

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023–2024

**Digitally Informed Youth (DIY): Digital Safety** is a five-year research project implemented by a team of scholars, researchers, and students that aims to empower young people and provide them with tailored resources against technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV). The team strives to ensure that young people have safe and enjoyable experiences both online and offline. This report provides an update on the progress of our SSHRC Insight Grant from May 2023 to April 2024.

## DIY: DIGITAL SAFETY AIMS TO ACHIEVE **FOUR OBJECTIVES**

1

Explore how educational curricula, policies, and legislation address TFSV

2

Analyze the effectiveness of educational, policy, and legal responses to TFSV

3

Identify what education, policies, and supports young people want to combat TFSV

4

Create resources for youth and best practice recommendations for people who work with youth



## OUR TEAM



**Dr. Kaitlynn Mendes**

Canada Research Chair in Inequality and Gender at Western University



**Prof. Suzie Dunn**

Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law



**Dr. Christopher Dietzel**

Postdoctoral Fellow at Concordia University



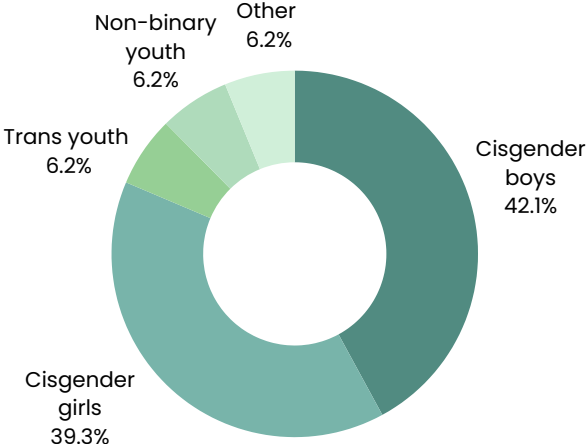
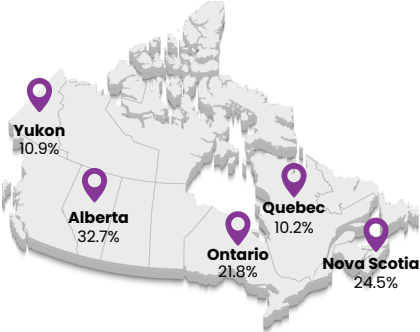
**Dr. Alexa Dodge**

Assistant Professor in Criminology at Saint Mary's University

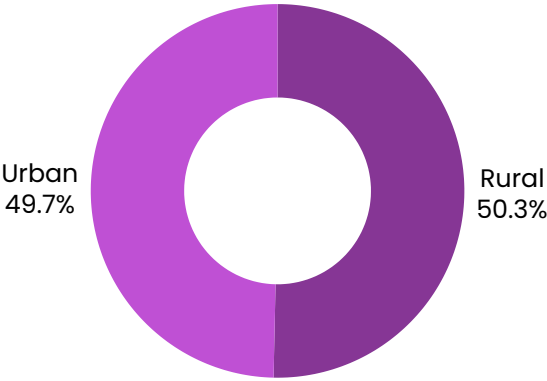
# OUR RESEARCH EFFORTS

## Focus groups

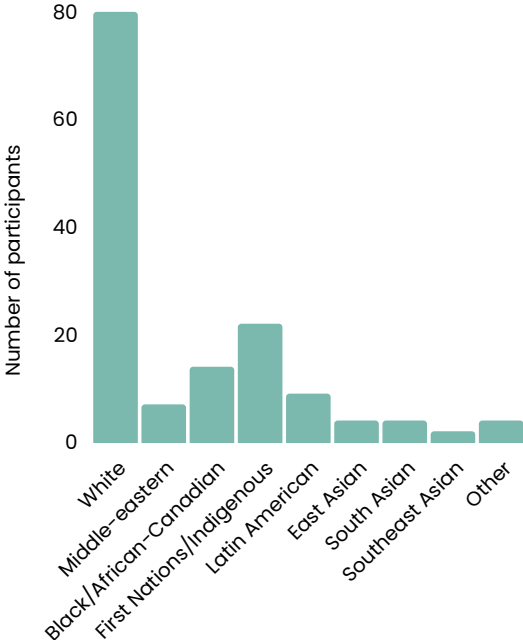
We have conducted **25 focus groups** with **147 young people** in rural and urban locations in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and Yukon to learn about their experiences with TFSV.



