



2025 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 2024 to 2025 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

Dakota County Alcohol Checks	2024	2025
Current licenses (from cities that did checks and the county)	429	433
Compliance checks conducted	445	492
Violations (sales to minors)	36	29
Percent illegal sales	8.1%	6%

Dakota County Tobacco Checks	2024	2025
Current licenses (from cities that did checks and the county)	258	276
Compliance checks conducted	269	306
Violations (sales to minors)	24	24
Percent illegal sales	8.9%	7.8%

Apple Valley	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	47	32
Compliance checks conducted	47	32
Violations (sales to minors)	2	2
Percent illegal sales	4.3%	6.3%

Burnsville	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	64	48
Compliance checks conducted	63	48
Violations (sales to minors)	5	4
Percent illegal sales	7.9%	8.3%

Eagan	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	93	41
Compliance checks conducted	93	41
Violations (sales to minors)	2	1
Percent illegal sales	2.2%	2.4%

Farmington	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	13	7
Compliance checks conducted	13	7
Violations (sales to minors)	0	1
Percent illegal sales	0%	14.3%

Hastings	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	36	25
Compliance checks conducted	67	42
Violations (sales to minors)	4	2
Percent illegal sales	6%	14.3%

Inver Grove Heights <i>(NOTE: Dakota County Sheriff's Department conducts Tobacco checks for Inver Grove Heights.)</i>	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	31	32
Compliance checks conducted	32	32
Violations (sales to minors)	2	4
Percent illegal sales	6.3%	12.5%

Lakeville	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	50	36
Compliance checks conducted	56	37
Violations (sales to minors)	1	4
Percent illegal sales	1.8%	10.8%

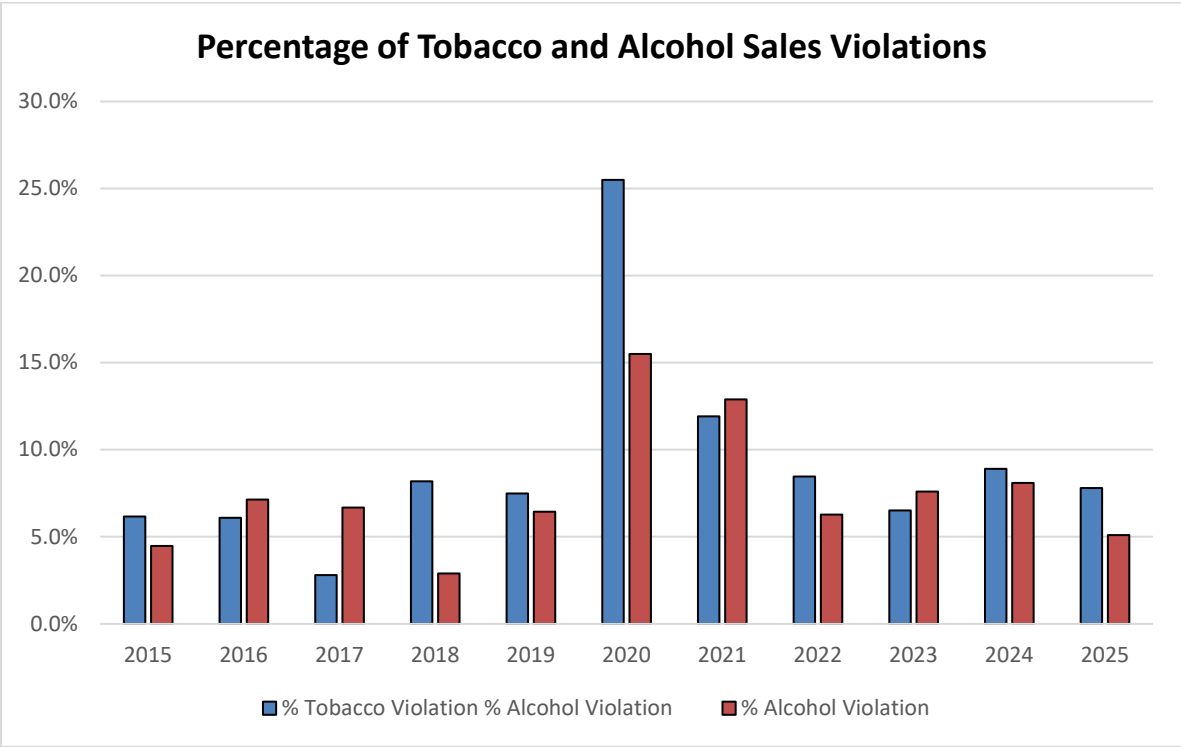
Mendota Heights <i>(NOTE: Mendota Heights Police Department conducts alcohol checks for Mendota Heights, Mendota, and Lilydale. All are reflected in the total below.)</i>	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	17	8
Compliance checks conducted	16	8
Violations (sales to minors)	2	0
Percent illegal sales	12.5%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

Rosemount	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	18	11
Compliance checks conducted	36	20
Violations (sales to minors)	2	3
Percent illegal sales	5.6%	15%

South St. Paul	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	15	12
Compliance checks conducted	11	13
Violations (sales to minors)	1	1
Percent illegal sales	9.1%	7.7%

West St. Paul <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>	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	26	18
Compliance checks conducted	26	16
Violations (sales to minors)	3	1
Percent illegal sales	11.5%	6.3%

Dakota County (areas not included above)	Alcohol	Tobacco
Current licenses	23	6
Compliance checks conducted	32	10
Violations (sales to minors)	1	1
Percent illegal sales	3.1%	10%



The chart above compares the past ten years percentage of tobacco and alcohol sales violations. Over this period, the 10-year averages are 9.4% for tobacco sales violations and 7.9% for alcohol sales violations. It is important to point out that due to the pandemic, 2020 data is considered an outlier.

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>