

For Immediate Release: December 18, 2024 **Contact:** Zack Kaldveer, Public Health Institute's Getting it Right from the Start Project, 510-938-2664

Scorecards Highlight Gaps in CA Local Cannabis Policies Amid Rising Public Health Concerns California Cities and Counties Urged to Step Up for Public Health and Social Equity

(Oakland, CA) — Today, <u>Getting it Right from the Start</u>, a project of the Public Health Institute (PHI), released its <u>6th Annual State of Cannabis Policy in California Scorecards</u>, offering a comprehensive overview of cannabis policies in cities and counties that allow retail sales. The 2024 scorecards identify critical opportunities to shape a safer local cannabis marketplace amid rising public health concerns, but many jurisdictions are not yet opting to go beyond basic state law to prioritize health, protect youth, or advance social equity. Notably, many of the scorecard's recommendations align with those endorsed in the <u>October 30 report</u> by the High-Potency Cannabis Scientific Committee, convened by the California Department of Public Health in response to Governor Newsom's directive.

"As cannabis products have become increasingly potent and industry marketing ever more appealing to youth, there is an urgent need for stronger regulatory protections that recognize rising public health concerns," **said Dr. Lynn Silver, MD, MPH, pediatrician and project founder.** "Our scorecards provide a resource for communities looking to adopt evidence-based practices and set a standard for responsible cannabis regulation."

The 2024 scorecards assess jurisdictions on a 100-point scale, with higher scores representing stronger public health measures enacted over the past five years. Evaluations are based on six categories: retailer requirements, taxation, products, marketing, smoke-free air, and equity measures.

The City of Pomona topped this year's scorecard with a record-breaking 60 points, driven by innovative policies such as pre-reviewing marketing materials to prevent youth appeal, supporting equity applicants, educating consumers with health information, and allocating funds to youth programs. The City of Fresno ranked second with 54 points, excelling in maintaining smoke-free air, reserving licenses for equity applicants, and minimizing youth exposure to storefronts and marketing. Despite these achievements, the statewide average score remains low—22 out of 100 points for jurisdictions allowing storefront sales and just 12 points for those permitting delivery only. The scorecards also show that fully 67% of Californians are now living in areas where legal cannabis is available, up from 55% in 2019.

"The dedication of many California regulators and community advocates to creating systems that balance public health and the industry is encouraging," **said Alisa Padon, PhD, the project's research director.** "This year, we were thrilled to see scores improve in many cities and counties across the state. We hope to see this trend continue, as there are still enormous opportunities for local action."

Alarming public health trends underscore the substantial need for local action. In 2021, <u>cannabis use by</u> <u>California teens</u> was higher among teens who lived closer to retailers. The percentage of U.S. 12th graders using cannabis vapes, which are high-potency products, <u>nearly tripled over six years</u>, with 14% reporting recent use. Use during pregnancy, which is associated with harm to both <u>mother</u> and <u>baby</u>, <u>nearly doubled</u> in California and is <u>higher in areas with more retailers</u>. California's poison control centers handled <u>830 cannabis-related calls</u> for children aged five and under—up 155% since 2018. California also witnessed a <u>1808% relative rise in cannabis-related emergency visits</u> among older adults from 2005 to 2019.

"By limiting the number of retail cannabis permits to four, entering community benefits agreements with our dispensaries, and enforcing strict annual inspections, the City of Pomona has worked to ensure that cannabis businesses integrate into our community responsibly," **said Monica Montanez, MPP, Community Health Worker, City of Pomona.** "The Cannabis Scorecards serve as an invaluable, comprehensive guide, offering expert feedback and actionable insights that help empower us to strengthen public health protections, safeguard youth, and promote equity while identifying areas for continued improvement."

A recent survey led by the project's Dr. Ryan Whitacre found that 83% of local elected officials in California support prohibiting cannabis product packaging that appeals to youth. Yet, only 14 of the state's 539 localities have enacted any cannabis product restrictions. However, some jurisdictions showcase what is achievable, with many of their policies aligning with the recommendations of the "High-Potency Cannabis Scientific Committee" For example, **San Luis Obispo** prioritizes applicants committed to offering low-THC products, while **Grass Valley and Cathedral City** impose higher taxes on high-potency products. Addressing the risks of flavored inhalable products known to attract youth use, **Contra Costa County, Watsonville, Chico, and Mammoth Lakes** have implemented laws to restrict them.

Other notable findings include:

- Retail Location Limits: 78% (stable) of jurisdictions permitting storefront retailers set a limit on the number of licenses they would issue. 31% (down 1%) required retailers to maintain a greater distance from schools than state law mandates. But the store to people ratio fell to 1:17,000 in 2023 vs. 1:21,000 in 2019.
- Local Cannabis Taxes: 177 jurisdictions collect local cannabis taxes, an increase of 46% since 2018. However, only 25 jurisdictions dedicate revenue to community reinvestment, prevention efforts, or youth programs.
- Smoke-Free Policies: A growing proportion of jurisdictions keep storefronts smoke-free (139, 67%), and a growing number (85) prohibit temporary events in public spaces. However, 49 jurisdictions now allow on-site consumption, raising concerns about a return to "smoke-filled rooms" and worker health. The passage of the Cannabis Cafe bill this year heightens the urgency for local jurisdictions to act decisively to keep air smoke-free.
- **Equity Initiatives:** Although still limited, 38 jurisdictions enacted equity policies for hiring or licensing, an increase from six jurisdictions in 2019.

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Getting it Right from the Start, a project of the Public Health Institute, works with states, cities, counties and community partners to develop evidence-based model policies and provide guidance on cannabis policies that can help reduce harms, protect against youth and problem cannabis use, and advance social equity.



FACT SHEET

WHAT: California cities and counties can now measure how well their cannabis ordinances are protecting youth and supporting social equity in the first six years of legalization. Scorecards summarize the evolution of cannabis policies in the 320 California cities and counties that have opted to permit retail sales, whether through storefronts and/or by delivery, of cannabis.

The scorecards bring light to a patchwork of local policies that continue to mostly fall far short of what public health leaders believe is necessary. In a legal market lacking that more solid foundation, dangerous products and practices, like ultra-high potency grape flavored vapes, billboards everywhere or invisible health warnings in 6-point font, have rapidly become entrenched, leading to growth in cannabisrelated health problems.

WHY: New data is showing increases in harmful patterns of cannabis use, including a tripling of daily or near daily use by California adults and a near doubling of cannabis use during pregnancy over the past decade. Cannabis-related emergency department visits among older adults increased 70% in just four years (2015-2019). According to the U.S. Surgeon General, cannabis can have severe negative effects on the adolescent brain, including problems with memory and learning, and impaired coordination. Higher potency products are particularly dangerous for youth.

