How to reduce tobacco retailer density and why

These policy solutions can be implemented in most communities through local regulation, such as tobacco retailer licensing or changes to zoning restrictions.

**HEALTH:** When more tobacco retailers are located in a given area, residents' health suffers. Youth are more likely to start smoking. People who smoke consume more cigarettes per day and have a harder time quitting.

**EQUITY:** Tobacco retailers cluster in neighborhoods with a high percentage of low-income residents or residents of color. These communities are targeted by tobacco companies, and they disproportionately suffer the health harms caused by tobacco use.

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**Cap the number of retailers in a geographic area**

Example: There can be no more than 15 stores* per district.

**Cap the number of retailers relative to population size**

Example: There can be no more than 1 store* per 1,000 residents.

**Require a minimum distance between retailers**

Example: Stores cannot locate within 1,000 ft of an existing store.

**Prohibit retailers from locating near schools and other youth-sensitive areas**

Example: Stores cannot locate within 1,000 ft of a school or playground.

**Prohibit sales of tobacco products at pharmacies or other types of retailers**

Example: Pharmacies cannot be licensed to sell tobacco products.

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* Numbers will vary by community.