Findings for Foundry | Issue 3 | May 2025

Sharing published research done by and with the Foundry network.

Strengths of designing substance use health resources with youth, family and providers



Who was the study about?

- Youth accessing opioid use care services, their caregivers and service providers
- In the following communities: Kelowna, Prince George, Victoria and Vancouver



What was done?

Researchers engaged community members, impacted youth & family and care providers throughout the research process. Participants were equal partners in designing and creating resources. The study was done in three stages:

1 Listening

In-depth
conversations about
past experiences,
barriers, needs and
potential innovations
for opioid use health
services

2 Designing

Three innovations were selected to co-design with study participants based on community needs and feasibility

3 Creating

A caregiver
handbook, virtual
opioid agonist
treatment (OAT)
guide, & youth
service assessment
tool were co-created

What was found?

The co-created resources were meaningful.

 Participants felt the chosen resources reflected their communities' needs and would have positive outcomes.



"[The resource will] show [youth] there is hope and that they're not alone"

The process was beneficial.

- Participants valued sharing their stories and feeling heard
- Were satisfied with their engagement
- Felt the project was a good use of their time
- Learned valuable skills

"I feel very fortunate to have been involved in this project from the beginning"



What does this mean to youth and family?

- Creating space for underserved youth and family to share their experiences affirms their dignity, shows their voices matter, and builds community.
- Consultation is the first step. Creating resources together with youth and family as equal partners is even more meaningful.
- Integrated Youth Services networks, like Foundry, can bring together key partners and impacted groups to support research focused on improving services.

Find resources created from this project here:

foundrybc.ca/
ittproject/



Scan to read the article!

<u>Authors:</u> Roxanne Turuba, Christina Kata, Kirsten Marchand, Chantal Brasset, Alayna Ewert, Corinne Tallon, Jill Fairbank, Steve Mathias, Skye Barbic <u>Title:</u> Weaving community-based participatory research and co-design to improve opioid use treatments and services for youth, caregivers, and service providers

<u>Journal and date:</u> PLOS ONE, April 2024 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0297532 Co-created with the Findings for Foundry Committee, a group of youth and family/caregiver advisors.