The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine concluded there was substantial evidence that cannabis use is associated with:

- Low birth weight, if used during pregnancy
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Psychosis and schizophrenia
- Problem use, especially when used at a young age or frequently.

Rates of cannabis-related mental health issues, including psychosis and suicidal ideation, are also climbing. These effects can have a strong impact on community public safety, including increased auto accident rates due to consumers driving under the influence.

To mitigate these issues, cities and counties that choose to legalize retail sales of cannabis should adopt a set of common sense, evidence-based cannabis policies to fulfill our collective responsibility to protect youth and promote social equity.

WHO: Getting it Right from the Start, a project of the Public Health Institute, works with states, cities, counties and community partners to develop evidence-based model policies and provide guidance on cannabis policies that can help reduce harms, protect against youth and problem cannabis use, and advance social equity.



Model Ordinances

Developing model local ordinances for licensing cannabis retailers, marketing, and general and special taxes on cannabis.



Research

Carrying out research with local and national stakeholders and experts to identify best practices.



Legal Analyses

Developing legal analyses of relevant issues for licensing, constraints on marketing and taxation.



Technical Resources

Managing a national

webinars, presentations,

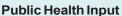
visits and other TA tools

communities, educating

listserv, providing

policymakers and sharing experiences.

that support



Providing public health-oriented input to regulatory processes and supporting other stakeholders to do so.

The Getting it Right from the Start project's research is funded by the National Institutes of Health and by the California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program. However, the opinions expressed here reflect the position of the project and do not necessarily represent the views of any other organization.



what is needed for

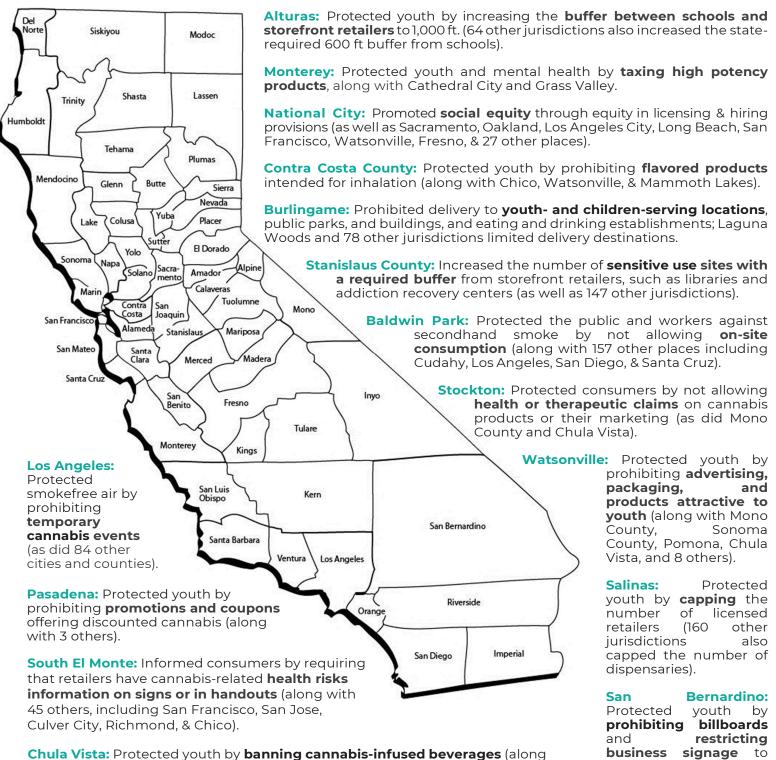
identification only (140 other jurisdictions also

outdoor

limited

advertising).

Examples of what your neighbors are doing to protect youth, public health, and social equity.



with Pasadena, McFarland, & Mono County).

El Monte: Protected youth by **dedicating tax revenue to youth programs** and addiction prevention; 24 other jurisdictions dedicated tax or fee revenue to youth, prevention, and/or social equity.



Cannabis Policy Scorecard Testimonials: What the Experts are Saying

Every year we work with state and national subject matter experts, including local regulatory officials and agencies, local municipalities and community partners to identify best practices that can help communities better safeguard their youth and support social equity through effective cannabis policies. Here's what some of them had to say about our scorecards and their value to their local efforts:

"The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department supports and enacts efforts to prevent cannabis products from ending up in the hands of youth. Substance use is a public health problem, and these scorecards provide clear metrics that can guide policy decisions and set up guardrails for healthier communities."

Rhonda McClinton-Brown, County of Santa Clara Public Health Department Deputy Director for Strategy, Policy, and Planning

"The County of Monterey Cannabis Program has found the Cannabis Policy Scorecard to be very insightful, as it offers a succinct and weighted view of existing and emerging best practices for supporting public health and equity outcomes that include retail and delivery requirements, taxes, product limits, marketing, and smoke-free air. The scorecard outcomes assist...our industry and stakeholders while identifying areas of opportunity for policies that address youth uptake, promote public health safety, and alleviate disparities." **County of Monterey Cannabis Program**

"By limiting the number of retail cannabis permits to four, entering community benefits agreements with our dispensaries, and enforcing strict annual inspections, the City of Pomona has worked to ensure that cannabis businesses integrate into our community responsibly. The Cannabis Scorecards serve as an invaluable, comprehensive guide, offering expert feedback and actionable insights that help empower us to strengthen public health protections, safeguard youth, and promote equity while identifying areas for continued improvement."

Monica Montanez, MPP, Community Health Worker, City of Pomona

"It is incredibly important to understand what communities are doing locally if we want to understand the true impacts of changing any state cannabis policy, but doing so is also incredibly difficult due to the different foci of each community. The Getting it Right from the Start Cannabis scorecards are a valuable tool for describing what is happening locally as it pertains to public health, youth access, and social equity, not just for policymakers but for researchers as well."

Rosalie Liccardo Pacula, Ph.D. Professor and Elizabeth Garrett Chair in Health Policy, Economics & Law, Health Policy and Management

"Getting It Right from the Start's Cannabis Scorecards have been pivotal in our outreach to LA County lawmakers to demonstrate gaps in cannabis regulation and to make the case for better laws that protect youth, public health, and social equity. Their methodology and data have greatly supported our advocacy efforts."

Sarah Blanch, Vice President, Institute for Public Strategies

"The Cannabis Policy Scorecards are an excellent tool for communities to easily view best-practices related to smoke-free air, equity, products and marketing. This information is incredibly helpful in tracking local policy across jurisdictions to inform government representatives about where we stand and what improvements can be made."

Kelsey Fernandez, Executive Director, Marin Healthy Youth Partnerships

The Getting it Right from the Start project is funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Our research is also generously funded by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, the State of California, and National Institutes of Drug Abuse. However, the opinions expressed here reflect the positions of the project and do not necessarily represent the views of any other organization.



