
TRANS YOUTH CANADA

**PRE-COVID
TRANS, TWO-
SPIRIT, AND/OR
GENDER DIVERSE
YOUTH SURVEY
HIGHLIGHTS**



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 and/or gender diverse youth-led study took place via an online survey from February, 2019 to July, 2019 to examine the need for and access to professional services. The study was led by Kaeden Seburn and Keegan Prempeh, was funded by Ryerson University, and supported by assistant professor Julie James.



WHERE WE ARE NOW

Preliminary findings as of May 19th, 2020

190

trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse young people (ages 14 to 24) completed the survey

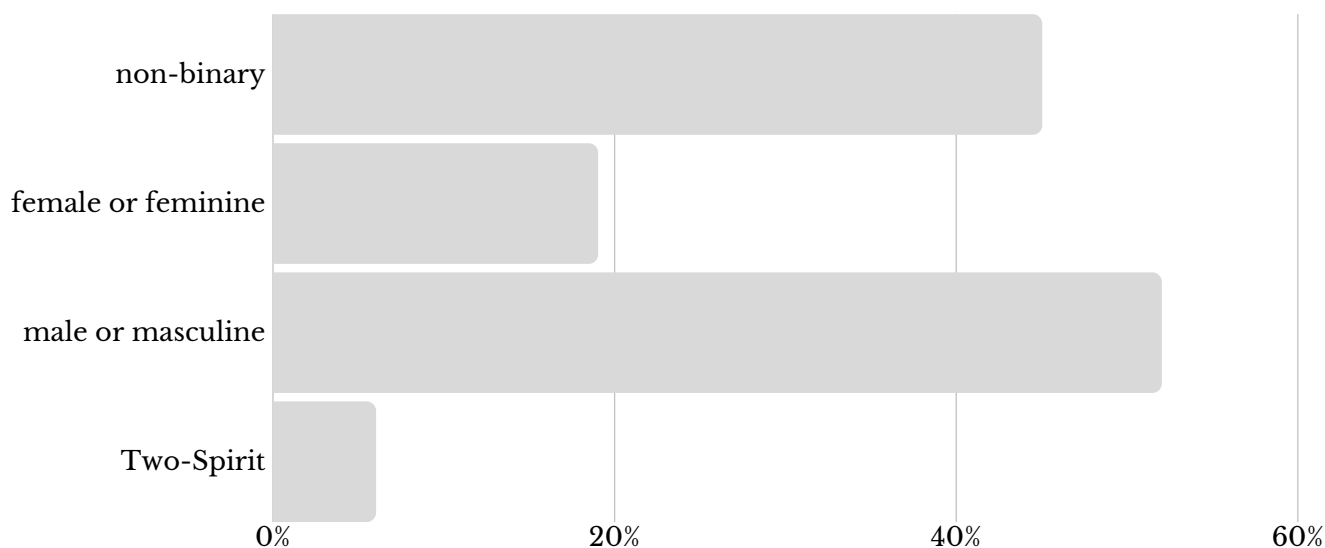
27%

of the respondents were between 14-17 years old and 73% were between 18-24 years old

15%

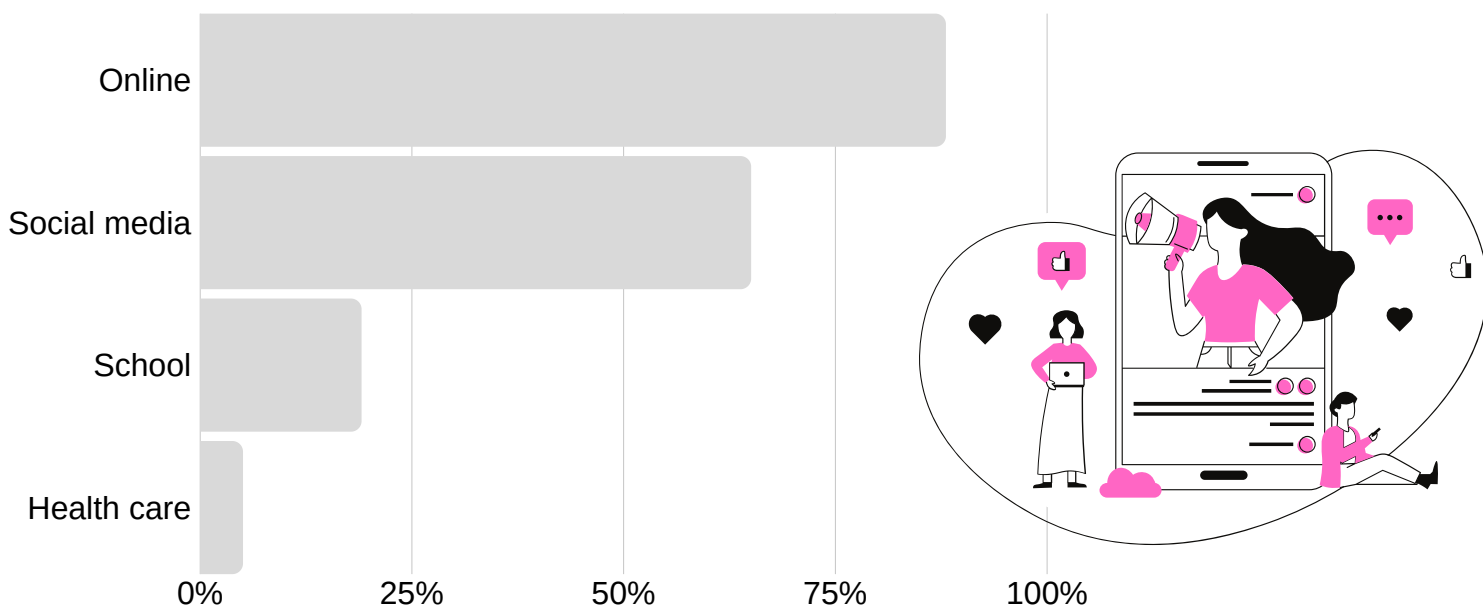
identify as racialized and 60% reported living in a city of 100,000 people or more

