



Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2011

WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1113

October, 2011

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Citation for this document: WYSAC (2011) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2011*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1113). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Short reference: WYSAC (2011), *Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance*.

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Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2011

1. Summary

In August, 2011 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 tobacco and alcohol sales compliance inspection checks performed by Wyoming police officers. This marks the fourth consecutive year that WYSAC has handled this project.

Data entry began in mid-August and concluded in October, 2011. 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 1261 alcohol and 771 tobacco inspection compliance forms were received by WYSAC and entered in the database. Of those, 1198 alcohol and 745 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 for alcohol sales (85.7%) remained steady, increasing less than a percentage point from 2010, while tobacco sales compliance rate decreased about three percentage points to 86.8%.

2. Methodology

2.1. Compliance Checks

Police officers in conjunction with an underage youth buyer attempted alcohol and tobacco purchases statewide. Most often these were conducted at brick and mortar stores, but occasionally vendors at special events were also checked, such as the Cheyenne Frontier Days where multiple checks were completed. 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 between July, 2010 and July, 2011 and the tobacco checks between January, 2011 and June, 2011.

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 extended from September to October 2011.

Once data input was completed, the database was imported into PASW Statistics 18.0 for processing, where cross-tabulations and frequency tables were generated. Finally, the databases were converted into a Microsoft Excel file 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 compliance check count and the data analysis. Compliance rates are calculated by dividing the number of non-infractions reported by the number of 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.

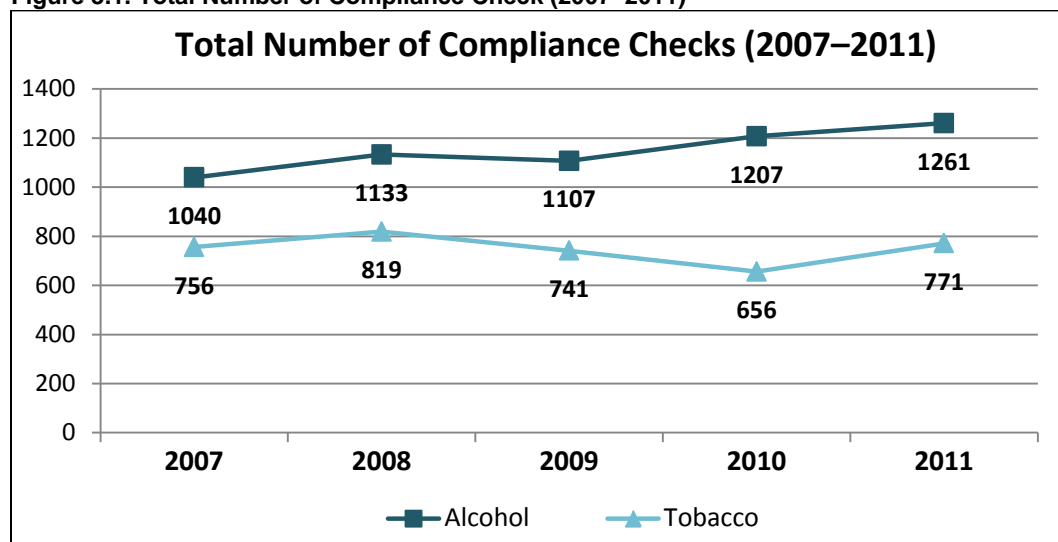
A minor logical assumption was made concerning incomplete and inconsistent forms. For any compliance checks that resulted in no violation, the data regarding if identification was requested, checked, and checked against a calendar were assumed to be true. For a substantial number of cases these three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

3. Results

3.1. Overall Compliance Checks Counts (2007 – 2011)

The total number of compliance check forms submitted each year from 2007 to 2011 are 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, a trend that continued this year. In 2011, the highest ever total number (2032) of compliance check forms were submitted.

