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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Pamela Sagness, Prevention Administrator, N.D. Department of Human Services, 701-328-8824, or Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, 701-328-4933.

Dept. of Human Services reports alcohol compliance check results
On average, 91 percent of businesses comply and don't 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 conducting alcohol compliance checks this past year, which showed that most businesses were working to prevent sales to minors. Establishments that sell alcohol for consumption on-site had a 93 percent compliance rate, and off-sale establishments had a compliance rate of 89 percent.

"In North Dakota, substance abuse prevention efforts involve interagency cooperation, and restricting access to alcohol is an effective strategy communities can use to reduce underage drinking," said Chad Eagleson, the department's prevention criminal justice specialist.

Law enforcement agencies working with underage youth visited liquor stores, restaurants and bars between July 2009 and July 2010 to check for compliance with laws that prohibit liquor sales to people under age 21. Local law enforcement agencies visited 658 on-site establishments and 64 off-sale establishments.

Lt. Duane Sall of the West Fargo police department said, "Compliance checks demonstrate to alcohol servers and the community that law enforcement has made underage drinking prevention a priority."

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 law enforcement agencies participated, including city and county agencies.

For more substance abuse prevention information, contact the department's Prevention Resource and Media Center at 701-328-8919, TTY: 701-857-8666, Toll-Free 800-642-6744, or visit the Web site www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention.

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