



WEST VIRGINIA
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2024

OUR MISSION

The mission of the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration is to regulate, enforce, control the sales, distribution, transportation, storage, and consumption of alcoholic liquors and nonintoxicating beer as mandated by the West Virginia Liquor Control and Nonintoxicating Beer Act.

OUR PURPOSE

The West Virginia Legislature created the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control in 1935. The WVABCA was organized to give effect to the mandate of the people expressed in the repeal of the state prohibition amendment, and to assure the greatest degree of freedom that is consistent with the health, safety, and good morals of the people of West Virginia.

2024 Fiscal Year Report July 1, 2023 — June 30, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Fredric L. Wooton, Commissioner	4 - 6
Accounting/Financial Statements	7 - 15
Liquor, Wine, and Beer	16 - 20
Enforcement	21 - 24
Education, Grants, and Media	25 - 31
Retail Liquor Outlets	32 - 37



WEST VIRGINIA
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
FREDRIC L. WOOTON, COMMISSIONER

December 20, 2024

The Honorable Jim Justice, Governor
Building 1, Capital Complex
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Re: WVABCA 2024 Fiscal Year Annual Report

Dear Governor Justice:

The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration is pleased to submit the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024, in compliance with W.Va. Code §60-2-11(9).

Sincerely,

Fredric L. Wooton
Commissioner

cc: Larry Pack, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Revenue
Donna Calvert, Executive Director, Library Commission

FLW/cjc



Message from Fredric L. Wooton, Commissioner

The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) continued to build upon earlier accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2024. Working with the Office of West Virginia Governor Justice and the West Virginia Legislature, the WVABCA carried out and delivered an expansion of services and opportunities for the citizens of our great state and WVABCA licensed businesses. With the passage of House Bill (HB) 5294 some highlights include:

- Authorize Class B (mixed) Retail Liquor Outlets to conduct liquor sampling events
- Authorize licensed brewers and resident brewers to enter alternating partnership agreements
- Authorize certain alcohol manufacturers (breweries, wineries, and distilleries) may sell sealed bottles for off-premises consumption or on premises bottle service by the glass at certain special events
- Expanded and clarified events where various alcohol sampling takes place
- Authorize alcohol manufacturers (breweries, wineries, and distilleries) to attend private fairs and festivals, wine festivals, and one day charitable events

The WVABCA licensing, enforcement, beer, wine and spirits divisions continue to provide excellence in customer service. The expansion of services and licenses has created a greater demand on my staff, yet they continue to exceed expectations.

The passage of Senate Bill (SB) 679 was impactful by addressing the explosion of the availability of kratom and hemp-derived cannabinoid products ([see page 23](#)). As a result, the WVABCA chartered new ground with interagency collaboration with the West Virginia State Tax Division and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture to address illegal and underage hemp and kratom sales.

The WVABCA continued to build upon its education and outreach initiatives. The WVABCA held the third annual statewide Alcohol Prevention, Enforcement, Education, and Policy (PEEP) conference with grant funding from the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) and funding from Community Connections Inc. The conference drew 141 people from law enforcement, education, health care and other key stakeholders. In January 2024, the WVABCA received grant funding to hold the fourth annual event in October 2024 (next fiscal year). This grant also provided crucial funding to replace the trailer housing the DUI Simulator ([See page 27](#)).

The 11th annual NO School Spirits PSA contest concluded with 67 entries, which was a 30% increase over the previous year ([See page 28](#)). Nearly 500 students from 37 schools participated in this program funded by State Farm® and NABCA.

Bailment sales for FY 2024 were \$135,613,24.28 with 894,604 cases sold. Product inventory and selection continues to drive sales. I have been successful in pressing brokers and manufacturers in acquiring rare and allocated spirits. Fortunately, my work with the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) and my efforts to cultivate and develop ties to the industry has assisted in this endeavor.

Finally, the WVABCA hosted the NABCA Administrator's Conference with nearly 250 people attending from across the United States. This was the first time West Virginia was able to host this event for other control states representatives and alcohol industry members and experts. It would not have been possible to hold such a prestigious event had I not been elected as Chairman of the NABCA Board of Directors in May 2023. In NABCA's 87 year history I was the first Commissioner from West Virginia to serve in this role.

I hope you have the opportunity to read the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report as it will provide much greater details about the exciting work at the WVABCA.

Best Wishes,



*Pictured L-R:
Neal Insley - President and CEO NABCA,*

*WVABCA Commissioner Fred Wooton -
NABCA Chairman (2023-2024),*

*Tim Holden (PA) - NABCA Chairman
(2022-2023),*

*Becky Schlauch (MT) - NABCA Chair-
woman (2024 - 2025)*



Wooton Administration 2017 - 2024

New Licenses & New Services - A positive impact on commerce and tourism.

- Resort Bill - passed in 2017. First significant change to the Private Club Act of 1967.
- New licenses for fairs & festivals, charitable events, stadiums, golf courses, farmers markets, wedding venues, and food courts.
- Expansion of services and sampling for distilleries, wineries, breweries, and retail liquor outlets.
- Creation of Private Club Bar and Private Club Restaurant.
- Private Outdoor Designated Permits (PODA) for Municipalities.

FY2017

15

26

FY2024

25

35

Micro, Mini, and Distillery licensees

WV Resident Brewer licensees

Expanded Availability - A more business friendly model for residents and visitors of legal age.

- Extended hours of operation and additional days for retail liquor outlets.
 - HB 2481 passed in 2019 and allowed opening on Sunday at 1:00 p.m.
 - SB 2020 passed in 2021 extended the hours of operation to start at 6:00 a.m.
- Extended hours for Brunch Bill for various Class A on-premises licensed businesses from opening at 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. This was later changed to opening at 6:00 a.m.
- Availability of curbside and delivery services.

Commerce and Revenue Contributions

- Retail Liquor Outlet Store Rebid for the 2020-2030 licensing period generated approximately \$54.5M.
- In the calendar year 2018, the WVABCA surpassed the \$100 million mark in bailment sales.
- Expansion of product listings and the availability for bailment sales.

FY2017

690,493 cases sold

\$93,242,922

2,355 active order codes

1,289 special order codes

FY2024

894,604 cases sold

\$135,613,247

3,140 active order codes

2,370 special order codes



For additional history and highlights, please scan the QR Code above or visit the WVABCA website at www.abca.wv.gov.



FINANCIALS

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 MANAGEMENT COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS YEAR ANALYSIS
 June 30, 2024, 2023 and 2022

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current assets	\$ 25,826,855	\$ 23,470,426	\$ 22,979,939
Capital assets, net	2,312,035	2,486,837	2,599,676
Notes and accrued interest receivable	834,921	1,571,086	2,400,094
Restricted assets	113,447	-	1,585,934
Total assets	<u>29,087,258</u>	<u>27,528,349</u>	<u>29,565,643</u>
Deferred outflows of resources	<u>499,059</u>	<u>810,860</u>	<u>863,530</u>
Current liabilities	\$ 4,139,841	\$ 5,058,810	\$ 4,657,770
Noncurrent Liabilities	\$ 273,810	\$ 588,060	\$ 265,387
Total liabilities	<u>4,413,651</u>	<u>5,646,870</u>	<u>4,923,157</u>
Deferred inflows of resources	<u>181,088</u>	<u>401,649</u>	<u>2,934,593</u>
Net position, net investment in capital assets	2,312,035	2,486,837	2,599,676
Net position, restricted by enabling legislation	834,921	1,571,086	2,400,094
Net position, restricted by pension and OPEB	113,447	-	1,585,934
Net position, unrestricted net position	<u>21,731,175</u>	<u>18,232,767</u>	<u>15,985,719</u>
Total net position	<u>24,991,578</u>	<u>22,290,690</u>	<u>22,571,423</u>

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 MANAGEMENT COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS YEAR ANALYSIS
 Years Ended June 30, 2024, 2023 and 2022

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Sales	\$ 135,229,526	\$ 136,005,376	\$ 130,209,299
Licenses, permits and fees	5,328,925	4,760,681	3,959,388
Administrative hearing fines	<u>113,700</u>	<u>174,825</u>	<u>131,450</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>140,672,151</u>	<u>140,940,882</u>	<u>134,300,137</u>
Cost of sales	101,909,002	102,867,492	98,364,979
General and administrative	5,664,383	5,189,202	4,134,249
Depreciation	<u>238,866</u>	<u>232,763</u>	<u>175,725</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>107,812,251</u>	<u>108,289,457</u>	<u>102,674,953</u>
Operating income	32,859,900	32,651,425	31,625,184
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):			
Retail liquor license renewal fee	-	108,400	-
Interest income	-	-	-
Grants	139,877	128,024	109,796
Other	(66,022)	76,821	(19,517)
Loss of disposal of assets	-	-	-
Receipts (Transfers in) from primary government	-	-	-
Statutory distributions	<u>(30,232,867)</u>	<u>(33,245,403)</u>	<u>(30,240,197)</u>
	<u>(30,159,012)</u>	<u>(32,932,158)</u>	<u>(30,149,918)</u>
Change in net position	<u>\$ 2,700,888</u>	<u>\$ (280,733)</u>	<u>\$ 1,475,266</u>

