

# **ANNUAL SYNAR REPORT**

**42 U.S.C. 300x-26**

OMB № 0930-0222

**FFY 2025**

**State: OK**

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	i
FFY 2025: Funding Agreements/Certifications.....	1
Section I: FFY 2024 (Compliance Progress).....	2
Section II: FFY 2025 (Intended Use).....	11
Appendix A: Forms 1–5.....	13
Appendixes B & C: Forms.....	20
Appendix B: Synar Survey Sampling Methodology .....	19
Appendix C: Synar Survey Inspection Protocol Summary.....	21
Appendix D: List Sampling Frame Coverage Study .....	25

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## INTRODUCTION

The Annual Synar Report (ASR) format provides the means for states to comply with the reporting provisions of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-26) and the Tobacco Regulation for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) (45 C.F.R. 96.130 (e)).

### **How the Synar report helps the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention**

In accordance with the tobacco regulations, states are required to provide detailed information on progress made in enforcing youth and young adult tobacco access laws (FFY 2024 Compliance Progress) and future plans to ensure compliance with the Synar requirements to reduce youth and young adult tobacco access rates (FFY 2025 Intended Use Plan). These data are required by 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 and will be used by the Secretary to evaluate state compliance with the statute. Part of the mission of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) is to assist states<sup>1</sup> by supporting Synar activities and providing technical assistance helpful in determining the type of enforcement measures and control strategies that are most effective. This information is helpful to CSAP in improving technical assistance resources and expertise on enforcement efforts and tobacco control program support activities, including state Synar program support services, through an enhanced technical assistance program involving conferences and workshops, development of training materials and guidance documents, and onsite technical assistance consultation.

### **How the Synar report can help states**

The information gathered for the Synar report can help states describe and analyze substate needs for program enhancements. These data can also be used to report to the state legislature and other state and local organizations on progress made to date in enforcing youth and young adult tobacco access laws when aggregated statistical data from state Synar reports can demonstrate to the Secretary the national progress in reducing youth and young adult tobacco access problems. This information will also provide Congress with a better understanding of state progress in implementing Synar, including state difficulties and successes in enforcing retailer compliance

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<sup>1</sup>The term “state” is used to refer to all the states and territories required to comply with Synar as part of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Program requirements (42 U.S.C. 300x-64 and 45 C.F.R. 96.121).

with youth and young adult tobacco access laws.

### **Getting assistance in completing the Synar report**

If you have questions about programmatic issues, you may call CSAP's Division of Primary Prevention at (240) 276-2550 and ask for your respective State Project Officer, or contact your State Project Officer directly by telephone or email. If you have questions about fiscal or grants management issues, you may call your Grants Management Specialist in the Office of Financial Resources, Division of Grants Management, at (240) 276-1422.

### **Where and when to submit the Synar report**

The ASR must be received by SAMHSA no later than December 31, 2024 and must be submitted in the format specified by these instructions. Use of the approved format will avoid delays in the review and approval process. The chief executive officer (or an authorized designee) of the applicant organization must sign page one of the ASR certifying that the state has complied with all reporting requirements.


The state must upload one copy of the ASR using the online WebBGAS (Block Grant Application System). In addition, the following items must be uploaded to WebBGAS:

- FFY 2025 Synar Survey Results: States that use the Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) must upload one copy of *SSES Tables 1–8* (in Excel) to WebBGAS. **Please note that, in the FFY 2025 ASR, SSES will generate Tables 6, 7, and 8, which are based on the optional microdata on product type, retail outlet type, and whether identification was requested. If your state does not submit these optional data, Tables 6, 7, and 8 will be blank. Tables 6, 7, and 8 are generated for the convenience of the state, and states are not required to submit completed versions of Tables 6, 7, or 8.** States that do not use SSES must upload one copy of ASR Forms 1, 4, and 5, and Forms 2 and 3, if applicable, (in Excel), as well as a database with the raw inspection data to WebBGAS.
- Synar Inspection Form: States must upload one blank copy of the inspection form used to record the result of each Synar inspection.
- Synar Inspection Protocol: States must upload a copy of the protocol used to train inspection teams on conducting and reporting the results of the Synar inspections. This document should be different than the Appendix C attached to the Annual Synar Report.
- A scanned copy of the signed Funding Agreements/Certifications

Each state SSA Director has been emailed a login ID and password to log onto the Synar section of the WebBGAS site.

## FFY 2025: FUNDING AGREEMENTS/CERTIFICATIONS

The following form must be signed by the Chief Executive Officer or an authorized designee and submitted with this application. Documentation authorizing a designee must be attached to the application.

<b>PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ACT AND SYNAR AMENDMENT</b>	
<p>42 U.S.C. 300x-26 requires each state to submit an annual report of its progress in meeting the requirements of the Synar Amendment and its implementing regulation (45 C.F.R. 96.130) to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. By signing below, the chief executive officer (or an authorized designee) of the applicant organization certifies that the state has complied with these reporting requirements and the certifications as set forth below.</p>	
<b>SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY</b>	
<p>The state certifies that the Synar survey sampling methodology on file with the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and submitted with the Annual Synar Report for FFY 2025 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.</p>	
<b>SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL</b>	
<p>The state certifies that the Synar Survey Inspection Protocol on file with the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and submitted with the Annual Synar Report for FFY 2025 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.</p>	
<b>State: Oklahoma</b>	
<b>Name of Chief Executive Officer or Designee: Allie Friesen</b>	
<b>Signature of CEO or Designee:</b>	
<b>Title:</b> Commissioner	<b>Date Signed:</b> 12/30/2024
<b>If signed by a designee, a copy of the designation must be attached.</b>	

**SECTION I: FFY 2024 (Compliance Progress)**

**YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT ACCESS LAWS, ACTIVITIES, AND ENFORCEMENT**

42 U.S.C. 300x-26 requires the states to report information regarding the sale/distribution of tobacco products to individuals under age 21.

**1. Please indicate any changes or additions to the state tobacco statute(s) relating to youth and young adult access since the last reporting year. If any changes were made to the state law(s) since the last reporting year, please upload a copy of the state law to WebBGAS. (see 42 U.S.C. 300x-26).**

**a. Has there been a change in the minimum sale age for tobacco products?**

Yes  No

*If Yes, current minimum age:*  19  20  21

**b. Have there been any changes in state law that impact the state’s protocol for conducting Synar inspections?**

Yes  No

*If Yes, indicate change. (Check all that apply.)*

- Changed to require that law enforcement conduct inspections of tobacco outlets
- Changed to make it illegal for youth and young adults to possess, purchase or receive tobacco
- Changed to require ID to purchase tobacco
- Changed definition of tobacco products
- Other change(s) *(Please describe.)* \_\_\_\_\_

**c. Have there been any changes in state law that impact the following?**

- Licensing of tobacco vendors  Yes  No
- Penalties for sales to minors  Yes  No
- Vending machines  Yes  No
- Added product categories to youth and young adult access law  Yes  No

**2. Describe how the Annual Synar Report (see 45 C.F.R. 96.130(e)) was made public within the state prior to submission of the ASR. (Check all that apply.)**

- Placed on file for public review
- Posted on a state agency Web site *(Please provide exact Web address and the date when the FFY 2025 ASR was posted to this Web address.)*

*Web address: <https://oklahoma.gov/odmhsas/prevention/business/synar-compliance.html>*

*Date published: 12/30/2024*

- Notice published in a newspaper or newsletter

- Public hearing
- Announced in a news release, a press conference, or discussed in a media interview
- Distributed for review as part of the SABG application process
- Distributed through the public library system
- Published in an annual register
- Other *(Please describe.)* \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Identify the following agency or agencies** *(see 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 and 45 C.F.R. 96.130).*

- a. The state agency(ies) designated by the Governor for oversight of the Synar requirements:**

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report?

