



Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2015

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Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2015

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Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2015

1. Summary

In September 2015 the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP) engaged the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) to complete data entry, analysis, and reporting for the annual alcohol and tobacco sales compliance inspection checks performed by Wyoming police officers. This marks the ninth consecutive year that WYSAC has handled this project.

Data entry began in September and concluded in November, 2015. After all inspection forms were entered into a database, the data were cleaned and then analyzed. The results are summarized in tables found in Section 3 of this report. A total of 1298 alcohol and 701 tobacco sales compliance inspection forms were received by WYSAC and entered in the database. Of those, 1240 (95.5%) alcohol and 691 (98.5%) tobacco forms were determined to be valid and subsequently included in the analyses.

The analyses show that, for all businesses where valid checks were completed, the overall compliance rate was 86.5% for alcohol sales and 90.0% for tobacco sales.

2. Methodology

2.1. Compliance Checks

Police officers in conjunction with an underage youth buyer attempted alcohol and tobacco purchases statewide. Checks are most often conducted at brick and mortar stores. Occasionally in the past vendors at special events (such as the Cheyenne Frontier Days) have also been checked. Aside from the type of item purchased, the protocol for completing these checks is the same for both alcohol and tobacco sales. It involves criminal compliance checks, which are “used to educate, encourage compliance, and penalize non-compliance. These operations consist of prosecuting individuals for age-of-sale law violations through the court system.”¹

Prior to any compliance check purchase attempt, the youth buyer is:

- Photographed,
- Searched for additional cash or alternative identification,
- Taught the state or local statute explaining the law regarding underage purchasing, and
- Instructed to stay in line of sight of accompanying officers

The item to be purchased (i.e., bottle of Bud Light, pack of Marlboro Blues) is established beforehand. During buy attempts it is preferable for two officers to accompany the youth buyer,

¹ Nelson-Bragg, T. (2011). *State of Wyoming Compliance Check Manual*. Published by the Wyoming Department of Health, Behavioral Health Division and Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police.

though this is not always a viable option due to small precincts and other engagements of officers. Buyers carry their own personal identification, often a Wyoming driver's license, and are instructed to present it to any requesting clerks. If a purchase attempt is successful the clerk is issued a citation, or, less often, they are issued a warning.

The alcohol compliance checks included in this year's analysis were completed from October, 2014 through March, 2015 and the tobacco checks from October, 2014 through June, 2015.

2.2. Data Entry and Analyses

Completed inspection forms were hand-delivered to WYSAC from a designee of WASCOP. Forms were manually entered by trained WYSAC staff into two custom-built Microsoft Access Databases; one each for alcohol and tobacco checks. All officers who did not properly finish their inspection forms were contacted by telephone for clarification in an attempt to fill missing data, a process which ran from September to November, 2015.

Once data input was completed, the database was imported into SPSS 21.0 for processing, where cross-tabulations and frequency tables were generated. Finally, the databases were converted into Microsoft Excel files for electronic delivery to WASCOP.

Inspection forms indicating only a warning was issued were considered a violation of compliance for data analysis purposes, though no citations were issued. Entries which indicated an unsuccessful attempt (i.e., business closed, no longer selling alcohol/tobacco) were considered a null attempt and not included in the total valid compliance check count or data analysis. In a few cases, blank or extremely incomplete compliance check forms were submitted. These forms were counted towards only the total number of checks and are excluded from all other calculations. Of the 1298 alcohol forms submitted, 1240 were categorized as valid, 58 as null, and 0 as incomplete. Of the 701 submitted tobacco forms, 691 were categorized as valid, 10 as null, and 0 as incomplete.

Compliance rates are calculated by dividing the number of non-infractions reported by the number of valid compliance checks performed. This rate is considered valid since all compliance forms included in the calculations had a *resolution*, thus leaving no missing data associated with them.