WHEN OFFERED TO CHECK ALL GENDER CATEGORIES THAT APPLY, THE MOST COMMONLY SELECTED OPTIONS WERE:



SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

More than a third of respondents indicated they don't have supportive families of origin or caregivers. 77% of respondents identified their friends as a primary source of support around gender identity. When asked to 'check all that apply' regarding where they learned about gender diversity these were the most popular responses:



Youth reported finding positive depictions of gender diversity through these sources in addition to information that was transphobic or that sent a message that there are only certain 'right' ways to be trans that do not include nonbinary and gender nonconforming identities and experiences.

When asked to 'check all that apply' regarding where youth respondents talk or learn about their gender identities that feels supportive, 78% checked with friends, 62% checked through social media, 45% checked via online chat rooms, 44% said with chosen family, 24% checked family of origin, and 17% said at healthcare clinics.

HEALTHCARE, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND SCHOOL

68%

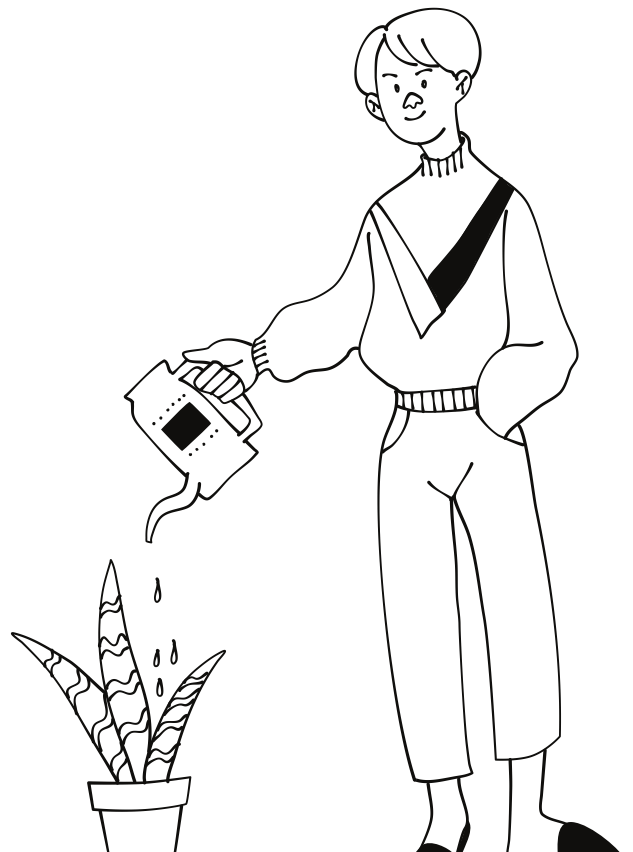
of youth respondents reported that they had accessed or had tried to access gender affirmative healthcare.

Of the 32% youth respondents who reported that they have not accessed or tried to access gender affirmative healthcare, when asked to 'check all that apply', 52% said that they are still thinking about it, 47% said that they need more information, 42% said that they don't know where to go, 36% said that they cannot afford it, 36% said that they do not have parental support, 23% said that they do not trust healthcare providers, 21% are waiting until they are older, and 14% reported that they are not interested in this type of healthcare.

85%

of those who said that they have or have tried to access gender affirmative care reported at least one negative experience in this process

The most frequently identified issues by the youth regarding accessing gender affirmative healthcare included being forced to change providers multiple times, needing to educate their providers, practitioners having limited to no knowledge, and practitioners who are unwilling to learn about how to provide this care.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?



When asked about what would be helpful when accessing gender affirmative healthcare, the most frequent responses included:

- shorter wait times,
- informed consent models without gatekeeping and assessments from providers,
- providers that are knowledgeable about trans and nonbinary identities,
- desire for practitioners that share identities (racialized providers and providers with gender diverse identities),
- omitting practices that ‘out’ youth, and a diversity of options for medical transition.

When asked about what would be helpful when accessing social services, the most frequent responses included:

- wanting more representation of trans and racialized staff,
- wanting services that are more accessible (including, but not limited to, having ASL translation),
- wanting resources that are discreet for youth so they can access them privately,
- and wanting sober spaces

When asked about what practices schools can engage in that would be helpful, the most frequently reported items were that youth want more education for staff and students from early grades on gender diversity so that their identities are more understood and respected and youth respondents wanted schools to respond seriously to address and prevent harassment and bullying of trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse youth.

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.