

Oregon Tobacco Inspections Report

February 2024

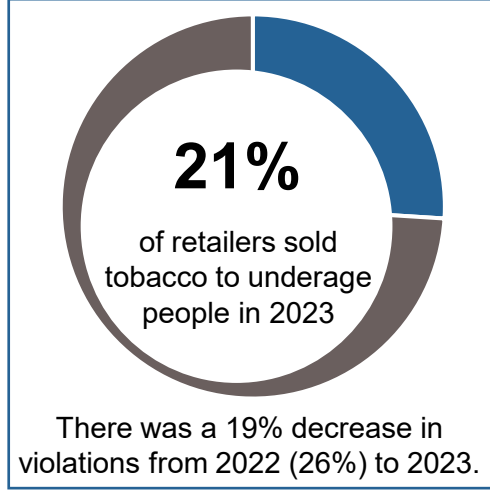


Program Description

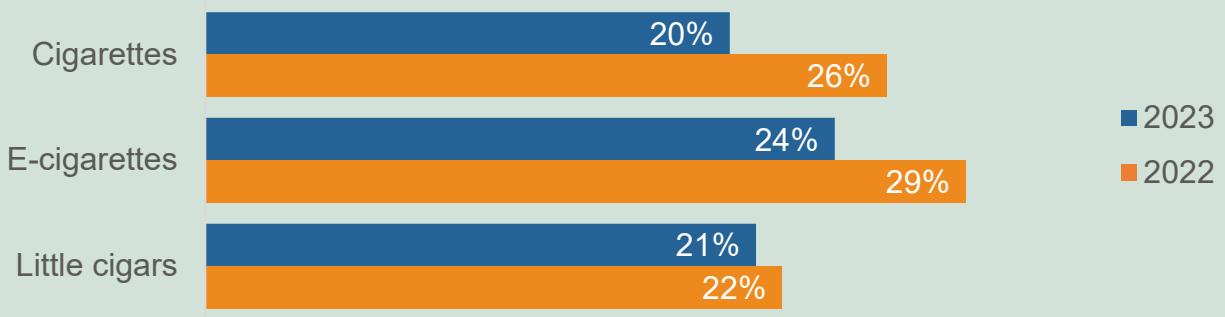
Any business that sells tobacco or inhalant delivery system products (known as e-cigarettes) in Oregon is required to get a tobacco retail license.

- Tobacco retail license programs are an effective way to:
- Protect youth from commercial tobacco addiction.
 - Educate retailers about tobacco sales laws.
 - Hold retailers accountable by imposing effective penalties.

Oregon law prohibits the sale of tobacco products and inhalant delivery systems to persons under 21 years of age. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Tobacco Retail License Program conducts random, unannounced inspections of tobacco retailers. If the retailer makes an illegal sale during an inspection, OHA issues a civil penalty to the license holder. In 2023, OHA inspected 99.6% of tobacco retailers licensed by the state. Data in this report are from a representative sample of state and local license program inspections.



Violations varied by product type. In 2023, e-cigarettes, the tobacco product most commonly used by youth, continue to be sold more often than cigarettes and little cigars.



The Oregon Tobacco Retail License Program and local programs worked with **29 young adult inspectors in 2023**. Young adult inspectors gain:

- Mentorship
- Job skills development
- Understanding of public health
- Meaningful employment

Protecting Youth

Research shows that if people do not start smoking before they turn 19, they are far less likely to ever start. While youth use of cigarettes has been decreasing over time, use of other tobacco and nicotine products, such as e-cigarettes, is still a concern. Holding firm on laws that protect youth is important to hold the tobacco industry accountable for its addictive products.

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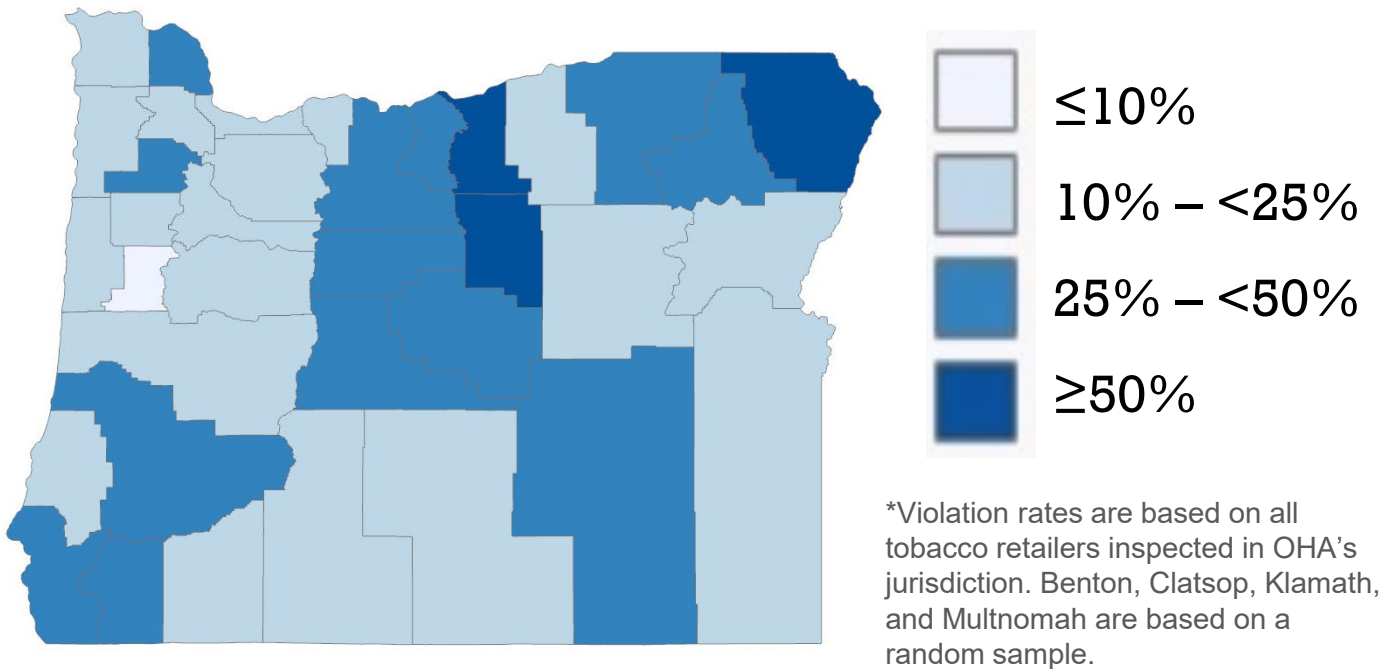
The retail environment

The commercial tobacco industry spends over \$100 million per year to market their products in the Oregon retail environment. Tobacco products are cheap, readily available, easy to get, and heavily marketed in stores where youth shop. Higher exposure to tobacco marketing in the retail space makes it more likely that youth will start using tobacco.

In 2023, violation rates were highest in tobacco/vape shops.

Tobacco/Vape Shops	30%
Grocery Stores/Market	25%
Gas Stations	19%
Drug Stores	4%

2023 violation rates in Oregon vary by county.



Tobacco enforcement and commercial tobacco prevention

Studies show strong commercial tobacco prevention policies along with active tobacco enforcement, effective retailer education, and leadership support, can reduce youth tobacco use. Equitable enforcement practices mean the companies that profit from tobacco sales are held accountable for how these products affect communities.

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