

Colville Tribes Increase Child Safety Seat Use on Reservation

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Introduction

The Colville Confederated Tribes, in Washington State, was one of six tribes to implement the Native Children Always Ride Safe study (**Native CARS**), which aimed to increase proper child safety seat use in tribal communities.

Process

We used vehicle survey data and community member interviews to design & implement interventions. Child safety seat use was evaluated at baseline, post-intervention, and after the tribe was in the maintenance phase of the study.

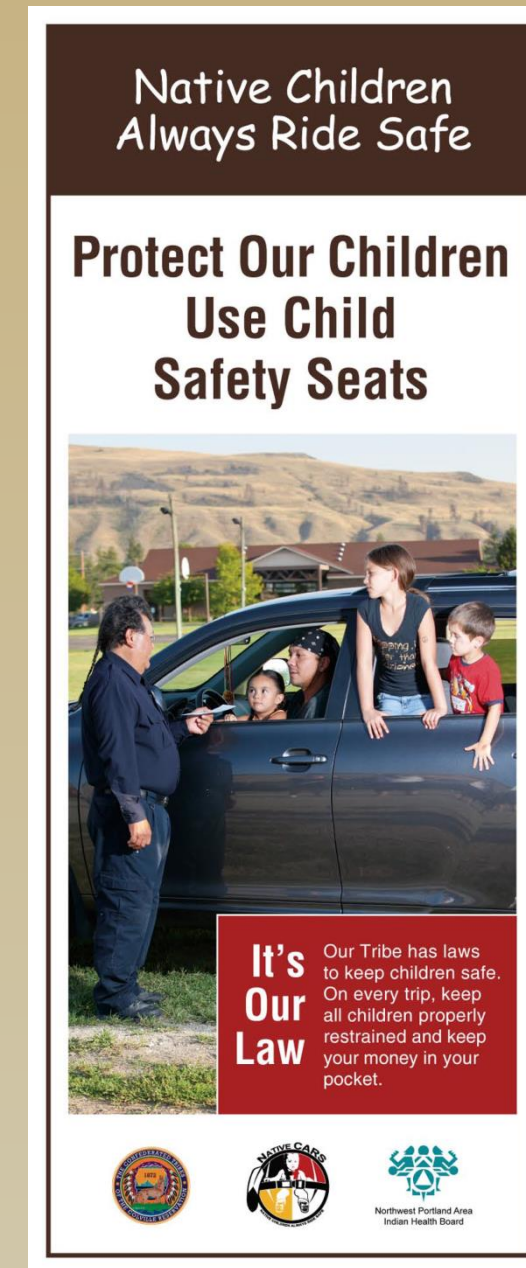
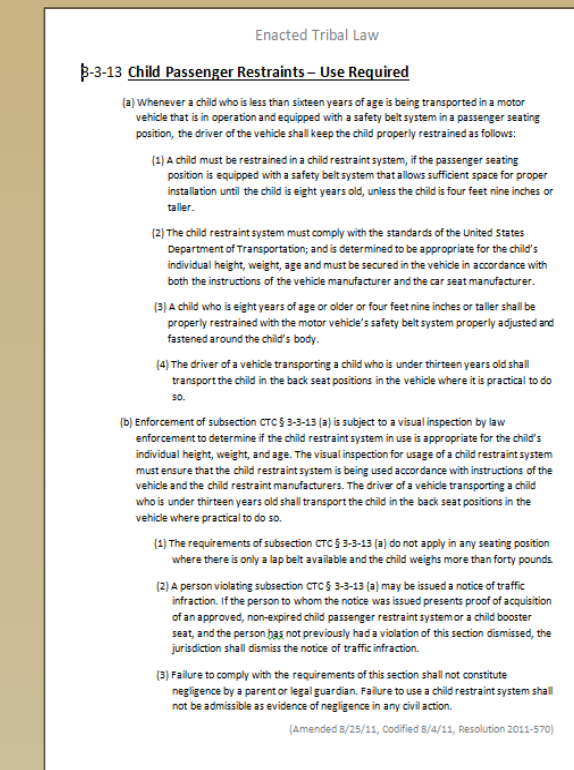
Next Steps

Colville is planning a media campaign to increase awareness of the child passenger safety law. Tribal Police will be increasing enforcement of the law, with the goal of eliminating the gap between on-reservation and off-reservation child safety seat use.