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Cash received from customers and users	\$ 140,437,472
Cash paid to employees	(4,665,686)
Cash paid to suppliers	<u>(104,248,049)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>31,523,737</u>
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities	
Receipts on nonoperating grants	139,877
Receipts from notes receivable and accrued interest receivable	736,165
Proceeds from liquor license renewals	-
Payments to primary government	<u>(30,232,867)</u>
Net cash used by noncapital financial activities	<u>(29,356,825)</u>
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:	
Purchases of capital assets	<u>(64,064)</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2,102,848
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>22,956,837</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 25,059,685</u>
Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information	
Non-cash special funding contribution related to OPEB	<u>\$ (66,022)</u>
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Operating income	\$ 32,859,900
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation	238,866
Special Funding contribution related to OPEB	(66,022)
Change in assets and liabilities:	
Decrease in accounts receivable	(234,679)
Decrease in deferred outflows of resources	311,801
(Increase) Decrease in inventory	(18,902)
Increase in net pension and net OPEB liabilities	(438,619)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expense	(918,969)
Increase (decrease) in deferred inflows of resources	(220,561)
Decrease in accrued annual leave	<u>10,922</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 31,523,737</u>

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Operating revenues:

Sales	\$ 135,229,526
Licenses, permits and fees	5,328,925
Administrative hearing fines	<u>113,700</u>
	<u>140,672,151</u>

Operating expenses:

Cost of sales	101,909,002
General and administrative	5,664,383
Depreciation	<u>238,866</u>
	<u>107,812,251</u>

Operating income 32,859,900

Nonoperating revenues (expenses):

Retail liquor license renewal - financing option	-
Retail liquor license renewal	-
Interest income	-
Grants	139,877
Loss of disposal of assets	-
Other (Special funding contributions related to OPEB)	(66,022)
Statutory distributions	<u>(30,232,867)</u>
	<u>(30,159,012)</u>

Change in net position 2,700,888

Net position, beginning of year 22,290,690

Net position, end of year \$ 24,991,578

Net position, end of year \$ 24,991,578

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
 Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>Administrative / Liquor Fund #7352</u>	<u>Enforcement Fund #7356</u>
Operating revenues:		
Sales	\$ 135,229,526	\$ -
Licenses, permits and fees	3,845,294	281,307
Administrative hearing fines	-	113,700
Total revenues	139,074,820	395,007
Operating expenses:		
Cost of sales	101,873,957	-
General and administrative	5,120,649	113,221
Depreciation	135,052	8,345
	107,129,658	121,566
Operating income	31,945,162	273,441
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):		
Grants	84,877	-
Retail liquor license renewal - financing option	-	-
Retail liquor license renewal	-	-
Interest income	-	-
Other	(66,022)	-
Statutory distributions	(30,188,331)	(33,136)
	(30,169,476)	(33,136)
Change in net position	1,775,686	240,305
Net position, beginning of year	15,424,818	78,678
Net position, end of year	\$ 17,200,504	\$ 318,983

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION (continued)
 Year Ended June 30, 2024

<u>Wine Fund #7351</u>	<u>Grants / Gift #7357</u>	<u>Beer Operations Fund #7358</u>	<u>Wine & Liquor Operations Fund #7359</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,229,526
623,025	35,549	311,650	232,100	5,328,925
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,700</u>
<u>623,025</u>	<u>35,549</u>	<u>311,650</u>	<u>232,100</u>	<u>140,672,151</u>
35,030	15	-	-	101,909,002
64,993	22,338	341,697	1,485	5,664,383
<u>49,459</u>	<u>17,952</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,058</u>	<u>238,866</u>
<u>149,482</u>	<u>40,305</u>	<u>341,697</u>	<u>29,543</u>	<u>107,812,251</u>
473,543	(4,756)	(30,047)	202,557	32,859,900
-	55,000	-	-	139,877
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	(66,022)
<u>(11,400)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(30,232,867)</u>
<u>(11,400)</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(30,159,012)</u>
462,143	50,244	(30,047)	202,557	2,700,888
<u>4,995,677</u>	<u>132,955</u>	<u>751,617</u>	<u>906,945</u>	<u>22,290,690</u>
<u>\$ 5,457,820</u>	<u>\$ 183,199</u>	<u>\$ 721,570</u>	<u>\$ 1,109,502</u>	<u>\$ 24,991,578</u>

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
 June 30, 2024

	<u>Administrative / Liquor</u> <u>Fund</u> <u>#7352</u>	<u>Enforcement</u> <u>Fund</u> <u>#7356</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 17,940,878	\$ 300,180
Inventory	60,492	-
Accounts Receivable	706,678	-
Notes receivable - current, restricted	715,833	-
Accrued interest - current, restricted	20,331	-
Total current assets	19,444,212	300,180
Noncurrent assets:		
Notes receivable - noncurrent, restricted	98,059	-
Accrued interest - noncurrent, restricted	698	-
Capital assets, net	1,608,308	18,803
Restricted Assets:		
Restricted net OPEB asset	105,502	-
Restricted net pension asset	7,584	-
Total noncurrent assets	1,820,151	18,803
Total assets	\$ 21,264,363	\$ 318,983
<u>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>		
Deferred outflows from OPEB and pension amounts	\$ 481,583	\$ -
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Current liabilities:		
Accrued expenses	190,103	-
Accounts payable	\$ 3,900,327	\$ -
Total current liabilities	\$ 4,090,430	\$ -
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Accrued annual leave	273,810	-
Total noncurrent liabilities	273,810	-
Total liabilities	4,364,240	-
<u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>		
Deferred inflows from OPEB and pension amounts	181,202	-
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets	1,608,308	18,803
Restricted by enabling legislation	834,921	-
Restricted for pension and OPEB	113,086	-
Unrestricted	14,644,189	300,180
Total net position	17,200,504	318,983

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF NET POSITION (continued)
 June 30, 2024

