



# **Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2014**

WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1412

November, 2014

# Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2014

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

Short reference: WYSAC (2014), *Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance*.

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# Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2014

## 1. Summary

In July 2014 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 October, 2014. 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 1243 alcohol and 777 tobacco sales compliance inspection forms were received by WYSAC and entered in the database. Of those, 1215 (97.7%) alcohol and 748 (96.3%) 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 85.0% for alcohol sales and 87.6% 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.”<sup>1</sup>

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,

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<sup>1</sup> 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 May, 2013 through August, 2014 and the tobacco checks from November, 2013 through June, 2014.

## 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 October, 2014.

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 1243 alcohol forms submitted, 1215 were categorized as valid, 26 as null, and 2 as incomplete. Of the 777 submitted tobacco forms, 748 were categorized as valid, 15 as null, and 14 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.

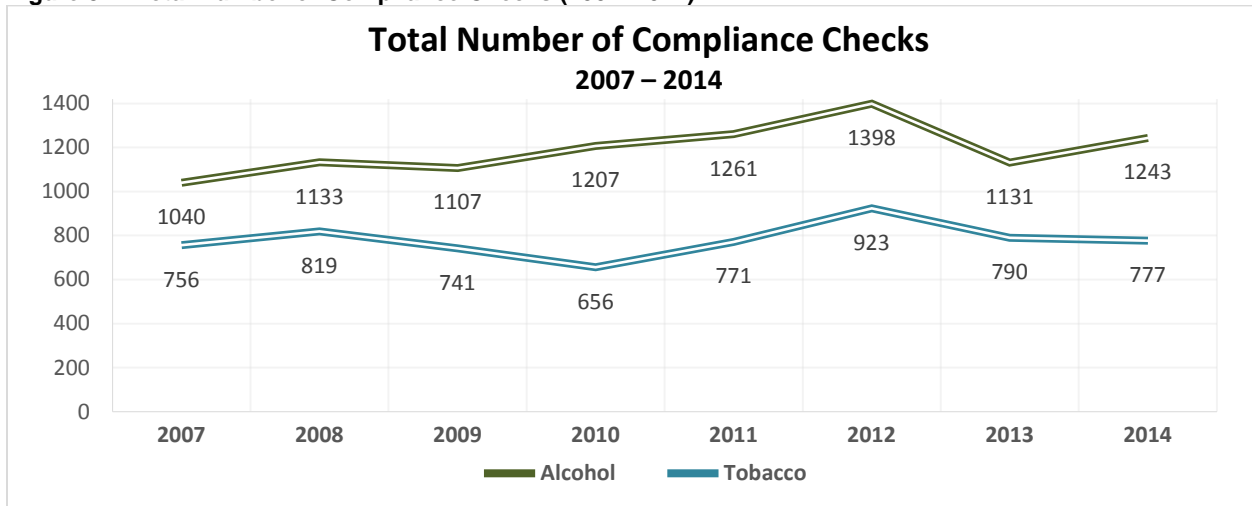
A minor logical assumption was made concerning incomplete and inconsistent forms. For any compliance checks that resulted in no violation, the data regarding identification requested, checked, and checked against a calendar were assumed to be true. For a substantial number of cases these three variables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

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Compliance Checks Counts (2007 – 2014)

The total number of compliance checks forms submitted each year from 2007 to 2014 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 (2007–2014)**



