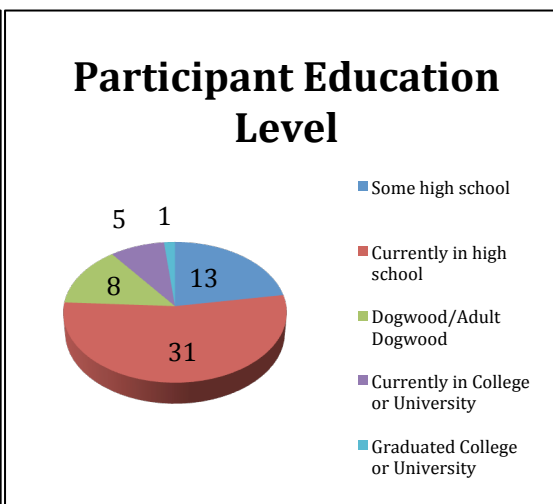
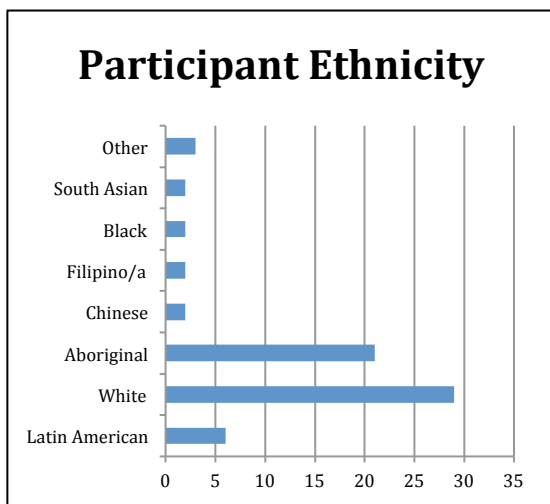
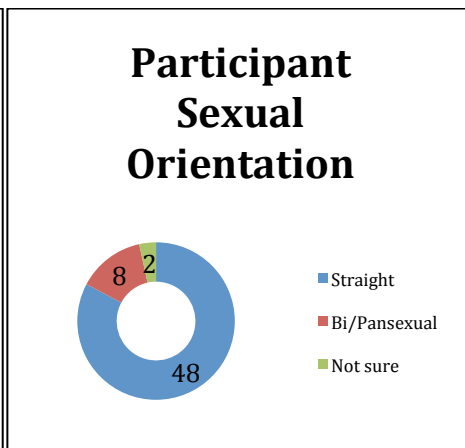
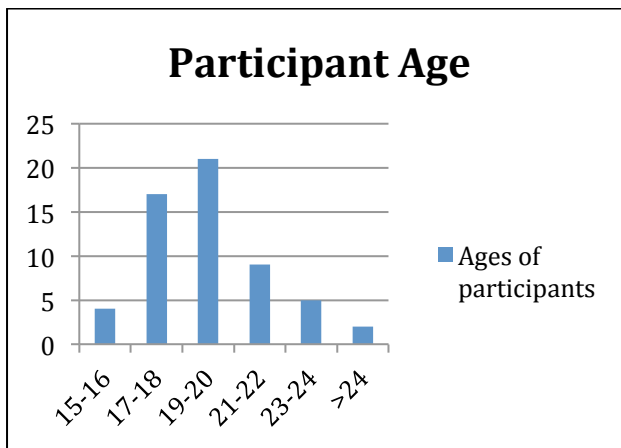
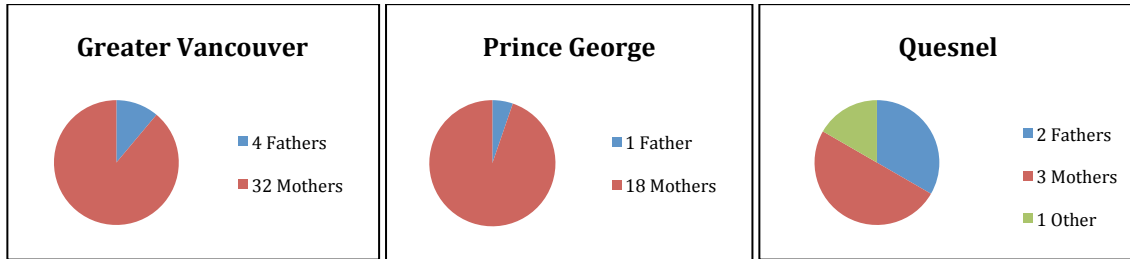


Young Parents Study Update

There are a total of 61 participants so far:



Some Preliminary Themes:

- **Contraception:** Privacy and affordability (e.g., ageing out of free youth programs) are common issues. It can be hard to get family planning advice other than information about types of birth control from health care providers (e.g., when or whether to have more children).
- **Housing:** Affordable housing is a major issue in all communities. Emergency situations are difficult to handle (e.g., needing to move because housing is unsafe). Social assistance policies sometimes prohibit live-in partners.
- **Access to health and social services:** Limited hours, transportation issues, fear of police/ministry involvement, and stigma (especially among office support staff) are common concerns. Some First Nation parents can't easily access health services because of delays getting their child's Status card.
- **Getting by:** Most young parents face financial challenges and many who receive social assistance or other services say they feel stigmatized or stereotyped.
- **Ageing out:** Parents' access to education and services can be limited by their age or their children's age and sometimes they aren't able to access transitional supports when programs end. Agreements for Young Adults (AYA) provide limited funding and can be confusing to understand/navigate.
- **Education:** Many parents are trying to finish school while facing competing interests (e.g., work, parenting), patronizing attitudes from some professionals and people in the community, and financing their post-secondary education.
- **Relationships:** Learning how to co-parent, creating a healthy relationship, and receiving emotional and practical support in relationships (e.g., sharing housework and parenting responsibilities) are important for many parents.
- **Context:** The same young person might be seen as an expert in one context, yet looked down upon in another.
- **Support:** Family and other kinds of social support can have a major impact on how much young parents are able to pursue their dreams and goals.
- **Love:** Parents' love for their children inspires them to make a good life for their children and themselves, often turning their own lives around.

Do you have suggestions for areas that we should focus on more?

Are there any new programs or program changes we should know about?

Are there any questions that you think we should be asking?

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