
EDUCATOR ANSWER KEY—SEXUAL RIGHTS: ENTITLEMENT VS. ACCESS

1. This is a human right that everyone is entitled to based on being human. Sadly, in Canada, some people still experience discrimination and stigma when accessing health care services. Examples of this include youth who are shamed for being sexually active when seeking STBBI testing, health care providers refusing to use the preferred pronouns of transgender youth, and racist assumptions about sexuality based on racist stereotypes.
2. You are entitled to the right to refuse the kind of contraception recommended by your health provider. Unfortunately, in Canada, doctors will sometimes coerce people into using one type of contraception over another. In some cases, coerced sterilization still happens (for more information, see module 2.2).
3. Some clinics and doctors will require youth under 16 to obtain permission from a parent or guardian to access prescription contraception. This is not something that the law requires and it is actually in violation of your human rights.
4. In Canada, violation of this sexual right happens frequently in many different forms. For instance, non-consensual, non-medically necessary surgeries happen on infants with intersex traits and these surgeries are considered standard medical practice. (Other examples include: sexual assault, parental control of your decisions related to your body, and care being denied to a person on the LGBTQ+ spectrum).
5. Even though access to comprehensive sexuality education is a right, across Canada, it is often taught in an incomplete, inaccurate way that is not evidence-based or taught at every grade (or even school level).
6. Everyone has the right to determine if, when, and how they want to have a child. Unfortunately, in parts of Canada where access to abortion and assisted reproductive technologies is scarce, the options for making decisions around family planning are limited.
7. Access to safe and legal abortion is a human right that everyone is entitled to based on being human. In Canada, although this right is upheld by law, in practice abortion access is unevenly distributed geographically, making it challenging to access abortion if you live in a rural or remote area and do not have the economic means to travel.
8. Although this is a right that everyone is entitled to, sexual assault cases are often investigated in ways that blame the victim; only 3 out of 100 sexual assaults end in conviction (Patel, 2014). (For more information, see chapter 8).

