



# Understanding PrEP Administration and Adherence at Mazzoni Center Washington West

## Student Interns

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## Community Preceptor

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### COMMUNITY PARTNER

Community Partner: The Mazzoni Center  
The Mazzoni Center provides comprehensive primary care for the LGBT community, in addition to specialized LGBT health needs such as gender affirming care and HIV/STI screening and prevention resources. Services also include youth drop-in clinics, and the Washington West Center for low-threshold access to sexual health services.

Link: <https://www.mazzonicenter.org>

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

The Mazzoni Center serves the historically underserved LGBT community through its healthcare outreach. Beyond being underserved, the LGBT community is particularly vulnerable to issues of [mental health](#), [HIV/AIDS](#), and [substance abuse](#). Additionally, LGBT youth experience a higher rate of [homelessness](#) and health insecurity than their heterosexual/cisgender peers. Taking these vulnerabilities into account, the Mazzoni center provides specific interventions to combat these issues.



# MAZZONI CENTER

## LGBTQ HEALTH & WELL-BEING

### TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

We were assigned to analyze quantitative data on PrEP appointment adherence for patients at the Washington West Clinic. Additionally, we shadowed at the Washington West Clinic, reporting qualitatively on identified pain points. We also prepared client PrEP usage surveys, and educational materials on PrEP usage.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CHALLENGES/ JOYS

#### Accomplishments

- Identified ~50% gap in PrEP follow-up
- Identified opportunities for CDC recommended PrEP intervention among patients diagnosed with rectal STDs
- Gave voice to staff dissatisfied with Mazzoni's direction

#### Challenges

- Busy staff meant little oversight and difficulty identifying most needed aid
- Outdated software made data analysis/patient tracking difficult

### REFLECTION

Coming from the LGBT community, it was highly meaningful doing work that directly impacted the community. Ultimately, one of the most rewarding parts of this experience was the ability to analyze this data free of stigma. We are future doctors with a public health mission. There isn't any use of judgement. The health concerns are the health concerns, and our job is to treat it like any other health mission.

In a more personal way, though, it was wonderful connecting with patients and getting to learn their stories. The Mazzoni center attracts patients from across the gender and sexuality spectrum, and it was a privilege to be able to receive each patient with warmth, openness, and humility.

