

Every year, the Medina County Health Department conducts compliance checks with tobacco retail locations. A random sample of stores are selected and checked to ensure compliance with Tobacco 21 laws, to make sure stores are not selling to youth under 21. Here is some data from 2021-2025:

24%

Of Medina County
vape & tobacco stores
sold to underage youth
in the last 5 years

62%

of stores that
sold to youth

Did **NOT** ask about age
or ask for any form of ID.



Vape shops had the
highest sale rate at

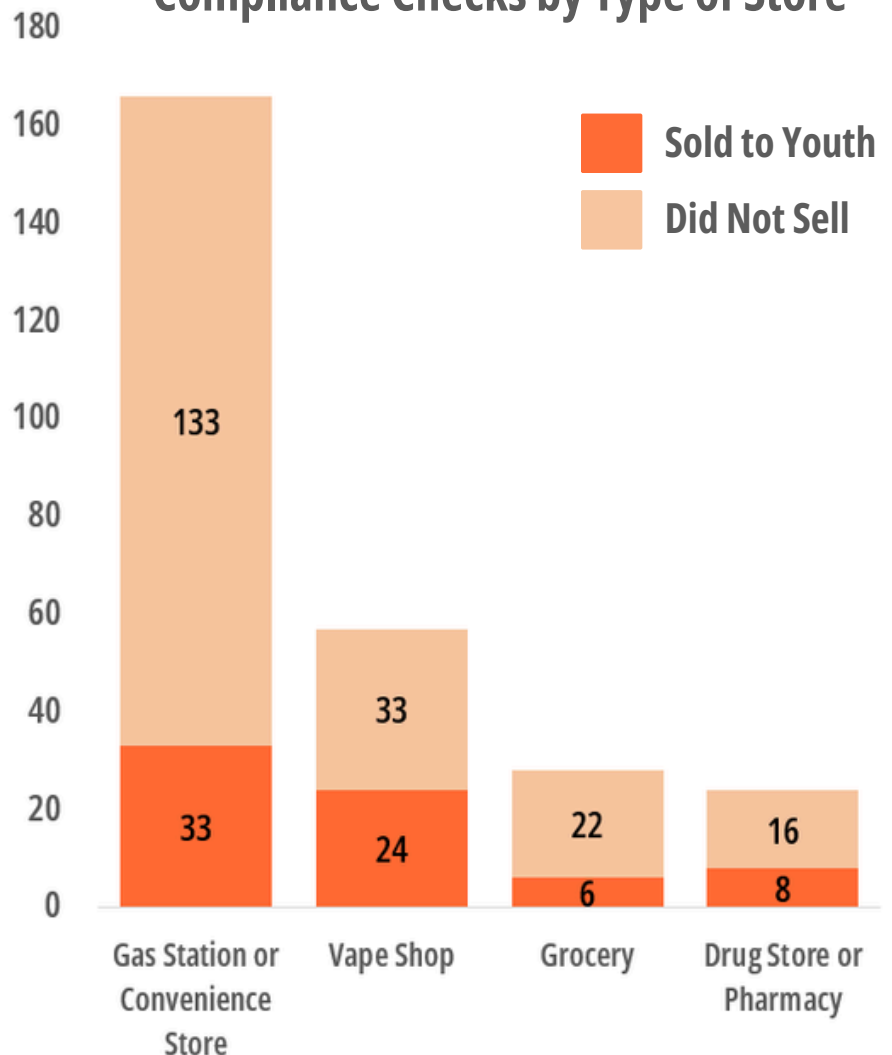
42%

of the
time.

Gas stations sold
20% of the
time.

Gas stations are the
most common type
of store that carry
tobacco products.

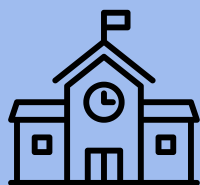
Compliance Checks by Type of Store



LEARNING MORE

ABOUT PROTECTING YOUTH

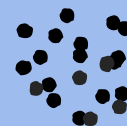
Because 95% of adult smokers began smoking before the age of 21, preventing youth nicotine addiction is especially important.



42+ locations

or **33%** of stores that sell tobacco & vape products were located within a **10 minute walk** of a school.

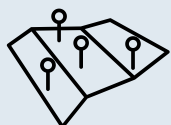
Retailer density impacts youth use rates.



The more shops that sell tobacco & vape products in an area, the higher the youth nicotine use rate.

What Can Help Protect Youth?

Laws that cap the total number of tobacco/vape retailers:



By Geographic Area. For example: 15 stores per city or district



By Population Size. For example: 1 store per 1,000 residents

Laws that limit retailer locations:



No tobacco stores near schools or other youth areas



Require minimum distance between retailers



Limit tobacco sales at pharmacies

To learn more about how to advocate for policies that support the prevention of youth nicotine use, visit the resources below.

SOURCES

WANT THE FULL PICTURE?
GO BEYOND THIS SNAPSHOT.



For more information on preventing youth nicotine addiction:

Counter Tobacco - countertobacco.org/policy/licensing-and-zoning/

Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation: tobacco21.org/

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids - tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/ohio

Sources:

2021 -2025 Medina County Tobacco Compliance Check Data