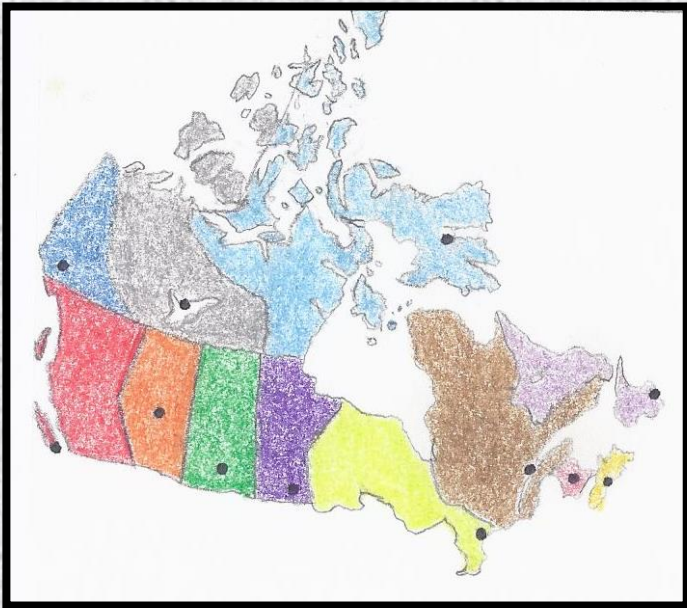


**Intersections of Violence and
Health in the Lives of Homeless
and Street-Involved Youth**

Dr. Kristy Buccieri

On behalf of Voices against Violence

Project Overview



*Promoting Health through
Collaborative Engagement with Youth
in Canada: Overcoming, Resisting and
Preventing Structural Violence*

This is a five-year national research project that began in 2011, and is led by Western University (under P.I. Dr. Helene Berman)

Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Today

The benefits and challenges of using arts-based research methods with marginalized young people (particularly those who are homeless and/or street-involved)

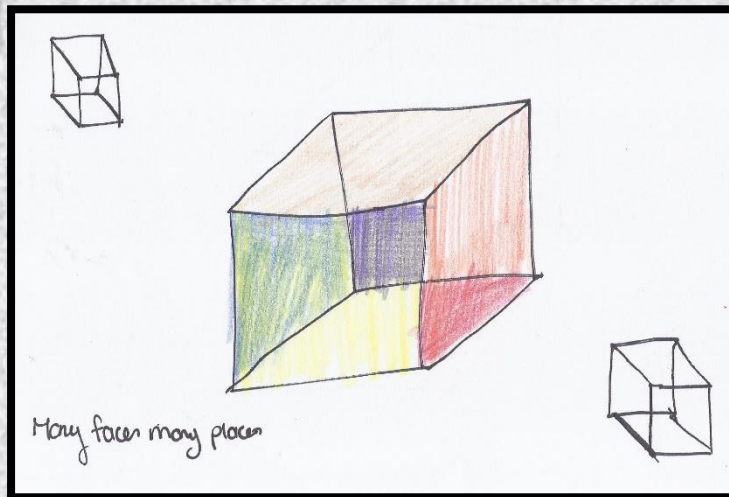
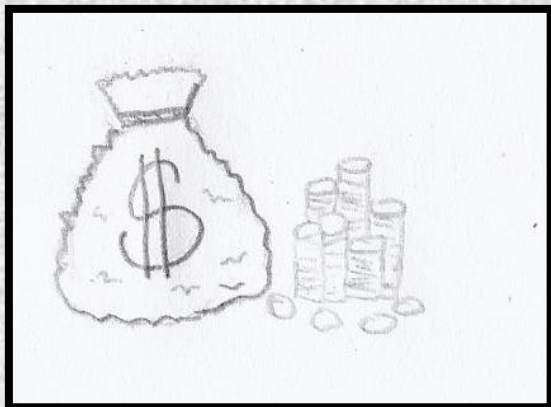
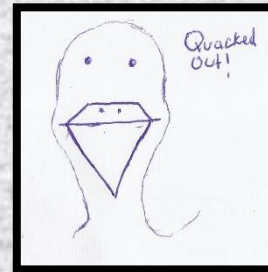
Discuss evidence-informed findings about the types of structural violence homeless and street-involved youth experience, and the resulting health outcomes

