



# **A Cross-Sectoral Network Screening Project: Building Collaboration and Learning about Youth Needs**

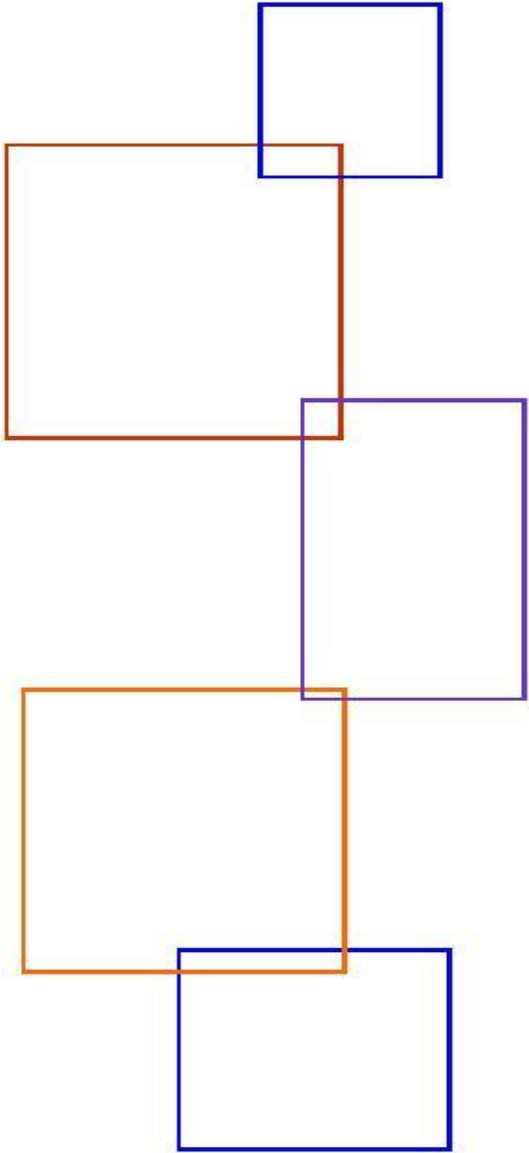
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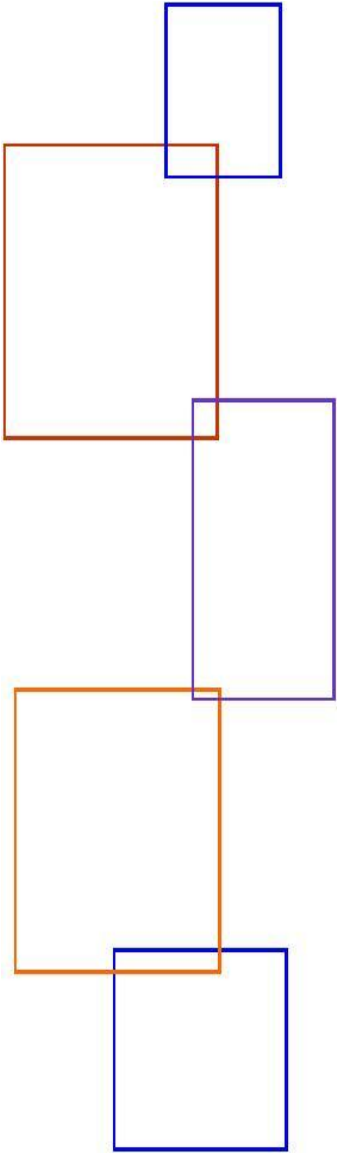
**On behalf of the GAIN Collaborating Network**

**June 2011**



- No disclosures
- No conflict of interest

# GAIN Collaborating Network Project Overview

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- Collaborative research project
  - 6 month pilot (Jan-July 2009)
  - Focus on knowledge exchange and capacity building
  - Key components:
    - Learn about service provider attitudes, knowledge & practices related to addressing youth SU & MH concerns
    - Learn about service seeking youth 12-24 yrs and their needs