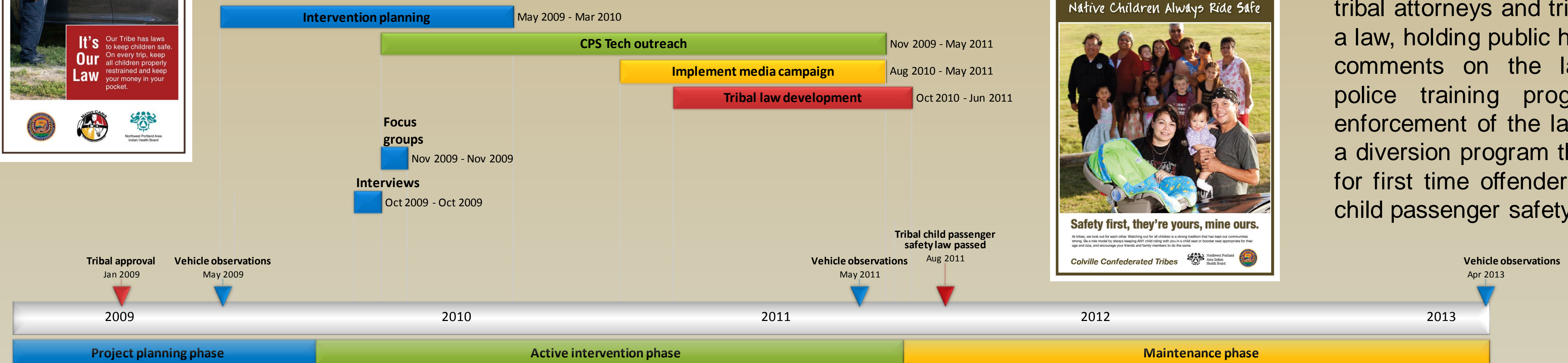
The Colville Tribes will be disseminating their successful processes and intervention materials with the other five tribes who participated in the **Native CARS** study. Materials and methods will be available at nativecars.org

