

Alcohol and Tobacco

COMPLIANCE CHECK PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2020



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?

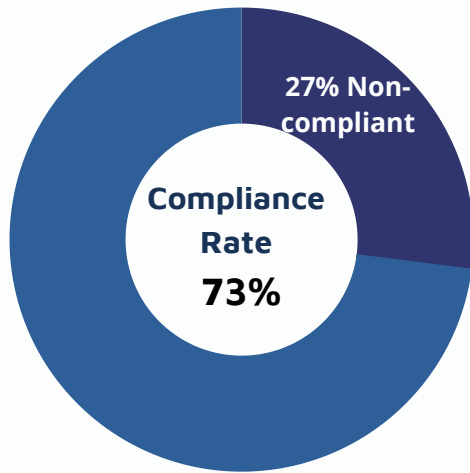
Failure to decline a sale to an under 21 buyer results in the issuance of administrative violations against the license-holder and criminal citations for the individual seller/server who failed the compliance check.

Results

In Fiscal Year 2020, ABS conducted alcohol compliance checks for 321 license-holders as well as for twelve of ABS' retail stores. Of the 321 license-holders, 87 sold alcohol to an under 21 volunteer while 234 did not. This resulted in a compliance rate of 73%. As for ABS' retail stores, only one store sold alcohol to an under 21 volunteer, thus resulting in a compliance rate of 92%.

ABS also conducted 83 compliance checks on authorized tobacco retailers in FY20. During these checks, 13 sold tobacco products to an under 21 volunteer and 70 did not. The compliance rate for these checks was 84%.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 COMPLIANCE CHECK RESULTS



Underage Alcohol Sales

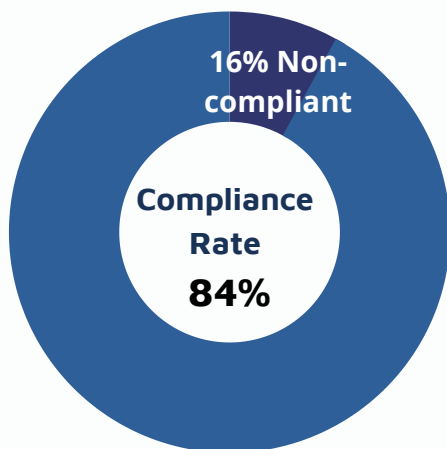
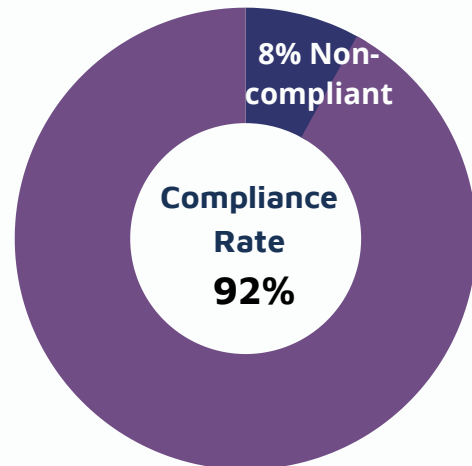
*License-Holders

Three out of ten license-holders sold alcohol to an under 21 youth in FY20. Compliance rates have stayed consistent when compared to the previous year.

Underage Alcohol Sales

*ABS Stores

One out of ten ABS stores sold alcohol to an under 21 youth in FY20. Compliance rates improved when compared to the previous year.



Underage Tobacco Sales

Two out of ten tobacco retailers sold tobacco products to an under 21 youth in FY20. Compliance rates improved when compared to the previous year.