



CHEO Diversity Clinic

Trans Youth CAN! Community Event on School Experiences

August 25, 2020



Thanks for attending this event!

We're excited to have you!

- With this event we want to:
 - Share information about our project
 - Introduce our *FIRST INFOGRAPHIC*
 - Answer questions anyone has about our infographic and this project
- Our event facilitators today are:
 - **Margaret Lawson**: Endocrinologist CHEO Diversity Clinic, Co-PI for Trans Youth CAN!
 - **Seb Pangelo**: Social Worker CHEO Diversity Clinic
 - **Greta Bauer**: Lead investigator of Trans Youth CAN!
 - **Annie Pullen Sansfaçon**: Co-investigator for Trans Youth CAN!
 - **Sandra Gotovac**: Project Coordinator for Trans Youth CAN!



What is the Trans Youth CAN! study?

- Looking at medical, social, and family outcomes of trans and non-binary youth referred for puberty blockers or hormones
- 10 medical clinics that provide gender-affirming medical care for youth across Canada



What is the Trans Youth CAN! study?

- Youth from puberty to age 15 were recruited at their 1st medical appointment for blockers or hormones
- They are followed **for 2 years** through their journey of gender-affirming medical care
- Participants complete surveys and give permission to get information on their health and clinical care from clinic medical records
- Youth could invite one parent or caregiver to participate in the study
- Participant recruitment and baseline data were from Sept 2017 to June 2019



Learn all about our study at

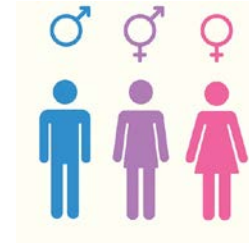
www.transyouthcan.ca



Who are the participants?

● 174 youth

- **Age:** Average 13.8 years; ranged from 10 to 15 years old
- **Gender:** 76% trans male; 16% trans female; 8% non-binary
- **Background:** 19% Indigenous; 6.5% visible minority; 74.5% white
24% from immigrant families
- **School:** 100% of youth were enrolled in school
92% public school; 5% private school; 3% homeschooled
13% in a religious-affiliated school



● 160 parents/caregivers

- Age: 31 to 63 years old
- Majority were moms: 76% birth moms, 8% adoptive moms
 - 11% birth dads; 1% non-binary birth parents
 - Remaining 4% of parents: adoptive/foster/step dads; step moms, grandparents
- 16.2% sexual or gender minority



Stories of Gender Affirming Care

- Companion study to Trans Youth CAN! Project
- What is the Story of Gender Affirming Care project?
 - Looked at the experiences of trans children and youth and their families accessing gender-affirming (GA) care during the prepubertal, pubertal and post-pubertal stages of development, to better understand
 - Motivations and pathways
 - Strategies to express and/or address dysphoria and navigate social and family situations
 - What contributes to their psychosocial well-being and quality of life
 - Their experiences with GA medical care



Stories of Gender Affirming Care-Participants

- Recruitment in 3 medical clinics that provide gender-affirming medical care for youth across Canada: CHEO (Ottawa), Meraki Health Center (Montreal), Health Sciences Centre (Winnipeg)
- We conducted 72 interviews : 36 with young people, 36 with their parents / caregivers
- Among the youth:
 - Average age 14.5 years
 - 5 age 9 to 12 years (14%), 14 were 13 to 15 years (39%) and 17 were 16 to 17 years (47%)
 - 21 trans male, 15 trans female, 3 non-binary



Preliminary data on school experiences from the Stories of Gender Affirming Care project

“The first year, they didn't really make the change at all. They didn't call me by my chosen name. They didn't use my pronouns. The second year, kind of getting there, I'd still get my teachers calling me miss and all that. I'll be like, "Okay. This is fine. This is fine." Sec five, well, they kind of ... Well, they didn't change my name in the system which was a whole big thing then. [...] Mostly it was the principals. [...] He called me at the beginning of the year because he got complaints that I was using the guys' bathroom. He was like, "Can you just not use it?" I was like, "Okay." And then I continued using it. (Jason, 17yo)

