



Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center

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Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2016

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Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2016

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Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2016

1. Summary

In August 2016 the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP) engaged the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) to complete data entry, analysis, and reporting for the annual alcohol and tobacco sales compliance inspection checks performed by Wyoming police officers. This marks the ninth consecutive year that WYSAC has handled this project.

Data entry began in August and concluded in October, 2016. After all inspection forms were entered into a database, the data were cleaned and then analyzed. The results are summarized in tables found in Section 3 of this report. A total of 1496 alcohol and 817 tobacco sales compliance inspection forms were received by WYSAC and entered in the database. Of those, 1410 (94.2%) alcohol and 795 (97.3%) tobacco forms were determined to be valid and subsequently included in the analyses.

The analyses show that, for all businesses where valid checks were completed, the overall compliance rate was 86.0% for alcohol sales and 91.3% for tobacco sales.

2. Methodology

2.1. Compliance Checks

Police officers in conjunction with an underage youth buyer attempted alcohol and tobacco purchases statewide. Checks are most often conducted at brick and mortar stores. Occasionally in the past vendors at special events (such as the Cheyenne Frontier Days) have also been checked. Aside from the type of item purchased, the protocol for completing these checks is the same for both alcohol and tobacco sales. It involves criminal compliance checks, which are “used to educate, encourage compliance, and penalize non-compliance. These operations consist of prosecuting individuals for age-of-sale law violations through the court system.”¹

Prior to any compliance check purchase attempt, the youth buyer is:

- Photographed,
- Searched for additional cash or alternative identification,
- Taught the state or local statute explaining the law regarding underage purchasing, and
- Instructed to stay in line of sight of accompanying officers

The item to be purchased (i.e., bottle of Bud Light, pack of Marlboro Blues) is established beforehand. During buy attempts it is preferable for two officers to accompany the youth buyer, though this is not always a viable option due to small precincts and other engagements of officers. Buyers carry their

¹ Nelson-Bragg, T. (2011). *State of Wyoming Compliance Check Manual*. Published by the Wyoming Department of Health, Behavioral Health Division and Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police.

own personal identification, often a Wyoming driver's license, and are instructed to present it to any requesting clerks. If a purchase attempt is successful the clerk is issued a citation, or, less often, they are issued a warning.

The alcohol compliance checks included in this year's analysis were completed from September, 2015 through August, 2016 and the tobacco checks from February, 2016 through June, 2016.

2.2. Data Entry and Analyses

Completed inspection forms were hand-delivered to WYSAC from a designee of WASCOP. Forms were manually entered by trained WYSAC staff into two custom-built Microsoft Access Databases; one each for alcohol and tobacco checks. All officers who did not properly finish their inspection forms were contacted by telephone for clarification in an attempt to fill missing data, a process which ran from September to October, 2016.

Once data input was completed, the database was imported into SPSS 22.0 for processing, where cross-tabulations and frequency tables were generated. Finally, the databases were converted into Microsoft Excel files for electronic delivery to WASCOP.

Inspection forms indicating only a warning was issued were considered a violation of compliance for data analysis purposes, though no citations were issued. Entries which indicated an unsuccessful attempt (i.e., business closed, no longer selling alcohol/tobacco) were considered a null attempt and not included in the total valid compliance check count or data analysis. In a few cases, blank or extremely incomplete compliance check forms were submitted. These forms were counted towards only the total number of checks and are excluded from all other calculations. Of the 1496 alcohol forms submitted, 1,410 were categorized as valid, 86 as null, and 0 as incomplete. Of the 817 submitted tobacco forms, 795 were categorized as valid, 22 as null, and 0 as incomplete.

Compliance rates are calculated by dividing the number of non-infractions reported by the number of valid compliance checks performed. This rate is considered valid since all compliance forms included in the calculations had a *resolution*, thus leaving no missing data associated with them.

