



Washington State  
Liquor and Cannabis Board

# **LCB Research Program**

## **Liquor License Premise Check Report**

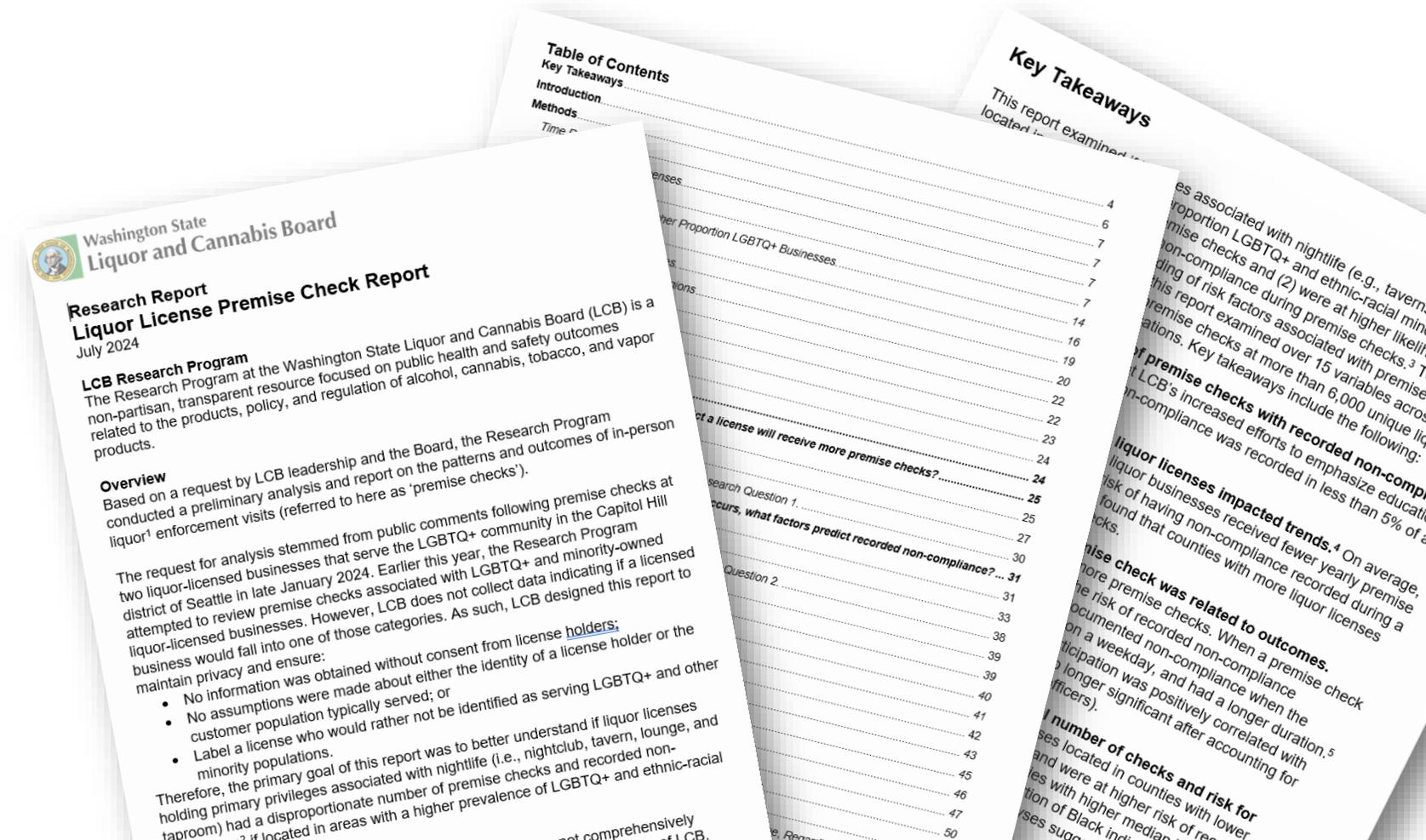


# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Overview

- Background
- Methods
- Key Takeaways
- Conclusions

*Find the full report online.*





## Background

- This report stemmed from enforcement premise checks occurring in late January 2024 at known LGBTQ+ nightlife venues which sparked public concern.

Board meeting in January 31, 2024.

Press Releases	—	LCB Statement on Media Reports and Concerns from LGBTQ+ Community
2023 Press Releases		<i>The Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) on Tuesday Jan. 30, 2024, released the following statement regarding concerns expressed by representatives of certain historically gay Capitol Hill liquor-licensed locations and members of the Seattle LGBTQ+ community.</i>
2022 Press Releases		
2021 Press Releases		
2020 Press Releases		
2019 Press Releases		
2018 Press Releases		
		<b>Background</b> On Friday Jan. 26, two LCB officers joined members of the <a href="#">City of Seattle's Joint Enforcement Team (JET)</a> as part of a monthly review of code enforcement at locations within Seattle. As part of that night's work, the <a href="#">LCB visited 10 locations</a> , two of which were known gay venues. Members of the JET team observed seven violations at these ten locations ranging from public safety violations of overservice to low-priority lewd conduct (WAC 314-11-050)
		On Saturday Jan. 27, two LCB officers conducted routine premise checks at eight Seattle licensed locations. Of these, two



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Background

### Actions taken

Press Release Issued.

Go to [lcb.wa.gov](http://lcb.wa.gov) to read press release.

Repeal of Prohibited Conduct Rule.

Go to [lcb.wa.gov/laws/laws-and-rules](http://lcb.wa.gov/laws/laws-and-rules) for more information.

E&E Training Initiatives (e.g., WSCTJC training, Rules Implementation).

Research brief on links between sexual violence, alcohol use, and nightlife.

Go to [lcb.wa.gov/research/briefs](http://lcb.wa.gov/research/briefs) to read.

Research report on premise checks associated with nightlife across time.

Go to [lcb.wa.gov/research/projects](http://lcb.wa.gov/research/projects)

Research Program



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

Prior to the report, the LCB Research Program reviewed available data and confirmed with leadership results of the report would be an independent analysis.



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Primary Goal

To better understand if liquor licenses holding primary privileges associated with nightlife had a disproportionate number of premise checks and recorded non-compliance if located in areas with a higher prevalence of LGBTQ+ businesses and ethnic-racial minority populations.



## Primary Goal

To better understand if **liquor licenses holding primary privileges associated with nightlife** had a disproportionate number of premise checks and recorded non-compliance if located in areas with a higher prevalence of LGBTQ+ businesses and ethnic-racial minority populations.

Taprooms

Lounges

Taverns

Nightclubs



## Primary Goal

To better understand if liquor licenses holding primary privileges associated with nightlife had a disproportionate number of **premise checks** and recorded non-compliance if located in areas with a higher prevalence of LGBTQ+ businesses and ethnic-racial minority populations.