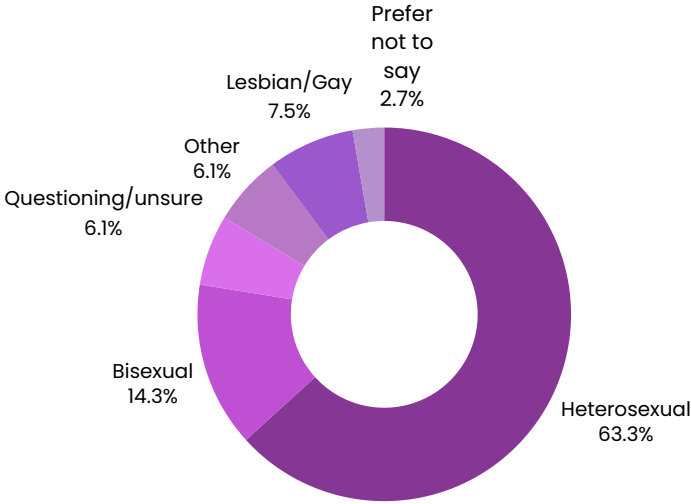
Gender



Location



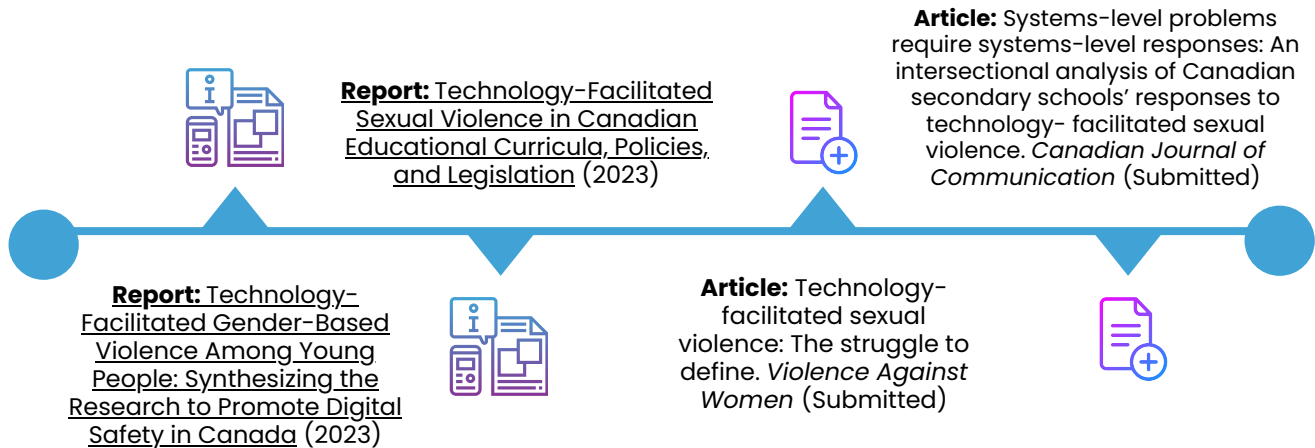
Race and ethnicity



Sexual orientation

# KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

## Publications



## Alliances and community connections



**20** ORGANIZATIONS AND COLLABORATORS

- 4-H Club
- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
- Boys and Girls Club of London
- Canadian Centre for Child Protection
- Canada's Centre for Community Engagement and Prevention of Violence
- Centre for Sexuality
- CREVAWC
- Fieldhouse Pirates Baseball Team
- Girls Inc
- Kids First Family Centre
- Media Smarts
- Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region
- Sex Information and Education Council of Canada (SIECCAN)
- South London Neighborhood Resource Centre
- The Powerhouse Youth Centre
- Trafficking and Exploitation Services System
- UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
- White Ribbon
- Wise Guyz
- YWCA

# KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

## Talks and workshops



**9** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (AGED 13-18)

- Consent and safety
- Online harms and digital relationships
- Healthy masculinities
- Menstrual education
- Online hate speech
- Lanark County Youth Conference about digital safety and online harm



**7** FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

- Talking to young people about online harms
- Parenting in a digital age



**12** FOR ADVOCATES, SCHOLARS AND EDUCATORS

- Technology-facilitated gender-based violence among teens
- Same but different: Understanding the realities of non-consensual intimate image distribution across diverse communities
- Digital harms and policy responses: The case of technology-facilitated sexual violence
- Promoting digital safety among Canadian youth



We need to challenge scare tactic approaches to education and, instead, empower young people with an understanding of their rights and responsibilities in our digital world.



