

ANNUAL SYNAR REPORT

42 U.S.C. 300x-26

OMB № 0930-0222

FFY 2026

State: AR

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction..... | i |
| FFY 2026: Funding Agreements/Certifications..... | 1 |
| Section I: FFY 2025 (Compliance Progress)..... | 2 |
| Section II: FFY 2026 (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 2025 Compliance Progress) and future plans to ensure compliance with the Synar requirements to reduce youth and young adult tobacco access rates (FFY 2026 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 states¹ 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

¹The 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, 2025 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.

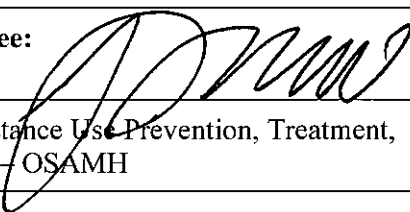
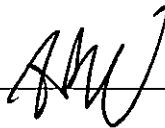
The state must upload one copy of the ASR using the online WebBGAS (Block Grant Application System). In addition, the following items must be uploaded to WebBGAS:

- FFY 2026 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 2026 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.

| |
|--|
| PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ACT AND SYNAR AMENDMENT |
| 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. |
| SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY |
| 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. |
| SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL |
| 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. |
| State: Arkansas |
| Name of Chief Executive Officer or Designee: Jennifer D. Shuler, SSA, APRN |
| Signature of CEO or Designee:   |
| Title: Assistant Director Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services – OSAMH Date Signed: 11/20/2025 |
| If signed by a designee, a copy of the designation must be attached. |

FFY: 2025

State: AR

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://humanservices.arkansas.gov/divisions-shared-services/shared-services/office-of-substance-abuse-and-mental-health/reports-publications/>

Date published: 11/20/2025

- 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:

Arkansas Department of Human Services – Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (OSAMH)

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

- Yes No

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

Arkansas Department of Human Services – Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (OSAMH)

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):

Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC)

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).

Arkansas Department of Human Services – Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (OSAMH); Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC)

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)).

Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC)

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 2025 (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> | | 26 | 26 |
| Number of <u>finest assessed</u> | 340 | 0 | 340 |
| Number of <u>permits/licenses suspended</u> | 130 | | 130 |
| Number of <u>permits/licenses revoked</u> | 0 | | 0 |
| Other (Please describe.) | | | |
| Warning | 9 | | 9 |
| 1 st offense | 210 | | 210 |
| 2 nd offense | 97 | | 97 |
| 3 rd offense | 28 | | 28 |
| 4 th offense | 6 | | 6 |
| 5 th offense | 0 | | 0 |
| *In previous years the number of citations issued could be split between owners and clerks, however ASTCB no longer differentiates between them. | | | |

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:

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

Settlement Agreement funds described in the "Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act" is charged with the oversight and assessment of performance of six statewide programs. Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC) receives fiduciary support from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP), which is funded by the "Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act."

Both the ATC and the TPCP work with the Department of Human Services (DHS)/Regional Prevention Providers (RPPs) to educate tobacco merchants throughout the state of Arkansas. The training consists of: reviewing the laws regarding sales of tobacco products to minors, providing details of what specific tobacco and vapor products are age-restricted, and explaining the penalties for violating the law. Each trainee receives an Arkansas driver's license brochure showing how to recognize an underage ID by the color-coding and vertical format. During the class, trainees are given an opportunity to ask questions.

The RPPs collaborate with Strategic Prevention Framework Partners for Success (PFS) Youth Lead Development grantees to conduct Synar inspections and maintain compliance with state youth tobacco access laws. The RPPs also assist with the coordination and development of merchant education brochures, handouts and presentations.

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)

Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC) recognizes a job well done by sending out what is referred to as a "Good News" letter to all outlets that passed the compliance check. The letter goes to the store's "home" office. The letter states the calendar year the compliance check occurred and passing status. This effort by ATC encourages retail management and employees to keep up the good work. In

addition, each region may choose to recognize those merchants who complied with the law.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (OSAMH) sends out, through the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care (AFMC), letters to tobacco merchants included in the Synar's sample. The "Good" letter informs merchants of successfully completing the survey designed to monitor rate of sales of tobacco products to minors. The "Bad" letter informs merchants they were found to have sold tobacco products to under age youth during the anonymous shopper survey.

