Introduction
• South Africa (SA) has the highest obesity prevalence in Sub-Saharan Africa and is a large consumer of sugary drinks
• The SA National Parliament is legislating a tax on sugary drinks in effort to curb sugar consumption

Objective of Internship
To better understand the challenges in improving population health in South Africa on the policy

Work profile
• PRICELESS Mission: Inform policymakers to make cost-effective decisions in healthcare.
• My project’s objective: inform policymakers on South Africa’s effort of implementing a cost-effective fiscal mechanism designed to improve population health.

Reflection
Work and Contribution
• Conducted an analysis on the sugary beverage tax legislative process
• Wrote an intersectoral case study report on the policy process
• The report serves to document the entire process for regional policymakers and academic researchers

Tax Design Analysis
• Small changes in tax design can have enormous implications for the effectiveness of the tax.
• How the tax will apply to concentrates is a major point of contention

Looking ahead
• Developed a newfound research interest in obesity and diet.
• Looking to make an impact in the policy sphere as a future physician

Questions
• Once the tax has been passed in South Africa, will it be stable and meet health improvement expectations?
• What other complementary health interventions should be implemented?

Conclusion
A sugary beverage tax is expected to have a significant health benefit in South Africa; however, multiple non-health sectors have been effective in opposing its implementation.

Acknowledgements
Thank you to Karen Hofman (director), Aviva Tugendhaft (deputy), and Nick Stacey (researcher) for this experience. Thank you to CHW for funding the experience and IIP for connecting me to PRICELESS.