***“Premise Check” means any in-person and on-site visit by LCB Enforcement & Education Staff.***

- Premise Checks
- Compliance Checks
- Complaint Investigations
- Undercover Investigations
- Annual Inspections

Included Actions



- Phone Calls
- Emails
- Trainings
- Consultation Visits
- Suspensions
- Etc.

Excluded Actions





## Primary Goal

To better understand if liquor licenses holding primary privileges associated with nightlife had a disproportionate number of premise checks and **recorded non-compliance** if located in areas with a higher prevalence of LGBTQ+ businesses and ethnic-racial minority populations.

Action	Arrival Time	Violation	Case Number
Liquor Premises Check	10/22/2024 0:00	Yes	12345
Liquor Premises Check	10/22/2024 0:00	No	

Recorded Non-Compliance

Administrative Violation Notice

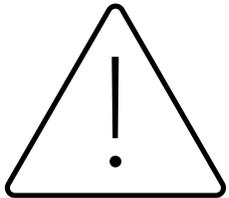
Written Warning

Verbal Warning



## Primary Goal

To better understand if liquor licenses holding primary privileges associated with nightlife had a disproportionate number of premise checks and recorded non-compliance if **located in areas with a higher prevalence of LGBTQ+ businesses and ethnic-racial minority populations.**



We originally wanted to examine premise checks in relation to LGBTQ+ and minority-owned liquor licenses. **However, LCB does NOT collect this data.**

1. We did not want to assume or label identities of license holder.
2. We did not want to obtain information without consent.
3. We did want to maintain privacy and anonymity.

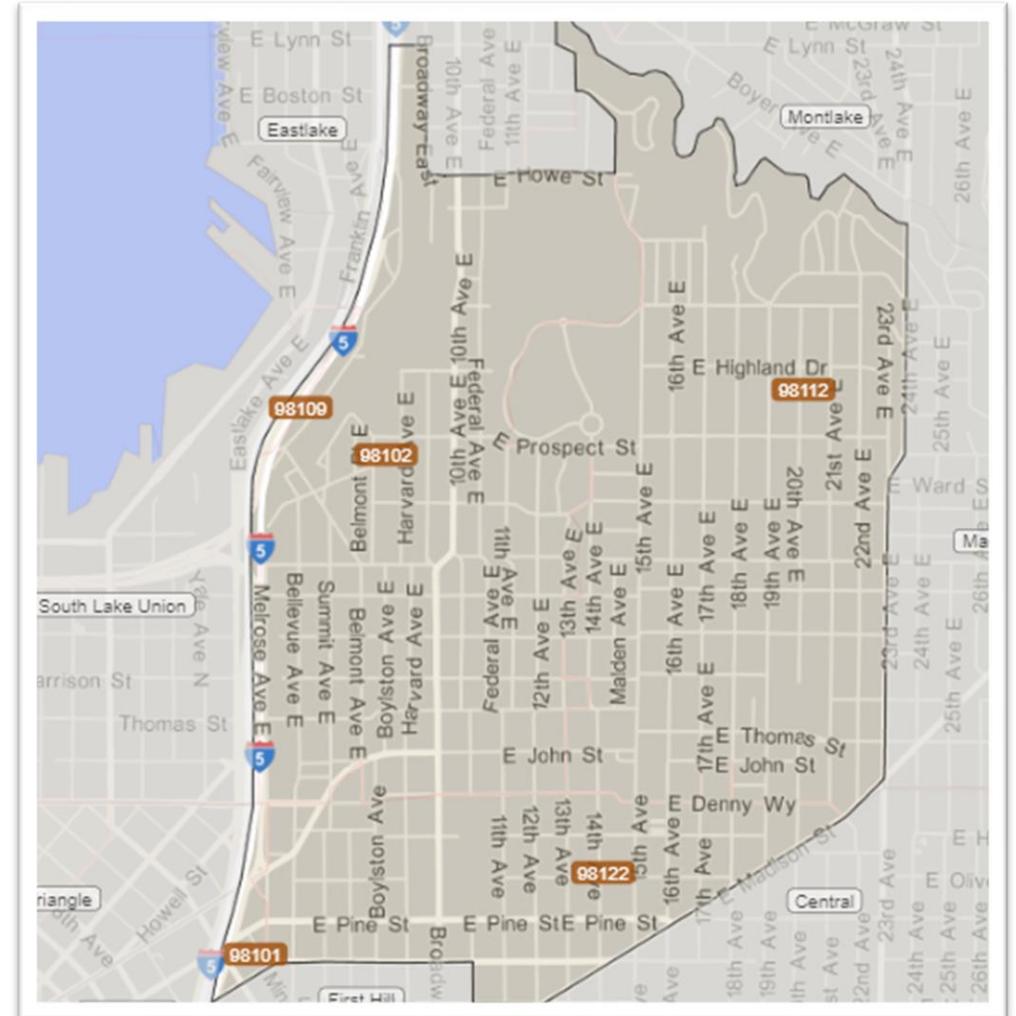


# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Capitol Hill was used as a proxy for higher proportion LGBTQ+ businesses

### Why Capitol Hill?

- January premise checks were located in Capitol Hill
- Capitol Hill is considered having a large proportion of LGBTQ+ businesses





# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

**County prevalence was used to examine ethnic-racial minorities and median income.**

## **Why county demographics?**

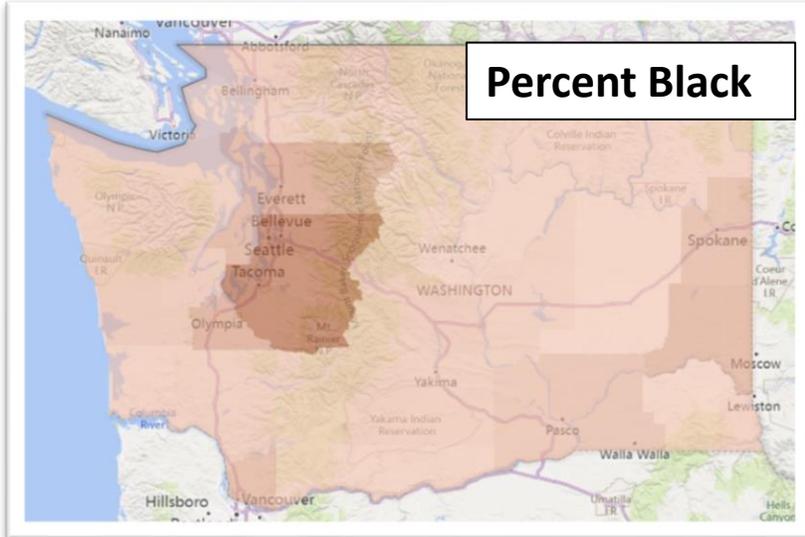
- County-level data is the most accessible and available.



