

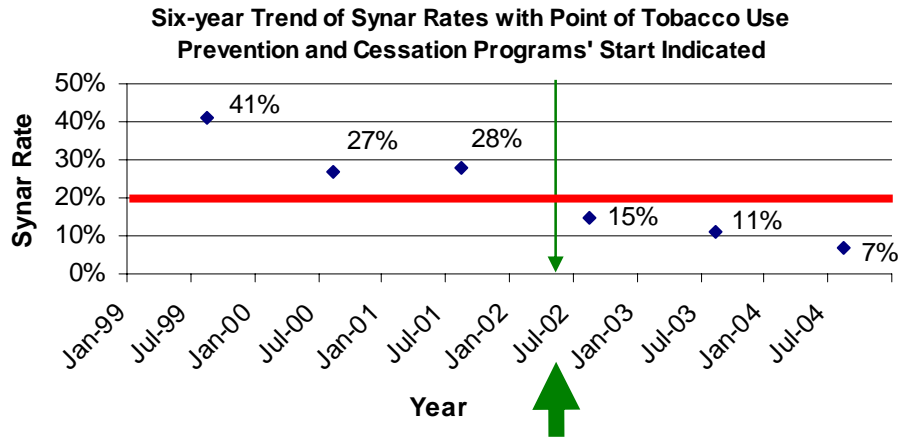


A Program of Washington County Health Partners

## Effect of Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Programs on Pennsylvania's Synar Rate

The Synar Amendment (Section 1926 of the Public Health Service Act--45 CFR 96.130) is a law passed by Congress in 1992 requiring each state to have and enforce an effective law prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to children under the age of 18 years of age. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administers the law through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant Program.

Section 1926 also stipulates that any state failing to meet the requirements (currently inspection failure rate of less than 20% of outlets accessible to youth), may receive a 40% penalty against their SAPT Block Grant.



Enforcement checks funded by MSA dollars began in 2002 (green arrows). If Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation MSA funds are cut and enforcement checks discontinue, the rate will likely return to pre-2002 (above red line), and a penalty would be assessed by SAMHSA.<sup>1</sup> Since total Allocations for PA SAPT Block Grant SFY 04/05 is \$52,270,500, a **40% reduction would roughly translate into \$21 million lost dollars.**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sbarra, Cheryl, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, Abstract, March 2004. <http://www.mahb.org/tobacco/sales%20to%20minors%20study%20abstract.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Please note that this is a separate stream of funding, reserved for drug and alcohol only.