

# **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 13F 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 that compliance with Article 13F is maintained. 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 illustrates their operation name (i.e. store name), subcategory, and location. Active retail tobacco vendors include only vendors that were operating during some of all of the program year or measurement period selected. Subcategory includes the type of retail tobacco vendor, such as a convenience store or a grocery supermarket. Address includes the street address, city, state, zip code, municipality, and county where the vendor is located. A measurement period encompasses a one year period, known as a program year. The current program year mirrors the State fiscal year, which begins on April 1 and ends on March 31. Prior to 2010, the program year mirrored the Federal fiscal year, which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30.

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.

Some of the data illustrated 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 an annual 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. The database is revised as necessary to maintain accuracy.

The data illustrated in Health Data NY maps, data lists, and data tables are imported from this database. This data is updated annually.

### **Limitations of Use:**

All active, documented retail tobacco vendors are illustrated in the associated data tables and lists. Those retail tobacco vendors without geocoding are not illustrated on data 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 illustrated in Health Data NY maps, data lists, and data tables 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 regulates the facilities in question.