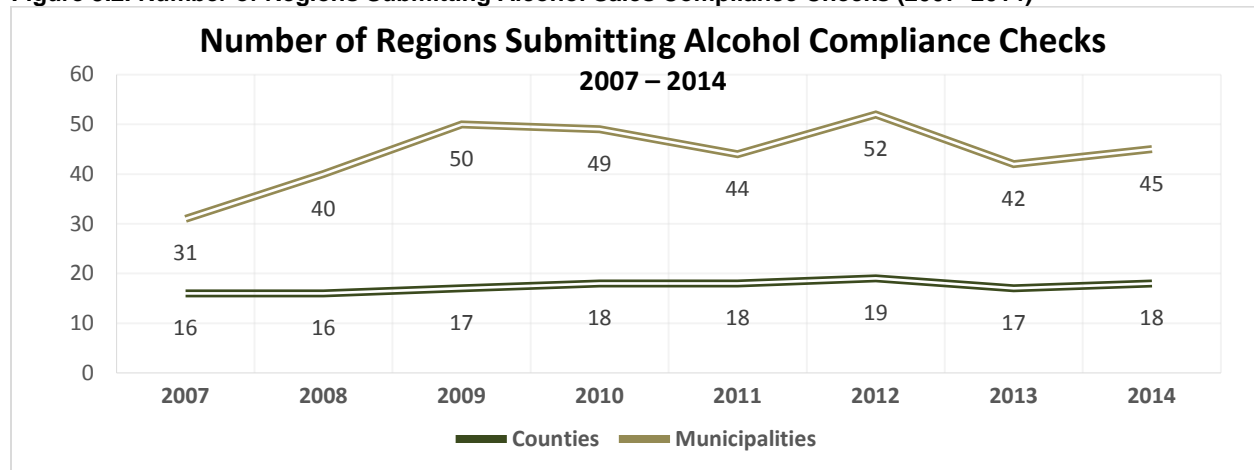
### 3.2. Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks Results

In 2014, a total of 1243 alcohol compliance check forms were submitted to WYSAC. After removing null attempts, 1215 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 below, valid alcohol forms were returned for 18 of 23 Wyoming counties and 45 Wyoming cities, unincorporated communities (such as Hiland), and census-designated places (such as Alcova). The counties that did not return valid forms were: Big Horn, Crook, Platte, Sublette, and Weston. The number of checks returned varied greatly from one municipality to another; Casper received the highest number of inspections (187) and many small municipalities received as little as one inspection.

**Figure 3.2. Number of Regions Submitting Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2014)**



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 85.0%, a decrease of nearly two percentage points from 2013<sup>2</sup>. 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 Hot Springs County had the highest alcohol compliance rate at 100.0%, followed by Goshen County (97.5%), Niobrara County (92.9%), and Campbell County (92.8%). Ten counties had compliance rates between 89.9% and 80%: Washakie (89.3%), Johnson (89.3%), Sheridan (87.8%), Lincoln (86.9%), Fremont (86.8%), Laramie (86.1%), Teton (85.7%), Natrona (85.6%), Albany (83.7%), and Park (83.1%). Converse County (78.6%), Carbon (77.8%), Sweetwater (75.7%), and Uinta (68.9%) were the only counties under 80% compliant.

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. Fourteen municipalities (Afton, Bar Nunn, Dubois, Etna, Hudson, Kinnear, Lingle, Manville, Pavillion, Shoshoni, Ten Sleep, Thayne, Thermopolis, and Yoder) had a 100% compliance rate. Three municipalities (Hiland, La Barge, Midwest) had lowest compliance rates at 50.0%. Many of these municipalities had very small sample sizes (5 or less) which are more likely to result in extreme rates (100% or 0%).

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<sup>2</sup> WYSAC (2013) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2013*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1311). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.



Table 3.1. Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates and Number of Violations by County (2014)\*

