



TEXANS FOR
SAFE AND
DRUG-FREE
YOUTH

Prioritizing Prevention: Assessing & Improving Alcohol-to-Go Laws

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OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

- CART Development
- Participating Areas
- CART by the Numbers

RESEARCH FINDINGS

- Five Research Questions and Their Results
- Focus Group Results

MOVING FORWARD

- Recommendations
- Assessing What's Possible

ACCESS

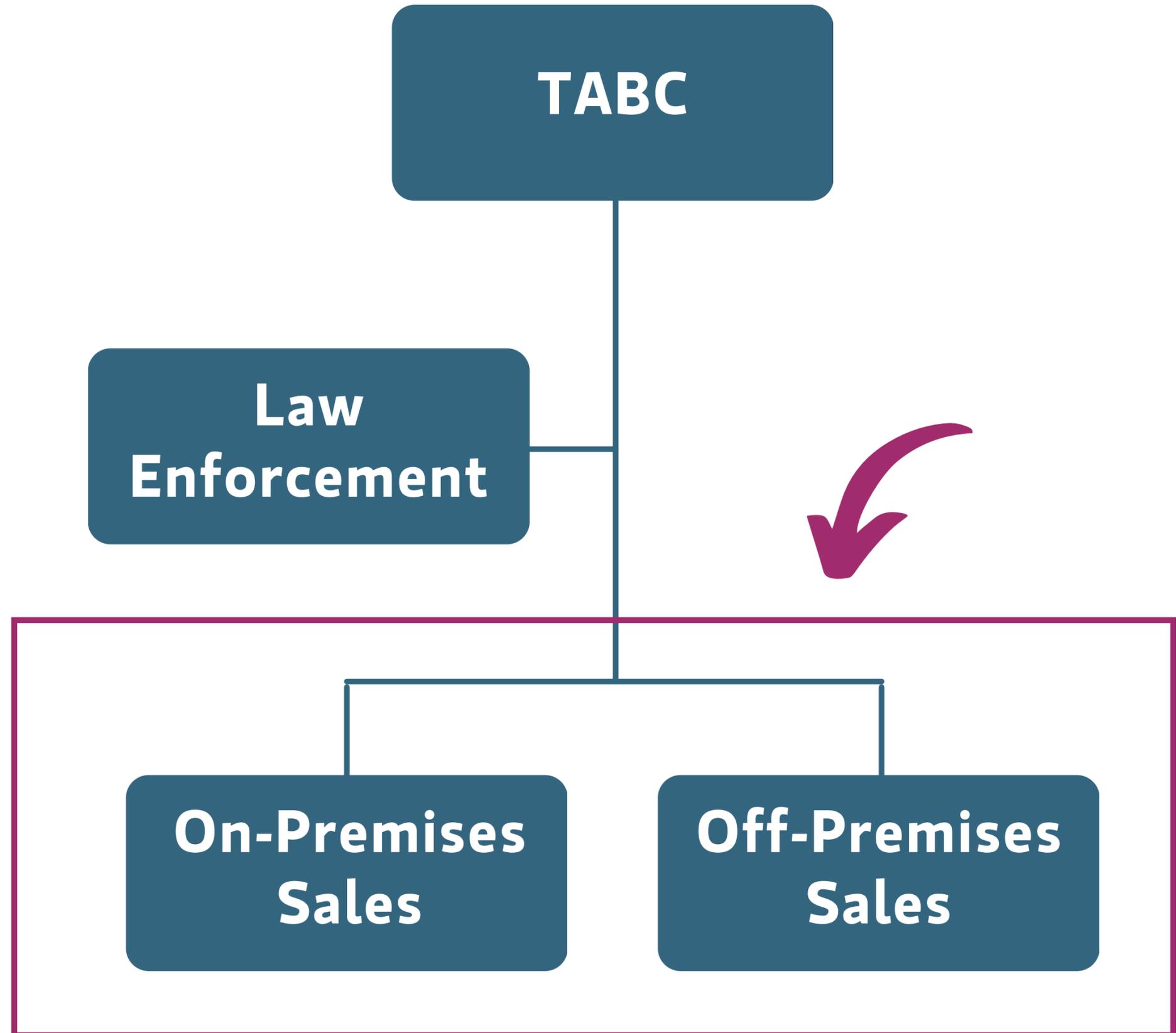
The pandemic changed everything...

Per capita consumption **increased** for all types of alcohol following the onset of the pandemic and **continues to be higher** than pre-pandemic levels.

