1. What Do We Know?
Youth in Southwest Norfolk age 14 to 21 years attend bush parties/bunches. At these bush parties youth drink alcohol, use drugs and engage in other risk-taking behaviours. Bush parties/bunches are often held at a parent’s home when the parents are away and literally hundreds of youth attend these parties.

2. What We Did?
We asked both low-German-speaking and English-speaking youth during lunch or during a health break in Grades 7, 8 and 9, to describe bush parties/bunches and their school and community.

3. Why Did We Ask Them?
We wanted to find out what the youth wanted in their community and school to make southwest Norfolk a better place for youth to live and play.

4. What We Found #1
Youth would like to have access to sports, recreational activities and art programs at, and outside of school.

5. What We Found #2
The barriers preventing youth from participating in sports, recreational activities and art programs are:
  - Activities not available.
  - No transportation.
  - Cannot afford to participate in organized sports.

6. What We Found #3
- Youth in southwest Norfolk get hurt by tractors and ATVs.
- Youth reported that it was safe to ride their bikes at night.

7. What We Found #4
- Youth hang out at bush parties/bunches at a parent’s home when the parents are away.
- Youth would prefer to go to another place to hang out, such as a skate park, rather than a bush party.

8. What We Found #5
Youth would like to have a youth drop-in centre that is easily accessible and governed by youth.

9. We Are Looking for Parents, Youth and Community Members to:
- sit on the All Youth Matter Committee that consists of representatives of parents, youth, schools, public health and other key stakeholders to make southwest Norfolk a better place for youth to live and play.

Would You Like To Help?
Please contact Marilyn Antkiw, Public Health Nurse at the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit, at 519-426-6170 Ext. 3252, or e-mail marilyn.antkiw@hnhu.org.


For more information, please contact Deanna Morris, Epidemiologist, Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit at 519-426-6170 Ext. 3215, or e-mail deanna.morris@hnhu.org.