



Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2013

WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1311

December, 2013

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Citation for this document: WYSAC (2013) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2013*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1311). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Short reference: WYSAC (2013), *Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance*.

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Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2013

1. Summary

In July 2013 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 sixth consecutive year that WYSAC has handled this project.

Data entry began in August and concluded in November, 2013. 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 1131 alcohol and 790 tobacco sales compliance inspection forms were received by WYSAC and entered in the database. Of those, 1069 alcohol and 781 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 86.9% for alcohol sales and 89.5% 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, though this is not always a viable option due to small precincts and other engagements of officers.

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.

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, 2012 through June, 2013 and the tobacco checks from December, 2012 through August, 2013.

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 August to November, 2013.

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 1131 alcohol forms submitted, 1069 were categorized as valid, 57 as null, and 5 as incomplete. Of the 790 submitted tobacco forms, 781 were categorized as valid, 7 as null, and 2 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.

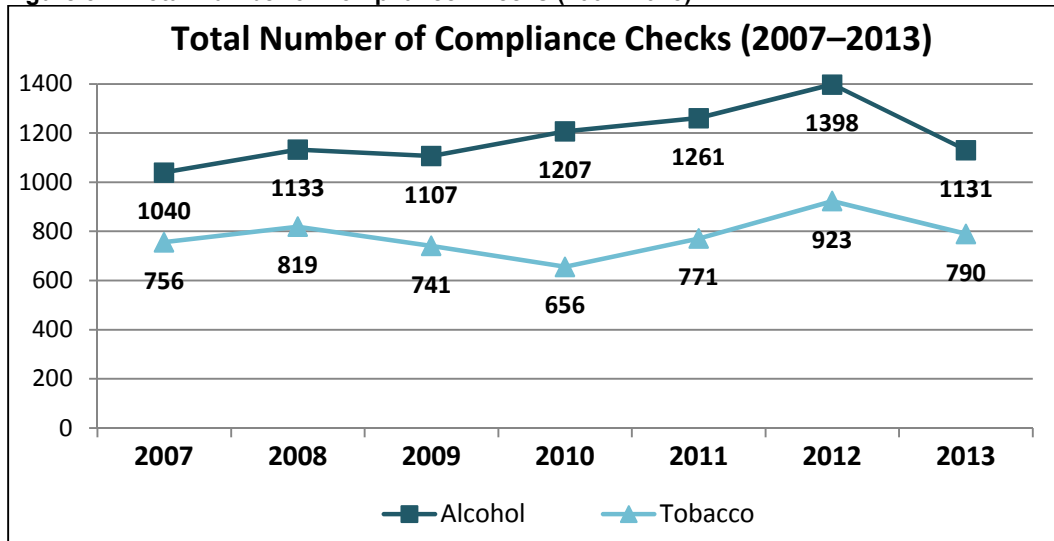
A minor logical assumption was made concerning incomplete and inconsistent forms. For any compliance checks that resulted in no violation, the data regarding if identification was requested, checked, and checked against a calendar were assumed to be true. For a substantial number of cases these three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

3. Results

3.1. Compliance Checks Counts (2007 – 2013)

The total number of compliance checks forms submitted each year from 2007 to 2013 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 (2007–2013)



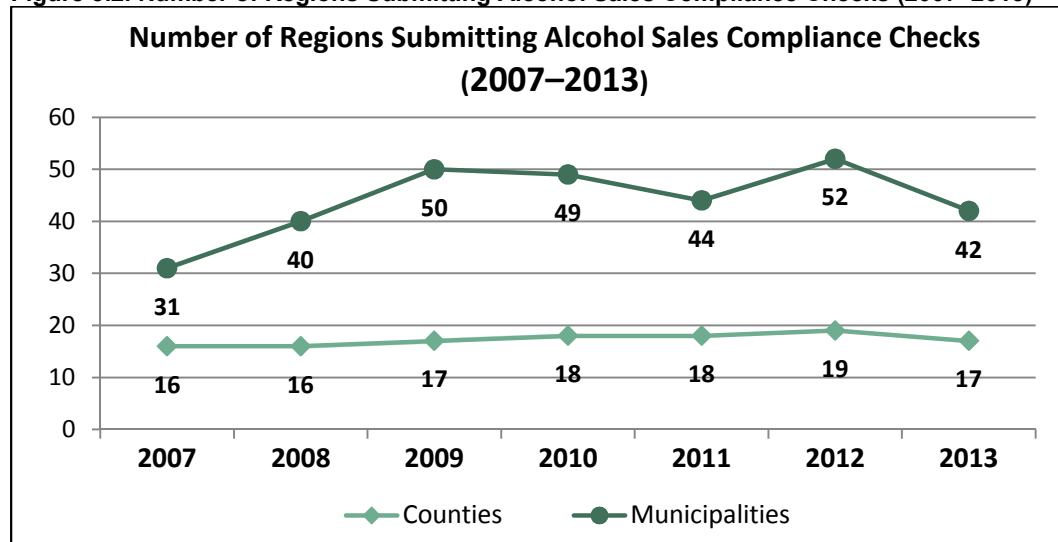
3.2. Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks Results