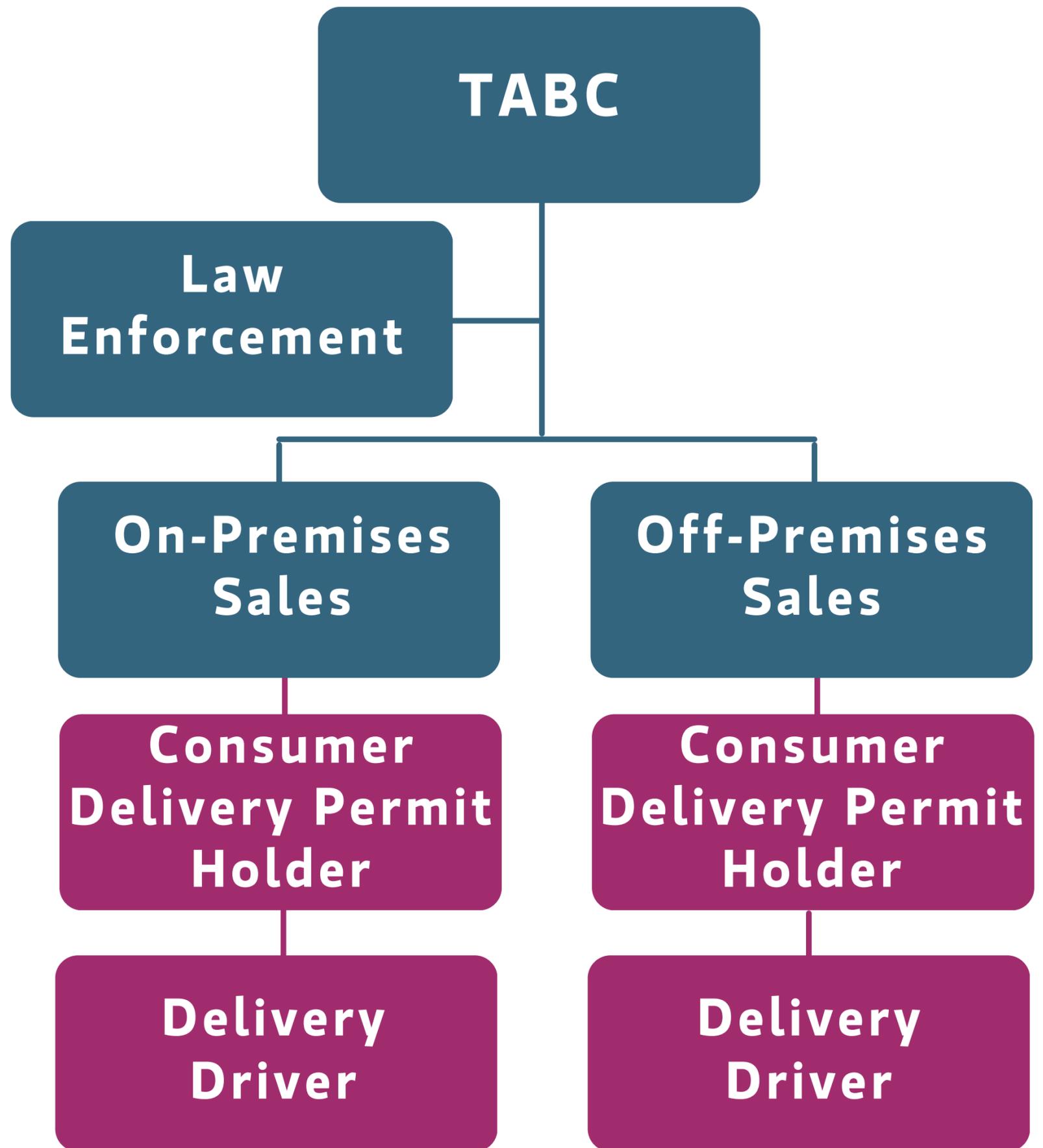


PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION IN TEXAS

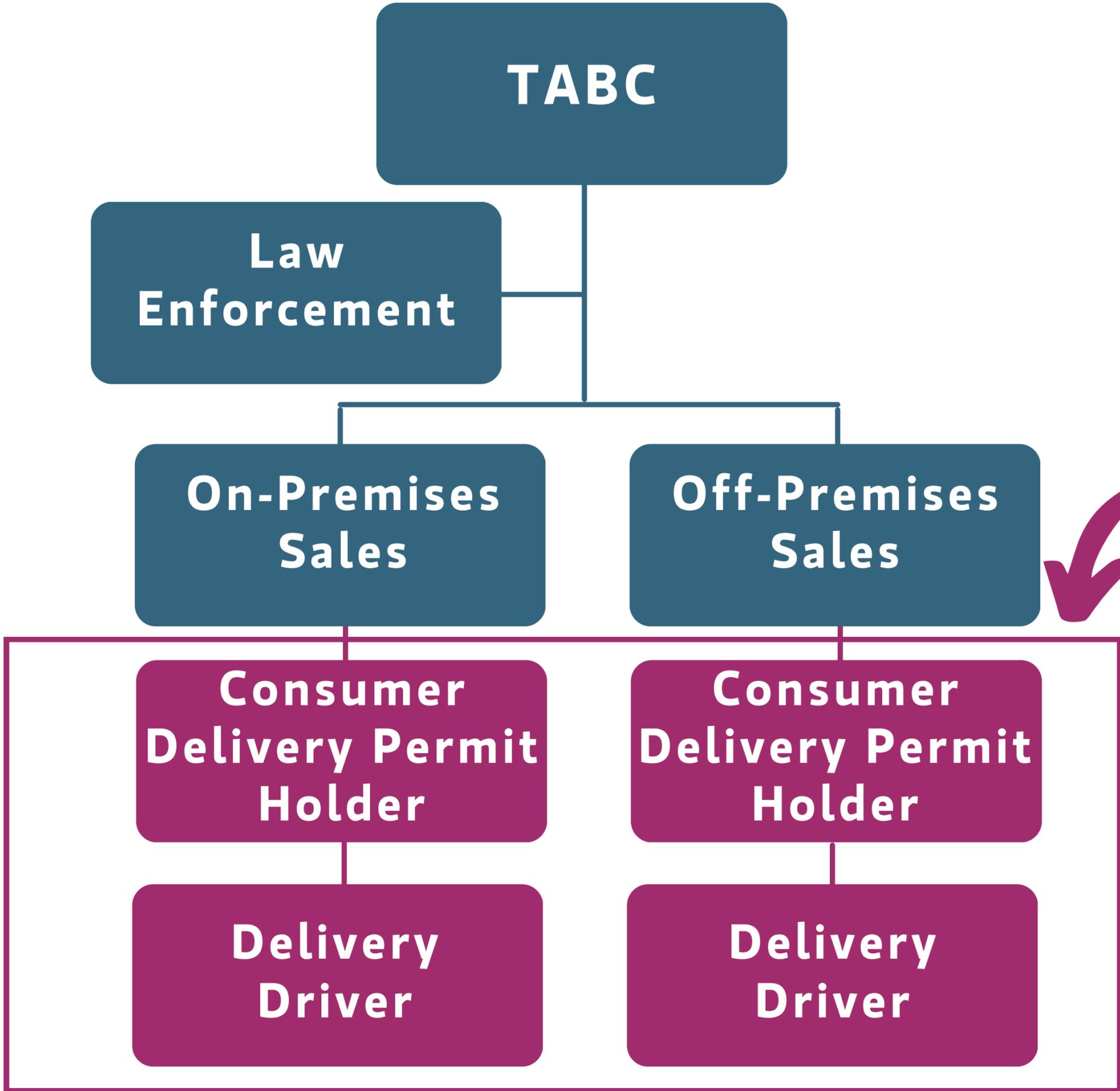
PRE-COVID HIERARCHY



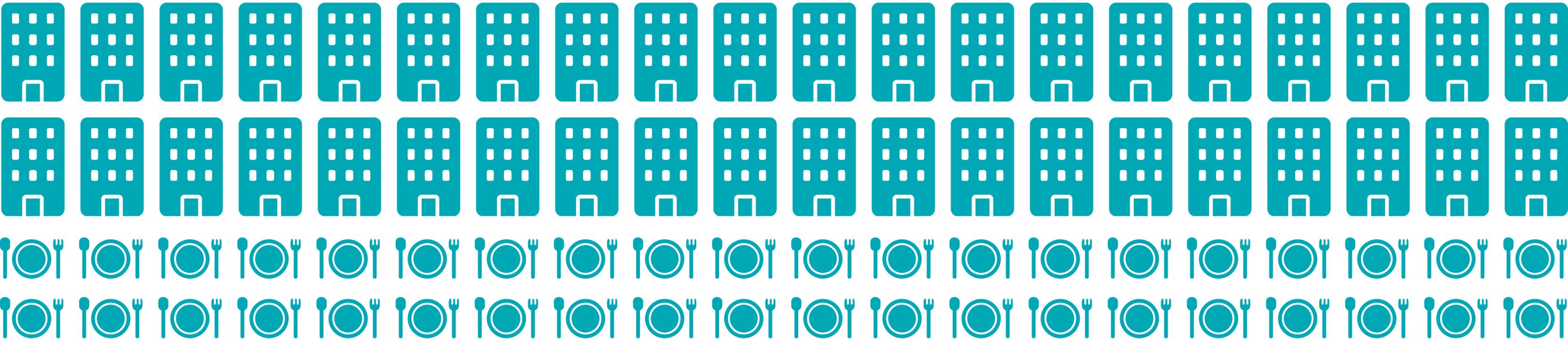
POST-COVID HIERARCHY



POST-COVID HIERARCHY



Before the alcohol-to-go law was in place, there were roughly **54,000 licensed retailers** - brick and mortar locations - from which people could purchase alcohol in the state.



Now, people can pick up alcohol curbside or in drive-thrus, or they can have it delivered to their doorstep by one of the roughly **200,000 delivery drivers** in the state.



LICENSED OUTLETS/CARS



NUMBER OF TABCC OFFICERS

200,000+



200

Why the concern?

1

No current best practices for compliance and training related to the law

2

Not enough understanding around what's going on with the law - is it being followed?

3

Business Interests > Public Health & Safety

CART Development

Due to concerns that the alcohol-to-go law would increase youth access to alcohol, Texans for Safe and Drug-Free Youth (TxSDY) hired a researcher to help us develop the Community Alcohol-to-go Research Tool (CART).



CART Development

Any customer who purchased alcohol for pick up or delivery in Texas could complete the survey. Additionally, local communities were trained by TxSDY's researcher to complete the CART and helped us collect data throughout the state.

TxSDY also conducted six focus groups to better understand how delivery drivers and staff at bars, stores, and restaurants implemented the alcohol-to-go law.



