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 2021-2024:

27%
Of Medina County vape & tobacco stores sold to underage youth in the last 3 years

Nearly 60% of stores that sold to youth did **not** ask youth for **any ID.**

Age verification, or checkout software that asks for ID or birthday, reduces sales to youth.

PERMIT

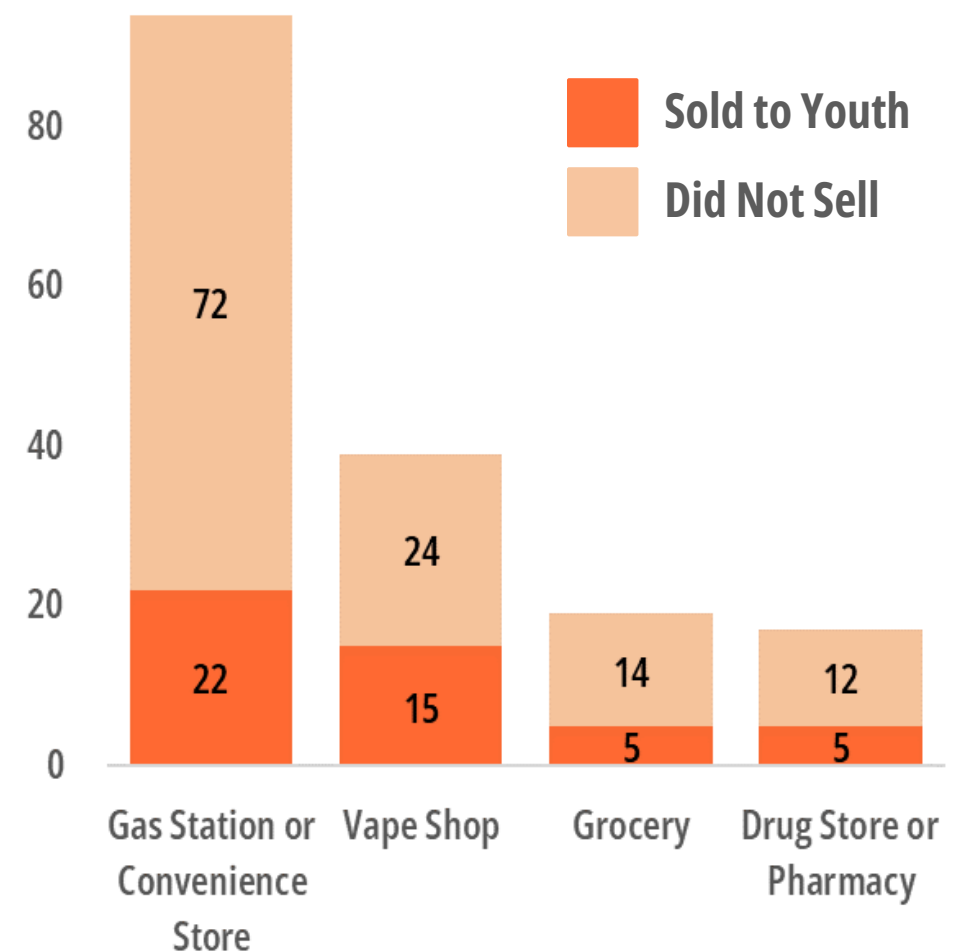**Vape shops** had the **highest sale rate** at
38% of the time.

Gas stations sold
23% of the time.

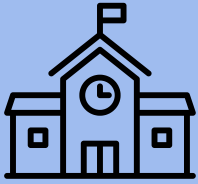Gas stations are the most common type of store that carry tobacco products.

Compliance Checks by Type of Store

Legend:
- Sold to Youth
- Did Not Sell

Store Type	Sold to Youth	Did Not Sell
Gas Station or Convenience Store	22	72
Vape Shop	15	24
Grocery	5	14
Drug Store or Pharmacy	5	12

LEARNING MORE

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.
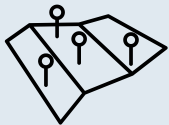
Retailer density impacts youth use rates.

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.

MEDINA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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 -2024 Medina County Tobacco Compliance Check Data