

COMMUNITY VOICES, LOCAL ACTION: LOCAL CONTROL AS A STRATEGY TO REGULATE SMOKE SHOPS



Zahira Alatorre, BA; Claudia Ciarmoli, MPA; Fany Esquivel, Rosa Sanchez,
Jannette Sanchez, Yesenia Faustino, Mayra Valadez, Yolanda Rodriguez
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Program

Introduction

- Due to limited regulations, smoke shops in San Diego are permitted to operate near youth-sensitive spaces, including schools, parks, and libraries, with no minimum age of entry and limited restrictions on advertising and operating hours.
- The City Heights Clean and Safe Promotoras are working to educate and organize residents, conduct community assessments, raise awareness, and advocate for local policy changes to regulate smoke shops and protect the well-being and safety of the community.

History of Non-Compliance

A 2022 assessment found an alarming 50% of smoke shops¹ in San Diego sold tobacco products to underage investigators.

Additionally, despite the sale of flavored tobacco being prohibited, recent data shows many smoke shops continue to sell flavored tobacco. Flavored tobacco is the cause of² the youth vaping epidemic, with 31% of SDUSD students reporting vaping in 2023.

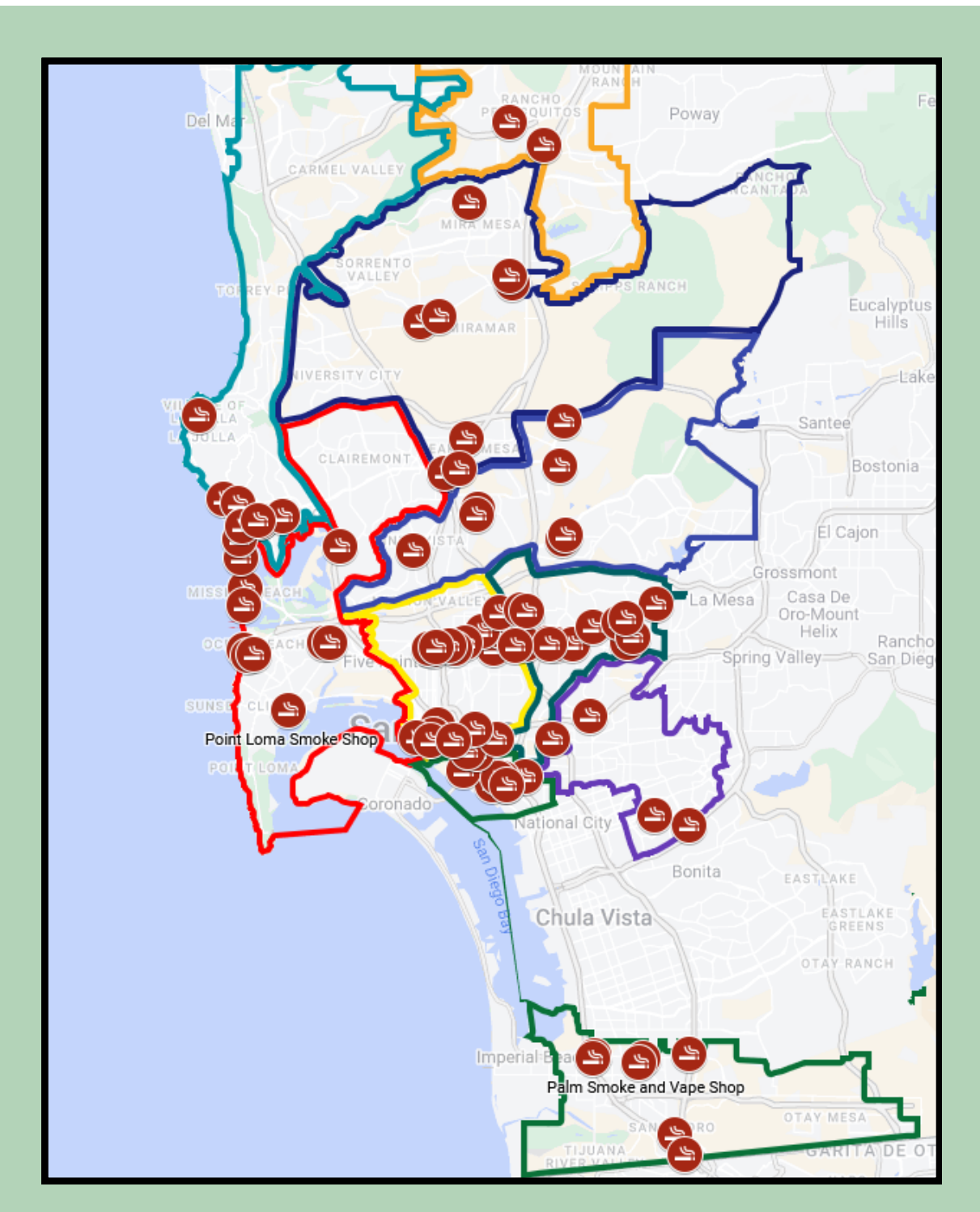
References

1. San Diego Smoke-Free Project. 2023. Young Adult Tobacco Purchase Survey.
2. 2023 SDUSD Youth Risk Behavior Survey. 2023.
3. Schleicher NC, Johnson TO, Fortmann SP, Henriksen L. *Tobacco outlet density near home and school: Associations with smoking and norms among US teens*. Prev Med. 2016 Oct.

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Proximity to Youth Spaces

- 1 in 4 smoke shops operate within 1,000 feet of youth sensitive spaces.
- Data shows that the proximity of smoke shops to youth sensitive spaces increases youth access to the products and cultivates a cultural acceptance of the intoxicating, mind-altering, and/or hallucinogenic product use.³



There are 138 smoke shops in San Diego, often highly concentrated and adjacent to youth sensitive spaces.



Get Involved!



Products Sold

Smoke shops sell tobacco products and paraphernalia, unregulated intoxicating hemp, hallucinogenic gummies, nitrous oxide, kratom, 7-OP, and more. Many smoke shops also function as convenience stores, selling everyday household products such as bread and milk.



To Protect San Diego Youth

1. Restrict smoke shops from operating within 1,000 feet of youth-sensitive spaces
2. Establish a clear definition of smoke shops
3. Require a minimum age of 21 to enter smoke shops
4. Limit dual-function operations within smoke shops
5. Establish a compliance monitoring program
6. Regulate hours of operation
7. Implement restrictions on advertising