



PRESS RELEASE

Glenn County Health & Human Services Agency
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Survey Finds Alcohol and Tobacco Products Still More Available than Milk and Fresh Fruit

WILLOWS, CA – March 8, 2017 –A new survey of stores in Glenn County that sell tobacco finds that non-cigarette tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, and alcohol products are more prevalent in these stores than healthy products, such as fresh fruits and vegetables. These findings are part of new research released today on the availability and marketing of healthy and unhealthy products in California stores that sell tobacco.

“Overall, the findings show an alarming discrepancy in our county in the accessibility and marketing between products that promote a healthy lifestyle, and those that don’t,” said Dr. James Corona, Health Officer of Glenn County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). “Stores play a critical role on our community’s health, and this survey shows offerings and messaging are out of balance, tipping heavily toward unhealthy options. Our goal is to help re-calibrate the balance toward health.”

The survey found the following for Glenn County:

- In addition to selling cigarettes, 82% of the stores sell chewing tobacco, but only 27% of stores sold fresh fruits or vegetables. The number of stores that sells chewing tobacco is 25% higher than the state average.
- 33% of stores sold non- or low-fat milk, but nearly 94% sell alcohol.
- 82% of stores sell “little cigars” or cigarillos. What’s more, 67% of stores sold a popular brand of “little cigars” individually for under a dollar, less than the cost of a candy bar.
- E-cigarettes saw a significant increase in Glenn County in stores from the last time this survey was conducted, up more than 9%.

“The expanded availability of e-cigarettes are of particular concern and reflect the spike in use by teens and young adults in the last three years,” said Laura Medina, Tobacco Education Program Coordinator of HHS.

Glenn County Public Health is committed to continuing to work with local health advocates and partners to provide accurate information and help make the healthy choice the easy choice for Californians.

For state and county-specific data and more information on Healthy Stores for a Healthy Community, please visit www.healthystoreshealthycommunity.com. For more information, contact the Glenn County Health Department 934-6588 or 1-800-655-5418, visit our website: www.countyofglenn.net and select Public Health Department, or access us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GlennCountyPublicHealth/

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