- Yes  No

- b. The state agency(ies) responsible for conducting random, unannounced Synar inspections:**

Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Law Enforcement (ABLE) Commission

Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report?

- Yes  No

- c. The state agency(ies) responsible for enforcing youth and young adult tobacco access law(s):**

Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Law Enforcement (ABLE) Commission

Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report?

- Yes  No

**4. Identify the following agencies and describe their relationship with the agency responsible for the oversight of the Synar requirements.**

- a. Identify the state agency responsible for tobacco prevention activities (the agency that receives the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Tobacco Control Program funding).**

Oklahoma State Department of Health

- b. Has the responsible agency changed since last year's Annual Synar Report?**

- Yes  No

- c. Describe the coordination and collaboration that occur between the agency responsible for tobacco prevention and the agency responsible for oversight of the Synar requirements. (Check all that apply.) The two agencies**

- Are the same

- Have a formal written memorandum of agreement
- Have an informal partnership
- Conduct joint planning activities
- Combine resources
- Have other collaborative arrangement(s) *(Please describe.)* \_\_\_\_\_
- No relationship

**d. Does a state agency contract with the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Tobacco Products (FDA/CTP) to enforce the youth and young adult access and advertising restrictions in the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act?**

- Yes    No (if no, go to Question 5)

**e. If yes, identify the state agency responsible for enforcing the youth and young adult access and advertising restrictions in the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (the agency that is under contract to the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Tobacco Products (FDA/CTP)).**

*Oklahoma State Department of Health*

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**f. Has the responsible agency changed since last year’s Annual Synar Report?**

- Yes    No

**g. Describe the coordination and collaboration that occur between the agency contracted with the FDA to enforce federal youth and young adult tobacco access laws and the agency responsible for oversight of the Synar requirements. (Check all that apply.) The two agencies:**

- Are the same
- Have a formal written memorandum of agreement
- Have an informal partnership
- Conduct joint planning activities
- Combine resources
- Have other collaborative arrangement(s) *(Please describe.)* \_\_\_\_\_
- No relationship

**h. Does the state use data from the FDA enforcement inspections for Synar survey reporting?**

- Yes    No



5. Please answer the following questions regarding the state’s activities to enforce the state’s youth and young adult access to tobacco law(s) in FFY 2024 (see 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 and 45 C.F.R. 96.130(e)).

a. Which one of the following describes the enforcement of state youth and young adult access to tobacco laws carried out in your state? (Check one category only.)

- Enforcement is conducted exclusively by local law enforcement agencies.
- Enforcement is conducted exclusively by state agency(ies).
- Enforcement is conducted by both local *and* state agencies.

b. The following items concern penalties imposed for all violations of state youth and young adult access to tobacco laws by LOCAL AND/OR STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (this does not include enforcement of local laws or federal youth and young adult tobacco access laws). Please fill in the number requested. If state law does not allow for an item, please mark “NA” (not applicable). If a response for an item is unknown, please mark “UNK.” The chart must be filled in completely.

PENALTY	OWNERS	CLERKS	TOTAL
Number of <u>citations issued</u>	1	94	95
Number of <u>finest assessed</u>	1	91	92
Number of <u>permits/licenses suspended</u>	NA		NA
Number of <u>permits/licenses revoked</u>	NA		NA
Other (Please describe.)	NA	NA	NA

c. Are citations or warnings issued to retailers or clerks who sell tobacco to minors for inspections that are part of the Synar survey?

- Yes     No

If “Yes” to 5c, please describe the state’s procedure for minimizing risk of bias to the survey results from retailers alerting each other to the presence of the survey teams:

The Synar inspections are conducted by the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement (ABLE) Commission, who has no financial interest in the survey results. In addition, the ABLE Commission is obligated to issue citations regardless of the situation. Since the outlets are selected through a random sampling process, the chances of a retailer calling another retailer that will be inspected on that particular day are minimized.

d. Which one of the following best describes the level of enforcement of state youth and young adult access to tobacco laws carried out in your state? (Check one category only.)

- Enforcement is conducted only at those outlets randomly selected for the Synar survey.
- Enforcement is conducted only at a subset of outlets not randomly selected for the Synar survey.
- Enforcement is conducted at a combination of outlets randomly selected for the Synar survey and outlets not randomly selected for the Synar survey.

e. **Did every tobacco outlet in the state receive at least one compliance check that included enforcement of the state youth and young adult tobacco access law(s) in the last year?**

- Yes  No

f. **What additional activities are conducted in your state to support enforcement and compliance with state youth and young adult tobacco access law(s)?**  
*(Check all that apply and briefly describe each activity in the text boxes below each activity.)*

- Merchant education and/or training

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) has created an online retailer training program that helps to educate retailers in the importance of checking identification before selling any tobacco products. ValidateOK was created in 2022, after the passing of the Tobacco21 Act and has been used in the state of Oklahoma to continue to educate retailers on the importance of keeping tobacco out of the hands of youths. Retailers can receive promotional materials through this website that remind employees and those wanting to purchase tobacco products that individuals must be 21 years or older to purchase tobacco products and their location will ask for an individuals identification card before any purchase attempt.

Oklahoma’s community prevention providers are encouraged to visit local tobacco retailers, educate them on state youth access to tobacco laws and encourage them to adopt or enhance their establishment’s policy regarding youth access to tobacco.

The Oklahoma Prevention Policy Alliance Tobacco subcommittee continues to promote policies within retailers to check identifications before any purchase attempt, work with state legislators to increase tobacco taxes, which has shown to decrease tobacco sales across the state, and increase awareness of the dangers of youth access to tobacco and the dangers of tobacco use throughout the lifespan.

The TSET Healthy Living Program (HLP) seeks to lessen the burden of unhealthy behaviors before they take root. In FY24, TSET HLP grantees worked with 21 cities and towns across Oklahoma to update youth access to tobacco enabling ordinances. These ordinances updated the minimum purchase age to 21 and provided local law enforcement the ability to enforce the city’s youth access to tobacco laws. Additionally, TSET HLP grantees passed 14 local tobacco zoning ordinances. Grantees also completed 644 tobacco retail education visits and 43 tobacco compliance checks. During each visit, ValidateOK resources were disseminated to each tobacco retailer to provide them with further education about the tobacco laws in Oklahoma.

- Incentives for merchants who are in compliance (e.g., nonenforcement compliance checks in which compliant retailers are given positive reinforcement and noncompliant retailers are warned about youth and young adult access laws)

- Community education regarding youth and young adult access laws

Oklahoma consistently ranks among the states with the highest number of youth consuming highly addictive nicotine through vapor devices, according to the national Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The TSET funds multifaceted statewide media campaigns that address vape and tobacco use among Oklahoma youth ages 13-18. Down and Dirty is designed to change tobacco and vape-related attitudes and behaviors among rural teens. Behind the Haze delivers educational content exposing the truth about e-cigarettes and discouraging teens from vape use. To help those teens already struggling with tobacco use, TSET funds My Life My Quit, a program that offers text-based cessation coaching for Oklahoma youth 13-17.

