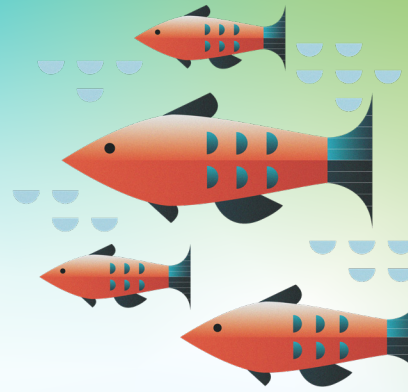


What makes Foundry different: Integrated Youth Services (IYS) 101



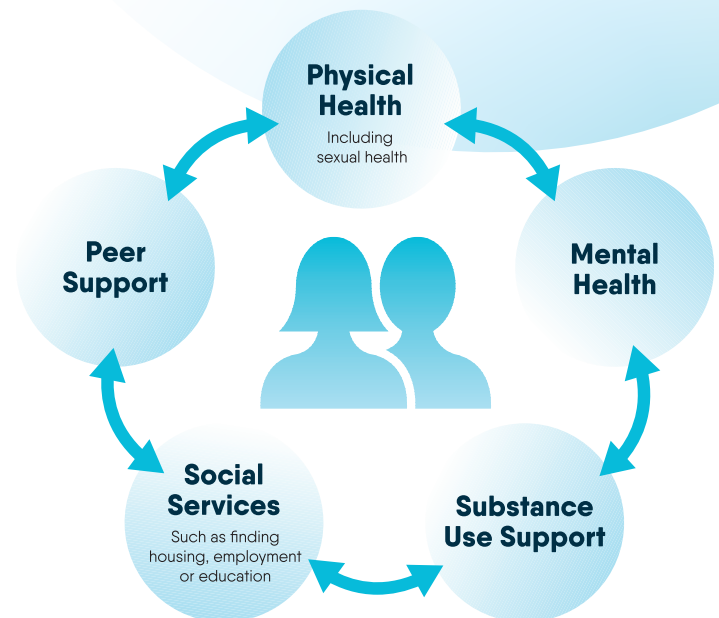
Many people have their wellness impacted by multiple factors at the same time. This could include issues related to physical and mental health, school, or finding a job or a place to live. Even if they know there must be support available, it can feel overwhelming to figure out where to start — this can be particularly true for young people dealing with major life transitions.

What if a young person could go to one place, either at a physical location or virtually, and get help for all of their concerns?

This is the idea behind integrated youth services (IYS). With IYS, a young person goes to one place and service providers (including physicians, nurses, counsellors, peer support workers and many others) collaborate with them and each other to provide the care needed, all without needing a referral. By integrating these services, young people don't have to keep getting referrals, going to new places and repeating their story. Instead, they can go to the same place and work with service providers who know them until their concerns have been addressed. Integration involves setting standards and implementing systems for cooperation and continuous improvement. The service providers work as a team to provide the best possible experience for young people.

The youth part of IYS can vary slightly, but typically means young people from pre-teens to mid-twenties. By focusing on these ages, IYS reaches and supports young people when they are most susceptible to developing certain health concerns, such as mental ill-health or substance use. IYS may also provide support for the family members and caregivers of young people.

IYS usually cover most of the following service areas for young people:



There are IYS initiatives emerging across Canada. One example is Foundry, located in British Columbia. Foundry brings together the services described above for young people ages 12-24. Services are also available for their families/caregivers, including groups, workshops, counselling and peer support.

Foundry designs its services in collaboration with service providers, families/caregivers and youth to make sure they are culturally safe, youth-friendly and meet the needs of young people. Young people can walk into a local Foundry centre across BC, explore online tools and resources at foundrybc.ca/get-support or connect virtually through the Foundry BC app.