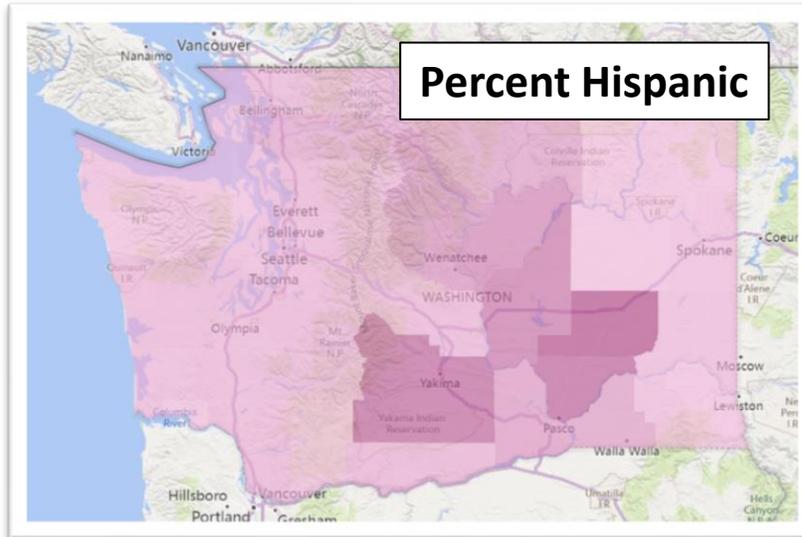


# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

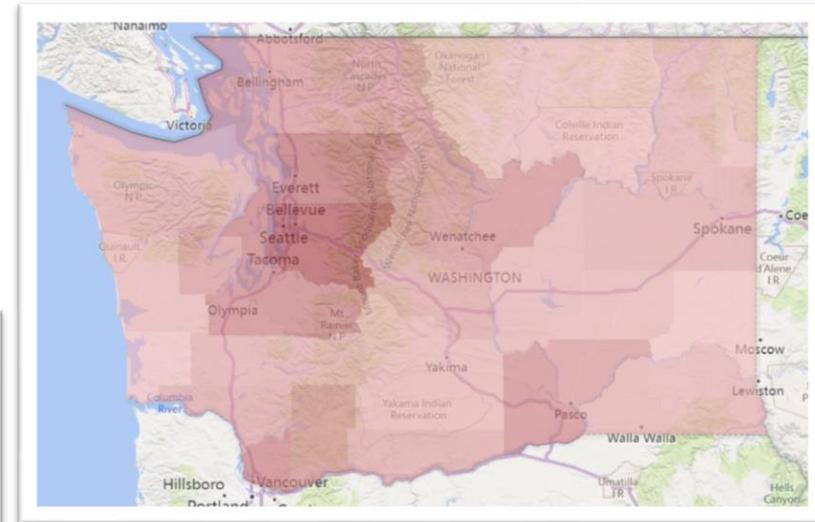
**Percent Black**



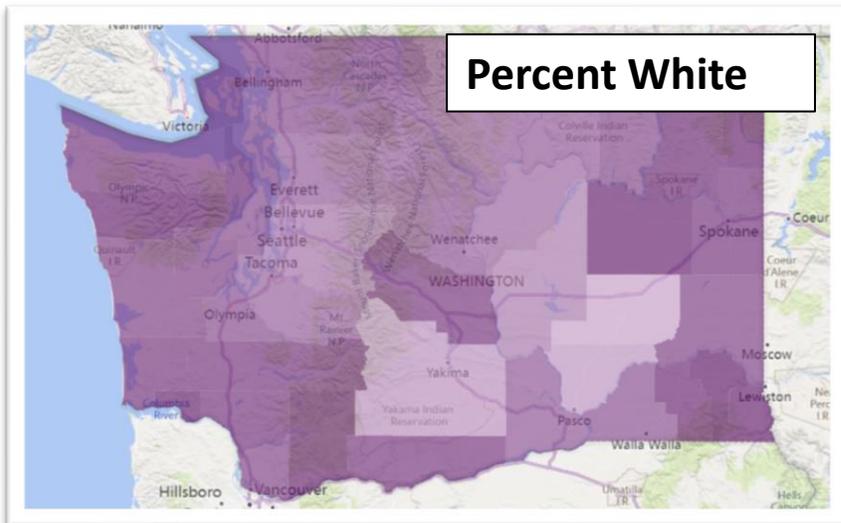
**Percent Hispanic**



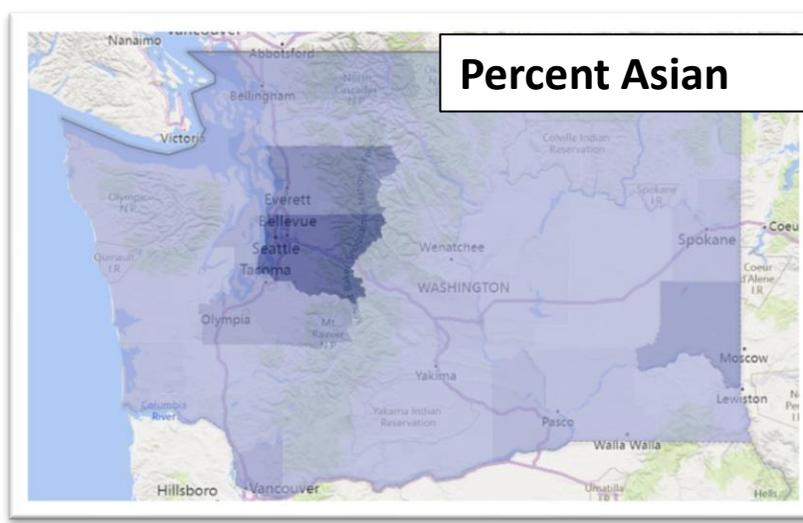
**Median Income**



**Percent White**



**Percent Asian**





# Research Questions

1. What factors predict a licensee to receive more premise checks?

## What We Examined

- Time (2016 to 2023)
- Number of Complaints Each Year
- Percent Black in County Each Year
- Percent Hispanic in County Each Year
- Percent Asian in County Each Year
- Percent White in County Each Year
- Median Income in County Each Year
- Located in Capitol Hill
- Total number of liquor licenses in County Each Year



## Research Questions

1. What factors predict a licensee to receive more premise checks?
2. When a premise check occurs, what factors predict recorded non-compliance?

### What Was Examined

- Year (2016 to 2023)
- Percent Black in County Each Year
- Percent Hispanic in County Each Year
- Percent Asian in County Each Year
- Percent White in County Each Year
- Median Income in County Each Year
- Located in Capitol Hill
- Total number of liquor licenses in County Each Year

- Number of LCB officers present
- Duration of check
- JET participation
- Day of week
- Time of day
- Complaint Investigation



# Statistical Analyses

We used an advanced statistical approach called multilevel modeling, which allows us to control for many aspects simultaneously.