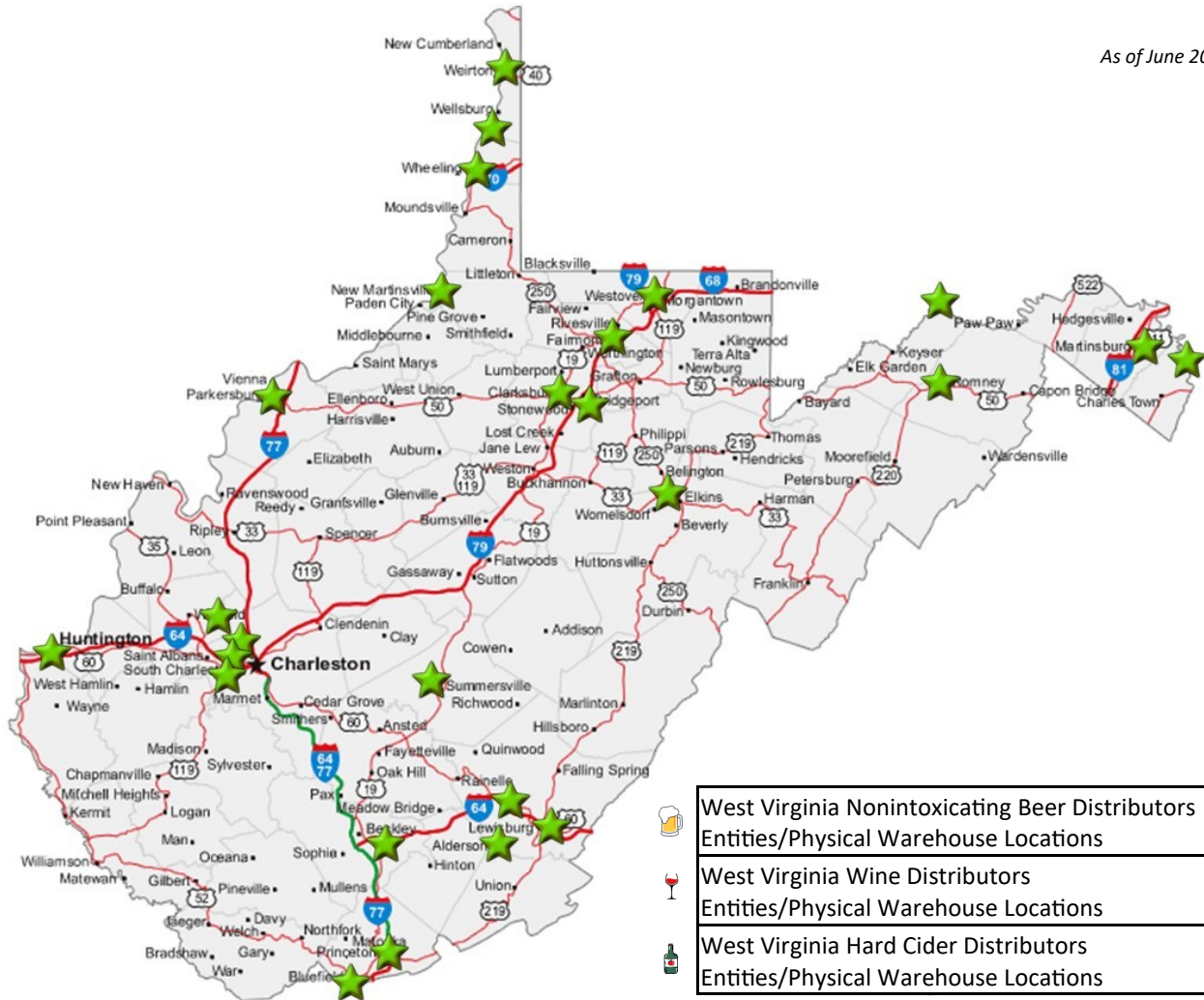
<u>Wine Fund #7351</u>	<u>Grants / Gift #7357</u>	<u>Beer Operations Fund #7358</u>	<u>Wine & Liquor Operations Fund #7359</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$ 5,229,248	\$ 115,384	\$ 718,418	\$ 755,577	\$ 25,059,685
-	-	-	-	60,492
-	-	-	-	706,678
-	-	-	-	715,833
-	-	-	-	20,331
<u>5,229,248</u>	<u>115,384</u>	<u>718,418</u>	<u>755,577</u>	<u>26,563,019</u>
-	-	-	-	98,059
-	-	-	-	698
263,184	67,815	-	353,925	2,312,035
-	-	-	-	105,502
102	-	259	-	7,945
<u>263,286</u>	<u>67,815</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>353,925</u>	<u>2,524,239</u>
<u>\$ 5,492,534</u>	<u>\$ 183,199</u>	<u>\$ 718,677</u>	<u>\$ 1,109,502</u>	<u>\$ 29,087,258</u>
<u>\$ 2,560</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 14,916</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 499,059</u>
2,487	-	7,565	-	\$ 200,155
<u>\$ 35,241</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,118</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,939,686</u>
<u>\$ 37,728</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 11,683</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,139,841</u>
-	-	-	-	273,810
-	-	-	-	273,810
<u>37,728</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,683</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,413,651</u>
<u>(454)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181,088</u>
263,184	67,815	-	353,925	2,312,035
-	-	-	-	834,921
102	-	259	-	113,447
<u>5,194,534</u>	<u>115,384</u>	<u>721,311</u>	<u>755,577</u>	<u>21,731,175</u>
<u>5,457,820</u>	<u>183,199</u>	<u>721,570</u>	<u>1,109,502</u>	<u>24,991,578</u>

The image features the West Virginia State Capitol building as the central subject. The building is a grand neoclassical structure with a prominent white portico supported by tall columns. Above the portico is a large, ornate dome with a blue and gold pattern and a golden spire topped with a weather vane. The building is surrounded by lush green trees and a black lamppost on the left. In the foreground, there are vibrant red flowers, some in focus and some blurred. The sky is a clear, bright blue.





**WEST VIRGINIA
SPIRITS, WINE, BEER
MANUFACTURERS
AND
DISTRIBUTORS**

WEST VIRGINIA DISTRIBUTORS OF BEER, WINE, AND HARD CIDER



As of June 2024




American Beer

Smoot, WV  
Princeton, WV  


Atomic Distributing

Huntington, WV  



Beverage Distributors

Clarksburg, WV 


Blue Ridge Beverage

Morgantown, WV 


Carenbauer Distributing

Wheeling, WV  



Country Vintner of WV

Lewisburg, WV 



French Wine Connection

Alderson, WV 



J.C. Mensore Distributor

New Martinsville, WV  



Jefferson Distributing

Martinsburg, WV  



Jo's Globe

Morgantown, WV  



Martin Distributing

Martinsburg, WV  



McCann Distributing

Wheeling, WV  



Mercer Wholesale

Bluefield, WV  



Mona Supply



Morgantown, WV  



Mountain Eagle



Beaver, WV  

Mountain State Beverage



Morgantown, WV  



Poca, WV  



Romney, WV  

Summersville, WV  



North Central Distributors



Bridgeport, WV  

Dunbar, WV  



Shepherdstown, WV  

Northern Eagle



Elkins, WV  

Romney, WV  



Ralph's Beer

Morgantown, WV  



Reid's Distributor



Martinsburg, WV  

Ridgeley Distributors



Ridgeley, WV  

Spriggs Distributing

Parkersburg, WV  



South Charleston, WV  



State Distributing

Clarksburg, WV  



The Beverage Market

(dba Capitol Beverage)



Charleston, WV  

Huntington, WV  



Tygart Valley Distributors

Elkins, WV  



Valley Dist. Co. of Fairmont

Fairmont, WV  

Waldorf Distributing

Beech Bottom, WV  

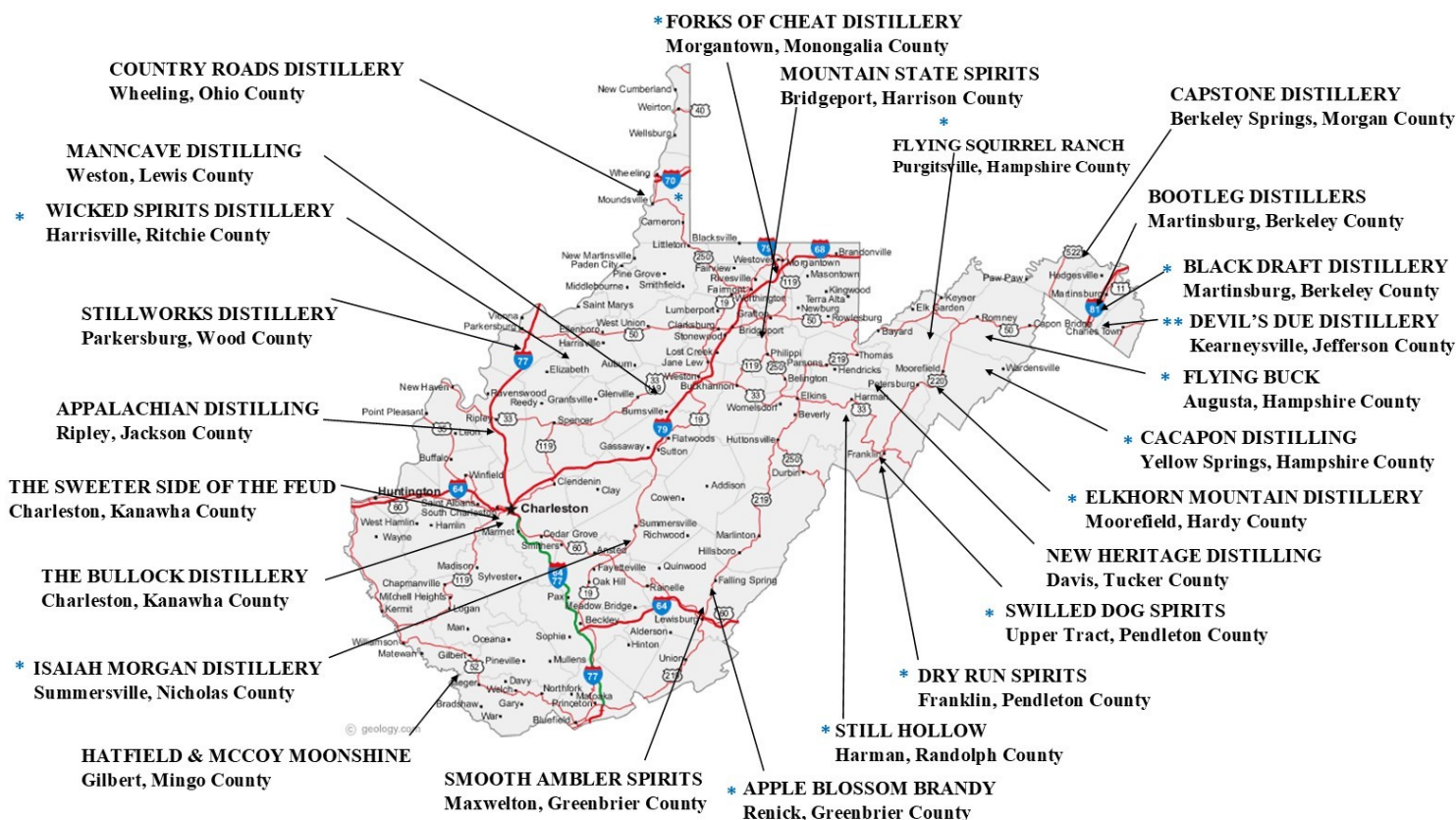
Wine & Beverage Merchants

Weirton, WV  

*Atomic, located in Huntington, sold to The Beverage Market dba Capitol Beverage. Two entities were licensed at same warehouse location within the same fiscal year.

