

***Food Safety Compliance Levels Among
Tribal Nations in the Oklahoma City Area
Indian Health Service***

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Background

- Tribal nations are not required to have an adopted food code unless the food establishment is serving food within a casino.
- The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) regulates tribal gaming facilities on Indian lands.
- 28 tribes in the Oklahoma City area Indian Health Service (OKC-IHS) receive Office of Environmental Health (OEH) direct services.
- An estimated 3,566,315 meals are served per year at 65 foodservice facilities Pawnee/Miami IHS Service Area.

Problem Statement

- Of the 28 tribal nations in Oklahoma who receive IHS, OEH Services, only 8% have an adopted food code.
- This study addressed the level of compliance of FDA foodborne illness risk factors among foodservice operations who have an implemented food code and facilities that do not.



Research Questions

1. Does adoption of an approved food code increase or decrease the level of compliance in regards to the FDA foodborne illness risk factors?
2. How do critical violations compare between casino food service and non-casino food service operations?

Methodology

- Secondary Data Analysis
- Web Based Environmental Health Reporting System
 - Time Frame: January 2010—October 2011
 - Tribal Food Code Adoption
 - Foodborne Illness Risk Factor Violation Frequencies

Study Population

Adopted Food Code

- Tribe #1
- Tribe #2
- Tribal nations within the Pawnee and Shawnee Service Units

No Adopted Food Code

- Tribe #3
- Tribe #4

Tribal Facilities

- Regulated Facilities (Type 47): NIGC has enforcement capabilities on all gaming facilities.
- Non-Regulated Facilities (Type 80): Non-Gaming facilities are surveyed by IHS-Environmental Health Officer's. These include all non-gaming foodservice facilities.

	47 (Regulated)	80 (Non-Regulated)	Total
Tribe #1	9	3	12
Tribe #2	1	3	4
Tribe #3	7	3	10
Tribe #4	5	4	9

Results

- Highest Frequency: Improper Holding Temperatures
- Lowest Frequency: Food from Unsafe Source



Conclusions

- Low rate of food code adoptions among tribes in the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service.
- Significantly higher number of risk factor violations for the facilities without an adopted food code.

Recommendations

- Implement additional education for risk factors with high violation count.
- Additional research across remaining IHS Areas.
- Assist tribal leadership with food code adoption.

References

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Questions

