



PART 4: SURVEYS AND SHARING SESSIONS

Surveys

In-Person Survey with Young People

We invited young people to participate in an in-person survey exploring what they knew about sexual health. To be able to participate, the young person had to:

- Be 18-21 years old,
- Identify as a person experiencing disability,
- Live in or near Portland, Oregon (in Multnomah, Clackamas or Washington County)

Each of the 11 young people who completed the survey chose a safe, private and comfortable place to meet with a member of our community needs assessment team (made up of trained staff from MCHD YSHEP and the iTP3 SHEIDD CAG) to answer the questions. We decided to do this survey during an in-person meeting so that it would be easier to tell if the young person did not understand and needed us to ask the question a different way. We also wanted to be able to pay close attention to how the young person might be feeling and if they were comfortable answering the questions about topics that can be sensitive.

Online Surveys with Support People

We also invited different groups of support people to participate in 2 online surveys about sexual health education and support for young people who experience I/DD. There was one survey for parents/guardians and family members and another survey for support service providers. To be able to take the online surveys, support people had to:

- Be 18 years old or older,
- Support a young person who experiences intellectual/developmental disability,
- Live in or near Portland, Oregon (in Multnomah, Clackamas or Washington county)

Thirty-four people completed a support person survey, including 5 who identified as parents/guardians and 29 who identified as support service providers. Each support service provider shared their professional role in supporting young people with I/DD, including:

- Provider
- Service Coordinator/Personal Agent
- Special Education Teacher/School Staff
- Healthcare Provider/Staff
- Behavior Specialist/Therapist
- Personal Support Worker
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Advocate
- Group Home Operator/Staff
- Mentor

Sharing Sessions

Young people and support people who completed a survey were also invited to participate in a sharing session about sexual health education. We hosted 3 sharing sessions, 2 with support people and 1 with young people.

Because we wanted to ask people to share their opinions about sexual health education and support during the session, we shared a poster with our definition of “sexual health” which includes many parts of sexuality and relationships. We explained that sexual health can be made up of 4 categories and gave examples of how different sexual health topics are related to these categories (Appendix A).

Support People Sharing Sessions

Eleven support people participated in 2 sharing sessions about providing sexual health education and support to young people who experience I/DD. Each sharing session lasted 3 hours. We asked the support people to share their opinions about (Appendix A):

- What young people (ages 14-21) who experience I/DD need the most help with when it comes to sexual health.
- What can make it hard for support people to provide this sexual health education and help.
- How various pretend scenarios about young people should be handled and what kind of support the youth in the situations needed.

Young People Sharing Session

Four young people participated in a sharing session about sexual health education. The sharing session lasted 4 hours. We asked the young people (Appendix A):

- To share their opinions about the best ways for young people to learn about sexual health and what kind of help young people need.
- To do activities that encouraged participants to share their opinions in different ways.
- How the same pretend scenarios we shared with support people should be handled and what kind of support the youth in the situations needed.