In 2013, a total 1131 alcohol compliance check forms were submitted to WYSAC. After removing null attempts, 1069 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 below in Figure 3.2, valid alcohol forms were returned for 17 of 23 Wyoming counties and 42 Wyoming cities, unincorporated communities (such as Hiland), and census-designated places (such as Alcova). The counties that did not return valid forms were: Crook, Hot Springs, Niobrara, Washakie, and Weston. The number of checks returned varied greatly from one municipality to another; Casper received the highest number of inspections (143) and many small municipalities received as little as one inspection.

Figure 3.2. Number of Regions Submitting Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2013)



Following are the results from the alcohol compliance checks performed in 2013. 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 86.9%, an increase of less than one percentage point for the fourth year in a row². 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 Big Horn County had the highest alcohol compliance rate at 100.0%, followed by Sublette County (97.6%), Teton County (95.5%), Uinta County (92.6%), Laramie County (92.0%), Sheridan County (91.1%), Park County (90.6%), Lincoln County (90.0%) and Goshen County (90.0%). Six counties had compliance rates between 89.9% and 80%: Johnson (88.6%), Natrona (87.3%), Albany (82.3%), Converse (81.3%), Campbell (80.9%), and Sweetwater (80.2%). Fremont County (77.3%) and Carbon County (62.5%) were the only two counties under 80% compliant. It should be noted that Sublette County (19) and Sheridan County (11) returned substantially more forms for businesses that were closed or no longer sold alcohol than any other county.

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. Fifteen municipalities (Bar Nunn, Basin, Boulder, Diamondville, Edgerton, Hiland, Jeffrey City, Kinnear, Manderson, Midwest, Pathfinder, Pavillion, Powell, Star Valley Ranch, and Thayne) had a 100% compliance rate. Zero municipalities 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%). Waltman only had null attempt forms returned, so the community was omitted from calculations.

² WYSAC (2012) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2012*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1208). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Table 3.1. Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates and Number of Violations by County (2013)*

County	Valid Alcohol Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Alcohol	Compliance Rate
Albany ¹²	62	51	4	7	5	82.3%
Big Horn ¹	3	3	0	0	1	100.0%
Campbell ¹⁴	94	76	16	2	0	80.9%
Carbon ¹⁷	16	10	6	0	0	62.5%
Converse ¹³	48	39	9	0	2	81.3%
Fremont ¹⁶	66	51	12	3	0	77.3%
Goshen ^{T8}	40	36	0	4	0	90.0%
Johnson ¹⁰	35	31	4	0	3	88.6%
Laramie ⁵	138	127	10	1	0	92.0%
Lincoln ^{T8}	60	54	6	0	0	90.0%
Natrona ¹¹	166	145	20	1	6	87.3%
Park ⁷	64	58	6	0	1	90.6%
Sheridan ⁶	79	72	7	0	11	91.1%
Sublette ²	41	40	0	1	19	97.6%
Sweetwater ¹⁵	86	69	17	0	6	80.2%
Teton ³	44	42	1	1	0	95.5%
Uinta ⁴	27	25	2	0	3	92.6%
TOTAL	1069	929	120	20	57	86.9%

* 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 (2013)

County	Municipality	Valid Alcohol Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Alcohol	Compliance Rate
Lincoln	Afton	16	15	1	0	0	93.8%
Natrona	Alcova	3	2	1	0	0	66.7%
Lincoln	Alpine	14	12	2	0	0	85.7%
Natrona	Bar Nunn	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Big Horn	Basin	2	2	0	0	1	100.0%
Sublette	Boulder	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Johnson	Buffalo	35	31	4	0	3	88.6%
Natrona	Casper	143	126	16	1	0	88.1%
Laramie	Cheyenne	138	127	10	1	0	92.0%
Park	Cody	53	47	6	0	0	88.7%
Lincoln	Diamondville	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Converse	Douglas	37	29	8	0	2	78.4%
Fremont	Dubois	10	8	2	0	0	80.0%
Natrona	Edgerton	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Uinta	Evanston	27	25	2	0	3	92.6%
Natrona	Evansville	13	10	3	0	2	76.9%
Campbell	Gillette	94	76	16	2	0	80.9%
Converse	Glenrock	11	10	1	0	0	90.9%
Sweetwater	Green River	29	28	1	0	1	96.6%
Natrona	Hiland	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Hudson	5	3	1	1	0	60.0%
Teton	Jackson	44	42	1	1	0	95.5%
Johnson	Jeffrey City	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	14	12	2	0	0	85.7%
Fremont	Kinross	5	5	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	La Barge	5	4	1	0	0	80.0%
Fremont	Lander	12	11	1	0	0	91.7%
Albany	Laramie	62	51	4	7	5	82.3%
Big Horn	Manderson	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Midwest	1	1	0	0	2	100.0%
Natrona	Pathfinder	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Pavillion	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Pinedale	40	39	0	1	19	97.5%
Park	Powell	11	11	0	0	1	100.0%
Carbon	Rawlins	16	10	6	0	0	62.5%
Fremont	Riverton	19	11	8	0	0	57.9%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	57	41	16	0	5	71.9%
Sheridan	Sheridan	79	72	7	0	11	91.1%
Fremont	Shoshoni	10	8	0	2	0	80.0%
Lincoln	Star Valley Ranch	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Thayne	7	7	0	0	0	100.0%
Goshen	Torrington	40	36	0	4	0	90.0%
Natrona	Waltman	0	0	0	0	2	-
	Total	1069	929	120	20	57	86.9%

