

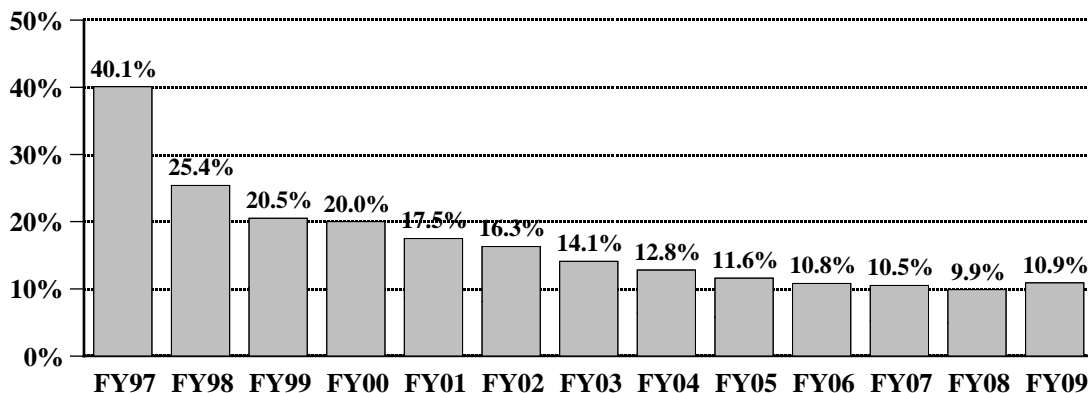
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

National Tobacco Sales to Minors No Longer Declining

The percentage of national tobacco retailers selling to minors appears to have leveled off, according to data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Since FY97 states have been required under the Synar Amendment to conduct annual random, unannounced inspections of a valid sample of tobacco retailers to ensure that tobacco products are not sold to persons younger than age 18. The average national retailer violation rate* from these inspections decreased from 40.1% in FY97 to 10.8% in FY06. From FY06 to FY09, however, the rate remained stable at around 10.5% (see figure below). According to SAMHSA, this plateau may be the result of decreases in State spending on enforcement of youth tobacco access laws as well as spending on comprehensive tobacco control programs in general.

Tobacco Retailer Violation Rate, National Weighted Average, FY97 to FY09



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

NOTES: Tobacco retailer inspection years are in federal fiscal years, which run from 10/1 to 9/30. In FY09, violation rates ranged from 1.6% (North Dakota) to 18.8% (Oregon).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), *FFY 2009 Annual Synar Reports: Youth Tobacco Sales*, 2010. Available online at <http://prevention.samhsa.gov/tobacco/synarreportfy2009.pdf>.

CESAR Recruiting PI-Level NIH Researcher

CESAR is seeking a PI-level NIH researcher who will relocate to CESAR and CAPER (Center for Addictions, Personality, and Emotion Research) with their existing grants and/or collaborate with CESAR/CAPER staff in obtaining new funding. Multi-year seed funding is possible. If you have a proven funding track record and are interested in working in a supportive and stimulating university-based team environment, please send a letter of interest and a resume to Dr. Eric Wish at CESAR, 4321 Hartwick Rd, Ste 501, College Park, MD 20740; 301-403-8342 (fax); cesar@cesar.umd.edu.