

FACT SHEET

Limiting Youth Access to Tobacco Products

Restrictions Limit Youth Access to Tobacco Products

Wyoming's youth access law was first enacted in 1986 with Wyoming State Statutes 14-3-301 through 14-3-308.¹ The statutes prohibit individuals from selling or delivering tobacco products to minors, and they prohibit minors from purchasing, possessing, or using tobacco.¹

In 1992, federal legislators passed the Synar Amendment (Section 1926 of Title XIX, Federal Public Health Service Act). The Synar Amendment requires that states²

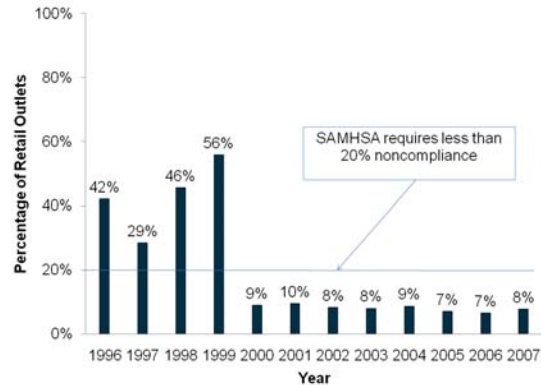
- Have in effect a law prohibiting any manufacturer, retailer, or distributor of tobacco products from selling or distributing such products to any individual under the age of 18.
- Enforce such laws in a manner that will reduce the extent to which tobacco products are available to individuals under the age of 18.
- Conduct annual, random, unannounced inspections to ensure compliance with the law. These inspections should be conducted on a valid sample of outlets accessible to youth.
- Develop a strategy and timeframe for achieving an inspection failure rate of less than 20% of outlets accessible to youth.

Wyoming in Compliance with Synar Amendment

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), oversees state compliance with the Synar Amendment.²

Since 2000, Wyoming tobacco retailer noncompliance rates have been much lower than the 20% threshold set by SAMHSA.³

Synar Noncompliance Rates, 1996–2007³



Beginning in 2003, the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP), in collaboration with local law enforcement, began conducting additional compliance inspections. Unlike Synar inspections, these compliance checks allowed law enforcement officers to issue citations to merchants who sold to minors.

The number of tobacco retailers checked by WASCOP has increased every year and compliance rates have been high.⁴

Results of WASCOP Compliance Inspections, 2003–2007⁴

	Number of retailers checked	Compliance rate
2003	339	85%
2004	618	88%
2005	754	85%
2006	760	89%
2007	1,025	88%

Continued on other side

WYSAC Fact Sheet: Limiting Youth Access to Tobacco Products/School Policies

Corresponding to WYSAC Issue Brief #2008-02

Produced for the Wyoming Dept. of Health

March 2008



Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center

University of Wyoming • Department 3925
1000 E. University Ave. • Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-2189 • e-mail: wysac@uwyo.edu

www.uwyo.edu/wysac

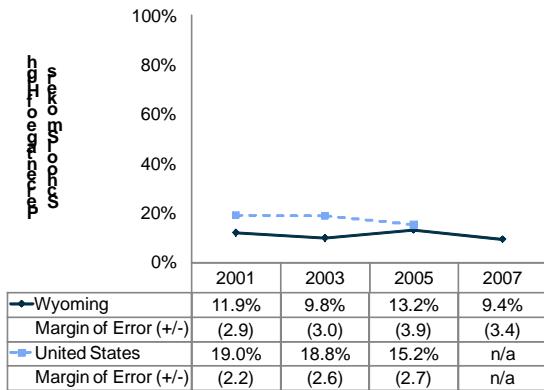
FACT SHEET cont.