2024 STOREFRONT SCORECARD METHODOLOGY

Where jurisdictions allow sales at storefront retailers (may also allow delivery):

The scores are based on **six key categories of policies** that local governments can enact to advance public health and equity if they opt to allow cannabis retail sales in storefronts. Based on the best available evidence, policies with the greatest potential for achieving these goals received higher points. Cannabis laws passed by January 1st, 2024, were identified using legal databases, municipal codes, and direct outreach to cities and counties. The maximum score possible was 100.

1) **RETAILER REQUIREMENTS (28 total points possible):** Strategic limits on cannabis retailers and educating consumers can decrease youth use and risks of cannabis use.

- Caps on Retailers (10 points max). Limit the number of licensed retailers; we used a ratio of retailers to inhabitants.
- Distance from Schools (5 points). Mandate a distance greater than 600 feet between K-12 schools and retailers.
- Retailer Buffers (2 points). Mandate a required distance between retailers.
- Other Location Restrictions (3 points). Mandate a distance between retailers and other youth-serving sites not covered by state law, such as parks, playgrounds, or universities, or other locations, such as residential areas.
- Health Warnings Posted in Stores OR Handed Out to Customers (8 points max). Mandate retailers post and/or hand out health warnings informing consumers of relevant risks at the point of sale.

2) TAXES & PRICES (20 total points possible): Taxes and higher prices can decrease youth access while raising valuable revenue for local communities.

- Local Cannabis Tax (6 points). Impose a local tax on cannabis retail sales.
- Dedicated Tax Revenue (6 points max). Dedicate tax revenue to youth programs, prevention, or reinvestment in the communities most affected by the war on drugs.
- Tax by THC Content (5 points). Impose higher tax rates for high potency (high THC) products.
- Discounting (2 points). Prohibit cannabis discounting such as coupons or discount days.
- Minimum Price (1 point). Establish a minimum price floor for cannabis.
- PRODUCT LIMITS (17 total points possible): End the Cannabis Kids Menu of products that appeal to youth and limit products that increase adverse effects.
 - Limit Potency (6 points max). Prohibit sale of high potency cannabis flower and products through bans or ceilings.
 - Flavored Products (Non-Edibles) (5 points). Prohibit sale of flavored inhalable (non-edible) products.
 - Cannabis-Infused Beverages (4 points). Prohibit sale of cannabis-infused beverages.
 - Products Attractive to Youth (2 points). Prohibit sale of products attractive to youth more clearly than state law.

4) MARKETING (18 total points possible): Limit marketing exposure to decrease youth use and educate consumers.

- Billboards (6 points max). Restrict or prohibit the use of billboards to advertise cannabis.
- Health Warnings on Ads (4 points). Require health warnings on all cannabis advertisements.
- Therapeutic or Health Claims (3 points). Prohibit therapeutic or health claims on cannabis labels, packages, and ads.
- Business Signage Restrictions (3 points). Restrict on-site business advertising.
- Marketing Attractive to Youth (2 points). Prohibit advertising attractive to youth more clearly than state law.
- 5) SMOKE-FREE AIR (8 total points possible): Smoke-free air policies can reduce secondhand smoke exposure and discourage youth use.
 - Temporary Events (5 points). Prohibit temporary cannabis events such as at county fairs or concerts in parks.
- On-Site Consumption (3 points). Prohibit on-site cannabis consumption, whether by smoking, vaping, or use of edibles.

6) EQUITY & CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (9 total points possible): Cannabis policy can promote social equity and reduce conflicts of interest.

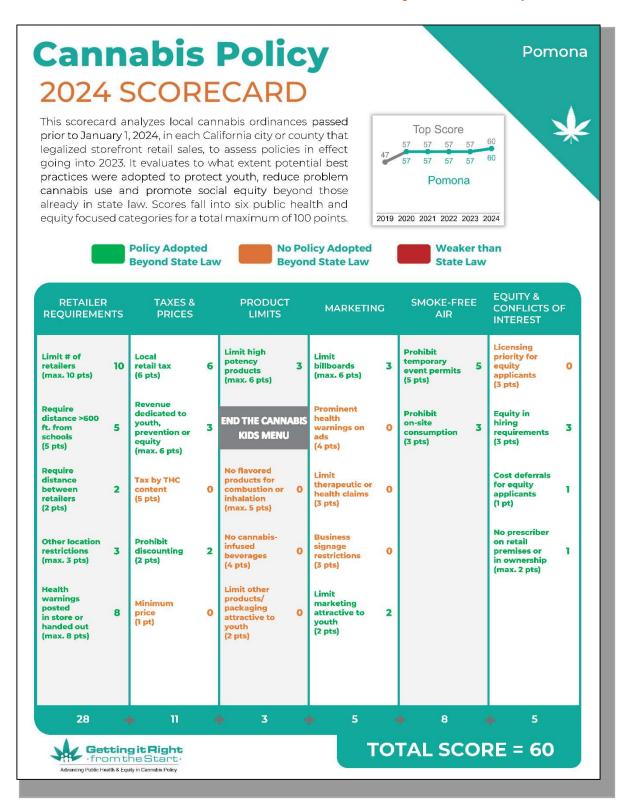
- Priority in Licensing (3 points). Prioritize equity applicants when issuing cannabis business licenses.
- Equity in Hiring (3 points). Require hiring to prioritize low-income, transitional, or other workers from communities disadvantaged by the war on drugs.
- Cost Reduction/Deferral (1 point). Reduce/defer the costs of cannabis business licenses for equity applicants.
- **Conflict of Interest (2 points max).** Prohibit on-premises patient evaluations, prescriber ownership or other financial relationships with retailers, industry representation in oversight, or industry communication with application evaluation committee members.

Getting it Right from the Start is a project of the Public Health Institute. The Project has worked with experts to identify potential best regulatory practices and develop model regulatory and taxation frameworks to advance public health and equity. Visit us at <u>www.gettingitrightfromthestart.org</u>.



EXAMPLE STOREFRONT SCORECARD

Where sales are allowed at storefront retailers located in a jurisdiction (may also allow delivery).



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2024 DELIVERY ONLY SCORECARD METHODOLOGY

Where jurisdictions allow sales only by delivery from businesses based inside the jurisdiction AND may be allowed from deliverers based outside the jurisdiction.

The scores are based on **six key categories of policies** that local governments can enact to advance public health and equity if they opt to allow cannabis sales only by delivery. Based on the best available evidence, policies with the greatest potential for achieving these goals received higher points. Cannabis laws passed by January 1st, 2024, were identified using legal databases, municipal codes, and direct outreach to cities and counties. The maximum score possible was 100.

1) DELIVERER REQUIREMENTS (32 total points possible): Strategic limits on cannabis retailers and educating consumers can decrease youth use and risks of cannabis use.