# GAIN CN Partners – Ten Agencies

1. Breakaway
  2. Canadian Mental Health Association
  3. CAMH – Child, Youth and Family Program
  4. East Metro Youth Services
  5. Griffin Centre - Day Treatment
  6. Hospital for Sick Children – Substance Abuse Program
  7. LOFT Community Services
  8. NYGH: Branson Site - Addictions Program, Transitional Age Youth Substance Use Program
  9. Turning Point Youth Services
  10. YMCA - Youth Outreach and Intervention
- **Funding Support:**
    - \*Addictions Service Providers Working Group, TC LHIN

# Three Sectors

- 3 hospital-based treatment (HBT)
  - CAMH, HSC, NYGH
- 4 community-based treatment (CBT)
  - Breakaway, CMHA, EMYS, Griffin,
- 3 community-based outreach/housing/support agencies (OHS)
  - LOFT, TPYS, YMCA

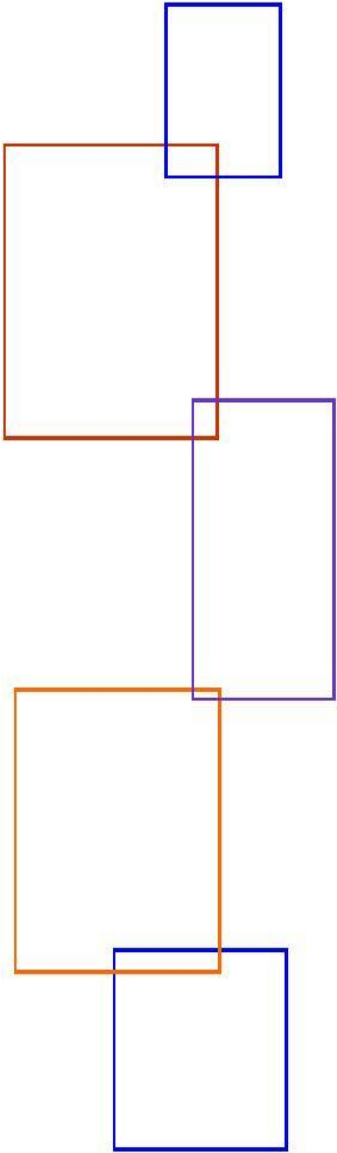
# Objectives

- To screen youth for SU & MH concerns across agencies using a standardized measure, the GAIN SS (CAMH Version)
- To determine if the GAIN SS is feasible and useful
- To inform planning processes related to identified youth needs and service gaps
- To build capacity for consistent needs identification and treatment planning for youth

# Stakeholder Involvement -- MAYN

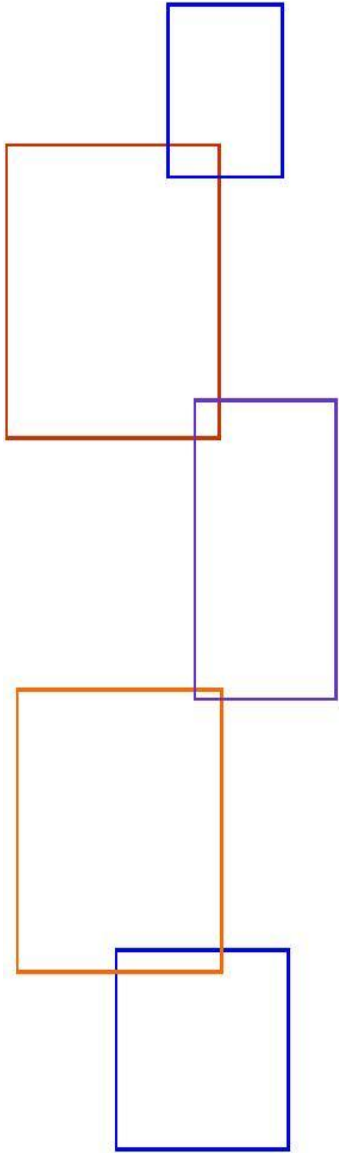
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- Project development & initiation:
    - GAIN CN
    - Advisory Committee
  - On-going consultation:
    - Objectives
    - Study Package
    - Protocols
    - Youth Engagement Strategies

