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# **ANNUAL SYNAR REPORT**

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

**OMB No 0930-0222**

**FFY 2020**

**State: Arkansas**

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Public Burden Statement: An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this project is 0930-0222. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 18 hours per respondent, per year, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

## 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 tobacco access laws (FFY 2019 Compliance Progress) and future plans to ensure compliance with the Synar requirements to reduce youth tobacco access rates (FFY 2020 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. The information to be reported is public (45 CFR 96.130 (f)) and is not confidential. Part of the mission of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) is to assist states<sup>1</sup> by supporting Synar activities and providing technical assistance helpful in determining the type of enforcement measures and control strategies that are most effective. This information is helpful to CSAP in improving technical assistance resources and expertise on enforcement efforts and tobacco control program support activities, including state Synar program support services, through an enhanced technical assistance program involving conferences and workshops, development of training materials and guidance documents, and onsite technical assistance consultation.

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

The information gathered for the Synar report can help states describe and analyze sub-state 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 tobacco access laws when aggregated statistical data from state Synar reports can demonstrate to the Secretary the national progress in reducing youth 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 tobacco

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

access laws.

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

If you have questions about programmatic issues, you may call CSAP's Division of State Programs 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 the Grants Management Officer, 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, 2019 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 2020 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, beginning with the FFY 2019 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 2020: 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 2020 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 2020 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

State: Arkansas

Name of Chief Executive Officer or Designee: Jay Hill

Signature of CEO or Designee:



Title: Director

Date Signed: 12/13/2019

**If signed by a designee, a copy of the designation must be attached.**

**SECTION I: FFY 2019 (Compliance Progress)**

**YOUTH 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 18.

**1. Please indicate any changes or additions to the state tobacco statute(s) relating to youth 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  Other (Please specify.) The change in the sales to minor law went into effect September 1, 2019. It is a graduated scale of must turn 19 in 2019, must turn 20 in 2020 and will be full 21 in the year 2021.

**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 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 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 2020 ASR was posted to this Web address.)

*Web address:* <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/daabhs/behavioral-health-services/prevention-overview>

*Date published:* 12/13/2019

- 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:**

Arkansas Department of Human Services-Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS), Arkansas Department of Health (ADH)

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-Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS), Arkansas Department of Health (ADH)

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

- Yes  No

**c. The state agency (ies) responsible for enforcing youth 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).**

Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS); Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC); Arkansas Department of Health (ADH)-Center for Health Advancement-Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program

**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 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 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 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 access to tobacco law(s) in FFY 2019 (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 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 access to tobacco laws by **LOCAL AND/OR STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES** (this does not include enforcement of local laws or federal youth 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 citations issued	*	*	399
Number of fines assessed	121	N/A	121
Number of permits/licenses suspended	100		100
Number of permits/licenses revoked	0		0
Other (Please describe.) # Warnings Assessed - 278 # Number of days/Suspension - 248 Total fines - \$53,750.00			

\* Please note: Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC) no longer keeps separate records for Owners and Clerks because they all get the same citation.

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 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 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 tobacco access law(s)?** *(Check all that apply and briefly describe each activity in the text boxes below each activity.)*

- Merchant education and/or training

The Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission established by the Master Settlement Agreement funds described in the “Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act” is charged with the oversight and assessment of performance of seven statewide programs. Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC) receives funding from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP), which is funded by the “Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act.”

The ATC works with Department of Human Services (DHS)/ Regional Prevention Providers (RPPs) to educate ‘tobacco’ merchants throughout the state of Arkansas on current laws regarding tobacco and alternative nicotine products such as e-cigarettes. The training consists of the following: reviewing the laws regarding sales of tobacco products to minors, providing details of what specific tobacco and alternative nicotine 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., non-enforcement compliance checks in which compliant retailers are given positive reinforcement and noncompliant retailers are warned about youth 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 Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Services (DAABHS) sends out, through the Arkansas Department of Health – Health Statistics Branch, 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 access laws

The Tobacco Prevention Cessation Program (TPCP) works to increase partnerships to create system changes that will aid in preventing youth initiation. Additionally, TPCP collaborates with AR Department of Education, AR School Board, and sub-grantees to implement Best Practice Guidelines to reduce youth tobacco prevalence. The TPCP and partners actively engage youth and local communities in educating local and state thought leaders on strategies aimed at decreasing youth access and attraction to all conventional and emerging tobacco products including e-cigarettes. The program also works with multi-media communications in regards to media campaigns that are ran in the state to show the importance of limiting youth access to tobacco products tobacco/nicotine products and emerging nicotine products such as electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS).