The CART is an observational instrument.



- We made no assumptions
- This was not a sting operation
- Researchers from communities throughout Texas participated in the study
- Participants were 21 and older
- Participants were trained on how to complete the CART
- Data were collected from 2022 - 2024, but most surveys were completed in 2022



Participating Areas

1. Austin
2. Dallas - Fort Worth
3. El Paso
4. Ellis County
5. Lubbock
6. Lufkin
7. Midland/Odessa
8. South Texas
9. San Antonio

CART Numbers



352

CART Surveys

11

Different Regions of
the State

116

Delivery

73

Curbside

100

Walk-In

63

Drive-Thru

Our research focused on five questions:

1

After ordering an alcoholic beverage via an e-commerce platform, how often is an ID requested when the beverage is delivered or picked up?

2

Does the age of the person picking up an alcoholic beverage influence whether an ID is requested?

3

After ordering an alcoholic beverage via an e-commerce platform, does the receiving option affect how often an ID is requested?

4

Does ordering an alcoholic beverage in an area identified as rural affect how often an ID is requested when an alcoholic beverage is delivered or picked up?

5

Does the frequency of ID requests change when ordering an alcoholic beverage from a restaurant or bar with its own delivery drivers compared to a third-party driver?

QUESTION 1

After ordering an alcoholic beverage via an e-commerce platform, how often is an ID requested when the beverage is delivered or picked up?