Youth Action for Health Leadership (YAHL) is a youth-led program available to high school student clubs and organizations across Oklahoma. Through YAHL, teens learn invaluable leadership skills and gain resources to advocate for healthy changes in their communities. In FY24, YAHL partnered with 45 schools and organizations and engaged 1,162 youth across Oklahoma, totaling nearly 11,028 youth volunteer hours. As part of the program, youth had the opportunity to educate the public on two different campaigns called Elevate Student Health, which focuses on wellness policies in schools and CounterAct Tobacco, which focuses on the modernization of Oklahoma’s youth access to tobacco law.

The CounterAct Tobacco campaign aims to move the power out of big tobacco’s hands and into the hands of Oklahomans through the establishment of comprehensive tobacco retail licensing. The campaign focuses on the establishment of a law that would require retailers to have an e-cigarette and vapor license. Oklahoma is only one of 20 states without retail licensure for e-cigarettes. The campaign also promotes allowing local communities to create their own tobacco control ordinances. Oklahoma is one of only five states that have preemption on licensure, youth access and smoke-free indoor air. Preemption limits the ability of local authorities to regulate the use and sale of tobacco and vapor products.

During the second year of the CounterAct Tobacco campaign, YAHL groups held 68 events to promote the CounterAct Tobacco campaign, collected 7,308 surveys, held 21 partner presentations, posted 14 youth-written blogs, pitched 21 news stories, met with 32 legislators during the YAHL Day at the Capital and ran one Facebook ad campaign with a great deal of public engagement. The purpose of these efforts were to get the word out about the campaign and to educate the public on the campaign aims. Work on this campaign will continue to grow in SFY25. Between July – October of 2024, youth have collected 3,879 CounterAct Tobacco surveys, held three events, presented information about the campaign to five partner organizations, written four blogs and met with four local officials.

- Media use to publicize compliance inspection results

The ODMHSAS published a press release regarding the results of the ASR to all news outlets in Oklahoma including local newspapers, news stations and social media outlets.

The ASR results are published on the ODMHSAS website so the public may access the report at any time.

- Community mobilization to increase support for retailer compliance with youth and young adult access laws

State-contracted prevention service providers, such as TSET and OSDH, develop programming to work with local community-based coalitions to conduct environmental prevention approaches as part of a comprehensive community prevention action plan and coordinate youth leadership opportunities to increase support for retailer compliance.

- Other activities *(Please list.)* FDA Compliance Checks; Sheriff's Department Compliance Checks; School Prevention Services

The FDA Tobacco Retail Compliance program, overseen by the OSDH, utilizes state police officers (hereafter called inspectors) and underage buyers aged 16-20 to conduct random tobacco sales compliance checks all over Oklahoma. Underage buyers carry their state ID (driver's license or identification card) detailing their birthday and a photo. The Oklahoma ABLE Commission – which is responsible for enforcing the Synar provisions - also conducts compliance checks using a similar process. If an illegal sale is completed during an FDA check, the FDA can elect to issue warning letters and monetary fines; whereas ABLE has the option to directly fine the retail clerk or give a verbal warning. After all ABLE compliance checks, the retailer is given materials that direct them to the Validateok.com website for training. Validateok.com is a retailer training program created by OSDH and its many partners, to impact the point of sale via training. It includes modules designed to train retail staff on the T21 law and provide information about checking IDs to ensure they are valid. The OSDH also directly mails ValidateOK.com kits to each retailer that was cited for an illegal sale during the FDA checks each quarter.

The ODMHSAS partnered with the Oklahoma County and Tulsa County Sheriff's Departments to conduct 86 additional tobacco compliance checks, including retailers who violated during the FFY24 Synar inspections. These compliance checks were funded by TSET and were completed from January to June 2024. The results showed increased retailer compliance and understanding the importance of reducing youth access to tobacco.

The ODMHSAS has partnered with M.D. Anderson Cancer Center to develop a system of support for implementation of the tobacco prevention education and cessation program, ASPIRE (A Smoking Prevention Interactive Experience), in the state of Oklahoma. The program can be implemented either as a universal prevention strategy, where students in classrooms will receive programming on evidence-based prevention education, or as a early intervention for students who are caught with a tobacco/vape product. Previously, the ODMHSAS worked collaboratively with the ABLE Commission to refer students who are caught with tobacco or vape products to complete the ASPIRE program in lieu of issuing a

citation. However, due to changes in state legislation effective November 2023, the ABLE Commission no longer oversees student tobacco citations resulting in a large decrease in use of the ASPIRE program. In FFY 2024, there were 9 students referred, with 8 students completing the program. Students complete a pre and post assessment and in FFY 2024 there was an average 12.9% overall knowledge gained through completion of the program. The ODMHSAS has developed a strategic plan to promote ASPIRE for use as a universal prevention program to increase usage.

The ODMHSAS partners directly with schools across the state to implement Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST), an evidence-based substance use and violence prevention program that has been proven to reduce the risk of alcohol, tobacco, drug use, and violence among children and teens. Botvin LST programs teach skills in drug resistance, personal self-management, healthy alternatives to risky behaviors, and general social interactions. In addition, the ODMHSAS partners with the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs and Youth Service Agencies to implement Botvin LST programs in schools across the state which has been particularly beneficial to rural districts that do not have the capacity to implement without the support of the YSA. During the 2023-2024 school year, Botvin LST was implemented at 86 school sites across 58 districts. 2,253 students ranging in grades 3rd-12th completed pre and post assessments.

Results from the Elementary School programs (3rd-5th grade) show an increase of 24.79% in anti-smoking knowledge; Middle School program (6th-8th grade) show an increase of 19.84% in anti-drug knowledge; High School program (9th/10th grade) show an increase of 9.98% in self-control skills; and the Transitions program (11th/12th grade) show an increase of 7.5% in drug refusal skills.

## SYNAR SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

The following questions pertain to the survey methodology and results of the Synar survey used by the state to meet the requirements of the Synar Regulation in FFY 2024 (see 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 and 45 C.F.R. 96.130).

**6. Has the sampling methodology changed from the previous year?**

Yes  No

*The state is required to have an approved up-to-date description of the Synar sampling methodology on file with CSAP. Please submit a copy of your Synar Survey Sampling Methodology (Appendix B). If the sampling methodology changed from the previous reporting year, these changes must be reflected in the methodology submitted.*

**a. If yes, describe how and when this change was communicated to SAMHSA**

**7. Please answer the following questions regarding the state’s annual random, unannounced inspections of tobacco outlets (see 45 C.F.R. 96.130(d)(2)).**

**a. Did the state use the optional Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) to analyze the Synar survey data?**

Yes  No

*If Yes, upload a copy of SSES tables 1–8 (in Excel) to WebBGAS. Then go to Question 8. If No, continue to Question 7b.*

**b. Report the weighted and unweighted Retailer Violation Rate (RVR) estimates, the standard error, accuracy rate (number of eligible outlets divided by the total number of sampled outlets), and completion rate (number of eligible outlets inspected divided by the total number of eligible outlets).**

**Unweighted RVR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Weighted RVR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Standard error (s.e.) of the (weighted) RVR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fill in the blanks to calculate the right limit of the right-sided 95% confidence interval.**

$$\text{RVR Estimate} + (1.645 \text{ times Standard Error}) = \text{Right Limit}$$

**Accuracy rate** \_\_\_\_\_

**Completion rate** \_\_\_\_\_

c. **Fill out Form 1 in Appendix A (Forms 1–5).** *(Required regardless of the sample design.)*

d. **How were the (weighted) RVR estimate and its standard error obtained?**  
*(Check the one that applies.)*