Figure 3.1. Total Number of Compliance Check (2007–2011)



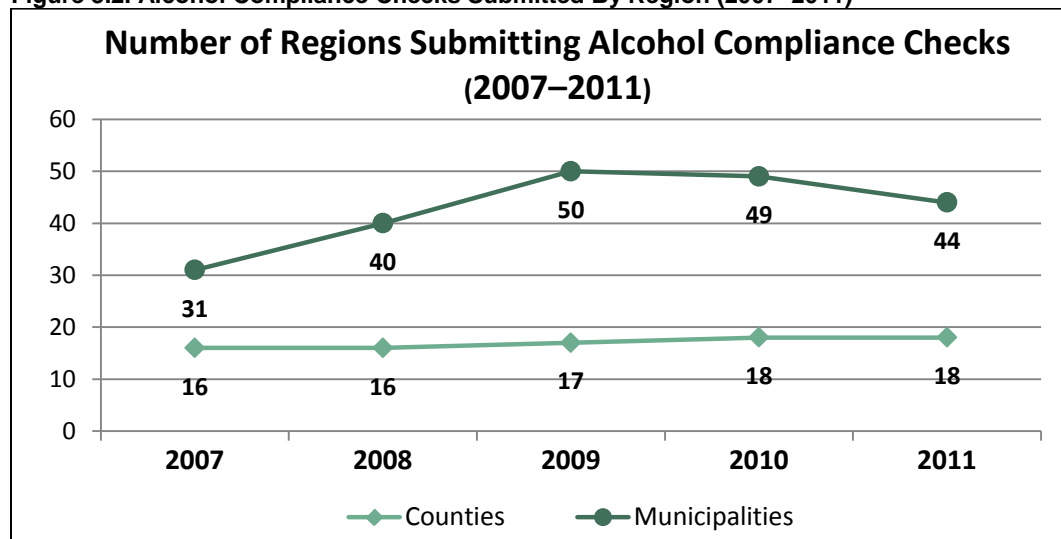
3.2. Alcohol Compliance Checks Results

In 2011 a total 1261 alcohol compliance check forms were submitted to WYSAC. After removing null attempts, 1198 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 compliance checks performed. Each qualifying establishment received one of three values: no violation, citation, or warning.

As shown in Figure 3.2, in 2011 valid alcohol forms were returned for 18 of 23 Wyoming counties, the same as in 2010, and for 44 Wyoming cities, unincorporated communities (such as Orin), and census-designated places (such as Daniel), which is 5 less than in 2010. The number of checks returned varied greatly from one municipality to another; Cheyenne received the highest number of checks (179) and many small municipalities received as little as one check..

Figure 3.2. Alcohol Compliance Checks Submitted By Region (2007–2011)



Following are the results from the alcohol compliance checks performed in 2011. 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 compliance for all reporting counties and cities was 85.7%, an increase of less than one percentage point for the second year in a row^{2,3}. 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 Goshen County had the highest alcohol compliance rate at 94.6%, followed closely by Johnson County (94.4%). Other counties with rates 90% and above were Albany (93.9%), Park (93.4%), and Sublette (90.0%). The majority of counties had compliance rates between 80% and 90%: Teton (88.3%), Laramie (88.3%), Campbell (86.1%), Sweetwater (85.6%), Uinta (85.0%), Hot Springs (83.3%), Natrona (83.2%), Sheridan (82.7%), Lincoln (82.1%) and Fremont (80.4%). The remaining three counties that returned valid forms were between 70% and 79.9%: Carbon (77.1%), Converse (74.1%), and Washakie (71.4%). In 2010, the two counties (Campbell and Carbon) that had compliance rates below 70% both experienced an increase in their compliance rate. It should be noted that Lincoln County returned 32 forms for businesses that were closed or no longer sold alcohol, a number substantially higher than all other counties.

Table 3.2 displays the alcohol compliance rates and infractions for municipalities listed alphabetically and Table 3.3 summarizes municipalities in groups of decreasing compliancy. Eleven municipalities (Bar Nunn, Big Piney, Bondurant, Boulder, Daniel, Green River, Kinnear, LaBarge, Orin, Pavillion) had a 100% compliance rate. Three municipalities (Alcova, Midwest, Hiland) had rates of 50.0% or lower. Many of these municipalities had very small sample sizes (5 or less) which are more likely to result in extreme rates (100% or 0%). Four municipalities returned forms none of which were valid: Cokeville, Esterbrook, Opal, and Star Valley Ranch.

