

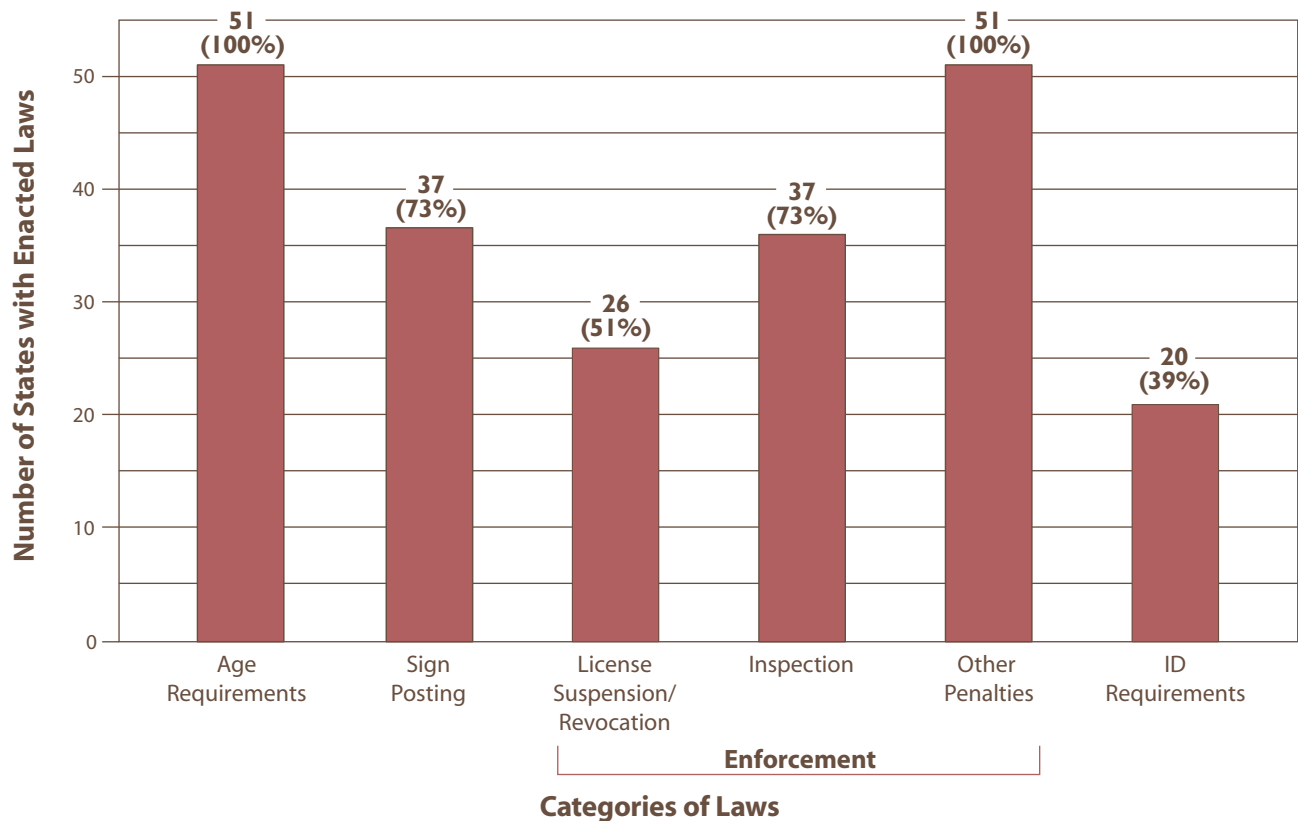


# Fact Sheet: Youth Access to Tobacco

State Cancer  
Legislative Database  
Program, NCI

## Number of States with Youth Access to Tobacco Sale/ Purchase/Possession Laws by Category of Law

(as of June 30, 2005)



Legislation that restricts the sale of tobacco products to minors, or the purchase or possession of tobacco products by minors, has been enacted in all 50 states and in the **District of Columbia**. The majority of states prohibit tobacco sales to persons under age 18; however, three states—**Alabama, Alaska, and Utah**—prohibit sales to persons under 19.

Twenty states (39 percent) require retailers to demand identification verifying a patron's age before selling a tobacco product. Legislation in 37 states (73 percent) addresses the posting of point-of-purchase signs that specify restrictions on minors' access to tobacco products. In addition, 37 states (73 percent) have laws authorizing inspection of establishments selling tobacco products.

All states levy some type of civil or criminal penalty (such as a fine and/or imprisonment) for the violation of youth

access laws. A tobacco retailer's license may be suspended or revoked for selling tobacco products to minors in 26 states (51 percent). **Minnesota, Missouri, and Wyoming** do not require retailers to be licensed, but impose similar penalties. In **Minnesota**, a town or city may license a tobacco product retailer; licensed retailers who sell tobacco products to minors may have their license suspended. Tobacco retailers in **Missouri** who sell to minors will receive a citation prohibiting the sale of tobacco products for a specified period of time. In **Wyoming**, tobacco product retailers may be subject to an injunction prohibiting the sale of tobacco products for up to 180 days.

*The State Cancer Legislative Database (SCLD) contains information synthesized from state-level laws. The SCLD does not contain state-level regulations; executive orders; measures implemented by counties, cities, or other localities; case law; Attorneys General opinions; or data addressing the implementation of state laws—all of which may vary significantly from the laws reported herein.*

**Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program, Bethesda, MD, 2005.**

## States with Youth Access to Tobacco Sale/Purchase/Possession Laws by Category of Law (as of June 30, 2005)

	Age Requirements	Sign Posting	Enforcement			ID Requirements
			License Suspension/ Revocation*	Inspection	Other Penalties	
Alabama	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Alaska	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Arizona	✓				✓	
Arkansas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
California	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Colorado	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Connecticut	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Delaware	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
District of Columbia	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Georgia	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hawaii	✓	✓			✓	
Idaho	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Illinois	✓			✓	✓	
Indiana	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Iowa	✓		✓		✓	
Kansas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kentucky	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Louisiana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maine	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Maryland	✓				✓	
Massachusetts	✓	✓			✓	
Michigan	✓	✓			✓	
Minnesota	✓			✓	✓	
Mississippi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Missouri	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Montana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nebraska	✓		✓		✓	
Nevada	✓			✓	✓	
New Hampshire	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
New Jersey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
New Mexico	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
New York	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
North Carolina	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
North Dakota	✓			✓	✓	
Ohio	✓	✓			✓	
Oklahoma	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oregon	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Pennsylvania	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Rhode Island	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
South Carolina	✓			✓	✓	
South Dakota	✓			✓	✓	
Tennessee	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Texas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Utah	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Vermont	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Virginia	✓	✓			✓	✓
Washington	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
West Virginia	✓			✓	✓	
Wisconsin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wyoming	✓	✓		✓	✓	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>20</b>

\*Minnesota, Missouri, and Wyoming do not require tobacco product retailers to be licensed but impose penalties similar to license suspension and/or revocation.

Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program, Bethesda, MD, 2005.