

Sexual health of Autistic youth:

IMPROVED SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION IS NEEDED

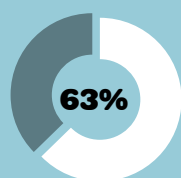


SIECCAN surveyed **3551 YOUTH** aged 16–24 across Canada about their sexual health and their sexual health education needs.

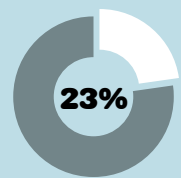


12% EITHER REPORTED HAVING AN AUTISM DIAGNOSIS OR SELF-IDENTIFIED AS AUTISTIC¹

GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY

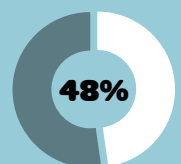


of Autistic youth reported a **LGBTQ+ sexual orientation**, compared to 25% of non-autistic youth



of Autistic youth identified as **transgender**, compared to 1.5% of non-autistic youth

SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE



Less than half of Autistic youth report that sexual health education meets/met their needs.

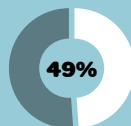


"Sexuality and disability" was the topic covered the least well in Autistic youth's sexual health education

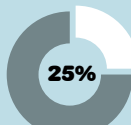


Fewer Autistic youth reported having the skills to ensure that their first experience with several sexual behaviours were consensual

SEXUAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:



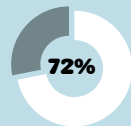
Approximately half of Autistic youth were in a committed relationship



Autistic youth were more likely to access gender-based violence services compared to non-autistic youth (25% vs. 16%)



Most Autistic youth indicated that sexual pleasure was important



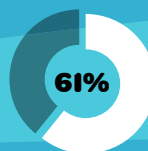
Most Autistic youth were happy/very happy with their sexual lives



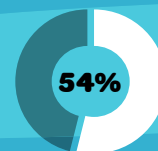
On average, Autistic youth reported significantly lower overall happiness compared to non-autistic youth

SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR OF AUTISTIC YOUTH

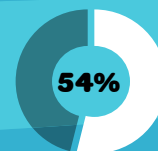
% ever engaged in the behaviour with a partner



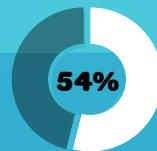
Touching genitals



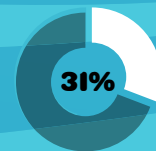
Giving oral sex



Receiving oral sex



Penis-vagina sex



Penis-anal sex

NOTES: Data was collected by Leger, a professional market research company. All analyses exclude participants who chose "I don't know/prefer not to answer/this does not apply to me." All tests are significant at the $p < .001$ level.

1. Autism: A lifelong neurodevelopmental condition that is characterized by how some people process information, make sense of the world around them, and interact and relate with others differently than non-autistic people.