

# Results from the 2008 Youth Tobacco Purchase Survey

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Findings from the 2008 Youth Tobacco Purchase Survey (YTPS) show that the rate of illegal tobacco sales to minors rose slightly to 12.6 percent from 10.7 percent in 2007—which was the state’s second lowest rate in more than a decade.

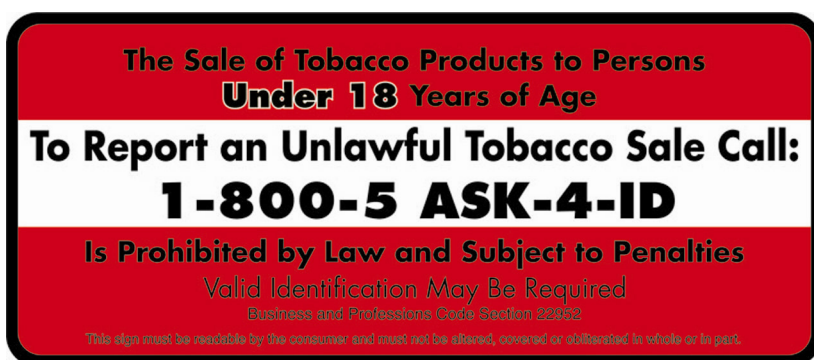
As part of the Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement (STAKE) Act, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) monitors and accesses California’s illegal sales rate to minors and conducts ongoing compliance checks. The assessment of the illegal sales rate to minors is done via the annual scientific YTPS. Random onsite inspections are conducted at retail sites with assistance from youth decoys 15 and 16 years of age.

The 2008 survey found that illegal sales to minors in certain retail outlets remained high, with the rate of illegal sales at discount/gift stores measuring 23.9 percent (up from last year’s 17.9 percent); convenience stores that sell gas, 16.1 percent; convenience stores that don’t sell gas, 15.1 percent; liquor stores, 14.4 percent; tobacco stores, 13.6 percent. Retailers with the lowest illegal sales rates were supermarkets (3.3 percent) and pharmacies (4.7 percent).

52.3 percent of stores surveyed had the STAKE Act age-of-sale warning signs posted, which is down from the 2007 rates of 59.4 percent.

## The Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement Act

In 1994, the California Legislature passed the STAKE Act. The STAKE Act created a new statewide enforcement program to take action against businesses that illegally sell tobacco to minors. The STAKE Act also requires that tobacco retailers post a STAKE Act warning sign at each point-of-sale stating that selling tobacco to persons under 18 years of age is illegal and subject to penalties. The STAKE Act signage also includes the toll-free telephone number (1-800-5 ASK-4-ID) that customers may call to report underage tobacco sales.



Learn more about California’s anti-tobacco efforts visit: [www.TobaccoFreeCA.com](http://www.TobaccoFreeCA.com)