² WYSAC (2009) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2009*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-914). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

³ WYSAC (2010) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2010*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1020). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Table 3.1. Alcohol Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by County (2011)

County	Valid Alcohol Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Alcohol	Compliance Rate
Albany ³	49	46	3	0	0	93.9%
Campbell ⁸	79	68	11	0	0	86.1%
Carbon ¹⁶	35	27	8	0	0	77.1%
Converse ¹⁷	54	40	14	0	9	74.1%
Fremont ¹⁵	92	74	16	2	0	80.4%
Goshen ¹	37	35	1	1	4	94.6%
Hot Springs ¹¹	12	10	2	0	0	83.3%
Johnson ²	36	34	2	0	0	94.4%
Laramie ¹⁶	179	158	18	3	0	88.3%
Lincoln ¹⁴	56	46	10	0	32	82.1%
Natrona ¹²	137	114	22	1	1	83.2%
Park ⁴	76	71	5	0	0	93.4%
Sheridan ¹³	81	67	14	0	3	82.7%
Sublette ⁵	20	18	2	0	8	90.0%
Sweetwater ⁹	111	95	16	0	1	85.6%
Teton ¹⁶	77	68	2	7	2	88.3%
Uinta ¹⁰	60	51	9	0	3	85.0%
Washakie ¹⁸	7	5	2	0	0	71.4%
Total	1198	1027	157	14	63	85.7%

* 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 Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by Municipality (2011)

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	16	2	0	2	88.9%
Natrona	Alcova	4	2	2	0	0	50.0%
Lincoln	Alpine	13	8	5	0	7	61.5%
Natrona	Bar Nunn	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Big Piney	2	2	0	0	1	100.0%
Sublette	Bondurant	1	1	0	0	1	100.0%
Sublette	Boulder	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Johnson	Buffalo	36	34	2	0	0	94.4%
Natrona	Casper	105	90	14	1	0	85.7%
Laramie	Cheyenne	179	158	18	3	0	88.3%
Park	Cody	47	43	4	0	0	91.5%
Lincoln	Cokeville	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
Sublette	Daniel	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Diamondville	4	3	1	0	4	75.0%
Converse	Douglas	37	28	9	0	4	75.7%
Fremont	Dubois	14	13	1	0	0	92.9%
Natrona	Edgerton	5	4	1	0	0	80.0%
Converse	Esterbrook	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	n/a
Uinta	Evanston	60	51	9	0	3	85.0%
Natrona	Evansville	16	14	2	0	1	87.5%
Campbell	Gillette	79	68	11	0	0	86.1%
Converse	Glenrock	16	11	5	0	1	68.8%
Sweetwater	Green River	26	26	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Hiland	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Fremont	Hudson	9	8	0	1	0	88.9%
Teton	Jackson	77	68	2	7	2	88.3%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	14	13	1	0	11	92.9%
Fremont	Kinnear	5	5	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	LaBarge	1	1	0	0	3	100.0%
Fremont	Lander	33	22	11	0	0	66.7%
Albany	Laramie	49	46	3	0	0	93.9%
Sublette	Marbleton	3	2	1	0	1	66.7%
Natrona	Midwest	4	2	2	0	0	50.0%
Lincoln	Opal	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
Converse	Orin	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Pavillion	5	5	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Pinedale	12	11	1	0	5	91.7%
Park	Powell	29	28	1	0	0	96.6%
Carbon	Rawlins	35	27	8	0	0	77.1%
Fremont	Riverton	19	15	4	0	0	78.9%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	85	69	16	0	1	81.2%
Sheridan	Sheridan	81	67	14	0	3	82.7%
Fremont	Shoshoni	7	6	0	1	0	85.7%
Lincoln	Star Valley Ranch	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
Thayne	Thayne	6	5	1	0	0	83.3%
Hot Springs	Thermopolis	12	10	2	0	0	83.3%
Goshen	Torrington	37	35	1	1	4	94.6%
Washakie	Worland	7	5	2	0	0	71.4%
Total		1198	1027	157	14	63	85.7%

Table 3.3. Summary of Alcohol Compliance Rates by Municipality (2011)

Summary of Alcohol Compliance Rates by Municipality (2011)