- Local Permit (5 points max). Mandate local permitting of deliverers originating from within and outside the jurisdiction.
- Medical Cannabis Sales (3 points). Allow delivery sales of medicinal cannabis.
- Independent ID Verification Process (10 points max). Mandate the use of an independent age and identity verification process before cannabis delivery.
- Delivery Destinations (10 points max). Limit where deliveries can terminate, e.g., no delivery to college dormitories.
- Health Warnings Handed Out to Customers (4 points). Mandate that retailers hand out health warnings informing consumers of relevant risks at the point of sale.
- 2) TAXES & PRICES (20 total points possible): Taxes and higher prices can decrease youth access while raising valuable revenue for local communities.
 - Local Cannabis Tax (6 points). Impose a local tax on cannabis retail sales.
 - Dedicated Tax Revenue (6 points max). Dedicate tax revenue to youth programs, prevention, or reinvestment in the communities most affected by the war on drugs.
 - Tax by THC Content (5 points). Impose higher tax rates for high potency (high THC) products.
 - Discounting (2 points). Prohibit cannabis discounting such as coupons or discount days.
 - Minimum Price (1 point). Establish a minimum price floor for cannabis.
- PRODUCT LIMITS (17 total points possible): End the Cannabis Kids Menu of products that appeal to youth and limit products that increase adverse effects.
 - Limit Potency (6 points max). Prohibit sale of high potency cannabis flower and products through bans or ceilings.
 - Flavored Products (Non-Edibles) (5 points). Prohibit sale of flavored inhalable (non-edible) products.
 - Cannabis-Infused Beverages (4 points). Prohibit sale of cannabis-infused beverages.
 - Products Attractive to Youth (2 points). Prohibit sale of products attractive to youth more clearly than state law.

4) MARKETING (18 total points possible): Limit marketing exposure to decrease youth use and educate consumers.

- **Billboards (6 points max).** Restrict or prohibit the use of billboards to advertise cannabis.
- Health Warnings on Ads (4 points). Require health warnings on all cannabis advertisements.
- Therapeutic or Health Claims (3 points). Prohibit therapeutic or health claims on cannabis labels, packages, and ads.
- Business Signage Restrictions (3 points). Restrict on-site business advertising.
- Marketing Attractive to Youth (2 points). Prohibit advertising attractive to youth more clearly than state law.
- 5) SMOKE-FREE AIR (5 total points possible): Smoke-free air policies can reduce secondhand smoke exposure and discourage youth use.
 - Temporary Events (5 points). Prohibit temporary cannabis events such as at county fairs or concerts in parks.
- 6) EQUITY & CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (8 total points possible): Cannabis policy can promote social equity and reduce conflicts of interest.
 - Priority in Licensing (3 points). Prioritize equity applicants when issuing cannabis business licenses.
 - Equity in Hiring (3 points). Require hiring to prioritize low-income, transitional, or other workers from communities disadvantaged by the war on drugs.
 - Cost Reduction/Deferral (1 point). Reduce/defer the costs of cannabis business licenses for equity applicants.
 - **Conflict of Interest (1 point).** Prohibit prescriber ownership or other financial relationships with retailers, industry representation in oversight, or industry communication with application evaluation committee members.

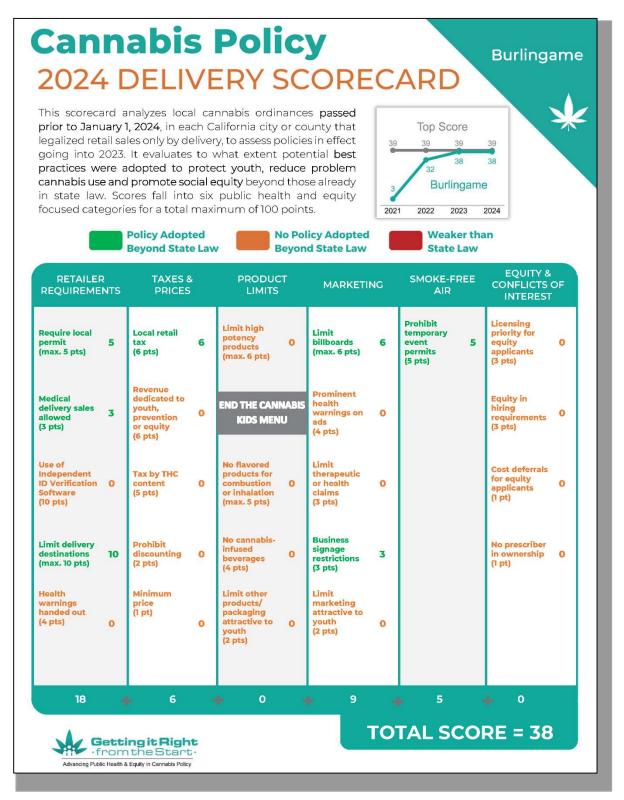
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EXAMPLE DELIVERY ONLY SCORECARD

Where only delivery is allowed from deliverers located inside the permitting jurisdiction AND may be allowed from retailers located outside of the jurisdiction.



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Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

2024 DELIVERY ONLY SCORECARD METHODOLOGY

Where jurisdictions allow sales only by delivery from businesses based OUTSIDE of the jurisdiction.

The scores are based on six key categories of policies that local governments can enact to advance public health and equity if they opt to allow cannabis sales only by delivery originating outside the jurisdiction. Based on the best available evidence, policies with the greatest potential for achieving these goals received higher points. Cannabis laws passed by January 1st, 2024, were identified using legal databases, municipal codes, and direct outreach to cities and counties. The maximum score possible was 100.

1) DELIVERER REQUIREMENTS (39 total points possible): Strategic limits on cannabis retailers and educating consumers can decrease youth use and risks of cannabis use.

- Local Permit (12 points max). Mandate local permitting by deliverers originating from outside the jurisdiction.
- Medical Cannabis Sales (3 points). Allow delivery sales of medicinal cannabis.
- Independent ID Verification Process (10 points max). Mandate the use of an independent age and identity verification process before cannabis delivery.
- Delivery Destinations (10 points max). Limit where deliveries can terminate, e.g., no delivery to college dormitories.
- Health Warnings Handed Out to Customers (4 points each). Mandate that retailers hand out health warnings informing consumers of relevant risks at the point of sale.

2) TAXES & PRICES (20 total points possible): Taxes and higher prices can decrease youth access while raising valuable revenue for local communities.

