

Youth Services System Review

A project examining substance use services available to youth (age 12-24) in Ontario



**YOUTH
SERVICES
SYSTEM
REVIEW**

What We Did: *Goals and Methods*

To **describe** the landscape of services addressing substance use available to Ontario youth

To **identify** gaps and opportunities for collaboration and enhancement to better meet the needs of Ontario youth

- **300+** youth and **300+** service providers, family members, and other stakeholders participated
- **17** focus groups with **186** youth
- **10** service provider interviews
- **447** surveys

What We Heard: *Findings and Recommendations*

What Works?

Service qualities:

Youth-oriented, harm reduction approaches, collaborative

Service provider qualities:

Caring, trustworthy, relatable

What Youth Like!

- ✓ Positive relationships with service providers
- ✓ Incentives
- ✓ Flexibility
- ✓ Support for autonomy
- ✓ Addressing reasons for using, stigma and fear

Where are the Gaps?

- × Access
- × Awareness
- × Health equity, social determinants of health
- × Fragmentation
- × Availability
- × Range and diversity of services

What's Recommended?

- ❖ Offer **developmentally appropriate, collaborative and evidence-based care** provided by well-trained staff
- ❖ Encourage **youth autonomy**
- ❖ Improve **awareness** of available services by **advertising** directly to youth
- ❖ Reduce **wait times**, provide **equitable access & transportation** across regions, adjust **age limits & hours of operation**
- ❖ Collaborate with adult services to meet the needs of **transition-aged youth**
- ❖ Provide **services for family** and other youth supporters
- ❖ Deliver **culturally-informed services**

Thank you for your input! We'd love to hear your feedback

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