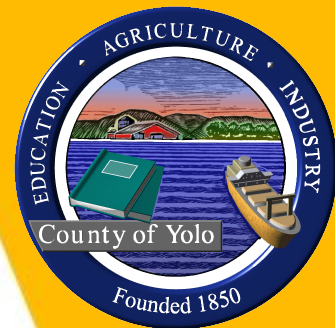


KRATOM BRIEFING

April 14, 2026

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HEALTH OFFICER



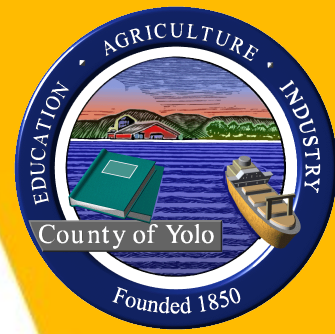
OVERVIEW

- Kratom contains opioids
- Kratom is dangerous
- Kratom is illegal
- Kratom has been widely available
- Kratom enforcement currently relies on the State
- There are options for local kratom enforcement

KRATOM CONTAINS OPIOIDS.

- Product derived from leaves of tropical tree (*Mitragyna speciosa*)
- Used in SE Asia for hundreds of years by chewing, smoking, or steeping leaves
- Traditionally used to boost energy levels, relieve pain, reduce opioid withdrawal
- In Western countries, leaves processed into powders, capsules, & extracts
- Contains several pharmacologically active compounds
 - Mitragynine (more prevalent, less potent)
 - 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) (less prevalent, more potent)
 - 46X more potent than mitragynine
 - 13x more potent than morphine
- Complex effects
 - Stimulant at low doses
 - Opioid effects at higher doses





KRATOM IS DANGEROUS.

- Potential for dependence & addiction
- No evidence of safety or effectiveness in treatment of opioid withdrawal
- May be adulterated or contaminated (e.g., Salmonella, phenylethylamine)
- CDC identified 846 deaths in 2022 in 30 states and D.C. (not including CA)
- CDPH identified 242 deaths from 2020–2022; 27 from kratom alone
- Yolo County Public Health reviewed death certificates since 2017 and identified 7 fatal overdoses involving kratom
 - 2 with kratom alone
 - 5 involving other substances (fentanyl, benzodiazepines)
- Kratom not included in standard drug screening panels (5, 10, and 12-drug)

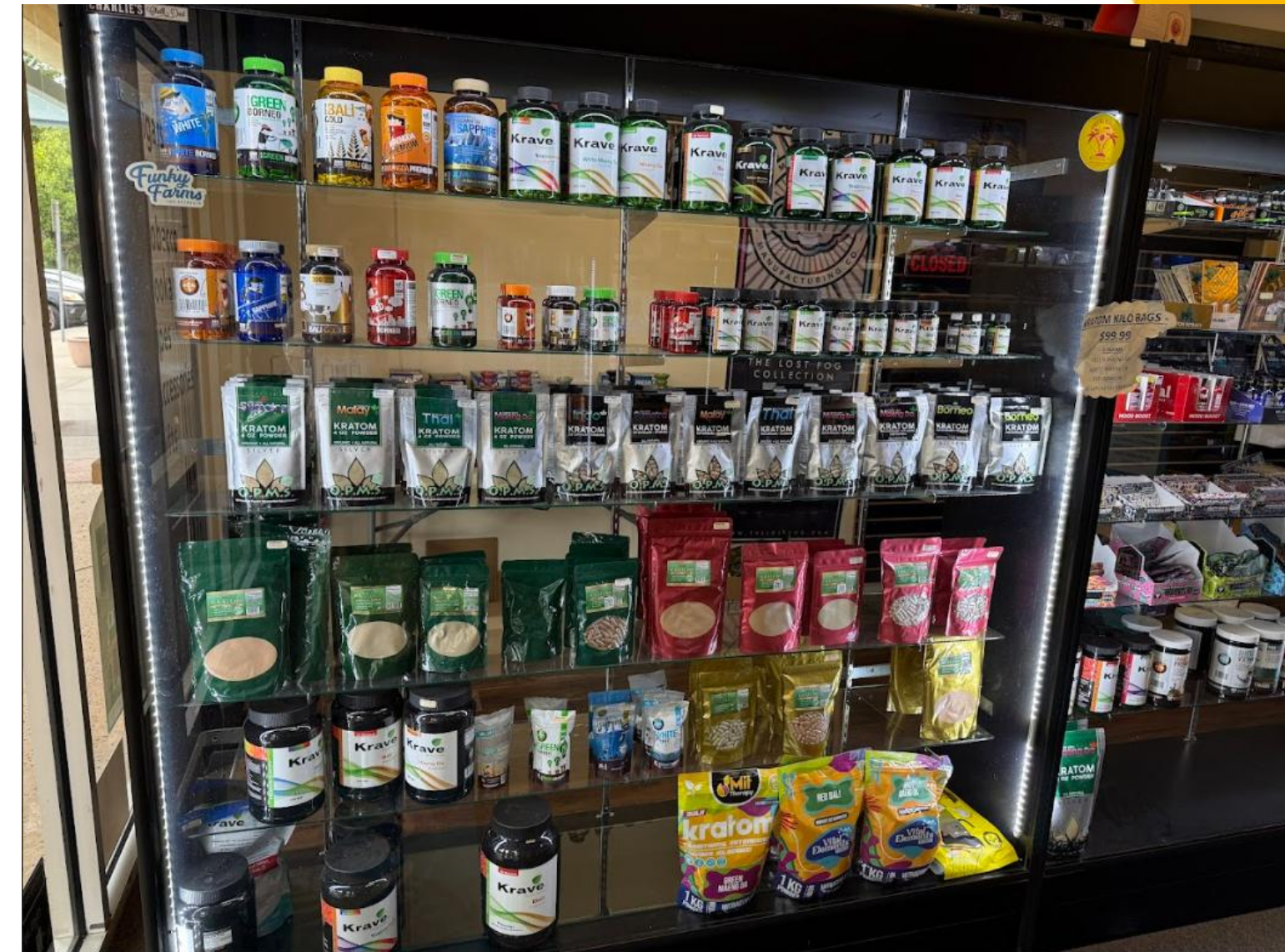
KRATOM IS ILLEGAL.