WEST VIRGINIA DISTILLERIES, MINI-DISTILLERIES & MICRO-DISTILLERIES

- * Denotes Mini-Distillery
- ** Denotes Micro Distillery



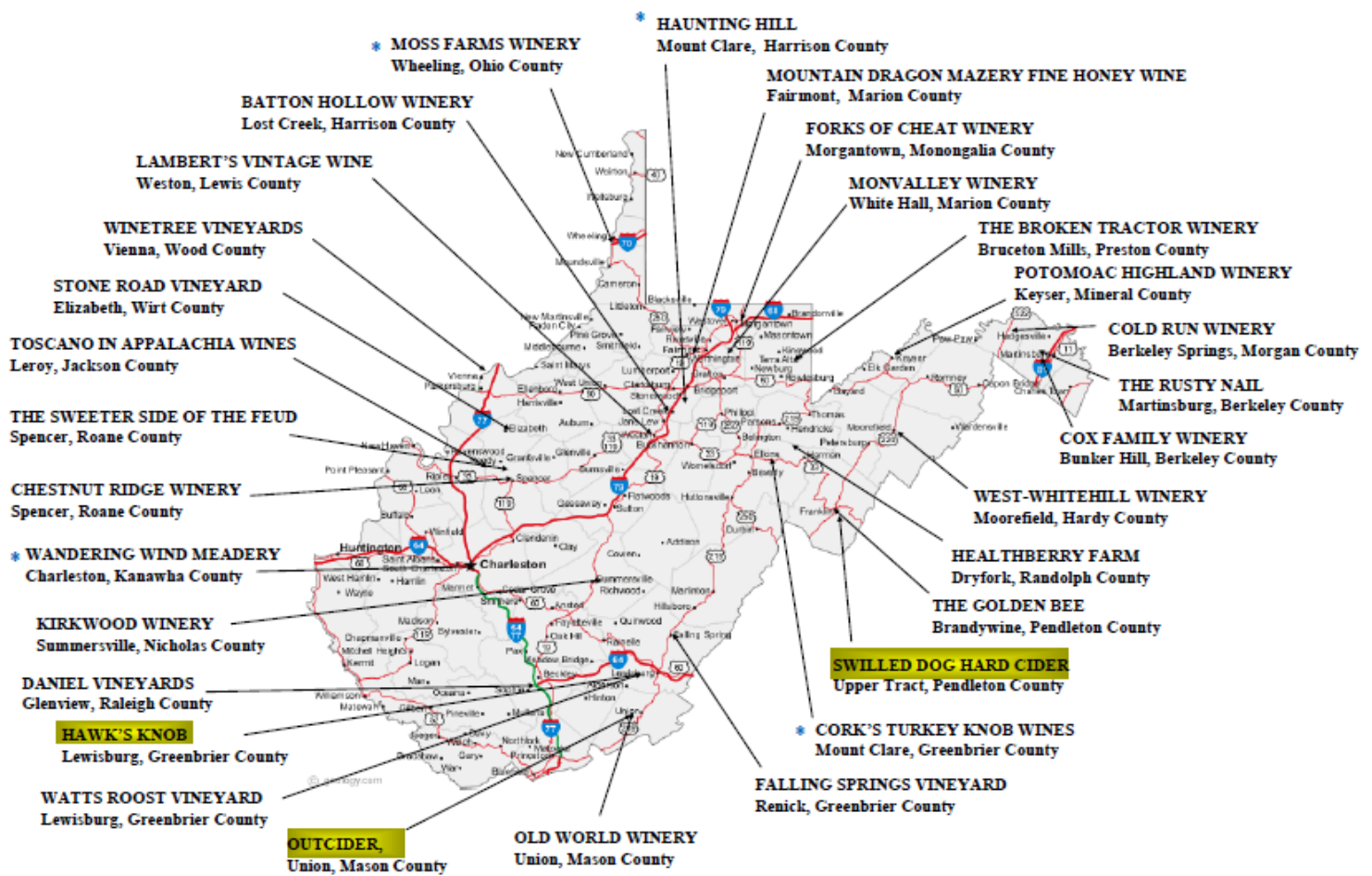
As of June 2024

West Virginia Distilleries	12
West Virginia Mini-Distilleries	12
West Virginia Micro-Distilleries	1

WEST VIRGINIA WINERIES & WEST VIRGINIA FARM WINERIES

* Denotes Winery

Denotes Cider Producer



As of June 2024

West Virginia Wineries	4
West Virginia Farm Wineries (Includes Cideries)	26

WEST VIRGINIA RESIDENT BREWERS

* Denotes No Brew Pub



Morgantown, WV



Bruceton Mills, WV



Terra Alta, WV



Keyser, WV



Berkeley Springs, WV



Wheeling, WV



Rivesville, WV



Parkersburg, WV



Cledenin, WV



Charleston, WV



The Peddler
Huntington, WV



Barboursville, WV



Princeton, WV



Ghent, WV



Maxwelton, WV



White Sulphur Springs, WV



Fayetteville, WV



Hico, WV



Summersville, WV



West Virginia Resident Brewers	35
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Martinsburg, WV



Charles Town, WV



Shepherdstown, WV



Rippon, WV



Davis, WV



Thomas, WV



Elkins, WV



Snowshoe, WV





ENFORCEMENT

The WVABCA Enforcement Division plays a crucial role in protecting the public. Enforcement agents and regional supervisors live and work in the communities they serve and are committed to enforcing the W. Va. State Code and Legislative Rules as it relates to the sale, purchase, transportation, manufacture, consumption, and possession of alcoholic beverages. The enforcement staff performs a variety of duties for new applicants and existing licenses.



The general public often associates the work of the WVABCA as only enforcement in nature, however, this does not accurately portray the duties of the Enforcement Division and the overall mission of the WVABCA. Education for applicants and existing licensees is an ongoing activity. New applicants work with the WVABCA Licensing Division to obtain a wide array of licenses, permits, and services. This enforcement division staff visit the proposed premises and perform an initial inspection. Information on the license application is reviewed and questions are asked and answered by both parties. Agents provide a variety of educational tools such as the hours of operation form, BAC charts, carding poster (below) and carding video to licensees.

License locations are inspected a minimum of two times per year. IN FY24, agents achieved a 99% inspection rate. The Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP) and the Commission on Drunk Driving

Prevention (CDDP) provides grant funding to assist with compliance activities.

Without an ID, you're just another face in the crowd

Carding Steps

- Have customer remove ID from belongings
- Have customer hand you their ID
- Check birth date and expiration date
- Physical comparison of customer and ID
- Examine back of ID
- Examine ID for smooth surface, holograms, frayed corners
- Ask questions such as astrological sign

Unacceptable IDs

- Photo of ID
- SSN Card
- Student ID
- Non-government ID
- Birth Certificate
- Prison ID

Link To WV ABCA

Acceptable IDs

- State-issued/(Temporary Receipt) for a WV driver's license (Expires in 60 Days)
- State-issued paper ID
- Passport or Visa
- Military ID
- Alien Registration Card (Green Card)

Warning Signs

- Customer not making eye contact/Nervousness
- Multiple Drink orders (on-premises venues)
- Customer takes money from another individual
- Customer claims to have already provided ID
- Customer claims to know the owner/manager
- Forgot their ID or provides a non-valid form of ID (Student)

Older Style - Valid until Expired

Newer Style - Began 2023

The WVABCA worked with the West Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to create a new ID Carding Poster. This educational tool is provided free of charge to licensees and distributed by enforcement and licensing staff. The ID Carding Poster will serve as an important tool, as will the new Best Practices Carding video which will be available in FY25.

12 WBOY

How West Virginia is regulating THC, CBD and kratom products

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (WBOY) — West Virginia has tightened regulations for hemp-derived cannabinoid and kratom products, with the latest Legislative Session passing a bill clarifying that authority to regulate the substances belongs to the Commissioner of Agriculture and the WV Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) Commissioner.

Senate Bill 679 allowed for collaboration and information sharing between the Tax Commissioner, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the WVABCA Commissioner and for the WVABCA to enforce safety regulations on kratom and hemp-derived cannabinoid products at the retail level.

