

## KEY FINDINGS

There were few differences between African, Caribbean, Black, or Mixed youth, except African youth were involved in less risky sexual activity.

Youth who engaged in the riskiest sex had been sexually active longer and had one-night-stands and casual sex partners. This happened most often at house parties.

## WHAT DO THESE RESULTS SUGGEST ABOUT HIV PREVENTION FOR AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, BLACK, AND MIXED YOUTH?

- ✓ HIV prevention messaging should be incorporated into healthy living messaging at gyms and training of sports teams similar to what is being done in Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Disadvantaged neighbourhoods are in greatest need of HIV prevention programmes, sexual health and community services, and community policing.
- ✓ Churches and mosques should continue to influence youth to postpone sex and help reduce risk once they start. They can also help reach those in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- ✓ Sexual health programming in detention centres, or for youth on parole or probation, should be considered.
- ✓ Targeting for sexual health messaging should consider differences in sexual experience.

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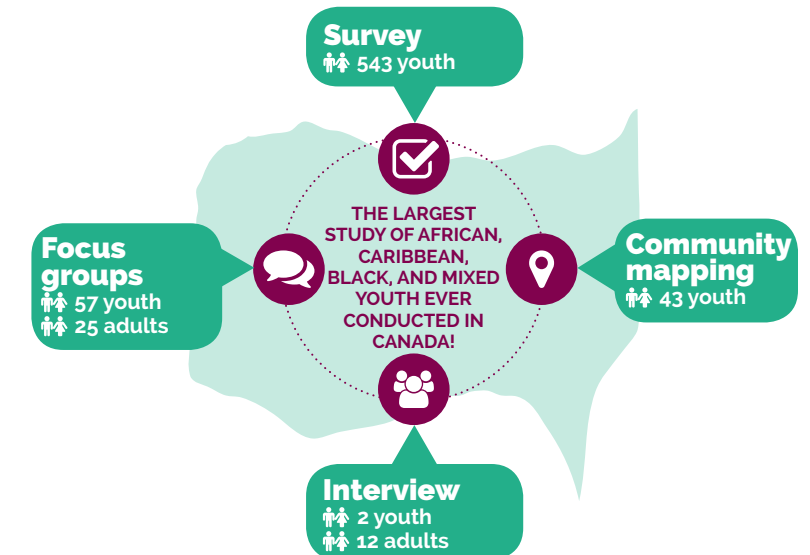
## PROMOTING & OWNING EMPOWERMENT & RESILIENCE AMONG AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, & BLACK YOUTH IN WINDSOR

### RISKY SEX AMONG AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, BLACK, AND MIXED YOUTH

#### 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

## WHAT IS RISKY SEX?

Any sexual activity that increases your chance of exposure to HIV. This includes:

- ☑ having multiple vaginal and/or anal sex partners, especially when you have several partners at the same time or in rapid succession (e.g., a regular partner and someone on the side);
- ☑ not using condoms during vaginal or anal intercourse, or using them incorrectly;
- ☑ sharing sex toys or sexual aids without properly cleaning them.

Your chance of getting HIV is greatest with unprotected anal sex, followed by unprotected vaginal sex. Oral sex is considered a lower risk sexual activity for HIV infection.

## HOW MANY AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, BLACK, AND MIXED YOUTH ARE ENGAGING IN RISKY SEX?

Ranking sexual activity from no risk to riskiest:

### 10% Riskiest

- 3 or more partners
- 2 or more in the past month
- No condom use

### 12% Moderate risk

- 1-2 vaginal/anal partners
- Used a condom some or all of the time

### 33% Risky

- 3 or more partners
- 0-1 partners in the past month
- Some condom use

### 45% Little to no risk

- Never had vaginal or anal sex

The longer that youth are sexually active, the more likely they are to have casual partners, one-night-stands or hookups, and to be higher on the risk thermometer.

Youth said that house parties were a common place to meet casual partners or hook up for just one night.

“[hooking up], that’s the main goal nowadays. It can happen at the party or after.”

“...for some people no, for others sometimes the goal is to find someone to go home with you at the end of the night.”

## WHICH YOUTH WERE HAVING RISKY SEX?

We looked at:

### Personal Characteristics

- ☑ Sex
- ☑ Age
- ☑ Ethnic/racial group (African, Caribbean, Black, or Mixed)
- ☑ Religion
- ☑ Born in Canada or elsewhere
- ☑ Living with family members or not
- ☑ A student or not

### Attitudes and Knowledge:

- ☑ Knowledge about HIV/AIDS
- ☑ Stigmatizing attitudes/beliefs
- ☑ Sense of belonging

### Experiences:

- ☑ Neighbourhood quality
- ☑ Experiencing discrimination
- ☑ How youth spend free time
- ☑ Contact with police

## WHAT WE FOUND:

Youth who have **not had vaginal sex** were most often:

🕒	<b>YOUNGER</b>
♀	<b>FEMALE</b>
🌍	<b>AFRICAN</b>
☾	<b>MUSLIM</b>
❓	<b>LOWER IN HIV KNOWLEDGE</b>
🏠	<b>SPENDING MORE TIME IN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES</b>
⚽	<b>SPENDING LESS TIME IN SPORTS OR EXERCISING</b>
🛡️	<b>NOT IN CONTACT WITH THE POLICE</b>

For youth who were sexually active, their **sexual activity was riskier** if they:

🏠	<b>LIVED IN MORE DISADVANTAGED NEIGHBOURHOODS</b>
🛡️	<b>HAD CONTACT WITH POLICE</b>
⚽	<b>SPENT MORE TIME IN SPORTS OR EXERCISING</b>