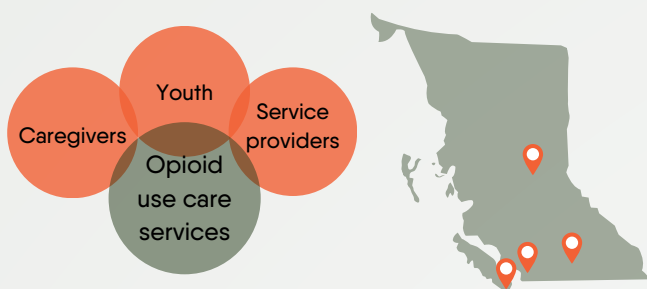




Strengths of designing substance use health resources with youth, family and providers

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!



Authors: Roxanne Turuba, Christina Kata, Kirsten Marchand, Chantal Brasset, Alayna Ewert, Corinne Tallon, Jill Fairbank, Steve Mathias, Skye Barbic
Title: Weaving community-based participatory research and co-design to improve opioid use treatments and services for youth, caregivers, and service providers
Journal and date: PLOS ONE, April 2024
doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0297532](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0297532)

Co-created with the Findings for Foundry Committee, a group of youth and family/caregiver advisors.