- Form 2 (Optional) in Appendix A (Forms 1–5) *(Attach completed Form 2.)*  
 Other *(Please specify. Provide formulas and calculations or attach and explain the program code and output with description of all variable names.)*

e. **If stratification was used, did any strata in the sample contain only one outlet or cluster this year?**

- Yes  No  No stratification

*If Yes, explain how this situation was dealt with in variance estimation.*

f. **Was a cluster sample design used?**

- Yes  No

*If Yes, fill out and attach Form 3 in Appendix A (Forms 1–5), and answer the following question.*

*If No, go to Question 7g.*

**Were any certainty primary sampling units selected this year?**

- Yes  No

*If Yes, explain how the certainty clusters were dealt with in variance estimation.*

g. **Report the following outlet sample sizes for the Synar survey.**

	Sample Size
<b>Effective sample size</b> (sample size needed to meet the SAMHSA precision requirement assuming simple random sampling)	
<b>Target sample size</b> (the product of the effective sample size and the design effect)	
<b>Original sample size</b> (inflated sample size of the target sample to counter the sample attrition due to ineligibility and noncompletion)	
<b>Eligible sample size</b> (number of outlets found to be eligible in the sample)	
<b>Final sample size</b> (number of eligible outlets in the sample for which an inspection was completed)	

h. **Fill out Form 4 in Appendix A (Forms 1–5).**

**8. Did the state’s Synar survey use a list frame?**

Yes  No

*If Yes, answer the following questions about its coverage.*

**a. The calendar year of the latest Sampling frame coverage study: 2022**

**b. Percent coverage from the latest Sampling frame coverage study: 98.8%**

**c. Was a new study conducted in this reporting period?**

Yes  No

*If Yes, please complete Appendix D (List Sampling Frame Coverage Study) and submit it with the Annual Synar Report.*

**d. The calendar year of the next coverage study planned: 2027**

**9. Has the Synar survey inspection protocol changed from the previous year?**

Yes  No

*The state is required to have an approved up-to-date description of the Synar inspection protocol on file with CSAP. Please submit a copy of your Synar Survey Inspection Protocol (Appendix C). If the inspection protocol changed from the previous year, these changes must be reflected in the protocol submitted.*

**a. If Yes, describe how and when this change was communicated to SAMHSA**

**b. Provide the inspection period: From 05/28/2024 to 08/01/2024**  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

**c. Provide the number of youth and young adult inspectors used in the current inspection year:**

16

NOTE: If the state uses SSES, please ensure that the number reported in 9b matches that reported in SSES Table 4, or explain any difference.

**d. Fill out and attach Form 5 in Appendix A (Forms 1–5). (Not required if the state used SSES to analyze the Synar survey data.)**



## SECTION II: FFY 2025 (Intended Use):

Public Law 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 of the Public Health Service Act and 45 C.F.R. 96.130 (e) (4, 5) require that the states provide information on future plans to ensure compliance with the Synar requirements to reduce youth and young adult tobacco access.

**1. In the upcoming year, does the state anticipate any changes in:**

Synar sampling methodology  Yes  No

Synar inspection protocol  Yes  No

*If changes are made in either the Synar sampling methodology or the Synar inspection protocol, the state is required to obtain approval from CSAP prior to implementation of the change and file an updated Synar Survey Sampling Methodology (Appendix B) or an updated Synar Survey Inspection Protocol (Appendix C), as appropriate.*

**2. Please describe the state's plans to maintain and/or reduce the target rate for Synar inspections to be completed in FFY 2025. Include a brief description of plans for law enforcement efforts to enforce youth and young adult tobacco access laws, activities that support law enforcement efforts to enforce youth and young adult tobacco access laws, and any anticipated changes in youth and young adult tobacco access legislation or regulation in the state.**

Oklahoma will continue to make the reduction of youth access to tobacco a top priority. The ODMHSAS will continue to conduct Synar inspections with the assistance of other agency partnerships. The local coalitions are collaborating with city, county officials, and local law enforcement to carry out community compliance checks. Cities and towns with enabling ordinances in place provide enforcement of youth access laws and continue to be encouraged in their efforts by community coalitions.

Notification letters of noncompliance signed by the ODMHSAS Commissioner, the ABLE Commission Director and the Oklahoma State Attorney General were sent to tobacco licensees where tobacco was sold during Synar inspections. Copies of these letters were also sent to community officials. Letters will continue to be sent each year to noncomplying businesses.

The ABLE Commission and the Oklahoma Tax Commission will continue proceedings related to tobacco retailers' licenses that have received three citations for selling tobacco to a minor in the past two years. Additionally, the ABLE Commission and local law enforcement agencies will continue to ensure previous violators are monitored.

The ODMHSAS and other agency partners will continue to increase retailer education by making direct contact to Oklahoma's tobacco merchants through mailers. Additionally, the ODMHSAS will continue to collaborate with other agency partners on improving program procedures and state guidelines in efforts to strengthen enforcement against underage tobacco sales, reduce youth access to tobacco, and increase community awareness.

Synar inspection results will be communicated by the ODMHSAS and other agencies through press releases and presentations. The Synar Coordinator will discuss with ODMHSAS's funded community subrecipients about how they can communicate Synar results and disseminate education materials to retailers in their communities. The Synar Coordinator will also present results to various audiences such as the TSET Board of Directors, the Oklahoma State Medical Association, tobacco workgroups and community programs working to combat tobacco use among youth.

The Tobacco Control Workgroup comprised of various state agencies, the American Lung Association, and other stakeholders will continue to meet regularly to address youth access to tobacco. This workgroup is continuing to work together and collaborate on ideas to maintain and lower our retailer violation rate through media, programming, and statewide compliance checks.

**3. Describe any challenges the state faces in complying with the Synar regulation. (Check all that apply and describe each challenge in the text box below it.)**

- Limited resources for law enforcement of youth and young adult access laws

The ABLE Commission continues to have a limited number of agents to conduct tobacco inspections due an overall smaller agency size. An increase in financial resources is not expected in the upcoming year to increase the number of agents available to conduct compliance checks.

- Limited resources for activities to support enforcement and compliance with youth and young adult tobacco access laws

One challenge the state of Oklahoma continues to face with combatting youth access to tobacco comes down to the financial ability to conduct additional tobacco compliance checks year-round. The ODMHSAS does not have supplementary funds to support additional compliance checks to be completed in areas where retailer violation rates continue to be higher than the state average. Law enforcement agencies in these regions often do not have the workforce capacity to complete these without being paid overtime. Regions with higher retailer violation rates should be prioritized to have additional tobacco compliance checks completed year-round through state funding.

- Limitations in the state youth and young adult tobacco access laws

- Limited public support for enforcement of youth and young adult tobacco access laws

- Limitations on completeness/accuracy of list of tobacco outlets

The list of licensed outlets provided from the Oklahoma Tax Commission used to draw the sample includes outlets with expired licenses, those that are no longer in business or those who have become a medical cannabis dispensary. This results in a large amount of staff time allocated to cleaning the list of licensed outlets.

Limited expertise in survey methodology

Laws/regulations limiting the use of minors in tobacco inspections

Difficulties recruiting youth and young adult inspectors

Recruitment of youth inspectors is difficult, and the availability of youth is limited to serve in rural areas or to travel to rural areas. ABLE agents must work around the youths' schedules during the summer.

