

# Tobacco Twenty-one Compliance Program Report (2021)

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# Tobacco 21

- For Review of the City of Columbia’s Code of Ordinances the Program focuses on Section 11-316

“It is a violation of the law for the sale of any tobacco products, tobacco product paraphernalia, alternative nicotine products or vapor products to be sold to any person under age 21”

The purpose of the program is to decrease youth access and reduce youth initiation of smoking.

# Research Supporting Tobacco 21



“Close to 95% of smokers try their first cigarette before age 21 , making it vitally important to pass policies and provide funding for prevention” to help stop tobacco use before it starts.

“The American Lung Association supports funding for federal, state and local programs that prevent kids and young adults from starting to use tobacco and increasing the tobacco sales age to 21.”

<https://www.lung.org/policy-advocacy/tobacco/prevention>

(American Lung Association, website page last updated 2/27/20)

# Tobacco 21 is the Law of the Land



- **Tobacco 21 Laws reach beyond certain states:**

“The American Lung Association has advocated for increasing the age of sale for tobacco products from 18 to 21 because it will help save lives. In December 2019, legislation that increased the tobacco sales age to 21 nationwide was passed by both houses of Congress, and signed into law by President Trump on December 20, 2019 making it the law of the land.”

<https://www.lung.org/policy-advocacy/tobacco/prevention>

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# Why Do we hire Youth Buyers

- Our goals are for retailers to follow the law with Tobacco 21, and we test this by working with youth/young adults around ages 18-20 to determine if retailers are asking for identification and checking to ensure the birthday is (2001) or earlier and not selling to those under 21.
- This is an evidenced-based ordinance/law which means it's been shown to be effective in reducing tobacco access among those under (21) in research. Retailer compliance is the goal.



# The Ordinance

- (An ordinance is a rule or law passed by a local government)
- Section 11-316 says “it is a violation of the law for the sale of any tobacco products, tobacco product paraphernalia, alternative nicotine products or vapor products to be sold to any person under age 21”
- The penalties vary from (\$200 to \$, 1,000) Section 11-320.
- Columbia was one of 530 cities and counties and 17 states with this ordinance or law, prior to (12/2019 when Federal Law took effect)
- The Columbia City Council passed the ordinance on December 15, 2014.



# Tobacco Retailers with Section 11-316 violations in 2021

There were 13 tobacco retailers that were issued violations for selling tobacco products, tobacco product paraphernalia, alternative nicotine products or vapor products to official youth buyers under (21) in 2021.

(4) out of the 13 tobacco retailers were issued 2 violations In preliminary analysis, this shows areas where tobacco retailers need more education on Section 11-316 and that it is federal law.



# Section (11-316) Violation rate was 10% in 2021 (7% decrease from 2020)



The Tobacco Enforcement & Education Officer & Youth Buyers completed 126 inspections and issued 13 violations.

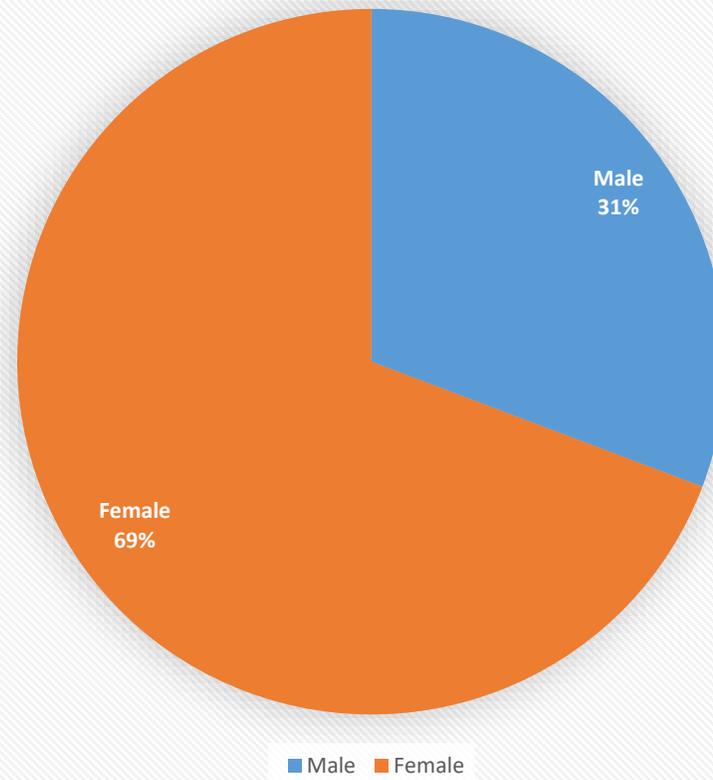
\*Audits were not completed in June, July and August during 2021.

