Unsupported Terminology

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) finds following terms are unacceptable for describing self-directed violence.

- **Completed suicide**
  - Alternate acceptable term - Suicide
- **Failed attempt**
  - Alternate term – Suicide attempt or suicidal self-directed violence.
- **Nonfatal attempt**
  - Alternate term – Suicide attempt
- **Parasuicide**
  - Alternate term – Non-suicidal self-directed violence or suicidal self-directed violence.
- **Successful suicide**
  - Alternate term - Suicide
- **Suicidality**
  - Alternate term – Suicidal thoughts and suicidal behavior
- **Suicide gesture, Manipulative act, and Suicide Threat**
  - Each of these terms gives a value judgment with a pejorative or negative impression of the person’s intent. A more objective description of the event is preferable such as non-suicidal self-directed violence or suicidal self-directed violence.

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*