

# NEWS RELEASE



*El Dorado County*  
**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

For Immediate Release:

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## **El Dorado County Participates in Statewide Healthy Stores Survey**

(Placerville, CA) – June 2020 – Fifty-eight counties in California, including El Dorado County, took part in a third statewide “Healthy Stores” survey last year. The survey, which examined the availability and marketing of tobacco, alcohol and food products in retail stores, was conducted in nearly 8,000 stores across the state; 143 of those stores were in El Dorado County. The California Department of Public Health released the results of the statewide survey on March 24, 2020.

“The survey helps us learn which products are sold in local stores, where those products are placed and how those products are marketed, particularly to young people and families,” said Christy White, Supervisor of the El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency’s Tobacco Use Prevention Program. The goal of the Healthy Stores project is to encourage healthy product options and marketing in our community stores to reduce unhealthy marketing and of tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, alcohol beverages and food options which will make our stores healthier places for residents.

The survey was initiated as part of the ten year *Healthy Stores for a Healthy Community* campaign, a statewide collaborative effort. Locally, 21 trained participants which included tobacco prevention, nutrition education, alcohol prevention, communicable disease and law enforcement conducted the survey in El Dorado County from March through June 2019. Surveyors went to gas stations, pharmacies, convenience and grocery stores, as well as other types of stores that and documented what they found.

The results of the 2019 survey showed that most El Dorado County retailers (58%) offered fresh fruits and vegetables which is higher than statewide average of 46%. However, nearly half of the stores surveyed in the County offered sugary drinks at checkout stands. Of the stores surveyed in El Dorado County, over 75% offered electronic smoking devices for sale. The percentage remains nearly the same from the 2016 Healthy Stores survey. According to White, this may reflect purchasing e-cigarettes online by young people, which has been a concern among health professionals and parents in recent years.

“Stores in our communities play a critical role in our health,” said White. “They not only impact the economic well-being of neighborhoods, but also the physical health of the people who visit them. We hope the results of the survey give us information to engage in meaningful dialog with our community members and retailers to encourage healthy stores.”

Complete results of El Dorado County’s store survey are available online at [www.edcgov.us/publichealth](http://www.edcgov.us/publichealth). For additional information about the Healthy stores campaign, including statewide data, visit <http://www.healthystoreshealthycommunity.com/>

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