

Developing an Accessible Youth Advisory Council Through a Disability and Sexuality Lens

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Background

Engagement of youth with disabilities through Youth Advisory Councils (YACs) can strengthen the impact of disability and sexuality research.

→ **Limited guidance** for developing YACs that are **tailored for disability and sexuality contexts**.



This project synthesized existing youth engagement frameworks to identify recommendations for developing a YAC with a disability and sexuality lens.

Research Question: What recommendations inform the development of a YAC for disability and sexuality research?

Methods

Identified 16 publications from a Youth Engagement Framework Review by Sanchez et al.¹

Applied predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria

Conducted a purposive search for newer Youth Engagement frameworks.

Extracted and inductively organized recommendations into domains and subdomains.

Adapted recommendations through a disability and sexuality lens.

Included

8

Articles
describing

7

Frameworks

Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Bloorview
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Meaningful youth engagement in disability and sexuality research is supported by accessibility, shared leadership, lived experience, and an intersectional lens



References



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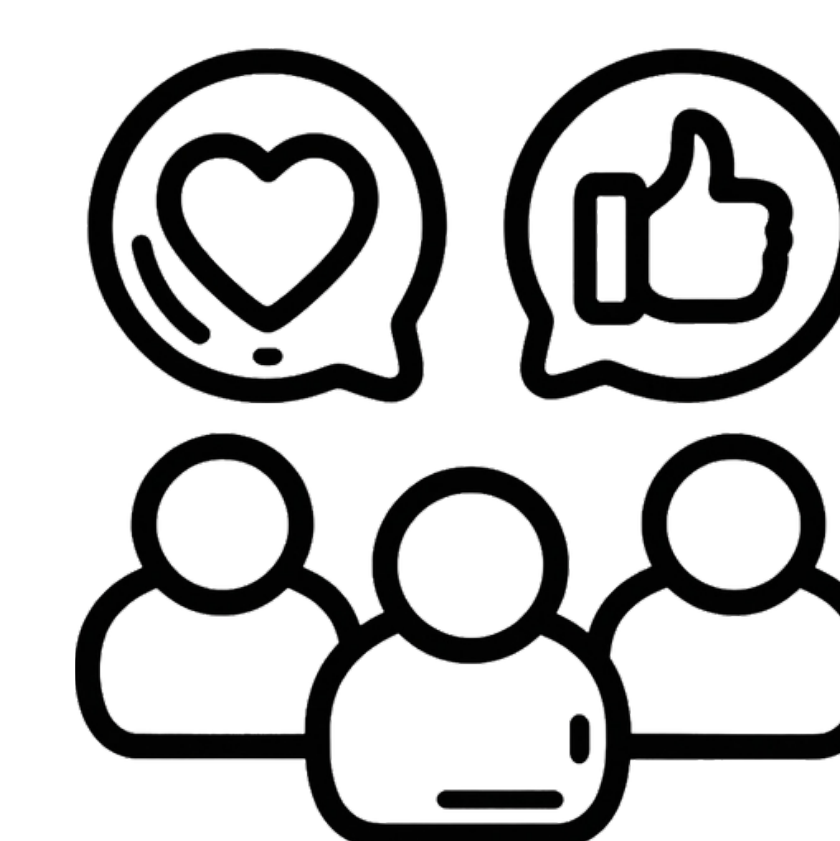
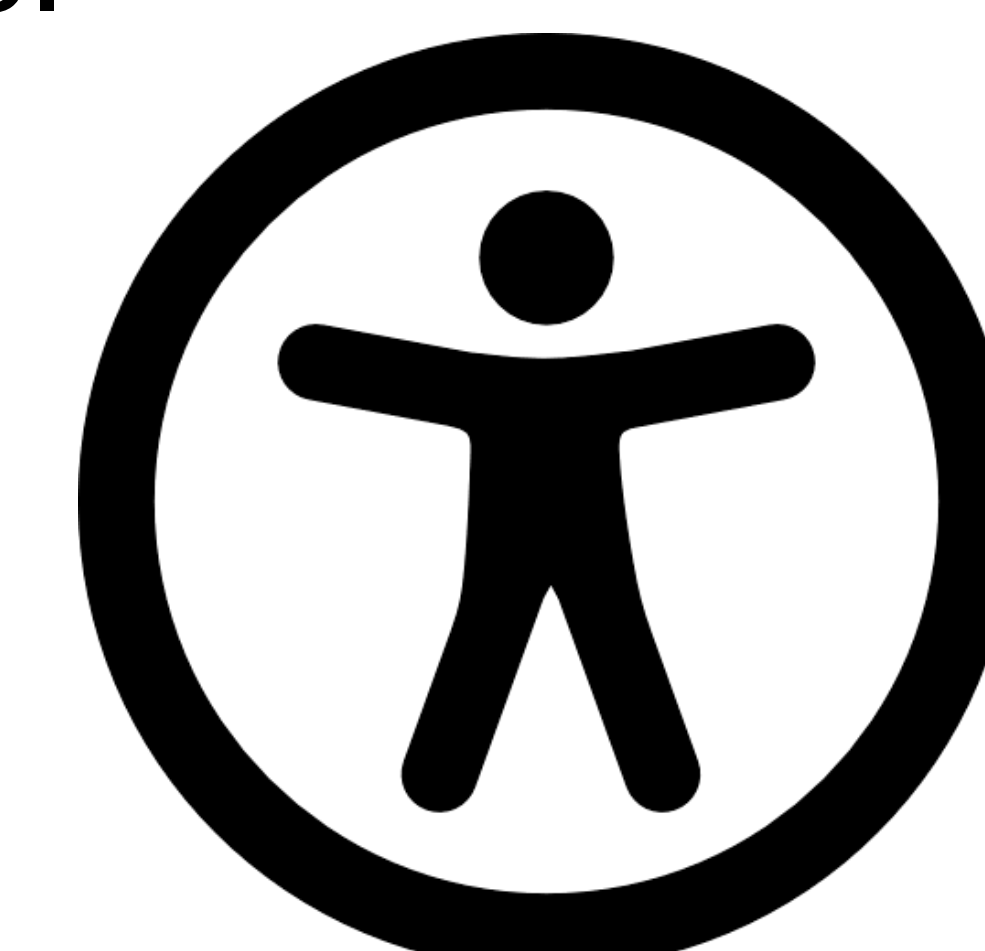
Results

