

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

Active tobacco and vapor product 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 and vapor product vendors, and displays their vendor name (i.e. store name), vendor type, and location. The vendor type includes, for example, convenience stores or grocery supermarkets. The location of the vendor includes its street address, city, state, zip code, municipality, and county. This data includes retail tobacco and vapor product 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 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 and vapor product 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 and vapor product 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 and vapor product vendors are included in the associated data tables and lists. Those retail tobacco and vapor product vendors where geocoding was not possible are not included on the maps.

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; this process is typically described on the agency's website.

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.