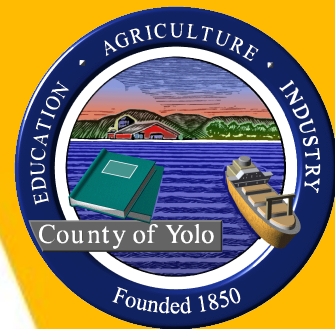
- Per FDA, kratom is not lawfully marketed in U.S. as drug product, dietary supplement, or food additive
- FDA recommended that 7-OH products be scheduled under the Controlled Substances Act
- FDA seizing products with concentrated 7-OH
- [CDPH](#): “Products containing kratom or 7-OH are not legal to sell or manufacture for consumption”
- CDPH seizing kratom products



KRATOM HAS BEEN WIDELY AVAILABLE.

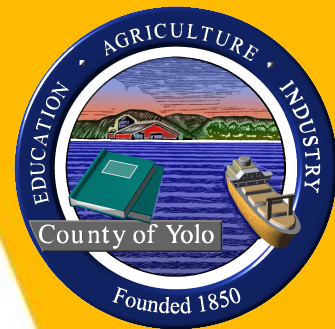
- Despite being illegal, kratom was widely available in California, including Yolo County
 - Smoke shops
 - Convenience stores
 - Gas stations
- Widely available on internet
- In December 2025, Yolo County Public Health sent letters to all licensed tobacco retailers advising them to remove kratom from shelves
 - Prior to letter, 18/70 (26%) inspections identified kratom for sale
 - After letter, 2/40 (5%) inspections identified kratom for sale





KRATOM ENFORCEMENT RELIES ON STATE.

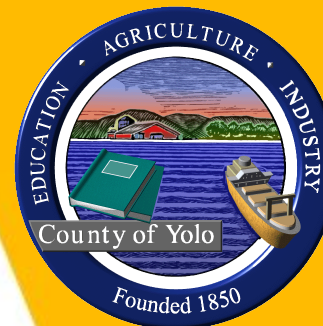
- CDPH Food & Drug Branch oversees safety of food, drug, & dietary supplements
- Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law (HSC 119875–111929.5)
 - HSC 111020 allows LHD to enforce Sherman Law with CDPH permission, sufficient personnel, & adequate training
 - Yolo County Environmental Health does NOT have this authority
- California Retail Food Code
 - Yolo County Environment Health does have this authority
- “CDPH can support LEHA requests for enforcement at local retailers but may triage limited resources to instances linked to serious injury or death.”
- [Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control](#), Department of Tax and Fee Administration, and [Department of Public Health](#) collaborated in January 2026 to advise alcohol and tobacco retailers that kratom is illegal to sell



THERE ARE OPTIONS FOR LOCAL KRATOM ENFORCEMENT.

- Option 1: continue to request CDPH FDB enforcement of kratom sales
- Option 2: amend Yolo County Tobacco Retail ordinance (Yolo County Code Title 6, Chapter 15) to disallow kratom sales at licensed tobacco retailers and allow County staff or any peace officer to enforce
- Option 3: adopt a separate ordinance specific to kratom disallowing retail sale and allow County staff or any peace officer to enforce

FIVE KRATOM FACTS



1

KRATOM CONTAINS OPIOIDS.

The active compounds in kratom are mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). They bind to opioid receptors in the body.

2

KRATOM IS ILLEGAL.

Kratom cannot be legally sold in the U.S., including California, as a drug, dietary supplement, or food additive. Yet, kratom is widely available on the internet and in smoke shops, convenience stores, and gas stations.

3

KRATOM IS ADDICTIVE.

Just like other opioids such as morphine, oxycodone, fentanyl, and heroin, kratom can cause users to have cravings, keep using despite adverse consequences, need more to get the same effect, and experience withdrawal symptoms when they stop using. Kratom can be hard to quit; talk to your healthcare provider about medication-assisted treatment and counseling.

4

KRATOM IS DANGEROUS.

Kratom can kill you, especially if combined with other drugs like alcohol, fentanyl, or benzos like Xanax. 7-OH products are especially dangerous because 7-OH is 13 times more potent than morphine. Some people think of kratom as a “safe alternative” to other opioids, but it is neither safe nor effective for this use. At least 7 people in Yolo County have died of kratom overdoses since 2017.

5

NALOXONE TREATS KRATOM OVERDOSE.

Because kratom contains opioids, an overdose can be reversed with the same drug used to reverse overdoses of other opioids: naloxone. Naloxone is available for free in Yolo County Wellness Vending Machines.