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Margolis Blog Reflection

Intimate partner violence. Three words I'd heard before, but never truly understood. What classifies as intimate partner violence? How common is it in American households? How are victims identified and properly referred to care? What challenges in equity do policymakers face when constructing initiatives to prevent IPV? These were all questions I had, but never been able to answer. Over the past 8 weeks, I've been fortunate enough to be able to research all of these questions, but never did I imagine how much more I would learn through the Margolis Health Policy Internship.

Intimate partner violence is not uncommon -- it occurs in almost 1 of every 5 households, a staggering statistic that had me stunned. Learning that made me all the more energized to conduct my research. I've learned more about risk factors, how to be sensitive to victims, and policies that revolutionized care for victims. My research brought me to one major solution: effective screenings that are integrated into all levels of healthcare for mothers and children. It is beyond rewarding to be able to learn more about policies and solutions that work to both save and change the lives of women and children who were either direct victims or witnesses of intimate partner violence.

In addition to giving me the opportunity to learn more about intimate partner violence, this internship enabled me to approach health policy challenges from an equity standpoint. The Margolis journal clubs and anti-racism discussions not only taught me more about the discriminatory policies that exist within numerous health systems, but also how to analyze and communicate solutions with sensitive language. These skills are priceless, and while I hope to continue developing them, this internship provided valuable lessons that I'll take with me in my future health policy endeavors.

This internship also opened my eyes to the possibilities a career in health policy holds. The Margolis Seminars allowed me to get a close-up view of projects in equitable health policy. Hearing more about the impact these projects continue to have inspires me and only makes me more excited and prouder to work in health policy.

By far the best part of the internship is being able to interact with a talented group of students with a huge range of interests. Despite being an internship focused on health policy, each intern has their own set of diverse skills, interests, and hopes that makes the program all the more engaging. Learning from them throughout this summer, whether it be through a mini TED talk, a journal club discussion, or a routine check-in, has been an absolute privilege that I am beyond grateful for.