- Local Cannabis Tax (6 points). Impose a local tax on cannabis retail sales.
- Dedicated Tax Revenue (6 points max). Dedicate tax revenue to youth programs, prevention, or reinvestment in the communities most affected by the war on drugs.
- Tax by THC Content (5 points). Impose higher tax rates for high potency (high THC) products.
- Discounting (2 points). Prohibit cannabis discounting such as coupons or discount days.
- Minimum Price (1 point). Establish a minimum price floor for cannabis.
- 3) PRODUCT LIMITS (17 total points possible): End the Cannabis Kids Menu of products that appeal to youth and limit products that increase adverse effects.
 - Limit Potency (6 points max). Prohibit sale of high potency cannabis flower and products through bans or ceilings.
 - Flavored Products (Non-Edibles) (5 points). Prohibit sale of flavored inhalable (non-edible) products.
 - Cannabis-Infused Beverages (4 points). Prohibit sale of cannabis-infused beverages.
 - Products Attractive to Youth (2 points). Prohibit sale of products attractive to youth more clearly than state law.

4) MARKETING (15 total points possible): Limit marketing exposure to decrease youth use and educate consumers.

- **Billboards (6 points max).** Restrict or prohibit the use of billboards to advertise cannabis.
- Health Warnings on Ads (4 points). Require health warnings on all cannabis advertisements.
- Therapeutic or Health Claims (3 points). Prohibit therapeutic or health claims on cannabis labels, packages, and ads.
- Marketing Attractive to Youth (2 points). Prohibit advertising attractive to youth more clearly than state law.
- 5) SMOKE-FREE AIR (5 total points possible): Smoke-free air policies can improve air quality, protect kids, and reduce secondhand smoke exposure.
 - Temporary Events (5 points). Prohibit temporary cannabis events such as at county fairs or concerts in parks.
- 6) EOUITY (4 total points possible): Cannabis policy can promote social equity.
 - Priority in Licensing (3 points). Prioritize equity applicants when issuing cannabis business licenses.
 - Cost Reduction/Deferral (1 point). Reduce/defer the costs of cannabis business licenses for equity applicants.

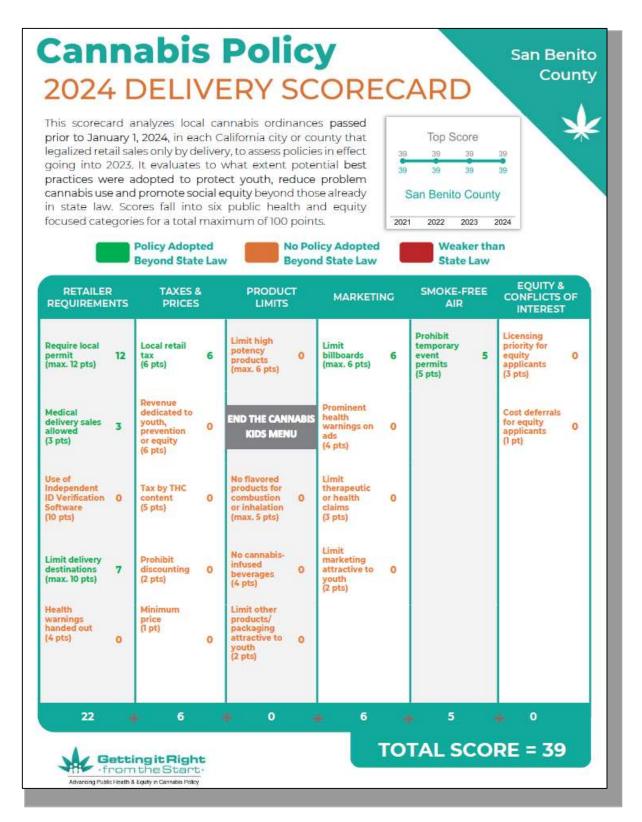
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Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policv

EXAMPLE DELIVERY ONLY SCORECARD

Where only delivery is allowed originating from retailers located OUTSIDE of the jurisdiction.



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TOPLINE SUMMARY

Type of Retail Sales	Number of Jurisdictions Allowing Legal Retail Sales and Californians Covered (% Jurisdictions†; % Californians Covered)									
Allowed	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019				
Sale by Storefronts Allowed	207 (38%; 55%)	196 (36%; 53%)	179 (33%; 50%)	166 (31%; 49%)	150 (28%; 46%)	136 (25%; 45%)				
Sale by Delivery Only with Local Businesses Allowed	42 (8%; 6%)	33 (6%; 4%)	38 (7%; 5%)	37 (7%; 4%)	44 (8%; 5%)	115 (21%; 11%)				
Sale by Delivery Only from Outside	71 (13%; 6%)	69 (13%; 6%)	70 (13%; 6%)	74 (14%; 6%)	77 (14%; 7%)					
Any Retail Sales Allowed Total	320 (59%; 67%)	298 (55%; 63%)	288 (53%; 61%)	278 (52%; 60%)	271 (50%; 58%)	251 (47%; 55%)				

[†]Out of 539 cities and counties

Perce	Percent of California Cities and Counties that Allow Retail Sales that Passed at Least One Recommended Policy across the Retail Policy Categories													
	Among Cities and Counties Allowing Each Type of Sale*													
		2024 2023 2022 2021								2020	2019			
Retail Policy Categories	Stores	Delv In/Out	Delv Out	Stores	Delv In/Out	Delv Out	Stores	Delv In/Out	Delv Out	Stores	Delv In/Out	Delv Out	Stores	Stores
Retailer Requirements	92%	98%	100%	92%	97%	100%	91%	97%	100%	90%	97%	100%	91%	88%
Taxation & Prices	84%	29%	16%	82%	36%	17%	81%	37%	14%	81%	35%	16%	79%	79%
Product Limits	5%	0%	1%	5%	0%	1%	6%	0%	1%	7%	0%	1%	5%	4%
Marketing	60%	33%	3%	63%	29%	3%	63%	27%	4%	63%	27%	4%	57%	51%
Smoke-free Air	78%	36%	17%	78%	42%	17%	79%	40%	19%	80%	35%	18%	79%	82%
Equity & Conflicts of Interest	53%	2%	0%	54%	3%	0%	53%	5%	0%	51%	5%	0%	50%	43%

*Stores = Cannabis retail sales allowed by storefront retailers AND may be allowed by delivery. Delv In/Out = Cannabis retail sales allowed only by delivery from delivery businesses located inside the permitting jurisdiction AND may be allowed from retailers located outside the jurisdiction. Delv Out = Cannabis retail sales allowed only by delivery from retailers located OUTSIDE the permitting jurisdiction.