# Service Provider Involvement

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- Pre-post survey
    - Attitudes, knowledge, practices
  - Training
    - Youth SU & MH
    - Project protocol
  - Administered measures to youth
  - Tracked youth participation rates
  - Submitted data to CAMH for analysis
  - Feedback - feasibility & utility of measure



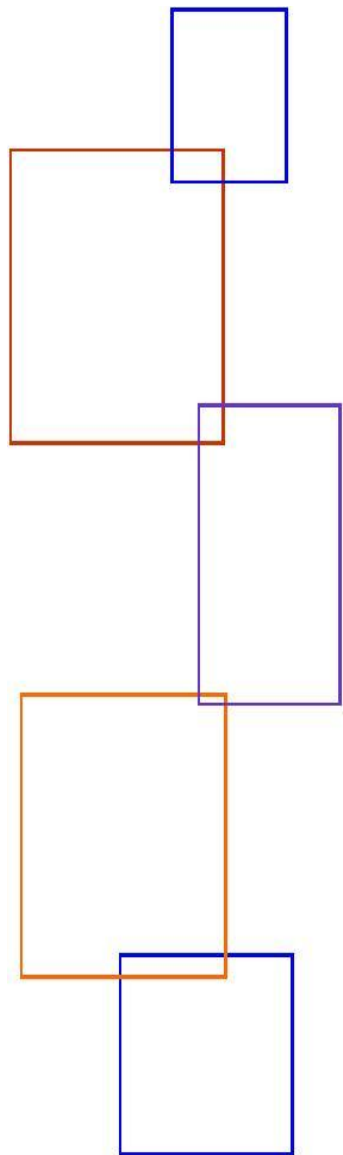
# Youth Involvement



- Completed measures
  - GAIN SS (CAMH Version)
  - Background Information

# Stakeholder Involvement -- Youth

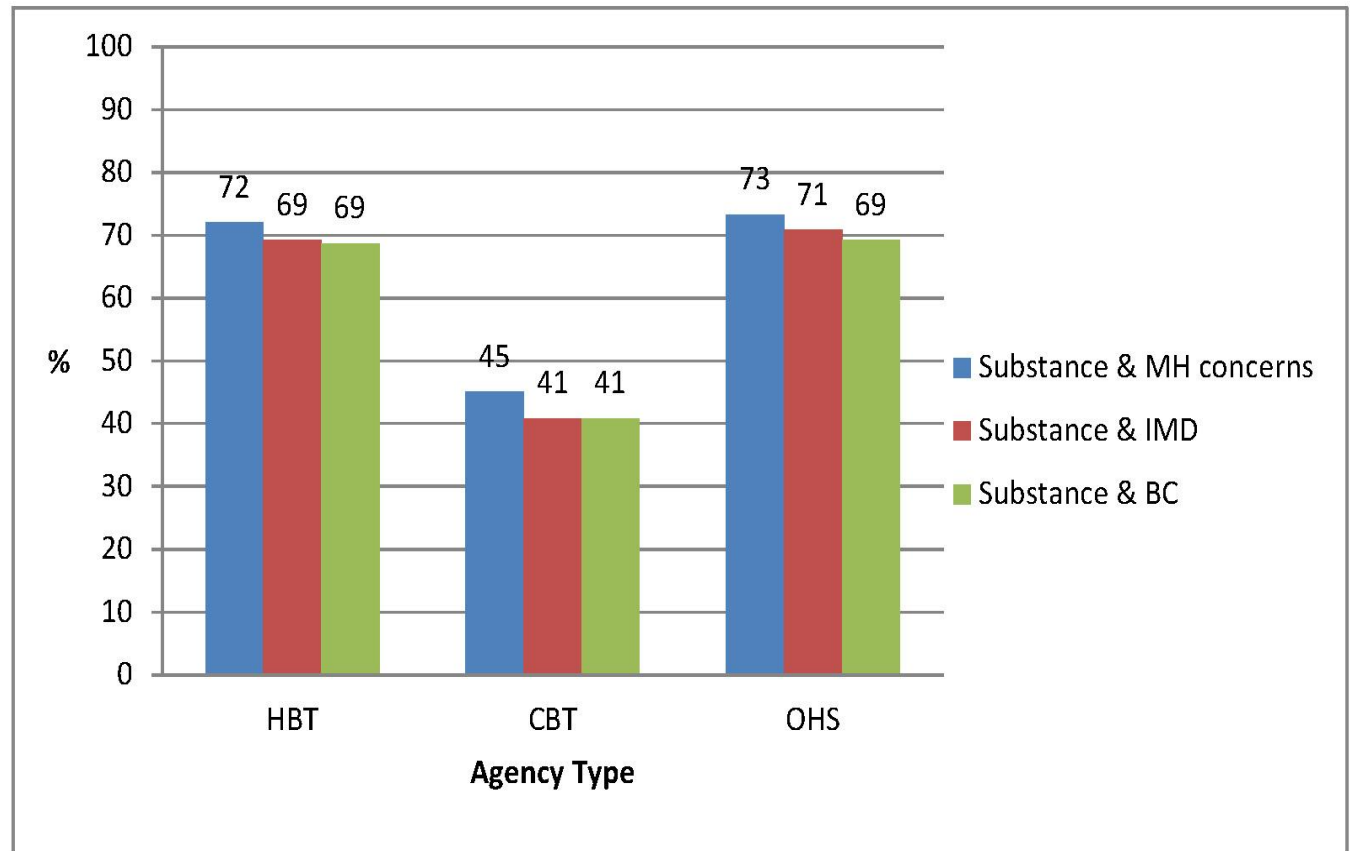
- Youth Focus Groups  
(HBT, CBT, OHS)
  - Review findings and recommendations
  - Feedback