It allows us to compare one license to itself and how it changes over time as well as compare licenses that are similar to one another relative to those that are dissimilar based on certain characteristics (e.g., located in capitol hill, county level demographics).

*For a non-technical description, see page 22*

*For a technical description, see page 51*

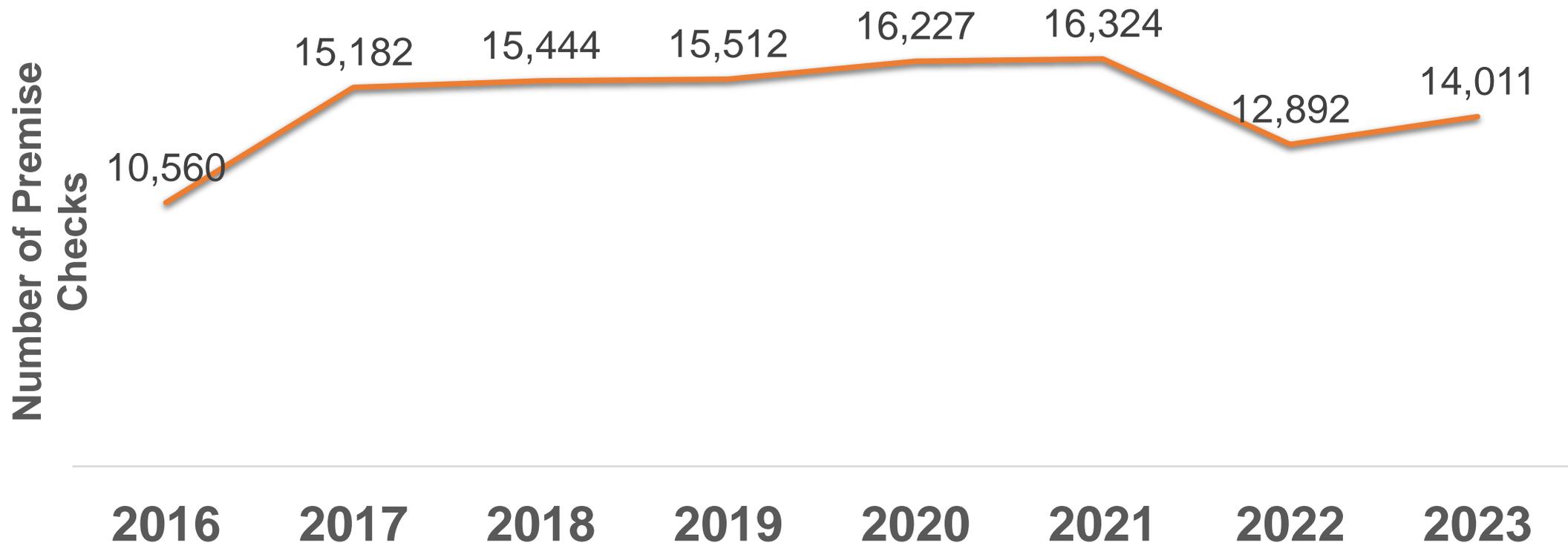




# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Key Takeaways

We examined over 116,000 premise checks with primary privileges associated with nightlife between 2016 and 2023.

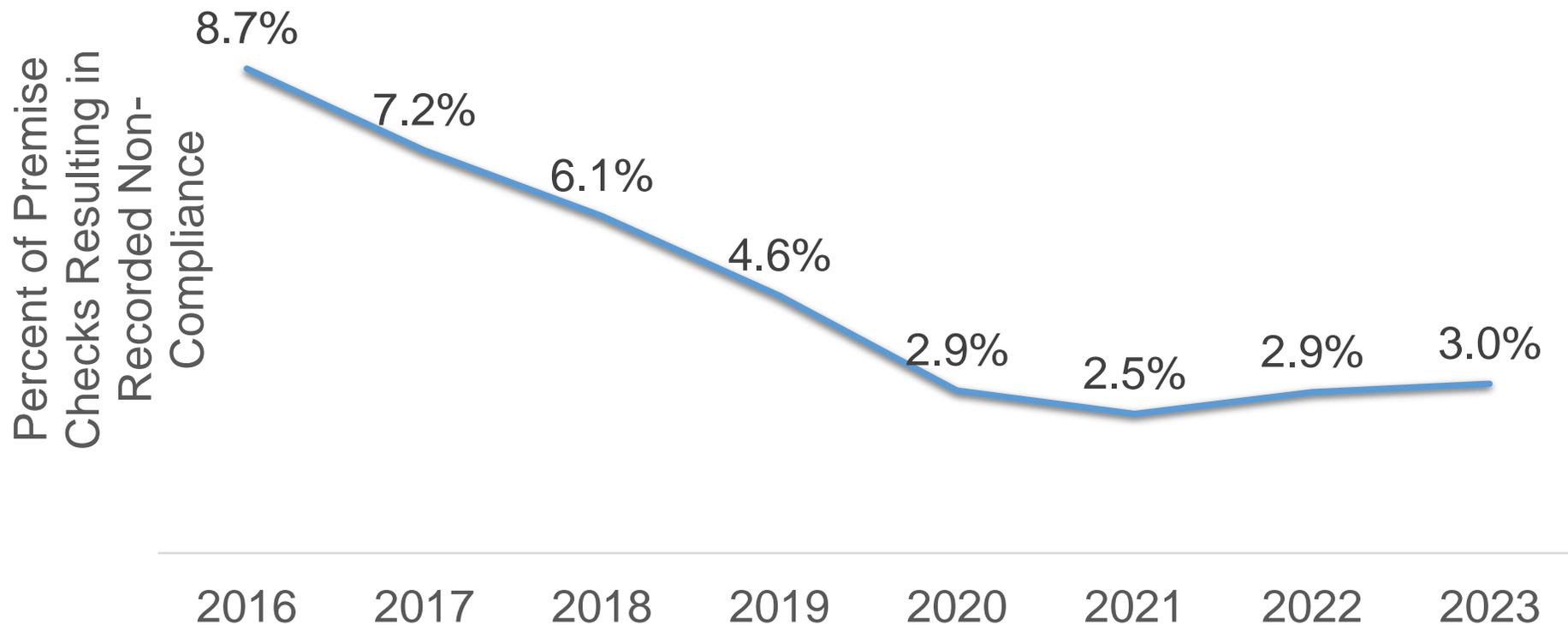




# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Key Takeaways

The number of premise checks with recorded non-compliance decreased across time.

