

We're Here



2SLGBTQ+ Youth Under 18 Across
Ontario Assert Needs and Experiences

How youth under 18 take care of their mental health

- #1 Talking to friends
- #2 Self-care

“Everyone should be treated equally. It doesn’t matter about race, gender, sexuality or someone’s past.”

“There aren’t many spaces for younger members of the community to hang out.”

32% of participants say their mental health needs **are not** being met

Changes that youth under 18 would like to make in their community

- #1 Physical safe spaces to gather, for support, and spaces that are accessible to all ages
- #2 Resources and supports including in the school and health care systems

294 participants were under 18

51% of participants say they **do not** feel a sense of community



“I love being able to explain how I’m feeling on the inside”

What youth under 18 love about being part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community

- #1 Sense of self
- #2 Sense of community

“Existence is Resistance”



“Elevate marginalized voices”

Top needs when accessing services and resources

- #1 Low to no financial costs
- #2 Confidentiality

Top needs for 2SLGBTQ+ dedicated spaces

- #1 Low to no financial costs
- #2 Youth-based space

44% of youth 18 and under *have not* accessed a 2SLGBTQ+ dedicated space

“Give us a space to gather together. A safe comfortable space. And more mental health support”

Participants
the age of 18

“Only youth can tell you how it is for us now and what we need.”

What youth under 18 would say to people who are making decisions about their lived reality

- #1 “Make decisions based on what we need”
- #2 “Take action to improve our lives now and and in the future.”

“Make my home community safer and more welcoming for the lgbt people where I live”



“[We need] access to spaces for members of the LGBTQ2S community, that is calm, and inclusive, for kids, and teens, or youth.”

“MAKE QUEER PEOPLE VISIBLE!
Teach queer history, teach queer sexual ed...
Sure you support us, but doing it quietly doesn't do anything... I don't want to be terrified of asking a girl out in case she outs me and I'm actually scared for my life.”

“Only youth can tell you how it is for us now and what we need.”

“Stop cutting education funds.
Teach about 2SLGBTQ+ community.”

LGBT YouthLine's Provincial Youth Ambassador Project (PYAP) brought together 18 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Ambassadors from across Ontario to lead an assessment about the experiences and needs of 2SLGBTQ+ youth (29 and under) in Ontario, while also amplifying their resilience.

This Snapshot exclusively explores the responses from 294 youth across Ontario who are under 18.

LGBT YouthLine is a 2SLGBTQ+ youth-led organization that affirms and supports the experiences of youth (29 and under) across Ontario

Access other snapshot reports, and long form report at youthline.ca