

# We're Here



**Racialized 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Across  
Ontario Assert Needs and Experiences**

## How racialized youth take care of their mental health

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

“The current state of LGBT+ people’s wellbeing in the province of Ontario is pretty abysmal.”

37% of participants say their mental health needs **are not** being met

“[We need] support groups for queer people of colour who have family who don’t understand their situation.”

## Changes that racialized youth would like to make in their community

- #1 Community spaces and events with all-gender washrooms and encouragement of intergenerational participation
- #2 Representation and visibility

“There may have been great strides in the past decade, the struggle for equality is far from over.”

58% of participants say they **do not** feel a sense of community

299 participants identify as Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people, which includes Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people.

## What racialized youth love about being 2SLGBTQ+

- #1 I can be myself
- #2 Sense of community

“Knowing that I am living my life to the fullest and being true to my identity. As well as raising awareness for the marginalization of those without the same privileges as me.”

## Top needs when accessing services and resources

- #1 Low to no financial costs
- #2 Staff knowledge of 2SLGBTQ+ identities and experiences
- #3 Confidentiality

“Involve young people in decision-making.”

## Top needs for 2SLGBTQ+ dedicated spaces

- #1 Low to no financial costs
- #2 Close in distance

45% of racialized youth have **not** accessed a dedicated space

“Stop just listening to the opinions that make you comfortable.”

## Participants racialized

Black, Indigenous and  
of Colour

“We need the sex-ed curriculum to be more inclusive of non-hetero sexualities.”

## What racialized youth would say to people who are making decisions about their lived reality

- #1 “Include us in the decision-making”
- #2 “Take action: reverse cuts, enhance resources and services, ensure a progressive educational curriculum”

“Queerness is not just another thing, but queer experiences offer new ways to imagine better, inclusive futures.”



“The only LGBT folks that have plenty of support and services are either rich or white. While the rest of us are underrepresented, underserved and ignored. There should be more support for LGBT people of color and any racism has to be combatted.”

“Fund more BIPOC events. Prioritize mental health care for LGBTQ people, esp BIPOC people. Provide more support to breaking social barriers.”

“[We need to have] more conversations and representation of LGBT + community in schools, through integration in courses like history, health, etc”

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 299 youth across Ontario who are racialized, which is used as an umbrella term within this report to include youth who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour.

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](https://youthline.ca)