

Criminal and Administrative Results of PEM-coordinated Compliance Checks

In order to address Coalition Members' questions about how sales and procuring to minor violations are being treated at the judicial and administrative levels in Nebraska, PEM has recommenced its data collection and analysis of the cases resulting from alcohol compliance checks in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Based on the research, we know that individuals/businesses are more likely to comply with laws if they perceive a high certainty of being apprehended and penalized when laws are violated, and if penalties are swiftly applied and severe (Gibbs, 1975; Ross, 1984; Tittle, 1980; Reynolds, 1998).

Criminal

Based on 42 sales to minor cases we have been able to track in the Douglas and Sarpy County courts since December 2014, we have ascertained the following:

- Sarpy County (16 cases, 3 judges):
 - Average fine = \$119
 - Smallest fine = \$50 (once)
 - Largest fine = \$250 (once)
- Douglas County (26 cases, 11 judges):
 - Average fine = \$123
 - Lowest fine = \$25 (three times)
 - Largest fine = \$250 (twice)

For the remainder of cases, 30 were dismissed into diversion and 7 were dismissed. Of the remaining cases from the January 2016 enforcement effort, 9 are currently being prosecuted and 5 do not yet have information available.