



## 2024 Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Check Summary

Each year, the Dakota County Public Health Department compiles data on retail tobacco and alcohol age compliance checks conducted by local law enforcement officials. Research finds that compliance checks are an effective tool to reduce youth access to alcohol and tobacco. Minnesota law requires that local law enforcement officials check for underage sales at each licensed tobacco retail establishment at least once per year. Below are the comparisons from 2023 to 2024 for alcohol and tobacco compliance, as well as a breakdown from each jurisdiction's compliance checks. Any questions pertaining to this report can be sent to [denise.yi@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:denise.yi@co.dakota.mn.us)

<b>Dakota County Alcohol Checks</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Current licenses (from cities that did checks and the county)	409	429
Compliance checks conducted	461	445
Violations (sales to minors)	35	36
Percent illegal sales	7.6%	8.1%

<b>Dakota County Tobacco Checks</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Current licenses (from cities that did checks and the county)	272	258
Compliance checks conducted	276	269
Violations (sales to minors)	18	24
Percent illegal sales	8.5%	8.9%

<b>Apple Valley</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	46	27
Compliance checks conducted	44	27
Violations (sales to minors)	7	3
Percent illegal sales	15.9%	11.1%

<b>Burnsville</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	66	47
Compliance checks conducted	61	43
Violations (sales to minors)	4	2
Percent illegal sales	6.5%	4.6%

<b>Eagan</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	80	49
Compliance checks conducted	85	48
Violations (sales to minors)	10	4
Percent illegal sales	11.7%	8.3%

<b>Farmington</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	18	7
Compliance checks conducted	18	7
Violations (sales to minors)	0	0
Percent illegal sales	0%	0%

<b>Hastings</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	32	19
Compliance checks conducted	33	21
Violations (sales to minors)	1	3
Percent illegal sales	3%	14.3%

<b>Inver Grove Heights</b> <i>(NOTE: Dakota County Sheriff's Department conducts Tobacco checks for Inver Grove Heights.)</i>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	31	32
Compliance checks conducted	32	32
Violations (sales to minors)	2	4
Percent illegal sales	16.1%	12.5%

<b>Lakeville</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	50	36
Compliance checks conducted	56	37
Violations (sales to minors)	1	4
Percent illegal sales	1.7%	10.8%

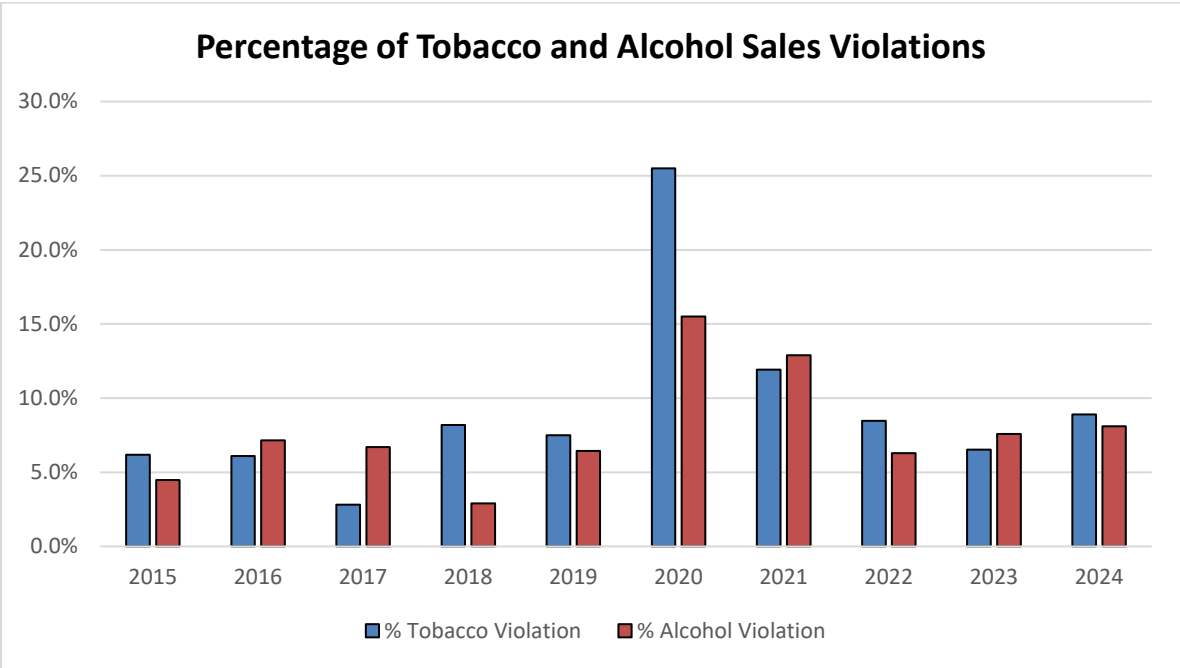
<b>Mendota Heights</b> <i>(NOTE: Mendota Heights Police Department conducts alcohol checks for Mendota Heights, Mendota, and Lilydale. All are reflected in the total below.)</i>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	17	8
Compliance checks conducted	16	8
Violations (sales to minors)	2	0
Percent illegal sales	12.5%	0%

<b>Rosemount</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	18	11
Compliance checks conducted	36	20
Violations (sales to minors)	2	3
Percent illegal sales	5.5%	15%

<b>South St. Paul</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	13	12
Compliance checks conducted	10	12
Violations (sales to minors)	2	0
Percent illegal sales	20%	0%

<b>West St. Paul</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
<i>(NOTE: West St. Paul Police conducted Congratulate and Education compliance checks at 18 businesses, with 3 violations. These compliance checks do not qualify for this report.)</i>		
Current licenses	27	18
Compliance checks conducted	24	17
Violations (sales to minors)	3	1
Percent illegal sales	12.5%	5.8%

<b>Dakota County (areas not included above)</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	24	4
Compliance checks conducted	30	8
Violations (sales to minors)	2	1
Percent illegal sales	6.6%	12.5%



The chart above compares the past ten years percentage of tobacco and alcohol sales violations. Over this period, the 10-year averages are 9.21% for tobacco sales violations is and 7.8% for alcohol sales violations. It is important to point out that due to the pandemic, 2020 data is considered an outlier. Without 2020 data, the 10-year averages are 7.4% for tobacco violations and 6.94% for alcohol violations.

For communities looking to increase compliance, additional resources including trainings and signage can be found here: <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/HealthFamily/HealthyLiving/QuitSmoking/Pages/retailer-resources.aspx>