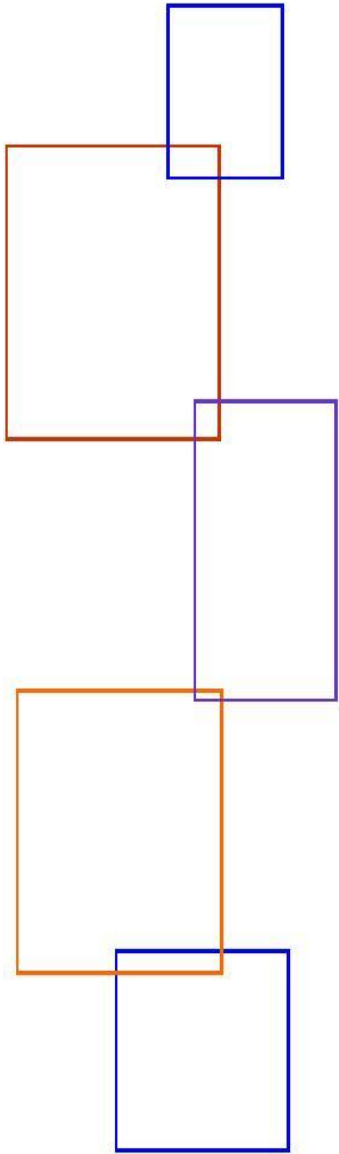
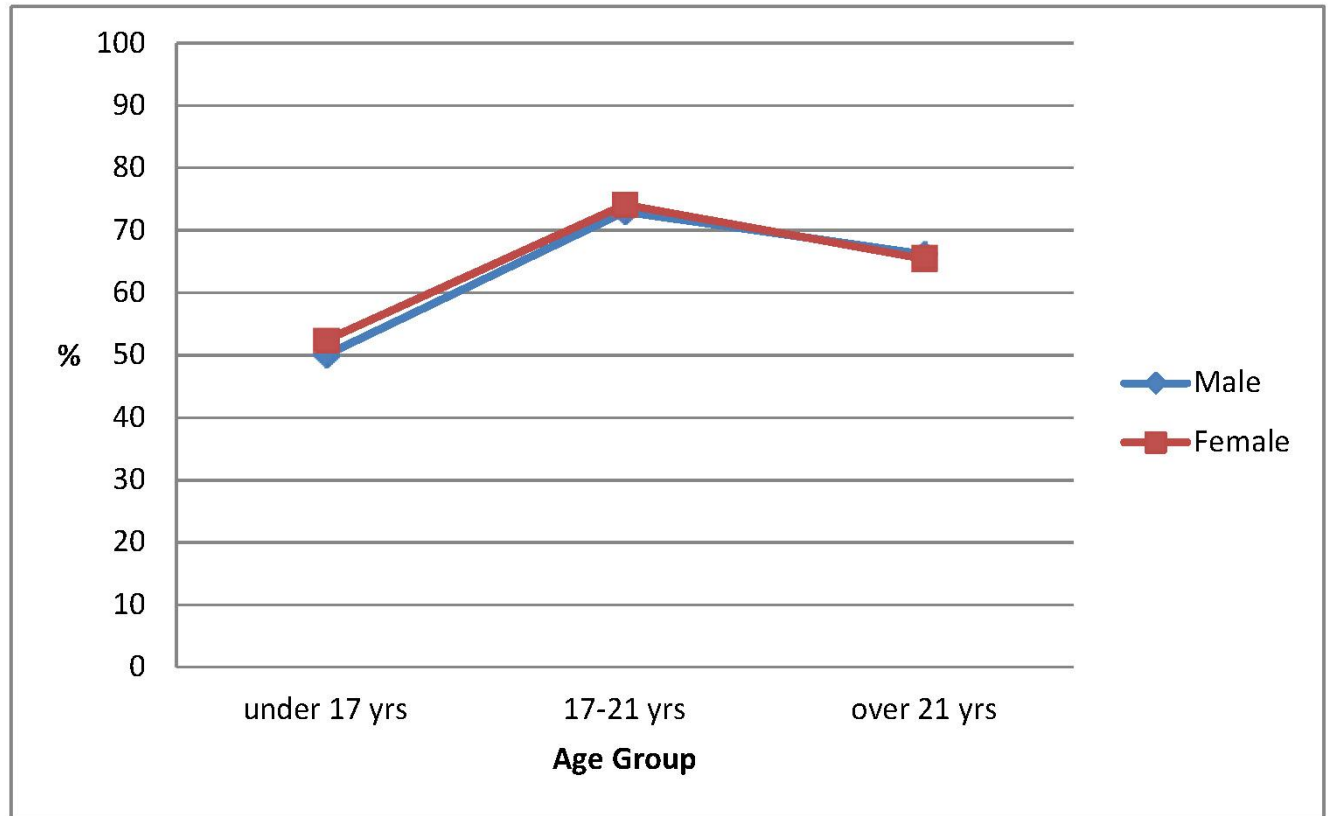
# Findings