Of 352 orders, an ID was requested only 35.2% of the time. **Therefore, the failure rate was 64.8%, which means ID was NOT required for 228 of 352 orders.**

1 OVERALL ID CHECKS

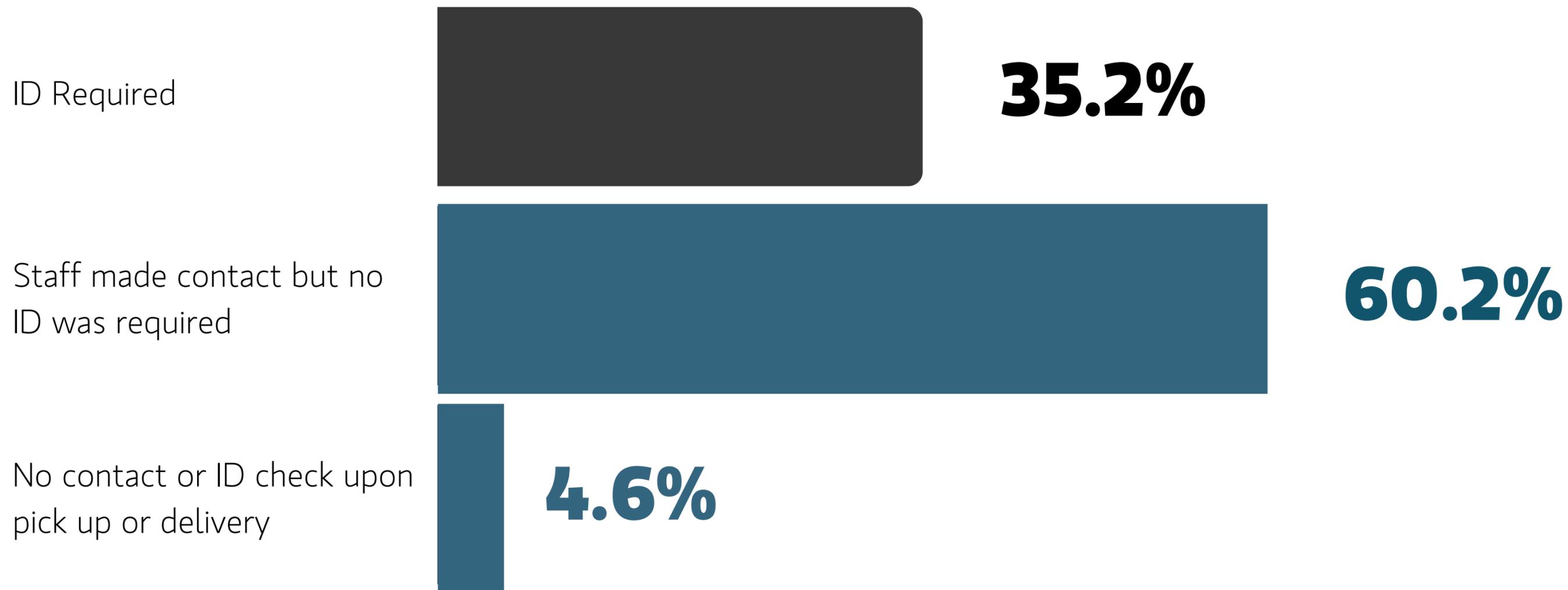




ID Checks for All Orders

Customers were asked for ID only 35.2% of the time.

64.8% of the time, ID was NOT requested.



QUESTION 2

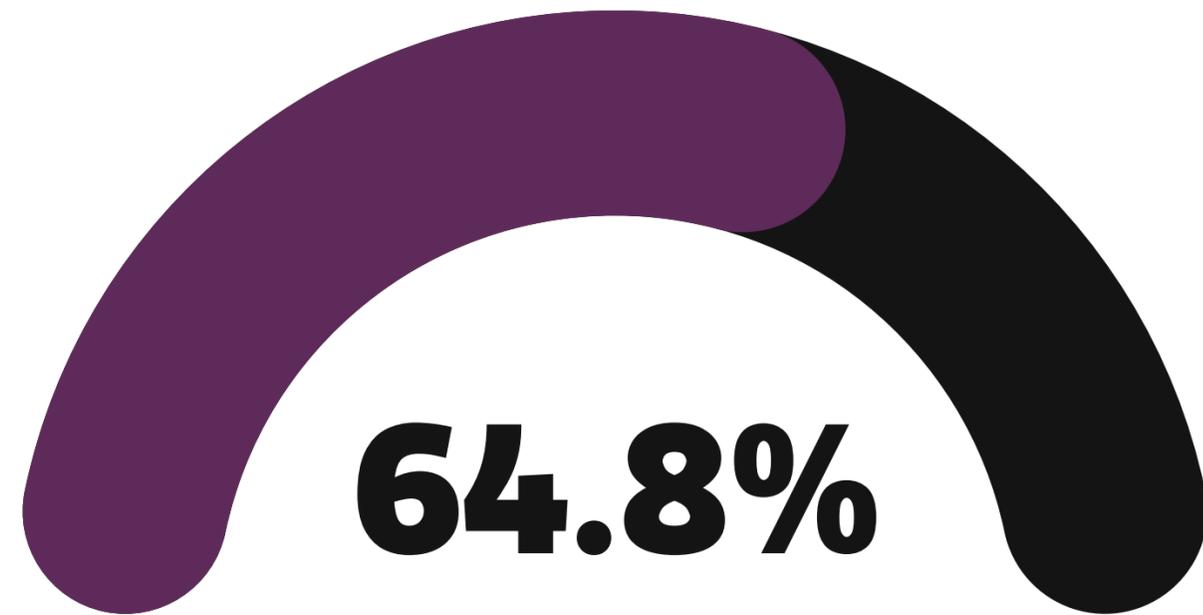
Does the age of the person picking up an alcoholic beverage (i.e., over or under age 30) influence whether an ID is requested?