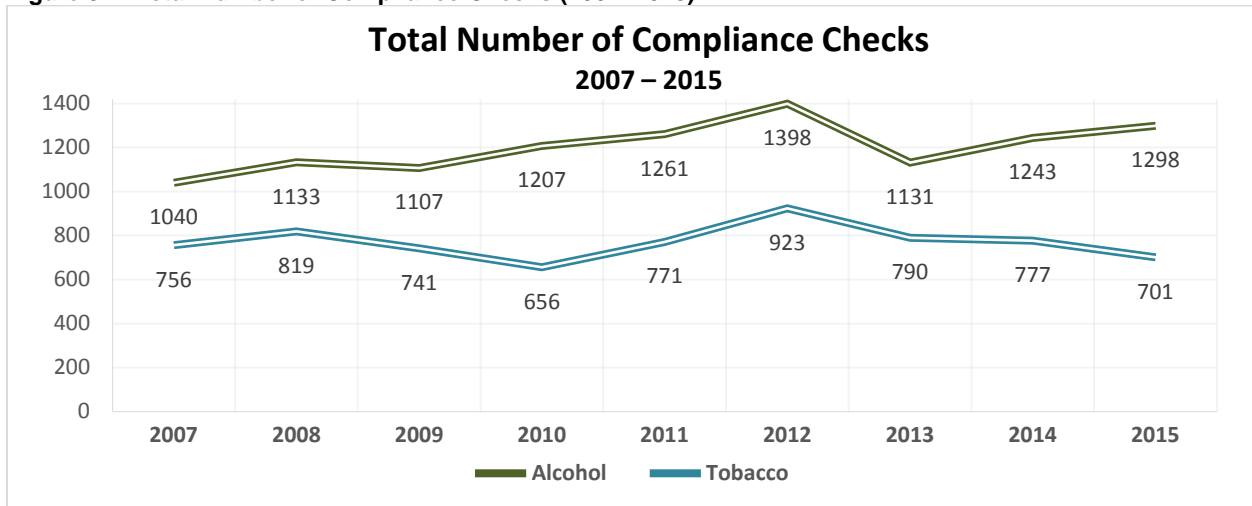
A minor logical assumption was made concerning incomplete and inconsistent forms. For any compliance checks that resulted in no violation, the data regarding identification requested, checked, and checked against a calendar were assumed to be true. For a substantial number of cases these three variables were incomplete, however given the inspection result, these data were filled in as true.

3. Results

3.1. Compliance Checks Counts (2007 – 2015)

The total number of compliance checks forms submitted each year from 2007 to 2015 is shown below in Figure 3.1. These totals include forms that were not used in the calculation of compliance rates, such as for businesses that were closed. Each year the number of completed forms for compliance with alcohol sales submitted to WYSAC for data entry and analysis has been substantially higher than those for tobacco sales.

Figure 3.1. Total Number of Compliance Checks (2007–2015)



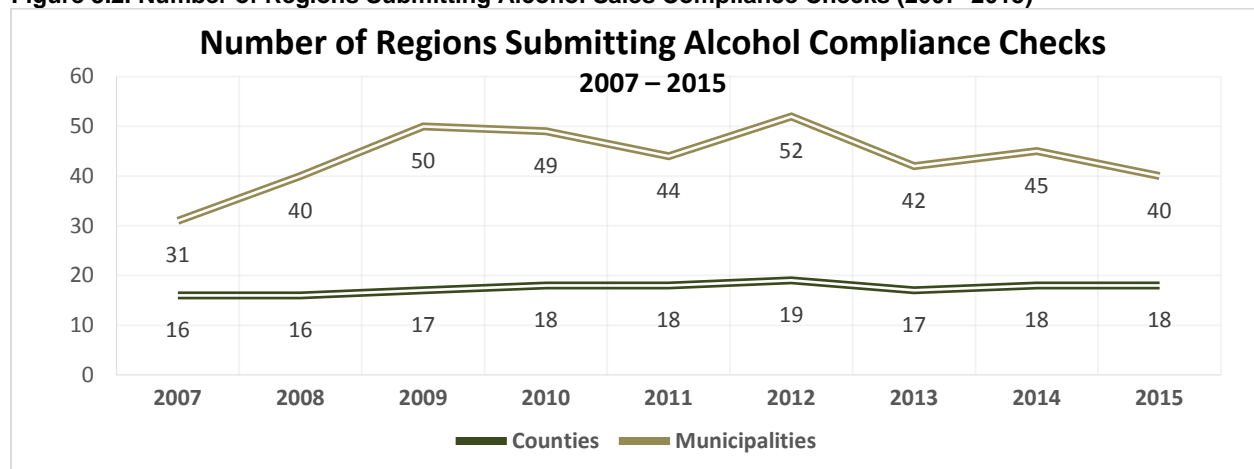
3.2. Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks Results

In 2015, a total of 1298 alcohol compliance check forms were submitted to WYSAC. After removing null attempts, 1240 forms were determined to be valid checks and included in the calculations of compliance rates.

