

ANNUAL SYNAR REPORT

42 U.S.C. 300x-26

OMB № 0930-0222

FFY 2023

State: MD

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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 2022 Compliance Progress) and future plans to ensure compliance with the Synar requirements to reduce youth and young adult tobacco access rates (FFY 2023 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

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

with youth and young adult tobacco access laws.

Getting assistance in completing the Synar report

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

Where and when to submit the Synar report

The ASR must be received by SAMHSA no later than December 31, 2022 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 2023 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 2023 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 2023: 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 2023 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 2023 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.	
State: Maryland	
Name of Chief Executive Officer or Designee: Lisa Burgess, M.D. MDH Acting Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health Administration Jinlene Chan, M.D. MDH Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services	
Signature of CEO or Designee: 	
Title: Deputy Secretary, Behavioral Health /Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services	Date Signed: 12/16/22
If signed by a designee, a copy of the designation must be attached.	

SECTION I: FFY 2022 (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 Website *(Please provide exact Web address and the date when the FFY 2023 ASR was posted to this Web address.)*

Web address: https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ohpetup/Pages/tob_reports.aspx

Date published: December 16, 2022

- 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:

Maryland Department of Health (MDH), Behavioral Health Administration (BHA),
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA), Center for Tobacco
Prevention and Control (CTPC)

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

- Yes No

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

MDH PHPA CTPC

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):

The state Alcohol and Tobacco Commission and Maryland's 24 jurisdictional local
law enforcement agencies. In some of the smaller jurisdictions, support is provided
by the Maryland State Police.

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).

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

Yes No

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

Are the same

Have a formal written memorandum of agreement

Have an informal partnership

Conduct joint planning activities

Combine resources

Have other collaborative arrangement(s) *(Please describe.)* _____

No relationship

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

Yes No (if no, go to Question 5)

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

MDH PHPA CTPC

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 2022 (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> ²	UNK	UNK	903
Number of <u>finest assessed</u>	UNK	UNK	UNK
Number of <u>permits/licenses suspended</u>	UNK		UNK
Number of <u>permits/licenses revoked</u>	UNK		UNK
Other (Please describe.)			
Underage Compliance Checks	UNK		4508
Tobacco Retailers Educated/Store Visits	UNK		4940
Tobacco Retailers Referred to Alcohol and Tobacco Commission	UNK		16

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

² The Citations were not issued as a result of any non-compliance Synar Inspections

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:

After the Synar survey inspection is completed, a letter of compliance or non-compliance is sent to the retailer along with a link to educational materials. A copy of each letter is also sent to the relevant local health department who may conduct additional checks on noncompliant retailers that could result in a citation.

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

PHPA CTPC developed merchant education materials, the “Responsible Tobacco Retailer Toolkit – ‘21 or None’,” that outlines a clear understanding of the state laws governing tobacco sales in retail outlets. There is an online retailer training module, where merchants can test their knowledge of the law and obtain additional tips to train employees. The information may be found at www.NoTobaccoSalesToMinors.com. All local health departments conduct store-to-store educational visits to tobacco outlets to ensure they know the law and staff are continuously trained.

For the safety and health of Marylanders during COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor issued a stay-at-home order in the Spring of 2020 and the closure of non-essential businesses that significantly impacted tobacco education, training, and enforcement activities. The State gradually reopened, and some restrictions were lifted at the end of 2020 and into 2021; however, with various COVID-19 variants emerging and continued concerns, compliance checks and education have continued to be impacted.

Despite this, in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) 4,940 face-to-face store visits were conducted by local health departments and non-governmental partners to provide verbal education on youth access to tobacco products and state and federal laws.

- 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)

Some local jurisdictions publish the name of compliant tobacco outlets in newspapers, websites and provide certificates.

- Community education regarding youth and young adult access laws

Twenty-four (24) leadership meetings were held with community partners, police agencies, local state's attorney community action agencies, and political leaders to discuss youth access laws with 310 attendees. Seventeen (17) school-based collaborations were held with school administrators, teachers, and parents to raise awareness about youth access to tobacco products with 3,363 attendees. Local health departments supported 10 faith-based collaborations to raise awareness in the faith community about tobacco use, youth access to tobacco products, and prevention through collaborative events, reaching 794 participants; and conducted 32 youth events with 3,730 participants across the state to promote awareness about illegal sales of tobacco products to youth.