Issues regarding the balance of inspections conducted by youth inspectors age 15 and under

Issues regarding the balance of inspections conducted by one gender of youth and young adult inspectors

Geographic, demographic, and logistical considerations in conducting inspections

Oklahoma is a rural state with long distances between communities. These long distances can make it expensive and logistically difficult for ABLE Commission agents to conduct frequent and/or repeated visits to licensed tobacco outlets.

Cultural factors (e.g., language barriers, young people purchasing for their elders)

Issues regarding sources of tobacco under tribal jurisdiction

There are 39 tribes in Oklahoma. The ABLE Commission and local law enforcement agencies are unable to enforce state laws at the outlets owned and operated by the tribes. To address this issue, the OSDH currently partners with three tribes in Oklahoma to implement tobacco prevention, protection, and cessation services. In addition, one of the contractors will be working with tribal retailers on the point of sales marketing.

Other challenges (*Please list.*) Fiscal Challenges

## APPENDIX A: FORMS 1–5

### FORM 1 (Required for all states not using the Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) to analyze the Synar Survey data)

Complete Form 1 to report sampling frame and sample information and to calculate the unweighted retailer violation rate (RVR) using results from the current year’s Synar survey inspections.

**Instructions for Completing Form 1:** In the top right-hand corner of the form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2025). Provide the remaining information by stratum if stratification was used. Make copies of the form if additional rows are needed to list all the strata.

Column 1: *If stratification was used:*

1(a) Sequentially number each row.

1(b) Write in the name of each stratum. All strata in the state must be listed.

*If no stratification was used:*

1(a) Leave blank.

1(b) Write “state” in the first row (indicates that the whole state is a single stratum).

*Note for unstratified samples: For Columns 2–5, wherever the instruction refers to “each stratum,” report the specified information for the state as a whole.*

Column 2: 2(a) Report the number of over-the-counter (OTC) outlets in the sampling frame in each stratum.

2(b) Report the number of vending machine (VM) outlets in the sampling frame in each stratum.

2(c) Report the combined total of OTC and VM outlets in the sampling frame in each stratum.

Column 3: 3(a) Report the estimated number of eligible OTC outlets in the OTC outlet population in each stratum.

3(b) Report the estimated number of eligible VM outlets in the VM outlet population in each stratum.

3(c) Report the combined total estimated number of eligible OTC and VM outlets in the total outlet population in each stratum.

*The estimates for Column 3 can be obtained from the Synar survey sample as the weighted sum of eligible outlets by outlet type.*

Column 4: 4(a) Report the number of eligible OTC outlets for which an inspection was completed, for each stratum.

4(b) Report the numbers of eligible VM outlets for which an inspection was completed, for each stratum.

4(c) Report the combined total of eligible OTC and VM outlets for which an inspection was completed, for each stratum.

Column 5: 5(a) Report the number of OTC outlets found in violation of the law as a result of completed inspections, for each stratum.

5(b) Report the number of VM outlets found in violation of the law as a result of completed inspections, for each stratum.

5(c) Report the combined total of OTC and VM outlets found in violation of the law as a result of completed inspections, for each stratum.

Totals: For each subcolumn (a–c) in Columns 2–5, provide totals for the state as a whole in the last row of the table. These numbers will be the sum of the numbers in each row for the respective column.

**FORM 1 (Required for all states not using the Synar Survey Estimation System [SSES] to analyze the Synar Survey data.)**

<b>Summary of Synar Inspection Results by Stratum</b>													State: _____	
													FFY: <u>2025</u>	
(1)		(2)			(3)			(4)			(5)			
STRATUM		NUMBER OF OUTLETS IN SAMPLING FRAME			ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE OUTLETS IN POPULATION			NUMBER OF OUTLETS INSPECTED			NO. OF OUTLETS FOUND IN VIOLATION DURING INSPECTIONS			
(a) Row #	(b) Stratum Name	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines (VM)	(c) Total Outlets (2a+2b)	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines (VM)	(c) Total Outlets (3a+3b)	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines (VM)	(c) Total Outlets (4a+4b)	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines (VM)	(c) Total Outlets (5a+5b)	

**RECORD COLUMN TOTALS ON LAST LINE (LAST PAGE ONLY IF MULTIPLE PAGES ARE NEEDED).**

## **FORM 2 (Optional)**

### **Appropriate for stratified simple or systematic random sampling designs.**

Complete Form 2 to calculate the weighted RVR. This table (in Excel form) is designed to calculate the weighted RVR for stratified simple or systematic random sampling designs, accounting for ineligible outlets and noncomplete inspections encountered during the annual Synar survey.

**Instructions for Completing Form 2:** In the top right-hand corner of the form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2025).

- Column 1: Write in the name of each stratum into which the sample was divided. These should match the strata reported in Column 1(b) of Form 1.
- Column 2: Report the number of outlets in the sampling frame in each stratum. These numbers should match the numbers reported for the respective strata in Column 2(c) of Form 1.
- Column 3: Report the original sample size (the number of outlets originally selected, *including* substitutes or replacements) for each stratum.
- Column 4: Report the number of sample outlets in each stratum that were found to be eligible during the inspections. Note that this number must be less than or equal to the number reported in Column 3 for the respective strata.
- Column 5: Report the number of eligible outlets in each stratum for which an inspection was completed. Note that this number must be less than or equal to the number reported in Column 4. These numbers should match the numbers reported in Column 4(c) of Form 1 for the respective strata.
- Column 6: Report the number of eligible outlets inspected in each stratum that were found in violation. These numbers should match the numbers reported in Column 5(c) of Form 1 for the stratum.
- Column 7: Form 2 (in Excel form) will automatically calculate the stratum RVR for each stratum in this column. This is calculated by dividing the number of inspected eligible outlets found in violation (Column 6) by the number of inspected eligible outlets (Column 5). The state unweighted RVR will be shown in the Total row of Column 7.
- Column 8: Form 2 (in Excel form) will automatically calculate the estimated number of eligible outlets in the population for each stratum. This calculation is made by multiplying the number of outlets in the sampling frame (Column 2) times the number of eligible outlets (Column 4) divided by the original sample size (Column 3). Note that these numbers will be less than or equal to the numbers in Column 2.
- Column 9: Form 2 (in Excel form) will automatically calculate the relative stratum weight by dividing the estimated number of eligible outlets in the population for each stratum in Column 8 by the Total of the values in Column 8.
- Column 10: Form 2 (in Excel form) will automatically calculate each stratum's contribution to the state weighted RVR by multiplying the stratum RVR (Column 7) by the relative stratum weight (Column 9). The weighted RVR for the state will be shown in the Total row of Column 10.
- Column 11: Form 2 (in Excel form) automatically calculates the standard error of each stratum's RVR (Column 7). The standard error for the state weighted RVR will be shown in the Total row of Column 11.
- TOTAL: For Columns 2–6, Form 2 (in Excel form) provides totals for the state as a whole in the last row of the table. For Columns 7–11, it calculates the respective statistic for the state as a whole.

