

## 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\*](#)