Provide a concrete set of policy and service provision recommendations related to homeless and street-involved youth

Using Arts-Based Research Methods with Homeless and Street-Involved Youth



♪ All you need
Is love, love
Is all you need ♪



Only
you
can
change
you

| Researcher | City (ON) | Population | Ages | Size | Arts-Based Methods |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|---|
| Kristy Buccieri | Toronto | Homeless youth | 16-21 | 12 | Sketch-booking, word bubbles, road maps, group discussions |
| Abe Oudshoorn | London | Transitional housing | 16-24 | 15 | Journaling, body mapping, poetry, water colours, canvass creation, poetry |
| Marc Molgat, Susannah Taylor | Ottawa | Street-involved youth | 16-24 | 20 | Poetry, painting, videography, collage, large/small group discussions |

Challenges

Low literacy levels (written work)

Lack of belief in their own skills

Fear of judgement

Fear of over-exposure



Benefits

Alternate engagement in research

Less pressure filled

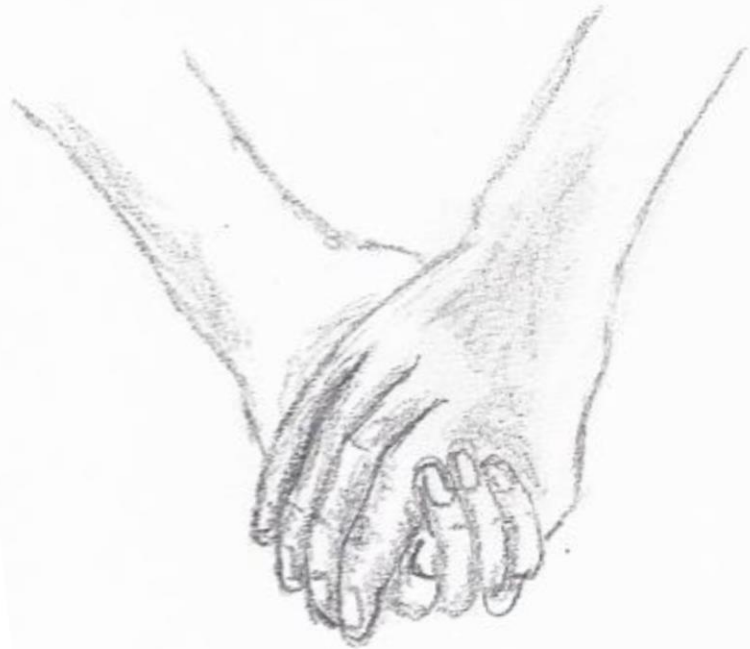
Creative engagement / expression

Prolonged engagement

Access to information not said

The future
is never
promised
so live
for the
now

YOU'RE A SNAKE IN THE GRASS
'MORE SHARP POINTS THAN BROKEN GLASS
NEVER TURN AROUND WHEN IT'S DARK OUTSIDE
AND YOU'RE WALKING FAST

