



## 2023 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 2022 to 2023 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 [thomas.olmsted@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:thomas.olmsted@co.dakota.mn.us).

<b>Dakota County Alcohol Checks</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Current licenses (from cities that did checks and the county)	392	409
Compliance checks conducted	462	461
Violations (sales to minors)	29	35
Percent illegal sales	6.3%	7.6%

<b>Dakota County Tobacco Checks</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Current licenses (from cities that did checks and the county)	262	272
Compliance checks conducted	319	276
Violations (sales to minors)	27	18
Percent illegal sales	8.5%	6.5%

<b>Apple Valley</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	46	27
Compliance checks conducted	43	27
Violations (sales to minors)	4	2
Percent illegal sales	9.3%	7.4%

<b>Burnsville</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	66	47
Compliance checks conducted	66	47
Violations (sales to minors)	4	1
Percent illegal sales	6.1%	2.1%

<b>Eagan</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	80	49
Compliance checks conducted	78	48
Violations (sales to minors)	9	2
Percent illegal sales	11.5%	4.2%

<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	61	29
Violations (sales to minors)	1	1

Percent illegal sales	1.6%	3.4%
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<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	N/A
Compliance checks conducted	31	N/A
Violations (sales to minors)	5	N/A
Percent illegal sales	16.1%	N/A

<b>Lakeville</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	50	36
Compliance checks conducted	50	36
Violations (sales to minors)	8	6
Percent illegal sales	16.0%	16.7%

<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	14	8
Violations (sales to minors)	2	3
Percent illegal sales	14.3%	37.5%

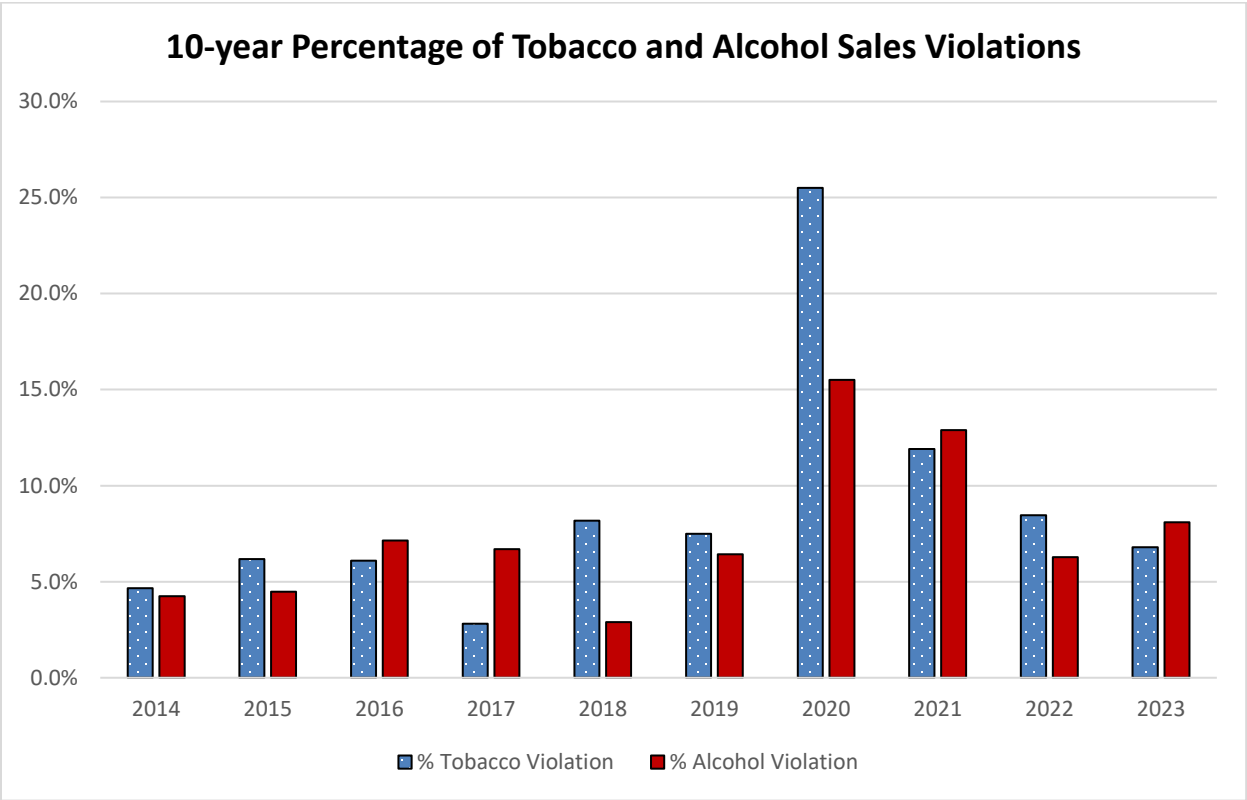
<b>Rosemount</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	18	11
Compliance checks conducted	36	22
Violations (sales to minors)	1	0

Percent illegal sales	2.8%	0%
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<b>South St. Paul</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	13	12
Compliance checks conducted	11	12
Violations (sales to minors)	0	1
Percent illegal sales	0%	8.3%

<b>West St. Paul</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>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	27	18
Compliance checks conducted	27	0
Violations (sales to minors)	1	0
Percent illegal sales	3.7%	N/A

<b>Dakota County (areas not included above)</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>
Current licenses	11	38
Compliance checks conducted	26	40
Violations (sales to minors)	0	2
Percent illegal sales	0%	5.0%



The chart above compares the past ten years percentage of tobacco and alcohol sales violations. Over this period, the 10-year averages are 8.81% for tobacco sales violations and 7.46% 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 6.95% for tobacco violations and 6.57% 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>