100%	99.9% - 90.0%	89.9% - 80.0%	79.9% - 70.0%	69.9% - 60.0%	59.9% - 50.0%	49.9%- 0.0%
o Bar Nunn	o Buffalo	o Afton	o Diamondville	o Alpine	o Alcova	o Hiland
o Big Piney	o Cody	o Casper	o Douglas	o Glenrock	o Midwest	
o Bondurant	o Dubois	o Cheyenne	o Rawlins	o Lander		
o Boulder	o Kemmerer	o Edgerton	o Riverton	o Marbleton		
o Daniel	o Laramie	o Evanston	o Worland			
o Green River	o Pinedale	o Evansville				
o Kinnear	o Powell	o Gillette				
o LaBarge	o Torrington	o Hudson				
o Orin		o Jackson				
o Pavillion		o Rock Springs				
		o Sheridan				
		o Shoshoni				
		o Thayne				
		o Thermopolis				

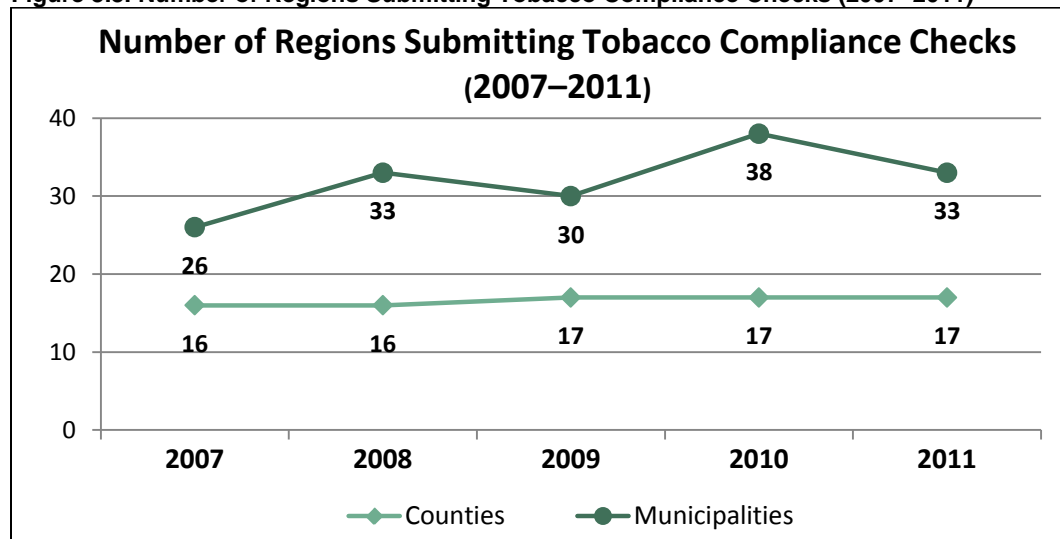
3.3. Tobacco Compliance Checks Results

In total, 771 tobacco compliance checks were submitted to WYSAC and entered into a database. Following a drop in tobacco checks in 2010 (656) this number is more in line with previous years. After removal of null attempts, a total of 744 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 in Figure 3.3 (below), tobacco forms were returned for 17 counties, the same as in 2009 and 2010, and 33 cities, a decrease of five from 2010. Annually there have been substantially fewer compliance checks completed for tobacco sales than for alcohol sales. Alcohol compliance checks were completed in 45 municipalities in 2010, and tobacco checks were completed only in 33. This difference of 12 locations across the state is noteworthy since more businesses sell tobacco than alcohol.

Figure 3.3. Number of Regions Submitting Tobacco Compliance Checks (2007–2011)



Following are the results from the tobacco compliance checks performed in 2011. 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 86.8%, a decrease of about 3 percentage points from 2010⁴. 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 four counties, Hot Springs, Johnson, Lincoln and Washakie, had a perfect tobacco compliance rate of 100%. The counties of Goshen (94.9%), Fremont (94.3%), Natrona (93.2%), and Carbon (92.3%) all demonstrated compliance rates between 99.9% and 90.0%. Teton (89.6%), Laramie (86.5%), Uinta (86.1%), Albany (85.7%), Converse (84.0%) and Park (80.0%) counties had rates between 80% and 89.9%. Three counties had rates between 70% and 79.9%: Campbell (79.7%), Sweetwater (72.1%), and Sublette (70.8%).

Table 3.5 displays the compliance rates and infractions for all 33 municipalities that returned tobacco compliance checks, listed in alphabetical order. Table 3.6 presents the tobacco compliance rates for all municipalities organized into groups of decreasing compliancy. More than half of all municipalities (18) had perfect compliance rates: Afton, Alpine, Buffalo, Crowheart, Dubois, Etna, Evansville, Green River, Hudson, Kemmerer, Kinnear, Lander, Lingle, Pavillion, Shoshoni, Thayne, Thermopolis, Worland. No municipality had a tobacco compliance rate under 60%. It should be noted that for many of these municipalities there were very small sample sizes (5 or less) which are more likely to result in extreme rates (100% or 0%).