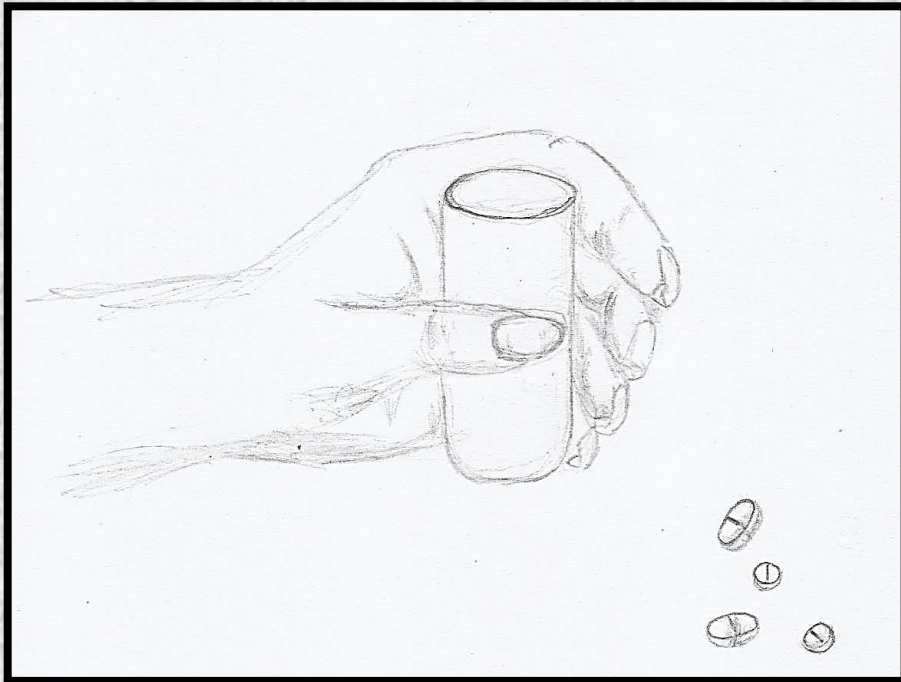


Findings:

Types of structural violence homeless and street-involved youth experience, and their health outcomes