# Buyer Gender Analysis in 2021

69 percent of violations/purchases were with female buyers



Violation Count 2021

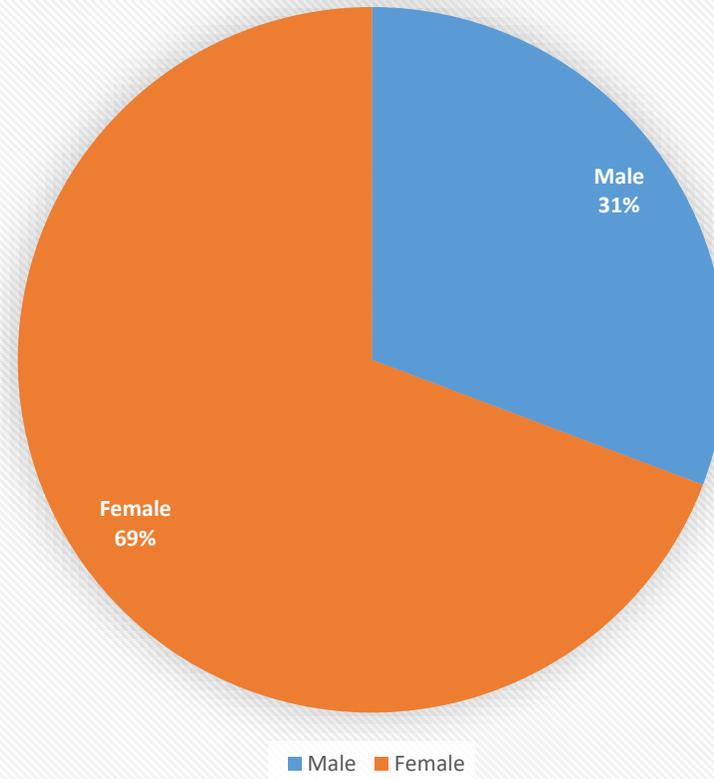


# Clerk Gender Analysis in 2021

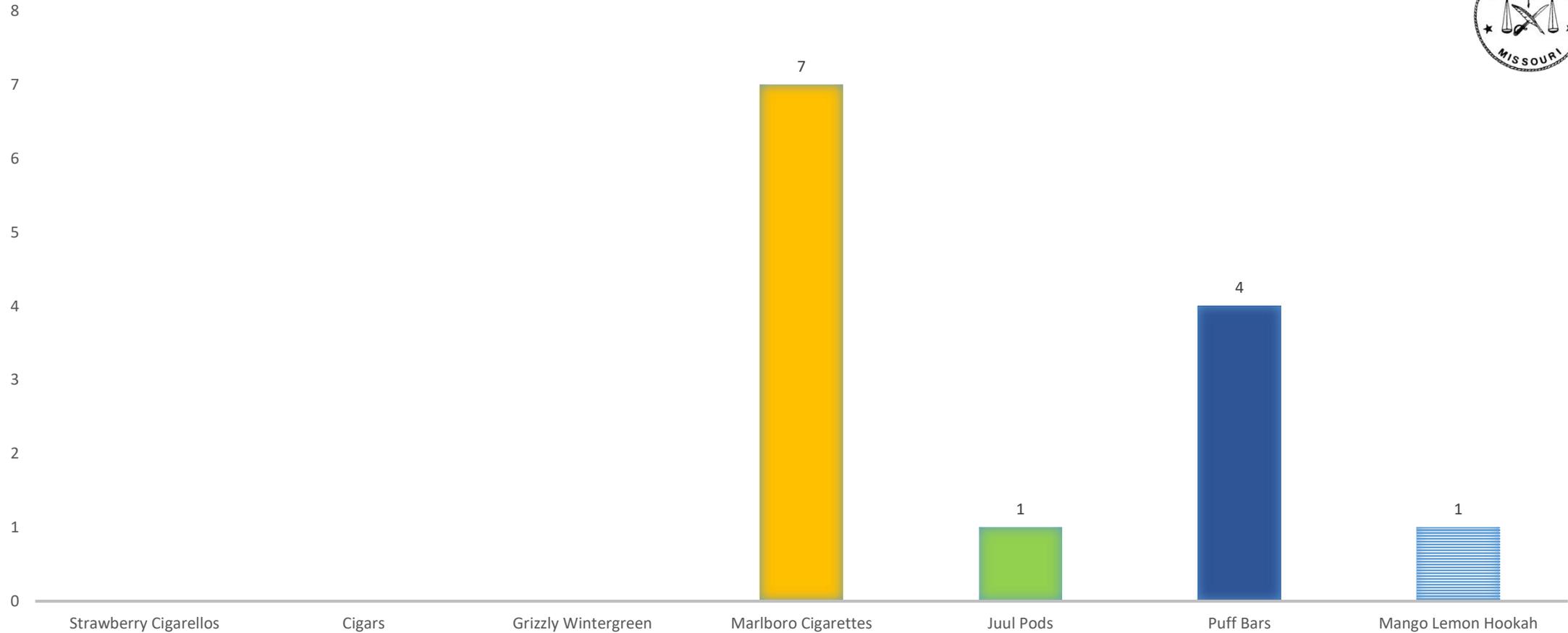
## 69 percent of clerks who had violations were female



Violation Count 2021



# Number of Violations by Product Type 2021





# Product Analysis for traditional and nontraditional tobacco products

- **54 percent of traditional tobacco products were purchased by youth buyers**
- **46 percent of alternative, nicotine or vapor products were purchased by youth buyers**