Flavored tobacco policy restrictions

as of June 30, 2021

Truth Initiative’s flavor policy database analyzes flavored tobacco product laws enacted by U.S. states, counties, cities, and towns. This database is updated quarterly. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) policy announced in January 2020 is not reflected in the database.

The 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (TCA) banned the sale of cigarettes with a characterizing flavor (e.g. fruit), but exempted menthol cigarettes and did not apply to flavored tobacco products like electronic cigarettes (also known as e-cigarettes), little cigars, hookah and smokeless tobacco. The passage of the law gave the FDA the power to implement flavor-related product standards on other tobacco products, but the agency has so far not enacted any comprehensive policies. Flavors also play a big role in the youth e-cigarette epidemic — 97% of youth who vape use flavored products — and while the FDA issued a policy intended to reduce access to flavored e-cigarettes in January 2020, we believe the policy is deficient and has many regulatory gaps, including allowing menthol in all e-cigarettes as well as all flavors in open systems and disposable e-cigarette products. We chose not to include this FDA policy in this database project and instead highlight only state and local policies. Implementing strong state and local flavor policies that restrict the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol, is an increasingly important tool in ensuring effective tobacco control efforts and protection of the most vulnerable populations. The TCA protects the states’ and localities’ ability to implement their own sales restrictions on flavored tobacco products. In April 2021, the FDA announced its commitment to develop product standards within a year that would ban menthol cigarette and flavored cigar sales in the US, a proposed rule has not yet been issued. These local actions help close the federal regulatory gap and reduce the availability and appeal of flavored tobacco products to youth and young adults.

NOTE: This report has been updated to include clarifications on estimates with respect to sales restrictions in Native American tribes, and sales restrictions that apply to buffer zones only. Corrections were made from prior reports in the interpretation of policies in Culver City, CA and Ventura, CA.
NATIONWIDE SUMMARY

Approximately, 62,218,050 people in the U.S. are covered by a flavored tobacco sales restriction, representing 19.16% of the U.S. population.

338 U.S. jurisdictions* have some type of Restriction on Flavored Tobacco Product Sales as of June 30, 2021:

- States = 7
- Full Counties = 5
- Unincorporated Counties = 14
- Cities = 150
- Towns = 161
- Villages = 1

* Does not include tribes, which are not a jurisdiction. Tribes are sovereign nations with their own system of laws and governance. Sales restrictions enacted by Native American tribes are enforced within their territory by the tribal government.

13 states have at least one jurisdiction with a Flavored Tobacco Sales Restriction as of June 30, 2021:

- California = 108
- Colorado = 5
- Georgia = 1
- Illinois = 2
- Massachusetts = 179‡
- Maine = 1‡
- Maryland = 2‡
- Minnesota = 22
- New Jersey = 5†
- New York = 6†
- Ohio = 2
- Rhode Island = 4†
- Utah = 1†

‡ Includes statewide policies

3 Native American tribes have a Flavored Tobacco Sales Restriction enforced within their territory as of June 30, 2021:

- Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Tribe
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

* Bans all e-cigarette products

Flavored Tobacco Policies Passed By Year

**Data through June 30, 2021

Source: Truth Initiative
STATEWIDE POLICIES AS OF JUNE 30, 2021:

- **Maine (pop. 1.3 million)**: prohibits sale of all flavored cigars except for premium cigars.
- **Maryland (pop. 6.2 million)**: prohibits sale of all flavored cartridge-based and disposable e-cigarettes except for menthol.
- **Massachusetts (pop. 7.0 million)**: prohibits sale of all flavored tobacco products except in smoking bars.†
- **New Jersey (pop. 9.3 million)**: prohibits sale of all flavored vaping products.
- **New York (pop. 20.2 million)**: prohibits sale of all flavored e-cigarettes, except those approved as part of an FDA premarket approval.
- **Rhode Island (pop. 1.1 million)**: prohibits sale of all flavored e-cigarettes.
- **Utah (pop. 3.3 million)**: prohibits sale of flavored e-cigarettes (except for menthol and mint) in non-retail tobacco specialty businesses.

† "Smoking bar" is an establishment that exclusively occupies an enclosed indoor space and is primarily engaged in the retail sale of tobacco products for consumption by customers on the premises.

JURISDICTIONS WITH PENDING LITIGATION AS OF JUNE 30, 2021:

- **California (pop. 39.6 million)**: Implementation of the state’s law restricting sales of flavored tobacco products is suspended due to the tobacco industry’s success in bringing a referendum for vote by the state’s voters on the next statewide ballot, currently scheduled for November 2022, though this date is subject to change.
- **Philadelphia, PA (pop. 1.6 million)**: An industry lawsuit sparked a preliminary injunction against the city’s prohibition of the sale of flavored cigars, preventing it from taking effect.

Source: Truth Initiative
LOCALITIES

Comprehensive flavored tobacco policies are gaining momentum at the local and state level. In this report, we define comprehensive as policies that prohibit sales of ALL types of flavors across ALL products, including menthol/mint/wintergreen tobacco products, at all retailers, except for adult-only retailers and smoking bars.

