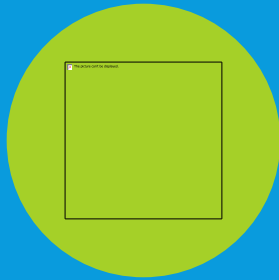


Establishing  
Tobacco Retail  
Buffers Around  
Schools

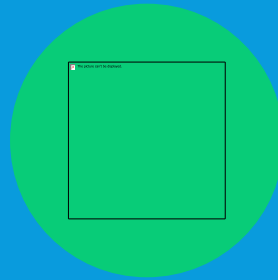
# PROTECTING YOUTH HEALTH



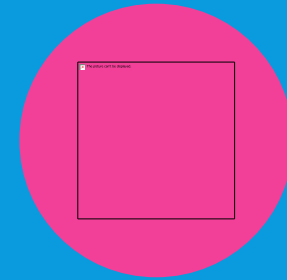
# PURPOSE



**PROTECT CHILDREN  
FROM NICOTINE  
EXPOSURE**



**REDUCE ACCESS AND  
EXPOSURE**



**ALIGN ZONING WITH  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

# WHY THIS MATTERS

90% of smokers start before 18

1,500 youth try first cigarette daily

Adolescent brains are highly susceptible

# YOUTH TOBACCO USE

2.25M  
students use  
tobacco

5.9% use  
e-cigarettes

High rates of  
daily use

# MARKETING IMPACT – EXPOSURE DRIVES USE

50% of youth are receptive to ads

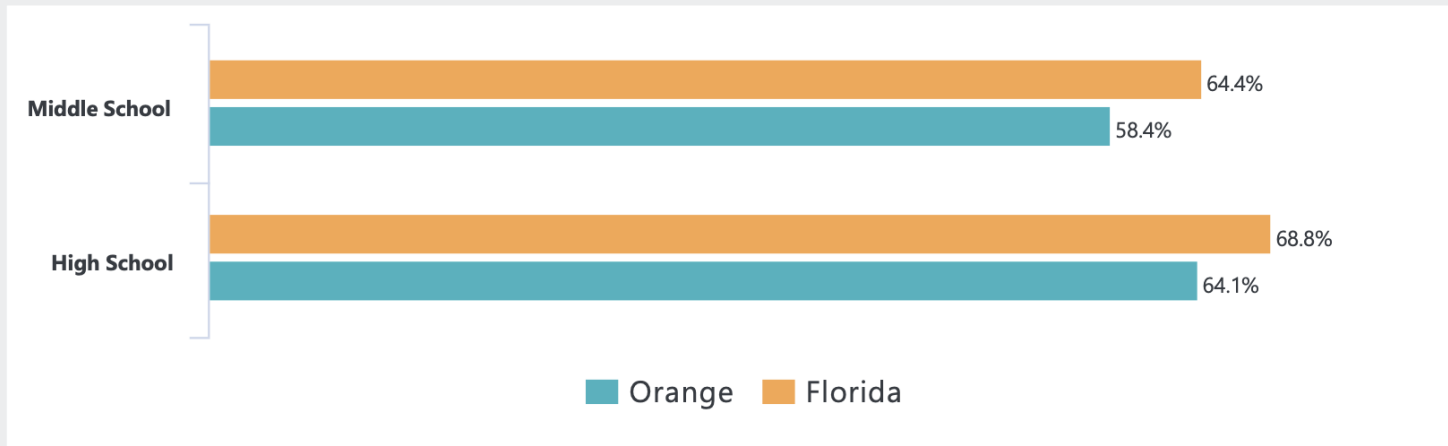
```
graph TD; A[50% of youth are receptive to ads] --> B[Ads linked to future use]; B --> C[E-cigarettes become highly appealing through increased exposure];
```

