

Act 71 Policy Webinar Definitions and Nomenclature

At-Risk for Suicide

Any youth with risk factors or warning signs that increase the likelihood of suicidal behavior.

Behavioral Health

The promotion of emotional health; the prevention of mental illness and substance use disorders; and treatments and services for substance abuse, addiction, substance abuse disorders, behavioral/mental illnesses, and/or mental disorders

Nonsuicidal Morbid Ideation

Thoughts or communicated thoughts whereby one expresses thoughts of being dead. These thoughts are not connected to any intention of harming oneself. For example, “people would be better off without me,” and “I’m not sure I would care if I didn’t wake up tomorrow.”

Nonsuicidal Self-Injury (NSSI)

A self-directed injurious behavior with which there is no intent to die. It is important to note that NSSI and a suicide attempt are only distinguishable by intent. The severity of the injury does not matter.

Postvention

Programs and interventions for survivors following a death by suicide. These activities help alleviate the suffering and emotional distress of suicide survivors and help prevent suicide contagion.

Preparatory Acts

Acts or preparation towards making a suicide attempt, but before the potential for 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 death by suicide (e.g., writing a suicide note, giving things away).

Risk Factor

The personal or environmental characteristics associated with suicide. People affected by one or more of these risk factors have a greater probability of suicidal behavior. However, risk factors are generally not predictive of behavior.

Warning Sign

Evidence-based indicators that someone may be in danger of suicide, either immediately or in the very near future.

Suicide Attempt

A self-injurious behavior for which there is evidence that the person probably intended to kill him/herself; a suicidal act may result in death, injuries, or no injuries.

Suicide Death

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

Suicidal Ideation

Any thoughts of suicide for which an individual is considering taking action that could result in his/her own death.

Suicide Attempt Survivor

An individual who engaged in a self-directed behavior with the intent to die and survived.

Suicide Loss Survivor

A person who has experienced the suicide of a family member, friend, or colleague.

Suicide Crisis Response Team

The administrators, guidance counselors, the school nurse, social worker, and school resource officers, and/or other members of the Student Assistance Program (SAP), as designated. Community mental agency resources may be called for assistance.