Approximately, 14,047,288 people in the U.S. are covered by a comprehensive state or local flavored tobacco sales restriction, representing 4.33% of the U.S. population.

119 jurisdictions have comprehensive policies as of June 30, 2021.


Source: Truth Initiative
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Jurisdictions highlighted in green had policies that either were passed between 4/1/2021 and 6/30/2021, have an existing policy that removed exemptions for menthol/mint/wintergreen flavored products between 4/1/2021 and 6/30/2021, or were updated retroactively upon further examination during the period 4/1/2021 and 6/30/2021, thus making the policy comprehensive.

Jurisdictions restricting all tobacco product sales are in bold.

§ Restriction applies to unincorporated part of county

Source: Truth Initiative
The following jurisdictions prohibit sales of flavors such as fruit, candy, alcohol, or dessert, excluding tobacco flavor but do not include menthol flavors. These jurisdictions differ in whether or not they include menthol/mint/wintergreen flavors across product types — for example in some jurisdictions the sale of menthol in e-cigarettes is not permitted, but menthol flavored cigarettes, cigars, and other products such as hookah are still sold.

As of June 30, 2021, in 204 jurisdictions and three tribes, menthol/mint/wintergreen flavored products are exempted:

1. Anderson, CA ●●●
2. Arroyo Grande, CA ●●●
3. Auburn, CA ●
4. Burbank, CA ●
5. Calabasas, CA ●●●
6. Cerritos, CA ●●●
7. Cloverdale, CA ●●●
8. Danville, CA ●●●
9. El Cerrito, CA ●
10. Encinitas, CA ●
11. Glendale, CA ●
12. Laguna Niguel, CA ●●●
13. Long Beach, CA ●
14. Loomis, CA ●
15. Morgan Hill, CA ●
16. Morro Bay, CA ●●●
17. Napa, CA ●
18. Novato, CA ●●●
19. Palmdale, CA ●●●
20. Pinole, CA ●
21. San Diego County, CA ●
22. San Leandro, CA ●
23. San Luis Obispo, CA ●●●
24. San Luis Obispo County, CA ●●●
25. Saratoga, CA ●●●
26. Sonoma, CA ●●●
27. Ventura County, CA ●●●
28. West Hollywood ●
29. Windsor, CA ●●●
30. Boulder, CO ●●●
31. Watkinsville, GA ●●●
32. River Forest, IL ●●●
33. Adams, MA ●●●
34. Agawam Town, MA ●●●
35. Amherst, MA ●●●
36. Andover, MA ●●●
37. Arlington, MA ●●●
38. Ashburnham, MA ●●●
39. Ashby, MA ●●●
40. Athol, MA ●●●
41. Attleboro, MA ●●●
42. Avon, MA ●●●
43. Ayer, MA ●●●
44. Bedford, MA ●●●
45. Belmont, MA ●●●
46. Beverly, MA ●●●
47. Billerica, MA ●●●
48. Blackstone, MA ●●●
49. Bolton, MA ●●●
50. Braintree Town, MA ●●●
51. Brewster, MA ●●●
52. Brockton, MA ●●●
53. Buckland, MA ●●●
54. Cambridge, MA ●●●
55. Carver, MA ●●●
56. Charlestown, MA ●●●
57. Charlton, MA ●●●
58. Chelsea, MA ●●●
59. Clinton, MA ●●●
60. Cohasset, MA ●●●
61. Concord, MA ●●●
62. Conway, MA ●●●
63. Danvers, MA ●●●
64. Deerfield, MA ●●●
65. Dracut, MA ●●●
66. Duxbury, MA ●●●
67. East Longmeadow, MA ●●●
68. Easthampton Town, MA ●●●
69. Easton, MA ●●●
70. Edgartown, MA ●●●
71. Essex, MA ●●●
72. Everett, MA ●●●
73. Fairhaven, MA ●●●
74. Fitchburg, MA ●●●
75. Franklin Town, MA ●●●
76. Gardner, MA ●●●
77. Gill, MA ●●●
78. Gloucester, MA ●●●
79. Grafton, MA ●●●
80. Granby, MA ●●●
81. Great Barrington, MA ●●●
82. Greenfield Town, MA ●●●
83. Groton, MA ●●●
84. Hadley, MA ●●●
85. Halifax, MA ●●●
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88. Haverhill, MA ●●●
89. Heath, MA ●●●
90. Holbrook, MA ●●●
91. Holden, MA ●●●
92. Holyoke, MA ●●●
93. Hopkinton, MA ●●●
94. Hull, MA ●●●
95. Ipswich, MA ●●●
96. Kingston, MA ●●●
97. Lancaster, MA ●●●
98. Lawrence, MA ●●●
99. Littleton, MA ●●●
100. Ludlow, MA ●●●

Source: Truth Initiative
Flavored e-cigarette policies are in **bold** italics
- = exempts menthol cigarettes
- = exempts menthol e-cigarettes
- = exempts menthol cigars (includes premium cigars, cigars, little cigars, and cigarillos)
- = exempts other menthol tobacco products (i.e. pipe tobacco, hookah/waterpipe, smokeless tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco)

* In addition to restricting the sale of non-menthol flavored e-cigarettes, Nassau County restricts the sale of e-cigarettes, including menthol flavor, only within 1,000 linear feet of a school, park or playground.

Source: Truth Initiative
As stated above, the FDA’s January 2020 flavored e-cigarette compliance policy leaves many flavored e-cigarettes on the market. However, local and state jurisdictions have taken action to target e-cigarettes.

As of June 30, 2021, 44 jurisdictions and two tribes have banned the sale of all e-cigarettes.

- Alameda County, CA
- Arroyo Grande, CA
- Benicia, CA
- Calabasas, CA
- Carpinteria, CA
- Carson, CA
- Cerritos, CA
- Contra Costa County, CA
- Danville, CA
- Dublin, CA
- East Palo Alto, CA
- Hayward, CA
- Livermore, CA
- Los Altos, CA
- Los Gatos, CA
- Manhattan Beach, CA
- Menlo Park, CA
- Morgan Hill, CA
- Morro Bay, CA
- Palo Alto, CA
- Pleasanton, CA
- Richmond, CA
- San Luis Obispo, CA
- San Luis Obispo County, CA
- San Mateo, CA
- San Mateo County, CA
- Santa Clara County, CA
- Saratoga, CA
- Sebastopol, CA
- South San Francisco, CA
- Watsonville, CA
- Bellingham, WA
- Blackstone, MA
- Dedham, MA
- Hull, MA
- Malden, MA
- Montgomery County, MD
- Brown’s Valley, MN
- St. Louis Park, MN
- Traverse County, MN
- Wheaton, MN
- Hanover Township, NJ
- Hempstead, NY
- Nassau County, NY
- Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Tribe

1 Restriction only applies to a buffer zone, meaning it only applies to retailers within a specified distance of youth-oriented areas, such as schools, parks, playgrounds, and libraries.
AREA INCLUSIONS AND RETAILER/VENUE EXEMPTIONS

Some jurisdictions include and/or exempt particular venues in their flavored tobacco restriction policies.

Jurisdictions with a restriction around schools:
- Chicago, IL
- Hempstead, NY
- Montgomery County, MD
- Nassau County, NY
- Westfield, NJ

Jurisdictions with a restriction around parks:
- Hempstead, NY
- Nassau County, NY
- Westfield, NJ

Jurisdictions with a restriction around playgrounds:
- Hempstead, NY
- Nassau County, NY

Jurisdictions with a restriction around libraries:
- Montgomery County, MD

Jurisdictions that exempt smoking/tobacco bars and/or e-cigarette establishments:

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<thead>
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Source: Truth Initiative
Jurisdictions that exempt adult-only retailers, retail stores that primarily sell tobacco, or specialty retail establishments with a specified percent of tobacco revenue sales:

- Compton, CA
- Long Beach
- Los Altos, CA (60%) b,c,d
- Redondo Beach, CA
- South San Francisco, CA
- Chicago, IL (80%) c,d
- All MA localities b◊
- Bellingham, MA
c
- Canton, MA
- Hull, MA
- Topsfield, MA
c
- Upton, MA
c
- Westminster, MA
c
- Arden Hills, MN
- Duluth, MN (90%) c
- Falcon Heights, MN (90%) b,c
c
- Fridley, MN (90%) b,c
c
- Hennepin County, MN (90%) b,c
c
- Lauderdale, MN (90%) b,c
c
- Minneapolis, MN (90%) b,c
c
- New Hope, MN (90%) b,c
c
- Robbinsdale, MN (90%) c
c
- Roseville, MN (90%) b,c
c
- Shoreview, MN (90%) b,c
c
- St. Paul, MN (90%) b,c
c
- Westfield, NJ
c
- Toledo, OH (60%) c
- Utah (state) (35%) b,c,d

b Exempt 21+ adult retailers
c Exempt specialty stores/retail establishments with specified %
d Exempt retail stores that primarily sell tobacco
◊ Excludes statewide policy, Blackstone, Brookline, Canton, Chatham, Dedham, Lynn, North Attleborough, Norwood, Sherborn, Winthrop

Jurisdictions that include venue-based exemptions with some exceptions:

- **Compton, CA**: Retailer exemptions only apply to menthol cigarettes.
- **Culver City, CA**: Exempts hookah lounges with a valid retail license and are under the same ownership as of October 14, 2019.
- **Long Beach, CA**: 21+ hookah businesses are exempted.
- **Redondo Beach, CA**: 21+ hookah businesses are exempted.
- **Ventura, CA**: Flavored hookah permitted for onsite use and consumption.
- **Canton, MA**: Adult store exemption does not apply to e-cigarettes.
- **Minneapolis, MN**: Menthol/mint/wintergreen flavors are exempted at 21+ adult retailers.
- **St. Paul, MN**: Menthol/mint/wintergreen flavors are exempted at 21+ adult retailers.
- **New York, NY**: Exemption for smoking bar does not include e-cigarettes.

Source: Truth Initiative