Objectives

• Understand why and how Safe in the Village (SITV) was developed

• Understand the key messages covered in SITV
The Need

• Alaskan youth experience high rates of sexually transmitted Diseases (STDs)
• STDs increase the risk of acquiring HIV
• If not treated STDs can have long term negative health outcomes
• Good news – prevention works!
• AN youth have lack access to evidence-based sexual health programs that are culturally and age appropriate

Overview

Goal
Create a culturally and age appropriate healthy relationship and sexual health program for Alaska Native high school aged youth

How?
➢ Understand sexual norms and risk/protective factors
➢ Use youth perspectives to develop a program that is relevant and meaningful for AN youth in rural communities
➢ Produce a program that is short and easily implemented
➢ Find out if the sexual health program changes self-reported knowledge, attitudes, perceptions and behaviors
Community Involvement

- Worked with tribal entities to obtain research approval and community support
- Asked local champions, community stakeholders and key informants for support
- Employed local site coordinators
- Involved Community Advisory Committee to provide guidance and input
Gathering of AN Youth Perspectives

- Alaska Area IRB approval and tribal approvals (October 2011 to September 2012)
- In-depth interviews
  - Key prevention messages for SITV
  - Basis for evaluation
- Cultural Consensus Surveys
  - Find out how much participants agree on key prevention messages

AN Youth Perspectives

Interviews with 97 youth ages 15-24
- Travel to 5 communities in southwestern and northern Alaska from August 2012 to May 2013

Key Prevention Messages
- **Sex and STIs** (e.g.: respect for other teen’s decision to delay sexual activity)
- **Interpersonal violence** (e.g.: stand up and speak up against acts of harassment)
- **Having trusted adults** (e.g.: it’s important to have a trusted adult within the family or community to talk to)
- **Alcohol abuse** (e.g.: it’s ok to say no to drinking and using drugs and still have friends to hang out with)
SITV Production

- July 2013 to June 2014
- Hired local production company Mirror Studios
- Developed script based on youth interviews
- Advisory committee reviewed script
- Once the advisory committee approved the final script filming began in Anchorage and Kotzebue
- Post-production editing