Developing a YAC: Domains²⁻⁹

(1) **Recruitment** – Broad outreach to diverse youth with disabilities through:

- Community partnerships
- Accessible recruitment materials using disability-inclusive language.

(2) **Accessibility** – Individualized accommodations, accessible disability and sexuality communication, participation supports, & safe engagement.



(3) **Engagement** – Flexible participation, training on disability, sexuality, and intersecting inequities to support meaningful contributions.

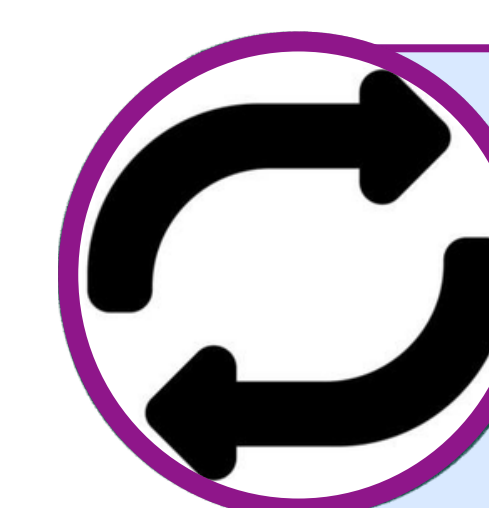
(4) **Governance** – Shared decision-making & leadership in research with youth, treating lived experience as expertise, fostering reciprocal partnerships with researchers.

Discussion & Holland Bloorview Relevance

No single framework addressed youth engagement in disability and sexuality research. Our findings provide a foundation for developing YACs in this context, showing how Disability Justice principles¹⁰ can be enacted through practical engagement recommendations.



Principle (s): Recognizing wholeness; Sustainability
Flexible engagement valuing youth with lived experience



Principle (s): Leadership of Those Most Impacted; Interdependence
Shared leadership & reciprocal partnerships



Principle: Intersectionality
Inclusive recruitment strategies



Principle: Collective Access
Individualized accessibility

These findings are currently informing the development of the ProFILE Lab's¹¹ Youth Advisory Council at Holland Bloorview and may support accessible and tailored youth engagement across future disability and sexuality research initiatives throughout the organization.