Ads linked to future use

E-cigarettes become highly appealing through increased exposure

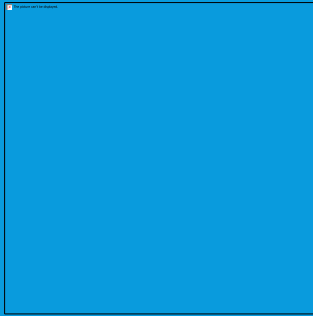
# MARKETING IMPACT

Students Who Saw Tobacco Advertisements the Last Time They Visited a Retail Store (FYTS), SCHOOL LEVEL - 2024

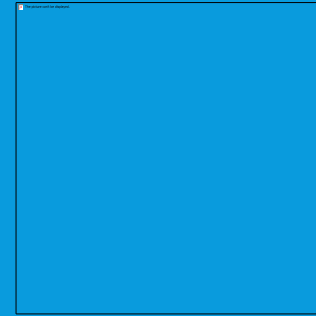


\*Graph from 2024 [Florida Youth Tobacco Survey \(FYTS\)](#)

# INDUSTRY TARGETING



Vape Flavors and marketing **appeal** to youth



Retail placement near schools increases **visibility**

# WHY PROXIMITY MATTERS

Students pass  
retailers daily

Closer =  
higher  
exposure

Easier access

# WALKING DISTANCE

500 ft = ~2 min walk

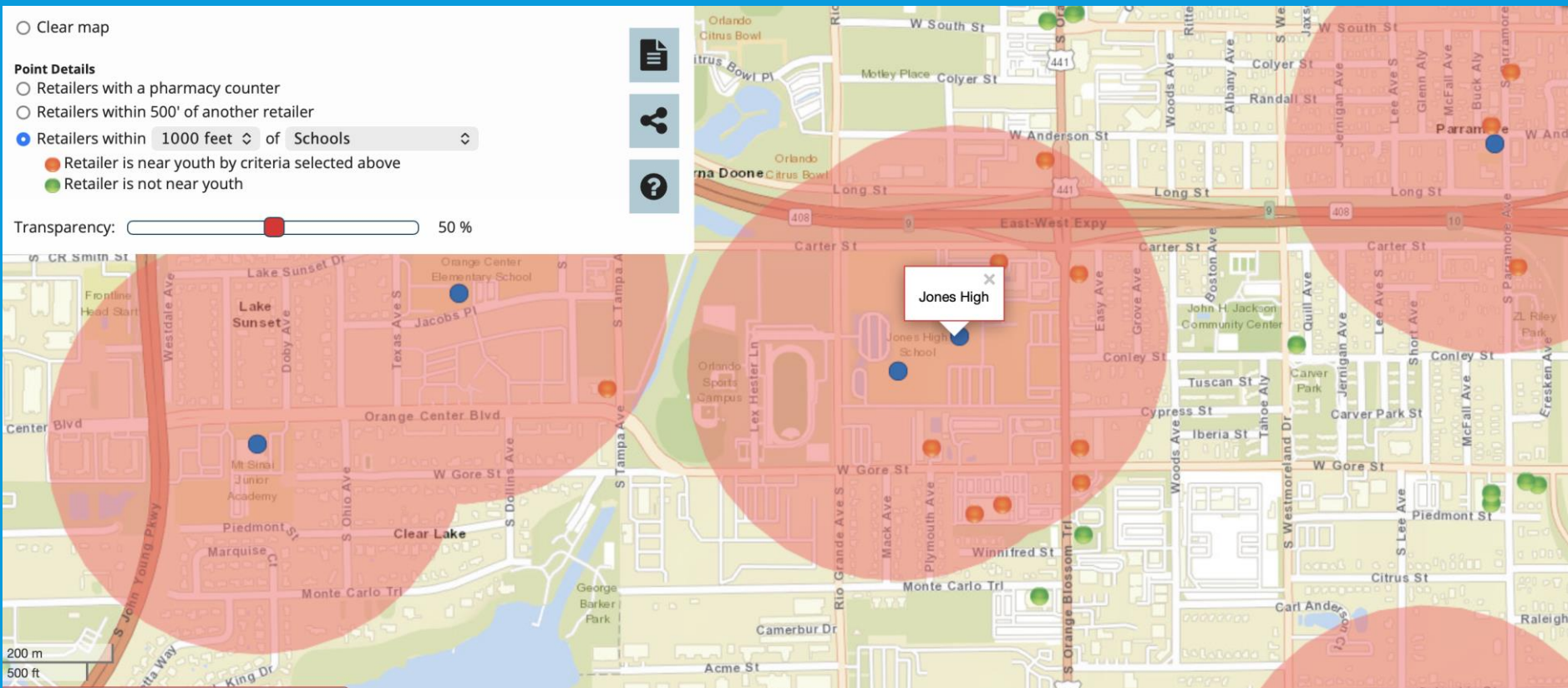
1000 ft = ~5 min walk

Within student routines

# PROVEN PATTERN – RETAILERS NEAR SCHOOLS

- 27% of schools have a **vape shop** within **1/2 mile**
- 79% within **1 mile**
- 27.7% of schools have **retailer** within **1/2 mile**
- 63.8% within **1 mile**

# PROVEN PATTERN – RETAILERS NEAR SCHOOLS



\*[Florida Tobacco Mapper](https://countertools.org) from [countertools.org](https://countertools.org)

Retailers cluster closer to schools than other businesses

Higher density within ~800 meters

Pattern consistent nationwide

## NATIONAL SPATIAL EVIDENCE

No buffer currently exists

Retailers already near schools

Community concern documented

ORANGE  
COUNTY  
CONTEXT



Vape shop located within a few hundred feet of Olympia High School and Chain of Lakes Middle School