One buy attempt in both Green River and Glenrock was discarded from the dataset because the youth lied about his or her age to the clerk, which is a violation of procedure.

⁴ WYSAC (2010) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2010*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1020). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Table 3.4. Tobacco Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by County (2011)

County	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
Albany ¹²	70	60	9	1	1	85.7%
Campbell ¹⁵	69	55	14	0	0	79.7%
Carbon ⁸	13	12	1	0	0	92.3%
Converse ¹³	25	21	4	0	5	84.0%
Fremont ⁶	70	66	0	4	0	94.3%
Goshen ⁵	39	37	2	0	1	94.9%
Hot Springs ^{T1}	7	7	0	0	0	100.0%
Johnson ^{T1}	14	14	0	0	1	100.0%
Laramie ¹⁰	96	83	12	1	0	86.5%
Lincoln ^{T1}	31	31	0	0	10	100.0%
Natrona ⁷	59	55	4	0	0	93.2%
Park ¹⁴	45	36	9	0	0	80.0%
Sublette ¹⁷	24	17	7	0	2	70.8%
Sweetwater ¹⁶	61	44	17	0	1	72.1%
Teton ⁹	77	69	0	8	3	89.6%
Uinta ¹¹	36	31	5	0	2	86.1%
Washakie ^{T1}	8	8	0	0	0	100.0%
Total	744	646	84	14	26	86.8%

* 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 Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by Municipality (2011)

County	Municipality	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
Lincoln	Afton	6	6	0	0	1	100.0%
Lincoln	Alpine	5	5	0	0	2	100.0%
Johnson	Buffalo	14	14	0	0	1	100.0%
Natrona	Casper	56	52	4	0	0	92.9%
Laramie	Cheyenne	96	83	12	1	0	86.5%
Park	Cody	33	27	6	0	0	81.8%
Fremont	Crowheart	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Converse	Douglas	21	18	3	0	5	85.7%
Fremont	Dubois	10	10	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Etna	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Uinta	Evanston	36	31	5	0	2	86.1%
Natrona	Evansville	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Campbell	Gillette	69	55	14	0	0	79.7%
Converse	Glenrock	4	3	1	0	0	75.0%
Sweetwater	Green River	17	17	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Hudson	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Teton	Jackson	77	69	0	8	3	89.6%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	15	15	0	0	6	100.0%
Fremont	Kinnear	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Lander	30	30	0	0	0	100.0%
Albany	Laramie	70	60	9	1	1	85.7%
Goshen	Lingle	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Pavillion	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Pinedale	24	17	7	0	2	70.8%
Park	Powell	12	9	3	0	0	75.0%
Carbon	Rawlins	13	12	1	0	0	92.3%
Fremont	Riverton	17	13	0	4	0	76.5%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	44	27	17	0	1	61.4%
Fremont	Shoshoni	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Thayne	4	4	0	0	1	100.0%
Hot Springs	Thermopolis	7	7	0	0	0	100.0%
Goshen	Torrington	33	31	2	0	1	93.9%
Washakie	Worland	8	8	0	0	0	100.0%
Total		744	646	84	14	26	86.8%

Table 3.6. Summary of Tobacco Compliance Rates by Municipality (2011)

Summary of Tobacco Compliance Rates by Municipality (2011)

100%	99.9% - 90.0%	89.9% - 80.0%	79.9% - 70.0%	69.9% - 60.0%
○ Afton	○ Casper	○ Cheyenne	○ Gillette	○ Rock Springs
○ Alpine	○ Rawlins	○ Cody	○ Glenrock	
○ Buffalo	○ Torrington	○ Douglas	○ Pinedale	
○ Crowheart		○ Evanston	○ Powell	
○ Dubois		○ Jackson	○ Riverton	
○ Etna		○ Laramie		
○ Evansville				
○ Green River				
○ Hudson				
○ Kemmerer				
○ Kinnear				
○ Lander				
○ Lingle				
○ Pavillion				
○ Shoshoni				
○ Thayne				
○ Thermopolis				
○ Worland				