## Quantitative & Qualitative

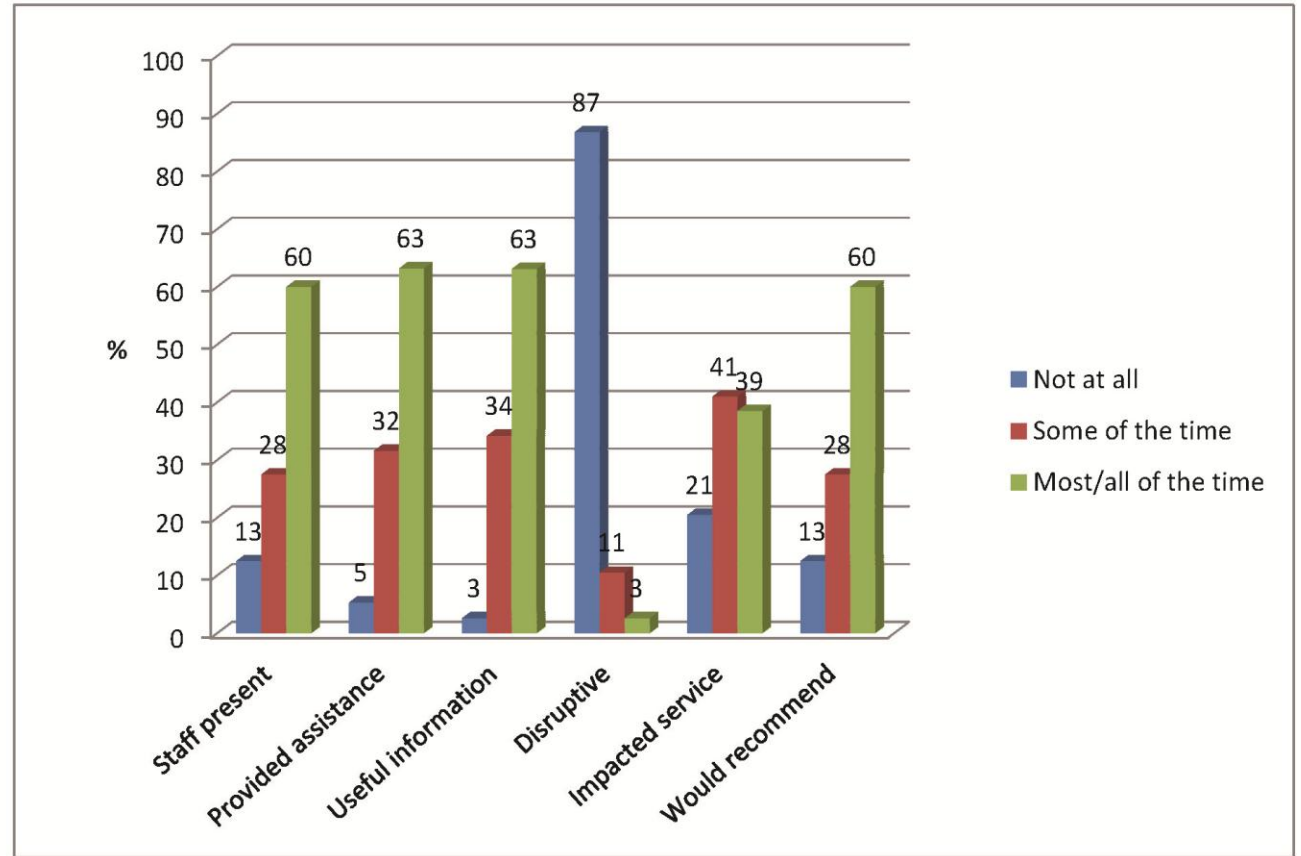
# Recent co-occurring concerns by agency