Colville Tribal Child Passenger Law

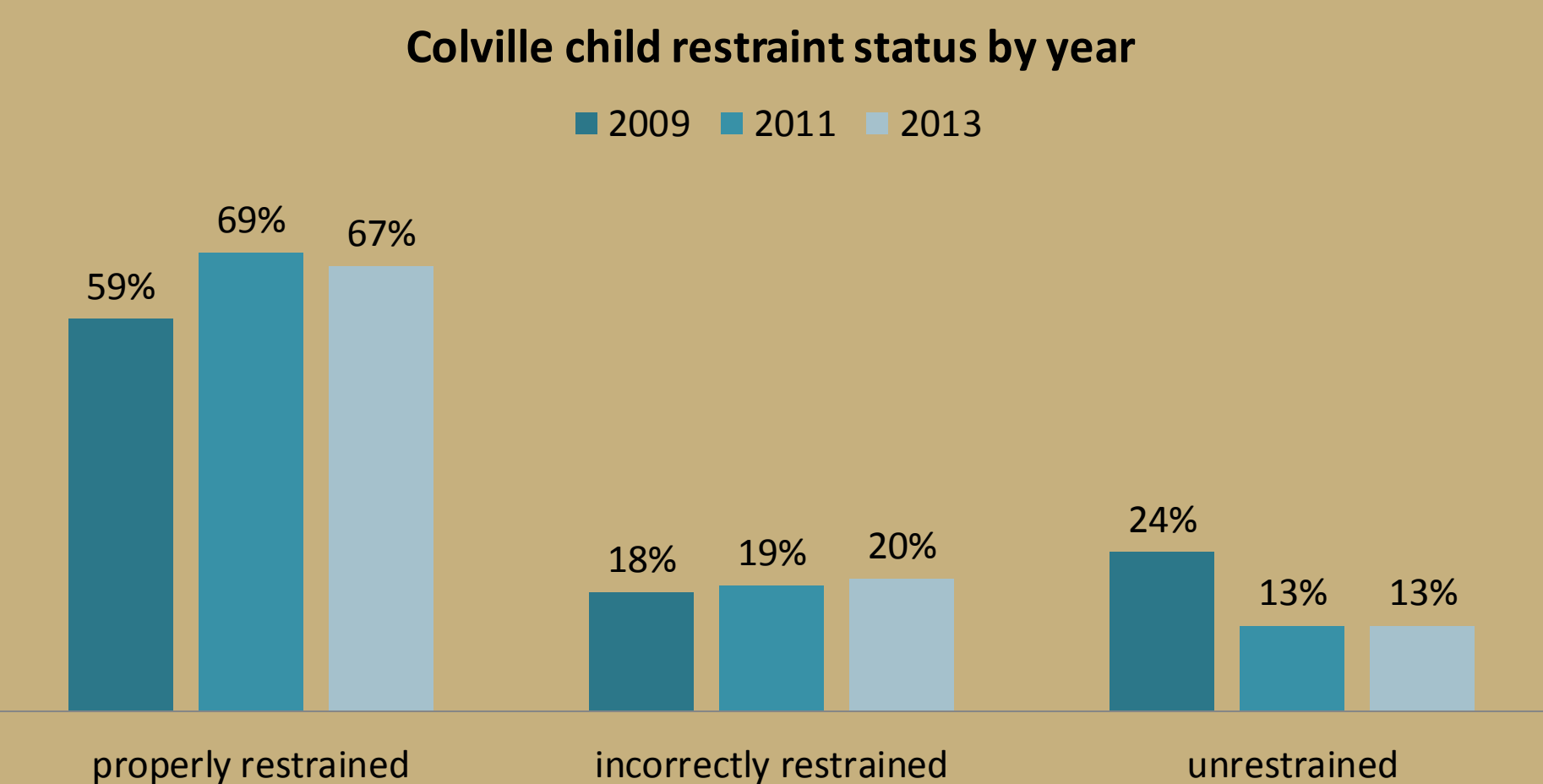
A lasting victory for the Colville **Native CARS** project is the development and implementation of a primary tribal child passenger safety law. This two year process involved assessing community support for the law (98% of drivers surveyed said they would support a tribal child safety seat law), working with tribal attorneys and tribal council to draft a law, holding public hearings to listen to comments on the law, developing a police training program to facilitate enforcement of the law, and developing a diversion program that waives the fine for first time offenders who complete a child passenger safety training course.



