WE R NATIVE PROGRAM

General Information about the Interviews
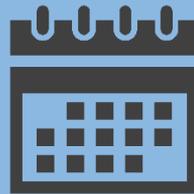
6 Participants

7 Questions

40-50 Minute Sessions

6 of 6 Sites Represented

Feb - Mar Interviews Occurred

Key Staff Interview Questions

Key Staff Overall Reflections

Overall a Positive Experience

Youth very engaged in the digital story

Older Youth Took on Mentorship Role

Youth Receptive to Lessons

Able Integrate Community Resources into Programming

What would you say worked well leading the We R Native (WRN) Program?

Facilitator Feedback:

- Revised curriculum was easy to use teaching topics not taught at school
- The added cultural components
- Good internet accessibility at school
- Partnered with youth work program

Facilitator Feedback:

- Revised curriculum was easy to use teaching topics not taught at school
- The added cultural components
- Good internet accessibility at school
- Partnered with youth work program

"I showed videos from We R Native about how to put the condoms on. They said they've always heard to wear a condom but no one told them how to put them on."

"Games opened them up—participated more and less side conversations going on—gave a competitiveness to it."

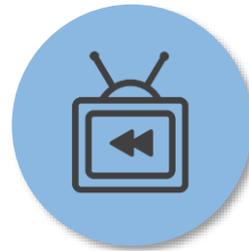## What parts of implementing the WRN program could be improved?
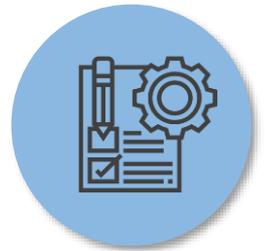
Too much paperwork (worksheets, handouts)

More flexibility with implementing sessions
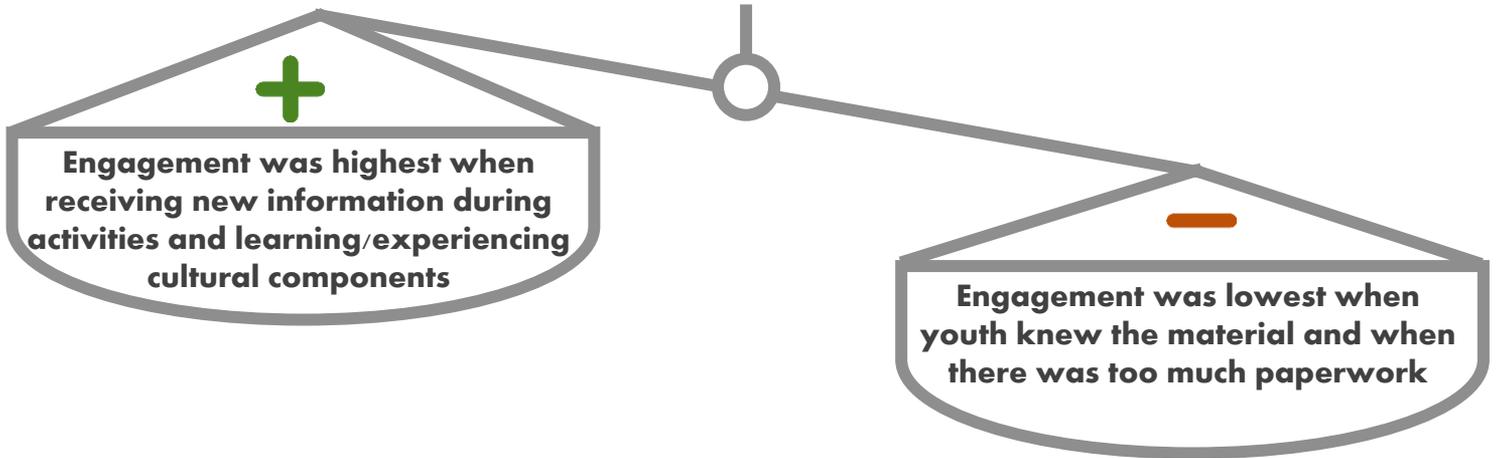
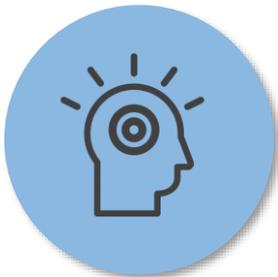More hands-on activities and games