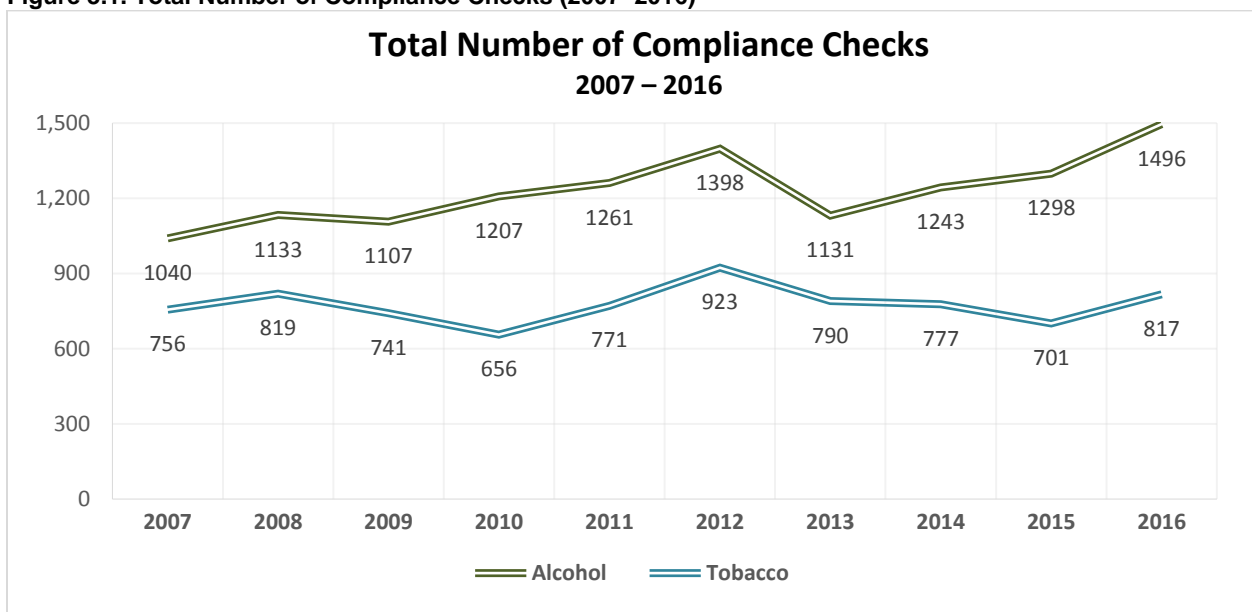
A minor logical assumption was made concerning incomplete and inconsistent forms. For any compliance checks that resulted in no violation, the data regarding identification requested, checked, and checked against a calendar were assumed to be true. For a substantial number of cases these three variables were incomplete, however given the inspection result, these data were filled in as true.

3. Results

3.1. Compliance Checks Counts (2007 – 2016)

The total number of compliance checks forms submitted each year from 2007 to 2016 is shown below in Figure 3.1. These totals include forms that were not used in the calculation of compliance rates, such as for businesses that were closed. Each year the number of completed forms for compliance with alcohol sales submitted to WYSAC for data entry and analysis has been substantially higher than those for tobacco sales. This year was the second highest total (2313) number of forms submitted, only second to 2012 by eight (2321).

Figure 3.1. Total Number of Compliance Checks (2007–2016)



