

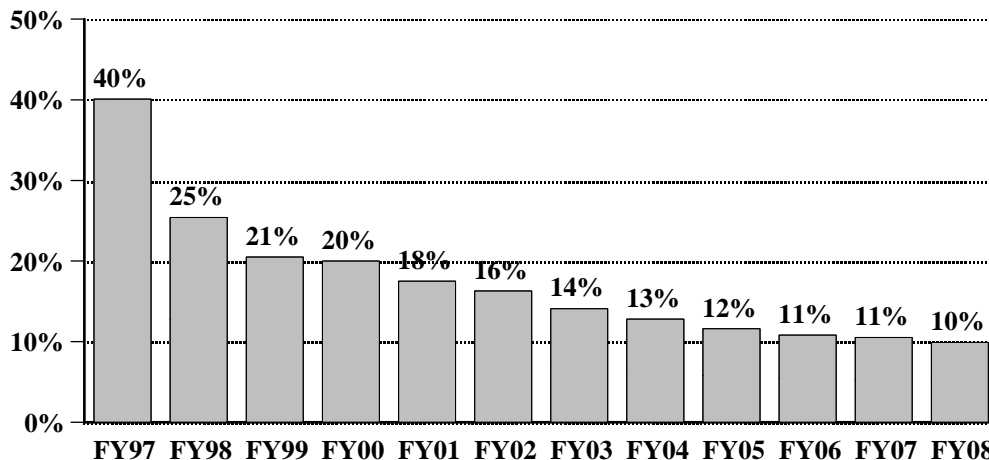
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Tobacco Sales to Minors Continue to Decline; Reach Record Low in FY08

The Synar Amendment requires states to have laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to those younger than 18 and to conduct annual random, unannounced inspections of a valid sample of tobacco retailers to ensure compliance with these laws. The average national retailer violation rate* from these inspections has decreased steadily, from 40% in FY97 (when regulations from the Synar Amendment were implemented by SAMHSA) to a new low of 10% in FY08 (see figure below). In FY08, violation rates ranged from 4% (Montana) to 17% (Ohio). The report notes that States with low violation rates are most likely to have a comprehensive, well-coordinated, and diverse tobacco access control program and that SAMHSA will continue to provide technical assistance to the States, “with the goal of eliminating the availability of tobacco products to minors, and so spare future generations the long-term disease and death attributable to tobacco use” (p. 15).

Tobacco Retailer Violation Rate, National Weighted Average, FY97 to FY08



*The average national retailer violation rate was calculated by weighting each State's reported retailer violation rate by that State's population.

NOTE: Tobacco retailer inspection years are in federal fiscal years, which run from 10/1 to 9/30.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), *FFY 2008 Annual Synar Reports: Youth Tobacco Sales*, 2009. Available online at <http://prevention.samhsa.gov/tobacco/synarreportfy2008.pdf>.

• 301-405-9770 (voice) • 301-403-8342 (fax) • CESAR@cesar.umd.edu • www.cesar.umd.edu •
CESAR FAX may be copied without permission. Please cite CESAR as the source.

The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant BJAG 2005-1206. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State agency.