Community education regarding youth and young adult access laws

Tobacco Prevention Cessation Program (TPCP) works to increase partnerships to create systems that will aid in prevention of initiation by youth. TPCP also works with multi-media communications in regard to media campaigns that are ran in the state to show the importance of limiting youth access to tobacco products. We also collaborate with AR Department of Education, AR School Board, and sub-grantees to implement Best Practice Guidelines. We actively engage youth to promote tobacco abstinence through sub-grantees and statewide youth coalitions by having them work with thought leaders in their communities to pass policy that limits the age of tobacco purchases to individuals who are 21 and older. We have all youth coalitions participate in Project Prevent activities throughout the year to show the importance of tobacco access laws as well as the harmful effects that tobacco can have on a community

Media use to publicize compliance inspection results

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

The RPPs participate as members in local tobacco coalitions' activities providing assistance at events such as health fairs, town hall meetings, and forums. The RPPs also support tobacco prevention presentations delivered by local coalition members at community events in the effort of increasing visibility and awareness of state tobacco youth access laws.

Other activities (Please list.) _____

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP) offer cessation services to anyone aged 13 years and older through their program Be Well Arkansas. Anyone who wishes to quit tobacco or nicotine can call 1-833-283-WELL. The ATC maintains a toll-free line and portal on their website to receive public complaints on sales-to-minors violations. ATC responds and investigates these complaints within a timely manner. The ATC training coordinator provides relevant education to training attendees through presentations or handouts regarding the current state of tobacco control in

Arkansas such as the current youth cigarette-smoking rate as well as e-cigarette use

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 2025 (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.

RVR Estimate + (1.645 ×) =
plus (1.645 times Standard Error) equals 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 |
|--|-------------|
| Effective sample size (sample size needed to meet the SAMHSA precision requirement assuming simple random sampling) | |
| Target sample size (the product of the effective sample size and the design effect) | |
| Original sample size (inflated sample size of the target sample to counter the sample attrition due to ineligibility and noncompletion) | |
| Eligible sample size (number of outlets found to be eligible in the sample) | |
| Final sample size (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: 2026

b. Percent coverage from the latest Sampling frame coverage study: 100%

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: 2028

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 05/08/25 to 08/24/25
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

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

48

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 2026 (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 2026. 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.

Arkansas continues to work hard in its efforts to reduce youth access to tobacco and to enforce laws related to sales of tobacco products to minors. Arkansas has strong enforcement of underage tobacco laws through the large number of compliance checks that are conducted annually by the Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC). A graduated penalty system for violation of laws related to tobacco sales to minors has been in place for several years.

With the rise of penalty costs during the program's lifetime, retailers have made a conscious effort to educate their employees about the current tobacco legislation. The Arkansas Tobacco Control program offers a certified training program for retailers who meet a high performing criterion. All sales to minor violations remain on the store's record for 48 months. ATC requires all employees of that retail location complete training in legal tobacco sales by ATC within six months.

Penalties increase for each offense within the 12-month post-violation period.

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

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

- 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

- Limited expertise in survey methodology

- Laws/regulations limiting the use of minors in tobacco inspections

- Difficulties recruiting youth and young adult inspectors

The Regional Prevention Providers (RPPs) face challenges in recruiting youth inspectors and obtaining parental consent. Finding and engaging willing youth who accurately represent the community's demographics for compliance inspections can be a difficult task. Many parents are hesitant to let their children participate in the inspection process, often requesting that their children conduct inspections in a different county within the same region to avoid potential discomfort. The Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health continues to encourage RPPs conducting youth inspections to collaborate with youth-focused organizations to strengthen relationships and enhance recruitment efforts.

- 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

One unavoidable challenge is the geographic, demographic, and logistical obstacles posed by land barriers and long distances between outlets. Arkansas is a rural state with small towns and varied terrain, which directly affects Synar efforts. The significant distances between outlets mean that inspecting even a single outlet can require substantial time and cost. For instance, to reach bait and tackle stores on a peninsula in Arkansas Lake, RPP representatives and youth inspectors must either travel by boat or cross state lines into Missouri before driving down to the tip of the peninsula. Accessing this remote location discreetly is nearly impossible. The Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health recommends that RPPs responsible

for the Synar survey allocate additional travel time for remote locations and begin inspections as soon as the Synar timeframe opens.

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

The state's diverse population introduces cultural challenges. As Arkansas's Hispanic population grows, so do the number of Spanish-speaking establishments. In some cases, a sales clerk may only speak Spanish, while the youth inspectors may not, creating a language barrier that prevents completion of the compliance check. To address this, the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (OSAMH) provides diversity and cultural training for RPPs, enabling them to serve various ethnic groups, including the Latino community. By building connections within ethnically diverse communities, RPPs increase the chances of recruiting bilingual teens to conduct Synar checks. Additionally, in small towns and rural areas, where community members often know each other, outsiders or individuals of different ethnicities tend to stand out, making local tobacco retailers less likely to sell to those who may appear to be "outsiders."

