
TRANS YOUTH CANADA

COVID-IMPACT YOUTH SURVEY

—

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS



Trans Youth Canada is a youth-led website and resource. This site will be populated over the next few months (May to July and then updated) with trans, Two-Spirit, gender diverse, and/or gender non-conforming youth-led research, resources for youth across Canada, a podcast series, artistic endeavours and creations, and frameworks of action for healthcare, schools, and social service to utilize in policy and practice.

A national trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse youth-led study started data collection via an online survey on May 4th, 2020 to examine service needs and the impact of Covid-19. Data collection continues at the time of reporting and below offers a preliminary analysis of some of the key findings. The study is led by a team of young trans people (Keegan Prempeh, Priya "Pree" Rehal, Kaeden Seburn, Lachina Tycho Mckenzie) funded by Ryerson University, and supported by assistant professor Julie James.



WHERE WE ARE NOW

Preliminary findings as of May 19th, 2020

107

young people (ages 14 to 24) have completed the survey

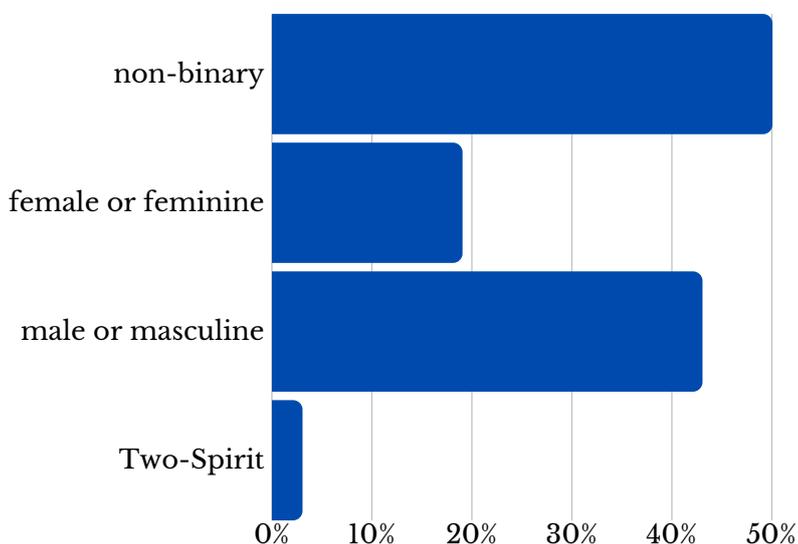
44%

of the respondents were between 14-17 years old and fifty-six are between 18-24 years old

25%

identify as racialized and 75% identify as white or caucasian

When offered to check all that apply, the most commonly selected options were:



The vast majority of respondents are from Ontario (90%) with some representation from British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba. 76% percent reported that they reside in a city of 100,000 people or more.

SUPPORT

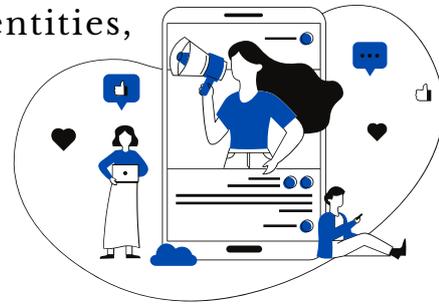
When offered to 'check all that apply',

- 81% reported that they learned about gender diversity online,
- 67% cited social media,
- 16% said at school,
- and 7% said through healthcare services.



When asked to 'check all that apply',

- 71% reported that hanging out with friends is a place where they feel supported to talk about their gender identities,
- 67% said social media,
- 55% said online chat groups,
- 33% said chosen family,
- and 20% checked family of origin.



HEALTHCARE

When asked about what would be helpful when accessing gender affirmative care, the most frequently reported responses included that the provider uses the correct name and pronouns and to **trust young people** to know their own identities and needs. It was noted by several youth that some healthcare providers are not using correct names and pronouns.

75%

of the respondents who have not accessed gender affirmative care, reported that they have not done so because they **do not know** where to go and 42% reported that they did not access this care because of financial barriers.

COVID-19 IMPACT

73% **29%** **29%**

percent of respondents said that COVID-19 has impacted their ability to access gender affirmative care.

reported a delay or interruption to their hormone treatments

reported canceled or postponed doctor appointments.

16%

reported that their surgeries have been cancelled or postponed

THE MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED IMPACT OF THE DELAYS OR INTERRUPTIONS TO GENDER AFFIRMATIVE HEALTHCARE BECAUSE OF COVID-19 INCLUDE INCREASED STRESS, ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, AND DYSPHORIA.

60% of those currently in online schooling due to COVID-19 report experiencing challenges, that include increased stress, lack of focus and motivation, being misgendered more online, and difficulty learning, particularly for neurodiverse youth.

THE MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED OVERALL IMPACT OF COVID-19 WAS INCREASES IN DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, AND DYSPHORIA DUE TO ISOLATION, LACK OF ACCESS TO SUPPORT, AND ALREADY LONG WAIT TIMES FOR CARE GETTING LONGER.

EMERGING TRENDS

from the Service Provider Survey



66%

of service providers in healthcare, education, and community services reported that they do not believe that they have encountered a trans youth in their practice.

- The top 5 responses for **service providers' needs all involve** wanting more training, including more specialized training for their particular profession, and more training that address the needs of racialized and Indigenous trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse youth.
- Due to COVID-19 many service providers report that they are **unable to provide** the support trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse youth need, several report trying creatively to meet these needs, but most respondents advise that more funding and institutional support is required to adequately meet the needs of these youth populations.

Trans Youth Canada is going to continue recruiting for the youth survey and service provider survey until early June 2020. Please visit transyouthcanada.com for more details and final reports.