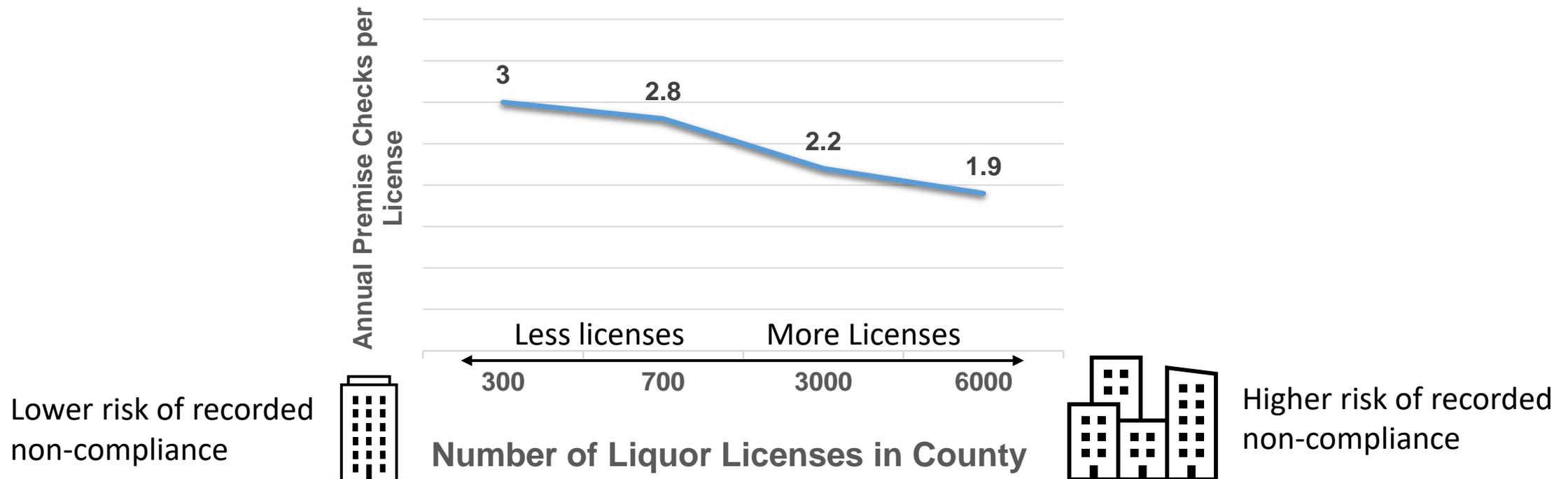




# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Key Takeaways

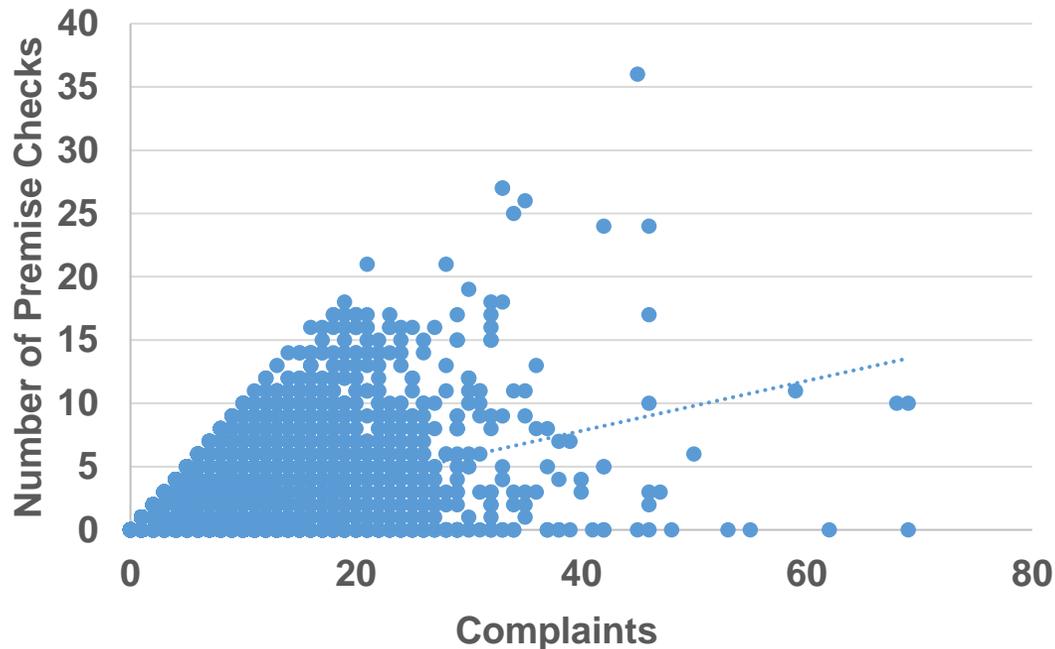
Licenses located in counties with more liquor businesses received fewer yearly premise checks, but were at higher risk of having recorded non-compliance during a premise check.



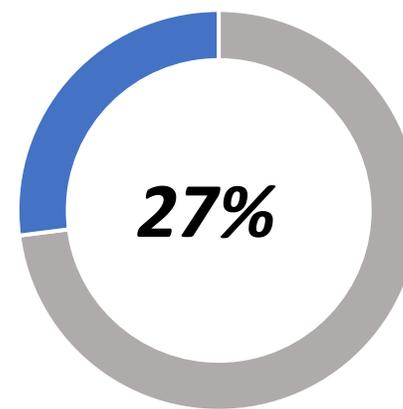


## Key Takeaways

Licenses with more complaint investigations received more premise checks.

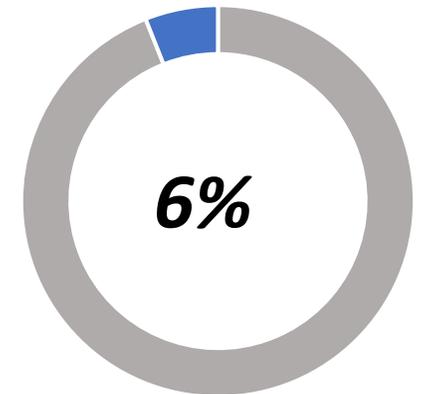


Premise checks involving complaint investigations more likely to have recorded non-compliance.



*Non-compliance rate  
with Complaint  
Investigation*

VS.



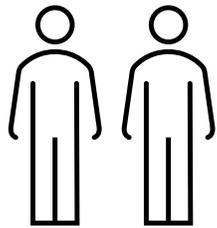
*Non-compliance rate  
without Complaint  
Investigation*



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Key Takeaways

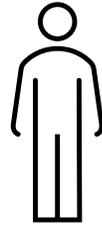
A license was at higher risk of recorded non-compliance when the premise check had more LCB Officers compared to when that same license had a premise check with less officers.



