

KEY FINDINGS

HIV testing among African, Caribbean, Black, and mixed youth is similar to the national average.¹

Youth who engage in riskier sex are more likely to go for testing. This suggests that these youth recognize their risk of HIV infection, and are taking proactive measures to find out their HIV status.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR HIV TESTING?

- ☑ Youth of all ages should be encouraged to get tested for HIV.
- ☑ Parents should be encouraged to communicate with their children about sexual health issues.
- ☑ Electronic media should be considered as a platform for conveying testing information to youth.
- ☑ Clinics should incorporate HIV testing as a standard component of STI testing.
- ☑ Doctors should encourage their sexually active patients to get tested. Talk about testing, and make testing part of their regular health care.
- ☑ High schools, colleges, and universities should include information about HIV testing and where it is available as part of health education programming.

REFERENCES AND ELECTRONIC COPIES OF THIS FACT SHEET ARE AVAILABLE AT:

- 🌐 <http://www.aidswindsor.org/Programs-and-Services/african-caribbean-services.html>
- 🌐 <http://www.accho.ca/>

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For information on HIV/AIDS and HIV testing, go to:

- 🌐 AIDS and Sexual Health Infoline (1-800-668-2437 or <http://sexualhealthontario.ca/>)
- 🌐 <https://aso411.ca/>
- 🌐 <http://www.acby.info>
- 🌐 <http://www.aidswindsor.org>
- 🌐 <http://www.accho.ca>



PROMOTING & OWNING EMPOWERMENT & RESILIENCE AMONG AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, & BLACK YOUTH IN WINDSOR

HIV TESTING

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), this community-based research project identified factors that (a) contribute to infection with the human immune-deficiency virus (HIV) and other sexual health outcomes among African, Caribbean, Black, and mixed youth, and (b) reduce vulnerability.

WHAT WE DID



Where? Windsor & Essex County, Ontario.

When? March 2013 to July 2014.

Who? Single African, Caribbean, and Black youth, 16-25 years old.

WHO PARTICIPATED?

11% Black

Their families had lived in North America for at least 2 generations, and their ancestors came from Africa



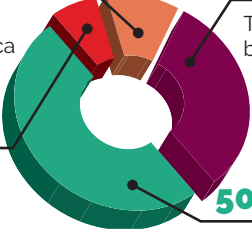
32% Caribbean

They or their parents were born in the Caribbean



7% Mixed

Only one parent can trace his or her heritage to Africa



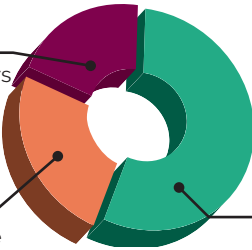
50% African

They or their parents were born in Sub-Saharan Africa



20%

In Canada less than 4 years



25%

In Canada 4 years or more

55%

Born in Canada

- ↻ 50% female, 50% male; 3% identified as transgender.
- ↻ 95% heterosexual, 5% lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, questioning or asexual.
- ↻ 74% Christian, 13% Muslim.
- ↻ 86% full-time students, 7% part-time students.
- ↻ Of those who were not full-time students, 18% employed full-time, 30% part-time, 52% unemployed.

WHAT IS HIV TESTING?

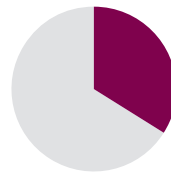
- HIV testing is the only procedure that lets people know whether or not they have HIV.
- HIV treatment is essential to maintaining good health and reduces a person's likelihood of transmitting HIV to others.
- Testing is available at no cost to anyone, regardless of their age.



HIV TESTING AMONG AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, BLACK, AND MIXED YOUTH IN WINDSOR/ESSEX

Two questions were asked regarding HIV testing:

1. *Have you ever been tested for HIV?*
This question refers to HIV testing under any circumstance, including mandatory testing in compliance with medical, judicial or immigration processes.



33% said they'd been tested.

2. *Have you gone to a clinic, health centre or AIDS service organization to get tested for HIV?*



25% said they'd had gone for testing.

WHO WENT FOR TESTING?

Of every 10 youth:

👤👤👤 3 youth who'd had vaginal sex had been tested.

👤👤👤👤👤 5 youth who'd had anal sex had been tested.

👤👤 1.5 youth who'd never had sex had been tested.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE SELF-MOTIVATED HIV TESTING:

We looked at:

Personal Characteristics

- Sex
- Age
- Ethnic/racial group (African, Caribbean, Black or Mixed)
- Religion
- A student or not
- Living with family members or not
- Religiosity



Attitudes and Knowledge:

- Knowledge about HIV/AIDS
- Stigmatizing attitudes/beliefs
- Sense of responsibility for condom use

Experiences:

- Risky sexual behaviour
- Past sexually transmitted infection (STI) diagnoses
- Neighbourhood quality
- How youth spend free time

YOUTH WHO WENT TO GET TESTED WERE:



MORE LIKELY TO BE OLDER



MORE LIKELY NOT TO LIVE IN A TWO PARENT HOME



MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN RISKIER SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR



MORE LIKELY TO HAVE AN STI DIAGNOSIS



MORE LIKELY TO SPEND A LOT OF FREE TIME ON COMPUTERS