Inspection forms indicating only a warning was issued were considered a violation of compliance for data analysis purposes, though no citations were issued. Data which represented an unsuccessful attempt because the business was closed were considered a null attempt and not included in the total compliance check count or calculations. Compliance rates were calculated by dividing the number of non-infractions reported by the number of valid compliance checks performed. Each qualifying establishment received one of three values: no violation, citation, or warning.

As shown in Figure 3.2 below, valid alcohol forms were returned for 18 of 23 Wyoming counties, the same number as in 2014. A total of 40 Wyoming cities, unincorporated communities (such as Hiland), and census-designated places (such as Alcova) submitted valid forms, which is 5 fewer than in 2014. The counties that did not return valid forms were: Big Horn, Crook, Hot Springs, Platte, and Weston. The number of checks returned varied greatly from one municipality to another; Cheyenne submitted the highest number of inspections (154) and many small municipalities completed as little as one inspection.

Figure 3.2. Number of Regions Submitting Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2015)



Following are the results from the alcohol compliance checks performed as part of the 2015 statewide compliance checks report. Compliance rates are presented first by county (Table 3.1), then by municipality (Table 3.2). In the county table, the name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Overall alcohol sales compliance for all reporting counties and cities was 86.5%, a minor increase of roughly one percentage point from 2014². It should be noted that different municipalities have submitted checks each year, so this comparison should not be considered representative of the "statewide compliance rate" but rather a comparison of the overall compliance rates for those municipalities that submitted forms.

Results by county, presented in Table 3.1, indicate that Albany County had the highest alcohol compliance rate (97.1%), followed by Lincoln (96.5%), Johnson (93.8%), Laramie (92.9%), Uinta (90.2%) and Teton (90.0%) counties. Eight counties had compliance rates between 89.9% and 80%: Park (89.7%), Fremont (89.5%), Sheridan (88.9%), Converse (86.4%), Natrona (85.8%), Sweetwater (85.0%), Goshen (84.6%), and Niobrara (81.8%). The counties under 80% compliant were Sublette (77.8%), Washakie (76.7%), Campbell (66.0%), and Carbon (50.0%).

Table 3.2 displays the alcohol sales compliance rates and infractions for municipalities listed alphabetically and Table 3.3 summarizes municipalities in groups of decreasing compliance. Nine municipalities (Alpine, Diamondville, Dubious, Etna, La Barge, Lance Creek, Manville, Marbelton, and Thayne) had a 100% compliance rate. Bar Nunn, Hiland, Midwest, and Rawlins had compliance rates of 50.0%. Two municipalities, Big Piney and Boulder, both had rates of 0.0%. Many of these municipalities had very small sample sizes (5 or less) which are more likely to result in extreme rates (100% or 0%).

² WYSAC (2014) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2014*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1412). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Table 3.1. Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates and Number of Violations by County (2015)*

County	Valid Alcohol Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Alcohol	Compliance Rate
Albany ¹	70	68	0	2	7	97.1%
Campbell ¹⁷	97	64	14	19	2	66.0%
Carbon ¹⁸	18	9	0	9	0	50.0%
Converse ¹⁰	59	51	0	8	13	86.4%
Fremont ⁸	114	102	8	4	1	89.5%
Goshen ¹³	39	33	0	6	1	84.6%
Johnson ³	32	30	0	2	4	93.8%
Laramie ⁴	154	143	0	11	0	92.9%
Lincoln ²	57	55	1	1	2	96.5%
Natrona ¹¹	106	91	1	14	14	85.8%
Niobrara ¹⁴	11	9	0	2	0	81.8%
Park ⁷	87	78	0	9	0	89.7%
Sheridan ⁹	90	80	0	10	6	88.9%
Sublette ¹⁵	45	35	0	10	0	77.8%
Sweetwater ¹²	120	102	0	18	1	85.0%
Teton ⁶	60	54	0	6	0	90.0%
Uinta ⁵	51	46	0	5	0	90.2%
Washakie ¹⁶	30	23	0	7	7	76.7%
TOTAL	1240	1073	24	143	58	86.5%