Powerlessness

Solidarity



Shelters / Child Welfare



Education

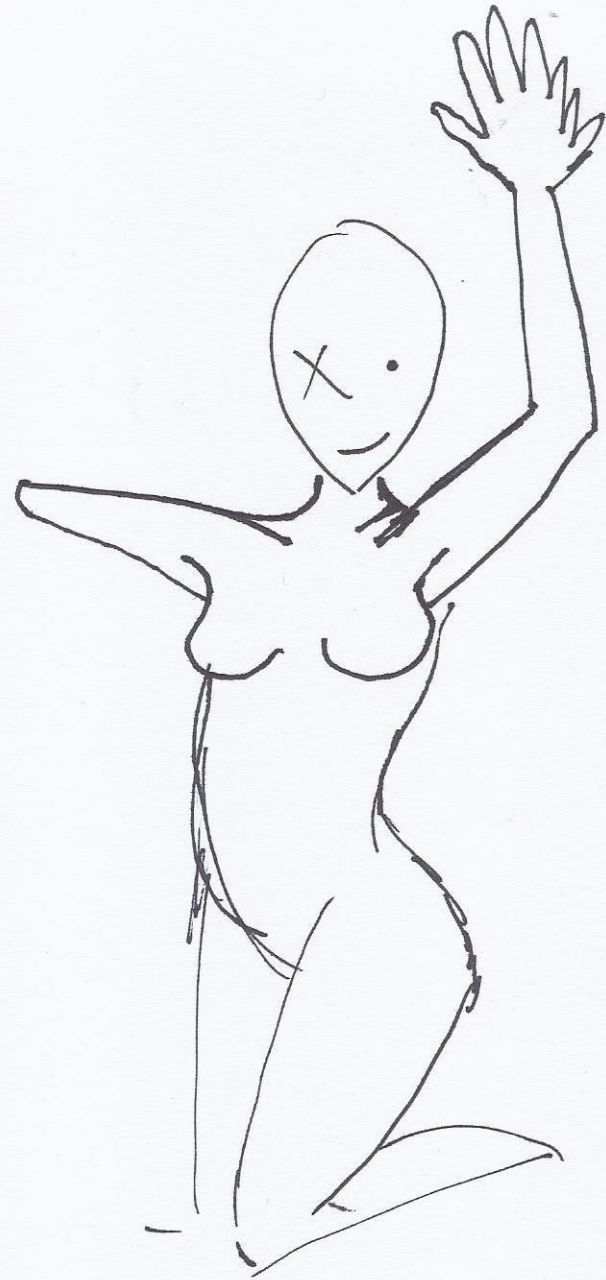


Justice

Shelters and Child Welfare

I need to get my own place

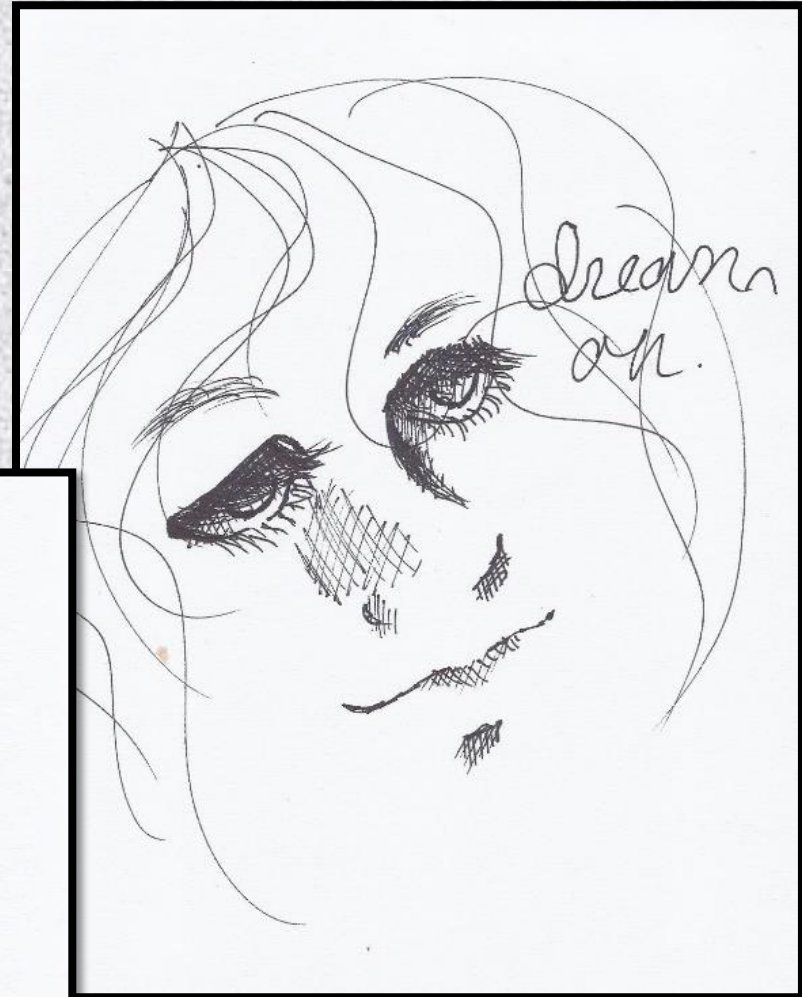
thoughtless
ghostly
depleted
ghostly
despicable
helplessness
drone
impaired
ethically
ambiguous
People
chaos
disorder
robots
benevolence
fucking senseless
bullet
mindless
SEX
violence
doll
POISON