**2**

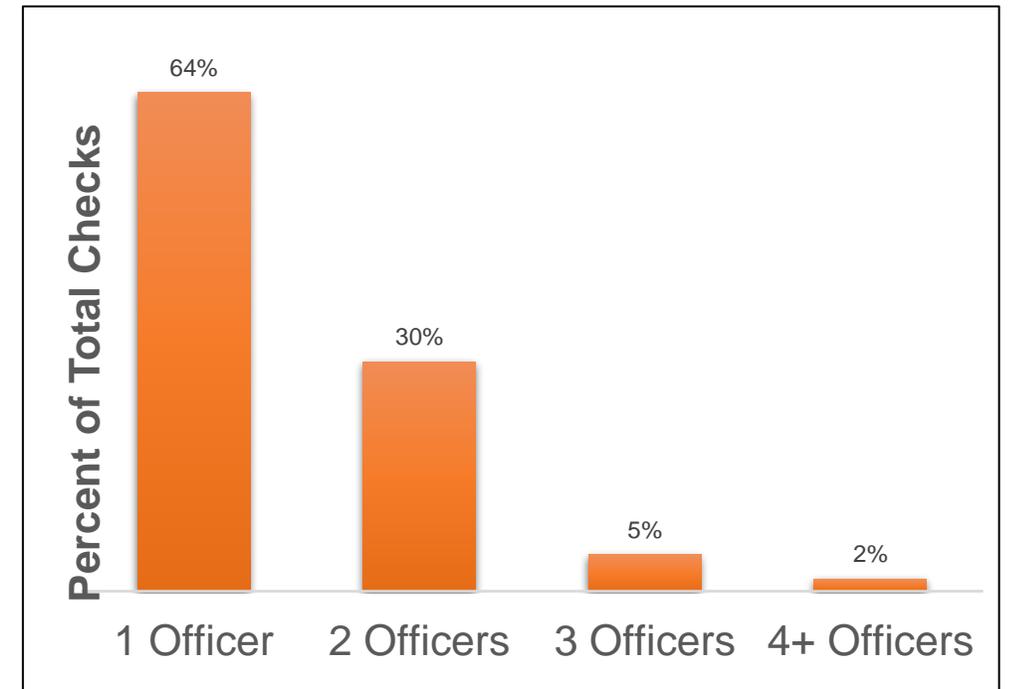
Officers on average for visits with recorded **non-compliance**

vs.



**1**

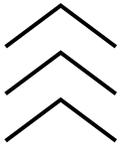
Officer on average for visits with **compliance**





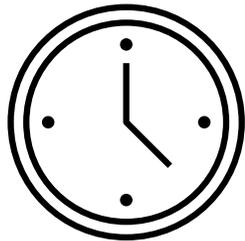
## Key Takeaways

A license was at higher risk of recorded non-compliance when the premise check lasted for a longer time compared to when that same license had a premise check that lasted for a shorter time.



**20.4**

Minutes on average  
for visits with  
recorded **non-**  
**compliance**

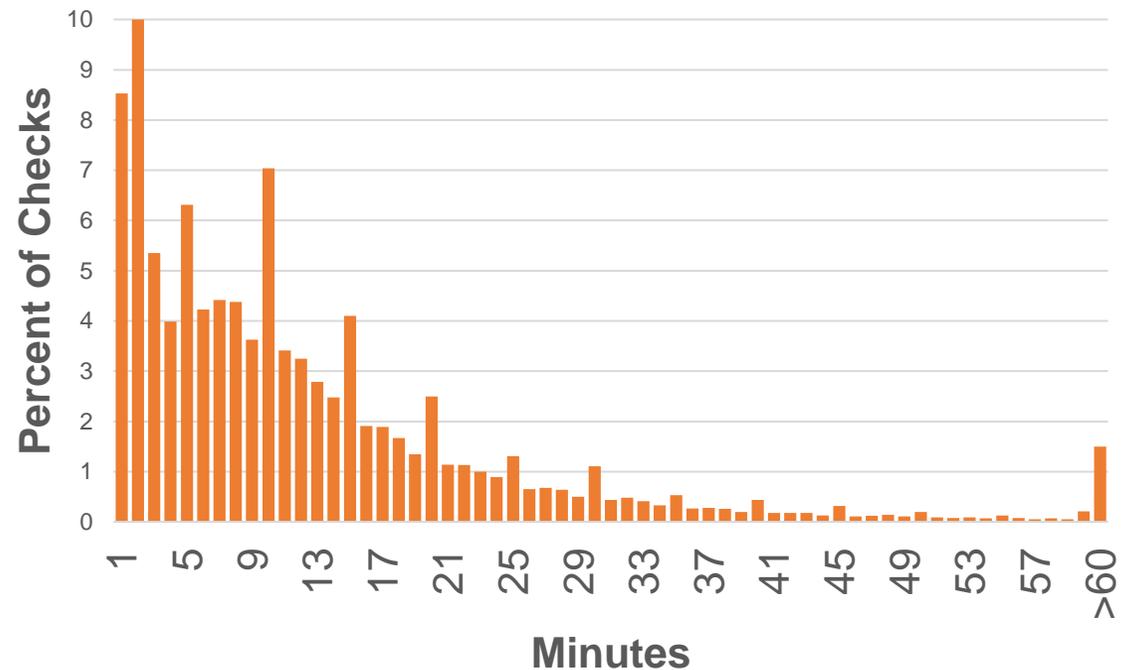


vs.



**12.3**

Minutes on average  
for visits with  
**compliance**

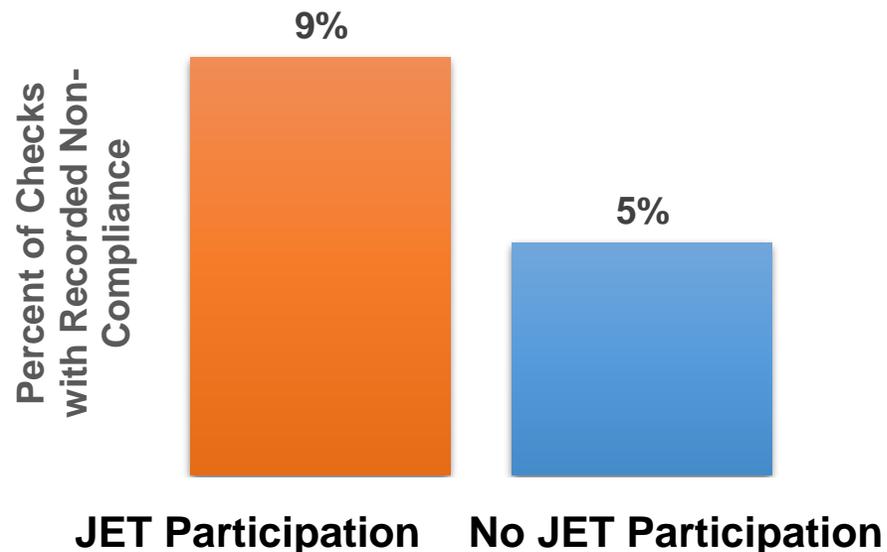




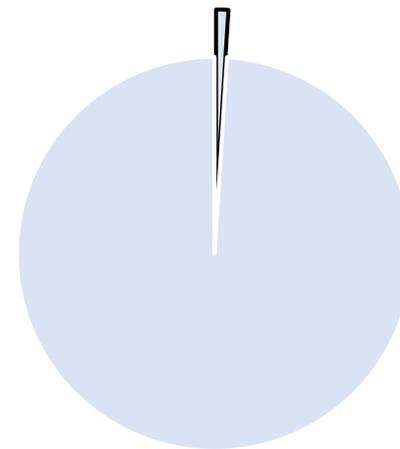
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## Key Takeaways

