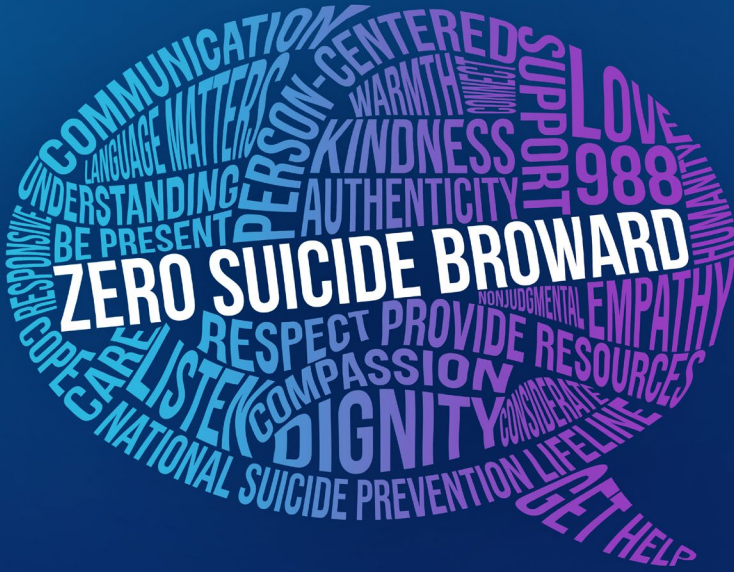


Language MATTERS



Let's communicate in a way that demonstrates empathy and compassion!

Have you lost a loved one to suicide?
Contact the LOSS Team for help.



954-746-2055, ext. 134



LOSS@mhasefl.org



United Way of Broward County's Suicide Prevention Coalition
Ansin Building - 1300 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

When discussing Suicide...

 Let's Say ...	 Instead of ...
✓ Died by suicide	✗ Committed suicide, suicided, died of suicide
✓ Ended or Took his/her/their own life	✗ Chose to kill him/her/them self
✓ Suicide or Suicide death	✗ Successful or completed suicide
✓ Non-fatal suicide attempt or Survived an attempt to die by suicide	✗ Failed or unsuccessful suicide attempt
✓ Disclosed or Shared suicidal thoughts or intent	✗ Threatened suicide
✓ Person living with suicidal thoughts or behavior	✗ Suicidal, suicidal ideator or attempter
✓ Working with... or Supporting... a friend/family member/loved one/client/patient with thoughts of suicide	✗ Dealing with a suicidal friend/family member/loved one/client/patient
✓ Lethal means safety	✗ Lethal means restriction
✓ "Increasing" or "Rising" trends	✗ "Skyrocketing" or "Epidemic" trends
✓ Populations with potentially higher rates of suicide	✗ "High" or "At-risk" people/populations

DO	DO NOT
✓ Describe behavior in neutral terms	✗ Use dehumanizing or blaming language (e.g., manipulative or attention-seeking behavior, suicidal gesture)
✓ Use straightforward terms to describe trends, (e.g., "increasing" or "rising")	✗ Use strong terms with shock value, (e.g., "skyrocketing" or "epidemic")
✓ Discuss the death with limited details, use language that is sensitive to a grieving family, and provide suicide prevention resources in communications.	✗ Quote directly from a suicide note or provide detailed descriptions of the location or method of death, memorials or funerals, or the level of grief of family
✓ Communicate that coping skills, support, and treatment work for most people who have thoughts about suicide	✗ Present suicide as a common or acceptable response to hardship
✓ Describe suicide warning signs and risk factors	✗ Oversimplify or speculate on the reason for the suicide
✓ Provide context and facts to counter perceptions that the suicide was tied to heroism, honor, or loyalty to an individual or group	✗ Glamorize or romanticize suicide

SOURCES: Suicide Reporting Recommendations, American Association of Suicidology. <https://suicidology.org/reporting-recommendations/>
 Wisconsin Suicide Prevention Plan, Language Matters, Prevent Suicide Wisconsin, <https://www.preventsuicidewi.org/wisconsin-suicide-prevention-plan-2020-language-matters>
 Let's Talk About Suicide: #LanguageMatters, Singlet & Ergeger, <https://www.socialworker.com/feature-articles/practices/lets-talk-about-suicide-language-matters/>



**If you or someone you know is in crisis, dial 9-8-8 or Text 741741.
For Veterans, PRESS "1".**