



July 1, 2008

Dear Colleague,

On Tuesday, June 24, the online journal *PLoS Medicine* published [an article](#) on the findings of the multi-site *Safe in the City* waiting room video intervention trial, showing an almost 10% reduction in new Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) among STD clinic patients who were exposed to the video. The purpose of this letter is to call your attention to this important study, encourage you to view the video at www.safeinthecity.org, and, if you are an STD clinic manager, to incorporate this effective intervention into your clinic routine.

Safe in the City is a 23-minute HIV/STD prevention video designed for STD clinics that can be easily integrated into the clinic waiting room, requires very little staff time to set up with no disruption to clinic flow, and requires no counseling or small-group facilitation. Designed as a looping video, it contains three interwoven vignettes that model young couples of diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientations in various types of relationships negotiating safer sexual behaviors.

Video interventions in clinic settings offer a practical mechanism for delivering HIV/STD prevention messages because of their relative low cost and ease of implementation, likely acceptability, and high likelihood of being adopted and sustained over time. Additional details on *Safe in the City* can be found at www.safeinthecity.org. A kit that includes a programmable DVD, posters, and a users guide is available for prevention providers. To request a kit, please visit www.effectiveinterventions.org. Initial priority for kit shipment will be given to publicly-funded STD clinics. Later this year, the intervention will be made available to community-based organizations trained on the VOICES/VOCES intervention, as *Safe in the City* meets the alternate video requirements for this intervention.

The National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) is committed to ensuring that STD clinics have the necessary equipment for this intervention. Therefore, grantees may use STD prevention funds to purchase DVD players to implement the *Safe in the City* intervention.

We strongly encourage local STD clinics to become familiar with *Safe in the City*, to consider implementing this intervention in your clinic, and to contact STD prevention program consultants at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with additional questions or need for technical assistance.

Sincerely,

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