

# HEALTH EQUITY PROJECT PROFILE:

## Planned Parenthood Toronto



### ABOUT THE CENTRE

Planned Parenthood Toronto is committed to being an agency that values and reflects the diverse communities of Toronto. We recognize that:

- Equity is different from equality.
- Equity is access to inclusive, high quality, programming and services that respect your choices.
- Equity is ensuring that community input informs what we do and guides us to take action for social change that benefits you.

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

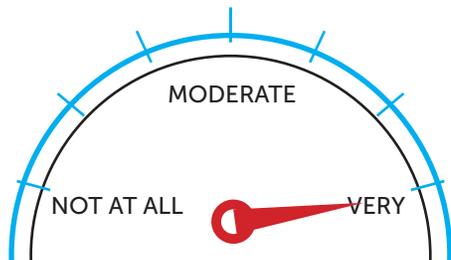
This is a profile of one of seven champion Community Health Centres of the Health Equity Project, an initiative led by Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services. The project aims to build knowledge, commitment, and capacity at the champion organizational level to routinely use a health equity framework and evidence to overcome systemic inequities in healthcare access, healthcare quality, and health outcomes. This profile was built from a survey conducted at the start of the project, and presents the baseline capacity, unique needs, and opportunities around health equity work that exist with each champion.

### WHERE THE CENTRE STARTED

#### Our Definition of Health Equity

Seeking to identify and address health needs for youth who experience barriers to access. We prioritizing youth who are at risk for poor health outcomes.

#### Familiarity with Health Equity



#### Which indicators do we collect?

Planned Parenthood Toronto collects all mandatory and required indicators except sex, although missing data is highest for disabilities.

#### Indicators

##### Required Indicators (must collect):

- Sex
- Gender
- Insurance status
- Spoken language
- Preferred language

##### Mandatory Indicators (should collect):

- Country of origin
- Date of arrival to Canada
- Disabilities
- Education
- Household composition
- Household income
- # of persons supported by income
- Racial / ethnic group
- Sexual orientation
- Type of housing

### Key Facts About Planned Parenthood Toronto



2 sites



10,905 active clients



41-60 staff



## Strengths

- Current staff composition accurately reflects the clients served
- Majority of all staff have received training on health equity in the last three years
- The board purposefully uses practices that reinforce equity, diversity and inclusion principles
- All staff went through anti-racism and anti-oppression training over the past year and this has now been made a requirement for all new staff at Planned Parenthood Toronto
- The centre has policies on diversity, cultural competence, anti-oppression, anti-racism, human rights, anti-harassment, accommodation, and accessibility



## Challenges

- Lack of accessibility causes clients with mobility disabilities to find it challenging to access necessary and equitable programs and services
- “Adult gatekeepers” provide a barrier to the centre’s ability to reach youth in some settings (i.e. Toronto Catholic District School Board)
- Not using Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) tool for planning or evaluation
- No dedicated staff or other positions that promote, lead or address health equity objectives



## What We Want To Learn

Looking for tools and training to:

- Develop policies that routinize equity frameworks for planning and evaluation of programs and services
- Implement effective anti-oppression training workshops
- Better analyze equity data to be able to use evidence to improve planning and evaluation of all programs and services, and also specific health equity initiatives
- Learn how to ask sensitive socio-demographic questions around topics such as sexual orientation and income in order to ensure the quality and accuracy of the data being collected

## Which Inequities Do We Discuss Often?

### MOST OFTEN

Racism, disability, gender, sexual orientation



### LEAST OFTEN

Economic equality, poverty



## Where we’re headed: Our Unique Health Equity Work

We proposed to work with a coach around implementing an Equity Informed Planning for Youth with Disabilities project. This project will enable Planned Parenthood to analyze its existing client data and collect additional qualitative data through focus groups and consultations with youth with disabilities clients. We will then use this data to better understand who we are serving (i.e. what types of disabilities) in order to improve planning to better serve this client group. This project is in partnership with Anne Johnston Health Station (AJHS).

## WHAT’S NEXT

**At the Champion level,** this work contributes to building organizational level knowledge, commitment and capacity to routinely use a health equity framework and evidence geared at overcoming systemic inequities in healthcare access, healthcare quality and health outcomes.

### And beyond...

Mobilizing a community of practice within the CHC sector and across sectors (e.g. settlement) to inspire shared visions and actions for advancing health equity.

To learn more about Planned Parenthood’s equity work, contact Cheryl Dobinson, [CDobinson@ppt.on.ca](mailto:CDobinson@ppt.on.ca).