

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.

Local Tobacco Retailers



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.



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.

* Numbers will vary by community.