

Why is this survey important?

A survey of this many trans people has never been done before – in Ontario or anywhere else in the world! In order for services to change we need to hear the real experiences of what it is like to be trans or to transition in Ontario. We've chosen particular kinds of questions to make sure that the results are useful to trans communities and able to improve our quality of life. This survey is important because it is driven and owned by trans people, allies and partners who are committed to improving our communities.

What will Trans PULSE do with the results?

While the survey will be a historic study of the health and experiences of our communities, it is not the final step of our project. Once we've analyzed the information from the survey, a series of follow-up interviews will be completed by and with members of trans communities in Ontario to help seek further information about issues affecting our health and well-being. The many trans people on our Investigative Committee and our Community Engagement Team will help decide what to do with this information and how to best use it to promote change. We will ensure that the results of this study do not sit on a shelf somewhere, but rather are put into action to improve the health and well-being of our communities.

Thank you! We hope you will take the time to complete this survey and contribute your experiences to this important project.

Contact Information

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Project Funders & Sponsors:



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 TGStation.com



Photography by Chris Ablett www.capstudios.com



Building our Communities
Through Research

What is Trans PULSE?

Trans PULSE is an exciting community-based research project. Beginning in January 2009, Trans PULSE is aiming to survey 1000 trans people in Ontario. If you identify as trans and live in Ontario, you may get asked to complete a survey in the near future. This document gives you more information about the survey and about Trans PULSE more broadly.

Who is involved in Trans PULSE?

Trans people have been involved in every aspect and every step of Trans PULSE. The questions included in the survey were shaped in part by a series of 'community soundings' we conducted across Ontario in 2006. The core group of Trans PULSE researchers has seven trans people and three allies and are working together with our "Community Engagement Team", a group of 15 trans people from across the province who are assisting in developing and carrying out the project. For a better idea of how Trans PULSE is organized and who is involved, please see our website www.transpulse.ca.

Who does 'trans' include?

Identities are very important in our community which makes it difficult to use a single term to cover everyone. Trans PULSE decided to use the terms 'trans', 'trans-identified', and 'trans-experience' with the intention of including the full range of identities such as: transgender; transsexual; two-spirited trans; MtF; FtM; trans man; trans woman; gender queer; bi-gendered; t-girl; boy; as well as those who have transitioned and identify simply as women or men. We understand as well, that for many people, 'trans' is only one part of their identity. We aim to honour the experiences of those navigating complex identities as people who are racialized, seniors, youth, people living with disabilities, those who are incarcerated, working in the sex-trade, immigrants and refugees, people living with HIV/AIDS and many others.

What is Trans PULSE studying?

Trans PULSE is an exciting community-based research project exploring how being excluded from society and experiencing transphobia affect our health and services. Some of the issues we will be studying are: poverty, housing, relationships and family, sexual health, HIV/AIDS, mental health, violence, access to health and social services, and hormone use.

How can I fill out the survey?

Trans PULSE is taking a different approach to finding people to fill out surveys. We are using a new technique called Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS). With RDS, everyone who fills out the survey is able to invite three other Ontario trans people to participate. This means that you have to wait until another trans person invites you to take the survey. Once recruited, you can fill it out on-line, through paper and pencil, or over the phone. You then get to invite three other trans people in Ontario. We understand that you have important and unique experiences to share and that it may be frustrating to wait to be recruited by someone else. By doing this, however, the results from the survey will be taken much more seriously. Everyone who fills out a survey will receive compensation for their time and energy. Language interpreters will be available and all information will be confidential. The survey is mostly check-boxes and will take approximately 60 – 90 minutes to complete. We have tried to make it comprehensive to document as many of our experiences as possible.