- Issues regarding sources of tobacco under tribal jurisdiction

- Other challenges (*Please list.*) _____

Some youth program providers do not support the concept of "compliance inspections." Without their backing, parents are less likely to allow their children to participate in these checks.

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 2026). 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 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 2026).

- 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.

| Calculation of Weighted Retailer Violation Rate | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | State: _____ |
| | | | | | | | | | | FFY: 2026 |
| (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 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | | | | | | |

- 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 2026).

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.

| Summary of Clusters Created and Sampled | | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| State: _____ | | | | |
| FFY: 2026 _____ | | | | |
| (1) Row # | (2) Stratum Name | (3) Number of PSUs Created | (4) Number of PSUs Selected | (5) Number of PSUs in the Final Sample |
| | | | | |
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| | | | | |
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| | | | | |
| Total | | | | |

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 2026).

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.”

| Inspection Tallies by Reason of Ineligibility or Noncompletion | | | |
|---|---------------|--|---------------|
| | | State: _____ | |
| | | FFY: 2026 | |
| (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> | | | |
| Total | | Total | |

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 2026).

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.

| Synar Survey Inspector Characteristics | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | | State: _____ |
| | | FFY: 2026 |
| | (1) Attempted Buys | (2) Successful Buys |
| Male | | |
| 15 years | | |
| 16 years | | |
| 17 years | | |
| 18 years | | |
| 19 years | | |
| 20 years | | |
| Male Subtotal | | |
| Female | | |
| 15 years | | |
| 16 years | | |
| 17 years | | |
| 18 years | | |
| 19 years | | |
| 20 years | | |
| Female Subtotal | | |
| Other | | |
| Total | | |

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 2025.

APPENDIX B: SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

State: AR
 FFY: 2026

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 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| Statewide Tobacco License/Permit List | 3 | Arkansas Tobacco Control provides a comprehensive list of all tobacco license/permits | Each fiscal year a sample of retail and vending tobacco license permits is requested |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

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.)

The SSES tool was used to determine the sample size. Each outlet in the list frame was assigned a value at random between 0 and 1, and the list frame was sorted by Region, County, and the random value to minimize sampling biases from areas with more outlets. A sampling interval (k) was determined by dividing the intended sample size (n) from SSES by the total number of outlets (N), a random number between 1 and k was selected as the start point for the systematic sampling and the corresponding outlet along with every nth outlet were selected as the final sample.

7. Provide the following information about stratification.

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

- 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 2025.

- 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: 8.9%

Frame Size: 4,194

Input for Target Sample Size:

Design Effect: 1.1

Inputs for Original Sample Size:

Safety Margin: 10%

Accuracy (Eligibility) Rate: 80.9%

Completion Rate: 98.1%

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:

A single strata was used in the sample size calculation that represented the entirety of the state.

The amount of tobacco licensed stores in the list frame per county are as follows:

ARKANSAS: 35
ASHLEY: 32
BAXTER: 68
BENTON: 209
BOONE: 46
BRADLEY: 21
CALHOUN: 7
CARROLL: 35
CHICOT: 21
CLARK: 38
CLAY: 18
CLEBURNE: 41
CLEVELAND: 14
COLUMBIA: 45
CONWAY: 50
CRAIGHEAD: 110
CRAWFORD: 68
CRITTENDEN: 91
CROSS: 30
DALLAS: 22
DESHA: 36
DREW: 30
FAULKNER: 121
FRANKLIN: 33
FULTON: 10
GARLAND: 183
GRANT: 25
GREENE: 57
HEMPSTEAD: 33
HOT SPRING: 46
HOWARD: 21
INDEPENDENCE: 53

IZARD: 18
JACKSON: 32
JEFFERSON: 144
JOHNSON: 42
LAFAYETTE: 11
LAWRENCE: 30
LEE: 17
LINCOLN: 13
LITTLE RIVER: 13
LOGAN: 35
LONOKE: 78
MADISON: 24
MARION: 22
MILLER: 77
MISSISSIPPI: 82
MONROE: 30
MONTGOMERY: 10
NEVADA: 17
NEWTON: 15
OUACHITA: 46
PERRY: 14
PHILLIPS: 36
PIKE: 22
POINSETT: 48
POLK: 30
POPE: 72
PRAIRIE: 21
PULASKI: 584
RANDOLPH: 24
SALINE: 132
SCOTT: 15
SEARCY: 13
SEBASTIAN: 169
SEVIER: 27
SHARP: 35
ST. FRANCIS: 52
STONE: 19
UNION: 85
VAN BUREN: 23
WASHINGTON: 216
WHITE: 105
WOODRUFF: 15
YELL: 32

- 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: AR
FFY: 2026

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: : Regional Prevention Providers may provide youth with gift cards up to \$30, in accordance with SAMHSA guidelines. The gift cards are not used for recruitment purposes but as a token of appreciation for participating in the Synar checks.)
- 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):

Region 1 – St. Francis House NWA, dba Community Clinic

Region 2 – North Arkansas Partnership for Health Education, Inc.

