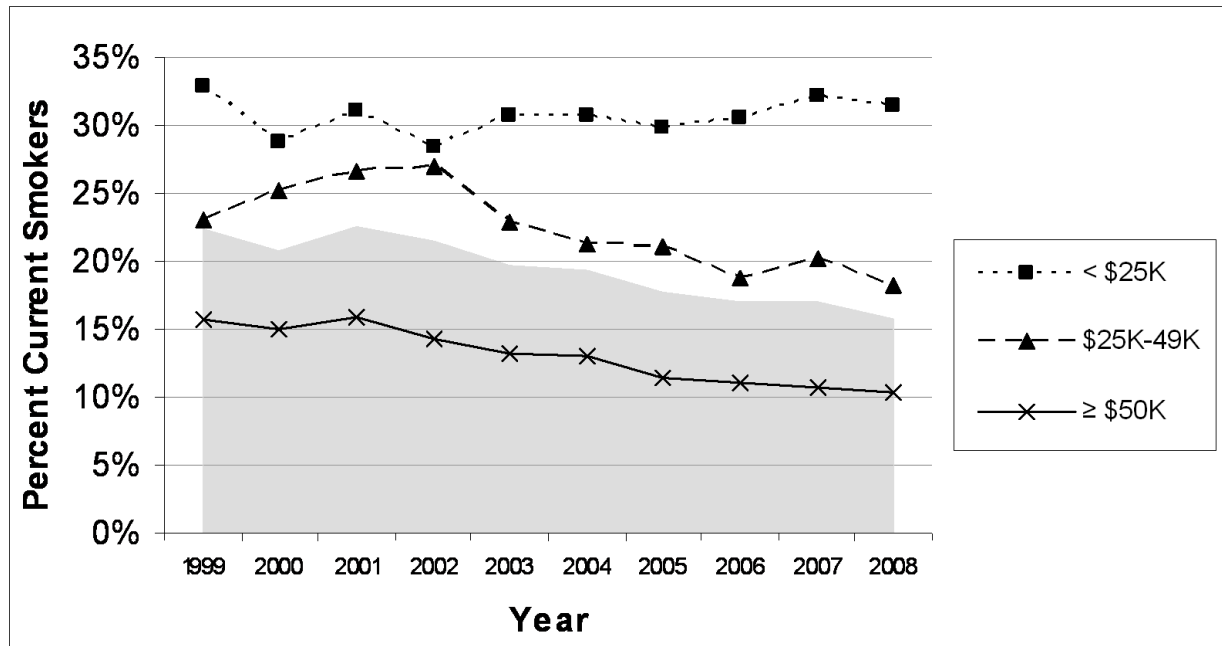


What You Can Tell Your Legislator

Key talking points in bold:

- **The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program supports activities in all counties, and almost all school districts, and tribes**
Local tobacco prevention and control activities have been funded by the State tobacco program since 2000.
- **There are many people in WA State who still need help.**
While smoking rates have dropped by almost a third, there are many groups and populations that continue to be excessively burdened by tobacco use (low income/education, racial-ethnic minority groups, pregnant women). The State smoking rate is just over 15%. The rates among some of these disparately affected groups are more than double the overall state rate.

Example:



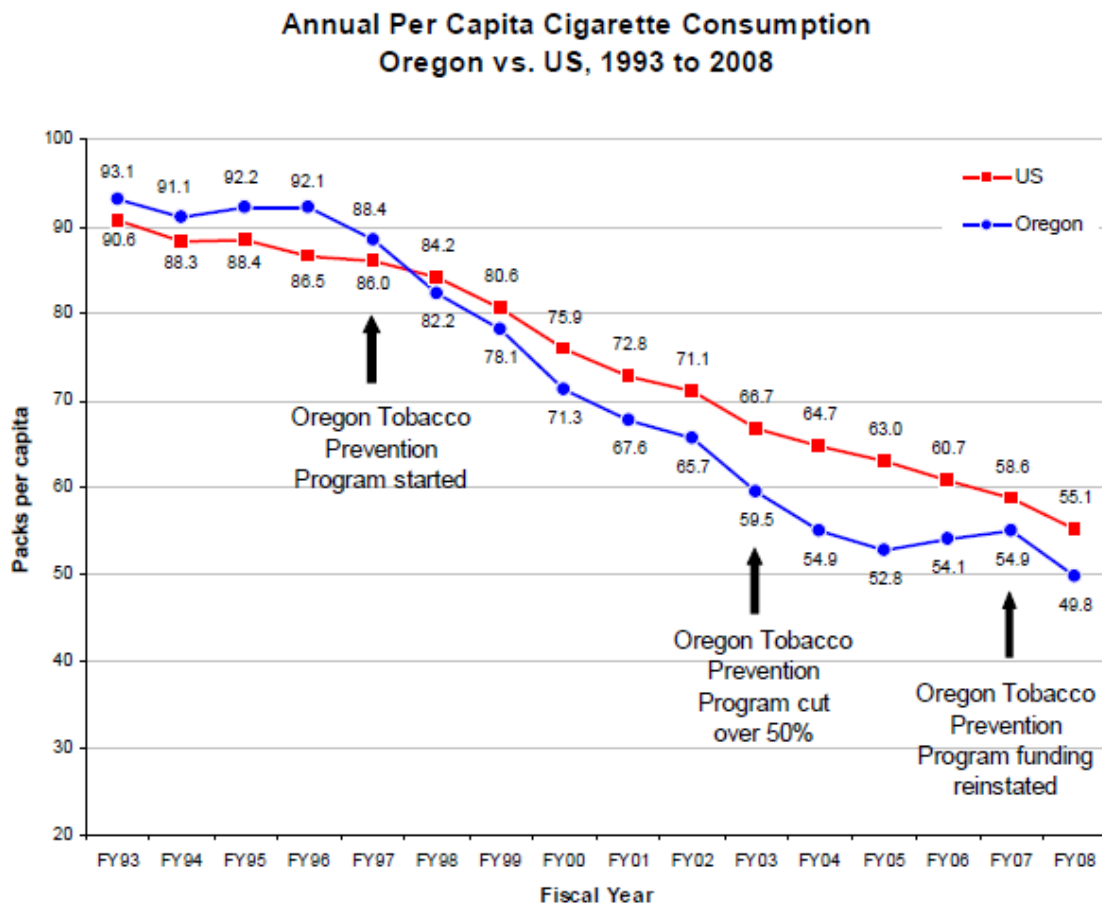
Share highlights of the work you have been doing (benefits) and identify what would happen/would be lost if the funding is gone.

- **The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program helps the community protect kids**
Helps prevent kids from starting and teaches them to be leaders (school education, peer education, school policies, compliance checks, etc.).
- **The program saves lives**
Helps prevent kids from starting and helps smokers to quit – Funding cuts would make the Quitline less accessible and effective (125,000 have called the Quitline since 2000) and hinder development of local quit resources and services in hospitals, clinics, etc. Also tobacco use is the number 1 preventable cause of preventable death.

- **The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program saves money**
 \$ 1.5 Billion in personal health care costs annually due to tobacco use in Washington state and \$651 million spent by state government annually to treat tobacco-related illnesses.
- **The Program is good for workforce development**, brings jobs to the county/district

When Oregon cut their tobacco control funding, declines in cigarette consumption stopped and began to increase.

(Figure below from “Oregon Tobacco Facts & Laws, April 2009” source: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/tobacco/docs/facts09.pdf>).



Sources:
 Oregon – Oregon Department of Revenue cigarette tax receipts
 U.S. (without Oregon) – Research Triangle Institute (1993-1998); Orzechowski and Walker (1999-2007)
 Population – U.S. Census Bureau