- Media use to publicize compliance inspection results

Some local jurisdictions publish the names of compliant tobacco outlets in newspapers, provide certificates.

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

Multiple non-government organizations partnered with local health departments to increase support and enhance discussion about youth access to tobacco products.

- Other activities (*Please list.*) Health communications/media and training

At the state and local level, media campaigns are conducted in a variety of venues to support state and local efforts.

Maryland's "21 or None" campaign ads aired throughout SFY 2022 on various media channels. Accompanying educational materials were distributed to licensed tobacco retailers (including vape shops) in Maryland, as well as local health departments to distribute during educational visits. Specifically, in early May 2022, CTPC sent a "21 or None" postcard in the mail to the current 6,087 licensed tobacco retailers. This postcard reminded retailers that selling tobacco to anyone

under 21 is illegal and was a precursor to “21 or None” toolkits sent to the same licensed tobacco retailers and local health departments in late June 2022. The toolkits included a poster, window cling, overview letter, infographic, and a quick reference guide. All materials include information about the free Maryland Tobacco Quitline (1-800-QUIT-NOW) and are available for free download from the “No Tobacco Sales to Minors” and are available for free download from the “No Tobacco Sales to Minors” website (www.NoTobaccoSalesToMinors.com).

CTPC continues to fund the Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy (LRC) housed at the University of Maryland, School of Law. The LRC provides technical assistance and training to local health departments, local law enforcement, retailers, and others on the most recent youth access laws, interpretations of the laws as needed, and assistance with properly completing citations and other documentation.

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 2022 (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

N/A: Various factors impacted Maryland’s ability to conduct Synar inspections, which are typically conducted April - September each year: COVID-19 safety concerns, CTPC staff reorganization, difficulties in recruitment for vacant adult inspector and youth inspector positions, turnover of the assigned SAMHSA Project Officer, and delays in approval from SAMHSA to commence inspections.

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.

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

Accuracy rate _____

Completion rate _____

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

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

Form 2 (Optional) in Appendix A (Forms 1–5) (Attach completed Form 2.)

Other (Please specify. Provide formulas and calculations or attach and explain the program code and output with description of all variable names.)

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

Yes No No stratification

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

- f. Was a cluster sample design used?

Yes No

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

If No, go to Question 7g.

Were any certainty primary sampling units selected this year?

Yes No

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

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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 N/A

Maryland did not conduct inspections during this Synar reporting period due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, ongoing safety and health concerns, and a staffing shortage. The majority of Synar staff who were reassigned to pandemic-related duties have either retired or taken other positions outside of MDH. CTPC is in the process of recruiting and hiring adult inspectors, as well as youth inspectors.

Maryland will use a list frame in FFY 2024.

Planning for FFY 2024 compliance checks is underway, including coverage study implementation. Updated retailer licensing lists have been received from the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission in anticipation of producing a 6% sample of the original sample size of outlets from each county stratum to be sampled.

If Yes, answer the following questions about its coverage.

a. The calendar year of the latest Sampling frame coverage study: 2019

b. Percent coverage from the latest Sampling frame coverage study: 96.5%

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: 2023

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 _____ to
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

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

0

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 2023 (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 2023. 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.

Local civil and criminal tobacco sales violations are reported to the Maryland Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC). The Maryland ATC, in turn, schedules hearings for repeat violators and issues additional sanctions, as appropriate. These activities are reported annually to the Maryland General Assembly (state legislative body). The Maryland Department of Health maintains robust tobacco enforcement and education efforts that include local funding for compliance checks, education, media and online training for tobacco retailers. Many local health departments contract with local law enforcement to complete inspections. The Maryland Department of Health also reports to the General Assembly annually on all strategies and efforts to support existing tobacco sales laws.

MDH maintains a close partnership with the Maryland ATC, and continues to keep in contact with retailers, sending updated materials and information on youth access laws.

CTPC continues to fund the Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy (LRC) housed at the University of Maryland, School of Law. The LRC provides technical assistance to local health departments, local law enforcement, retailers, and others on the most recent youth access laws, interpretations of the laws as needed, and assistance with properly completing citations and other documentation.

