

Michigan Department of Community Health
Office of Drug Control Policy
Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2006
SYNAR Youth Tobacco Sales Rates

Agency	Fiscal Year				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Detroit Dept. of Health	25%	20%	6%	15%	7%
Genesee County CMH & HD ¹	12%	38%	21%	13%	4%
Kalamazoo County CMH	6%	11%	4%	11%	14%
Lakeshore Coord. Council	28%	29%	26%	23%	9%
Macomb County CMH	15%	8%	21%	9%	14%
Mid-South Substance Abuse	21%	20%	29%	17%	11%
network180/Kent Co. CMH	15%	17%	26%	14%	14%
Northern MI Sub. Abuse	19%	16%	19%	15%	10%
Oakland County Health Div.	10%	15%	10%	8%	16%
Pathways Substance Abuse	15%	10%	19%	50%	20%
Riverhaven/BABH	n/a	28%	17%	17%	27%
Saginaw County Health Dept.	12%	13%	15%	40%	11%
Southeast MI Comm. Alliance	11%	22%	25%	13%	18%
St. Clair County Health Div.	10%	29%	6%	14%	14%
Washtenaw Comm. Hlth Org.	20%	20%	57%	6%	37%
Western U.P. Sub. Abuse	7%	0%	0%	44%	18%
Statewide Rate	15.7%	18.7%	19.4%	15.0%	14.5%

¹ Data reported for Genesee County CMH and Genesee County Health Department have been combined for this table.

NOTE: Fluctuation in rates is often a result of small sample sizes.

Background: Federal law requires all states that receive substance abuse block grant funds to conduct an annual "survey" of tobacco retailers to determine the percentage of retailers who would sell cigarettes to people under age 18. These surveys involve under-age persons attempting to purchase cigarettes. If a state's illegal sales rate is higher than 20%, the state stands to lose 40% of its block grant funds. This would amount to about \$23,000,000 for Michigan.

Since the mid-1990's, Coordinating Agencies, in partnership with local law enforcement and community anti-smoking groups, have been implementing strategies aimed at persuading retailers to come into wider compliance with state law prohibiting sales of tobacco products to people under age 18. The initial statewide survey found an illegal sales rate of greater than 60%. The 2001 rate was just above the 20% federal target, which resulted in a negotiated agreement that the state would expand its anti-illegal sales efforts by \$2.7 in state funds. The 2006 rate of 14.5% is the lowest SYNAR survey rate for Michigan to date.

The annual survey is based on a statewide sample of approximately 600 tobacco retailers. The number of retailers surveyed in each CA region is not necessarily proportionate to size of region, and the number surveyed per CA is not necessarily consistent from year to year. This is one factor accounting for the variation in rates within CAs over time.