

AN ISSUE BRIEFING

Compliance Checks in Olmsted County

This briefing offers information on Compliance Checks in Olmsted County

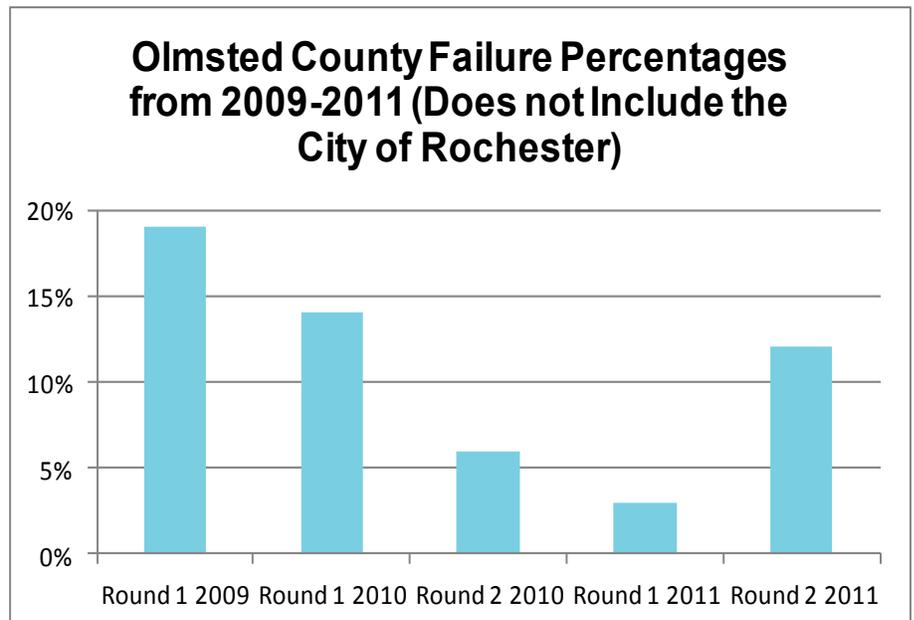
The Olmsted County Sheriff’s Office and Rochester Police Department will check every licensed alcohol establishment no less than twice a year and failed establishments will be rechecked to continue to reduce retail access of alcohol to minors.

BACKGROUND

Olmsted County Sheriff’s Office (OCSO) conducts compliance checks everywhere in the county except for the city of Rochester which falls under Rochester Police Department (RPD) jurisdiction. OCSO currently does one to three rounds a year checking each licensed establishment at least once a year and has seen a dramatic drop in failures over the years. RPD has not conducted compliance checks in the recent past but plans to resume checks in Fall 2013.

WHAT ARE COMPLIANCE CHECKS?

Compliance Checks are a law enforcement operation in which a minor (under the age of 21) enters a licensed alcohol establishment and makes an attempt to purchase alcohol from a clerk, server or bartender under the supervision of law enforcement. If the minor subject is able to purchase alcohol the enforcement officer will intervene and take appropriate steps to prosecute the seller and insure disciplinary action is taken against the establishment. (PIRE Reducing Alcohol Sales to Underage Purchasers)



WHY COMPLIANCE CHECKS?

- Reduce Underage Drinking
- Are a way for the community, law enforcement and retailers to work together
- Most cost effective way to monitor retailer’s behaviors
- Raise community awareness on underage drinking
- Provide a clear picture of how many retailers are selling to minors through not accurately checking IDs
- Offers the opportunity to work with establishments to reduce underage sales
- Shift community norms on providing alcohol to those underage

BEST PRACTICES (UMN Alcohol Epi Program)

- Alcohol licensees are informed that compliance checks will occur at various times throughout the year and about potential penalties for selling alcohol to underage youth
- Investigate all retail establishments at least twice a year
- Select locations at random
- Compliance checks should be done frequently and on an unscheduled basis
- Buyers should not attempt to look older, lie about their age or use false identification