# Co-occurring concerns by sex & age

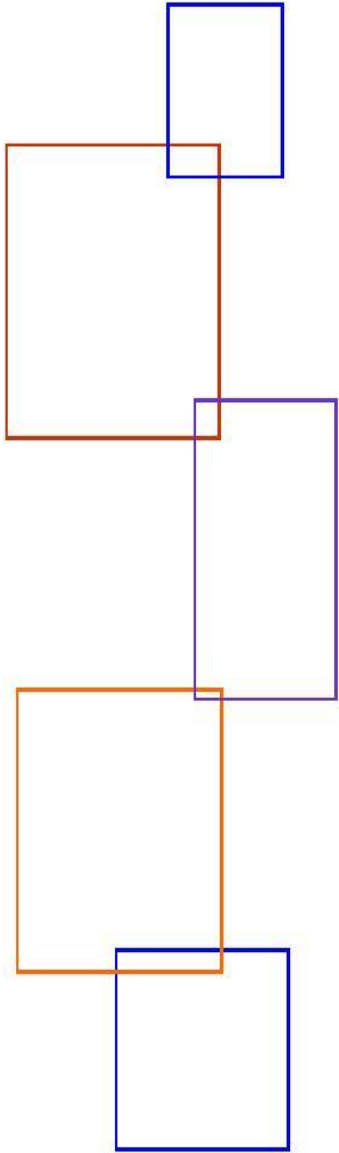


# Service Provider Feedback Survey



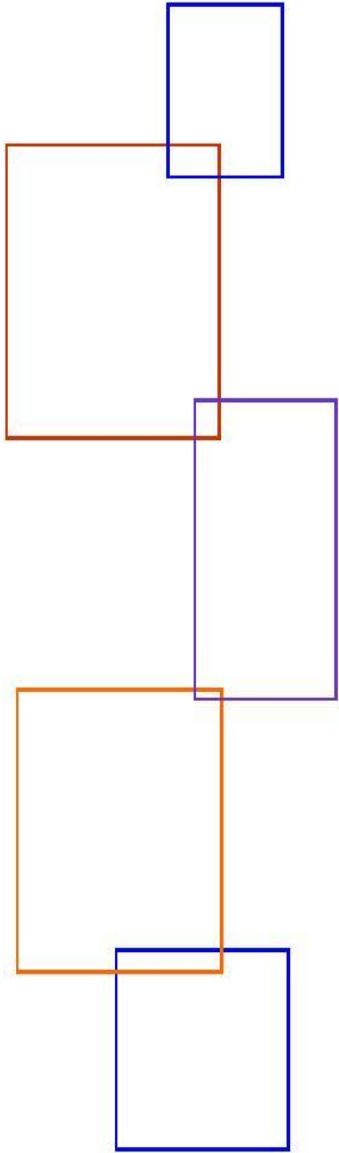
## Agency Lead Feedback

*“Staff were initially reluctant to use this tool but once they started administering the tool, they found it easy and useful in understanding the youth and underlying issues.”*



## Youth Focus Group Feedback About using screening tools

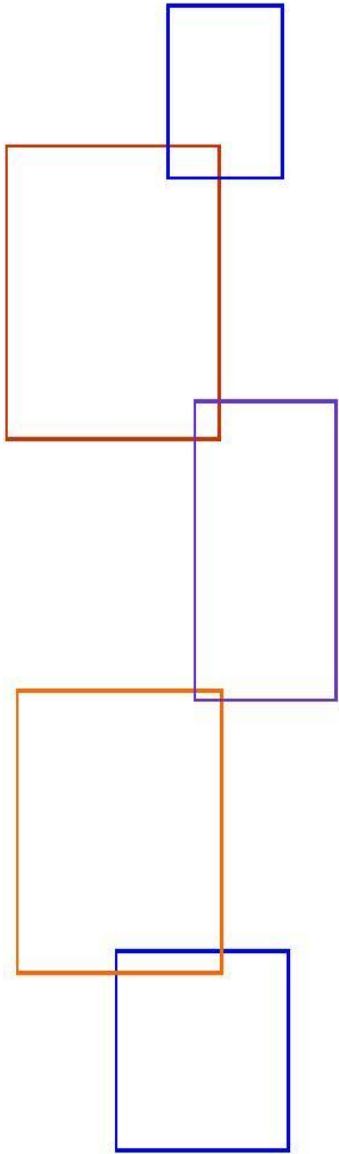
*“Screeners are helpful for sure.  