Youth Report Low Purchase Rates

The percentage of Wyoming and U.S. high school smokers who reported purchasing their own cigarettes in a store or gas station has not significantly changed since 2001.^{5,6*}

- In 2005, 13% of Wyoming high school smokers and 15% of U.S. high school smokers reported purchasing their own cigarettes in a store or gas station.^{5,6}

Percentage of High School Smokers Who Reported They Usually Bought Their Cigarettes in a Store or Gas Station during the Past 30 Days, 2001–2007^{5,6†}



Youth Tobacco Use on School Property Declining

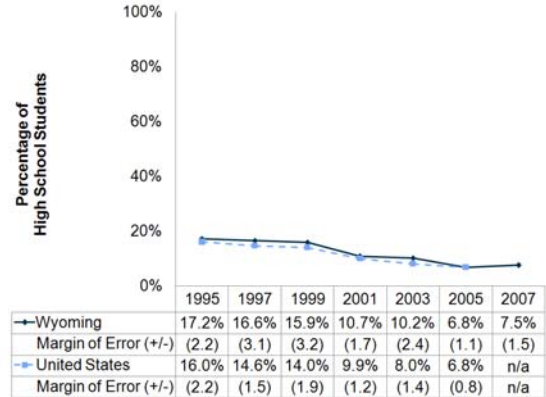
Both in Wyoming and in the United States, cigarette use on school property has steadily declined since 1995.^{5,6}

- In 2005, only 7% of Wyoming and U.S. high school students reported smoking cigarettes on school property in the past 30 days.^{5,6}

*National 2007 YRBSS data will not be available until June 2008. Therefore, throughout this fact sheet, we report data through 2007 for Wyoming and data through 2005 for the U.S.

†Among students who are younger than 18 and who are current smokers.

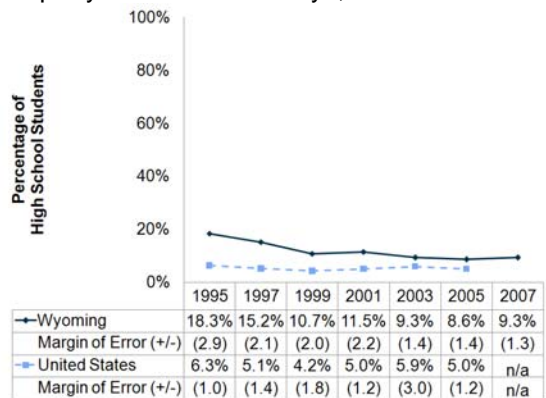
Percentage of High School Students Who Reported Cigarette Use on School Property in the Past 30 Days, 1995–2007^{5,6}



From 1995 to 1999, Wyoming saw a seven percentage point decrease in smokeless tobacco use on school property; however, since 1999, rates have been fairly stable, and Wyoming's rates remain higher than national averages.^{5,6}

- In 2005, 9% of Wyoming high school students reported using smokeless tobacco on school property in the past 30 days, compared to the U.S. average of 5%.^{5,6}

Percentage of High School Students Who Reported Smokeless Tobacco Use on School Property in the Past 30 Days, 1995–2007^{5,6}



WYSAC Fact Sheet: Limiting Youth Access to Tobacco Products/School Policies
Corresponding to WYSAC Issue Brief #2008-02
Produced for the Wyoming Dept. of Health
March 2008



Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center
University of Wyoming • Department 3925
1000 E. University Ave. • Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-2189 • e-mail: wysac@uwyo.edu
www.uwyo.edu/wysac

1. Wyoming Legislative Service Office. (n.d.). *Title 14—Children*. Retrieved December 7, 2006, from <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/statutes.aspx?file=titles/Title14/Title14.htm>
2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. (n.d.) *Tobacco/Synar*. Retrieved August 2, 2006 from <http://prevention.samhsa.gov/tobacco/require.aspx>
3. WYSAC. (2007). *Wyoming's 2007 Synar tobacco compliance report*, by T. C. Cook & L. H. Despain. (WYSAC Technical Report No. CHES-721). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.
4. Wyoming Department of Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division. (2007). *Report to the joint labor, health, and social services interim committee: Report on tobacco settlement funds: Tobacco prevention and control program* by R. McDaniel & G. Pitt. Cheyenne, WY: Author.
5. *Wyoming Youth Risk Behavior Survey*. [Data File 2001–2007]. (2007). Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming Department of Education. Retrieved January 4, 2008 from <http://www.k12.wy.us/HS/yrbss/yrbss.asp>
6. *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System*. [Data File 1991–2005]. (2005). Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved June 21, 2006, from <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbss/index.htm>