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**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 3:35 PM  
**To:** Web Info Quality (CDC) <[infoquality@cdc.gov](mailto:infoquality@cdc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Information Quality (error in publication)

I Want to bring to your attention an Error in the following publication by the CDC data brief, which was widely reported in Media. However, this writer believes that the result is flawed because of an error

Strashny A, Cairns C, Ashman JJ. Emergency department visits with suicidal ideation: United States, 2016–2020. NCHS Data Brief, no 463. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2023. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:125704>

In the aforementioned data brief, ED visits for suicidal ideation were defined by ICD 10 diagnostic code R45.851 (suicidal ideation). However, in the National hospital medical care survey dataset, only the first four ICD 10 codes are included (R45.8). Now ICD 10 R45.8 code includes the following

- [R45.81](#) Low self-esteem
- [R45.82](#) Worries
- [R45.83](#) Excessive crying of child, adolescent or adult
- [R45.84](#) Anhedonia
- [R45.85](#) Homicidal and suicidal ideations
  - [R45.850](#) Homicidal ideations
  - [R45.851](#) Suicidal ideations

When this writer tried to reproduce the finding using R45.8, it reproduced the result of the data brief. So the report is incorrect in saying that all those visits were for suicidal ideation, which, in reality, could have been for anything from the ICD codes listed above. Hence the number of visits due to suicidal ideation is inflated in the report, the magnitude of which is difficult to judge since the NHAMCS only records up-to four digits of the ICD 10 code.

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