Although JET participation was positively correlated with recorded non-compliance, this finding was no longer significant after accounting for other factors (e.g., duration and number of LCB officers).



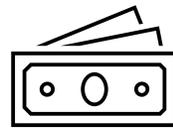
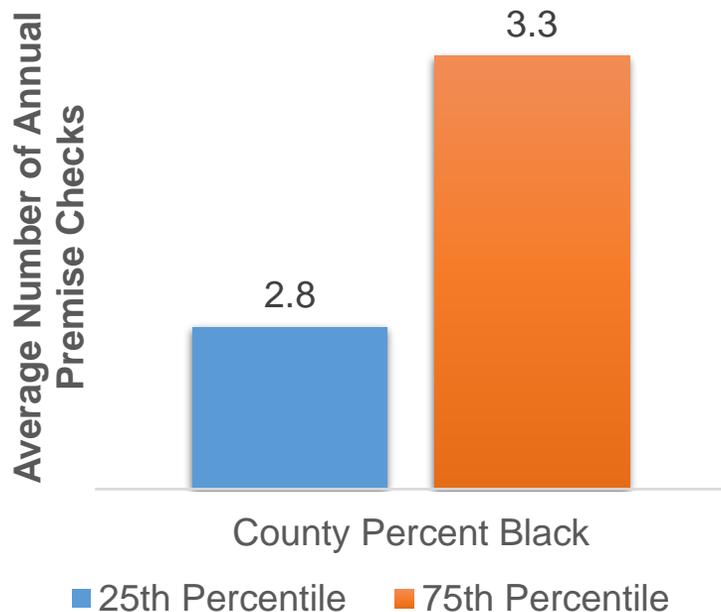
~1% of included premise checks  
involved JET



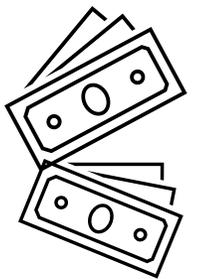
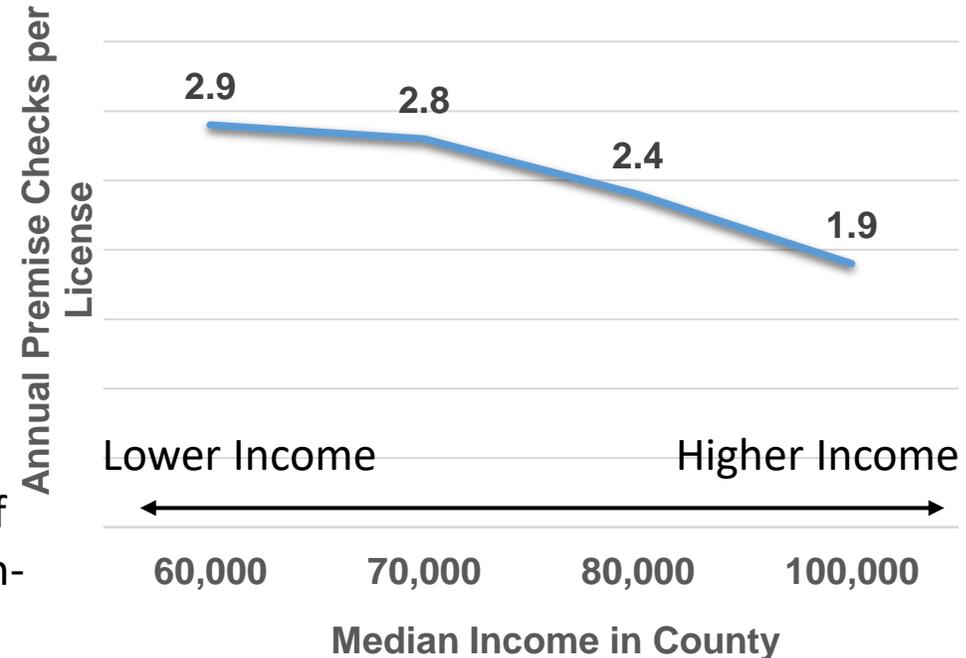


## Key Takeaways

- Licenses located in a county with greater proportion Black individuals and lower median income were associated with more annual premise checks. Lower income associated with higher risk of recorded non-compliance.



Higher risk of recorded non-compliance



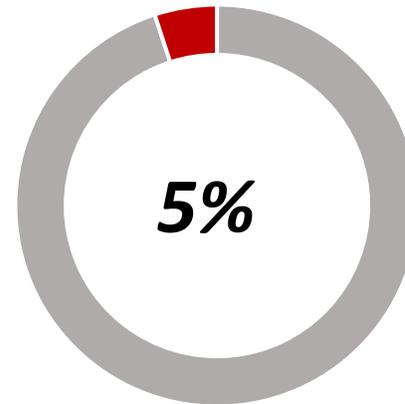
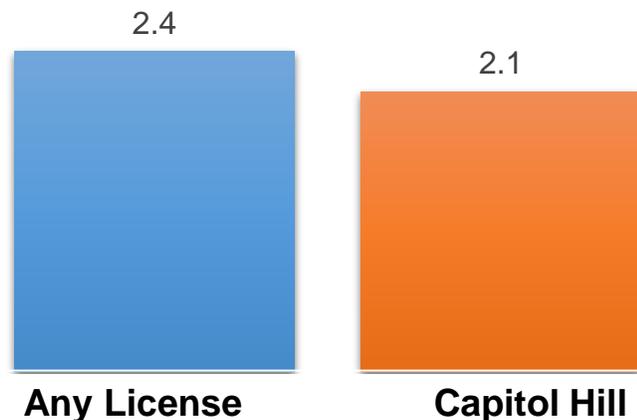
Lower risk of recorded non-compliance



## Key Takeaways

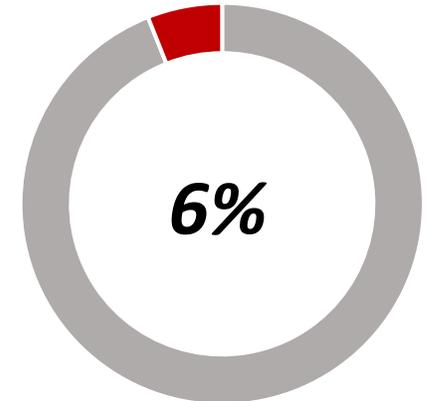
We did not find evidence to suggest licenses located in Capitol Hill received a greater number of premise checks or were at higher risk of non-compliance relative to licenses located outside of Capitol Hill.