Media use to publicize compliance inspection results

Community mobilization to increase support for retailer compliance with youth 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 the 1-833-283-WELL call center.

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 2019 (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 (See Appendix A: Forms 1–5 Templates).** *(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) (See Appendix A: Forms 1–5 Templates) *(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 (See Appendix A: Forms 1–5 Templates), and answer the following question.*

*If No, go to Question 7g.*

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

Yes  No

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

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

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

h. **Fill out Form 4 (See Appendix A: Forms 1–5 Templates).**

**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: 2018

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: 2021

**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**

N/A

b. **Provide the inspection period: From 03/14/2019 to 05/31/2019**  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

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

68

NOTE: If the state uses SSES, please ensure that the number reported in 9c 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 2020 (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 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 2020. Include a brief description of plans for law enforcement efforts to enforce youth tobacco access laws, activities that support law enforcement efforts to enforce youth tobacco access laws, and any anticipated changes in youth 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. From October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019, there were 121 fines, totaling \$53,750.00.

**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.)**

a. Limited resources for law enforcement of youth access laws

b. Limited resources for activities to support enforcement and compliance with youth tobacco access laws



- c. Limitations in the state youth tobacco access laws

- d. Limited public support for enforcement of youth tobacco access laws

- e. Limitations on completeness/accuracy of list of tobacco outlets

- f. Limited expertise in survey methodology

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

- h. Difficulties recruiting youth inspectors

The Regional Prevention Providers (RPPs) are challenged by recruiting youth inspectors and lack of parental consent. It is an arduous task identifying and recruiting willing youth who appropriately reflect the demographics of the youth in a particular community to assist with compliance inspections. Parents are often apprehensive about allowing their children to participate in the inspection process. To avoid alienation, parents often request that children conduct inspections in a county outside of the one they reside in but within the same region. The Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services has continued to encourage RPPs responsible for conducting youth inspections to network with youth focused agencies to build relations and increase recruitment.

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

Regional Prevention Providers have difficulties in recruiting youth inspectors and this affects the required age group. Some Regions share youth inspectors with other neighboring regions, other Regions have a larger populations of available 15 year olds as others have a larger population of 16 year olds. This year's report has a higher number of 15-year-old inspectors - more than 50% of inspections were conducted by 15-year-olds. Arkansas will continue to address this issue of balance between 15 and 16 year old inspectors by including this in the RPPs annual Synar training. The problem will be addressed in two ways. First, RPPs will be provided with information on recruiting a balanced number of 15 and 16 year olds. Second, as completed inspection forms are turned in, an excel spreadsheet will be used to track number of inspections by age of youth. In addition, Regional Providers will be encouraged to recruit 15-year-olds inspectors trained this year, eligible to be youth inspectors next year.

- j. Issues regarding the balance of inspections conducted by one gender of youth

inspectors

Some regional staff are challenged with the availability and accessibility of recruiting male inspectors. The female youth population tends to be more accessible to Regional Prevention Providers. The proposed plan to address this issue is to include in RPPs training, information on recruiting a balanced number of male and female inspectors. We will develop an excel spreadsheet that will help RPPs to monitor who they are recruiting for better balancing of gender. Fortunately, despite recruitment challenges, less than 70% of one gender conducted inspections this year.

k. Geographic, demographic, and logistical considerations in conducting inspections

A challenge we are unable to avoid is geographic, demographic, and logistical land barriers and large distances between outlets. Arkansas is a rural state comprised of small towns and diverse terrain, both of which directly have an impact on Synar efforts. As there are often large distances between outlets, conducting an inspection of a single outlet demands extensive effort, in terms of time and cost. For example, to access bait and tackle stores located on a peninsula on the Arkansas Lake, RPP Representatives and youth inspectors must either access the outlet by boat or drive across the state line into Missouri and then turn down to the tip of the peninsula. It is impossible to access this remote site without being conspicuous. The Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services, recommends that RPPs responsible for conducting the Synar survey allow more travel time for remote locations, and begin inspections the moment the Synar timeframe opens.

