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Negative Impacts when Reduce/Eliminate State-funded Tobacco Control Programs

States that severely cut or eliminated their statewide tobacco control program, put their constituents' health at risk, and caused immediate and long-term NEGATIVE health effects. **Of alarming concern is that increased teen and adult smoking rates resulted**, when five states severely cut or eliminated their state tobacco control programs, as reported by Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids¹. California, Massachusetts, Florida, Indiana, Minnesota:

- **CALIFORNIA cut its tobacco control state program's in the mid 1990's**, which stalled its progress in reducing adult and youth smoking rates.
 - **Between 1994 and 1996, no significant decline in smoking rates. Back on track when program funding was partially restored.**
 - Progress also halted between 2002 and 2005, following large cuts in 2003; **smoking among high school students increased from 13.2 % to 15.4%** between 2004 and 2006, and **declines in cigarette consumption came to a virtual standstill** between 2002 and 2005.
- **In 2004, MASSACHUSETTS, cut its tobacco control program to \$2.5 million.** This drastic reduction in funding has taken its toll in Massachusetts:
 - Reductions in youth smoking stalled; cigarette consumption increased.
 - Sales of tobacco to youth dramatically increased.
- **In 2003, FLORIDA virtually ended their highly successful program that focused on youth prevention:**
 - **Progress in reducing youth smoking rates has continued to be slow** in recent years as funding for the program remained minimal.
 - Cigarette use among middle school and high school students decreased faster between 1998 and 2001 than during 2002-2005.
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- **In 2004, INDIANA cut funding its highly effective program by almost 70%.** Subsequently, progress in reducing smoking rates stalled:
 - Adult smoking rates in Indiana declined by more than 10 % between 2002 and 2004, but declines reversed after funding was cut in Fiscal Year 2004. **Indiana's adult smoking rate is one of the nation's highest at 26.1 %.**
 - **Smoking among high school students** declined by 32.5 % between 2000 and 2004 from 31.6 % to 21.6 %, but **increased in 2006 to 23.9 %.**
- **In 2003, MINNESOTA reduced its program from \$23.7 million to \$4.6 million.** The Target Market campaign, the linchpin of the program, was eliminated:
 - Just six months afterward, awareness of the Target Market campaign among 12-17 year olds had already declined from 84.5 % to 56.5 %.
 - **Youth susceptibility to smoking increased by 22 %.**

¹ <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0270.pdf>