Hemp-derived cannabinoid products include products that contain cannabidiol, commonly known as CBD, which is not a psychoactive or high-inducing substance, or low concentrations of tetrahydrocannabinol, known as THC, which is the high-inducing compound in cannabis.

As a result of the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 679, the WVABCA met with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and the West Virginia State Tax Division to address the sales of hemp, kratom and illegal cannabinoid products. In the spring of 2024, the meetings resulted in the development of a training program for the WVABCA, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, West Virginia Tax Division, and law enforcement.

In the last three months of FY24, the WVABCA, in cooperation with local and state police, conducted 85 compliance checks. This resulted in 19 underage buys which underscores the need to address the availability of these products.

The WVABCA has been working with the Fusion Center and the Office of the West Virginia Attorney General to address human trafficking. Training was held for WVABCA Agents and the above information poster is available on the WVABCA website. In addition, the WVABCA distributed 10,000 posters to WVABCA licenses.



Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against their will.

Victims can be any age, gender, nationality, or race, and come from any socioeconomic class.

TO SUBMIT A HUMAN TRAFFICKING TIP

Online: go.wv.gov/TipsHT

Email: wvfusion@wv.gov

Phone (Call): 1-888-373-7888*

Phone (Text): "Be Free" or 233733*

GET HELP *The National Human Trafficking Hotline provides victim support, 200+ languages, and other resources.

Dial 911 for immediate threats or emergencies.



Scan for additional resources and information.



A crucial part of the work of the WVABCA Enforcement Division is to protect our communities. Working with various municipal police departments, county sheriff's departments and the West Virginia State Police, the WVABCA endeavors to ensure patrons and employees are safe in an WVABCA licensed business. These efforts start with proper licensing and continue with education. However, when violent activity does take place and life is threatened or tragically lost, the WVABCA is quick to respond and committed to a thorough investigation.



Vice Versa has liquor license suspended for public safety

by: [Alexandra Weaver](#)
 Posted: Nov 16, 2023 / 10:39 AM EST
 Updated: Nov 16, 2023 / 11:03 AM ES

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (WBOY) — Vice Versa in Morgantown's liquor license has a public safety suspension, the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration confirmed to 12 News on Thursday. At this time, the High Street bar's license is not revoked. It was suspended on Nov. 9 and can be reinstated on Nov. 20, but the suspension could be extended if it is deemed necessary. Currently, the ABCA said there is an "ongoing investigation."

The decision on whether or not to reinstate the license would be based on the results of the investigation, the ABCA said.

Shenandoah Junction man sentenced for Shooting up Ranson bar

The Journal

By Tom Markland tmarkland@journal-news.net
 Dec 19, 2023 Updated Dec 20, 2023

CHARLES TOWN — During a hearing on Tuesday, a Shenandoah Junction man was sentenced for firing a shotgun into Benchwarmers Bar and Grill, causing about \$10,000 in damage to the Ranson tavern.

According to court documents, Timothy DeWayne Longerbeam, 52, shot up the bar in August during an alcohol-fueled rampage in which he also made threats to his girlfriend and the owner of Benchwarmers. No one was killed or injured due to the shooting.



MORGANTOWN POLICE SEARCH FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR SATURDAY DOWNTOWN SHOOTING

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. Detectives in Morgantown are looking for those involved in a shooting outside the Liquid Lounge early Saturday that injured two people.

Police responded to a shots fired call at 2:51 a.m. and found a female with a graze wound at the scene. She was transported to J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital for treatment.

Another male victim presented at J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital with a gunshot wound to the foot and was treated.

West Virginia University Executive Director of Communications April Kaull said no students were involved in the incident.



WTRF Wheeling

2 people hospitalized, 1 dead in local stabbing

by [Taylor Long](#)

BROOKE COUNTY, W.Va. (WTRF) — Officials say at approximately 1:58 am the Brooke County Dispatch received a call for a multiple stabbing at Mustang Sally's Bar located in the Hooverson Heights area of Brooke County.

According to officials, deputies arrived to find three individuals with stab wounds.



Clarksburg man charged after shots fired incident

by: [Alexandra Weaver](#)
 Posted: Dec 15, 2023 / 12:12 PM EST
 Updated: Dec 15, 2023 / 12:12 PM EST

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. (WBOY) — A Clarksburg man was charged with seven counts of wanton endangerment after shots were fired in Harrison County Thursday night.

According to a criminal complaint, Tommy Lee Lopez III got into an altercation with another man at the Brickside Bar and Grill on Lodgeville Road, and Lopez ended up leaving Brickside.



**EDUCATION, GRANTS,
AND
“WVABCA IN THE NEWS”**

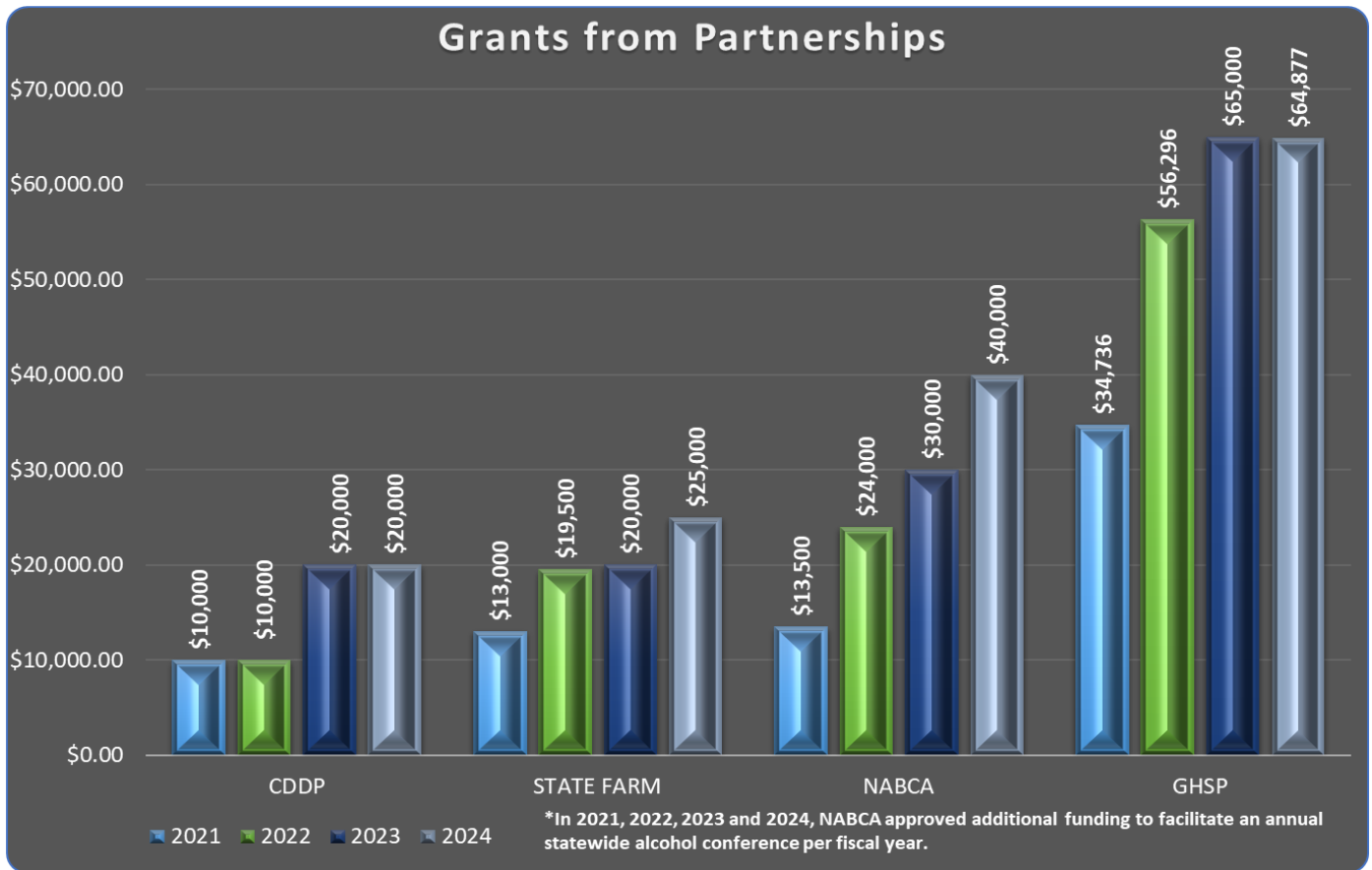


In FY24, the WVABCA received \$139,877 in direct grants and awards funding from four sources. Grants do not require matching funds from the WVABCA.