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

The diverse ethnicity among the state population introduces a cultural challenge. As the Hispanic population of Arkansas continues to increase, so do the number of Spanish-speaking establishments. In many cases, a sales clerk may speak only Spanish and the youth may not speak Spanish. The language barrier makes it impossible to complete the compliance check. Diversity and cultural trainings are offered to the RPPs by DAABHS to enable them to provide services to different ethnic groups, including the Latino population. The RPPs efforts to build relationships in ethnically diverse communities increase the likelihood of recruiting bilingual teens to conduct Synar checks. In addition, community members within small towns and rural areas are familiar with each other; strangers or people of a different ethnicity stand out. Local tobacco retailers are much less likely to sell to customers who may be considered "outsiders."

m. Issues regarding sources of tobacco under tribal jurisdiction

n. Other challenges (*Please list.*) Lack of parental consent

Some youth program providers do not accept the concept of “compliance inspections.” Without the support of these programs, a parent is less likely to allow his/her son or daughter to participate in compliance checks.

## APPENDIX A: FORMS 1–5 TEMPLATES

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

Complete Form 1 in Excel 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 Excel form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2020). 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 in Excel 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 Excel form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2020).

- 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 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 in Excel 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 Excel form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2020).

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

Column 1:       Sequentially number each row.

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

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

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

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

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

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

<b>Summary of Clusters Created and Sampled</b>				
<b>State:</b> _____				
<b>FFY:</b> 2020				
(1) Row #	(2) Stratum Name	(3) Number of PSUs Created	(4) Number of PSUs Selected	(5) Number of PSUs in the Final Sample
<b>Total</b>				



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

Complete Form 4 in Excel 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 Excel form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2020).

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

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

<b>Inspection Tallies by Reason of Ineligibility or Non-completion</b>			
		<b>State:</b> _____	
		<b>FFY:</b> 2020 _____	
<b>(1) INELIGIBLE</b>		<b>(2) ELIGIBLE</b>	
Reason for Ineligibility	(a) Counts	Reason for Non-completion	(a) Counts
Out of business		In operation but closed at time of visit	
Does not sell tobacco products		Unsafe to access	
Inaccessible by youth		Presence of police	
Private club or private residence		Youth inspector knows salesperson	
Temporary closure		Moved to new location	
Unlocatable		Drive-thru only/youth inspector has no driver's license	
Wholesale only/ Carton sale only		Tobacco out of stock	
Vending machine broken		Ran out of time	
Duplicate		Other non-completion reason(s) <i>(Describe.)</i>	
Other ineligibility reason(s) <i>(Describe.)</i>			
<b>Total</b>		<b>Total</b>	

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

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

**Instructions for Completing Form 5:** In the top right-hand corner of the Excel form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2020).

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

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

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

<b>Synar Survey Inspector Characteristics</b>		
		State: _____
		FFY: 2020
	(1) Attempted Buys	(2) Successful Buys
<b>Male</b>		
15 years		
16 years		
17 years		
18 years		
19 years		
20 years		
<b>Male Subtotal</b>		
<b>Female</b>		
15 years		
16 years		
17 years		
18 years		
19 years		
20 years		
<b>Female Subtotal</b>		
<b>Other</b>		
<b>Total</b>		

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

### Instructions

Appendix B (Sampling Design) and Appendix C (Inspection Protocol) are to reflect the state's CSAP-approved sampling design and inspection protocol. These appendixes, therefore, should generally describe the design and protocol and, with the exception of Question #10 of Appendix B, are not to be modified with year-specific information. Please note that any changes to either appendix must receive CSAP's advance, written approval. To facilitate the state's completion of this section, simply cut and paste the previously approved sampling design (Appendix B) and inspection protocol (Appendix C) and respond to Question #10 of Appendix B to provide the requested information about sample size calculations for the Synar survey conducted in FFY 2019.

## APPENDIX B: SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

State: Arkansas  
 FFY: 2020

**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.
- 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.) Vending machines are sampled together with over-the-counter outlets. However, they are separated in the second stage to increase the probability of selection.

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

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

**Unstratified statewide sample:**

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

**Stratified sample:**

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

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

7. Provide the following information about stratification.

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

The state is geographically divided stratified into 13 strata or 13 Prevention Resource Regions. These 13 regions are contiguous clusters of counties. This represents the first sampling stratum.

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.)

Each of the thirteen regions is divided into clusters or Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). Each PSU may be a single county or a fraction of a county based on a longitude. Each PSU will have several tobacco retail outlets.

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.

There are two parts to arriving at the Arkansas Synar Sample.

**First**, The completion of the sample size calculation. This provides: (a) Effective Sample Size; (b) Target Sample Size; and (c) Original Sample Size. This satisfies the statutory required Sample Size Calculation.

Inputs are:

4086 Total retail outlets in Arkansas Tobacco Control Board database

0.041 Weighted non-compliance rate from previous year

0.868 Weighted accuracy rate from previous year

0.987 Unweighted completion rate from last year

1.645 Confidence level, one sided

0.03 Tolerable error: (1/2 confidence interval)

1.51 Design effect ( $[1 + (\text{Average cluster size} - 1) * \text{Intra-class correlation}] * (1 + \text{Coefficient of Variance of baseweight from previous year's sample})$ ).

**Second**, is the completion of the Arkansas Synar Field Sample. This process consists of two steps. **Step 1**: The sample frame consists of total number of retail outlets in the Arkansas Tobacco Control database, including both Over-the-Counter and vending machine outlets. Using simple random sampling 6 PSUs are selected from each region or sampling stratum. This will produce 78 clusters.

**Step 2**: Tobacco outlets are selected by simple random sampling at a sample rate of .545 from those PSUs selected in Step 1. For FFY 2020 this produced a sample size of 426 outlets or observations.

By this process, Arkansas field sample aims to over sample tobacco outlets by approximately twice the sample size (i.e. Target Sample Size + 10% Reserve) produced by the statutory required Sample Size calculation.

For FFY 2020, the statutory required Sample Size Calculation produced a target sample of 174 with a 10% reserve of 223 outlets.

The field final sample size of 426 is about twice the 10% reserve size of 223 outlets.

A random sampling methodology of approximately 55% of the vendors within each PSU is pulled. This resulted in the total sample size of 426 observations.

**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.**

Effective sample size =  $n = n' = n / (1 + (n/N))$ ;

N = population size (total outlets) (4086)

$n = p(1-P) / (0.0182)^2$

p = violation rate from the previous year's survey (0.041)

The denominator 0.0182 is based on a 3% tolerance of a one-sided 95% Confidence Interval.

Target sample =  $nt = deff * n'$ ; where

Design effect (Deff) =  $\{1 + (m-1)\rho\}(1 + CVw)$ ,

m = average cluster size (2.28), (computed from target sample size / number of clusters)

$\rho$  = intra-class correlation (0.05), (an a priori estimate)

CVw = Coefficient of Variation of the sample weights (0.427), (CV of baseweight from previous year's sample)

Original sample size =  $no = nt / rarc$ ; where

ra = accuracy rate from previous year (0.868)

rc = completion rate from previous year (0.987)

NOTE: The actual original sample size drawn in the field is often much larger than the calculated original sample size to allow for geographic/PRC Region comparisons.

Design effect used in the calculations:

$Deff = (1 + n - 1) * \rho * (1 + V)$ , where n is the average cluster size,  $\rho$  is the intra-class correlation, and V is the coefficient of the variation of weights.

Average cluster size, n, is the target sample size/number of clusters,  $\rho$  is estimated a priori as 0.05, and V is computed from the previous year's sample.

Note:  
 These Sample Size calculations produced:  
 Ideal Sample Size: 118  
 Effective Sample Size: 115  
 Target Sample Size: 174  
 Original Sample Size: 203  
 With 10% Reserve: 223

**10. Provide the following information about sample size calculations for the Synar survey conducted in FFY 2019.**

- 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:

Frame Size:

**Input for Target Sample Size:**

Design Effect:

**Inputs for Original Sample Size:**

Safety Margin:

Accuracy (Eligibility) Rate:

Completion Rate:

- 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.**

- d. 4086 Total retail outlets in Arkansas Tobacco Control Board database

e. 0.041 Weighted non-compliance rate from previous year

f. 0.868 Weighted accuracy rate from previous year

g. 0.987 Unweighted completion rate from last year

h. 1.645 Confidence level, one sided

i. 0.03 Tolerable error: (1/2 confidence interval)

j. 1.51 Design effect ( $[1+(Average\ cluster\ size-1)*Intra-class\ correlation]^*$  (1+ Coefficient of Variance of baseweight from previous year's sample)).



## APPENDIX C: SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

State: Arkansas

FFY: 2020

*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 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 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: Quapaw House, Inc.
- Region 2: Northwest Arkansas Partnership for Health Education
- Region 3: Quapaw House, Inc.
- Region 4: Crowley's Ridge Development Council
- Region 5: Harbor House, Inc.
- Region 6: Community Services, Inc.
- Region 7: Crowley's Ridge Development Council
- Region 8: CHI St. Vincent
- Region 9: Family Services Agency, Inc.
- Regions 10: Harbor House, Inc.
- Region 11: Harbor House, Inc.
- Region 12: Community Empowerment Council
- Region 13: Phoenix Youth & Family Services

**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 e.g. 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 Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS) 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 inspectors.**

Regional Prevention Providers recruit youth inspectors between the ages of 15 and 16 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 Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services funded grant programs.

**6. Are there specific legal or procedural requirements instituted by the state to address the issue of youth 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 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 Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services 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 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 15-16 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 sheets.
6. Send copies of parental consent forms to the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS) 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 the ADH, 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 C: SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL**

### **Arkansas Synar Inspection Protocol**

#### **Characteristics of the Synar Survey Protocol**

1. It requires consummated buy attempts.
2. Youth inspectors are not permitted to carry I.D.s.
3. Adult supervisors accompanying youth inspectors do not enter outlet.
4. The agencies that have oversight over the adult supervisors and youth inspectors are private contractors known as Regional Prevention Providers (RPPS).
5. Youth inspectors are not compensated. However, RPPs may give youth gift cards up to \$30 as a token of appreciation for participation.
6. Synar inspections are never combined with law enforcement efforts.
7. RPPs are trained to identify what type of products and brands should be requested by youth inspectors.
8. RPPs are responsible for recruiting and training all youth inspectors and adult supervisors.
9. Arkansas legislation provides youth inspectors with immunity when conducting Synar checks.
10. To protect the youth, if the adult supervisor deems the location unsafe, or merchant denies admission to individuals under the age of 18, then the check should not be conducted.

#### **Youth Recruitment**

1. Only adolescents ages 15-16 will be recruited to conduct the study.
2. Effort is 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 should make more than 9 visits.
4. Youth should look and dress their age.

#### **Youth Training ~ Documenting Participants**

1. Record data on youth participants and adults on appropriate sheets.
2. Obtain parental consent for each youth participating in the survey.
3. Fax copies of parental consent forms to the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and ADH will review with Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS) for approval.
4. Keep parental consent forms on file at the agency conducting the checks.
5. Provide adult volunteers assisting in the checks with authorization letters from DHS/DAABHS.
6. Be sure that each participant has initialed the form. Form should be signed irrespective of whether there was a purchase or not.
7. Return every single outlet form to ADH Health Statistics, regardless of visit or non-visit.

## **Training of Minors**

1. Remind of the purpose and goal of the survey.
2. Make sure that all participants understand the procedures and protocol.
3. Review how to make a “buy”.
4. Instruct youth not to take their IDs into the outlet.
5. Instruct youth that if the clerk asks his/her age, the youth is to give his/her exact age.
6. Instruct youth not to attempt to purchase tobacco in stores if they know someone who works there or is present at the time of visit.
7. Prepare participants for what to expect.
8. Review the inspection forms and how they are to be completed.

## **Reasons for Ineligibility or Non-Visit**

1. Does not sell
2. Inaccessible to youth
3. No longer in business
4. Unable to locate
5. Not open during day
6. Seasonal business
7. Restricted Access
8. Unsafe
9. Broken vending machine

## **Data Collection ~ Over the Counter**

1. The adult volunteer will locate and drive the youth volunteer to the establishment designated for OTC inspection.
2. The adult volunteer will park out of sight.
3. The youth volunteer will enter the establishment. The youth will not take forms into the store.
4. If the tobacco products are located away from the counter, the youth will choose a particular product and carry it to the clerk for check out.
5. If the tobacco products are located behind the counter, the youth will ask the clerk for assistance in obtaining the product.
6. The youth can choose to purchase other items, such as gum or candy, along with the tobacco product.
7. If the clerk asks the youth volunteer his/her age, the youth volunteer will give his exact age.
8. If the clerk makes the sale, the youth volunteer will take the tobacco product from the establishment, return to the car, give the product to the adult volunteer and provide the necessary information to complete the inspection form.
9. The adult volunteer will document all tobacco products purchased with the outlet code on the pack and date of purchase.
10. If the clerk refuses the sale, the youth will leave the establishment and note that there was no sale on the inspection form.
11. Forward to Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) all properly labeled tobacco products

purchased as a result of Synar compliance checks and ADH will review with Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS) for approval.

12. Fax a copy of completed inspection form denoting a sale to the Arkansas Tobacco Control Board.

### **Data Collection ~ Vending Machines**

1. The adult volunteer will locate and drive the youth volunteer to the retail outlet designated for vending machine inspections.
2. The youth volunteer is to enter establishment and seek out vending machine. If the youth volunteer cannot find the vending machine, he/she is to ask the attendant where the vending machine is located.
3. The sample frame will uniformly consist of individual vending machines.
  - a. In cases where the machines are listed as a group, the listing will be expanded so that each machine will be assigned an individual number, i.e. 1 of 3, 2 of 3, etc.
  - b. The inspectors will attempt to identify all vending machines in a premise and number them left to right, going clockwise from the entrance point.
  - c. The inspection will be conducted only on the individual vending machine or machines that are listed in the sample.
  - d. If, for example, the sample form indicates to inspect machine 1 of 2, the inspector will inspect the first machine encountered on the left of the entrance, sweeping around the establishment in the clockwise direction.
4. Upon identifying the vending machine, the youth volunteer is to purchase tobacco from the vending machine unless attendant questions the youth volunteer.
  - a. If asked about his/her age, the youth volunteer will respond with his/her actual age and unless told by the attendant that they cannot purchase, the youth volunteer is to purchase the tobacco from the vending machine.
  - b. If told he/she cannot purchase, the youth volunteer will leave the outlet.
5. Once the youth volunteer has completed the purchase, the youth will exit the outlet, return to the car, give the cigarettes to the adult volunteer and provide the necessary information to complete the inspection form.

## APPENDIX D: LIST SAMPLING FRAME COVERAGE STUDY

(LIST FRAME ONLY)

State: Arkansas

FFY: 2020

1. Calendar year of the coverage study: 2018

2. a. Unweighted percent coverage found: 100%  
b. Weighted percent coverage found: 100%  
c. Number of outlets found through canvassing: 230  
d. Number of outlets matched on the list frame: 230

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.**

Twenty-six census tracts were randomly selected by using a SAS program and specifying the selection of two tracts per RPP region.