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – BAY AREA

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	NOTE:
Alameda County	28	28	28	28	25	24	The highest total score
– Alameda	32	32	32	32	32	32	possible is 100 points.
– Albany†	9	9	9	9	-	-	
– Berkeley	42	42	42	41	26	24	Not all counties and
– Emeryville	14	14	14	14	7	7	cities have permitted
– Hayward	17	17	17	12	12	12	sales or implemented policies. Some
– Livermore [†]	31	31	31	31	-	-	jurisdictions are not
– Oakland	25	25	25	25	25	25	listed.
– Piedmont [†]	15	15	15	15	-	-	
– Pleasanton [†]	3	-	-	-	-	-	If a city and county are
– San Leandro	42	42	42	42	31	31	listed on the same row of this chart, the score
– Union City	34	34	34	34	32	32	represents the city, not
Contra Costa County	53	50	50	50	50	47	the county.
– Antioch	3	3	3	8	8	8	
– Brentwood†	22	-	-	-	-	-	If a county score is
– Clayton [†]	23	23	23	23	-	-	listed, it refers to laws for the unincorporated
– Concord	31	22	22	22	-	-	area of that county.
– Danville†	15	-	-	-	-	-	, s
– El Cerrito	15	15	15	15	15	15	† These cities and
– Lafayette [†]	8	8	8	8	-	-	counties only offer delivery-based retail.
– Martinez	27	24	24	24	18	17	delivery-based retail.
– Oakley [†]	23	23	23	23	-	-	
– Pittsburg	34	34	34	-	-	-	
– Pleasant Hill†	13	13	13	13	-	-	
– Richmond	34	34	34	31	31	31	
– Walnut Creek†	24	24	21	21	-	-	

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – BAY AREA



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	NOTE:
Marin County [†]	21	21	21	21	-	-	
– Belvedere†	3	3	3	3	-	-	The highest total score
– Corte Madera†	3	3	3	3	_	-	possible is 100 points.
– Fairfax	12	12	12	12	12	10	Not all counties and
– Larkspur†	15	15	15	15	_	-	cities have permitted
– Novato†	13	13	13	13	-	-	sales or implemented
– Ross [†]	3	3	3	3	_	-	policies. Some
– San Anselmo†	15	15	15	15	-	-	jurisdictions are not
– San Rafael†	31	31	31	31	_	-	listed.
– Sausalito†	15	15	15	15	-	-	If a city and county are
– Tiburon†	3	3	3	3	-	-	listed on the same row
Napa County [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	of this chart, the score
– American Canyon [†]	16	16	16	16	-	-	represents the city, not
– Napa	16	16	16	16	16	6	the county.
– St. Helena†	3	3	3	3	_	-	If a county score is
– Yountville†	8	8	8	8	-	-	listed, it refers to laws
San Francisco City & Co.	22	22	22	22	22	22	for the unincorporated
San Mateo County [†]	6	6	6	6	-	-	area of that county.
– Belmont [†]	11	11	11	11	-	-	† These cities and
– Brisbane [†]	14	14	14	14	-	-	counties only offer
– Burlingame [†]	38	38	32	3	-	-	delivery-based retail.
– Daly City	21	21	21	-	-	-	
– Foster City†	15	15	15	15	-	-	
– Half Moon Bay [†]	9	9	9	9	-	-	
– Hillsborough [†]	15	15	15	15	-	-	
– Menlo Park [†]	3	3	3	3	_	-	
– Millbrae [†]	15	15	15	15	-	-	
– Pacifica	26	26	26	26	26	26	
– Portola Valley†	3	3	3	3	_	-	

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – BAY AREA



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	NOTE:
– Redwood City	28	25	25	25	-	-	
– San Bruno	36	30	-	-	-	-	The highest total score
– San Carlos [†]	26	26	26	26	-	-	possible is 100 points.
– San Mateo†	8	8	8	8	-	-	Not all counties and
– South San Francisco [†]	26	26	26	26	_	_	cities have permitted
– Woodside [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	sales or implemented
Santa Clara County							policies. Some
– Campbell [†]	21	21	21	21	-	-	jurisdictions are not
– Cupertino†	3	3	3	3	-	-	listed.
– Los Altos†	3	3	3	3	-	-	If a city and county are
– Los Altos Hills†	8	8	8	8	-	-	listed on the same row
– Monte Sereno†	11	11	11	11	-	-	of this chart, the score
– Mountain View†	17	17	17	17	-	22	represents the city, not
– Palo Alto†	3	3	3	3	-	-	the county.
– San Jose	24	39	36	36	36	33	If a county score is
Santa Cruz County	29	27	18	18	18	17	listed, it refers to laws
– Capitola	29	29	29	29	29	29	for the unincorporated
– Santa Cruz	42	42	42	37	34	27	area of that county.
– Scotts Valley†	10	10	10	10	-	-	† These cities and
– Watsonville	45	45	45	45	_	_	counties only offer
Solano County [†]	21	21	21	21	-	-	delivery-based retail.
– Benicia	23	23	23	23	23	14	
– Dixon	19	19	19	19	14	14	
– Fairfield	29	29	29	29	_	_	
– Rio Vista	15	15	15	15	15	16	
– Suisun City	10	10	8	8	22	22	
– Vacaville	27	27	27	-	-	-	
– Vallejo	18	18	18	18	15	12	

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – BAY AREA

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	NOTE:
Sonoma County	37	33	33	34	34	34	
– Cloverdale	14	14	14	14	14	14	The highest total score
– Cotati	16	16	19	19	19	19	possible is 100 points.
– Healdsburg	14	-	-	-	-	-	Not all counties and
– Petaluma [†]	16	16	16	16	-	-	cities have permitted
– Santa Rosa	15	15	15	15	15	15	sales or implemented
– Sebastopol	8	8	8	8	7	7	policies. Some
– Sonoma	32	32	32	41	35	-	jurisdictions are not listed.

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL COAST

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Monterey County	25	25	25	24	24	22
– Del Rey Oaks	22	22	22	22	22	22
– Greenfield	18	18	18	18	18	18
– King City	21	21	21	21	-	-
– Marina	32	32	32	32	21	21
– Monterey	18	-	-	-	-	-
– Pacific Grove	33	-	-	23	-	-
– Salinas	30	30	30	30	30	30
– Seaside	15	15	15	16	16	16
San Benito County [†]	39	39	39	39	-	-
– Hollister	28	28	28	28	28	20
– San Juan Bautista	17	17	17	17	17	16
San Luis Obispo County [†]	14	14	14	14	_	-
– Arroyo Grande [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-
– Atascadero†	27	27	27	29	_	-
– Grover Beach	10	10	13	13	13	12
– Morro Bay	23	23	23	23	23	23



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

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If a county score is listed, it refers to laws for the unincorporated area of that county.

† These cities and counties only offer delivery-based retail.