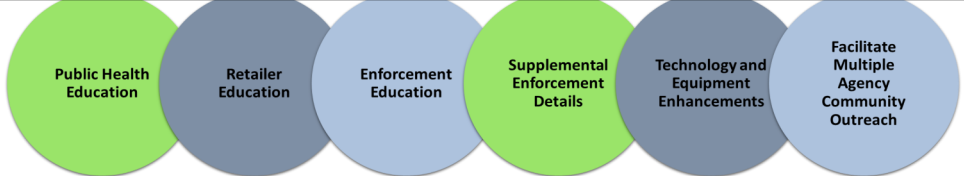
The National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) provided an education award of \$10,000 and a supplemental award of \$30,000, which was used for the DUI Simulator Program and the NO School Spirits PSA Contest. In addition, the NABCA approved an award for \$20,000 to hold the 4th annual Alcohol Prevention, Enforcement, Education, and Policy (PEEP) Conference in October of 2024 (FY25). Community Connections Inc. serves as the fiscal agent for this project.

The West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) provided the WVABCA with grant funding in the amount of \$64,877 to support enforcement activities, such as compliance checks. Grant funding in the amount of \$20,000 was received from the Commission on Drunk Driving (CDDP) to carry out additional enforcement activities.

A grant from State Farm in the amount of \$25,000 was received and utilized for DUI Simulator and NO School Spirits PSA contest.



Grant Funding Activities



DUI Simulator



The WVABCA DUI Simulator program was launched in November 2010. The program travels the state visiting high schools, institutions of higher learning and other venues to educate our youth about the harmful effects of drinking and distractive driving. The program provides youth with the opportunity to experience various driving conditions, hazards and scenarios while safely operating a simulation system. The program mimics the difficulties drivers would encounter at various blood alcohol content (BAC) levels. By engaging the youth in this interactive manner, the WVABCA can provide valuable tools to combat underage drinking and distractive driving.

The DUI Simulator program also includes a classroom lecture. On June 10, 2019, the WVABCA commissioned a new simulator to replace the simulator and trailer purchased in 2010. The simulator has state of the art graphics and the seat has motion to help create a more realistic experience. This program is a fantastic tool to use to educate participants concerning the risks associated with drunk driving. The simulator is in very high demand with multiple events scheduled weekly. There has been positive feedback from educators, law enforcement, students, and the general public. Several comments have been made by students that they, "will never drink and drive". There has been extensive media coverage of simulator events that have all been very positive.

A total of 72,166 students have taken part in this life saving program.



The 11th annual "NO" School Spirits PSA (public service announcement) Contest for the 2023-2024 academic school year was held and open to all middle school and high school students who attend public or private schools in West Virginia.

The WVABCA received 67 PSA entries, which was an increase of 30% from the previous year's contest. Nearly 500 students from 37 schools competed for \$10,000.00 in cash prizes. The prize money is provided by a grant from State Farm®, and must be used for a school sanctioned event and/or school equipment.

The first-place winning entry was edited for placement on television and social media during prom and graduation season. A 30-second radio spot was also created based upon the video entry and was aired locally in the winning school's media market. A grant from the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) allowed for the placement of this important health and safety message on social media and traditional news outlets. The PSA was viewed 28,106 times on YouTube and 288 total website clicks.

NO SCHOOL SPIRITS PSA CONTEST

Prizes funded by State Farm®

- GRAND PRIZE \$5,000
- 2ND PLACE \$2,500
- 3RD PLACE \$1,000
- 4th PLACE \$750
- 5th PLACE \$750

30-SECOND PRIZES BY PLACE (TV/RADIO)

The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) is pleased to announce the 11th Annual NO School Spirits Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest.

High school and middle school students are invited to submit a video about the dangers of drinking and driving or underage alcohol use. The winning school will be invited to help develop a PSA (TV and Radio) which will be broadcast across the state during the 2024 prom and graduation season. The prize money may be used for school sanctioned events or for school activities. All winning schools will be publicly recognized.

SPONSORED BY

- WVABCA
- State Farm
- NABCA
- GHSPM

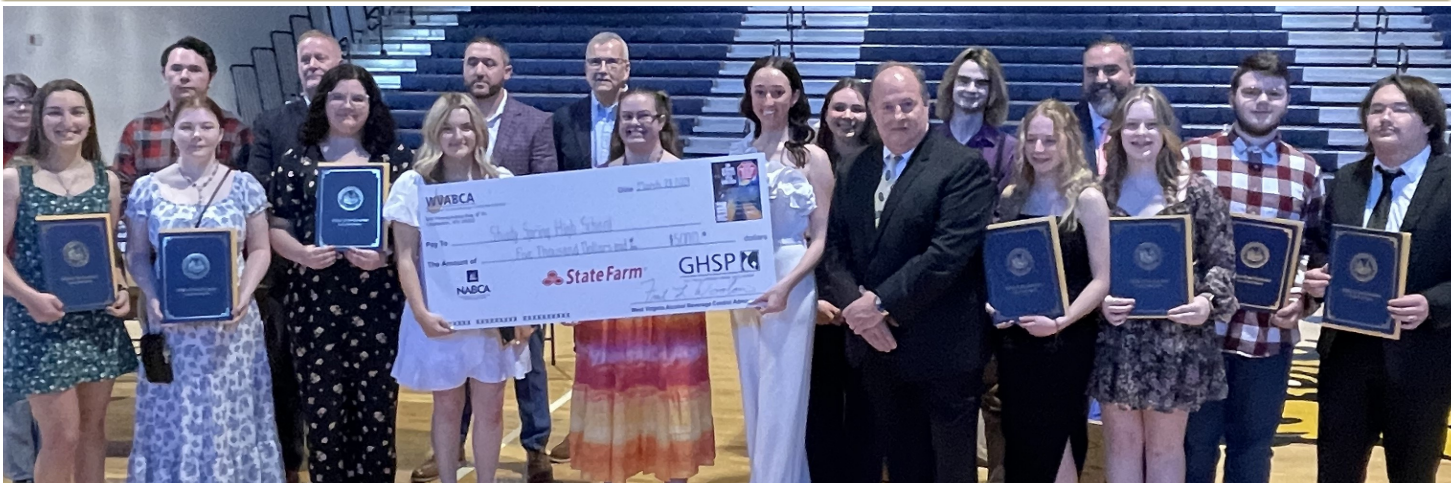
For official rules and entry form please visit: www.abca.wv.gov/2023-no-school-spirits-contest/entry-form

Questions may be emailed to: NoSchoolSpirits@gmail.com

Find Us On

Selection and prize distribution will be determined by the WVABCA.

**Shady Spring High School
1st Place Winner
\$5,000 Prize**



**Eleven Year
Program Highlights**

2013—2024

\$86,800 in Prize Money
63,451 PSA's (Radio/TV)
28,106 YouTube views

Past First Place Winners

- 2022-2023 • Shady Spring High School
- 2021-2022 • Clay County High School
- 2020-2021 • Point Pleasant High School

Awards assemblies were held at the five winning schools with nearly 1,500 students and special guests in attendance. The WVABCA presented the monetary awards and the winning PSA's were shown. Students from the winning teams were joined by school administrators and program sponsors. Students also received a personalized *Certificate of Recognition* from West Virginia Governor Jim Justice.



**Harmon High School
2nd Place Winner
\$2,500 Prize**

**Wheeling Central Catholic
High School
3rd Place Winner
\$1,000 Prize**



**Tolsia High School
4th Place Winner
\$750 Prize**

**Grafton High School
5th Place Winner
\$750 Prize**



Past Winners

2022-2023	Wheeling Central Catholic	Hurricane H.S.	South Charleston H.S.	Tolsia H.S.
2021-2022	Lewis County H.S.	Shady Spring H.S.	Tolsia H.S.	Tyler Consolidated H.S.
2020-2021	Morgantown H.S.	Cabell Midland H.S.	Morgantown H.S.	Wheeling Park H.S.

WVABCA IN THE NEWS

12 WBOY

by: [Joey Rather](#)

Posted: Apr 26, 2024 / 07:22 PM EDT

Updated: Apr 26, 2024 / 07:22 PM EDT

Two north central West Virginia schools rank in top 5 of 'No School Spirits' contest

GRAFTON, W.Va. (WBOY) — Two north central West Virginia schools have placed in the top 5 of a statewide contest that looks to curb underage drinking in West Virginia.

For the past 11 years, the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (ABCA) has held the “No School Spirits” public service announcement contest for high school students in the state. Students are tasked with putting together a PSA that warns of the dangers of underage drinking and drinking and driving.

