

**CE Teams Series**  
**Firearm Safety Issues in the Context of COVID-19**

**Presenter Bio**

**John “Jack” Rozel, MD, MSL**  
Medical Director, resolve Crisis Services  
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC  
Associate Professor of Psychiatry,  
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At the University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Rozel has been working in emergency mental health for over 25 years and has been the medical director of resolve Crisis Services since 2010. He is the President-Elect of the American Association for Emergency Psychiatry, the leading national organization dedicated to the improvement of compassionate, evidence based care for people with psychiatric emergencies. As the medical director of resolve Crisis Services, he leads a team of 150 crisis professionals who deliver over 130,000 services every year to the residents of Allegheny County through phone, mobile, walk-in and overnight programs delivered through a person centered, recovery oriented model. Dr. Rozel trains and consults with teams across UPMC and the country on projects related to violence and threat management, staff injury prevention, and firearm injury prevention. He is board certified in general, child and forensic psychiatry. Dr. Rozel is a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a 2018 recipient of the Exemplary Psychiatrist award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

He completed his general psychiatry residency and child and forensic psychiatry fellowships at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC. Dr. Rozel, along with his colleague Dr. Layla Soliman, runs the @ViolenceWonks feed on Twitter, providing short summaries of new violence research.

**Name and Narrative Description of your Presentation – Intermediate**

March, 2020 saw record setting sales of firearms in Pennsylvania and across the United States. Often acquired by novices, often acquired in panic, and often brought into homes with children or people with significant risk factors, these weapons may pose a special risk to the safety of the clients we care for. Similar historic surges in firearm sales have been associated with elevated rates of accidental and homicidal firearm deaths. Given the plethora of added psychosocial stressors accompanying this time there is also heightened concern about suicide risk.

This presentation will explore some of the recent and historic data about firearm purchase surges, special issues with providing care (including telehealth) into homes at risk for firearm violence and injury, and provide some basic strategies for enhancing the safety of patients and their families.

**Target Audience:** Physicians, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Behavioral Health Therapists I, Behavioral Health Therapists II, Behavioral Health Therapists III, Nurses, Social Workers

**Three (3) learning objectives**

By the completion of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Discuss how the recent patterns in firearm sales in PA and the US compare with historic patterns
2. Describe special challenges in providing mental health services to clients in homes with firearms in the current COVID Pandemic
3. Formulate basic steps to enhance safety assessment in clinical care

**Three (3) current (within the past 10 years) peer-reviewed publications that support the evidence base for the content of your presentation**

1. Mannix, Rebekah, Lois K. Lee, and Eric W. Fleegler. 2020. “Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Firearms in the United States: Will an Epidemic of Suicide Follow?” *Annals of Internal Medicine*, April. <https://doi.org/10.7326/M20-1678>.
2. Levine, Phillip B., and Robin McKnight. 2017. “Firearms and Accidental Deaths: Evidence from the Aftermath of the Sandy Hook School Shooting.” *Science* 358 (6368): 1324–28. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aan8179>.
3. Pfefferbaum, Betty, and Carol S. North. 2020. “Mental Health and the Covid-19 Pandemic.” *New England Journal of Medicine* 0 (0): null. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMp2008017>