What affects youth's experiences

- Washroom/changeroom access
- Staff/classmates using preferred names/pronouns (including on school paperwork)
- Protecting youth from transphobia
- Accommodations for gym class and uniforms



Consequences of lack of support in school

“I just get really, really dysphoric when it comes to anything that has to do with my old name or anything like that. Like sometimes teachers will mess up because, you know, they have an attendance sheet and, before, it wasn't change and they would mess up and they would say "sorry, sorry". And that would make me really, really dysphoric. It would go from 0 to a 100 really fast.” (Oliver, 16 yo)

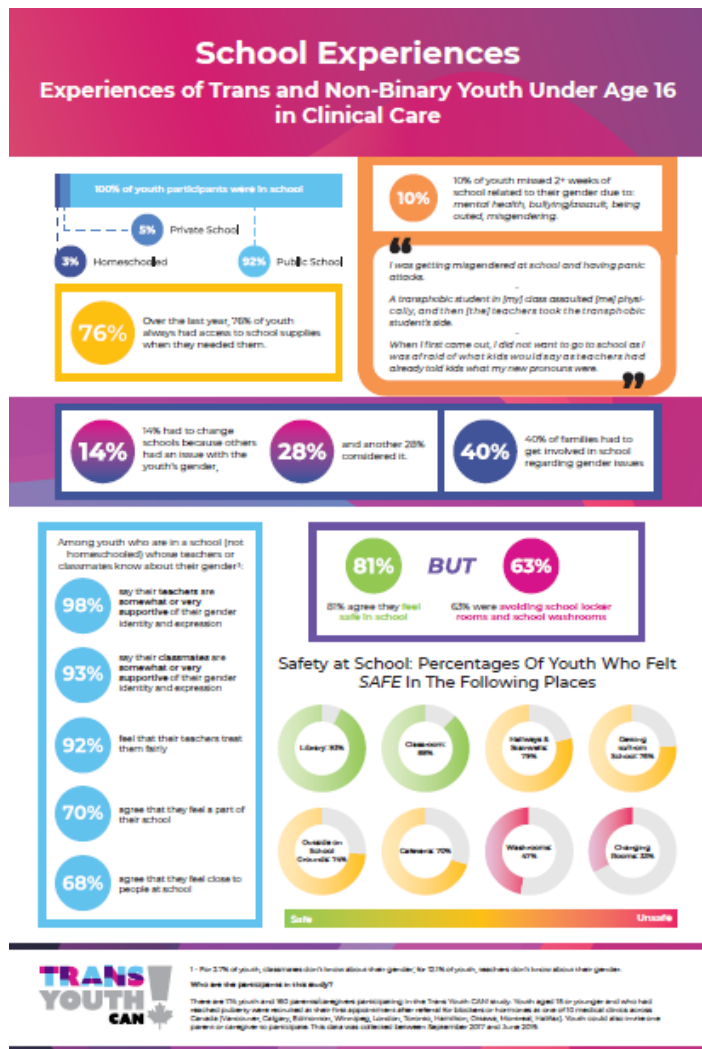


See our study results here:

www.transyouthcan.ca/research-type/stories-of-care/



Our first infographic!



Get the full downloadable PDF on our website:

<https://www.transyouthcan.ca/results/school-experiences-infographic/>

School Experiences

-Missing school-

10%

10% of youth missed 2+ weeks of school related to their gender due to: *mental health, bullying/assault, being outed, misgendering.*

“

I was getting misgendered at school and having panic attacks.

-

A transphobic student in [my] class assaulted [me] physically, and then [the] teachers took the transphobic student's side.

-

When I first came out, I did not want to go to school as I was afraid of what kids would say as teachers had already told kids what my new pronouns were.

”



School Experiences

-Changing school & parental involvement-

A circular graphic with a pink-to-purple gradient, containing the text '14%' in white.

14%

14% had to change schools because others had an issue with the youth's gender

A circular graphic with a pink-to-purple gradient, containing the text '28%' in white.

28%

and another 28% considered it

A circular graphic with a dark blue gradient, containing the text '40%' in white.

