

Youth Service Needs Assessment in East York & Scarborough

August 2025

Who did we hear from?



34 youth - aged 16-24

(Focus Groups)

- 60% female, 34% male, and 6% did not disclose
- 43% South Asian, 12% Black-African, 9% mixed
- 70% Canadian-born, 30% newcomer youth
- 44% no illness; 5% mental health issues
- 82% comfortable speaking English



16 service providers

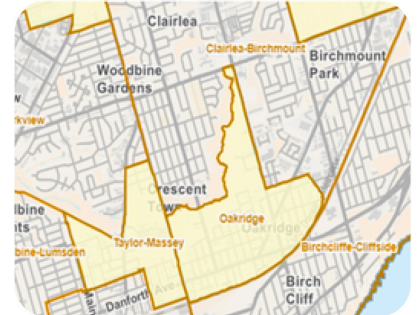
(Focus Group & Interviews)

Senior leaders, program managers, youth workers, settlement workers, health promoters, and students

Where is this happening?

This project focuses on youth who live, study, work, or access services in:

Taylor-Massey
Oakridge
O'Connor Parkview
Woodbine Lumsden
East End Danforth
Birchcliffe-Cliffside
Clairlea-Birchmount



Neighbourhoods in Toronto's east end

What are youth experiencing?

Priority concerns and needs

- Mental health challenges
- Substance use
- Difficulty securing employment
- Inflation and growing financial hardships
- Lack of mentorship and career preparedness
- Physical and online safety concerns
- Insufficient support for newcomer youth
- Food insecurity, challenges in finding a family doctor, eating disorders, and a greater need for sexual health education



Current services

- **Strengths:** broad program options, flexible eligibility, welcoming environments, supportive staff, incentives.
- **Barriers:** low promotion, limited and unstable funding and staffing, mismatch with youth needs, limited hours, long waits, administrative hurdles, parental concerns.

What needs to happen next?

Invest in integrated youth services

Secure funding, service continuity, and staffing; strengthen coordination and collaboration.

Address programmatic gaps

Streamline processes, provide tailored and efficient referral supports, boost program promotion, maintain facilities, extend operating hours.

Increase youth engagement

Use evidence-informed engagement practices; ensure transparency and accountability in how youth feedback is used and translated into outcomes.

Scan for Report:

