

ANNUAL SYNAR REPORT

42 U.S.C. 300x-26

OMB № 0930-0222

FFY 2026

State: South Carolina

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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 with youth and young adult tobacco access laws.

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).

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 2026: 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 2026 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 2026 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. | |
| State: South Carolina | |
| Name of Chief Executive Officer or Designee: Sara Goldsby | |
| Signature of CEO or Designee:  | |
| Title: Director | Date Signed: 12/05/2025 |
| If signed by a designee, a copy of the designation must be attached. | |

SECTION I: FFY 2025 (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 2026 ASR was posted to this Web address.)*

Web address: <https://www.daodas.sc.gov/stats-reports/>

Date published: 11/05/2025

- 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:

S.C. Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities – Office of Substance Use Services (OSUS)

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

- Yes No

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

SC Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities – Office of Substance Use Services (OSUS)

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):

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED)

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).

South Carolina Department of Public 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.)* Communicate and collaborate as needed throughout the year as sister state agencies
 - 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)).**
- _____
- 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> | NA | 226 | 226 |
| Number of <u>finest assessed</u> | NA | 226 | 226 |
| Number of <u>permits/licenses suspended</u> | NA | | NA |
| Number of <u>permits/licenses revoked</u> | NA | | NA |
| Other (Please describe.) | NA | Local law enforcement - 117 SLED - 109 | Average fine: \$444.83, with \$470 being most common |

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

OSUS is heavily involved with merchant education in South Carolina. The Palmetto Retailers Education Program (PREP) was developed over a decade ago and is a S.C. Department of Revenue-approved merchant education program. It is the only approved merchant education program in the state that includes tobacco content. The curriculum has been updated to reflect the current federal Tobacco-21 access law as well as translated into multiple languages to effectively train a diverse group of merchants. OSUS supported its development and initial dissemination to all county alcohol and drug abuse authorities and now coordinates its implementation, including:

- keeping a state registry of trained merchants;
- sending certification cards to merchants who complete the program;
- maintaining a PREP page on the OSUS website (<https://www.daodas.sc.gov/services/prevention/merchant-initiatives/>);
- producing a statewide PREP brochure;
- maintaining a schedule of local trainings on the OSUS website;
- funding improvements to the training materials, including video portions that clearly state the laws and demonstrate purchase scenarios;
- maintaining a list of certified PREP trainers;
- serving as a central repository from which the counties access PREP materials, such as participant handbooks (quality control);
- tracking participant test scores; and rewarding counties for reaching large numbers of merchants with PREP through the Synar Tobacco Enforcement Partnerships (STEP) incentive funds

This unified branding for merchant education in our state is an important accomplishment. There were 1,423 merchants trained in PREP during State Fiscal Year 2025. The retail community has been very supportive of these efforts.

- 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)

The county alcohol and drug abuse authorities often send merchants letters of compliance to encourage their continued compliance. Social media posts naming compliant tobacco outlets are also shared in the state to recognize retailers who uphold the law and keep their communities safe from underage access.

- Community education regarding youth and young adult access laws

The South Carolina Tobacco Education Program (SC TEP) is offered as an alternative to students who face suspension for violation of a school tobacco-use policy or who break a tobacco law. SC TEP was initially created by prevention professionals from throughout the state and has since been updated to include information sourced from the Stanford Tobacco Prevention Toolkit.

The SC TEP curriculum has three objectives:

- to educate youth on the dangers of tobacco use, alternative nicotine products, and/or electronic nicotine-delivery system use;
- to address possible motivations for considering quitting the use of any nicotine-containing products; and
- to introduce participants to cessation resources.

During State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25), 775 students were served utilizing SC TEP.

In addition, county alcohol and drug abuse authorities provide education and information on the harms posed by tobacco use through community outreach, including speaking engagements and health fairs. During SFY25, 67,674 citizens were reached through these activities.

- Media use to publicize compliance inspection results

Media activities focused specifically on the sale of tobacco products to minors and the dangers of tobacco use were conducted by county authorities and community organizations throughout the state via radio/television PSAs and social media posts. During State Fiscal Year 2025, 4,149,958 views/impressions were reached through these media efforts.

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

OSUS supports a comprehensive compliance check process outside the Synar inspection process that includes pre-notification, regular enforcement with penalties, and appropriate follow-up, analysis, and improvement. Pre-notification refers to creating a general awareness of impending enforcement operations among the retail communities but does not mean that specific times or dates are provided to merchants. There is no pre-notification used during the Synar process.

All county alcohol and drug abuse authorities are required, as part of the contract between OSUS and each county authority, to assist local law enforcement with the implementation of tobacco compliance checks in at least one area of the county.

OSUS has mandated a standardized compliance check form for all checks conducted by county authorities. The information collected on these forms allows OSUS to keep a record of compliance rates by area, type of store, demographics of buyer, demographics of seller, etc. During State Fiscal Year 2025, 963 tobacco compliance checks were completed throughout the state, resulting in 117 citations. The average fine to the clerk for sale to a minor was \$444.83. OSUS is continuing a concerted effort to support increased enforcement at the local level.

Other activities (*Please list.*) Synar Tobacco Enforcement Partnerships (STEP) program

The Synar Tobacco Enforcement Partnerships (STEP) initiative began in June 2006. In State Fiscal Year 2019, OSUS (formerly DAODAS) prevention staff updated the STEP program, which now encompasses the Synar study, the state coverage study, the tobacco compliance checks required of the counties through local law enforcement partners, and the STEP incentive funds. The STEP incentives are a system through which counties earn points for conducting tobacco prevention activities. The more points they earn, the greater the portion of the STEP incentive funds that they receive at the end of the year.

Counties earn points for:

- serving people in merchant education;
- working with local law enforcement agencies to complete tobacco compliance checks;
- informing state Synar staff of new tobacco outlets as they open;
- aiding OSUS staff in updating the tobacco retailer list frame;
- getting local law enforcement to sign on to multi-jurisdictional law enforcement agreements around tobacco;
- teaching Tobacco Education Program classes;
- implementing a point-of-sale taskforce (documentation to verify a POS policy goal, charge, list of members, meetings, and draft reports);
- initiating a merchant pledge (form to verify that a merchant is pledging to check IDs and stay compliant with South Carolina law);
- conducting tobacco environmental scans (i.e., prevention personnel observing local retailers/tobacco establishments to conduct routine examination of current products and substances sold, noting promotions, proximity to youth-frequented spaces, etc.); and
- conducting tobacco casual contacts (i.e., prevention personnel visiting local retailers/tobacco establishments to share about services at the organization, inform retailer of current safety alerts/recalls, and build relationships [e.g., information dissemination / casual contacts]).

The state has created a formula for each of these components, and staff track the points as counties send in documentation regarding these activities. Funding received from these activities can be used to increase community awareness of youth tobacco access/use through information dissemination activities, along with education and training for law enforcement and/or community partners. During State Fiscal Year 2025, 348.35 points were accumulated (across 41 out of 46 counties), equating to \$45,225.45 earned through this incentive program.

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.

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

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:** 2021
- b. **Percent coverage from the latest Sampling frame coverage study:** 90.1%
- 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:** 2026

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** 12/09/24 **to** 05/30/25
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

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

106

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.

First, OSUS continues to support statewide implementation of the Palmetto Retailer Education Program (PREP), with every county alcohol and drug abuse authority implementing the program for voluntary or court-mandated merchants.

Second, OSUS continues to require the county authorities to work with local law enforcement agencies to implement tobacco compliance checks.

Third, the STEP incentive program (described in the answer to question 5f on Page 7) is having major positive impacts and increasing local provider buy-in from year to year.