**Dr. Alexa Dodge**

Assistant Professor in Criminology Saint Mary's University



It is important to protect youth and promote their safety, especially marginalized populations like LGBTQ+ youth. We must leverage technology, education, and policy to ensure all youth have access to safe, inclusive, and enjoyable digital interactions.



**Dr. Christopher Dietzel**

Postdoctoral Fellow at Concordia University

# KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

## Infographics



**Recommendations** for secondary schools, policymakers, and others for how educational curricula, policy, and legislation can be improved to address technology-facilitated sexual violence in Canada



**Current trends** in educational curricula, policies, and legislation to address technology-facilitated sexual violence in Canada



**Sharing Nudes.** An infographic to help educators and caregivers fight against misinformation about the legality of intimate image sharing in Canada



**Nudes and the Law: Know your Rights.** An infographic to combat misinformation and fear among young people. Available in 13 languages: Arabic, Cantonese, Chinese, English, French, Micmac, Mohawk, North Baffin, Plains Cree, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog, and Western Ojibway



**TFGBV: What you need to know.** An infographic to learn about technology-facilitated gender-based violence, its impacts on youth, and resources to address it

## Factsheets



**Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images.** Fact sheet with information about image-based abuse and resources for people whose intimate images were shared or threatened to be shared



**Cyberbullying.** Fact sheet with information about cyberbullying and resources to help people who have experienced technology-facilitated violence or bullying



These infographics and fact sheets are available on the [Resources](#) page of our website [diydigitalsafety.ca](http://diydigitalsafety.ca)

# MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



51

News articles and features where members of the team were quoted.

For example:

- BuzzFeed
- CBC News
- Global News
- Le Devoir
- London Free Press
- St. Catharines Standard
- The Canadian Press
- The Globe and Mail
- Toronto Star
- Western University News



36

Podcasts, tv, and radio interviews given by team members.

For example:

- CBC News: The National
- CBC Radio
- CKNW Radio
- CTV News London
- Global News Television
- OMNI News
- Radio Canada Windsor
- Somebody Must Say These Things podcast
- Western University News
- YES, ALL MEN! podcast



3

Op-ed articles authored by team members.

For example:

- The Conversation
- The Globe and Mail

## Social media



240

Followers



458

Posts and tweets



29.8K

Impressions (times our content has been displayed on screen)

## Website



3820

Total visits

89%

From Canada

514

Visits to the **Resources** section

# POLICY ENGAGEMENT

In the last year, we engaged with several government institutions and officials at international, federal, provincial, and municipal levels to offer expert opinions on how to improve current frameworks and approaches to addressing TFSV among youth in Canada. Below are some examples of the actors we have engaged with.



ADVISED **2** FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS

- Image-based abuse laws
- Technology-facilitated gender-based violence



ADVISED **3** PROVINCIAL MINISTRIES AND OFFICES

- Youth, online harms, supports, and content moderation
- Legal support for targets of image-based abuse



ADVISED **1** MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

- Technology-facilitated gender-based violence

“

We have a lot to learn from young people about how they manage tech-facilitated sexual violence. We also have a responsibility to do what we can to make sure they have the supports they need to exist freely and authentically online.

”

**Professor Suzie Dunn**

Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law

“

We have a tremendous responsibility to ensure online spaces are fun, safe, empowering, and equitable for young people. It's going to take work, but I know we can do what is needed to create a digital future to be proud of.

”

**Dr. Kaitlynn Mendes**

Associate Professor in Sociology at Western University

# CONFERENCES



**6** PAPER PRESENTATIONS IN 2024

- International Communication Association
- Canadian Sociological Association
- Canadian Communication Association
- International Association of Media and Communication Researchers



**5** PAPER PRESENTATIONS IN 2023

- European Conference on Domestic Violence
- Canadian Sociological Association
- Association of Internet Researchers



# EXTENDED TEAM

## Research assistants

**4** undergraduate students

**12** graduate students



**4** TRAININGS OFFERED

- NVivo
- Geographic Information System
- Handling disclosures in research on TFSV
- Data Analysis with NVivo

