A new study published in the September 2018 Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety provided the first data-driven estimate of the number of suicides in U.S. Hospitals.

Findings included:

- The study supported The Joint Commission Suicide Expert Panel – that hospital settings associated with psychiatric treatment should be made “ligature-resistant” environments to decrease the risk of suicide by hanging.
- 70-85% of inpatient suicides were inpatient psych patients
- 90% occurred in private areas (i.e. bathroom, bedroom)
- Hanging accounted for 70% of the suicides
  - Half of those occurred in patient bathrooms
  - One-third occurred in patient bedrooms
- Most widely used fixture points were tops of doors, door handles & hinges

Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority
Ligature Risk Gap Analyses

Have You Considered?
Create a checklist for your non-behavioral health rooms to identify items to be removed to make the space as ligature-resistant as possible.

The Joint Commission