* The name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Table 3.2. Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates and Number of Violations by Municipality (2015)

County	Municipality	Valid Alcohol Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Alcohol	Compliance Rate
Lincoln	Afton	18	17	0	1	0	94.4%
Natrona	Alcova	6	5	0	1	2	83.3%
Lincoln	Alpine	19	19	0	0	1	100.0%
Natrona	Bar Nunn	2	1	0	1	0	50.0%
Sublette	Big Piney	1	0	0	1	0	0.0%
Sublette	Boulder	1	0	0	1	0	0.0%
Johnson	Buffalo	32	30	0	2	4	93.8%
Natrona	Casper	73	65	1	7	9	89.0%
Laramie	Cheyenne	154	143	0	11	0	92.9%
Park	Cody	49	46	0	3	0	93.9%
Lincoln	Diamondville	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Converse	Douglas	45	41	0	4	11	91.1%
Fremont	Dubois	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Edgerton	6	5	0	1	0	83.3%
Lincoln	Etna	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Uinta	Evanston	51	46	0	5	0	90.2%
Natrona	Evansville	15	13	0	2	2	86.7%
Campbell	Gillette	97	64	14	19	2	66.0%
Converse	Glenrock	14	10	0	4	2	71.4%
Sweetwater	Green River	29	28	0	1	0	96.6%
Natrona	Hiland	2	1	0	1	0	50.0%
Teton	Jackson	60	54	0	6	0	90.0%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	7	6	1	0	0	85.7%
Lincoln	La Barge	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Niobrara	Lance Creek	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Lander	27	23	0	4	0	85.2%
Albany	Laramie	70	68	0	2	7	97.1%
Niobrara	Lusk	9	7	0	2	0	77.8%
Niobrara	Manville	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Marbleton	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Midwest	2	1	0	1	1	50.0%
Sublette	Pinedale	41	33	0	8	0	80.5%
Park	Powell	38	32	0	6	0	84.2%
Carbon	Rawlins	18	9	0	9	0	50.0%
Fremont	Riverton	86	78	8	0	1	90.7%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	91	74	0	17	1	81.3%
Sheridan	Sheridan	90	80	0	10	6	88.9%
Lincoln	Thayne	7	7	0	0	1	100.0%
Goshen	Torrington	39	33	0	6	1	84.6%
Washakie	Worland	30	23	0	7	7	76.7%
	TOTAL	1240	1073	24	143	58	86.5%

Table 3.3. Summary of Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates by Municipality (2015)

Summary of Alcohol Compliance Rates by Municipality (2015)

100%	99.9% - 90.0%	89.9% - 80.0%	79.9% - 70.0%	69.9% - 60.0%	59.9% - 0.0%
○ Alpine	○ Afton	○ Alcova	○ Lusk	○ Gillette	○ Bar Nunn
○ Diamondville	○ Buffalo	○ Casper	○ Worland		○ Big Piney
○ Dubois	○ Cheyenne	○ Edgerton	○ Glenrock		○ Boulder
○ Etna	○ Cody	○ Evansville			○ Hiland
○ La Barge	○ Douglas	○ Kemmerer			○ Midwest
○ Lance Creek	○ Evanston	○ Lander			○ Rawlins
○ Manville	○ Green River	○ Pinedale			
○ Marbleton	○ Jackson	○ Powell			
○ Thayne	○ Laramie	○ Rock Springs			
	○ Riverton	○ Sheridan			
		○ Torrington			

