

NEWS RELEASE



El Dorado County
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
Public Health Division

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El Dorado County Participates in Statewide Healthy Stores Survey

Fifty-eight counties in California, including El Dorado County, took part in a statewide “Healthy Stores” survey last year. The survey, which examined the availability and marketing of tobacco, alcohol and food products in stores that sell tobacco, was conducted in 7,152 stores across the state; 121 of those stores were in El Dorado County. The California Department of Public Health released the results of the statewide survey on March 8, 2017.

“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 (HHS) Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP). The goal of the Healthy Stores project is to encourage healthy product options and marketing in our community stores.

The survey was initiated as part of the *Healthy Stores for a Healthy Community* campaign, a statewide collaborative effort between tobacco prevention, nutrition education, alcohol prevention and communicable disease partners across the State. Trained staff conducted the survey in El Dorado County in March 2016. Surveyors went to gas stations, pharmacies, convenience and grocery stores, as well as other stores that sell tobacco products, and documented what they found.

The results of the 2016 survey showed that most El Dorado County merchants (about 80%) offered a good selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. However, over half of the stores surveyed in the County offered sugary drinks at checkout stands (about 15% higher than the statewide average), and 71% of the stores surveyed in El Dorado County offered electronic smoking devices for sale (compared to the statewide average of 62%). According to White, an increase in e-cigarettes among young people across the state 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 merchants to encourage healthy stores.”

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

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