40%

40% of families had to get involved in school regarding gender issues

School Experiences

-Teacher and classmate support-



say their **teachers** are **somewhat or very supportive** of their gender identity and expression



say their **classmates** are **somewhat or very supportive** of their gender identity and expression



School Experiences

-School connectedness-

92%

feel that their teachers treat them fairly

70%

agree that they feel a part of their school

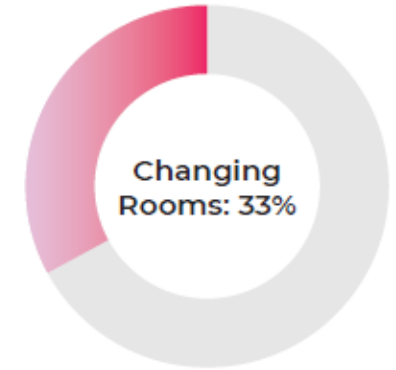
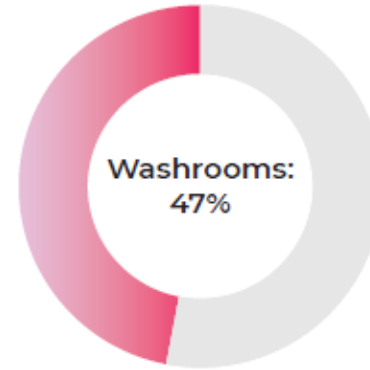
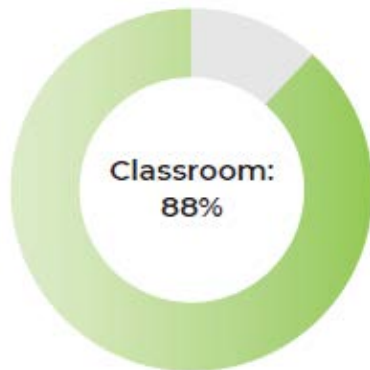
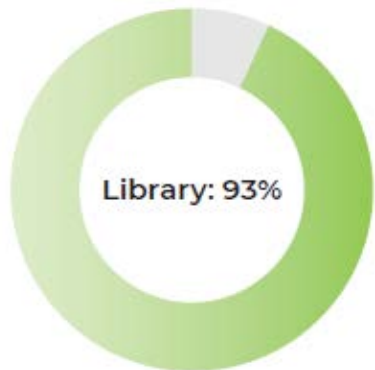
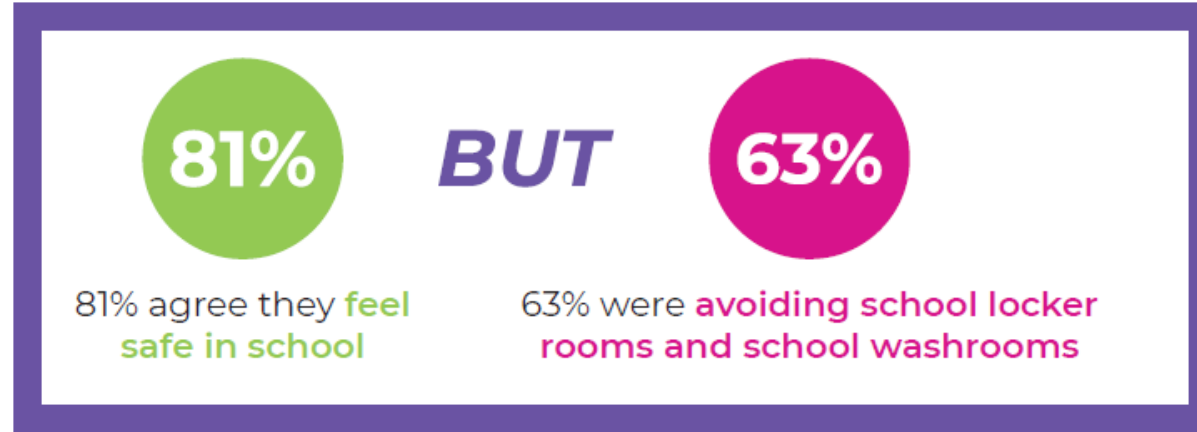
68%