Community concern prompted policy discussion



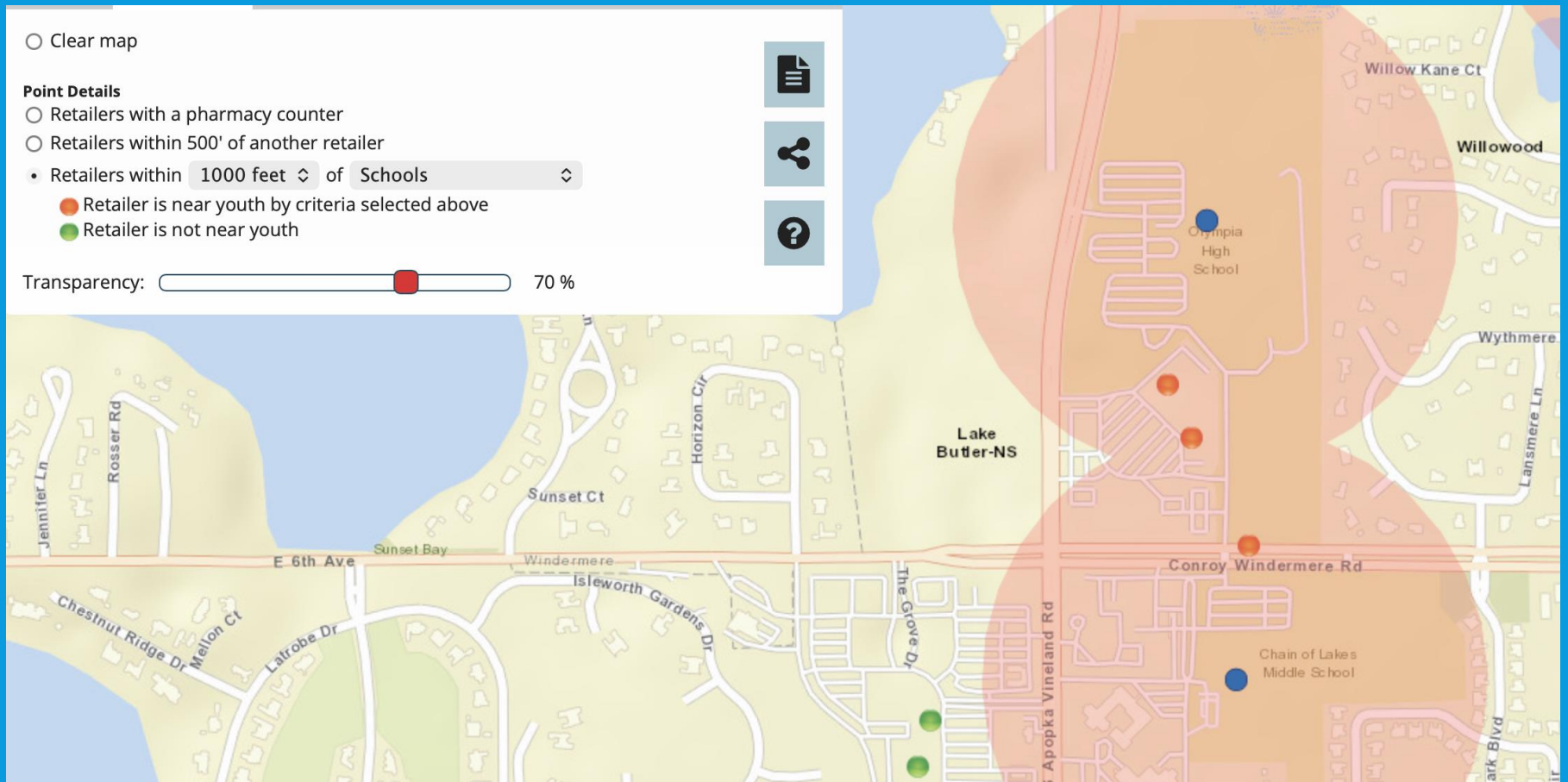
Demonstrates local proximity issue

# ORANGE COUNTY EXAMPLE

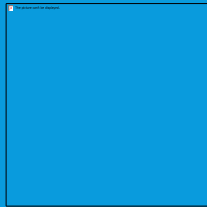
# OTHER FL COUNTY EXAMPLES

- Alachua County
  - 2019 ordinance that prohibits granting a license for a location within 1,000 ft. of a public elementary, middle, or high school.
- Hillsborough County
  - 2024 ordinance that placed a 180-day moratorium on new vape shops opening within 500 ft. of schools.

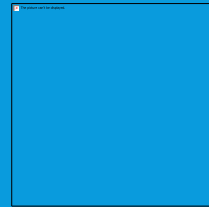
# ORANGE COUNTY EXAMPLE



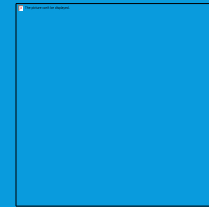
# KEY FINDINGS



Retailers near schools are **common**

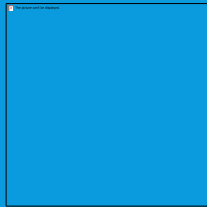


Patterns follow **national trends**

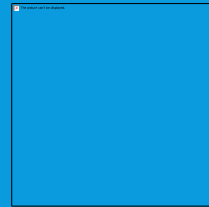


Exposure risk exists **locally**

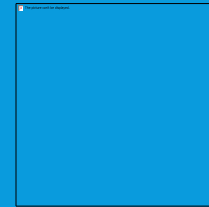
# MAPPING METHODOLOGY



Schools +  
retailers mapped



500 ft and 1,000  
ft buffers applied



Standard public  
health method

1

Adopt 500–  
1000 ft buffer

2

Apply to new  
retailers

3

Include all  
nicotine  
products

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

# PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

Reduces  
initiation

Supports  
families

Lowers long-  
term costs

Retailers are systematically located near schools

Exposure is not random

Zoning buffers can directly reduce youth exposure

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

# THANK YOU

- Questions and Discussion