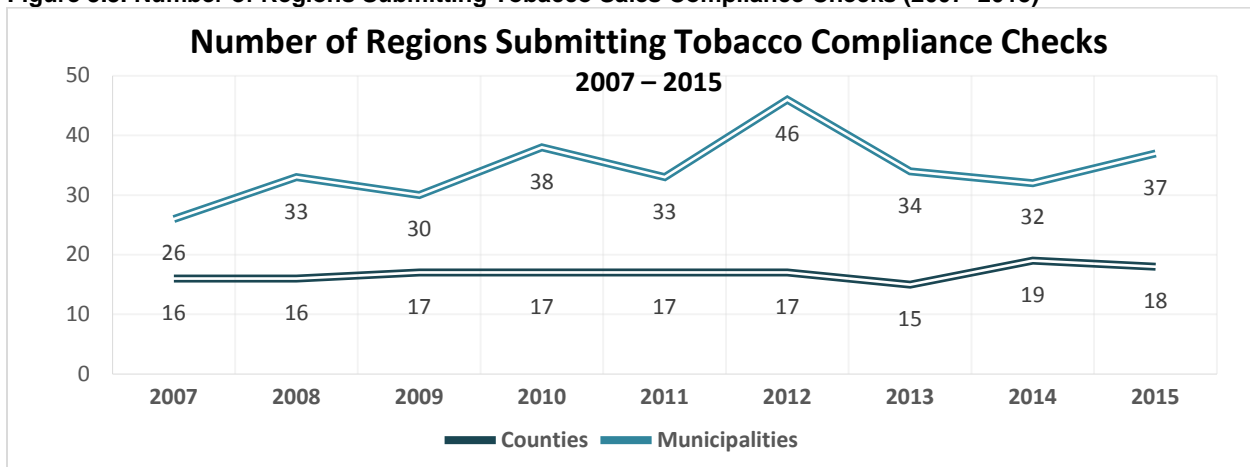
3.3. Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks Results

In total, 701 tobacco sales compliance checks were submitted to WYSAC and entered into a database. After removal of null attempts, 691 checks were included in the calculations and analysis.

Inspection forms indicating only a warning was issued were considered a violation of compliancy for data analysis purposes, though no citations were issued. Data which represented an unsuccessful attempt because the business was closed or no longer sells tobacco were considered a null attempt and not included in the total compliance check counts or calculations. Compliance rates were calculated by dividing the number of non-infractions reported by the number of compliance checks performed.

As shown below in Figure 3.3, valid tobacco sales compliance checks forms were returned for 18 Wyoming counties, 1 less than in 2014. A total of 37 municipalities returned forms, 5 more than in 2014. Routinely there have been substantially fewer municipalities receiving tobacco sales compliance checks than alcohol sales compliance checks. The counties that did not return valid tobacco forms were: Big Horn, Crook, Hot Springs, Platte, and Weston.

Figure 3.3. Number of Regions Submitting Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2015)



Following are the results from the tobacco compliance checks performed in 2015. Compliance rates are presented first by county (Table 3.4), then by municipality (Table 3.5). In the county table, the name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Overall tobacco compliance for all reporting counties and cities was 90.0%, an increase of 2.4 percentage points from 2014³. It should be noted that different municipalities have submitted checks each year, so this comparison should not be considered representative of the "statewide compliance rate" but rather a comparison of the overall compliance rates for those municipalities that submitted forms.

Results by county, presented in Table 3.4, indicate that two counties, Carbon and Sublette, had a perfect tobacco sales compliance rate of 100%. The next six counties with the highest compliance rates were Fremont (97.6%), Goshen (97.4%), Albany (96.8%), Sheridan (95.6%), Natrona (91.7%), and Teton (91.2%). The counties that demonstrated compliance rates between 89.9% and 80.0% were Laramie (89.7%), Uinta (89.5%), Park (88.1%), Sweetwater (85.7%), Johnson (85.3%), Campbell (83.1%), Converse (82.8%), and Niobrara (80.0%). Lincoln (73.1%) and Washakie (55.6%) counties both had rates below 80%.

Table 3.5 displays the compliance rates and infractions for all 37 municipalities that returned tobacco sales compliance checks, listed in alphabetical order. Table 3.6 presents the tobacco sales compliance rates for all municipalities organized into groups of decreasing compliancy. Fourteen municipalities had perfect compliance rates. The municipalities with the lowest tobacco compliance rates were Evansville (66.7%), LaBarge (66.7%), Worland (55.6%), Kemmerer (50.0%) and Cokeville (0.0%). Fontenell submitted only one tobacco check, which was invalid resulting in a null compliance rate. It should be noted that for many of these municipalities the sample sizes were very small (5 or less) which is more likely to result in extreme rates (100% or 0%).

