

# TTS: Real World Impact Survey

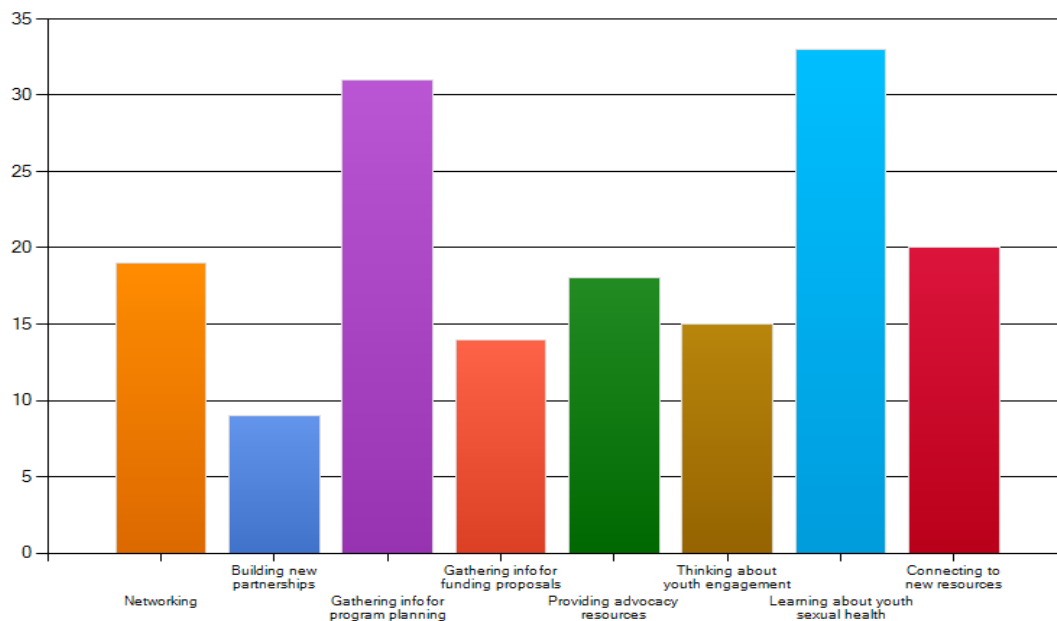
“Thank you TTS for building the most comprehensive body of information on youth sexual health in Toronto that I know of! Also, hearing about the methods and process used throughout the research revolutionized my sense of what is possible/achievable.” - Frontline Worker

## Methods

- We sent out a survey to service providers who either (a) hosted TTS survey sessions; (b) attended TTS service-provider focus groups or (c) attended any TTS dissemination event and provided us with their email. The survey was completed by 48 respondents who came from a broad range of agencies including those who worked at sexual health clinics, youth serving agencies, health promotion groups and public health agencies serving diverse groups of youth. The majority identified themselves as either frontline workers or managers/supervisors. Students and clinicians were also represented.

## Materials and Events

- Thirty-four of forty-eight respondents attended one or more TTS community forums/events.
- Of those that attended events, 31 rated events at least 5 on a 7 point scale of how *informative* they were while 28 rated their *usefulness* as at least 5.
- In terms of reviewing TTS materials (i.e. bulletins, overview report and movie), the TTS overview report was most widely accessed, however, all other materials received moderate consumption. Twenty-one respondents accessed materials online. Twenty-five respondents indicated that their agencies posted the TTS Youth Bill of Rights in one or more languages.
- Of those that accessed materials, 39 rated materials at least 5 on a 7 point scale of how *informative* they were while 37 rated their *usefulness* as at least 5.
- Survey respondents indicated that attending TTS events or accessing materials was useful in many different areas. Widely cited areas were learning something new about youth sexual health and gathering information that will be useful for program planning or implementation.



- People who attended TTS events or accessed TTS resources indicated that they increased their understanding of diverse groups of Toronto youth. They also said that they utilized the information they obtained in a variety of ways including: sharing information through staff meetings, offering staff workshops, sharing bulletins with colleagues and management and having workplace discussions. Additionally respondents highlighted other ways that they used the data which included incorporating it into program planning and policy development, and bringing the information into various educational contexts.

## Change

- Twenty-three respondents made changes to be more welcoming to various groups of youth. Targeted groups included, but were not limited to, LGBT youth and newcomer youth.
- Thirty-two respondents made changes to increase accessibility to sexual health services/resources, however, 10 respondents indicated that these types of changes were not applicable and 8 indicated that they made no changes. The most commonly cited changes made based on TTS findings were:
  - Ensuring youth feel comfortable discussing sensitive sexual health topics (21)
  - Informing youth of their client/patient rights (17)
  - Offering resources in alternative formats (15)
  - Promoting that services are easy to get to (11)
- Several questions addressed changes within organizations. A number of respondents indicated that they had either made changes or were in the process of making changes to the following areas:
  - Altering confidentiality procedures (15)
  - Ensuring youth are comfortable discussing sensitive sexual health topics (22)
  - Offering information about healthy relationships and sexual pleasure (30)
  - Increasing youth involvement in program planning (27)
  - Providing information aimed at parents of youth clients (18)

## Professional Development

- The following chart indicates areas where respondents made changes to professional development and staff training in response to TTS findings.

Has your organization made changes to provide professional development to staff about any of the following topics?				
Answer Options	Yes	No	In Progress	Don't Know/Not Applicable
Sexism	7	23	7	11
Gender identity, and or Transphobia	19	10	10	9
Diverse sexual orientations and homophobia	17	11	12	8
Racism	16	15	7	10
Discussing sexual health topics with culturally diverse groups of youth	13	16	11	8
Alcohol and drug issues for youth	8	18	9	13
Promoting healthy relationships among youth	12	14	14	8

## Qualitative Feedback

- Some respondents provided us with reasons why they may have been unable to make changes based on TTS findings. Some of these included suggestions that the period between receiving the findings and being surveyed was too short. Respondents described a number of barriers to making change including internal resistance, management structure, money/access to funding, and problems with implementation of proposed changes.
- Feedback on the overall TTS project was largely positive and included comments related to the use of results in funding applications and decision-making as well as compliments about the quality of the research and the youth bill of rights.