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Firearm Injury and Gun Violence: Healthcare's Role

Firearm injury is a serious public health concern. Healthcare clinicians, healthcare workers, patients, clients, and communities can work together to help prevent firearm injury, both first time and repeat injuries. The terminology of gun violence can imply the context of a perpetrator in inflicting violence on others. The terminology of firearm injury is a more encompassing term that includes the context of all injuries caused by firearms: Unintentional and intentional. Dr. Bonne encourages an interprofessional and community-partnership approach for people to join together to be "anti-bullet hole" regardless of socio-political labels to increase firearm injury prevention efforts and help save the lives of children and adults.

In this course, healthcare professionals can learn about participating in injury prevention committee efforts, supporting and strengthening communities, and educating patients and families about firearm injury prevention.

This CE course is relevant to medicine, nursing, and pharmacy.

At Colibri Healthcare, we developed this educational content with a genuine approach to bringing attention to mental health from a healthcare professional's perspective. This podcast contains content that may be unsettling for some listeners. The episodes may discuss death, shooting, suicide, and other sensitive topics. We do our best to discuss sensitive topics such as these with discretion and sincerity. Because of the sensitive topic being discussed, we recommend this podcast for adults only.

Content warnings: Mentions of death, domestic violence, shooting, suicide

Episode 1 – Firearm Injury and Firearm Violence: What's Happening and How Do We Talk About It?

As a trauma surgeon, Dr. Bonne was well-acquainted with the unfortunate and sad situation of having to inform parents or families that a child, relative, or friend died from firearm violence. She wanted to do something to address firearm injury prevention in a practical way. As she explains about who is at higher risk for firearm injury, why firearm injury is a better descriptor than gun violence, and how healthcare can help prevent firearm injury, we can understand how to discuss awareness of these issues and provide resources and support to help decrease firearm injuries.

Guest

Stephanie Bonne, MD, FACS

- Chief, Trauma and Surgical Critical Care
 - o Trauma Medical Director, Department of Surgery, Hackensack University Medical Center
 - Fellow, American College of Surgeons

- Association of Women Surgeons, council member
- Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, committee member
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 - Experienced professor
 - o Experienced surveillance director and intervention program leader

Host

Jannah Amiel, MS, BSN, RN

Jannah Amiel is a visionary nurse leader with extensive clinical experience in high-acuity hospital settings. In addition, she has education expertise in pre- and post-licensure nursing education and leading organizational teams in building and developing products and talent. She is the founder and nurse educator of an online bootcamp-style course experience that prepares pre-licensure nursing graduates to pass the NCLEX-RN and enter the workforce. She is currently Head of Learning, Healthcare, with Colibri Group.

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Maria Morales served as a nurse planner for Colibri Healthcare and is a certified legal nurse consultant. She is a quality-focused, results-driven nursing education professional. As a continuing education leader with nurse executive experience in developing interprofessional educational programs, she supports healthcare workers with educational activities to help increase communication within the healthcare team.

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Episode 2 – Research, Funding, and the Influence of an Interprofessional Healthcare Team

Funding has played an influential role in the amount of research conducted around gun violence and firearms. Funding had decreased related to political and policy-related issues, but now funding is being provided again. With more data being obtained, more understanding of the links between prevention, intervention, and injury can help influence better trauma-informed care. Additionally, interprofessional interventions such as partnering with communities, talking about how we educate patients, working with community health workers, and starting hospital-based violence intervention groups can be valuable for preventing and addressing firearm injuries.

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Episode 3 – Supporting Healthcare Workers and Intervening in Communities

We can really make a difference in firearm injury prevention and intervention by supporting our fellow healthcare workers and colleagues and by getting involved in our communities. One step at a time and one intervention at a time can make a difference in the prevention of firearm injury and for decreasing violence within our neighborhoods, our communities, our hospitals, and just generally where we live. Let's support those doing this work and see how we can get involved in helping to create positive changes in injury prevention and risk-reduction!

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Resources

The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI). https://www.thehavi.org/

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). https://www.samhsa.gov/