County	Valid Alcohol Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Warning	Prohibited Sales Violation	Closed or Does Not Sell Alcohol	Compliance Rate
Albany <sup>13</sup>	43	36	0	7	0	83.7%
Campbell <sup>4</sup>	83	77	1	5	0	92.8%
Carbon <sup>16</sup>	18	14	0	4	0	77.8%
Converse <sup>15</sup>	56	44	0	12	1	78.6%
Fremont <sup>9</sup>	68	59	0	9	0	86.8%
Goshen <sup>2</sup>	40	39	0	1	0	97.5%
Hot Springs <sup>1</sup>	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Johnson <sup>5</sup>	28	25	0	3	1	89.3%
Laramie <sup>10</sup>	173	149	0	24	3	86.1%
Lincoln <sup>8</sup>	61	53	1	7	5	86.9%
Natrona <sup>12</sup>	250	214	3	33	3	85.6%
Niobrara <sup>3</sup>	14	13	0	1	3	92.9%
Park <sup>14</sup>	59	49	0	10	0	83.1%
Sheridan <sup>7</sup>	90	79	2	9	8	87.8%
Sweetwater <sup>17</sup>	111	84	0	27	0	75.7%
Teton <sup>11</sup>	42	36	3	3	0	85.7%
Uinta <sup>18</sup>	45	31	0	14	0	68.9%
Washakie <sup>5</sup>	28	25	0	3	2	89.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1215</b>	<b>1033</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>85.0%</b>

\* 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 (2014)

County	Municipality	Valid Alcohol Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Warning	Prohibited Sales Violation	Closed or Does Not Sell Alcohol	Compliance Rate
Lincoln	Afton	17	17	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Alcova	5	4	0	1	1	80.0%
Lincoln	Alpine	18	17	0	1	3	94.4%
Natrona	Bar Nunn	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Johnson	Buffalo	28	25	0	3	1	89.3%
Natrona	Casper	216	187	3	26	1	86.6%
Laramie	Cheyenne	173	149	0	24	3	86.1%
Park	Cody	47	39	0	8	0	83.0%
Lincoln	Diamondville	3	2	0	1	0	66.7%
Converse	Douglas	45	37	0	8	1	82.2%
Fremont	Dubois	6	6	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	45	31	0	14	0	68.9%
Natrona	Evansville	15	13	0	2	0	86.7%
Campbell	Gillette	83	77	1	5	0	92.8%
Converse	Glenrock	11	7	0	4	0	63.6%
Sweetwater	Green River	23	21	0	2	0	91.3%
Natrona	Hiland	2	1	0	1	0	50.0%
Fremont	Hudson	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Teton	Jackson	42	36	3	3	0	85.7%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	13	8	1	4	1	61.5%
Fremont	Kinnear	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	La Barge	2	1	0	1	0	50.0%
Fremont	Lander	24	20	0	4	0	83.3%
Albany	Laramie	43	36	0	7	0	83.7%
Goshen	Lingle	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Niobrara	Lusk	12	11	0	1	3	91.7%
Niobrara	Manville	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Midwest	4	2	0	2	0	50.0%
Fremont	Pavillion	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Park	Powell	12	10	0	2	0	83.3%
Carbon	Rawlins	18	14	0	4	0	77.8%
Fremont	Riverton	28	23	0	5	0	82.1%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	88	63	0	25	0	71.6%
Sheridan	Sheridan	90	79	2	9	8	87.8%
Fremont	Shoshoni	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Star Valley Ranch	0	0	0	0	1	-
Washakie	Ten Sleep	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Thayne	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Hot Springs	Thermopolis	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Goshen	Torrington	36	35	0	1	0	97.2%
Natrona	Waltman	0	0	0	0	1	-
Washakie	Worland	25	22	0	3	2	88.0%
Goshen	Yoder	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1215</b>	<b>1033</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>85.0%</b>

**Table 3.3. Summary of Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates by Municipality (2014)**

**Summary of Alcohol Compliance Rates by Municipality (2014)**

100%	99.9% - 90.0%	89.9% - 80.0%	79.9% - 70.0%	69.9% - 60.0%	59.9% - 0.0%
○ Afton	○ Alpine	○ Alcova	○ Rawlins	○ Diamondville	○ Hiland
○ Bar Nunn	○ Gillette	○ Buffalo	○ Rock Springs	○ Evanston	○ La Barge
○ Dubois	○ Green River	○ Casper		○ Glenrock	○ Midwest
○ Etna	○ Lusk	○ Cheyenne		○ Kemmerer	
○ Hudson	○ Torrington	○ Cody			
○ Kinnear		○ Douglas			
○ Lingle		○ Edgerton			
○ Manville		○ Evansville			
○ Pavillion		○ Jackson			
○ Shoshoni		○ Lander			
○ Ten Sleep		○ Laramie			
○ Thayne		○ Powell			
○ Thermopolis		○ Riverton			
○ Yoder		○ Sheridan			
		○ Worland			

