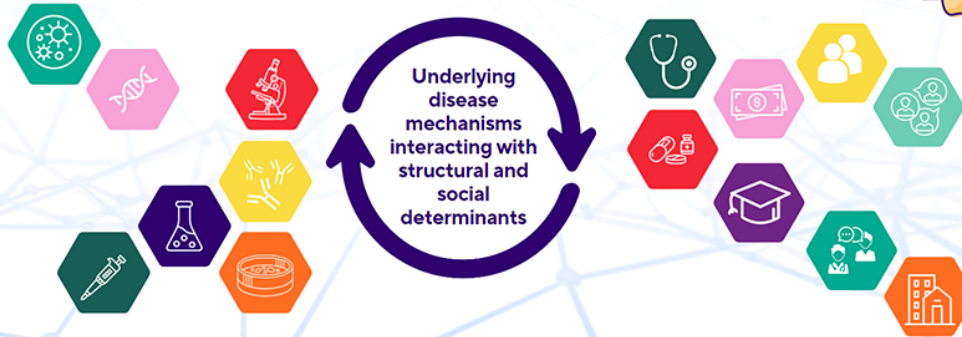




19TH ANNUAL CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH DAYS  
**Outcomes in Child Health**



October 25 + 26, 2023 | RBC Convention Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Abstract Submission Form

## CHR D 2023: Abstract Submission Form

### Submitter Name

Kaitlyn Hanson (1)

### Presenter Name

Kaitlyn Hanson (1)

### Presenter Status

Undergraduate Students

### Research Category

Clinical

### Role in the project

Design  
Analyze Data  
Write Abstract  
Perform interviews

### Title

"They Make Me Feel Whole" – The Importance of Identity for Racially, Ethnically, Gender, and Sexually Diverse Adolescents Young Adults with Cancer

### Background

Adolescents and young adults (AYAs, 18-39 years old) with cancer identifying as racially/ethnically diverse or 2SLGBTQIA+ have been underrepresented in cancer research.

### Objective

Our objective was to explore aspects of the identity mattering most to these diverse AYAs how they may affect their experiences in the healthcare system.

### Methods

Eligible participants were English-speaking AYAs with cancer who self-identified as racially/ethnically diverse and/or 2SLGBTQIA+, diagnosed with cancer between the ages of 15 and 39, currently aged  $\geq 18$ , and receiving or have received cancer care in the Canadian healthcare system. Patient partners with lived experience of AYA cancer who met pre-defined eligibility criteria were engaged as research collaborators throughout the study. Study participants were interviewed by phone or Microsoft Teams using a semi-structured interview guide. Framework analysis was used for qualitative analysis.

### Results

Of 23 participants (mean age: 28, range: 20-44) recruited from 4 provinces in Canada, 17 were racially/ethnically diverse, one was sexual/gender diverse, and 5 were both racially/ethnically and

sexually/gender diverse. We recruited 5 diverse (4 racially /ethnically diverse and 1 sexually/racially) patient partners. The identities of most importance to the participants included their culture/ethnicity, religion/spirituality and sexuality during their cancer journey. Only one participant stated that being a person with cancer was an important aspect of their identity. Cancer diagnosis changed the aspects of identity that mattered most to the participants over time. Both visible and invisible aspects of identity impacted participants' experiences and trust in the health care system.

## Conclusion

Racially, ethnically, gender or sexually diverse AYAs with cancer value aspects of their identity that coincide with the communities they identify with and consider that as an important aspect of who they are. To provide safe and effective care for these AYAs, healthcare professionals must understand these identities and how they affect their patients' cancer experience and well-being.

## Authors

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