Fourth, the county authorities will continue to be among the frequent providers of education programs for youth charged for tobacco possession or consumption. To strengthen this effort, OSUS and local prevention staff collaboratively revamped the Tobacco Education Program (TEP) to include the updated content from the Stanford Tobacco Prevention Toolkit's new *You, Me Together Vape-Free* curriculum. This curriculum focuses on vaping devices like disposables, cannabis ENDS, as well as traditional forms of tobacco smoking, to target youth smoking trends. The revamped TEP is complete with an implemented fidelity checklist that is consistent statewide, and feedback on the new TEP curriculum has been positive as it has been implemented and translated into Spanish.

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

Law enforcement agencies have continued to receive funding cuts over the past few years at the local and state levels. Most enforcement has been conducted by local law enforcement agencies, which are also experiencing high turnover.

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

Law enforcement agencies have continued to receive funding cuts over the past few years at the local and state levels. Most enforcement and compliance activities have been conducted by local law enforcement.

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

South Carolina's current state law is still 18, and the state would have to change its constitution to change the age. The state law of 18 is enforced at the state and local levels. The FDA is the only entity that can enforce the federal law of 21.

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

- Limitations on completeness/accuracy of list of tobacco outlets

Effective August 14, 2023, the S.C. Department of Revenue implemented a statewide tobacco licensing requirement for all tobacco/nicotine retailers. This database is continuing to be populated as retailers complete the required paperwork. Currently, this database includes around 1,864 retailers. OSUS utilizes this database, along with retail outlet lists for alcohol and lottery sales, as well as FDA-posted lists and outlet identification by county alcohol and drug abuse authorities and partners. Because there is not one complete source, OSUS staff have to go through the process of combining the lists mentioned, which requires annual cleaning and deduplication.

- Limited expertise in survey methodology

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

- Difficulties recruiting youth and young adult inspectors

- 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

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

Issues regarding sources of tobacco under tribal jurisdiction

Other challenges (*Please list.*) _____

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: <u>2026</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 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
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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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| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 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: South Carolina
 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
- 2 – Local commercial business list
- 3 – Statewide tobacco license/permit list
- 4 – Statewide retail license/permit list
- 5 – Statewide liquor license/permit list
- 6 – Other

| Name of Frame Source | Type of Source | Description | Updating Method and Cycle |
|--------------------------|----------------|---|---------------------------|
| State Tobacco License | 3 | The S.C. Department of Revenue provides a database of all outlets currently licensed for off-premise tobacco sales. | Annually |
| Lottery Commission | 6 | Outlets that have applied to sell lottery tickets for the South Carolina Education Lottery | Annually |
| State Alcohol License | 5 | The S.C. Department of Revenue provides a database of all outlets licensed for off-premise alcohol sales. | Annually |
| County-Identified | 6 | County survey coordinators identify individual outlets for inclusion in the list when they find new outlets. | Annually |
| FDA Tobacco Outlet Lists | 6 | The list of tobacco outlets in South Carolina used for FDA compliance checks (listed on the FDA public website) | Annually |

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.) An outside contractor was awarded the FDA contract for South Carolina, and vending machines are still covered under the requirements of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

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.)

South Carolina uses the SSES Sample Size Calculator to determine the appropriate number of inspections that must be completed to fulfill the federal requirements. The number of outlets (Y) is divided by the list frame size (X). That number (Z) means that every Zth outlet will be sampled after ordering the list frame by county. A number (A) from 1 to Z is

randomly selected as the starting point. Starting with the Ath store, that store is selected followed by $A + Z$, $A + 2Z$, $A + 3Z$, etc. We might have to adjust A to ensure all counties receive at least one outlet. This method ensures that all counties are included and are in equal proportion to the number of outlets they contain.

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.**

The Planned Original Sample Size is used to determine how many outlets to include in the study. (This number may typically be rounded up.) If this final number of outlets is lower than the previous year's study total, the State may consider raising the sample size closer to the previous year's total to increase precision even further beyond requirements and to maintain a level of consistency for the county alcohol and drug abuse authorities that conduct the inspections.