Region 3 & 7 – Crowley's Ridge Development Council, Inc.

Region 4 – Research Solutions, Inc.

Region 5 & 8 – Harbor House, Inc.

Region 6 – Community Service, Inc.

Region 9 – Family Service Agency, Inc.

Region 10 & 11 – Bridging the Gaps of Arkansas

Region 12 – Community Empowerment Council, Inc.

Region 13 – Phoenix Youth and Family Services, Inc.

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 Bidis

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

The Regional Prevention Providers (RPPs) are trained to identify what type of products and what brands of products should be requested during an inspection of the tobacco retail outlet. Once the youth inspectors and the adult supervisors are selected, all youth inspectors are in turn trained in the compliance check methodology and protocol by the RPPs.

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

The Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (OSAMH) is responsible for coordinating the annual Synar training to provide adequate training to all Regional Prevention Providers (RPPs). The RPPs are responsible for recruiting and training all youth inspectors and adult supervisors. Adult volunteers who wish to supervise inspections may attend annual Synar training and may be involved in the recruiting and training all youth inspectors and any additional adult supervisors.

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

Regional Prevention Providers recruit youth inspectors between the ages of 17 and 19 years and adult supervisors from his or her region at county and/or local level. RPPs may also recruit youth inspectors and adult supervisors from the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health funded grant programs.

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.)

Arkansas legislation (ACA 5-27-227) states that it shall not be an offense if the minor was acting at the direction of an employee or authorized agent of a governmental agency authorized to enforce or ensure compliance with Arkansas laws relating to the prohibition of the sale of tobacco products in any form, or cigarette papers to such minors. The Synar youth inspectors are under the auspices of an authorized agent.

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.)

If the selected location is deemed unsafe by the adult supervisor and/or the location denies admission to individuals under the age of eighteen (18) or twenty-one (21) years of age, then the check should not be conducted.

The Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health provides authorized adults to accompany youth inspectors on inspections during the specific period as a safety protocol and for quality control.

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.)

1. Obtain parental consent for each youth participating in the survey.
2. Youth inspectors must state their correct age if asked by the clerk to provide it.

b. Procedural

Yes No

(If Yes, please describe.)

1. Only adolescents aged 17-19 will be recruited to conduct the study.
2. Efforts are made to ensure that the age, race, and gender distribution of youth participants reflect the distribution of the county.
3. Attempt to recruit enough youth so that no youth makes more than 9 visits.
4. Youth should look and dress their age.
5. Record data on youth participants and adults on appropriate REDCap forms.
6. Copies of parental consent forms were submitted to the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care through REDCap for review and approval.
7. Provide adult volunteers assisting in the checks with authorization letters.
8. Each participant, who attempts to or is successful in completing a purchase, initials the survey form.
9. All survey forms must be returned to AFMC, regardless of the result of the visit.
10. Youth inspectors do not take their identification cards into the outlet.
11. Youth inspectors should not attempt a purchase in an outlet where there is an individual present that the youth knows.

APPENDIX D: LIST SAMPLING FRAME COVERAGE STUDY

(LIST FRAME ONLY)

State: AR
FFY: 2026

1. Calendar year of the coverage study: 2025

2. a. Unweighted percent coverage found: 95.7%
b. Weighted percent coverage found: _____%
c. Number of outlets found through canvassing: 139
d. Number of outlets matched on the list frame: 133

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

Census Tract

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.

Thirteen census tracts were randomly selected by using a SAS program and specifying the selection of one tract per RPP region.

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

The strata were created by using the pre-existing RPP regions as reference.

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.

Each RPR must provide staff to conduct coverage study
Canvasser must travel all routes (streets, roads, parks, etc.)
Canvasser must visit all retailers on the route
Canvasser must record all tobacco outlets on the log sheet
Canvasser must stay within census tract area indicated in orange
Where the orange line falls on a street
Canvasser must canvass the side of street on the inside of the census tract only

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.

Field observers/canvassers enter all stores and shops and visibly check for tobacco products. If no tobacco products are seen, the field observer/canvasser verbally checks with clerk/store attendant if tobacco products are sold.

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.)

Retail outlets are matched by the business license number.

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