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Mining the knowledge gap of Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections among Black youth in Canada

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Mining the knowledge gap of Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections among Black youth in Canada

My name is Bethlehem, and I am going into my second year of Masters in Health in Rehabilitation Sciences program here at Western.

I am conducting a research study to help improve knowledge and understanding about prevention and testing for Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (STBBIs) among Black youth in Canada. My goal is to find out what helps or inhibits youth in my community from taking preventive measures for STBBIs and to see how much this population already knows about these infections. I also want to understand the challenges Black youth face in accessing information about prevention and testing.

To investigate, I will be talking to Black through interviews and focus groups. As well as interviews with experts including nurses, doctors and community leaders. These discussions will cover topics like what makes it challenging or easy to learn about STBBIs, Black youth's thoughts on vaccines and treatments, and their experiences with getting information for STBBIs.

The findings from my research will be important for developing strategies that can help Black youth in Canada better understand and prevent these diseases. It will also contribute to the national goal of reducing the impact of these infections in Canada by 2030.