Table 3.3. Summary of Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates by Municipality (2013)

Summary of Alcohol Compliance Rates by Municipality (2013)

100%	99.9% - 90.0%	89.9% - 80.0%	79.9% - 70.0%	69.9% - 60.0%	59.9% - 0.0%
○ Bar Nunn	○ Afton	○ Alpine	○ Douglas	○ Alcova	○ Riverton
○ Basin	○ Cheyenne	○ Buffalo	○ Evansville	○ Hudson	
○ Boulder	○ Evanston	○ Casper	○ Rock Springs	○ Rawlins	
○ Diamondville	○ Glenrock	○ Cody			
○ Edgerton	○ Green River	○ Dubois			
○ Hiland	○ Jackson	○ Gillette			
○ Jeffrey City	○ Lander	○ Kemmerer			
○ Kinnear	○ Pinedale	○ La Barge			
○ Manderson	○ Sheridan	○ Laramie			
○ Midwest	○ Torrington	○ Shoshoni			
○ Pathfinder					
○ Pavillion					
○ Powell					
○ Star Valley Ranch					
○ Thayne					

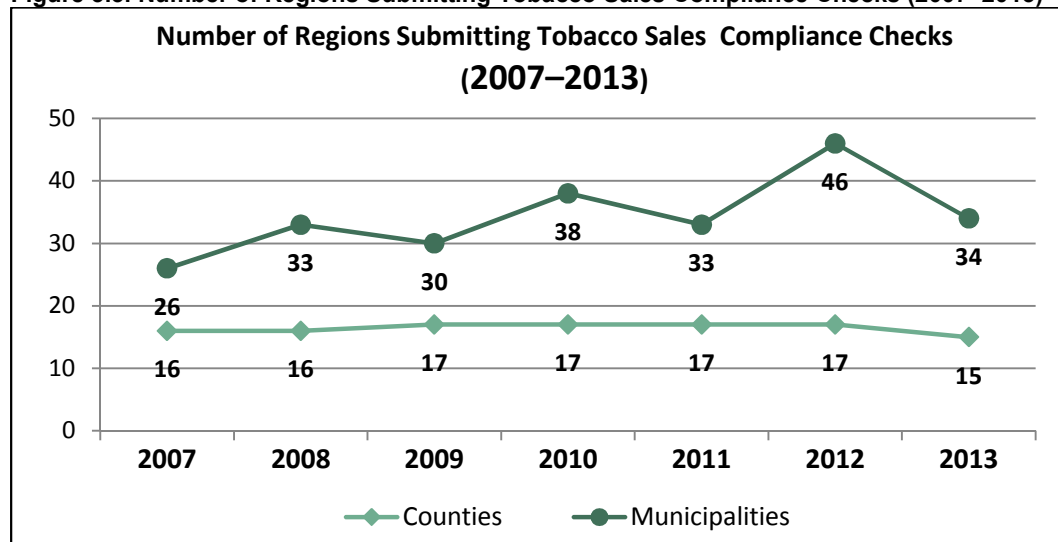
3.3. Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks Results

In total, 790 tobacco sales compliance checks were submitted to WYSAC and entered into a database. After removal of null attempts, 781 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 15 Wyoming counties, the fewest ever, and for 34 municipalities. Routinely there have been substantially fewer municipalities used for tobacco sales compliance checks than for alcohol sales compliance checks. The counties that did not return valid forms were: Big Horn, Carbon, Crook, Hot Springs, Niobrara, Platte, Washakie, and Weston.