There was a non-significant difference between ID checks for individuals aged 30 and younger vs. those aged 31 and older. **Therefore, the age of a person receiving the alcoholic beverage did NOT affect whether the person's ID was requested.**

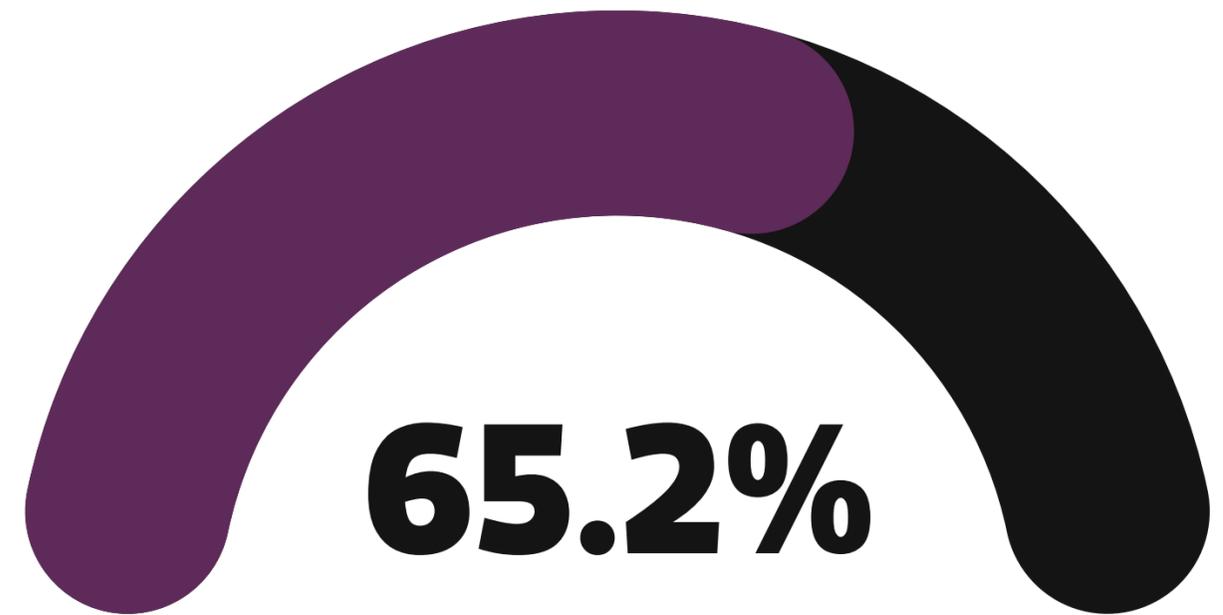
2 AGE



ID Checks by Age



ID check failure rate for
orders placed by individuals
aged 30 or younger



ID check failure rate for
orders placed by individuals
aged 31 or older

QUESTION 3

After ordering an alcoholic beverage via an e-commerce platform, does the receiving option (e.g., curbside, walk-in, drive-thru, or delivery) affect how often an ID is requested?

There was a statistically significant difference between ID checks for the different options for receiving a beverage. **Therefore, the receiving option DOES affect how often an ID is requested.**

3 RECEIVING OPTION





ID Checks by Receiving Option

Receiving option (e.g., curbside, walk-in, drive-thru, delivery) affected how often IDs are requested. **Delivery orders had a lower failure rate** than curbside, walk-in, and drive-thru orders.

Delivery Order ID Check
Failure Rate



26.7%

Curbside Order ID Check
Failure Rate



74.0%

Walk-In Orders ID Check
Failure Rate



90.0%

Drive-Thru Orders ID Check
Failure Rate



85.7%

QUESTION 4

Does ordering an alcoholic beverage in an area identified as rural affect how often an ID is requested when an alcoholic beverage is delivered or picked up?

There was a non-significant difference between ID checks in rural and non-rural areas.

Therefore, ordering an alcoholic beverage in an area identified as rural does NOT affect how often a state-issued ID is requested.