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

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

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

[Empty text box]

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

[Empty text box]

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

[Empty text box]

- Limitations on completeness/accuracy of list of tobacco outlets

[Empty text box]

- Limited expertise in survey methodology

[Empty text box]

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

[Empty text box]

- Difficulties recruiting youth and young adult inspectors

CTPC has been recruiting for youth inspectors for several months; however, there has been little interest shown in the positions. Notices on listservs, messages sent to high schools and colleges, and other avenues have been utilized for recruitment. CTPC posted two vacant Adult Inspector positions and are currently interviewing applicants.

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

[Empty text box]

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

[Empty text box]

- Geographic, demographic, and logistical considerations in conducting inspections

[Empty text box]

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

[Empty text box]

- Issues regarding sources of tobacco under tribal jurisdiction

- Other challenges (*Please list.*) COVID-19 pandemic, staffing shortage

Maryland did not conduct Synar inspections during this reporting period due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing safety and health concerns, a staffing shortage, difficulties recruiting underage youth, and delays in protocol modification approval from SAMHSA. A new SAMHSA project officer for Maryland also came on board in February 2022; during this transition, CTPC had difficulty reaching SAMHSA for technical assistance.

The Synar inspections are normally conducted between April 1st and September 30th every year.

The majority of Synar staff who were reassigned to pandemic-related duties have either retired or taken other positions outside of MDH. Adult Inspector positions are currently in the recruitment and hiring process; Synar staff are continually recruiting for youth inspectors.

Maryland is resuming Synar compliance checks in FFY 2024.

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 2023). Provide the remaining information by stratum if stratification was used. Make copies of the form if additional rows are needed to list all the strata.

Column 1: *If stratification was used:*

1(a) Sequentially number each row.

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

If no stratification was used:

1(a) Leave blank.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary of Synar Inspection Results by Stratum													
												State: _____	
												FFY: <u>2023</u>	
(1)		(2)			(3)			(4)			(5)		
STRATUM		NUMBER OF OUTLETS IN SAMPLING FRAME			ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE OUTLETS IN POPULATION			NUMBER OF OUTLETS INSPECTED			NO. OF OUTLETS FOUND IN VIOLATION DURING INSPECTIONS		
(a) Row #	(b) Stratum Name	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines (VM)	(c) Total Outlets (2a+2b)	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines (VM)	(c) Total Outlets (3a+3b)	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines (VM)	(c) Total Outlets (4a+4b)	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines (VM)	(c) Total Outlets (5a+5b)

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

FORM 2 (Optional)

Appropriate for stratified simple or systematic random sampling designs.

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

Instructions for Completing Form 2: In the top right-hand corner of the form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2023).

- 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>2023</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
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 2023).

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: 2023 _____
(1) Row #	(2) Stratum Name	(3) Number of PSUs Created	(4) Number of PSUs Selected	(5) Number of PSUs in the Final Sample
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 2023).

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: 2023	
(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	
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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 2023).

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 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: 2023 _____
	(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 2022.

APPENDIX B: SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

State: Maryland
 FFY: 2023

1. What type of sampling frame is used?

List frame (*Go to Question 2.*)

Maryland did not conduct Synar inspections in FFY 2023. Various factors impacted Maryland’s ability to conduct Synar inspections, which are typically conducted April - September: COVID-19 safety concerns, CTPC staff reorganization, difficulties in recruitment for vacant adult inspector and youth inspector positions, turnover of the assigned SAMHSA Project Officer, and delays in approval from SAMHSA to commence inspections.

Under normal circumstances, Maryland does use a list frame.

