

## Suicide attempts after emergency room visits: the effect of patient safety goals.

December 16, 2015

Robst J. Suicide Attempts After Emergency Room Visits: The Effect of Patient Safety Goals. *Psych Q.* 2015;86(4):497-504. doi:10.1007/s11126-015-9345-7.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/suicide-attempts-after-emergency-room-visits-effect-patient-safety-goals>

---

Suicide is considered a [never event](#), and addressing [suicidality](#) for patients with a mental health diagnosis became a [National Patient Safety Goal](#) in 2007. The goal mandated assessment of suicide risk in patients with a primary mental health diagnosis. This study examined the incidence of [suicide](#) after emergency department treatment among Medicaid recipients in Florida before and after the goal was introduced. Investigators found that the rate of suicide declined among patients with a mental health diagnosis compared to those with a physical health diagnosis. These observational data suggest that implementing the goal may have increased identification of suicidal patients, resulting in appropriate treatment and reduced suicide attempts. A previous [WebM&M commentary](#) discussed suicide after discharge.