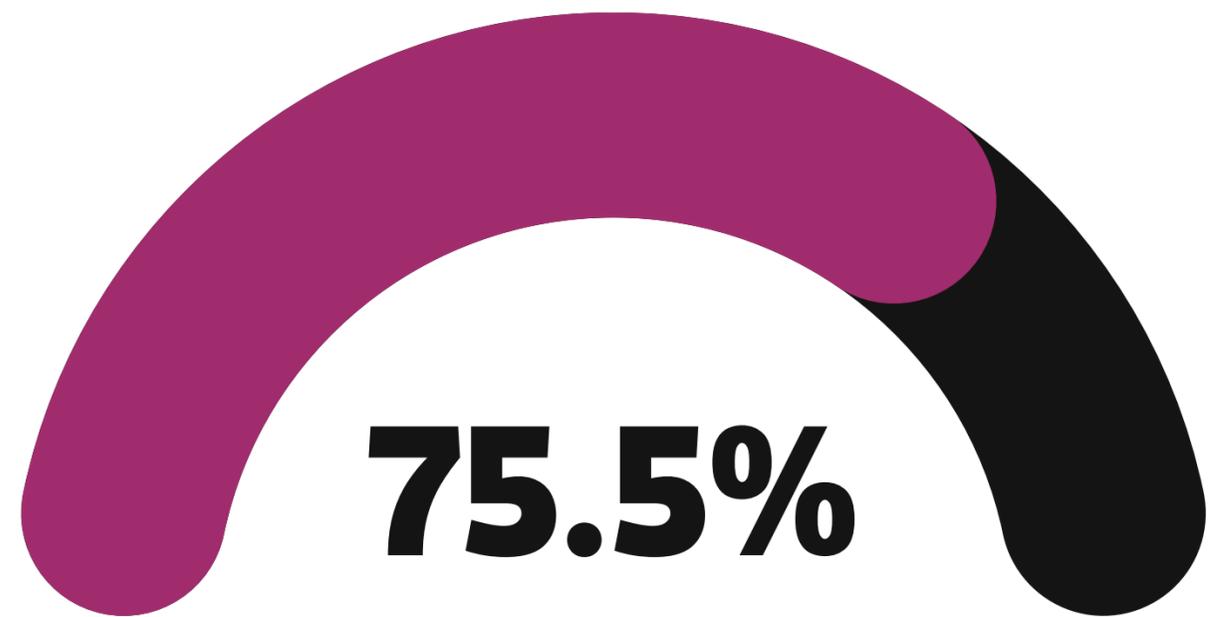
4 RURAL VS. NON-RURAL



ID Checks - Rural vs. Non-Rural



ID check failure rate in
rural areas



ID check failure rate in
non-rural areas



QUESTION 5

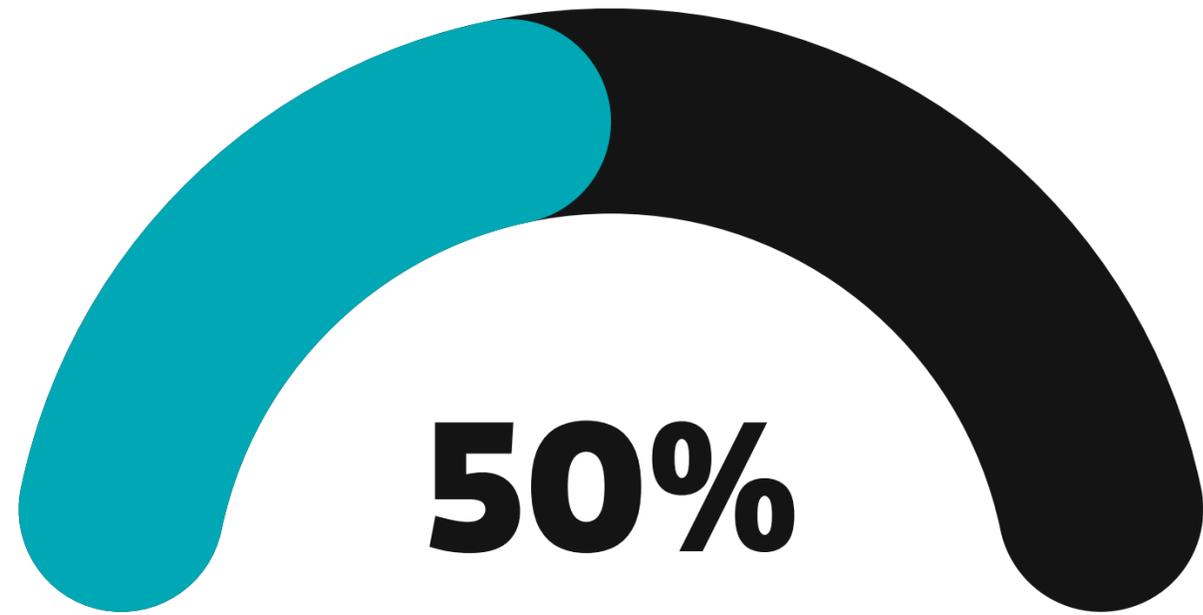
Does the frequency of ID requests change when ordering an alcoholic beverage from a restaurant or bar with its own delivery drivers compared to ordering an alcoholic beverage via a third-party driver (e.g., Uber Eats, DoorDash, etc.)?

There was a significant difference between ID checks for home delivery from a third-party delivery driver vs. restaurant or bar employees. **Therefore, the frequency of ID checks DOES change when ordering from a restaurant or bar with its own home delivery drivers compared to ordering from a third-party driver.**

