

# **Active Retail Tobacco Vendors**

## **OVERVIEW**

**Bureau of Community Environmental Health  
and Food Protection**

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**Health Data NY**

## **General Description:**

An overarching goal of the New York State Department of Health (DOH) is to decrease tobacco initiation by youth, ultimately reducing illness, disability and death related to tobacco use. Article 13-F of the Public Health Law advances this goal by restricting the sale of tobacco products to minors. Tobacco retailers operating in New York State (NYS) are routinely inspected to ensure compliance with Article 13-F.. Because of these efforts, noncompliance rates among retail tobacco vendors in NYS are at a historically low level, and far below the national average.

Active tobacco retailers that operate in New York State are required to obtain a State Department of Tax and Finance (DTF) registration. The data in Health Data NY includes active retail tobacco vendors, and displays their vendor name (i.e. store name), vendor type, and location. The vendor type includes, for example, convenience stores, grocery supermarkets, or pharmacies. The location of the vendor includes its street address, city, state, zip code, municipality, and county. This data includes retail tobacco vendors that were categorized as active (i.e. open to the public) on the date the data was downloaded from a DOH database.

Researchers agree to use the data for statistical reporting and analysis only. The author includes a disclaimer stating that any analysis, interpretations or conclusions were reached by the researcher and not the New York State Department of Health.

Data included here is also detailed in the *Youth Access Tobacco Enforcement Program Report*. This annual report, available at [health.ny.gov/tobacco](http://health.ny.gov/tobacco) control, describes tobacco enforcement activities performed by local departments of health, as well as statewide trends regarding tobacco enforcement, retailer compliance, overall tobacco sales, tobacco use among youth, and other information.

## **Data Methodology:**

DTF provides a list of active registered tobacco retailers to DOH on a biannual basis. DOH shares this list with local Tobacco Enforcement Programs, which are implemented by county health departments, the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, and New York State Department of Health District Offices.

Each retail tobacco vendor is entered into a DOH electronic database. This database is revised as necessary to maintain accuracy. On an annual basis, the information is updated on Health Data NY.

## **Limitations of Use:**

**All active, documented retail tobacco vendors are included in the associated data tables and lists. However, the maps provided do not include certain retail tobacco vendors that could not be geocoded.**

**Individual local departments of health and the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs may provide this information on their own websites, which may be updated more frequently. More detailed information may be obtained directly from these partner agencies or DOH through the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) process. The FOIL process for DOH can be found on its website, for other agencies' FOIL process please contact them directly.**

**As previously stated, the data included in Health Data NY is updated annually. Requests for more current or more detailed information should be directed to the county health department, New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, or State District Office which directly regulate the facilities in question.**