**FORM 2 (Optional) Appropriate for stratified simple or systematic random sampling designs.**

<b>Calculation of Weighted Retailer Violation Rate</b>										
										State: _____
										FFY: <u>2025</u>
(1) Stratum Name	(2) N Number of Outlets in Sampling Frame	(3) n Original Sample Size	(4) n1 Number of Sample Outlets Found Eligible	(5) n2 Number of Outlets Inspected	(6) x Number of Outlets Found in Violation	(7) p=x/n2 Stratum Retailer Violation Rate	(8) N'=N(n1/n) Estimated Number of Eligible Outlets in Population	(9) w=N'/Total Column 8 Relative Stratum Weight	(10) pw Stratum Contribution to State Weighted RVR	(11) s.e. Standard Error of Stratum RVR
<b>Total</b>										

- N - number of outlets in sampling frame
- n - original sample size (number of outlets in the original sample)
- n1 - number of sample outlets that were found to be eligible
- n2 - number of eligible outlets that were inspected
- x - number of inspected outlets that were found in violation
- p - stratum retailer violation rate (p=x/n2)
- N' - estimated number of eligible outlets in population (N'=N\*n1/n)
- w - relative stratum weight (w=N'/Total Column 8)
- pw - stratum contribution to the weighted RVR
- s.e. - standard error of the stratum RVR

**FORM 3 (Required when a cluster design is used for all states not using the Synar Survey Estimation System [SSES] to analyze the Synar survey data.)**

Complete Form 3 to report information about primary sampling units when a cluster design was used for the Synar survey.

**Instructions for Completing Form 3:** In the top right-hand corner of the form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2025).

Provide information by stratum if stratification was used. Make copies of the form if additional rows are needed to list all the strata.

Column 1: Sequentially number each row.

Column 2: *If stratification was used:* Write in the name of stratum. All strata in the state must be listed.

*If no stratification was used:* Write “state” in the first row to indicate that the whole state constitutes a single stratum.

Column 3: Report the number of primary sampling units (PSUs) (i.e., first-stage clusters) created for each stratum.

Column 4: Report the number of PSUs selected in the original sample for each stratum.

Column 5: Report the number of PSUs in the final sample for each stratum.

TOTALS: For Columns 3–5, provide totals for the state as a whole in the last row of the table.

<b>Summary of Clusters Created and Sampled</b>				
<b>State:</b> _____				
<b>FFY:</b> 2025 _____				
(1) Row #	(2) Stratum Name	(3) Number of PSUs Created	(4) Number of PSUs Selected	(5) Number of PSUs in the Final Sample
<b>Total</b>				



**FORM 4 (Required for all states not using the Synar Survey Estimation System [SSES] to analyze the Synar Survey data)**

Complete Form 4 to provide detailed tallies of ineligible sample outlets by reasons for ineligibility and detailed tallies of eligible sample outlets with noncomplete inspections by reasons for noncompletion.

**Instructions for Completing Form 4:** In the top right-hand corner of the form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2025).

Column 1(a): Enter the number of sample outlets found ineligible for inspection by reason for ineligibility. Provide the total number of ineligible outlets in the row marked “Total.”

Column 2(a): Enter the number of eligible sample outlets with noncomplete inspections by reason for noncompletion. Provide the total number of eligible outlets with noncomplete inspections in the row marked “Total.”

<b>Inspection Tallies by Reason of Ineligibility or Noncompletion</b>			
		State: _____	
		FFY: 2025	
(1) INELIGIBLE		(2) ELIGIBLE	
Reason for Ineligibility	(a) Counts	Reason for Noncompletion	(a) Counts
Out of business		In operation but closed at time of visit	
Does not sell tobacco products		Unsafe to access	
Inaccessible by youth or young adult		Presence of police	
Private club or private residence		Youth or young adult inspector knows salesperson	
Temporary closure		Moved to new location	
Unlocatable		Drive-thru only/youth or young adult inspector has no driver’s license	
Wholesale only/Carton sale only		Tobacco out of stock	
Vending machine broken		Ran out of time	
Duplicate		Other noncompletion reason(s) <i>(Describe.)</i>	
Other ineligibility reason(s) <i>(Describe.)</i>			
<b>Total</b>		<b>Total</b>	

**FORM 5 (Required for all states not using the Synar Survey Estimation System [SSES] to analyze the Synar survey data)**

Complete Form 5 to show the distribution of outlet inspection results by age and gender of the youth and young adult inspectors.

**Instructions for Completing Form 5:** In the top right-hand corner of the form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2025).

Column 1: Enter the number of attempted buys by youth and young adult inspector age and gender.

Column 2: Enter the number of successful buys by youth and young adult inspector age and gender.

If the inspectors are age eligible but the gender of the inspector is unknown, include those inspections in the “Other” row. Calculate subtotals for males and females in rows marked “Male Subtotal” and “Female Subtotal.” Sum subtotals for Male, Female, and Other and record in the bottom row marked “Total.” Verify that that the total of attempted buys and successful buys equals the total for Column 4(c) and Column 5(c), respectively, on Form 1. If the totals do not match, please explain any discrepancies.

<b>Synar Survey Inspector Characteristics</b>		
		<b>State:</b> _____
		<b>FFY:</b> 2025 _____
	(1) Attempted Buys	(2) Successful Buys
<b>Male</b>		
15 years		
16 years		
17 years		
18 years		
19 years		
20 years		
<b>Male Subtotal</b>		
<b>Female</b>		
15 years		
16 years		
17 years		
18 years		
19 years		
20 years		
<b>Female Subtotal</b>		
<b>Other</b>		
<b>Total</b>		

## **APPENDIXES B & C: FORMS**

### Instructions

Appendix B (Sampling Design) and Appendix C (Inspection Protocol) are to reflect the state's CSAP-approved sampling design and inspection protocol. These appendixes, therefore, should generally describe the design and protocol and, with the exception of Question #10 of Appendix B, are not to be modified with year-specific information. Please note that any changes to either appendix must receive CSAP's advance, written approval. To facilitate the state's completion of this section, simply cut and paste the previously approved sampling design (Appendix B) and inspection protocol (Appendix C) and respond to Question #10 of Appendix B to provide the requested information about sample size calculations for the Synar survey conducted in FFY 2024.

## APPENDIX B: SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

State: Oklahoma  
 FFY: 2025

**1. What type of sampling frame is used?**

- List frame (*Go to Question 2.*)
- Area frame (*Go to Question 3.*)
- List-assisted area frame (*Go to Question 2.*)

**2. List all sources of the list frame. Indicate the type of source from the list below. Provide a brief description of the frame source. Explain how the lists are updated (method), including how new outlets are identified and added to the frame. In addition, explain how often the lists are updated (cycle). (*After completing this question, go to Question 4.*)**

*Use the corresponding number to indicate Type of Source in the table below.*

- 1 – Statewide commercial business list
- 4 – Statewide retail license/permit list
- 2 – Local commercial business list
- 5 – Statewide liquor license/permit list
- 3 – Statewide tobacco license/permit list
- 6 – Other

Name of Frame Source	Type of Source	Description	Updating Method and Cycle
Oklahoma Tax Commission	3	List of all business licenses that include a cigarette and/or tobacco license.	Receive a new list each year from the Oklahoma Tax Commission. The list includes all outlets that have purchased a three-year license to sell cigarettes or other tobacco products. After the review to determine if all ineligible outlets from the previous year's sample are still ineligible, they are removed from the new sample. In addition, all questionable outlets are called to verify the type of business and accessibility to youth.