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
Maryland Alcohol and Tobacco Commission	3	Statewide list of licensed tobacco retailer outlets with license numbers, trade names, addresses and corporate names	Tobacco retail licenses issued by individual jurisdictions become a part of the statewide joint registration database. This statewide list is updated whenever a new license is issued. All current licenses must be renewed by April 30th of each year.
Counter Tools https://countertools.org/	6	Counter Tools Point-of-Sale-Toolkit (POST) is a web-based platform that gives local and state entities password-protected access to inspection, education, and assessment results of Maryland tobacco retailers. Synar, local,	Whenever a licensed tobacco outlet is inspected by local or State entities the information is updated in Counter Tools. Local entities also routinely add retailers or mark retailers as

	<p>and FDA enforcement visit results are stored on this site. Counter Tools utilizes the Statewide list of tobacco retailer outlets as provided by the Maryland Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC) to maintain an up-to-date list utilized by Local and State entities.</p>	<p>closed when conducting education and enforcement visits. The Statewide tobacco retailer list is requested from the Maryland ATC twice a year and new retailers are added to the system by Counter Tools staff.</p>
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3. If an area frame is used, describe how area sampling units are defined and formed.

As of October 2022, there were 6,158 tobacco retailers in the state of Maryland. Prior to COVID-19, we conducted SYNAR inspection visits on a 10 percent sample of tobacco retailers in each of Maryland’s 23 counties and Baltimore City. A 10 percent sample represents 616 retailers in Maryland. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we looked to reduce this sample so that there was reduced exposure for inspectors and underage purchasers. In order to select a new sample size, CTPC reviewed the literature to determine how to sustain a representative sample of tobacco retailers in Maryland. If we assume that there is a violation rate of 20 percent among our 6,158 tobacco retailers, the minimum sample size is 237 (95 percent confidence interval). However, using the conservative estimate of a 50 percent violation rate, the minimum sample size is 362 (95 percent confidence interval). In order to reach our conservative tobacco retailer sample of 362, a six percent sample must be drawn in Maryland. A six percent sample represents about 369 tobacco retailers). Maryland will also oversample by an extra one percentage in order to account for tobacco retail closures, duplicates, and inaccessible retailers.

Estimated Violation Percentage Confidence Interval Minimum Sample Size

20% +/- 0.05 237

50% +/- 0.05 362 (6% - 369)

Source: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/home/sample+size+calculat>

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

Yes No

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

_____ %

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

Yes No

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

State law bans vending machines.

State law bans vending machines from locations accessible to youth and young adults.

State has a contract with the FDA and is actively enforcing the vending machine requirements of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

Other (*Please describe.*) _____

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

Vending machines are sampled separately to ensure vending machines are included in the sample

X 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.*)

Maryland has used, and will again use, a stratified sample.

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.)

Twenty-four jurisdictions (23 counties and the City of Baltimore) are used in the strata. A random sample of 6% of the licensed tobacco retailers in each of the state's 24 subdivisions is used.

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.**

Various factors impacted Maryland’s ability to conduct the FFY 2023 Synar inspections, which are typically conducted April - September: COVID-19 safety concerns, CTPC staff reorganization, difficulties in recruitment for vacant adult inspector and youth inspector positions, turnover of the assigned SAMHSA Project Officer, and delays in approval from SAMHSA to commence inspections.

The below-mentioned formula was used previously to determine the effective, target and original outlet sample size.

Effective sample size:

$$n_e = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{(0.0182)^2}{P(1-P)} + \frac{1}{N}\right)}$$

where P is the retailer violation rate;

0.0182 is the standard error of the retailer violation rate to meet the SAMHSA precision requirement; and N is the number of outlets in the population.

The target sample size is the effective sample size multiplied by the design effect from the previous year's survey.

Original sample size is determined simply by 6 percent of the sample frame size and it is proportionally allocated to the 24 strata. Therefore, 6 percent of outlets from each stratum are sampled.

10. Provide the following information about sample size calculations for the Synar survey conducted in FFY 2022.

- 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.**

During the last Synar inspection, conducted FFY 2021, a 10% sample size rate was used. In 2022, and in consultation with SAMHSA Synar staff, CTPC requested to modify the sample size to 6% . SAMHSA approved this request on August 24, 2022.

Original sample size is determined simply by 6% of the sampling frame size, and it is proportionally allocated to the 24 strata. Therefore, 6% of outlets from each stratum is sampled.

Various factors impacted Maryland's ability to conduct Synar inspections, which are typically conducted April - September: COVID-19 safety concerns, CTPC staff reorganization, difficulties in recruitment for vacant adult inspector and youth inspector positions, turnover of the assigned SAMHSA Project Officer, and delays in approval from SAMHSA to commence inspections.