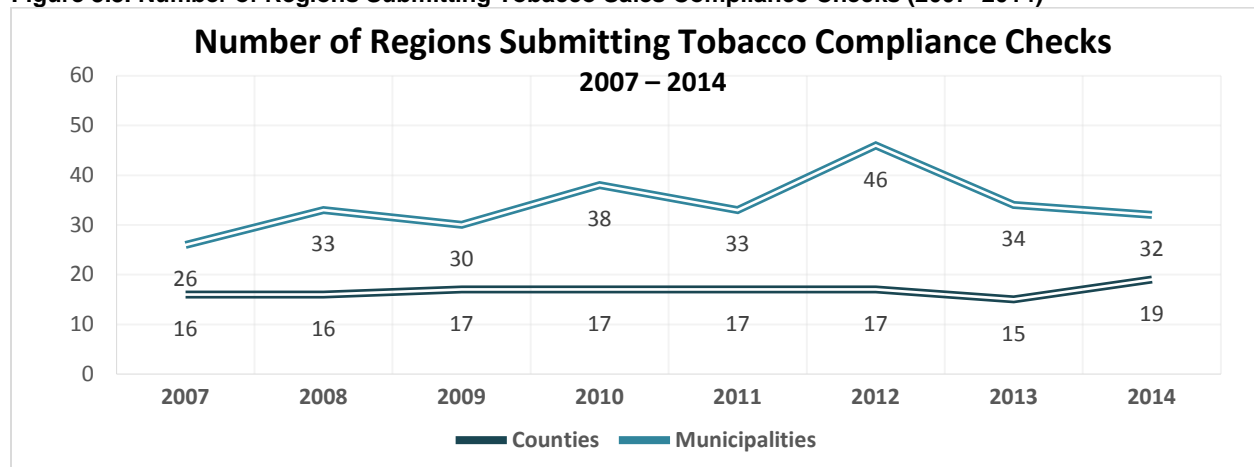
### 3.3. Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks Results

In total, 777 tobacco sales compliance checks were submitted to WYSAC and entered into a database. After removal of null attempts, 748 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 19 Wyoming counties, 4 more than in 2013, and 32 municipalities returned forms. 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, Platte, and Weston.

**Figure 3.3. Number of Regions Submitting Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2014)**



Following are the results from the tobacco compliance checks performed in 2014. 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 87.6%, a decrease of roughly 2 percentage points from 2013<sup>3</sup>. 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, Hot Springs, had a perfect tobacco sales compliance rate of 100%. The next seven counties with the highest compliance rates were Uinta (97.4%), Lincoln (97.2%), Sublette (95.8%), Goshen (94.9%), Fremont (93.5%), Teton (92.1%), and Campbell (91.2%). The counties that demonstrated compliance rates between 89.9% and 80.0% were Albany (89.4%), Sweetwater (89.4%), Johnson (88.0%), Laramie (87.5%), Sheridan (86.4%), Natrona (85.5%), and Park (82.4%). Washakie (66.7%), Carbon (60.0%), Converse (58.8%), Niobrara (57.1%) counties all had rates below 70%.

Table 3.5 displays the compliance rates and infractions for all 32 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. Eight municipalities had perfect compliance rates. The municipalities with the lowest tobacco compliance rates were Rawlins (60.0%), Powell (60.0%), Lusk (57.1%), and Glenrock (50.0%). 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%).