**3. If an area frame is used, describe how area sampling units are defined and formed.**

**a. Is any area left out in the formation of the area frame?**

- Yes    No

*If Yes, what percentage of the state's population is not covered by the area frame?*

\_\_\_\_\_ %

**4. Federal regulation requires that vending machines be inspected as part of the Synar survey. Are vending machines included in the Synar survey?**

Yes  No

*If No, please indicate the reason(s) they are not included in the Synar survey. Please check all that apply.*

- State law bans vending machines.
- State law bans vending machines from locations accessible to youth and young adults.
- State has a contract with the FDA and is actively enforcing the vending machine requirements of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.
- Other (Please describe.) \_\_\_\_\_

*If Yes, please indicate how likely it is that vending machines will be sampled.*

- Vending machines are sampled separately to ensure vending machines are included in the sample
- Vending machines are sampled together with over the counter outlets, so it is possible that no vending machines were sampled, however they are included in the sampling frame and have a non-zero probability of selection
- Other reasons (Please describe.) \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Which category below best describes the sample design? (Check only one.)**

**Census** (STOP HERE: Appendix B is complete.)

**Unstratified statewide sample:**

- Simple random sample (Go to Question 9.)
- Systematic random sample (Go to Question 6.)
- Single-stage cluster sample (Go to Question 8.)
- Multistage cluster sample (Go to Question 8.)

**Stratified sample:**

- Simple random sample (Go to Question 7.)
- Systematic random sample (Go to Question 6.)
- Single-stage cluster sample (Go to Question 7.)
- Multistage cluster sample (Go to Question 7.)
- Other** (Please describe and go to Question 9.) \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Describe the systematic sampling methods. (After completing Question 6, go to Question 7 if stratification is used. Otherwise go to Question 9.)**

**7. Provide the following information about stratification.**

**a. Provide a full description of the strata that are created.**

Seventeen strata were created by a single or combination of counties.

**b. Is clustering used within the stratified sample?**

**Yes** (Go to Question 8.)

**No** (Go to Question 9.)

**8. Provide the following information about clustering.**

**a. Provide a full description of how clusters are formed. (If multistage clusters are used, give definitions of clusters at each stage.)**

**b. Specify the sampling method (simple random, systematic, or probability proportional to size sampling) for each stage of sampling and describe how the method(s) is (are) implemented.**

**9. Provide the following information about determining the Synar Sample.**

**a. Was the Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) used to calculate the sample size?**

**Yes** (Respond to part b.)

**No** (Respond to part c and Question 10c.)

**b. SSES Sample Size Calculator used?**

**State Level** (Respond to Question 10a.)

**Stratum Level** (Respond to Question 10a and 10b.)

**c. Provide the formulas for determining the effective, target, and original outlet sample sizes.**

**10. Provide the following information about sample size calculations for the Synar survey conducted in FFY 2024.**

**a. If the state uses the sample size formulas embedded in the SSES Sample Size Calculator to calculate the state level sample size, please provide the following information:**

**Inputs for Effective Sample Size:**

RVR: 13.8%

Frame Size: 3,862

**Input for Target Sample Size:**

Design Effect: 0.9

**Inputs for Original Sample Size:**

Safety Margin: 50%

Accuracy (Eligibility) Rate: 89.1%

Completion Rate: 99.3%

- b. If the state uses the sample size formulas embedded in the SSES Sample Size Calculator to calculate the stratum level sample sizes, please provide the stratum level information:**

--

Stratum ID	Stratum Size	Stratum Sample Size (Proportional)
1	105	14
2	174	23
3	192	26
4	276	36
5	185	24
6	171	22
7	127	17
8	232	31
9	110	15
10	335	44
11	220	29
12	153	20
13	157	21
14	151	20
15	137	18
16	686	89
17	451	59
	3,862	508

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- c. If the state does not use the sample size formulas embedded in the SSES Sample Size Calculator, please provide all inputs required to calculate the effective, target, and original sample sizes as indicated in Question 9.**

--

# APPENDIX C: SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

State: Oklahoma  
FFY: 2025

*Note: Upload to WebBGAS a copy of the Synar inspection form under the heading “Synar Inspection Form” and a copy of the protocol used to train inspection teams on conducting and reporting the results of the Synar inspections under the heading “Synar Inspection Protocol.”*

## 1. How does the state Synar survey protocol address the following?

### a. Consummated buy attempts?

- Required
- Permitted under specified circumstances (Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ )
- Not permitted

### b. Youth and young adult inspectors to carry ID?

- Required
- Permitted under specified circumstances (Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ )
- Not permitted

### c. Adult inspectors to enter the outlet?

- Required
- Permitted under specified circumstances (Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ )
- Not permitted

### d. Youth and young adult inspectors to be compensated?

- Required
- Permitted under specified circumstances (Describe: While it is not required, the majority of the time youth/young adults are compensated for their time while conducting the tobacco Synar inspections. However, if a youth/adult needs volunteer hours, the ABLE Commission has the authority to provide those hours to the youth/young adult inspectors in lieu of compensation.)
- Not permitted

## 2. Identify the agency(ies) or entity(ies) that actually conduct the random, unannounced Synar inspections of tobacco outlets. (Check all that apply.)

- Law enforcement agency(ies)
- State or local government agency(ies) other than law enforcement
- Private contractor(s)
- Other



List the agency name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Are Synar inspections combined with law enforcement efforts (i.e., do law enforcement representatives issue warnings or citations to retailers found in violation of the law at the time of the inspection?)?**

Always    Usually    Sometimes    Rarely    Never

- 4. Describe the type of tobacco products that are requested during Synar inspections.**

- a. What type of tobacco products are requested during the inspection?**

Cigarettes  
 Small Cigars  
 Cigarillos  
 Smokeless Tobacco  
 Electronic Cigarettes/Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)  
 Other

- b. Describe the protocol for identifying what types of products and what brands of products are requested during an inspection.**

**c.** Youth/young adult inspectors request the tobacco product that is most widely used by youth/young adults in the area of the inspection. In general, youth/young adult inspectors request Marlboro, Camel, Skoal, Grizzly, Swisher Sweets.

- 5a. Describe the methods used to recruit, select, and train adult supervisors.**

The ABLE Commission agents meet with the ODMHSAS staff prior to the beginning of the Synar inspections to review the importance of Synar, results from previous year, and any changes in the sampling methodology and inspection procedure.

- 5b. Describe the methods used to recruit, select, and train youth and young adult inspectors.**

Several of the youth/young adults are relatives or friends of the ABLE Commission agents. Some youth/young adults come from local programs, homeschool groups, and occasionally recruited through a temporary employment services agency. At a minimum, youth inspectors must be 16 years of age. Parental/guardian consent is required for youth inspectors ages 16 and 17, and parental/guardian participation in the training and debriefing are strongly encouraged. The ABLE Commission agents train the youth/young adult inspectors prior to their participated of the inspections. Initial training takes approximately one hour

- 6. Are there specific legal or procedural requirements instituted by the state to address the issue of youth and young adult inspectors' immunity when conducting inspections?**

- a. Legal**

Yes    No

*(If Yes, please describe.)*

The Prevention of Youth Access to Tobacco Act, Title 63 §229.11, allows youth under 21 to be enlisted for compliance checks and enforcement by law enforcement personnel if the inspection is carried out under the direction of the law enforcement staff.

**b. Procedural**

Yes  No

*(If Yes, please describe.)*

**7. Are there specific legal or procedural requirements instituted by the state to address the issue of the safety of youth and young adult inspectors during all aspects of the Synar inspection process?**

**a. Legal**

Yes  No

*(If Yes, please describe.)*

**b. Procedural**

Yes  No

*(If Yes, please describe.)*

**8. Are there any other legal or procedural requirements the state has regarding how inspections are to be conducted (e.g., age of youth and young adult inspector, time of inspections, training that must occur)?**

**a. Legal**

Yes  No

*(If Yes, please describe.)*

**b. Procedural**

Yes  No

*(If Yes, please describe.)*

The ABLE Commission has a protocol instructing agents regarding the use of 17-20 year old inspectors in testing compliance with tobacco laws. The protocol for utilization of 17 year-old youth inspectors specifically includes instructions regarding: parental participation in recruitment and briefings; written parental

consent; photos to be taken of the youth inspector prior to each day of inspections; background checks; use of true identification; appearance of the youth inspectors; and information required for each inspection.