Please consider the following information that was submitted with the FFY2021 report as an example:

- Frame Size ... 6,193
- Expected RVR...13.1%
- Design Effect... 1.0%
- Completion Rate (Unweighted)... 92.1%
- Accuracy Rate (Weighted)...92.1%
- Safety Margin... N/A

The original sample size is calculated by multiplying the frame size by 10%

APPENDIX C: SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

State: Maryland
FFY: 2023

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

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

a. Consummated buy attempts?

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

b. Youth and young adult inspectors to carry ID?

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

c. Adult inspectors to enter the outlet?

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

d. Youth and young adult inspectors to be compensated?

- Required
- Permitted under specified circumstances (Describe:)
- 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): Maryland Department of Health, Prevention and Health

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.

While Synar inspections were not conducted in FFY 2023, the following approved protocol was in place.

Cigarettes, ENDS/ESD's (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems/Electronic Smoking Devices), e.g., JUUL, Puffbars, e-cigarettes, vapes, and little cigars will be the tobacco products requested by the underage purchasers, in an effort to remain consistent throughout the state.

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

Recruitment/selection is conducted in accordance with the Maryland Department of Health Office of Human Resources guidelines. Jobs are posted on the Maryland Government Job Openings website. Training methods are described in the training documents uploaded into WebBGas.

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

Methods are described in the training documents uploaded into WebBGas

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.)

Maryland's T21 legislation, which became effective 10/01/2019, removed purchase, use, and possession (PUP) laws so immunity is no longer needed to complete inspections as it was in the past.

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.)

Maryland law requires that seat belts be worn at all times while in the vehicle.

b. Procedural

Yes No

(If Yes, please describe.)

The youth inspector must wear a seat belt at all times while in the vehicle. The adult inspector will enforce the wearing of the seat belt.

If an outlet appears to be unsafe, the youth inspector will not be permitted to enter. The adult inspectors must accompany the minors into the store unless the establishment is not large enough to accommodate them both or it is a walk-up situation. The youth inspector must be in sight of the adult inspector at all times. The youth must not engage in any activities that would distract the adult from the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Each youth inspector is assigned a three-digit identification number. This number is used in lieu of their name to conceal their identity.

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.)

Adult inspectors and youth inspectors will carry appropriate state-issued identification, i.e., driver's licenses. Synar inspections will be performed using the protocol below (all inspections will be consummated). Youth inspectors will be 16-20 years of age. They will work an average of 20-32 hours per week. Each youth inspector is assigned a three-digit identification number to conceal their identity.

The adult inspector will pick up the youth inspectors at home or with written parental consent from school and proceed to the first of several tobacco outlets to be inspected for the day. The adult inspector will park in a safe inconspicuous space, and prior to entering the outlet, provide the youth inspector with money should the inspection result in a buy. If it has been determined that the outlet is safe, the youth inspector and the adult inspector will enter the outlet separately. If the adult inspector cannot accompany the youth into the outlet, the adult inspector must have the youth inspector in clear view at all times. If an outlet appears to be unsafe, the youth inspector will not be permitted to enter the outlet. The safety and protection of the youth inspector is of the utmost importance; therefore, they are in sight of the adult inspector at all times. The adult inspector will enter right before or right after the youth inspector so as to be close enough to hear and observe the attempted buy. If the clerk asks for the youth inspector's identification, the youth inspector will provide their state-issued identification. If the clerk asks them their age, they will provide their real age. Once the inspection has been completed, they will return to the vehicle. If a purchase is made, the youth inspector will hand over all the remaining money and tobacco product(s) to the adult inspector. The adult inspector will complete the inspection form as per Synar Program protocol. The youth inspector will complete a Synar Program attestation form to verify sale. Once the adult inspector has completed the inspection form, they will proceed to the next location until all inspections have been completed for that day.

When the inspections are completed, the adult inspector will drop the youth inspector off at home. The youth are not permitted to be dropped off any place other than their home. The completed inspection forms are delivered to the Synar program administrator for analysis and the data will be entered into an excel spreadsheet.

APPENDIX D: LIST SAMPLING FRAME COVERAGE STUDY

(LIST FRAME ONLY)

State: Maryland
FFY: 2023

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).