

### **Abstract**

This study of the *Shigella sonnei* outbreak on three American Indian (AI) Reservations in 2006 was completed to understand the barriers to effective Tribal integration into the local-state-federal public health unit; to find potential strategies to help Tribal integration; and to determine if enough data was gained to develop a baseline for the development of a Model Plan and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for such integration. The three sites varied in both the process of integration and interaction of the jurisdictions. The states and Tribes played different roles, based on differing public health laws and stages of Tribal development of their public health capacity. Challenging legal issues include: HIPPA laws; interpretation of sovereignty; and separate legal systems (Tribal verses non-Tribal). The areas where improvements can be made include: communication; relationships between jurisdictions; definition of roles of each jurisdiction; and improving the understanding of the different legal systems.