

INSIGHTS INTO ACCESSIBILITY AND BARRIERS TO RESOURCES ACCORDING TO EMERGING ADULTS WHO FREQUENT THE CHEW PROJECT

In our research, we asked emerging adults who attended a downtown drop-in center (CHEW - Community, Health, Empowerment, and Wellness - Project) for their insight into accessibility and barriers to resources in Edmonton. Originally, we planned on conducting individual interviews with the participants; however, working with a young adult population, we found it difficult to get participants to engage, and switched to a more informal, conversational approach. Participants' informal conversations were analyzed using thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006) in order to determine unique and shared experiences between them. Our results indicated recurring themes of feeling safe, lacking agency, loss of supports, and transactional culture. We have found consistencies with the existing literature regarding the barriers our participants have faced. In addition,

we will make recommendations for assisting vulnerable, at-risk, emerging adults according to their perceptions of approaches that meet their needs and are accessible.

***Research Advisor: Dr. Wendy Pullin
Field Supervisor: Corey Wyness, CHEW
Project Director***