



## Youth Safer Tattooing and Piercing Project

**The incidence of Hepatitis C after tattooing is directly linked with the number of tattoos an individual receives**

Approximately 8% of high school students have at least one tattoo and 21% of those who don't have one, want one. Given that in Nova Scotia, tattooing is not a regulated industry and with tattoos and tattooing parties so common, up to one fifth of the youth population are at risk of being exposed to Hepatitis or other infections.

The Safer Tattooing and Piercing project will work to lower the hepatitis infection rate in youth by helping participants to:

- understand the risk associated with tattooing and piercing and how to choose safer practices
- know how, where, when, and why to access testing for Hepatitis
- be aware of the stigma associated with living with Hepatitis and how to access supports for those living with and affected by Hepatitis

The Youth Safer Tattooing and Piercing project will target youth, aged 13 – 15, in schools, residential settings and community agencies. In year one the project will work with youth in the HRM and in the second year expand to the Northern and Cape Breton regions.

In collaboration with a youth working group this project will create a “train the trainer” model which will engage youth in actually presenting the materials to their peers. Youth will be involved as participants, in the development process, in presenting, and in the overall evaluation of the project.

For more information about this project, contact Carla Densmore, Program Coordinator at [program@hepatitisoutreach.com](mailto:program@hepatitisoutreach.com), search “**Hip not Hep**” on **facebook** to link, or through the:



Hepatitis Outreach Society of Nova Scotia

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