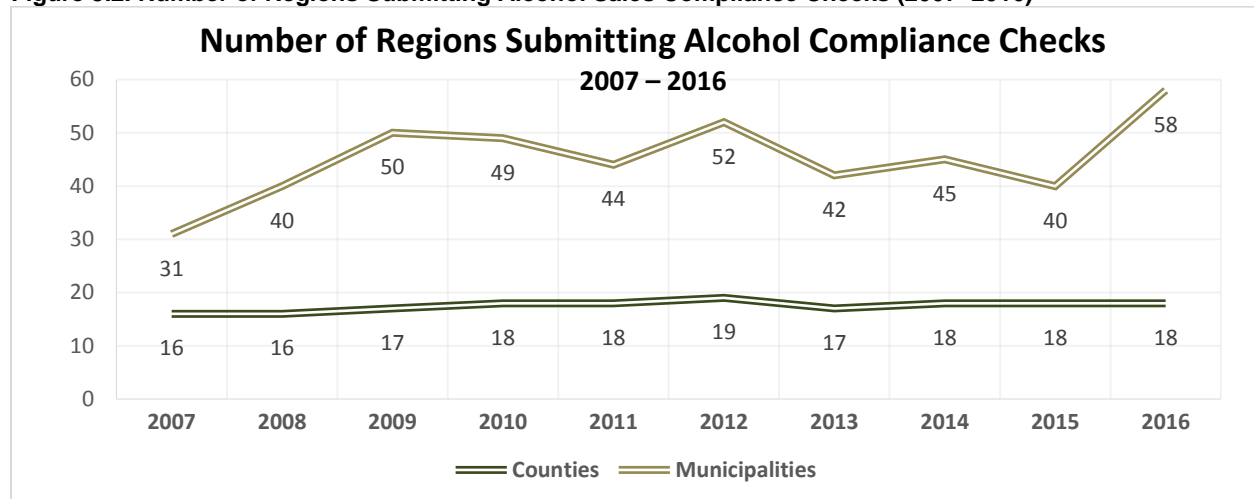
3.2. Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks Results

In 2016, a total of 1496 alcohol compliance check forms were submitted to WYSAC. After removing null attempts, 1410 forms were determined to be valid checks and included in the calculations of compliance rates.

Inspection forms indicating only a warning was issued were considered a violation of compliance for data analysis purposes, though no citations were issued. Data which represented an unsuccessful attempt because the business was closed were considered a null attempt and not included in the total compliance check count or calculations. Compliance rates were calculated by dividing the number of non-infractions reported by the number of valid compliance checks performed. Each qualifying establishment received one of three values: no violation, citation, or warning.

As shown in Figure 3.2 below, valid alcohol forms were returned for 18 of 23 Wyoming counties, the same as in 2014 and 2015. A total of 58 Wyoming cities, unincorporated communities (such as Hiland), and census-designated places (such as Alcova) submitted valid forms, which is the most municipalities since reporting began in 2007 and substantially more than last year (18 more). However, one municipality, Esterbrook, did not return any valid checks. The counties that did not return alcohol forms were: Crook, Hot Springs, Platte, Washakie, and Weston. The number of checks returned varied greatly from one municipality to another; Cheyenne submitted the highest number of valid inspections (160), followed by Casper (141), and many small municipalities completed as few as one inspection.

Figure 3.2. Number of Regions Submitting Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2016)



Following are the results from the alcohol compliance checks performed as part of the 2016 statewide compliance checks report. Compliance rates are presented first by county (Table 3.1), then by municipality (Table 3.2). In the county table, the name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Overall alcohol sales compliance for all reporting counties and cities was 86.0%, a half percentage point drop from 2015². It should be noted that different municipalities have submitted checks each year, so this comparison should not be considered representative of the "statewide compliance rate" but rather a comparison of the overall compliance rates for those municipalities that submitted forms.

Results by county, presented in Table 3.1, indicate that Niobrara County had a perfect 100% alcohol compliance rate, followed by Sublette (96.4%), Fremont (95.5%), Goshen (95.0%), Lincoln (94.6%), Sweetwater (92.2%) and Johnson (91.6%) counties. Nine counties had compliance rates between 89.9% and 80%: Uinta (89.8%), Park (88.5%), Natrona (87.9%), Albany (85.3%), Converse (85.2%), Teton (83.6%), Laramie (83.1%), Sheridan (81.3%), and Carbon (80.0%). The two least compliant counties were: Campbell (71.7%) and Big Horn (44.7%).

Table 3.2 displays the alcohol sales compliance rates and infractions for municipalities listed alphabetically and Table 3.3 summarizes municipalities in groups of decreasing compliance. Twenty-five municipalities had a 100% compliance rate. Meanwhile, Hyattville, Lost Springs, Manderson, Orin, and Shell had compliance rates of 0%. One municipality, Esterbrook, returned only one alcohol compliance check but it was not valid. Many of these municipalities had very small sample sizes (5 or less) which are more likely to result in extreme rates (100% or 0%).

² WYSAC (2015) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2015*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1506). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Table 3.1. Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates and Number of Violations by County (2016)*

County	Valid Alcohol Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Alcohol	Compliance Rate
¹¹ Albany	68	58	10	0	0	85.3%
¹⁸ Big Horn	38	17	0	21	2	44.7%
¹⁷ Campbell	106	76	14	16	5	71.7%
¹⁶ Carbon	15	12	3	0	0	80.0%
¹² Converse	81	69	12	0	21	85.2%
³ Fremont	89	85	4	0	0	95.5%
⁴ Goshen	40	38	2	0	0	95.0%
⁷ Johnson	95	87	8	0	23	91.6%
¹⁴ Laramie	160	133	27	0	2	83.1%
⁵ Lincoln	56	53	1	2	0	94.6%
¹⁰ Natrona	173	152	19	2	11	87.9%
¹ Niobrara	10	10	0	0	0	100.0%
⁹ Park	87	77	9	1	0	88.5%
¹⁵ Sheridan	107	87	20	0	12	81.3%
² Sublette	55	53	2	0	4	96.4%
⁶ Sweetwater	116	107	9	0	0	92.2%
¹³ Teton	55	46	7	2	5	83.6%
⁸ Uinta	59	53	6	0	1	89.8%
TOTAL	1410	1213	153	44	86	86.0%

* The name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Table 3.2. Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates and Number of Violations by Municipality (2016)

County	Municipality	Valid Alcohol Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Alcohol	Compliance Rate
Lincoln	Afton	16	16	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Alcova	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Alpine	16	16	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Bar Nunn	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Big Horn	Basin	4	2	0	2	1	50.0%
Sublette	Big Piney	5	5	0	0	0	100.0%
Converse	Bill	1	1	0	0	1	100.0%
Sublette	Bondurant	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Boulder	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Johnson	Buffalo	95	87	8	0	23	91.6%
Big Horn	Burlington	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Big Horn	Byron	2	1	0	1	0	50.0%
Natrona	Casper	141	122	17	2	7	86.5%
Laramie	Cheyenne	160	133	27	0	2	83.1%
Park	Cody	56	52	4	0	0	92.9%
Lincoln	Cokeville	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Cora	1	1	0	0	1	100.0%
Sublette	Daniel	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Diamondville	3	1	0	2	0	33.3%
Converse	Douglas	63	57	6	0	18	90.5%
Fremont	Dubois	13	13	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Edgerton	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Converse	Esterbrook	0	0	0	0	1	N/A
Lincoln	Etna	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Uinta	Evanston	59	53	6	0	1	89.8%
Natrona	Evansville	14	12	2	0	2	85.7%
Goshen	Ft Laramie	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Campbell	Gillette	106	76	14	16	5	71.7%
Converse	Glenrock	15	11	4	0	1	73.3%
Sweetwater	Green River	24	24	0	0	0	100.0%
Big Horn	Greybull	12	5	0	7	0	41.7%
Natrona	Hiland	1	1	0	0	1	100.0%
Fremont	Hudson	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Big Horn	Hyattville	1	0	0	1	0	0.0%
Teton	Jackson	55	46	7	2	5	83.6%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	12	11	1	0	0	91.7%
Fremont	Kinnear	3	2	1	0	0	66.7%
Lincoln	La Barge	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Lander	36	34	2	0	0	94.4%
Albany	Laramie	68	58	10	0	0	85.3%
Goshen	Lingle	4	3	1	0	0	75.0%
Converse	Lost Springs	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Big Horn	Lovell	14	7	0	7	1	50.0%
Niobrara	Lusk	10	10	0	0	0	100.0%
Big Horn	Manderson	2	0	0	2	0	0.0%
Sublette	Marbleton	7	7	0	0	1	100.0%
Natrona	Midwest	3	3	0	0	1	100.0%
Converse	Orin	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Fremont	Pavillion	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Pinedale	37	35	2	0	2	94.6%
Park	Powell	31	25	5	1	0	80.6%
Carbon	Rawlins	15	12	3	0	0	80.0%
Fremont	Riverton	32	31	1	0	0	96.9%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	92	83	9	0	0	90.2%
Big Horn	Shell	1	0	0	1	0	0.0%
Sheridan	Sheridan	107	87	20	0	12	81.3%
Lincoln	Thayne	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Goshen	Torrington	34	33	1	0	0	97.1%
TOTAL		1410	1213	153	44	86	86.0%

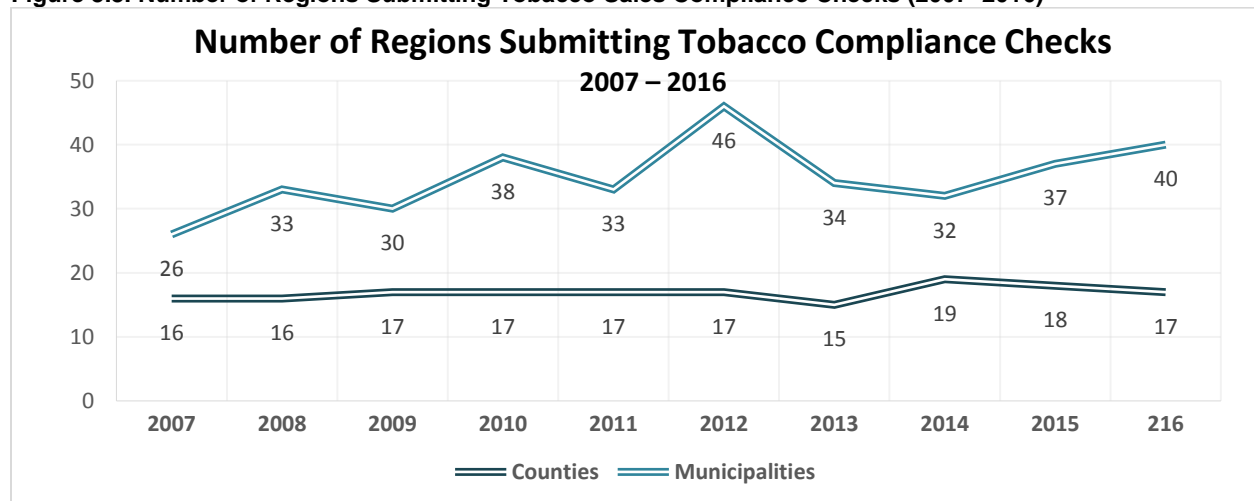
3.3. Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks Results

In total, 817 tobacco sales compliance checks were submitted to WYSAC and entered into a database. After removal of null attempts, 795 checks were included in the calculations and analysis.

Inspection forms indicating only a warning was issued were considered a violation of compliancy for data analysis purposes, though no citations were issued. Data which represented an unsuccessful attempt because the business was closed or no longer sells tobacco were considered a null attempt and not included in the total compliance check counts or calculations. Compliance rates were calculated by dividing the number of non-infractions reported by the number of compliance checks performed.

As shown below in Figure 3.3, valid tobacco sales compliance checks forms were returned for 17 Wyoming counties, 1 less than in 2015. However, three more municipalities submitted in 2015 (40) compared to 2014 (37). Routinely there have been substantially fewer municipalities receiving tobacco sales compliance checks than alcohol sales compliance checks. The counties that did not return valid tobacco forms were: Big Horn, Crook, Hot Springs, Platte, Washakie, and Weston.

Figure 3.3. Number of Regions Submitting Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2016)



Following are the results from the tobacco compliance checks performed in 2016. Compliance rates are presented first by county (Table 3.4), then by municipality (Table 3.5). In the county table, the name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Overall tobacco compliance for all reporting counties and cities was 91.3%, an increase of slightly more than 1 percentage point from 2015³. It should be noted that different municipalities have submitted checks each year, so this comparison should not be considered representative of the "statewide compliance rate" but rather a comparison of the overall compliance rates for those municipalities that submitted forms.