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL COAST

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	NOTE:
– Paso Robles†	14	14	14	14	-	-	
– Pismo Beach [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	The high
– San Luis Obispo	51	51	51	51	51	35	possible
Santa Barbara County	29	29	29	29	27	25	Not all co
– Buellton†	3	3	3	3	-	-	cities hav
– Carpinteria†	16	16	16	16	-	-	sales or i
– Goleta	19	19	19	19	19	18	policies.
– Guadalupe	21	21	21	3	-	-	jurisdicti listed.
– Lompoc	6	6	6	6	6	6	listed.
– Santa Barbara	33	33	33	33	33	33	If a city a
– Santa Maria†	3	3	3	3	-	-	listed on
– Solvang	25	25	25	25	25	24	of this ch
Ventura County [†]	14	14	14	14	-	-	represen the coun
– Camarillo [†]	16	-	-	-	-	-	the cour
– Ojai	9	12	12	12	6	6	lf a coun
– Oxnard	35	41	37	37	23	-	listed, it ı
– Port Hueneme	10	10	13	13	13	4	for the u
– Thousand Oaks	32	32	32	32	32	32	area of th
– Ventura	31	33	33	33	-	-	† These of

The highest total score possible is 100 points.

Not all counties and cities have permitted sales or implemented policies. Some jurisdictions are not listed.

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REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL VALLEY

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Colusa County						
– Colusa	18	8	8	8	_	-
Fresno County						
– Coalinga	23	23	23	23	29	29
– Firebaugh	22	22	22	22	22	-
– Fresno	54	54	46	46	46	39



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL VALLEY

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	NOTE:
– Mendota	13	13	13	23	23	_	
– Parlier	23	23	32	32	-	-	The highest total
Kern County							possible is 100 po
– Arvin†	17	17	17	17	-	-	Not all counties an
– California City	26	26	28	28	28	30	cities have permitt
– McFarland	30	-	-	-	-	-	sales or implemen
Kings County							policies. Some
– Corcoran	17	-	-	-	-	-	jurisdictions are no listed.
– Hanford	30	30	30	31	31	-	listed.
– Lemoore	6	9	9	9	9	-	If a city and county
Madera County							listed on the same
– Chowchilla [†]	15	-	-	-	-	-	of this chart, the so
– Madera	24	24	24	-	-	-	represents the city
Merced County [†]	15	15	15	15	-	-	the county.
– Atwater	22	12	12	12	12	12	If a county score is
– Gustine	8	8	8	8	8	-	listed, it refers to la
– Livingston [†]	15	15	15	15	-	-	for the unincorpor
- Merced	32	37	37	35	32	31	area of that county
San Joaquin County†	22	22	22	22	-	-	† These cities and
– Lathrop	28	28	16	-	-	-	counties only offer
– Manteca	25	25	25	-	-	-	delivery-based reta
– Stockton	43	43	40	40	40	29	, in the second s
– Tracy	28	23	23	31	17	-	
Stanislaus County	30	21	21	21	21	21	
– Ceres	9	9	9	9	9	9	
– Modesto	31	31	31	31	30	20	
– Oakdale	12	12	12	12	15	15	
– Patterson	11	11	11	11	14	11	
– Riverbank	15	15	15	16	16	16	
– Turlock	31	31	31	31	11	-	

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Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – CENTRAL VALLEY

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	N
– Waterford	8	8	8	8	2	-	
Sutter County [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	Tł
Tulare County	28	28	28	28	28	18	po
– Exeter	29	29	-	-	-	-	N
– Farmersville	20	20	20	20	20	24	ci
– Lindsay	9	9	9	9	9	-	sa
– Porterville	14	14	14	16	10	-	po
– Tulare	32	32	26	26	13	13	ju lis
– Visalia†	8	-	-	-	-	-	113
– Woodlake	15	15	15	15	15	27	lf

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – GOLD COUNTRY

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Calaveras County	19	19	19	19	22	22
– Angels Camp [†]	15	15	15	15	-	-
El Dorado County	32	32	32	32	33	9
– Placerville	23	23	22	22	19	19
– South Lake Tahoe	38	38	35	23	23	10
Inyo County	9	9	9	9	9	9
– Bishop	28	28	28	21	-	-
Mono County	42	42	42	42	42	42
– Mammoth Lakes	26	26	26	26	16	16
Tuolumne County						
– Sonora	15	15	15	12	12	12

NOTE:

The highest total score possible is 100 points.

Not all counties and cities have permitted sales or implemented policies. Some jurisdictions are not listed.

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Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	NOTE:
Butte County [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	
– Biggs [†]	0	0	0	0	-	-	The highest total score
– Chico	41	41	41	41	-	-	possible is 100 points.
Del Norte County	11	11	11	11	16	16	Not all counties and
– Crescent City	9	9	9	9	-	-	cities have permitted
Glenn County							sales or implemented
– Willows	12	12	12	12	12	12	policies. Some
Humboldt County	12	12	12	12	12	11	jurisdictions are not listed.
– Arcata	0	0	0	0	0	0	listed.
– Eureka	0	0	0	0	0	3	If a city and county are
– Rio Dell	10	10	10	10	13	22	listed on the same row
– Trinidad†	3	3	3	3	-	-	of this chart, the score
Lake County							represents the city, not
– Clearlake	3	3	3	3	3	0	the county.
– Lakeport†	16	16	16	16	-	-	If a county score is
Lassen County	17	17	17	17	17	-	listed, it refers to laws
Mendocino County	14	14	14	14	14	14	for the unincorporated
– Fort Bragg	6	6	6	6	6	6	area of that county.
– Point Arena	7	7	7	7	7	7	† These cities and
– Ukiah	15	18	18	18	18	18	counties only offer
– Willits	25	25	25	25	25	25	delivery-based retail.
Modoc County							
– Alturas	23	23	23	23	23	23	
Nevada County	28	-	-	-	-	-	
– Grass Valley	27	27	27	27	-	-	
– Nevada City	32	25	25	25	25	25	
– Truckee [†]	8	8	8	8	-	-	
Plumas County [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	
– Portola†	15	15	15	15	-	-	



JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	ΝΟΤΙ
Shasta County							
– Redding	28	28	28	28	28	28	The l
– Shasta Lake	18	18	18	18	18	18	poss
Sierra County [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	Not a
– Loyalton [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	cities
Siskiyou County							sales
– Dunsmuir	13	13	13	13	13	13	polic
– Fort Jones [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	jurisc
– Mount Shasta	7	7	7	7	7	10	listec
– Weed	15	15	15	15	21	21	lfaci
Tehama County							listec
– Red Bluff	13	13	-	-	-	-	of thi
Trinity County	13	13	22	22	-	-	repre

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SACRAMENTO AREA

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Placer County						
– Colfax	26	26	26	26	22	22
Sacramento County						
– Citrus Heights†	3	3	3	3	-	-
– Isleton	6	6	6	6	9	12
– Sacramento	32	32	29	29	28	28
Yolo County	11	11	10	-	-	-
– Davis	19	19	19	19	19	16
– West Sacramento [†]	5	3	3	3	-	-
– Woodland	23	23	27	27	-	-
Yuba County						
– Marysville	28	28	28	28	28	35



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

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If a county score is listed, it refers to laws for the unincorporated area of that county.