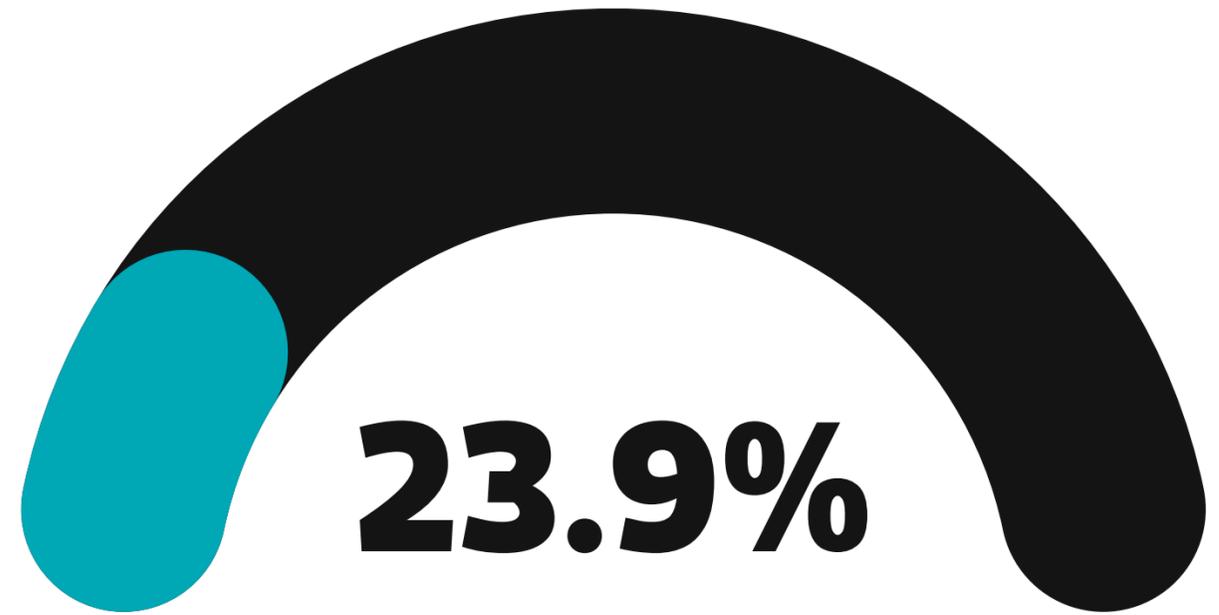
5 BAR/RESTAURANT
VS. THIRD PARTY



ID Checks - Bar/Restaurant Staff vs. Third Party Delivery



ID check failure rate for restaurant or bar staff delivery



ID check failure rate for third party delivery

TAMPER-PROOFED?





Tamper-Proof Containers

The alcohol-to-go law requires that alcoholic beverages are placed in tamper-proof containers.

1 in 5

alcohol-to-go purchases were NOT in
tamper-proof containers





Alcoholic beverages from alcohol-to-go orders without tamper-proof seals.

SELECTED PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



I was asked for my birthdate, but no ID was required.



Delivery driver texted me for my DOB but did not check my ID or come to the door to verify my age.



They told me the containers had no lids, "was that alright with me?"



It was in a cup with a lid with a plastic bag with a zip tie around it, BUT the straw was in the cup and poking up out of the zip tie.



Wanted a signature, but no cell service in our area.

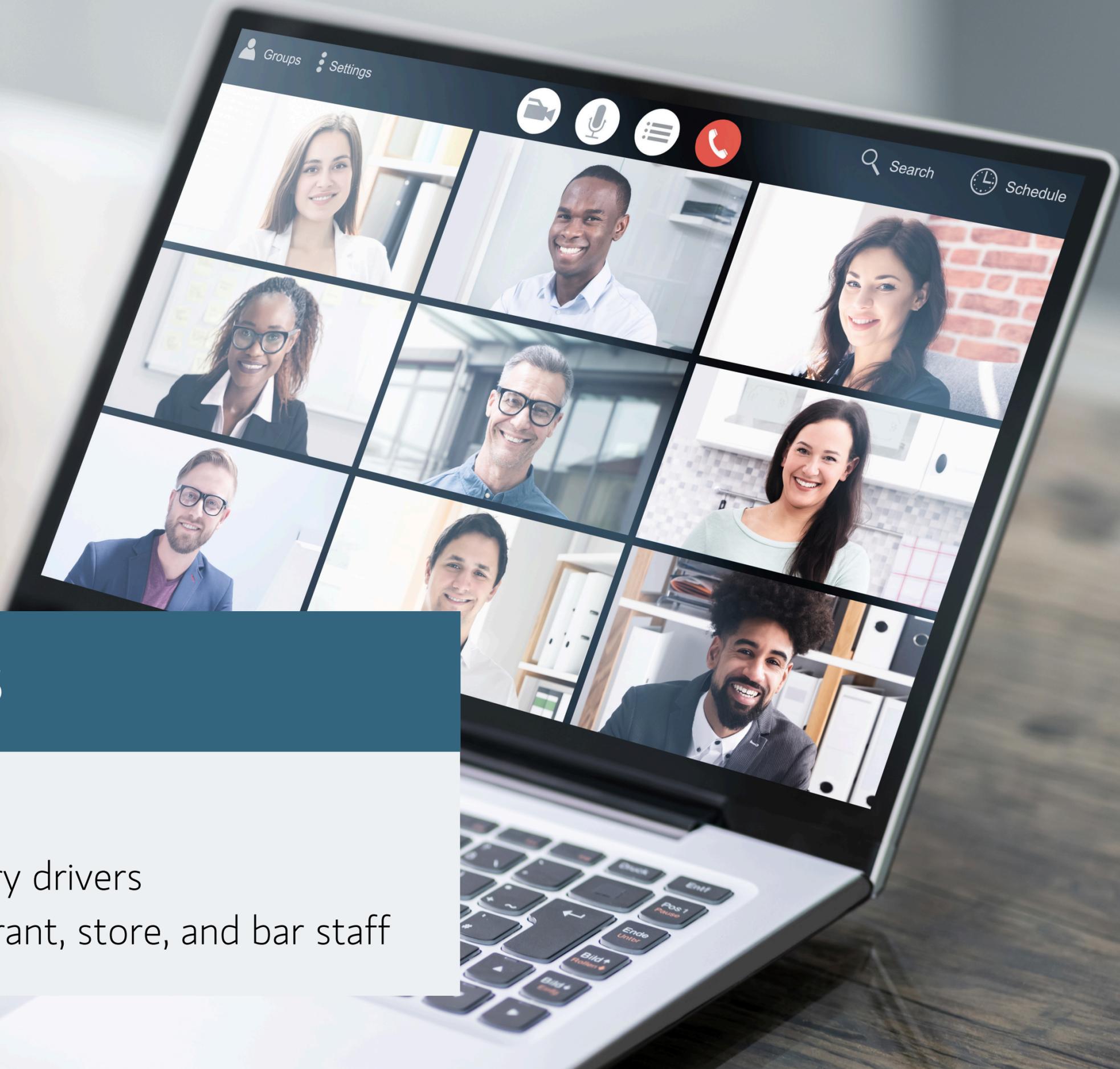


This was another order where the app allowed me to select the "leave it at my door" option. Like the other time this happened, I was not told I'd need to meet my Dasher at the door for an ID check. When the driver was close, I received a notification saying they'd be approaching, but was not told I would need to meet them to present my ID. The driver left the drink on my doorstep, and I received a notification that my order had been dropped off.



