

# Alcohol and Tobacco COMPLIANCE CHECK PROGRAM

*Fiscal Year 2018*



## What are Compliance Checks?

Alcohol and tobacco compliance checks are a tool law enforcement uses to reduce alcohol and tobacco availability to under 21 youth from commercial sources such as bars, restaurants, liquor stores, grocery stores and convenience stores.

Every Fiscal Year, Alcohol Beverage Services (ABS) and the Montgomery County Department of Police conduct compliance checks that typically involve under 21 volunteers trying to buy alcohol or tobacco products from a licensed establishment.

## How Compliance Checks Work

ABS enforcement specialists along with police officers, use under 21 buyers as volunteers to test license holders' compliance with laws regarding the sale of alcohol to minors. Under their supervision, volunteers try to purchase alcohol with their own vertical ID.

Volunteers are trained by ABS staff and are only allowed to have their valid ID, a cell phone for safety and the funds used to purchase alcohol at the time of the compliance check.

## What Happens when a Retailer Fails a Compliance Check?

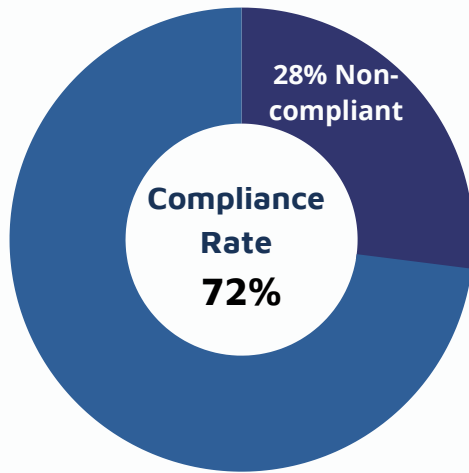
Failure to decline a sale to an under 21 buyer results in the issuance of administrative violations against the license-holder and criminal citations for the individual seller/server who failed the compliance check.

## Results

In Fiscal Year 2018, ABS conducted alcohol compliance checks for 390 license-holders as well as for 10 ABS retail stores. Of the 390 license-holders, 108 sold alcohol to an under 21 volunteer while 282 did not. This resulted in a compliance rate of 72%. As for ABS' retail stores, one store sold alcohol to an under 21 volunteer, thus resulting in a compliance rate of 90%.

ABS also conducted 300 compliance checks on authorized tobacco retailers in FY18. During these checks, 45 sold tobacco products to an under 21 volunteer and 255 did not. The compliance rate for these checks was 85%.

# FISCAL YEAR 2018 COMPLIANCE CHECK RESULTS



## Underage Alcohol Sales

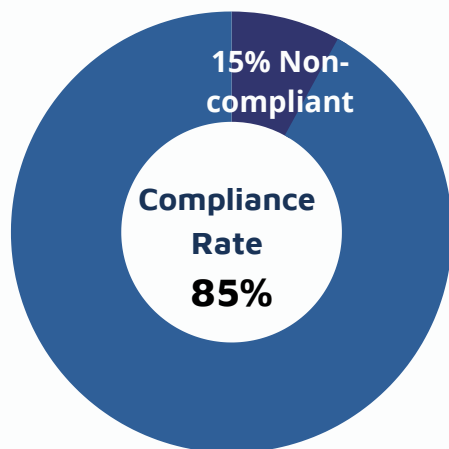
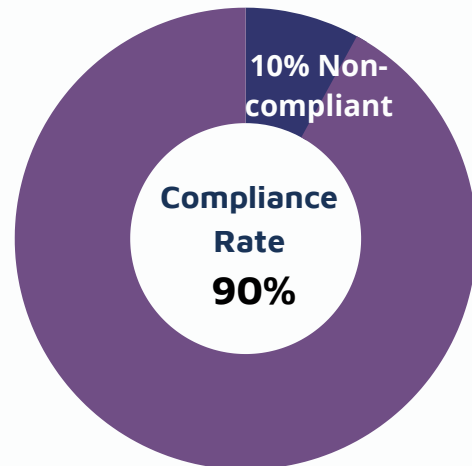
\*License-Holders

Three out of ten license-holders sold alcohol to an under 21 youth in FY18. Compliance rates decreased when compared to the previous year.

## Underage Alcohol Sales

\*ABS Stores

One out of 10 ABS stores sold alcohol to an under 21 youth in FY18. There is no data from the previous fiscal year to allow for comparison..



## Underage Tobacco Sales

Two out of ten tobacco retailers sold tobacco products to an under 21 youth in FY18. Compliance rates remained the same when compared to the previous year.