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Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SAN DIEGO AREA

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	NOTE:
Imperial County	9	9	9	9	9	19	
– Calexico	9	9	9	9	9	11	The highes
– El Centro	25	25	25	25	-	-	possible is
– Holtville†	20	20	20	20	-	-	Not all cour
– Imperial	23	23	23	22	19	16	cities have
– Westmorland [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	sales or imp
San Diego County	29	29	23	27	27	27	policies. So
– Carlsbad†	16	-	-	-	-	-	jurisdiction
– Chula Vista	46	46	46	46	44	44	listed.
– Encinitas	28	28	22	22	-	-	If a city and
– Imperial Beach	44	44	44	44	44	44	listed on th
– La Mesa	23	23	23	23	23	20	of this char
– Lemon Grove	20	20	20	20	20	23	represents
– National City	28	28	16	-	-	-	the county.
– Oceanside [†]	25	25	25	25	-	-	If a county
– San Diego	38	38	38	38	38	38	listed, it ref
– San Marcos [†]	16	-	-	-	-	-	for the unir
– Santee	25	25	-	-	-	-	area of that
– Vista	28	28	28	23	23	23	† These citi

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Los Angeles County						
– Artesia	15	15	-	-	—	-
– Avalon†	8	8	8	8	-	-
– Baldwin Park	31	31	-	-	-	-
– Bell†	15	15	15	15	-	-
– Bellflower	15	15	15	15	15	15

The highest total score possible is 100 points.

Not all counties and cities have permitted sales or implemented policies. Some jurisdictions are not listed.

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Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	NOTE:
– Bell Gardens	22	-	-	-	-	-	
– Beverly Hills [†]	29	3	3	3	-	-	The highest total score
– Calabasas [†]	9	9	9	9	-	-	possible is 100 points.
– Carson [†]	21	21	21	21	-	-	Not all counties and
– Commerce [†]	13	13	13	13	-	-	cities have permitted
– Covina	23	-	-	-	-	-	sales or implemented
– Cudahy	30	30	12	12	-	-	policies. Some
– Culver City	32	32	32	32	27	23	jurisdictions are not listed.
– El Monte	49	49	49	50	44	-	iisted.
– Hawthorne	14	14	14	14	-	-	If a city and county are
– Hermosa Beach [†]	21	21	-	-	-	-	listed on the same row
– Huntington Park	16	16	14	15	15	15	of this chart, the score represents the city, not
– Lancaster	19	11	-	-	-	-	the county.
– Long Beach	34	34	40	40	40	40	the county.
– Los Angeles	39	39	30	31	31	31	If a county score is
– Lynwood	35	35	19	19	-	-	listed, it refers to laws
– Malibu	26	26	26	26	26	26	for the unincorporated area of that county.
– Maywood	22	22	22	22	22	19	area of that county.
– Montebello†	13	13	13	13	-	-	† These cities and
– Monterey Park [†]	8	-	-	-	-	-	counties only offer
– Palos Verdes Estates†	3	3	3	3	-	-	delivery-based retail.
– Pasadena	43	43	43	43	43	43	
– Pomona	60	57	57	57	57	-	
– Redondo Beach	29	23	3	3	-	-	
– Rolling Hills [†]	20	20	20	20	-	-	
– Rosemead†	15	-	-	-	-	-	
– San Fernando†	27	27	27	27	-	-	
– San Gabriel†	8	8	8	8	-	-	
– Santa Monica	25	25	19	19	19	19	



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	NOTE:
– South El Monte	38	38	-	-	-	-	
– Torrance [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	The highest total score
– West Hollywood	6	11	11	11	11	5	possible is 100 points.
– Westlake Village†	3	3	3	3	-	-	Not all counties and
Orange County							cities have permitted
– Costa Mesa	21	21	21	-	-	-	sales or implemented
– Cypress [†]	8	8	8	8	-	-	policies. Some
– Garden Grove [†]	22	-	-	-	-	-	jurisdictions are not listed.
– La Habra [†]	21	21	21	21	-	-	iisted.
– Laguna Woods†	25	19	13	13	-	-	If a city and county are
– Santa Ana	40	40	37	37	37	37	listed on the same row
– Stanton	18	18	18	18	-	-	of this chart, the score
Riverside County	28	38	38	38	38	22	represents the city, not the county.
– Banning	19	19	19	19	19	19	
– Beaumont†	15	15	15	15	-	-	If a county score is
– Blythe	24	24	24	24	24	24	listed, it refers to laws
– Calimesa [†]	20	20	20	20	-	-	for the unincorporated area of that county.
– Canyon Lake	14	14	14	-	-	-	alea of that county.
– Cathedral City	21	21	21	21	16	19	† These cities and
– Coachella	9	9	11	11	5	7	counties only offer
– Corona	29	29	29	29	-	-	delivery-based retail.
 Desert Hot Springs 	7	7	7	10	13	13	
– Hemet	27	27	27	-	-	-	
– Indio	14	14	-	-	-	-	
– Jurupa Valley	26	26	26	27	27	24	
– La Quinta†	16	16	16	16	-	-	
– Lake Elsinore	12	12	12	12	12	12	
– Moreno Valley	17	17	15	15	17	17	
– Palm Desert	35	35	35	35	35	35	



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

REGIONAL SCORE SUMMARY – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JURISDICTION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	NOTE:
– Palm Springs	19	19	16	16	15	15	
– Perris	18	18	18	21	21	20	The highest total score
– Rancho Mirage†	15	15	15	15	-	-	possible is 100 points.
– Riverside	20	-	-	-	-	-	Not all counties and
– San Jacinto	20	20	20	20	20	-	cities have permitted
– Temecula [†]	3	3	3	3	-	-	sales or implemented
– Wildomar	22	22	22	17	_	-	policies. Some
San Bernardino County							jurisdictions are not listed.
– Adelanto	17	17	17	17	17	17	listed.
– Barstow	11	11	11	-	-	-	If a city and county are
– Colton†	28	28	28	28	-	-	listed on the same row
– Fontana	27	27	-	-	-	-	of this chart, the score
– Hesperia [†]	27	27	27	27	-	-	represents the city, not
– Needles	11	11	11	11	14	14	the county.
– Rancho Cucamonga†	8	-	-	-	-	-	If a county score is
– San Bernardino	27	27	27	26	32	32	listed, it refers to laws
– Victorville [†]	22	22	22	22	-	-	for the unincorporated
– Yucca Valley [†]	8	-	-	-	-	-	area of that county.

† These cities and counties only offer delivery-based retail.