Executive Summary

This report provides tobacco facts regarding rates of cigarette and other tobacco products use, resulting health and financial costs, and exposure to secondhand smoke in Pennsylvania for adults and youth of this state. Data have been gathered from surveys, vital statistics, tax receipts, and sales inspections reports (Synar) for this report. These surveys, vital statistics, and other data sources are described in detail in Appendix A.

The information included here is intended for tobacco control program staff, researchers, healthcare providers, local health departments, and community partners.

Pennsylvania Tobacco Facts supports the programmatic goals of the Pennsylvania State Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, which are to 1) prevent the initiation of tobacco use among young people, 2) promote quitting among adults and young people, 3) eliminate nonsmokers' exposure to secondhand smoke, and 4) identify and eliminate tobacco-related disparities.

Key findings for Pennsylvania from this report show the following:

- **Cigarette sales in Pennsylvania declined by 28 percent between 1994 and 2004.**
- **Between 2003 and 2004, there was a statistically significant drop in smoking prevalence among adults in Pennsylvania ($p<0.05$)*.**
- **Approximately 20,000 Pennsylvania adults die annually, at a rate of 16 percent, from smoking-related causes.**
- **Tobacco-related personal health care costs total approximately four billion dollars annually in Pennsylvania.**
- **Smoking attributable productivity losses in Pennsylvania total 4.6 billion dollars annually.**
- **Smoking attributable years of potential life lost totaled approximately 268,000 years annually for Pennsylvania adults aged 35 and older.**
- **Statistically significant ($p<0.05$)* disparities exist in smoking rates based on age (lower rates are associated with older ages), race (higher rates of smoking are shown in African Americans compared to Whites), education (increasing education is associated with lower rates of smoking), and income (higher income is associated with lower smoking rates).**
- **Youth cigarette use in both Pennsylvania middle schools and high schools dropped significantly ($p<0.05$)*, between school year 2000-2001 and 2002-2003.**
- **Rates of illegal sales of cigarettes in Pennsylvania to minors have fallen dramatically from over 50 percent in 1996 to under 10 percent in 2004.**
- **Approximately seven in ten Pennsylvania adults favor a ban on smoking in indoor work areas and shopping malls.**
- **A drop of 13 percent was observed between 1996 and 2002 in the reported rate of smoking among pregnant residents of Pennsylvania who gave birth.**

* p, the probability, is the degree of uncertainty that the statistical difference found may have been caused by a factor other than the actual tobacco use being discussed.