

# LGBTQQ2SIA Youth (16-29) Substance Use in Toronto

## A Community-Based Needs Assessment



**28** Toronto-based social service agencies providing support to youth, LGBTQQ2SIA-identified people, substance users, or any combination thereof were interviewed by P2P.



**640** LGBTQQ2SIA-identified youth completed a survey detailing their substance use patterns, barriers to service access, and service preferences. See demographic information, right.



**48** LGBTQQ2SIA youth, all of whom identified as current or former substance users, participated in one of five focus groups facilitated by P2P.

Pieces to Pathways (P2P) is a peer-led, community driven initiative examining the substance use patterns and service preferences of LGBTQQ2SIA youth in Toronto. All members of the P2P team - with the exception of the program manager - are queer and/or trans-identified young people with lived experience of service access related to substance use. From January - March of 2015, P2P interviewed service providers, surveyed LGBTQQ2SIA-identified youth, and conducted a series of focus groups to develop a comprehensive picture of substance use prevalence, as well as service access experiences and preferences of our communities. This project was generously funded by the Toronto Central LHIN (Local Health Integration Network), and sponsored by Breakaway Addiction Services.

### Survey Demographics

From February - March 2015, P2P engaged 640 LGBTQQ2SIA-identified youth in service provision environments, party spaces, at community events, and online to disseminate a survey regarding their substance use patterns, service access experiences, and service preferences. To be eligible to participate, respondents had to self-identify as LGBTQQ2SIA, be between the ages of 16 and 29, and live or access services in Toronto.

**24**

Median age of participants, who ranged in age from 16-29.

**44**

Percentage of participants that endorsed trans identities. Overall, respondents endorsed 21 different gender identities, including 16 distinct non-cisgender identities.

**52**

Percentage of respondents that identified as people of colour.

**49.5**

Percentage of participants that identified as queer, making it the most frequently endorsed sexual orientation.

**91.2**

Percentage of participants that identified as having a formally of self-diagnosed disability, mental health, or medical condition.

**To read the full report, go to: [piecestopathways.com/final-report](http://piecestopathways.com/final-report)**