Brown School Practicum Opportunity

Practicum Organization: Institute for Public Health (Gun Violence Initiative)
Washington University in St. Louis
Hillman Hall, Ste. 40
(314) 935-9282

Practicum site(s): Institute for Public Health office location (Danforth campus & Medical School campus)

Description of Practicum Opportunity:
“Gun Violence: A Public Health Crisis” was formed in spring 2015 to look at one of our greatest public health challenges: death and injury as a result of gun violence. Through this effort, we invite scholars, medical professionals, community leaders, and citizens to take a hard look at the serious, tragic public health consequences of gun violence in America.

A recent report from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, “The Truth About Suicide and Guns,” describes the strong link between gun ownership and suicide: a gun in the home makes suicide three times more likely. The report finds that while gun ownership alone presents the greatest risk, when combined with the impulsive nature of suicide and the effectiveness of a gun, the combination is deadly. In fact, 71% of people who attempt suicide do so within an hour after making the decision. Further, death results 91% of the time when a gun is used because injuries are instantaneous and leave little time for medical intervention or for the victim to reconsider their decision.

Among the report’s highlights:

- Suicide deaths are up 41% since 1999
- 2/3 of gun deaths are by suicide
- On average, guns account for 19,992 suicides every year
- The states with the five highest rates of gun suicides have gun ownership rates 37% or more higher than the national average

We are seeking practicum students to help develop and evaluate activities that will increase public awareness related to gun suicide. Students will gain significant experience with data management, program development, delivering education, identifying best-practice resources and materials, developing learning materials, evaluation, community engagement, and outreach.

Timeframe: Fall semester 2016
Spring semester 2017

Eligibility: MPH Practicum or MSW Concentration Practicum. Experience with GIS mapping, SAS or STATA and Excel.

Paid: No

How to apply: Email cover and resume to prijos@wustl.edu.