They are helpful to recognize  
other concerns....came in for  
concerns about depression and  
anxiety but then started  
substance use treatment.”*





## Youth Focus Group Feedback About using screening tools

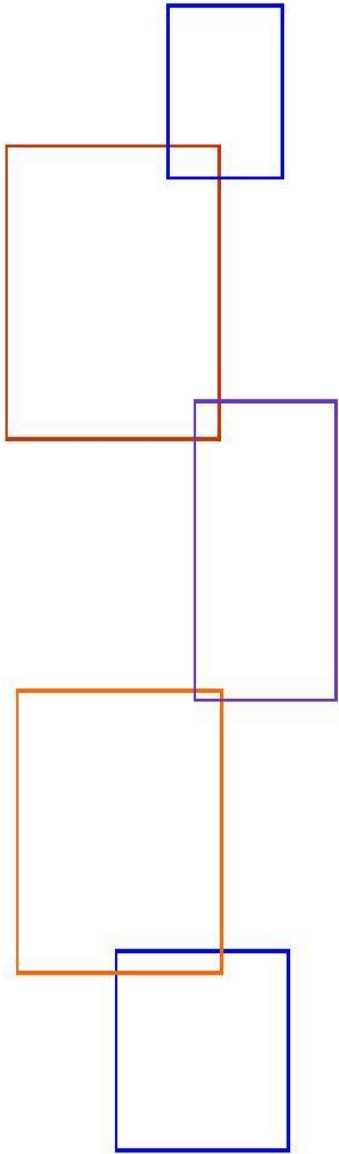
*“Best way to get information is to have one on ones... But it’s good to fill out forms, but good to do both. Kind of balanced, forms are necessary. Good starting point. Also talking one on one is really crucial.”*



