

Summary of the main points generated from the consultation meeting from the perspective of immigrant stakeholders (academic, health providers, and settlement service providers).

Issues and trends	Proposed solutions
<p>Immigrants as a heterogeneous socio-cultural group have varying risks for substance use based on socio-cultural and pre- and post-immigration experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the risk profile for each community • Identify and involve the community leaders and opinion shapers for each ethnic group address associated with substance use in the community. • Create awareness about the impact of substance use on family and community • Build capacity for community leaders to drive substance use interventions. • Support systems for parents to build capacity, especially for community organizations to support families struggling with addiction. • When discussing a sensitive topic such as substance use and addiction in the community, it should be handled with sensitivity due to cultural dynamics. • Conversations about substance use should not be judgmental and should focus on the positives to prevent alienating the affected community.
<p>Substance use among immigrants is a family problem (men are reported to abuse alcohol more than women; youth believe alcohol and marijuana use is expected in Canada).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create culturally safe support groups separated by gender • Family oriented approach to be applied in substance use prevention and treatment interventions • Help families identify and navigate risk factors for SUD-stress, mental health issues, acculturation. • Educate families on early signs of substance use • Build capacity for families to engage with loved ones on substance use issues
<p>Lack of knowledge of substance use and addiction, its risks, and impacts are a major concern</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create addiction content in the settlement services provided, such as English lessons • Engage settlement workers that have a pre-existing relationship with the communities in addressing substance use issues with the respective community • Organize knowledge-sharing events such as workshops on stigma reduction • Include substance use content for all

	<p>immigrants seeking services from the settlement agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amplify substance use and addiction problems immigrants have given the lack of race-based data on addiction.
<p>Religious and cultural expectations of substance use disorders create barriers to care and cause stigma and shame</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage faith-based organizations affiliated with the target community in substance use prevention interventions • Build capacity among ethnic leaders to be actively involved in the community process • Recruit trusted community leaders to provide support to those affected by addiction • Engaged people with lived experience in the community • Make the community take ownership of the substance use prevention interventions
<p>Lack of specific programs to address substance use and addiction among immigrants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an environmental scan to explore how other jurisdictions support immigrant parents' substance use treatment. • Encourage health care providers to screen for substance use risks and disorders • Use existing resources such as detox and pain clinics to increase access, such as HIPPIE • Create space for affected individuals to engage and support each other. • Provide access to timely youth counseling • Seek federal funding to create programs for substance use prevention among immigrants