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: 11.7%

Frame Size: 6,778

Input for Target Sample Size:

Design Effect: 1.0

Inputs for Original Sample Size:

Safety Margin: 25%

Accuracy (Eligibility) Rate: 95.6%

Completion Rate: 99.2%

- 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:**

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

- 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.**

| |
|--|
| The sample size formulas embedded in the SSES Sample Size Calculator are used. |
|--|

APPENDIX C: SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

State: South Carolina
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: The safety of the youth inspector is the most important aspect of the Synar program. An adult enters an outlet with the youth if the local team determines it is necessary to ensure the youth’s safety. If the adult can watch the youth from a vehicle, that is also acceptable.)
 Not permitted

d. Youth and young adult inspectors to be compensated?

- Required
 Permitted under specified circumstances (Describe: The county alcohol and drug abuse authorities can provide non-cash incentives for the volunteers, such as gift cards. The non-cash incentive value cannot exceed \$30.00 per volunteer.)
 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): A searchable list – by county – of the local alcohol and drug abuse authorities that contract with OSUS can be accessed at <https://www.daodas.sc.gov/services/treatment/local-providers/>.

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.

The youth are instructed to purchase cigarettes and specific brands of electronic cigarettes/ENDS. The training manual states that the youth should request the brand of cigarettes/ENDS appropriate for the race and gender of the youth volunteer.

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

Inspections are conducted by county alcohol and drug abuse authorities. Each county authority appoints a survey coordinator who is responsible for the recruitment and training of adult supervisors. Coordinators recruit adult supervisors from the families and friends of county authority employees, local churches, schools, and any other source of potential volunteers. However, adult volunteers are usually county authority staff and parents of youth volunteers.

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

Each county alcohol and drug abuse authority appoints a survey coordinator who is responsible for the recruitment and training of youth inspectors. Each county is required to use a roughly equal number of males and females and a roughly equal number of 16- and 17-year-olds or an equal number of 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds if they were assigned that age group. Counties are asked to use inspectors who match the racial makeup of the outlet community if there is a predominant race. In addition, coordinators are instructed to permit each youth inspector to make no more than five completed eligible purchase attempts, to guard against the personal characteristics of a single youth creating a bias in that county.

Prior to the start of youth recruitment and data collection, new agency coordinators receive a training session through an online training site monitored by OSUS. During this training, they are provided the following information: survey instructions, background materials, and data collection forms. Experienced agency coordinators are also required to complete the online requirements. Study materials are mailed to the coordinators after the online training is completed. There is a test, and a certificate is produced by the online system to demonstrate successful completion of the course. County coordinators then provide training at the local level for their own youth inspectors, with assistance from OSUS if requested.

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.)

Each local inspection team is required to carry a letter signed by Michelle Nienhius, OSUS Manager of Prevention and Intervention Services and State Synar Coordinator, stating that the youth are not in violation of the law by participating in the inspections.

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.)

To ensure the safety of the youth, we require that an adult staff person or volunteer be inside the establishment (if possible) from the time a youth enters the store until the time they leave. The other adult on the inspection team remains in the car. If an adult is not able to enter the store, they must be able to maintain visual contact with the youth at all times.

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.)

Youth receive training from the county coordinators prior to the inspections. In FFY 2024, OSUS began assigning agencies a specific age group of youth inspectors. Youth must be age 16 or 17 for certain groups and age 18, 19, or 20 for other groups, depending on which age group they were assigned. There are no specific time-of-day requirements, but all surveys must be completed during the federal fiscal year. Youth volunteers and their parents or guardians complete permission forms prior to participation.

APPENDIX D: LIST SAMPLING FRAME COVERAGE STUDY

(LIST FRAME ONLY)

State: _____
FFY: 2026

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).