Alcohol and Tobacco

# COMPLIANCE CHECK PROGRAM

***Fiscal Year 2020***

## ALCOHOL COMPLIANCE CHECKS

Alcohol compliance checks are used as a tool to reduce the availability of alcohol to under-21 youth from sources such as bars, restaurants, and liquor stores. Alcohol Beverage Services' Division of Licensure, Regulation and Education -LRE- has a comprehensive alcohol compliance check program that seeks to ensure safety and help license-holders reduce the availability of alcohol to youth.

As part of the program, LRE conducts four types of compliance checks that involve:

- An under-21 volunteer attempting to order alcohol at a licensed establishment;
- An under-21 volunteer attempting to order alcohol through room service at a hotel or motel;
- An enforcement specialist in plain clothes within a facility surveilling for sales to visibly intoxicated patrons;
- An enforcement specialist in plain clothes within a facility surveilling for illegal keg registration.

## HOW IT WORKS

LRE 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 the supervision of law enforcement, volunteers try to purchase alcohol with their own vertical ID.

Under-21 volunteers are properly trained 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. Purchase funds are provided by LRE. Failure to decline a sale to an under-21 buyer result in the issuance of administrative violations against the license-holder and criminal citations for the individual seller/server who failed the compliance check.

## TOBACCO COMPLIANCE CHECKS

Annually, the Montgomery County Alcohol Beverage Services conducts tobacco compliance checks to reduce tobacco sales to minors under the age of 21. These checks also ensure retailers follow product placement laws.

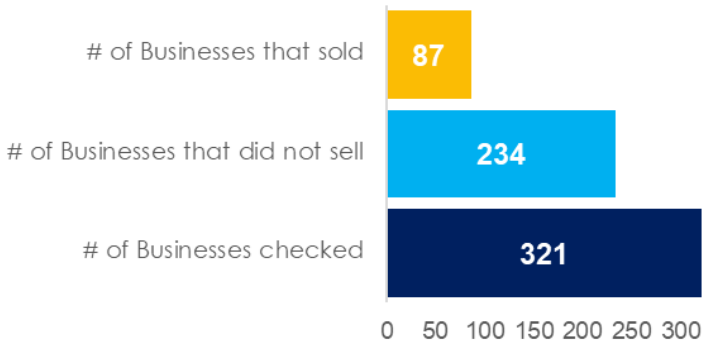
In Fiscal Year 2020, LRE conducted 83 compliance checks to authorized tobacco retailers. During these checks, 13 sold tobacco products to the under-21 volunteer and 70 did not. The compliance rate for these checks was 84%.

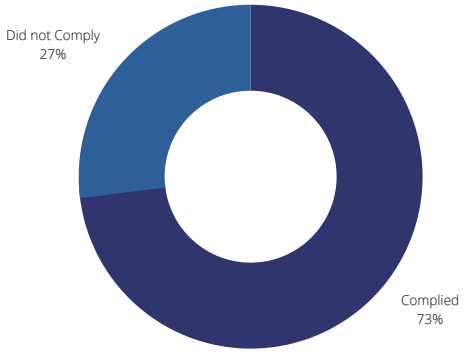
ABS
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE SERVICES

Division of Licensure, Regulation and Education | 201 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 | 240-777-1999
ABSLicensing@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov

# FISCAL YEAR 2020
# COMPLIANCE CHECK RESULTS

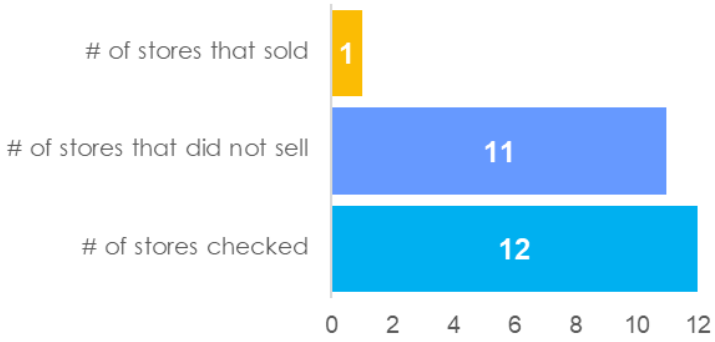
## Compliance Checks for Underage Alcohol Sales
***License-Holders**

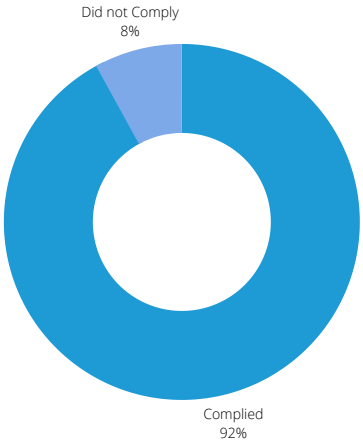



**Compliance Rate 73%**

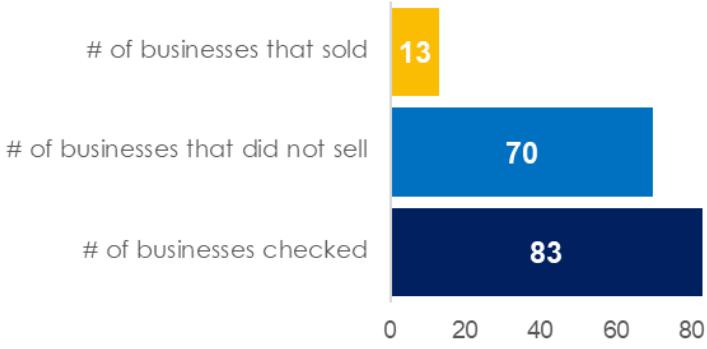
## Compliance Checks for Underage Alcohol Sales
***County-Owned Stores**

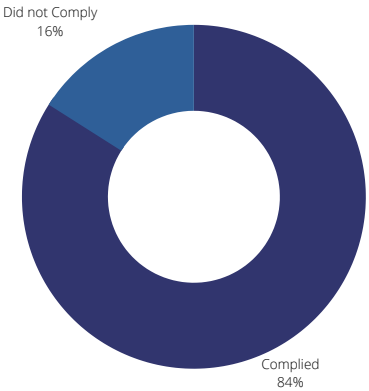



**Compliance Rate 92%**

## Compliance Checks for Underage Tobacco Sales




**Compliance Rate 84%**

Division of Licensure, Regulation and Education | 201 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 | 240-777-1999
ABSLicensing@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov