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# Businesses fail alcohol youth tests

## 10 bars, liquor stores sold to underage buyers

**By Abby Kessler**  
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Eight Dickinson and two Stark County businesses have failed alcohol compliance checks.

The Southwest Coalition of Safe Communities, along with Southwestern District Health Unit, paired with law enforcement officials to test 30 alcohol-serving establishments in Dickinson and 10 in Stark County.

In Dickinson, the Ramada Grand Dakota Lodge, Applebee's Bar and Grill, Maverick's Saloon, The Rock Liquors, House of Booze, Vintage Liquors, Astoria Hotel & Event Center and Wildcat Pizzeria all failed their compliance check.

In Stark County, the Gladstone Pub and Superpumper Cenex gas station in Belfield both failed.

"For me, it was a bit of a surprise," behavioral health nurse at the

**ALCOHOL/A4**





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Southwestern District Health Unit Karen Goyne said. "It could have been worse, but it also could have been a lot better."

The organization used grant funds to sponsor the tests in an attempt to decrease underage drinking in the state.

To conduct the study, the organizations hired young adults to purchase alcohol in restaurants, bars or liquor stores.

Goyne said the youth went into the establishment without any form of identification and attempted to buy an alcoholic beverage.

"We want to see whether the server is checking ID's or not," Goyne said.

If the establishment refused to sell to the underaged individual, the youth simply left the business. However, if they were successful, a Dickinson law enforcement officer would charge the seller or server with a Class B misdemeanor.

Goyne said they were focused more on penalizing the server than the actual establishment.

According to a release, the seller is charged a \$300 fine and a \$150 administrative fee.

Letters are used as a follow up to inform establishments if they passed or failed.

Compliance checks are administered on a quarterly basis or if requested due to a concern.

**Kessler is a reporter for The Dickinson Press.  
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