

# Bans: Research Project Findings

## Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion

**Problem:** Youth accessing services were regularly identifying **being banned** from a number of different kinds of locations, and **often did not know when their ban expired** or other conditions of the ban.

### We spoke with:

- 39 youth aged 15-25 years
- 20 of the youth identified as Indigenous
- 15 service providers

## Recommendations from Youth & Service Providers for Improving Banning Practices

### 1. Decrease the length of bans

Youth and service providers felt that bans were often too long



2. If ban is issued, provide clear **communication** and **documentation** with on site **contact info**



### 3. Implement bans with a trauma-informed approach

- Less threatening
- Eliminate any racism or discrimination
- Use de-escalation practices
- Prompt team decision-making
- Bans only for serious incidents



4. **Review bans** to see if they are reasonable, can be resolved, or if opportunities for restorative justice would be appropriate



5. **Support** available for youth to understand, live with, and address their bans



6. Develop a **Safety plan** so youth can meet their needs while banned



7. **Meet basic needs** like food, housing, and access to mental health and addictions supports to prevent bans



**Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion (AAIYI)** is a collaboration of youth-serving agencies and community partners working as allies for youth in high-risk situations. **We conducted this research because we care about youth.**

For more information about this project, contact [adm@mapsab.ca](mailto:adm@mapsab.ca)

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# Youth Ban Journey Map



Youth may be living with trauma, mental health concerns, addictions, or previous negative experiences with authorities; these challenges increase likelihood of escalation.



Authorities are responsible for keeping areas safe, usually in uniform and/or have perceived power.



Youth are observed by authority using a bong in the park and may be approached in one of three ways.



This journey map was created in partnership with AMH, a committee of service providers who all work with youth who engage in high-risk behaviour. Our Journey Maps were created to understand youth lived experience navigating complex systems in order to facilitate collaborative discussions that will enhance supports and services. Youth Ban Map May 2018.