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<sup>3</sup> WYSAC (2013) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2013*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1311). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Table 3.4. Tobacco Sales Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by County (2014)\*

County	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Warning	Prohibited Sales Violation	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
Albany <sup>T9</sup>	66	59	1	6	3	89.4%
Campbell <sup>8</sup>	34	31	0	3	0	91.2%
Carbon <sup>17</sup>	10	6	0	4	0	60.0%
Converse <sup>18</sup>	34	20	0	14	1	58.8%
Fremont <sup>6</sup>	77	72	3	2	0	93.5%
Goshen <sup>5</sup>	39	37	0	2	0	94.9%
Hot Springs <sup>1</sup>	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Johnson <sup>11</sup>	25	22	0	3	0	88.0%
Laramie <sup>12</sup>	40	35	0	5	0	87.5%
Lincoln <sup>T3</sup>	36	35	0	1	0	97.2%
Natrona <sup>14</sup>	117	100	0	17	3	85.5%
Niobrara <sup>19</sup>	7	4	0	3	0	57.1%
Park <sup>15</sup>	34	28	0	6	0	82.4%
Sheridan <sup>13</sup>	44	38	0	6	0	86.4%
Sublette <sup>4</sup>	24	23	0	1	5	95.8%
Sweetwater <sup>T9</sup>	66	59	0	7	0	89.4%
Teton <sup>7</sup>	38	35	1	2	1	92.1%
Uinta <sup>2</sup>	39	38	0	1	1	97.4%
Washakie <sup>16</sup>	15	10	0	5	1	66.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>87.6%</b>

\* 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 (2014)

County	Municipality	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Warning	Prohibited Sales Violation	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
Lincoln	Afton	10	9	0	1	0	90.0%
Natrona	Alcova	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Alpine	12	12	0	0	0	100.0%
Johnson	Buffalo	25	22	0	3	0	88.0%
Natrona	Casper	111	95	0	16	2	85.6%
Laramie	Cheyenne	40	35	0	5	0	87.5%
Park	Cody	29	25	0	4	0	86.2%
Lincoln	Diamondville	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Converse	Douglas	24	15	0	9	1	62.5%
Lincoln	Etna	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Uinta	Evanston	39	38	0	1	1	97.4%
Natrona	Evansville	3	2	0	1	0	66.7%
Campbell	Gillette	34	31	0	3	0	91.2%
Converse	Glenrock	10	5	0	5	0	50.0%
Sweetwater	Green River	18	17	0	1	0	94.4%
Natrona	Hiland	0	0	0	0	1	-
Teton	Jackson	38	35	1	2	1	92.1%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	La Barge	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Lander	22	20	0	2	0	90.9%
Albany	Laramie	66	59	1	6	3	89.4%
Niobrara	Lusk	7	4	0	3	0	57.1%
Sublette	Pinedale	24	23	0	1	5	95.8%
Park	Powell	5	3	0	2	0	60.0%
Carbon	Rawlins	10	6	0	4	0	60.0%
Fremont	Riverton	55	52	3	0	0	94.5%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	48	42	0	6	0	87.5%
Sheridan	Sheridan	44	38	0	6	0	86.4%
Lincoln	Thayne	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Hot Springs	Thermopolis	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Goshen	Torrington	39	37	0	2	0	94.9%
Washakie	Worland	15	10	0	5	1	66.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>748</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>87.6%</b>

**Table 3.6. Summary of Tobacco Sales Compliance Rates by Municipality (2014)**

**Summary of Tobacco Compliance Rates by Municipality (2014)**

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 Alpine	o Evanston	o Casper		o Evansville
o Diamondville	o Gillette	o Cheyenne		o Glenrock
o Etna	o Green River	o Cody		o Lusk
o Kemmerer	o Jackson	o Laramie		o Powell
o La Barge	o Lander	o Rock Springs		o Rawlins
o Thayne	o Pinedale	o Sheridan		o Worland
o Thermopolis	o Riverton			
	o Torrington			