

q: what do youth with disabilities need to improve their access to sexual and reproductive health services?

We conducted a needs assessment to find out what youth with disabilities in Toronto want from sexual and reproductive health agencies to better meet their needs. Here's what we learned:

stats

- Most participants had disabilities that were not visible. 81.48% agreed or strongly agreed that their disability largely affects their daily life.
- 42.55% of participants identified as bisexual, pansexual, polysexual, or queer, and 6.38% identified as lesbian or gay.
- 47.41% of participants disagreed or strongly disagreed that they are able to financially access all the sexual health medication and items that they need.
- Only 56% of survey respondents reported that they have access to all of the SRH information they need, and 35% expressed that they have access to all of the SRH services and programs they need.

barriers & facilitators

Major barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health services among young with disabilities were reported as:

- emotional distress, depression, anxiety or fear of oppression
- lack of knowledgeable staff or assumptions that youth with disabilities don't need this information
- cost factors
- inconvenient locations

Some important facilitators to access included:

- anti-oppressive and accessible spaces
- staff and volunteers that represent the communities participants belonged to (people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, etc)
- convenient location
- knowledgeable staff and information specific to youth with disabilities

topics of interest

Youth with disabilities in Toronto reported that they wanted additional information on topics including emotional violence, communication about sex, and pain management during sex. Other topics of interest included healthy relationships, asexuality/aromanticism, fetishization and desirability, health care rights, relationship styles, sensation and orgasm.



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PPT is working to better serve youth with disabilities.