



Featured Efforts

June 2013

Compliance Checks



Did you know?

- **Very few youth are buying alcohol.** In 2010, 2% of 9th graders and 4% of 12th graders who used alcohol in Kanabec County reported purchasing alcohol from a retailer.¹
- **One in 6 of those who use tobacco report buying it.** In 2010, 17% of Kanabec County 9th graders who use tobacco reported purchasing tobacco from a retailer.¹

Compliance checks are enhanced enforcement of laws prohibiting sales to minors. They involve an underage decoy who attempts to purchase alcohol or tobacco from a retailer. If a sale is made, violators are cited by law enforcement and prosecuted by the County Attorney.

BACKGROUND

The Kanabec County Sheriff's Office has been conducting alcohol and tobacco compliance checks since 2001. Research indicates that regular compliance checks increases retailer compliance and subsequently decreases alcohol and tobacco sales to minors. Any person who sells alcohol or tobacco to a minor will face criminal charges. The retailer involved will also be fined.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Retailers are passing alcohol compliance checks. When the Kanabec County Sheriff's Office conducted alcohol compliance checks in 2013, 100% of the 21 businesses checked passed.² The coalition will continue to use grant funds to conduct alcohol compliance checks while exploring more sustainable funding options at the local level.

The majority of retailers are passing tobacco compliance checks. The Kanabec County Sheriff's Office conducted tobacco compliance checks in 2013. Of the seventeen businesses checked, 88% passed.² Although the best practice is to conduct four, Minnesota State Statute requires licensing authorities to conduct unannounced compliance checks at least once each calendar year at each location where tobacco is sold.

Be a part of the solution!

- 1 Patronize businesses who pass compliance checks.
- 2 Thank retailers when they ask for your ID.
- 3 Report illegal alcohol or tobacco sales to the Sheriff's Office.

Substance Abuse Coalition of Kanabec County
www.sackcoalition.org

1. Minnesota Student Survey (2010); 2. Kanabec County Sheriff's Office (2013)

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