THE PENDLETON TIMES

Summer Safety Message Released

Published: May 29, 2024

From hiking to biking, camping to climbing, on a boat or ATV, safety first is the message from the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Fire Commission Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Adults who are legally allowed to consume alcohol are advised that the sun and heat may cause a negative physical reaction and have unintended consequences. Some alcohol and mixers may increase dehydration and cause your Blood Alcohol Content to reach a higher level more rapidly and lead to impaired judgment, lowered inhibitions, slowed reactions and a loss of coordination. Elevated BAC levels could impact the body's ability to process the alcohol consumed and could lead to sickness or a life-threatening situation, such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Recreational activities on the water pose a greater risk of injury and death when alcohol is consumed. In 2023, there were eight boating incidents, with two fatalities in West Virginia. The WVDNR will be working throughout the summer season to enforce the laws and keep everyone safe. Their efforts increase for “Operation Dry Water,” a nationwide enforcement campaign designed to heighten awareness will take place over the Fourth of July weekend. According to Capt. Goodson with the WVDNR, last year 70 DNR officers participated in “Operation Dry Water” and 857 vessels were contacted. During this three-day campaign, 32 citations were issued, two BUI's were issued, and 98 boating warnings were issued.

The Journal

Driver's ed students learn dangers of drunk driving through DUI Simulator

By Ainsley Hall ahall@journal-news.net

Oct 30, 2023



HEDGESVILLE – The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) visited the Berkeley County driver's education range so students could try the DUI Simulator.

Students experienced what it's like to drive while under the influence of alcohol to better understand the dangers of drunk driving. They also tried on goggles meant to mimic the feeling of being intoxicated.

WVABCA partnered with State Farm and the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety program to create something that educated students about drunk driving. In 2010, the DUI Simulator was completed and traveled to every high school in the state to teach students what could happen.



WVABCA reminds public of certain liquor prohibitions on Easter

By [Frank Egan](#)
Published: Mar. 28, 2024, at 10:36 AM EDT

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va (WDTV) - The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration has said in a press release that they wish to remind West Virginians that off-premises liquor sales will be prohibited on Easter Sunday.

The prohibition will only affect liquor sales in stores wherein liquor is purchased to be drank off-premises, and will not affect bars and restaurants, nor sales of wine and beer.



Gov issues proclamation for National Alcohol Awareness Month

April 2, 2024, 11:00 am by [Submitted to The Dominion Post](#)

The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) was pleased to report that Gov. Jim Justice officially recognized April as Alcohol Awareness Month in West Virginia.

In issuing a proclamation, the governor emphasized the need to increase public awareness and understanding about the dangers associated with underage alcohol use and adult alcohol misuse.

THE REGISTER~HERALD.

August 23, 2023

Resources to prevent underage drinking and substance use available

The West Virginia Department of Human Resources' Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) and the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) are partnering to help students succeed this back-to-school season with prevention programming and messages about alcohol and substance use.



by: [Michael Hare](#)
Posted: Mar 28, 2024 / 05:50 PM EDT
Updated: Mar 28, 2024 / 05:50 PM ED

SHADY SPRING (WVNS) – Coming off of a state championship win, Shady Spring High School brings home another 1st place finish.

Officials were gathered at Shady Spring High School to present an award – one for the ‘No School Spirits PSA’ contest. Presented by the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration, the school won \$5,000.

Fred Wooton, Commissioner of the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration, says people getting the message about the dangers of drunk driving from their friends is more effective than through other means. “I think the message resonates much louder when students hear it from their own peers as opposed to me preaching to these students. The message is louder and much clearer when they hear it from their peers,” said Wooton to 59News.



RETAIL LIQUOR OUTLETS

Retail Liquor Outlets

The WVABCA Spirits Division maintains a robust portfolio of spirits for licensed retail liquor outlets. The WVABCA continually works with 247 active vendors (suppliers), 12 in-state distilleries, 12 in-state mini-distilleries, 1 in-state micro-distillery, 117 liquor representatives, and 182 licensed liquor retail outlets to approve the spirit shipments, pricing discounts, product listing, product integrity, new vendors, and inventory management.

The Portal

All licensed retail liquor outlet owners and designated employees, liquor vendors (suppliers), and representatives have secure online access to the WVABCA in-house Order Entry Portal. With access to product information, bailment reports, sales data, and much more. The portal resembles “click and pay” software where the retail liquor outlets shop for their products from the WVABCA bailment portfolio and submit the order for processing.

