



# Indiana State Excise Police News Release

---

302 West Washington Street, Room E112 ~ Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Telephone: (317) 232-2469 ~ Fax: (317) 233-6114  
[www.in.gov/atc](http://www.in.gov/atc)

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact Person:**

Corporal Travis Thickstun  
tthickstun@atc.in.gov  
(317) 691-5125

## **Fewer Businesses Willing to Sell Alcohol to Minors**

**INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.** – The number of Indiana businesses willing to sell alcohol to minors has continued to drop as a result of inspections by Indiana State Excise Police.

From Jan. 1-Sept. 30, 2011, excise officers working with underage youth in the Survey for Alcohol Compliance conducted 8,220 inspections, with 454 failures – a 5.5% failure rate.

The Survey for Alcohol Compliance employs underage youth participants, who attempt to purchase alcohol under the supervision of a plainclothes excise officer.

Since the excise police launched its initiative in April 2007, the number of Indiana businesses willing to sell alcoholic beverages to minors has fallen every year.

When the Survey for Alcohol Compliance began in 2007, 33.1% of businesses were willing to sell alcohol to minors without checking identification. Rates have steadily declined since that time.

Among the businesses most willing to sell to minors this year were economic redevelopment projects (40.0% failure rate), civic centers (36.4%), farm wineries (28.6%), hotels (20.0%), horsetrack, satellite facilities and gaming sites (15.4%) and historical river vessels (11.9%).

Least likely to sell alcohol to minors were drug stores (1.0% failure rate), private clubs (2.0%), grocery stores (2.1%) and package stores (5.1%). Restaurants and bars were willing to sell to minors in 8.2% of inspections.

The Survey for Alcohol Compliance continues to have a significant effect on the number of businesses willing to sell alcoholic beverages to minors.

“Our agency’s primary goal is to reduce underage access to alcohol,” Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. “The Survey for Alcohol Compliance has resulted in a substantial reduction in the numbers of businesses willing to sell alcohol to minors.”

“Coupled with the educational programs excise officers provide to the alcoholic beverage industry, the SAC program has resulted in fewer minors being able to purchase alcoholic beverages,” he said.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on enforcing Indiana’s alcohol and tobacco statutes.

**ATTACHMENTS:** (1) Non-compliance rates (by business type), Jan. 1-Sept. 30, 2011  
(2) How the Survey for Alcohol Compliance is conducted

**NON-COMPLIANCE RATES (BY BUSINESS TYPE)  
JAN. 1-SEPT. 30, 2011**

*For Survey for Alcohol Compliance data for a particular county, visit our website at [www.in.gov/atc/iseep/2571.htm](http://www.in.gov/atc/iseep/2571.htm) or contact Corporal Travis Thickstun at [tthickstun@atc.in.gov](mailto:tthickstun@atc.in.gov) or 317-232-2469.*

ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – 40.0% Non-Compliance

CIVIC CENTERS – 36.4% Non-Compliance

FARM WINERIES – 28.6% Non-Compliance

HOTELS – 20.0% Non-Compliance

HORSETRACK, SATELLITE FACILITY & GAMING SITES – 15.4% Non-Compliance

RESTAURANTS/BARS – 8.2% Non-Compliance

*Non-compliance rate down from 13.9% in 2010 and 44.2% in 2009.*

PACKAGE STORES – 5.1% Non-Compliance

*Non-compliance rate down from 7.7% in 2010 and 41.2% in 2009.*

PRIVATE CLUBS – 2.0% Non-Compliance

*Non-compliance rate down from 3.6% in 2010 and 11.5% in 2009.*

GROCERY STORES – 2.1% Non-Compliance

*Non-compliance rate down from 4.7% in 2010 and 22.6% in 2009.*

DRUG STORES – 1.0% Non-Compliance

*Non-compliance rate down from 2.9% in 2010 and 15.4% in 2009.*

**HOW THE SURVEY FOR ALCOHOL COMPLIANCE IS CONDUCTED**

The Survey of Alcohol Compliance is conducted by the Indiana State Excise Police to evaluate the availability of alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 21. Compliance inspections consist of Excise officers and 18-20 year-old youths, who attempt to obtain alcohol at licensed retail establishments. The program has strict protocols that officers and youth must follow. Conducted in phases, the primary goal is to reduce access and availability of alcoholic beverages to Indiana youth.

From April 2007 to July 2009, officers merely gathered statistical data on rates of noncompliance. Beginning July 1, 2009, officers started the enforcement phase of the SAC program by administratively citing businesses and clerks who failed their inspections. On average, each business is inspected once or twice each year. Those establishments that fail an inspection will be re-inspected until a passing inspection occurs.