surveillance: Uniform Definitions and Data Elements*](#)