agree that they feel close to people at school



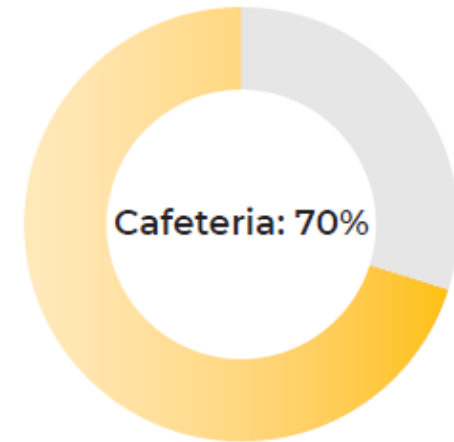
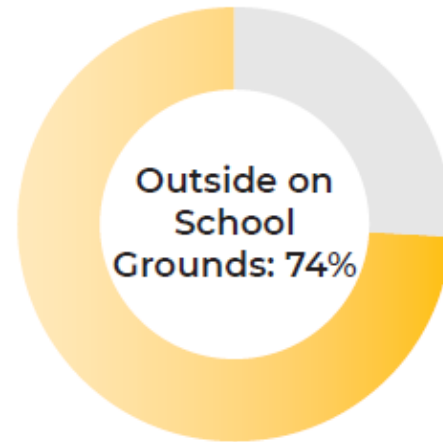
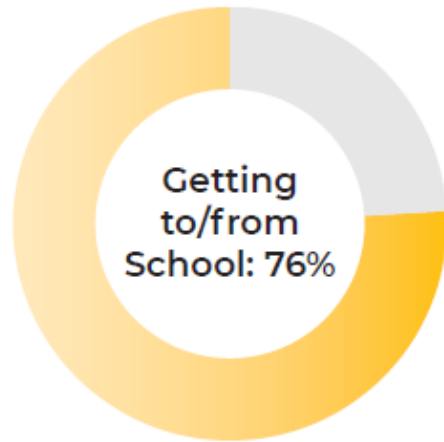
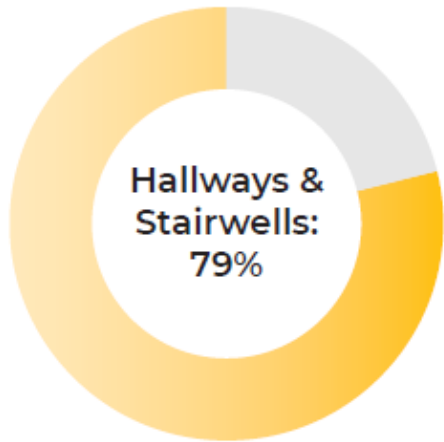
School Experiences

-Safety at school-



School Experiences

-Safety at school-



What's coming up for Trans Youth CAN!

- More infographics!
 - Parental support next
 - Plus more topics in the coming months - Watch social media and our website!
- Academic papers:
 - Youth characteristics
 - Sociodemographics, health, social context, first visit outcomes
 - Parent/caregiver experiences
 - Stressors on families from others, family functioning, parental conflict
 - Pathways to gender-affirming care
 - Timelines, wait times, providers seen
 - Gender distress and gender positivity measures
 - New measures to allow us to look at positivity as well as distress, and to separate feelings related to the body from feelings related to social gender

CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS

www.transyouthcan.ca/contact/



Thank you to our research team!

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**19 youth and 9 parents who
provided feedback on survey
items (English and French
groups)**

**6 youth and 7 parents in our
Community Consultation
Committees**

Our youth participants

Our parent/caregiver
participants

Our funder:





Schulich
MEDICINE & DENTISTRY



Western
UNIVERSITY · CANADA



RESEARCH INSTITUTE
INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA



Alberta Health
Services



Children's Hospital
London Health Sciences Centre



Centre de santé
MERAKI
Health Centre

Avec nos mains,
nos cœurs, et nos
esprits ouverts



uOttawa



University
of Victoria



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HOSPITAL



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CALGARY

Alberta **Children's** Hospital

SickKids

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SICK CHILDREN

Université **de Montréal**

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of TORONTO

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DE L'AIDE à
L'ENFANCE
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de santé McGill



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Rainbow Health Ontario
Santé arc-en-ciel Ontario