Figure 3.3. Number of Regions Submitting Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2013)



Following are the results from the tobacco compliance checks performed in 2013. 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 89.5%, a decrease of roughly 3 percentage points from 2012³. 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 only one county, Sublette, had a perfect tobacco sales compliance rate of 100%. The next five counties with the highest compliance rates were Natrona (96.9%), Goshen (92.3%), Campbell (92.2%), Sweetwater (91.2%), and Johnson (90.6%). The counties that demonstrated compliance rates between 89.9% and 80.0% were Lincoln (89.3%), Laramie (88.6%), Albany (87.5%), Fremont (85.1%), Park (84.2%), Uinta (84.2%), Sheridan (84.1%), and Teton (82.8%). Converse County (69.6%) was the only county with a rate below 80%.

Table 3.5 displays the compliance rates and infractions for all 34 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. A large number of municipalities (12) had perfect compliance rates. The municipalities with the lowest tobacco compliance rates were Alpine (66.7%), Evansville (66.7%), Glenrock (60.0%), Lingle (50.0%) and Hawk Springs (0.0%). 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 (2012) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2012*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1208). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Table 3.4. Tobacco Sales Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by County (2013)*

County	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
Albany ⁹	64	56	8	0	0	87.5%
Campbell ⁴	64	59	4	1	1	92.2%
Converse ¹⁵	23	16	7	0	0	69.6%
Fremont ¹⁰	74	63	8	3	0	85.1%
Goshen ³	39	36	2	1	1	92.3%
Johnson ⁶	32	29	3	0	0	90.6%
Laramie ⁸	79	70	9	0	0	88.6%
Lincoln ⁷	28	25	2	1	0	89.3%
Natrona ²	130	126	4	0	0	96.9%
Park ¹¹	38	32	6	0	0	84.2%
Sheridan ¹³	44	37	7	0	0	84.1%
Sublette ¹	42	42	0	0	4	100.0%
Sweetwater ⁵	57	52	5	0	0	91.2%
Teton ¹⁴	29	24	5	0	0	82.8%
Uinta ¹¹	38	32	6	0	1	84.2%
TOTAL	781	699	76	6	7	89.5%

* 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 3.5. Tobacco Sales Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by Municipality (2013)

County	Municipality	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
Lincoln	Afton	5	5	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Alcova	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Alpine	6	4	1	1	0	66.7%
Johnson	Buffalo	32	29	3	0	0	90.6%
Natrona	Casper	122	119	3	0	0	97.5%
Laramie	Cheyenne	79	70	9	0	0	88.6%
Park	Cody	32	27	5	0	0	84.4%
Lincoln	Cokeville	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Converse	Douglas	13	10	3	0	0	76.9%
Fremont	Dubois	10	9	0	1	0	90.0%
Lincoln	Etna	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Uinta	Evanston	38	32	6	0	1	84.2%
Natrona	Evansville	3	2	1	0	0	66.7%
Campbell	Gillette	64	59	4	1	1	92.2%
Converse	Glenrock	10	6	4	0	0	60.0%
Sweetwater	Green River	9	9	0	0	0	100.0%
Goshen	Hawk Springs	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Natrona	Hiland	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Teton	Jackson	29	24	5	0	0	82.8%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	12	11	1	0	0	91.7%
Fremont	Kinnear	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Lander	22	17	5	0	0	77.3%
Albany	Laramie	64	56	8	0	0	87.5%
Goshen	Lingle	2	1	1	0	0	50.0%
Natrona	Midwest	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Pinedale	42	42	0	0	4	100.0%
Park	Powell	6	5	1	0	0	83.3%
Fremont	Riverton	38	33	3	2	0	86.8%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	48	43	5	0	0	89.6%
Sheridan	Sheridan	44	37	7	0	0	84.1%
Fremont	Shoshoni	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Thayne	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Goshen	Torrington	36	35	0	1	1	97.2%
Natrona	Waltman	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
TOTAL		781	699	76	6	7	89.5%

Table 3.6. Summary of Tobacco Sales Compliance Rates by Municipality (2013)

Summary of Tobacco Compliance Rates by Municipality (2013)

100%	99.9% - 90.0%	89.9% - 80.0%	79.9% - 70.0%	69.9% - 0.0%
○ Afton	○ Buffalo	○ Cheyenne	○ Douglas	○ Alpine
○ Alcova	○ Casper	○ Cody	○ Lander	○ Evansville
○ Cokeville	○ Dubios	○ Evanston		○ Glenrock
○ Etna	○ Gillette	○ Jackson		○ Lingle
○ Green River	○ Kemmerer	○ Laramie		○ Hawk Springs
○ Hiland	○ Torrington	○ Powell		
○ Kinner		○ Riverton		
○ Midwest		○ Rock Springs		
○ Pinedale		○ Sheridan		
○ Shoshoni				
○ Thayne				
○ Waltman				