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

FFY 2019 Synar Survey provided us with an estimate of 3871 eligible tobacco outlets in the State of Arkansas. Based on a total of 624 census tracts (1 tract is not populated), there are 6.213 eligible outlets per populated census tract. A coverage study would require 22 census tracts to achieve a sample size of 130 and 34 census tracts to achieve a sample size of 200; the minimum and maximum sample sizes recommended by SAMHSA. As there are thirteen (13) Prevention Resource regions, a random selection of 2 census tracts per region would yield a sample size of approximately 162 eligible outlets.

Twenty-six census tracts were randomly selected using the SAS<sup>®</sup> PROC SURVEYSELECT procedure and specifying the selection of two tracts per Prevention Resource region. ArcMap 10.4 was used to create detailed maps.

**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.*

See attached Appendix D: Synar Coverage Survey CY2018/FFY2019 Canvassing Instructions and Synar Coverage Study Field Instructions.

**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? (e.g., address, business name, business license number)**

Retail outlets are matched by the business license number.

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

$100 \times (\text{number of matched outlets} / \text{total number of outlets found by coverage study})$

$100 \times (230/230) = 100\%$

**Note:** The results of the Coverage Study yielded 230 tobacco outlets, with 226 tobacco outlets described as accessible to youth. All 230 establishments could be matched to the Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC) list of licensed tobacco vendors that form the sampling frame for the Synar Survey. Therefore, the sampling frame of the Synar Survey has an estimated coverage rate of 100%. Find attached an excel spreadsheet with study results, copies of maps and log sheet.

**SYNAR COVERAGE SURVEY (CY2018/FFY2019)**  
**Canvassing Instructions**

**CONTENTS OF CONVASSING PACKET**


1. Each Prevention Resource Center (PRC) region will receive one or two coverage study packets.
2. Each packet consists of the following:
  - a. Maps of census tract;
  - b. Log sheets (You may make more copies of the log sheet if required);
  - c. Postage-paid return envelopes;
  - d. Instruction sheet.

**DESCRIPTION OF MAPS**

Maps consist of the following:

- Statewide map that shows the location of the census tract in relation to neighboring parts of the state.
- Local map that shows the location of the census tract in relation to other local areas.
- Close up maps (there may be more than one close up map per census tract). These show the streets, roads, parks, malls or other locations that will be canvassed.

**MAP LEGEND**

	COUNTY
	CENSUS TRACTS
	HYDROGRAPHY / WATER
	CITY

**CANVASSING DIRECTIONS**

1. Each PRC must provide needed staff to travel
2. Canvasser must travel all routes (streets, roads, parks, mall) in selected census tract
3. Canvasser must physically enter all stores/shops, etc.
4. Each canvasser must **record only tobacco outlets** found using log sheet provided
  - Note: Canvasser must stay within the red sand area (i.e. census tract).
  - **Note: Where the red line falls on a street, canvasser must canvass the side of the street on the inside of the census tract only.**

## **COMPLETING LOG SHEETS**

- Log sheet must be fully completed!!!

\*\*\* PRC Region, Name of County, and Census Tract number are already provided.

- Name of canvasser
- Date of canvass
- Outlet details
  - Name of outlet
  - Address of outlet
  - Type of business
  - Accessible to youth? Is the outlet accessible to youth? If not, note why!
  - Area Code and Telephone Number (Provide this information if possible)
  - Tobacco License Number (Provide this information if possible)

\*\*\* Return completed log sheets in business envelopes included in the packets.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is a coverage study?**

A coverage study is a type of survey conducted to measure the coverage or completeness of the list frame.

### **Why do we need to conduct a coverage study?**

Previously, states have used inaccurate and incomplete lists of tobacco retailers to select random samples of outlets to inspect.

### **What is the purpose of a coverage study?**

The coverage study aims to reduce the potential for bias in the estimation of retailer violation rates.

### **What is an eligible outlet?**

An eligible outlet is one that sells tobacco.

### **What are the green markings on the maps?**

The bright green markings indicate city limits.

### **What are the red lines on the maps?**

The red lines indicate the boundaries of a census tract.

### **What are reasons why an outlet may not be accessible to youth?**

- Outlet is a private club or residence.
- Wholesale or carton sale only.