

# Determinants of Healthcare Inequalities in Brazil: A Qualitative Approach

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Funded by CHW under the Internships for Global Health Program

## Introduction

- Existence of inequality and lack of access to healthcare exists despite public healthcare system
- Many nuanced social determinants
- Work toward more equal healthcare access

## Objective of Internship

Increase my exposure and knowledge to health inequalities that exist globally and

develop my experience in working with human rights advocacy Organizations.



Interview with International Amnesty.  
Photo credit: Marcos Nascimento, Ph.D.

## Work profile

- IFF focuses on education, research, service in health of women, children and adolescents
- Researched the social determinants which factored into Brazilian healthcare inequality
- Collaborated with various health-focused nonprofit organizations

## Reflection

- My discussions with various nonprofit organizations provided a new perspective for what social factors can affect health.
- By combining my knowledge for the different theories of intervention and my real-life experience talking to those constituents who are affected by these problems, I, along with my colleagues, were able to brainstorm new interventions and directions of research for lack of health access in underserved populations.



Tour of Fiocruz campus with advisors.

- Discussions with those who experienced the health disparities and the Brazilian healthcare system allowed me to qualitatively collect personal accounts of what problems need addressing.
- Overall, I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity to work with such amazing people who share in my passion of protecting global healthcare access and to expand my mind with both the knowledge of theory and the knowledge which I can never learn from a book.



Interview with non-profit organization, Marielle Franco Insitute.

- I learned so much about public health during this internship, especially about the factors beyond simple socioeconomics that influence healthcare access.
- Taking classes which discussed the intersectionality in healthcare such as that to do with politics and religion allowed me to have a broader understanding of health climate in Brazil.

## Looking ahead

- Reinforced my passion for working in women's health.
- I am considering pursuing a Ph.D. in public health and bioethics.

## Questions

- How will the change of political parties affect future healthcare legislation?
- How are the problems plaguing the Brazilian healthcare system paralleled in the US system?

## Conclusion

Working in global environment comes with its challenges but is ultimately so fulfilling, especially knowing that the world is changing for the better.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge Fiocruz and IFF for supporting me and Marcos Nascimento, Ph.D., and Adriana Castro, Ph.D., for advising me this summer. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the CHW and the Internships in Global Health for their aid during this program.