The ODMHSAS and the ABLE Commission staff will work together each year to train the ABLE Commission agents. The training consists of an overview of the importance of Synar, a review of the agent inspection forms, contracted requirements to assure statistical validity, and discussions regarding the ABLE Commission's procedures and youth/young adult safety.

Due to the distances the ABLE Commission agents must travel, there are no time requirements for the actual inspections other than the completion of the inspections by September 5th. The majority of the inspections take place during the summer months when youth/young adults are typically available during the day and not involved in school activities. If not during the summer months, the ABLE Commission agents will accommodate the youth/young adult inspectors by not conducting inspections during school hours or late at night. If a retailer is closed at the time of the inspection, the ABLE Commission agents and youth/young adult inspector will leave and return at a later date during the hours the retailer is open. In addition, the ABLE Commission agents will make every effort to have an equal number of compliance checks conducted by male and female youth/young adult inspectors.

The ABLE Commission agents will recruit youth and young adult inspectors between 17 and 20 years 11 months to conduct the Synar inspections. The ABLE Commission agents will be responsible for training the youth/young adult inspectors on how to conduct the Synar inspection. No age manipulations, such as makeup, clothing or facial hair are allowed. The youth/young adult inspector is required to carry a government-issued identification card or driver's license. This is to help Oklahoma obtain the most accurate assessment of youth access to tobacco. If asked for identification or for proof of age, the youth/young adult must be truthful and provide their age or present their identification card.

The ABLE Commission agents make safety a top priority for the youth/young adult inspectors. An ABLE Commission agent is always within close proximity of the youth/young adult inspector, provides all transportation, is positioned inside the retailer to observe the transaction between clerk and youth/young adult inspector, and assures the youth/young adult inspector is safely away from the retailer and back inside the agent's vehicle.

Ideally, the inspection team involves the ABLE Commission agents (1-2) and the youth/young adult inspector in one vehicle. The first ABLE Commission agent positions him/herself inside the outlet to observe the attempted buy between the clerk and the youth/young inspector. The second ABLE Commission agent waits in the vehicle while the youth/young adult enters the outlet to attempt the buy of tobacco/cigarette product (this ABLE Commission agent is also responsible for transporting youth/young adult inspectors between each inspection). Following the attempted buy, the youth/young adult inspector exits the outlet and they join the second ABLE Commission agent back inside the vehicle. Once the youth/young adult inspector is safely outside the outlet, the first ABLE Commission agent will

either write a citation or exit the outlet and rejoin the second ABLE Commission agent and the youth/young adult inspector inside the agent's vehicle.

All buys are consummated buys. If the buy is successful, the youth/young adult inspector will immediately exit the outlet with the evidence in hand and join the second ABLE Commission agent in the agent's vehicle. The first ABLE Commission agent, who was inside the outlet observing the attempted buy, will remain behind to approach the clerk to issue a citation. If the buy is unsuccessful, the first ABLE Commission agent who was inside the outlet, exits the outlet without making contact with the clerk. The first ABLE Commission agent will record the incident, independent of the result, with the assistance of the youth/young adult inspector. If the clerk sold to the youth/young adult inspector, the ODMHSAS will send a letter to the outlet condemning the owner and clerk for not observing the youth access to tobacco law and protecting youth/young adults from accessing tobacco.

If an outlet that contains a drive-thru appears on the sample list, it is imperative that the ABLE Commission agent does not act as an intermediary. Any identified drive-thru should have a walk-up accessible window or counter that the youth/young adult inspector can use.

Following the completion of the Synar sample inspections, ABLE agents will enter the inspection information into an electronic form using the web-based Qualtrics platform. The inspection results will be downloaded from Qualtrics and reviewed by the ABLE Commission and the ODMHSAS staff and Synar Coordinator. If any discrepancies are found, the Synar Coordinator will contact the ABLE Commission and resolve the discrepancies. When the results are finalized, the data will be pasted into the SSES data entry spreadsheet by the ODMHSAS staff. The ODMHSAS Synar Coordinator will run the SSES calculator and compare the results to reports submitted by the ABLE Commission. If any discrepancies are found, the Synar Coordinator will contact the ABLE Commission and resolve the discrepancies. The final results will then be included in the Annual Synar Report and submitted to SAMHSA.

# APPENDIX D: LIST SAMPLING FRAME COVERAGE STUDY

(LIST FRAME ONLY)

State: \_\_\_\_\_  
FFY: 2025

1. Calendar year of the coverage study: \_\_\_\_\_

2. a. Unweighted percent coverage found: \_\_\_\_\_%  
b. Weighted percent coverage found: \_\_\_\_\_%  
c. Number of outlets found through canvassing: \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Number of outlets matched on the list frame: \_\_\_\_\_

3. a. Describe how areas were defined. (e.g., census tracts, counties, etc.)

b. Were any areas of the state excluded from sampling?

Yes  No

*If Yes, please explain.*

4. Please answer the following questions about the selection of canvassing areas.

a. Which category below best describes the sample design? (Check only one.)

Census (Go to Question 6.)

**Unstratified statewide sample:**

Simple random sample (Respond to Part b.)

Systematic random sample (Respond to Part b.)

Single-stage cluster sample (Respond to Parts b and d.)

Multistage cluster sample (Respond to Parts b and d.)

**Stratified sample:**

Simple random sample (Respond to Parts b and c.)

Systematic random sample (Respond to Parts b and c.)

Single-stage cluster sample (Respond to Parts b, c, and d.)

Multistage cluster sample (Respond to Parts b, c, and d.)

**Other** (Please describe and respond to Part b.) \_\_\_\_\_

b. Describe the sampling methods.

c. Provide a full description of the strata that were created.

d. Provide a full description of how clusters were formed.

5. Were borders of the selected areas clearly identified at the time of canvassing?

Yes  No

6. Were all sampled areas visited by canvassing teams?

Yes (*Go to Question 7.*)  No (*Respond to Parts a and b.*)

a. Was the subset of areas randomly chosen?

Yes  No

b. Describe how the subsample of visited areas was drawn. Include the number of areas sampled and the number of areas canvassed.

7. Were field observers provided with a detailed map of the canvassing areas?

Yes  No

*If No, describe the canvassing instructions given to the field observers.*

8. Were field observers instructed to find all outlets in the assigned area?

Yes  No

*If No, respond to Question 9.*

*If Yes, describe any instructions given to the field observers to ensure the entire area was canvassed, then go to Question 10.*

9. If a full canvassing was not conducted:

a. How many predetermined outlets were to be observed in each area? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What were the starting points for each area? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Were these starting points randomly chosen?

Yes  No

d. Describe the selection of the starting points.

- e. Please describe the canvassing instructions given to the field observers, including predetermined routes.

10. Describe the process field observers used to determine if an outlet sold tobacco.

11. Please provide the state's definition of "matches" or "mismatches" to the Synar sampling frame? (i.e., address, business name, business license number, etc.)

12. Provide the calculation of the weighted percent coverage (if applicable).