

# Toronto Teen Survey: Improving Sexual Health Services for Diverse Youth

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Toronto  
Teen  
Survey  
Planned Parenthood



SID # \_\_\_\_\_

## The Toronto Teen Survey

### What is this project about?

It is about making sexual health services better for youth in Toronto. We want to hear from 1,500 different youth between the ages of 13-17 living in Toronto.

### Who is running this project?

A research team consisting of people from Planned Parenthood of Toronto, the University of Toronto, York University, Toronto Public Health, and the Ontario HIV Treatment Network.

### What do I have to do?

We are asking you to fill out a survey. The survey has 29 questions and takes about 15 minutes to fill out. It asks questions about how you get info about sex and where you go when you need help. We hope you will also stay for the part of the session where we can try to answer your questions about sexual health.

### What will happen to the info?

This info will be used to plan sexual health programs for youth in Toronto. We will also share the results by writing reports and developing creative ways to share our findings with various groups, organizations, and communities.

### Will it be private?

Yes. You will not be asked to give your name. There will be no way of connecting you with the info you write down. Only the research team will be able to see your finished survey - but they won't know it is you who filled it out!

### Do I have to fill out the survey?

No. You can choose not to fill out the survey. No one will be mad or upset with you if you don't. You will still be able to come to all the same programs here. You can stop at any time.

### Will I get anything if I fill out the survey?

Yes. You will get a movie pass to thank you for your time.

### Who can I call if I have questions about the Toronto Teen Survey?

If you have any questions about the survey, the project, or your ethical rights you can contact the appropriate people listed on the separate sheet that was handed out to you. We will also give you a list of places to call if you have more questions about your sexual health.

### Ready?

You can start filling out the survey if:

- (1) you understand why the study is being done;
- (2) you decide you want to participate;
- (3) you know that you don't have to;
- (4) you know that we are here to help if you have any questions;

Remember you can be honest...no one will know it is you. Thanks for your help!






# Overview of TTS

- PPT and Research
- The Enabling Grant Wellesley (September 2004)
- Academic Partners



## **Objectives:**

- Identify what sexual health, including HIV/AIDS, services and information are being used by diverse youth across Toronto.
- Identify the gaps and barriers that exist for diverse youth in accessing sexual health services and resources.
- Identify the factors that facilitate diverse youth's access to sexual health services and resources.



## **Objectives (continued):**

- Discover how diverse youth would like to see these gaps and barriers addressed.
- Understand what roles service providers can play in providing relevant and effective sexual health services for diverse youth.



## Phase One

- Recruiting and Training YAC
- Creating the Survey
- Developing the Methodology



## **Research Grant OHTN (July 2006)**

- Recruiting and Training YAC
- Finalizing the Survey
- Distributing the Survey



# YAC VIDEO





# **Student Involvement**

## **Responsibilities:**

- Supporting YAC in workshops
- Writing ethical review
- Co-authoring articles
- Data entry & analysis
- Creating the video
- Administrative duties
- Attending research team meetings



## **Overview of Findings**

- 90 workshops conducted in variety of settings
- 1,216 youth surveyed
- Gender: 1% trans, 45% male, 54% female
- Age: 83% between 13-17 years old evenly distributed.




## Race & Ethnicity

- Black, 38%
  - East Asian, 15%
  - White, 15%
  - Multiracial, 13%
  - South Asian, 10%
  - Aboriginal, 2%
- 85% of sample people of color



## Other Points about Sample

- **Immigration:** 33% born outside Canada
  - 11% in Canada less than 3 years
- **Religion:** 55% Christian, 10% Muslim, 18% No religion, 13% Other religion
- **Orientation:** 4% LGB2PQ, 90% straight

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- **Drugs/Alcohol:** 5% report problems
  - **Disability:** 4% report having mobility, hearing, speech or visual disability
  - **Living Situation:** W/Parents- 82%, Foster/group home- 6%, Independently- 8%



## Sexual Experiences

- 35% report “having had sex”
- Vaginal sex- 28%, Anal sex- 8%
- Oral sex- 26%
- Sexual touching w/partner- 39%
- Never had any sexual experiences- 25%
- Pregnancy Involvement:  
8% Female, 6% Males



# Reasons for Clinic Visits

	Females	Males
Safer Sex info	17%	10%
Counselling	3 %	1%
BCMs	18%	1.5%
Condoms	13%	14%
STI/HIV Test	13%	8%
PAP	17%	0%
Preg. Options	14%	1.5%
Multiple	20%	9%
<b>Have never gone!</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>70%</b>



# **Top 5 Wants in a Clinic**

- 1) Confidential/Private
- 2) Comfortable Asking Questions
- 3) Non-judgmental Clinic
- 4) Provide Good Information
- 5) Location is close by or easy to get to.