³ WYSAC (2014) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2014*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1412). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Table 3.4. Tobacco Sales Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by County (2015)*

County	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
Albany ⁵	62	60	0	2	2	96.8%
Campbell ¹⁴	59	49	0	10	0	83.1%
Carbon ^{T1}	10	10	0	0	0	100.0%
Converse ¹⁵	29	24	0	5	0	82.8%
Fremont ³	85	83	1	1	0	97.6%
Goshen ⁴	39	38	0	1	1	97.4%
Johnson ¹³	34	29	0	5	0	85.3%
Laramie ⁹	39	35	0	4	0	89.7%
Lincoln ¹⁷	26	19	4	3	1	73.1%
Natrona ⁷	60	55	0	5	1	91.7%
Niobrara ¹⁶	5	4	0	1	0	80.0%
Park ¹¹	42	37	1	4	2	88.1%
Sheridan ⁶	45	43	0	2	0	95.6%
Sublette ^{T1}	12	12	0	0	0	100.0%
Sweetwater ¹²	63	54	0	9	0	85.7%
Teton ⁸	34	31	0	3	3	91.2%
Uinta ¹⁰	38	34	0	4	0	89.5%
Washakie ¹⁸	9	5	0	4	0	55.6%
TOTAL	691	622	6	63	10	90.0%

* The name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Table 3.5. Tobacco Sales Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by Municipality (2015)

County	Municipality	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
Lincoln	Afton	14	13	0	1	0	92.9%
Natrona	Alcova	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Bar Nunn	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Big Piney	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Johnson	Buffalo	34	29	0	5	0	85.3%
Natrona	Casper	49	46	0	3	1	93.9%
Laramie	Cheyenne	39	35	0	4	0	89.7%
Park	Cody	28	25	0	3	2	89.3%
Lincoln	Cokeville	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Converse	Douglas	19	14	0	5	0	73.7%
Uinta	Evanston	38	34	0	4	0	89.5%
Natrona	Evansville	3	2	0	1	0	66.7%
Lincoln	Fontenell	0	0	0	0	1	-
Goshen	Ft. Laramie	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Campbell	Gillette	59	49	0	10	0	83.1%
Converse	Glenrock	10	10	0	0	0	100.0%
Sweetwater	Green River	16	16	0	0	0	100.0%
Teton	Jackson	34	31	0	3	3	91.2%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	8	4	2	2	0	50.0%
Lincoln	LaBarge	3	2	1	0	0	66.7%
Fremont	Lander	24	24	0	0	0	100.0%
Albany	Laramie	62	60	0	2	2	96.8%
Goshen	Lingle	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Niobrara	Lusk	5	4	0	1	0	80.0%
Sublette	Marbleton	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Midwest	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Mills	4	3	0	1	0	75.0%
Sublette	Pinedale	7	7	0	0	0	100.0%
Park	Powell	14	12	1	1	0	85.7%
Carbon	Rawlins	10	10	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Riverton	61	59	1	1	0	96.7%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	47	38	0	9	0	80.9%
Sublette	Sand Draw	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Sheridan	Sheridan	45	43	0	2	0	95.6%
Goshen	Torrington	34	33	0	1	1	97.1%
Washakie	Worland	9	5	0	4	0	55.6%
Goshen	Yoder	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
TOTAL		691	622	6	63	10	90.0%

Table 3.6. Summary of Tobacco Sales Compliance Rates by Municipality (2015)

Summary of Tobacco Compliance Rates by Municipality (2015)

100%	99.9% - 90.0%	89.9% - 80.0%	79.9% - 70.0%	69.9% - 0.0%
o Alcova	o Afton	o Buffalo	o Douglas	o Cokeville
o Bar Nunn	o Casper	o Cheyenne	o Mills	o Evansville
o Big Piney	o Jackson	o Cody		o Kemmerer
o Ft. Laramie	o Laramie	o Evanston		o La Barge
o Glenrock	o Riverton	o Gillette		o Worland
o Green River	o Sheridan	o Lusk		
o Lander	o Torrington	o Powell		
o Lingle		o Rock Springs		
o Marbleton				
o Midwest				
o Pinedale				
o Rawlins				
o Sand Draw				
o Yoder				