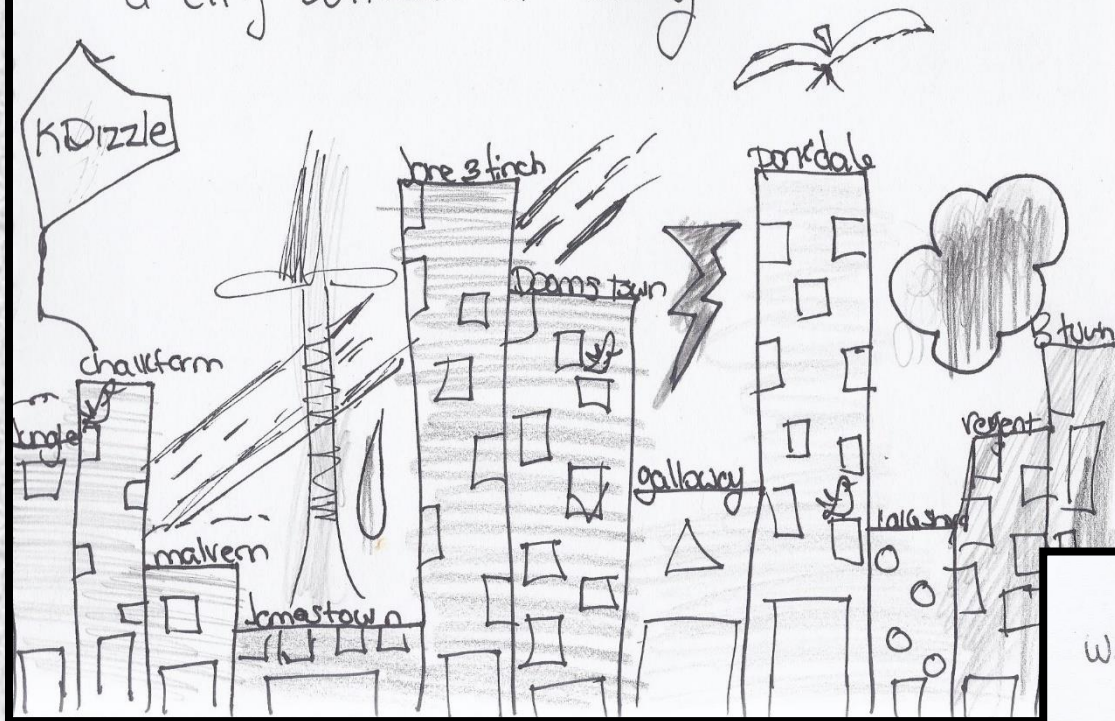
Education

What happened yesterday affects the choices of today. The choices of today affect the outcome of tomorrow.

~~What~~ What happened in the past can be ~~the~~ building blocks, but when you live in the past, how can you expect to unlock the locks?
(on the doors of opportunity)



a city within a city



Justice

We are youth that have been forgotten
but together, we stand
strong.

Walking our paths
hand in hand
parts of us all
belong.

Just Cause

Your Fed

UP close

Not Mean

You GIVE

UP

**Recommendations
for Policy and
Service Provision**



Shelters / Child Welfare



Ensure safe and clean spaces are available and accessible for those who embody difference, without singling them out

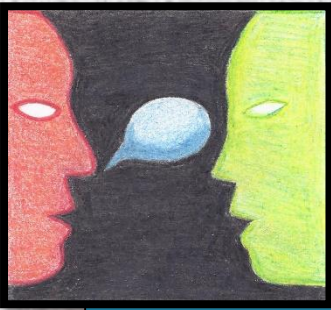
- Gender-neutral washrooms, with individual shower stalls
- Accessible facilities on main floors that everyone can use

Within shelters, create programs that allow youth residents to develop skills and earn privileges for gardening and cooking

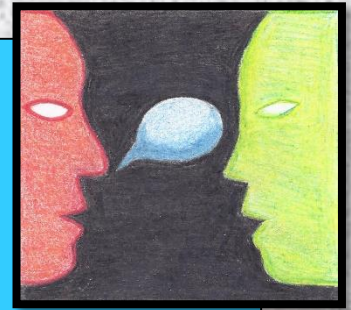
- Fresh food, employment skills, tied to financial or other incentives

Involve youth in the selection of the social workers who assist them

- Empowered to direct their own care facilitation



Education



Early school-based interventions are needed to keep homeless and street-involved youth in school before they leave

- Alternative in-school supports / accommodations

House alternative schools within shelters and drop-in centres frequented by street-involved and homeless youth

- Teachers who are sensitive to the demands of street life
- Curriculum that is paced to individual learners

Support workers should work with local colleges to help youth enter bridging programs and receive credit

- Such as through prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR)



Justice



Analyse court probation records to determine whether punitive trends exist for homeless individuals (and youth, where records are available)

- Further research to determine what action / intervention is needed

Repeal / prevent legislation that targets / criminalizes the subsistence behaviours of homeless persons

- Such as the Ontario Safe Streets Act that tickets individuals for panhandling aggressively and/or to a captive audience

It will be ok
in the end
If it's not
ok, it's not
the end.



*Thank-
You*