

Starting my Next Semester with Lift

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ADVOCACY FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS THROUGH DATA COLLECTION AND PRESENTATION
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Lift Louisiana
To educate, advocate, and litigate for policy changes needed to improve the health and wellbeing of Louisiana's women, their families, and their communities.
Lift Louisiana values collaboration, analyzing and shifting power, compassion, self-determination, and transparency and accountability. The work I've done for Lift this semester encompassed all of these values. Primarily, my work as a communications intern centers around data. How should we present it in an easy to digest manner for the general public to inform themselves on prevalent issues regarding reproductive justice in Louisiana? For policymakers, how do we demonstrate what the community is lacking?

Infographics
Louisiana enforces many overburdening regulations on abortion clinics, significantly reducing women's accessibility to reproductive services. To convey this information, along with data on all women who obtain abortions in the U.S., I created 3 infographics using information from both liftlouisiana.org and statistics given by the Guttmacher Institute. These allow us to address and track progress (and the lack thereof) in effective policy for the wellbeing of women in Louisiana.

EC in ERs
In order to assess the availability of emergency contraception in emergency rooms across Louisiana, I conducted a survey throughout all 98 hospitals with emergency rooms in Louisiana. The questions I asked focused on EC provision to sexual assault survivors specifically. After introducing myself and the purpose of the call, I asked the following yes-or-no questions:
1. Does [hospital] provide information about EC to sexual assault survivors?
2. Where is this information from?
3. If requested, does the hospital dispense EC on the site?
Only 18 ERs answered my questions, signaling a need to alter my methodology to better adapt to ERs' fast-paced environment. I collaborate with a pediatric resident at LSU in the next semester to continue this study.

References
Guttmacher Institute. State facts about abortion, 2018 [Louisiana]. <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/state-facts-about-abortion-louisiana>, accessed 03/27/2019.

Acknowledgements
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Infographic Data:
The infographic lists regulations such as 'MANDATORY COUNSELING', 'SUPPORTIVE COUNSELING/PLANNING', 'NECESSARY PRE-REQUISITES', and 'TIME RESTRICTIONS'. It also features a pie chart for 'RACE' and a statistic: '94% of respondents (n=18) reported that their hospital provides information about EC to sexual assault survivors.' The text below the chart states: '94% of respondents (n=18) reported that their hospital provides information about EC to sexual assault survivors. 94% of respondents (n=18) reported that their hospital provides information about EC to sexual assault survivors.' (Note: The image text is partially obscured and repetitive).

Hi! I'm Janna Mangasep, and I'll be continuing my internship with Lift Louisiana for the Spring semester. I am a sophomore studying Political Economy with a minor in Mathematics and SLAMM (Management). With Lift, I work primarily on communications. However, I've also had the pleasure of expanding my professional horizons through conducting an informal research study on the availability of emergency contraception in Louisiana's ERs for sexual assault survivors. All in all, I've been lucky enough to accomplish and carry out several assignments in a whole range of fields.

It's only been a few days since I started working again, but I – along with my fellow interns – had the exciting opportunity to present the projects we had done over the course of the last semester with our respective organizations. My poster mainly touched on the infographics I got to make as a communications intern and the aforementioned EC in ERs project. At Conceiving Equity (the annual Roe v. Wade lecture), I stood in front of my poster with my infographics printed out and laminated to show whomever came by. By talking with the people interested in my work, I received great feedback on how I could further improve on my study to better account for the fast-paced environment of ERs. For example, many people raised ethical questions about my potentially posing as someone in need of EC instead of presenting myself as an intern conducting a survey. Furthermore, the enthusiasm I received for my design on the infographics definitely gave me confidence in that task and that field as a whole (as I hadn't done it before).

Looking forward, I'll be focusing mainly on communications through improving social media presence. I've only been working on this for 2 days, but I'm already heavily invested in coming up with new tactics in engaging the public with forwarding Lift's mission. So far, I've taken a closer look at Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Instagram and Twitter presence, as well as the feeds of nonprofit organizations with large followings like NARAL and Planned Parenthood. It's been fascinating to dissect their posts in relation with their missions, and I look forward to applying these newfound realizations to Lift's social media!

Janna