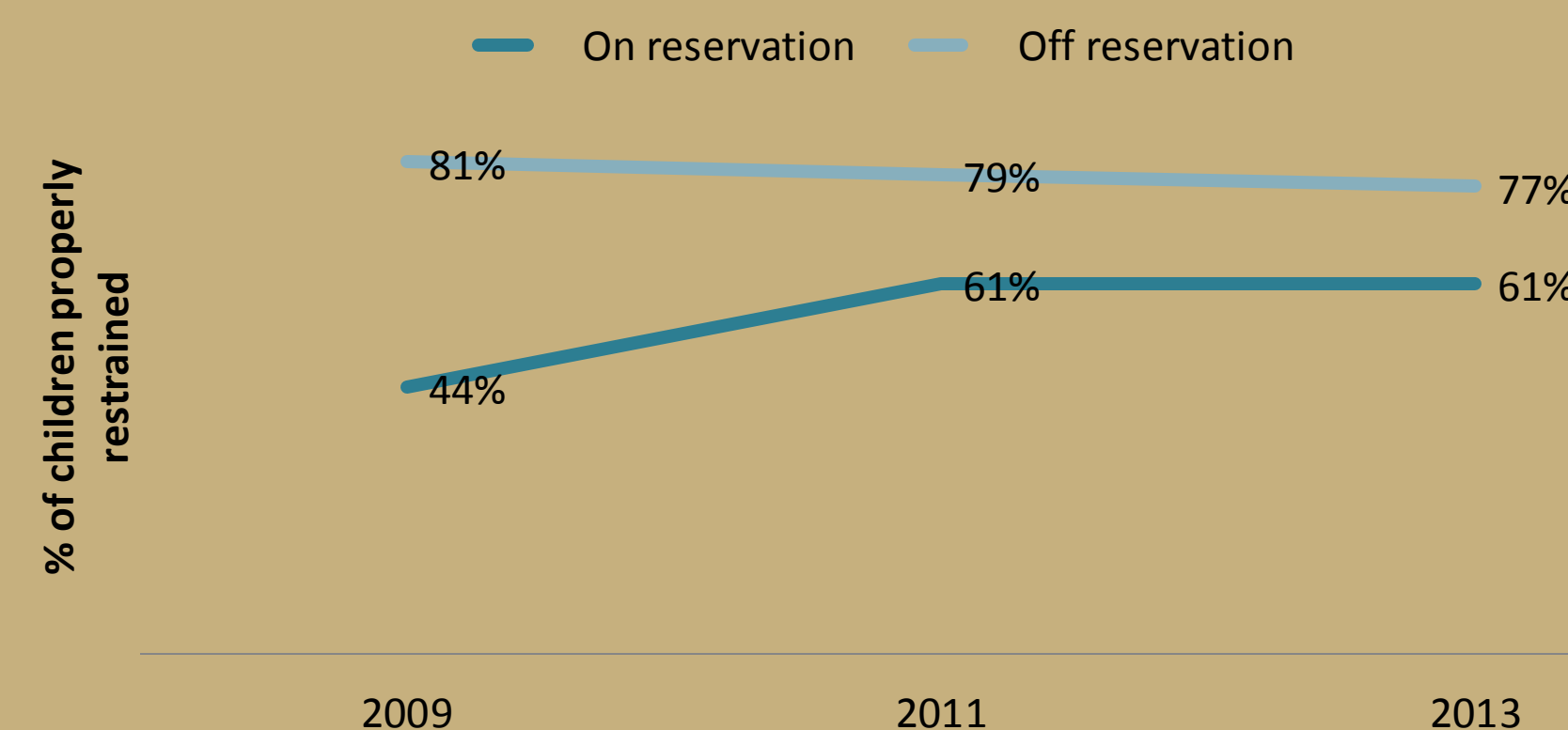
Colville Native CARS Timeline



Were interventions successful?



Did child safety seat use increase on the Colville Reservation?

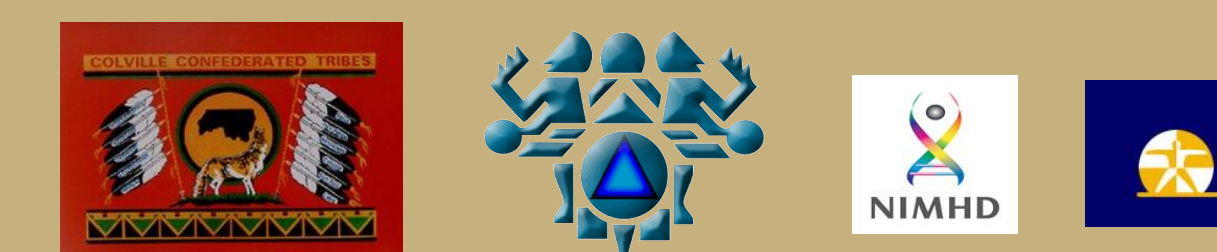


Making a Difference

A county firefighter/EMT responded to a crash involving a Native child who survived because he was properly secured in his child safety seat. The mother reported that she received the seat from the tribe's Native CARS project, and the project coordinator, a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, had shown her how to install and use it correctly. The firefighter's message to the tech was, "I routinely tell myself that if I make a difference in how one parent safely transports their child, then I've succeeded. You deserve a pat on the back and a hug from this kid when he's older for this one."

Funding & Partnership

Native CARS is a research study funded by the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities and is partnered with Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center, and six Northwest tribes.



Statistically significant increase in properly restrained children (Chi Square p-value=0.01)
 Significantly greater increase compared to control tribes (data not shown)

Statistically significant increase in properly restrained children traveling on reservation (Chi Square p-value<0.001) compared to no significant change in the off-reservation portion of Omak, a border town