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## Human Services Reports Alcohol Compliance Results

*On average, 97 percent of businesses in N.D. comply and do not sell to minors*

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services congratulates law enforcement agencies for their continued efforts to conduct alcohol compliance checks, which showed most businesses are working to prevent sales to minors. In 2011, off-sale establishments that were checked had a compliance rate of 100 percent and on-site establishments had a compliance rate of 93 percent.

Overall, this represents a one percent increase in compliance from the same period in 2010.

“In North Dakota, substance abuse prevention efforts involve interagency cooperation,” said Pamela Sagness, the department’s prevention administrator. “Restricting access to alcohol is an effective strategy communities can use to reduce underage drinking.”

Law enforcement agencies working with underage youth visited liquor stores, restaurants, and bars between July 2011 and December 2011 to check for compliance with laws that prohibit alcohol sales to people under age 21. Local law enforcement agencies visited 335 on-site establishments and 10 off-sale establishments.

“Compliance checks are a valuable tool to demonstrate that law enforcement officials care about the responsible selling of alcohol and reducing youth access to alcoholic beverages,” said Karin McNamee, Bismarck Police Department.

The compliance checks were funded by the Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws Program of the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The money is awarded annually to the North Dakota Department of Human Services and distributed to individual agencies through the North Dakota Highway Patrol. Fifty-three city and county law enforcement agencies participated in the alcohol compliance checks.

For more substance abuse prevention information, contact the department’s Prevention Resource and Media Center at 701-328-8919, toll-free 800-642-6744, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or visit the Web site [www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention).

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