Have videos available off-line

Evaluation materials in one location

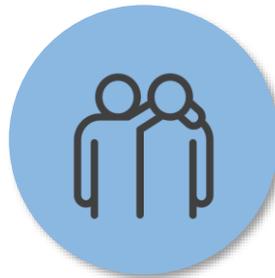## How would you describe the youth participants' level of engagement over the course of the We R Native program?

+

Engagement was highest when receiving new information during activities and learning/experiencing cultural components

—

Engagement was lowest when youth knew the material and when there was too much paperwork

Most significant change after attending We R Native

Increased Knowledge

Greater Awareness of Community Resources

Formed Friendships

Strengthen Youth-Facilitator Relationships

"What We R Native does is it passes the torch-It doesn't always end with trauma and hurt it starts with you. They can impact themselves and their own community. That they can make a change"

"Couple kids in [program] that are lingering on the side of bully. Not that they're a straight out a bully but they've said that they've watched that. [They] noted that they can say things that bother their classmates. [They're} more aware of how they respond to people and how they act."

In what ways did you integrate cultural teachings into the WRN Program

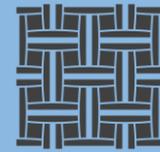**Many Ways!!!**

Some Examples Included...

Telling Stories
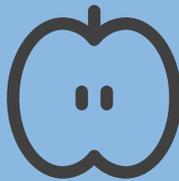
Medicine Wheel

7 Grandfather Teachings

Smudging

Basket Weaving

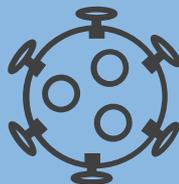**Guest Speakers**

Food and Nutrition Packs

Music

> **"When we set group rules we worked by the 7 grandfather teachings, [we] wanted to include those values. So we would reflect on that in every lessons and we would read over what each of the grandfather teachings meant"**

> **"For the stand strong lesson we had them decorate a feather—good positive things about themselves. Put them on the wall and they looked like angel winds and then kids took pictures of themselves with the wings behind"**

What challenges did you face when implementing the WRN program?

Internet and Wi-Fi Accessibility

COVID-19 restrictions

Low youth engagement for some lessons

During the review of the interviews several common topics emerged. Below are the themes.

Curriculum Adaptations

Facilitator Adaptations:

- Added Information to Lessons
- Course Length
- Demonstrations
- Youth Feedback to Develop Lessons
- Changing the Order of Lessons
- Reflections/Journaling Activities
- Videos
- Youth Mentorship

Hit or Miss Lessons:

Media Safety

Bullying

Cultural Teachings

How they were completed:

- Included activities outside of the program lesson
- Integrated cultural activities into lessons

Youth Response:

- Overall positive
- Many youth enjoyed the hands-on opportunities

Common Activities:

Short Stories/Poems

Smudging

Guest Speakers

Seven Grandfather Teachings

Overall Themes

Program Impacts

Community

- Changed Outlook/ Hope
- Community Investment in We R Native Program
- Increase School Staff Interest in Program

Youth

- Decreased Bullying
- More respectful Youth Interactions
- Increased Knowledge of WRN Core Components

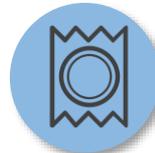## Program Successes

Technology for virtual connections

Incentives increased recruitment

High Youth Participation

Topics of Interest to Youth

Sexual Health

Healthy Relationships

Suicide Prevention

Recommendations for Others

Youth Engagement Strategies:

- Incentives/Food
- Games, Videos, and Groups Activities during Lessons
- Be relatable approachable engage in mentoring relationships with youth

- LGBTQ+ Information in the Curriculum
- Follow-Up with Activities
- Post-Activity Discussions