Annual Premise Checks  
by License



*Non-compliance  
for any license*

vs.



*Non-compliance for  
licenses located in  
Capitol Hill*



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Follow-Up Analyses on Capitol Hill Licenses

### 1. Was Capitol Hill associated with more complaint investigations?

We did not find any evidence to suggest that licenses located in Capitol Hill received more complaint investigations relative to licenses outside of Capitol Hill

### 2. When looking at raw data, were the licenses with the most recorded non-compliance and the most premise checks located in Capitol Hill?

No, they were not.

### 3. Did you look at any other locations to compare?

We did look at University of Washington District and did not find any significant findings either.

### 3. What about analyses including all licenses?

Findings were largely consistent.



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Summary

**Primary goal:** To better understand if liquor licenses holding primary privileges associated with nightlife had a disproportionate number of premise checks and recorded non-compliance if located in areas with a higher prevalence of LGBTQ+ businesses and ethnic-racial minority populations.



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Summary

**Primary goal:** To better understand if liquor licenses holding primary privileges associated with nightlife had a disproportionate number of premise checks and recorded non-compliance if located in areas with a higher prevalence of LGBTQ+ businesses and ethnic-racial minority populations.

- We found no evidence to suggest licenses located in Capitol Hill were at disproportionate risk for the number of premise checks, recorded non-compliance, or complaint investigations.



This analysis did *not* examine premise checks for LGBTQ+ owned businesses.



This analysis did *not* look at LGBTQ+ businesses outside of Capitol Hill.



This analysis shows average trends across time. Individual cases need to be examined separately



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Summary

**Primary goal:** To better understand if liquor licenses holding primary privileges associated with nightlife had a disproportionate number of premise checks and recorded non-compliance if located in areas with a higher prevalence of LGBTQ+ businesses and ethnic-racial minority populations.

- Urban areas tended to have less annual premise checks per license but were at increased risk of recorded non-compliance when a premise check occurred.
- Locations with greater percent Black populations and lower median incomes received more premise checks compared with counties with lower percent Black population and higher median income. Counties with lower median income were at higher risk for recorded non-compliance. Supplemental analyses found counties with greater Black populations and lower median incomes received fewer complaints.



This analysis did *not* examine premise checks for minority- owned businesses.

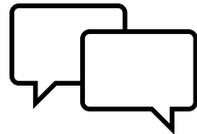
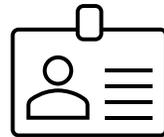


This analysis shows average trends across time. Individual cases need to be examined separately



## Limitations

- Did not examine demographics of license holders. LCB does not have that information.
- Several factors were unable to be accounted for:
  - Enforcement regions
  - Vacant officer positions
  - End result of violation
  - Type of complaint investigation





# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Future Directions

- Improving data collection processes is critical prior to follow-up analysis

 Washington State  
Liquor and Cannabis Board

### Strategic Plan 2024-2029

**Vision**  
Safe communities for Washington State

**Mission**  
Promote public safety, public health, and trust through fair administration, education, and enforcement of liquor, cannabis, tobacco, and vapor laws.

**Values**  
We are professional and dedicated public servants. These values are the foundation of our culture and guide our interactions with each other and the communities we serve.

**Respect**  
We are inclusive, treating everyone with courtesy and dignity, ensuring equity for all.

**People Focused**  
We put those we serve and each other at the center of our work.

**Open Communication**  
We practice transparency, invite input, listen to understand, and share accurate and timely information.

**Accountability and Integrity**  
We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards and follow through on our commitments.

**Continuous Improvement and Meaningful Results**  
We seek creative solutions to provide better outcomes by evolving our processes, systems, and services.

**Goal One**  
 All Washington communities have the highest level of public health and public safety

**Goal Two**  
 Our services are accessible and responsive to the needs of communities, partners, and our customers

**Goal Three**  
 We have a culture of trust, belonging, and valuing people



## Future Directions

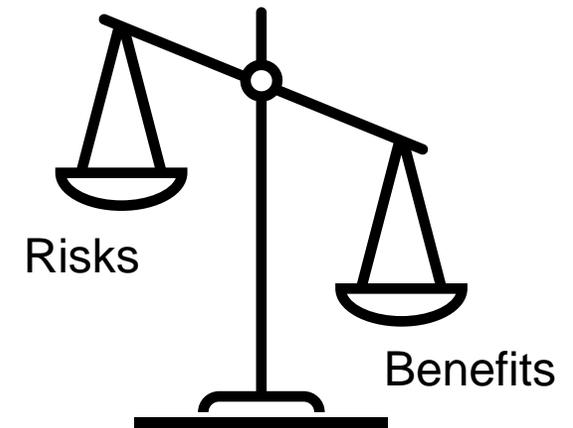
- Improving data collection processes is critical prior to follow-up analysis
- Standardizing how data is inputted across agency
  - Increased consistency in documenting AVNs, education, and warnings
  - Develop overarching systems to link complaints, premise checks, and end result of violations.

Action	Arrival Time	Violation	Case Number
Liquor Premises Check	10/22/2024 0:00	Yes	12345
Liquor Premises Check	10/22/2024 0:00	No	



## Future Directions

- Improving data collection processes is critical prior to follow-up analysis
- Standardizing how data is inputted across agency
  - Increased consistency in documenting AVNs, education, and warnings
  - Develop overarching systems to link complaints, premise checks, and end result of violations.
- Determining whether documenting optional demographic data of license holders is of interest to internal and external stakeholders.





## Future Directions

- Improving data collection processes is critical prior to follow-up analysis
- Standardizing how data is inputted across agency
  - Increased consistency in documenting AVNs, education, and warnings
  - Develop overarching systems to link complaints, premise checks, and end result of violations.
- Determining whether documenting optional demographic data of license holders is of interest to internal and external stakeholders.
- Making intentional decisions about what to measure across time

Washington State  
Liquor and Cannabis Board

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Systems  
Modernization  
Project

Data  
Governance



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Thank You

Questions and Comments?

There were several subject matter experts who were consulted throughout this project, including individuals in E&E, Licensing, and the Director's Office. Thank you to all who contributed time and subject matter expertise.