Results by county, presented in Table 3.4, indicate that three counties, Carbon, Goshen, and Lincoln had a perfect tobacco sales compliance rate of 100%. The next nine counties with the highest compliance rates were Albany (96.8%), Converse (95.5%), Teton (94.4%), Park (93.9%), Sweetwater (93.7%), Natrona (91.7%), Fremont (91.6%), Niobrara (90.9%), and Uinta (90.2%). The counties that demonstrated compliance rates between 89.9% and 80.0% were Johnson (86.6%), Campbell (85.7%), Sheridan (83.3%), and Laramie (82.5%). Sublette County had the lowest compliance rate with 78.3%.

Table 3.5 displays the compliance rates and infractions for all 40 municipalities that returned tobacco sales compliance checks, listed in alphabetical order. Table 3.6 presents the tobacco sales compliance rates for all municipalities organized into groups of decreasing compliancy. Twenty-one municipalities had perfect compliance rates. Two municipalities, Boulder and Daniel, both had rates of 0%. It should be noted that for many of these municipalities the sample sizes were very small (5 or less) which is more likely to result in extreme rates (100% or 0%).

³ WYSAC (2015) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2015*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1506). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Table 3.4. Tobacco Sales Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by County (2016)*

County	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
⁴ Albany	63	61	2	0	1	96.8%
¹⁴ Campbell	35	30	5	0	0	85.7%
¹ Carbon	11	11	0	0	0	100.0%
⁵ Converse	22	21	1	0	5	95.5%
¹⁰ Fremont	83	76	5	2	0	91.6%
¹ Goshen	37	37	0	0	2	100.0%
¹³ Johnson	67	58	8	1	4	86.6%
¹⁶ Laramie	40	33	7	0	1	82.5%
¹ Lincoln	44	44	0	0	1	100.0%
⁹ Natrona	156	143	12	1	2	91.7%
¹¹ Niobrara	11	10	1	0	0	90.9%
⁷ Park	33	31	1	1	4	93.9%
¹⁵ Sheridan	48	40	8	0	0	83.3%
¹⁷ Sublette	23	18	5	0	0	78.3%
⁸ Sweetwater	63	59	4	0	0	93.7%
⁶ Teton	18	17	1	0	2	94.4%
¹² Uinta	41	37	4	0	0	90.2%
TOTAL	795	726	64	5	22	91.3%

* The name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Table 3.5. Tobacco Sales Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by Municipality (2016)

County	Municipality	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
Lincoln	Afton	27	27	0	0	1	100.0%
Natrona	Alcova	7	5	2	0	1	71.4%
Lincoln	Alpine	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Big Piney	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Bondurant	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Boulder	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Johnson	Buffalo	67	58	8	1	4	86.6%
Natrona	Casper	137	126	10	1	1	92.0%
Laramie	Cheyenne	40	33	7	0	1	82.5%
Park	Cody	26	25	1	0	4	96.2%
Fremont	Crowheart	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Daniel	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Converse	Douglas	17	16	1	0	5	94.1%
Fremont	Dubois	13	11	2	0	0	84.6%
Lincoln	Etna	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Uinta	Evanston	41	37	4	0	0	90.2%
Natrona	Evansville	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Campbell	Gillette	35	30	5	0	0	85.7%
Converse	Glenrock	5	5	0	0	0	100.0%
Sweetwater	Green River	15	15	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Hiland	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Teton	Jackson	18	17	1	0	2	94.4%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Kinnear	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Lander	30	25	3	2	0	83.3%
Albany	Laramie	63	61	2	0	1	96.8%
Niobrara	Lusk	9	8	1	0	0	88.9%
Niobrara	Manville	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Marbleton	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Midwest	3	3	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Pavillion	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Pinedale	12	9	3	0	0	75.0%
Park	Powell	7	6	0	1	0	85.7%
Carbon	Rawlins	11	11	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Riverton	36	36	0	0	0	100.0%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	48	44	4	0	0	91.7%
Fremont	Sand Draw	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Sheridan	Sheridan	48	40	8	0	0	83.3%
Lincoln	Thayne	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Goshen	Torrington	37	37	0	0	2	100.0%
TOTAL		795	726	64	5	22	91.3%