## Youth Focus Group Feedback About using the findings

*“Findings can help decrease stigma and increase the likelihood that people will find services to get help.”*

*“If people aren’t informed, they aren’t going to do anything.”*



# Implications

- Collaborative, cross-sectoral projects are feasible and valuable
- Processes, services, and systems need to consider co-occurring MH & SU concerns in planning youth services, especially services for transitionally-aged youth
- Innovative practice-based knowledge translation strategies are feasible and appear effective
- Targeted efforts to raise awareness, reduce stigma and improve access are necessary

# Current Projects

- Health Canada, Drug Treatment Funding Program:  
*National Youth Screening Project*
- CIHR Team Grant:  
*Mitigating risk and creating effective treatments: Improving services to children and youth with co-morbidities through discovery, collaboration, innovation, and integration*

# Health Canada

## Drug Treatment Funding Program

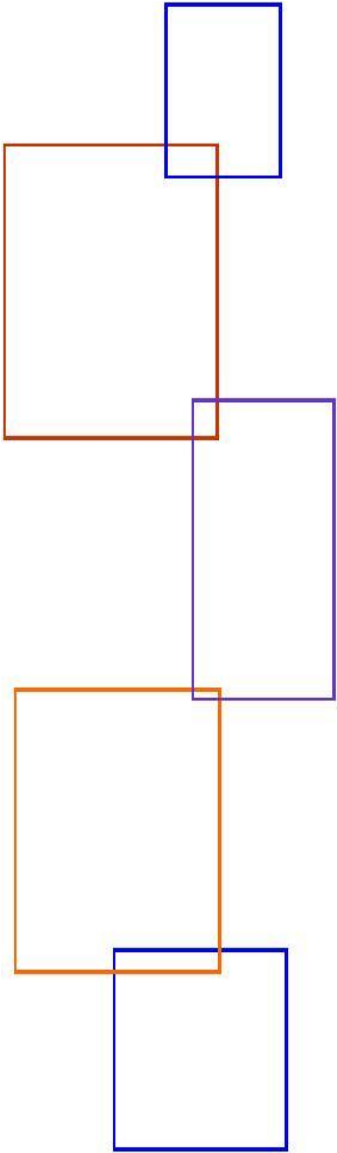
### National Survey

- identify youth CD resources and service provider learning needs and preferences

### Collaborative Youth Screening Project

- To build collaboration amongst youth service providers across sectors by enhancing/developing seven community based networks across Canada
- To use a common screening tool with youth seeking services to enhance consistent identification and treatment planning for youth with SU and MH concerns
- To obtain feedback from service providers regarding the feasibility & utility of the GAIN-SS as a screening tool
- To examine the effectiveness of cross-sectoral collaboration as a knowledge translation strategy
- To inform planning processes within agencies that relate to:
  - identifying commonalities and differences in youth seen
  - identifying gaps in the continuum of services

# CIHR Team Grant

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- Cohort Study: A three-year longitudinal cohort study with school-based and clinic-referred samples
  - Screening and Diagnosis: Validation of screening tools for youth SU & MH concerns in school-based and clinic-referred samples
  - Treatment: Study of feasibility and effectiveness of an integrated treatment approach for youth with CD and an intervention for families of youth with CD, offered in both a hospital and community settings.
  - Knowledge Translation and Exchange: Collaboration with 4 sites in Ontario to support implementation of a common CD screening process across agencies and sectors.



# Discussion