# **Top 5 Access Barriers**

- 1) Fear of being judged or embarrassed by friends
- 2) Worried services aren't confidential
- 3) Service is not youth-friendly
- 4) My parents'/caregivers' reactions
- 5) Fear of being judged by staff



# What Info Have Youth Learned?

TOPIC	Learned
HIV/AIDS	78%
STIs	71%
Pregnancy & birth control	66%
Communicating about sex	61%
Healthy Relationships	61%
Sexual violence/abuse	58%
Sexual Orientation	51%
Sexual Pleasure	42%
Nothing	10%



## **Access Facilitators**

- Make services more public
- Provide confidential services
- Service providers recognize that sex and sexuality is important.



# **TOP 3 WANTED INFORMATION**

1. Healthy Relationships

2. HIV/AIDS

3. Sexual Pleasure



# Where do youth go to ask about sexual health stuff?

1. Friends – 53%
2. Professionals – 43%
3. Mass Media – 33%
4. Parents – 28%
5. Siblings, Info lines, Semi-Professionals



## **Service Provider Input**

- Front-line & managerial staff who work with youth invited to attend 1 of 10 consultation sessions
- Purpose was to present survey findings, reflect on data, gather recommendations.
- Over 50 organizations consulted, 85 youth service providers.



# Dissemination

- Service provider consultation sessions
- Conferences, including keynote for Beyond Boxes: 'Beyond Boxes: Revisioning Sexual Health Education', March 29th, OISE
- CBC radio (communication strategy for media)
- Submission to the Ministry of Education, Ontario Health Curriculum Review project
- Meetings with the Toronto Public Health Policy and Planning Department
- Reports on PPT and GAAP websites

# Youth Dissemination

- Electronic forms of dissemination, using state of the art technology (e.g., facebook)
- Arts-based projects involving youth (e.g., drama, phtovoice)
- Presentations at youth conferences by YAC members







## **Expanding the Project**

- **Research proposals to collect qualitative data (CIHR) and replicate the study at PPT sites across Canada (CURA)**
- **Consultation sessions for other organizations interested in conducting the study (e.g., Durham Healthy Sexuality Coalition)**

Durham Healthy Sexuality Coalition is planning a survey of Durham Youth.....  
"What and how to support youth in healthy sexual decision-making?"

The coalition invites you to a community consultation...  
Learn about the Toronto Teen Survey and how Durham can support a local survey project:

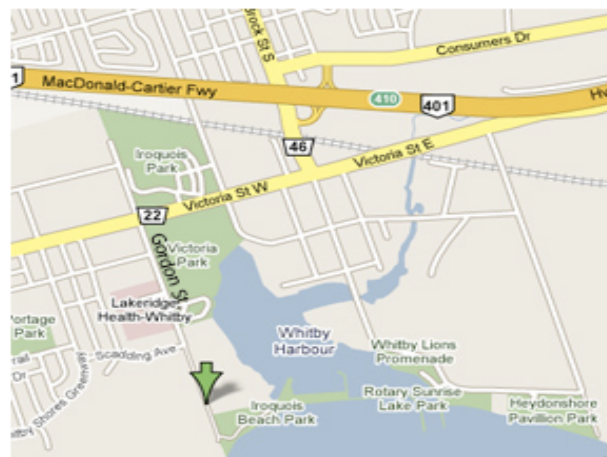
"The Toronto Teen Survey:  
Improving Sexual Health Services for Diverse Toronto Youth"

Crystal Layne, Planned Parenthood of Toronto  
Dr. June Larkin, Principle Investigator, University of Toronto  
Rob Travers, Co-investigator, Ontario HIV Treatment Network

**SUMMARY**

In this presentation we discuss the development and results of the Toronto Teen Survey (TTS) that was distributed to 1200 youth across Toronto. The aim of the TTS Project was to gather information from youth on assets, gaps and barriers that currently exist in sexual health education and services and to use the information to develop a city-wide strategy to increase positive sexual health outcomes for diverse Toronto youth. We will describe the community-based research design that involved teens in all stages of the project and we will show video clips that document the process.

The TTS Project is a university-community partnership supported by community-based research funding from the Ontario HIV Treatment Network.



Thursday, March 20

12:30 - 4:00 PM

Hot Lunch Provided

Whitby Mental Health Centre

Conference Room A

700 Gordon St. Whitby ON

Free. Please RSVP by March 17, 2008 to  
Peter @ AIDS Committee of Durham Region  
905-576-1445 or [director@aidsturham.com](mailto:director@aidsturham.com)



# **Designing Sexual Health Strategies**

- Analyzing data from youth and SPs
- Develop strategies for improving access to sexual health services or recommendations for new services.
- Emphasis on meeting the needs of diverse youth populations.
- Example: youth in care



Thank You

For questions please email:

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