

# STUDY: Availability of unhealthy products growing in Kern County

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PICTURE BY RICH PEDRONCELLI

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BAKERSFIELD, Calif. - The availability of e-cigarettes in Kern County has grown 19.8% since 2013, according to a new study by the Kern County Public Health Services.

In addition to selling cigarettes, 86.6% of stores sell "little cigars" but only 43.8% of stores sold fresh fruits or vegetables.

91.3% of stores sold a popular brand of little cigars individuals under a dollar, less than the cost of a candy bar.

While only 27.6% of stores sold non- or low-fat milk, nearly 78.8% sell alcohol.

E-cigarette availability saw a significant increase in Kern County stores from the previous survey, 42.0% in 2013 to 61.8% in 2016.

More than 26.5% of Kern County stores in the survey placed tobacco products or ads at 'kid-level' or near candy or toys.

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




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