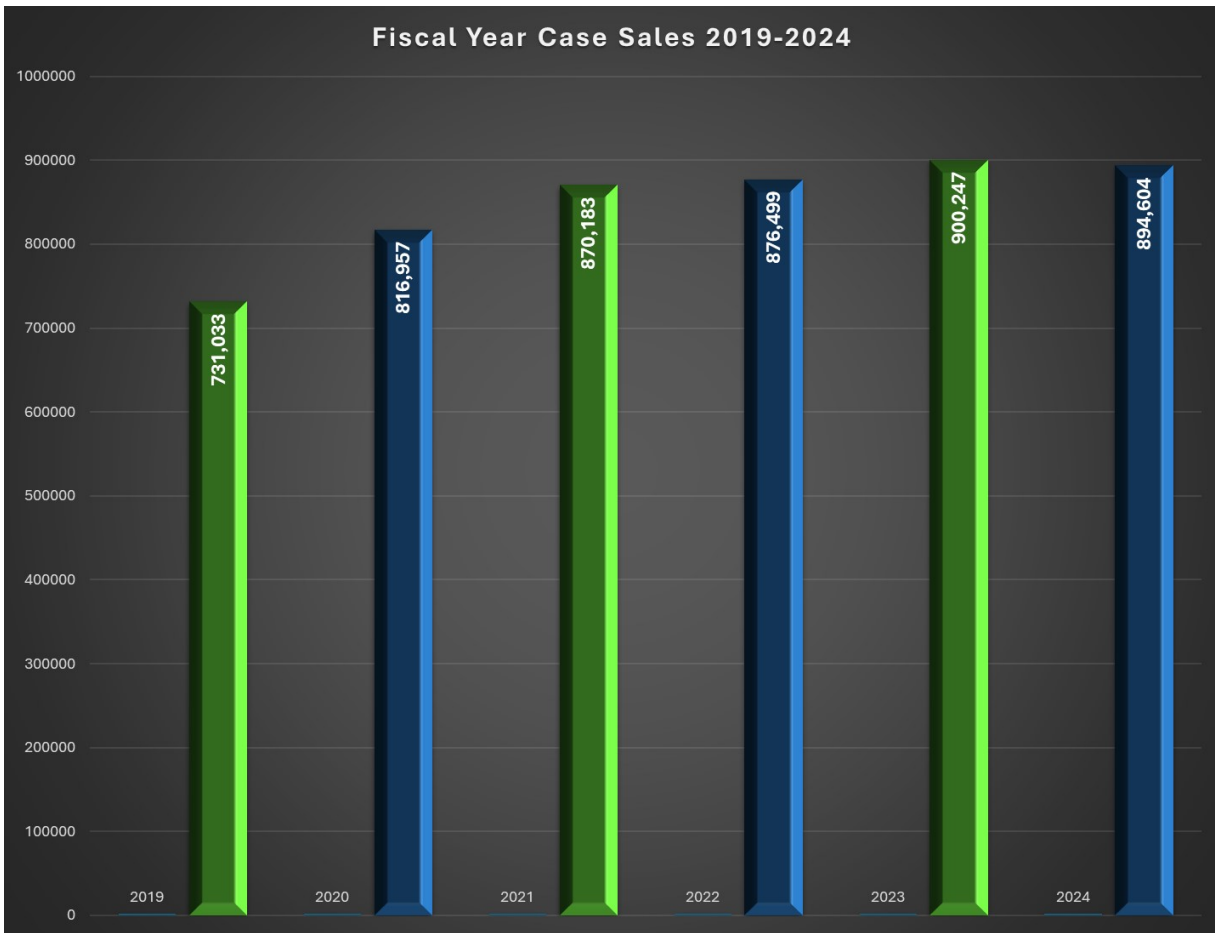


3140
Active Bailment
Product Codes

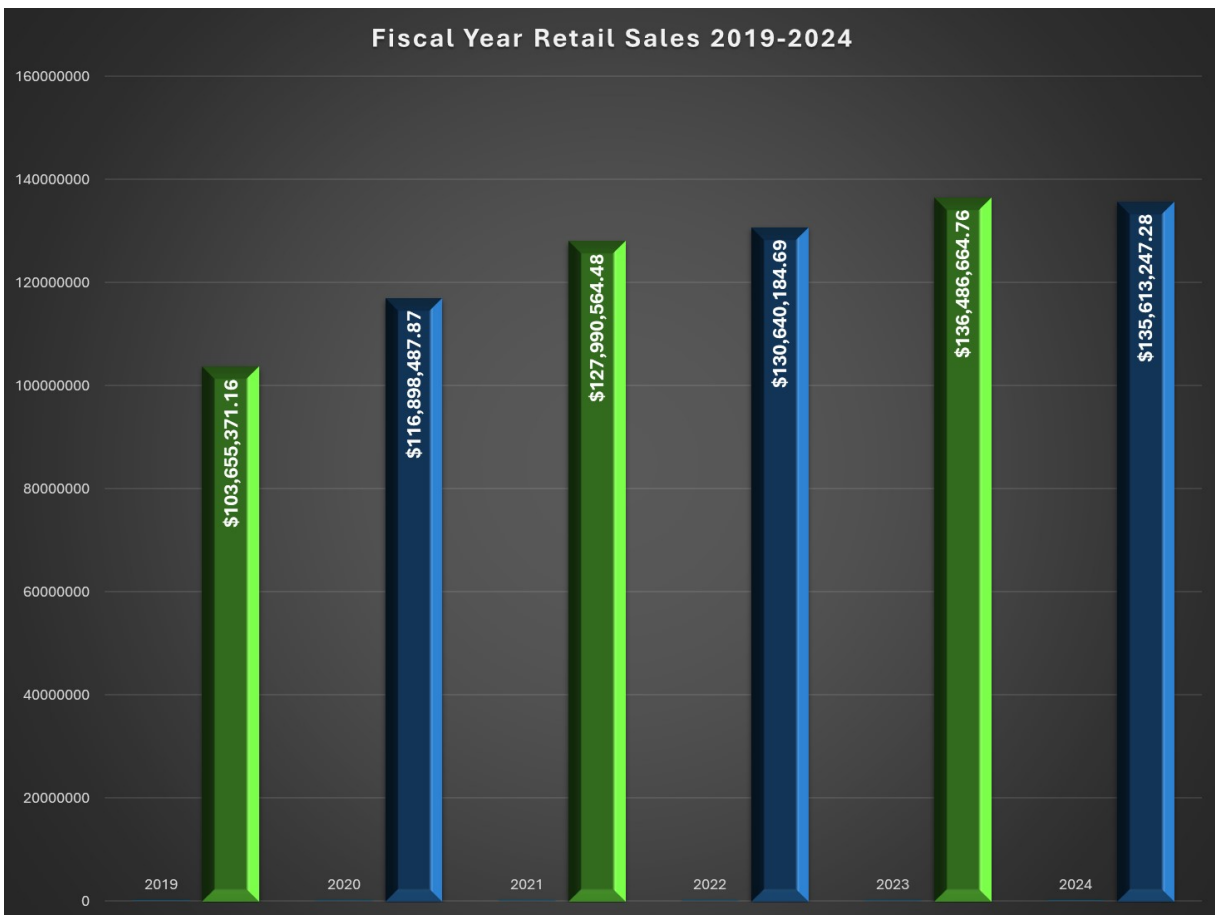
2370
Active Special Order
Product Codes

Distribution Center




The WVABCA Distribution Center is a 153,000 square foot warehouse that houses the agency’s bailment operations. The Distribution Center stores 3,140 active product codes and 2,370 special order product codes. In addition to receiving products from 247 suppliers, the Distribution Center staff pick, assemble, and fulfill orders for delivery to the 182 retail liquor outlet stores.



Graphs display fiscal year sales by case and revenue generated from 2019-2024.



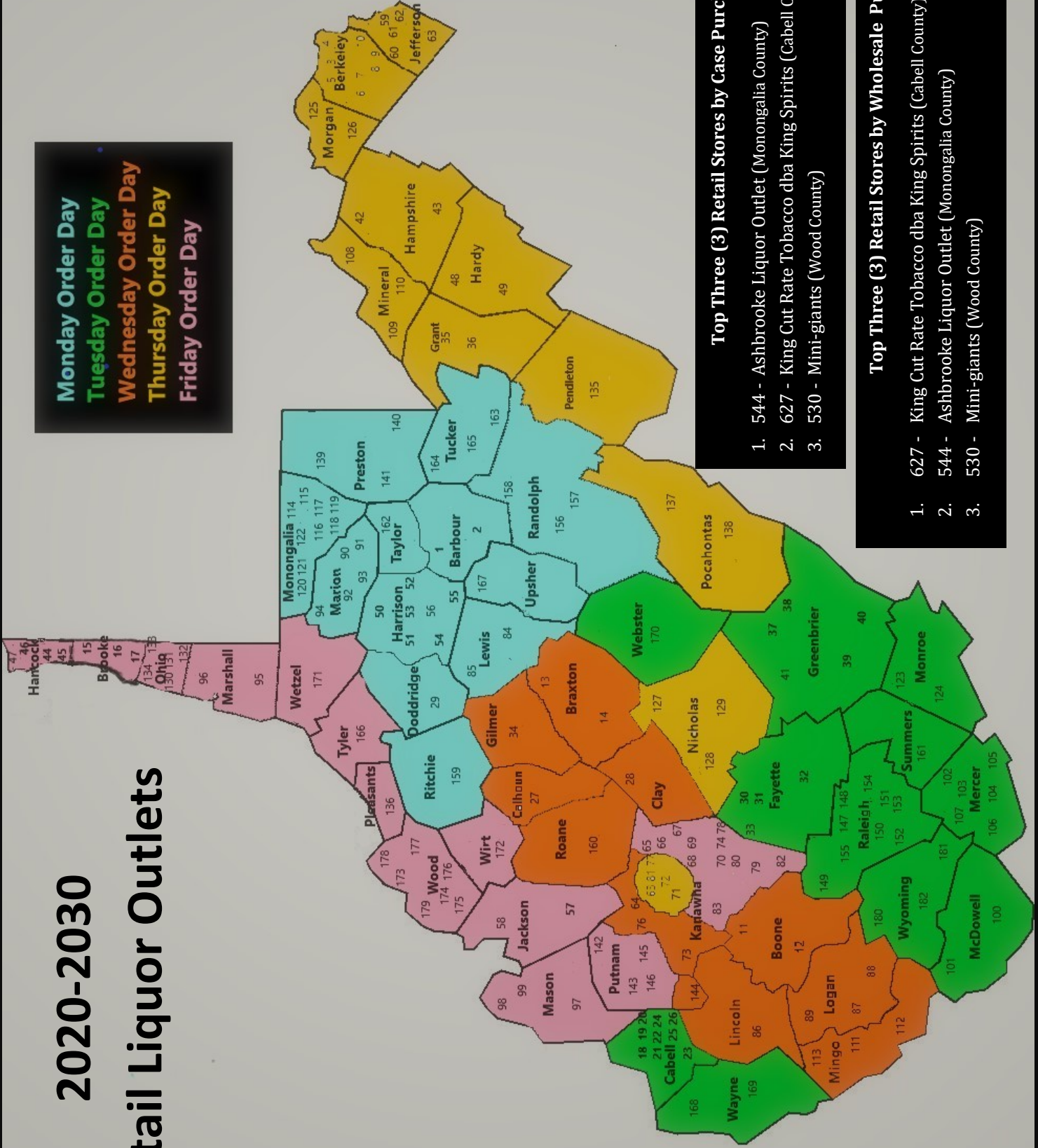
TOP 10 BRANDS BY CASE SALES

<p>1</p> <p><i>Tito's</i></p>  <p>Handmade VODKA</p> <p>36,492</p>	<p>2</p> <p>FIREBALL</p>  <p>23,504</p>
<p>3</p>  <p><i>Crown Royal</i></p> <p>14,528</p>	<p>4</p> <p>SMIRNOFF</p> <p>14,292</p>
<p>5</p> <p>JACK DANIEL'S</p> <p>14,161</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>BARTON</p> <p>13,286</p>
<p>7</p> <p>VLADIMIR</p> <p>VODKA</p> <p>13,144</p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Crown Royal</i></p> <p>REGAL APPLE</p> <p>12,396</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Evan Williams®</p> <p>11,085</p>	<p>10</p> <p>JIM BEAM</p> <p>8,715</p>

2020-2030

Retail Liquor Outlets

Monday Order Day
 Tuesday Order Day
 Wednesday Order Day
 Thursday Order Day
 Friday Order Day



Top Three (3) Retail Stores by Case Purchase

1. 544 - Ashbrooke Liquor Outlet (Monongalia County) 37673
2. 627 - King Cut Rate Tobacco dba King Spirits (Cabell County) 33944
3. 530 - Mini-giants (Wood County) 23771

Top Three (3) Retail Stores by Wholesale Purchase

1. 627 - King Cut Rate Tobacco dba King Spirits (Cabell County) \$5,367,844.29
2. 544 - Ashbrooke Liquor Outlet (Monongalia County) \$5,304,914.75
3. 530 - Mini-giants (Wood County) \$3,428,008.07



WEST VIRGINIA

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

900 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR
CHARLESTON, WV 25302

304-356-5500
1-800-642-8208 (TOLL FREE WITHIN WEST VIRGINIA)

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