

SEXUAL HEALTH OF HOMELESS AND UNSTABLY HOUSED INDIGENOUS YOUTH

In 2023, 404 Indigenous youth in BC aged 12–27 completed a survey for homeless and unstably housed youth. Over two-thirds of these youth (69%) were First Nations and 28% were Métis.



80%

of Indigenous youth had ever had sex.

Some Indigenous youth were more likely to experience sexual health challenges, including youth who identified as non-binary and Two-Spirit (2S). For example, 23% of 2S youth used protection the last time they had sex (vs. 28% of non-2S youth).

Among Indigenous youth who had ever had sex:

- 📍 **28%** used a condom or other types of protection the last time they had sex.
- 📍 **39%** had been pregnant or caused a pregnancy.
- 📍 **26%** had experienced an STI.
- 📍 **23%** reported that they had unsafe sex as a way to punish or hurt themselves.
- 📍 **15%** had traded sex.

Access to sexual health information



Around 1 in 6 (16%)

reported they had accessed sexual health education services.

Non-binary and 2S youth were the most likely to have accessed these services and males were the least likely.

Indigenous youth who completed the survey were more likely to access sexual health information, and reported better health and well-being when they felt their culture was respected in the services they accessed.



Most common places Indigenous youth went to access sexual health information

Resources	Male	Female	Non-binary	Two-spirit
An Adult they know	30%	32%	56%	50%
A Doctor/Nurse	25%	34%	44%	49%
Walk-in Clinic	20%	32%	36%	20%
A youth they know	15%	23%	33%	21%
Sexual Health services/clinic	15%	24%	42%	42%
Online resources	22%	26%	42%	33%

To learn more about this research project, contact sammf@student.ubc.ca

To learn more about the survey, contact mccreary@mcs.bc.ca

Sexual health resources:

sieccan.org/sexual-health-education
optionsforsexualhealth.org/sex-sense/



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