Focus Groups

- Six focus groups
 - Four with delivery drivers
 - Two with restaurant, store, and bar staff



Focus Group Findings



- Many restaurants and bars had no clear policies and procedures related to a chain of command when it came to ensuring that orders were only delivered when a state-issued ID was verified.
- The limited policies and procedures that did exist seemed to disappear whenever restaurant or bar staff became busy.

Focus Group Findings



- Third-party delivery drivers have technology that bar and restaurant staff lack or have limited/no access to – this appears to be another reason why third-party delivery drivers had a higher compliance rate with ID checks.
- “Manual overrides” on some delivery systems could explain why some third-party delivery drivers were able to complete orders without requiring ID checks.
- Third-party delivery drivers noted training and fear were the main reasons they had higher compliance rates with ID checks.



REGARDING TECHNOLOGY FOR ID CHECKS

“...all I have are my eyes and fingers.”

-Restaurant Delivery Driver



3RD PARTY DRIVER TRAINING & FEAR

“...if you provide alcohol to a person who is underage, there are fines, or jail time, civil suits, and lawsuits.”

-Third Party Delivery Driver



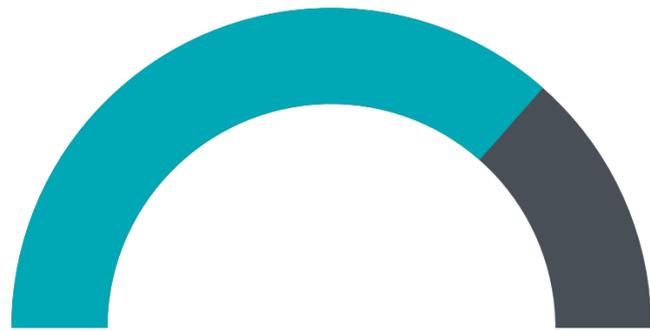
**IF A PARENT FINDS OUT ALCOHOL IS
DELIVERED TO THEIR UNDERAGE CHILD**

**“...it can go back to you,
and you can get in trouble
for that, and that’s my
extra money and I don’t
want to lose that.”**

-Third Party Delivery Driver

LESSONS LEARNED & MOVING FORWARD





73% →

of Texans support updating the alcohol-to-go law to include best practices for public safety.

Many Texans are supportive of updating regulations when they learn IDs are **NOT** being regularly checked.

Recommendations

01

All deliveries of alcoholic beverages should be allowed only when staff/delivery drivers have access to a device that can verify the authenticity of the ID and the age of the person receiving the order.

02

All manual overrides or “workarounds” for entering a person’s birthdate for an order containing an alcoholic beverage should be prohibited.

03

Increased compliance checks by an agency with the legal authority to conduct such checks should be initiated, including compliance checks related to curbside, walk-in, drive-thru, and delivery.

04

For all alcohol-to-go orders, whether for curbside, walk-in, or drive-thru, only a TABC-certified staff person should be allowed to hand an alcoholic beverage to a customer.

05

Future studies are needed to assess the impact of alcohol-to-go laws on compliance with open container laws.



Assessing What's Possible

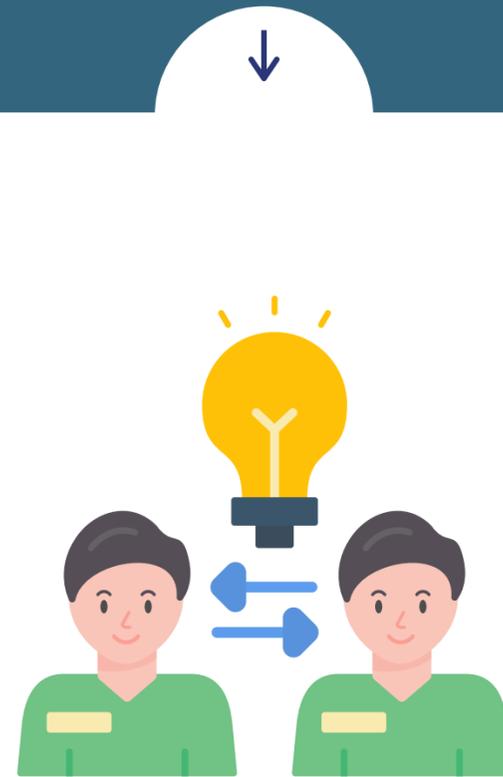


The law is here to stay. **What can we improve** to protect public health and safety?



Meetings with TABC. **What can be done now** and what requires legislative action?

Retailers & Delivery Drivers



Retailers and delivery drivers need to know and understand the law, but training and processes are currently inconsistent.

Law Enforcement & Compliance Checks



We need adequate processes for conducting compliance checks.



We need adequate funding for enforcement of the law.



TEXANS FOR
SAFE AND
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Contact us if you
have any questions.

Thank you!

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