

ANNUAL SYNAR REPORT

42 U.S.C. 300x-26

OMB № 0930-0222

ALABAMA

FFY 2007



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
www.samhsa.gov

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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 SAPT Block Grant (45 C.F.R. 96.130 (e)).

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 with an expiration date of 08/31/2007. Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 15 hours for Section I and 3 hours for Section II, including the time for reviewing instructions, completing and reviewing the collection of information, searching existing data sources, and gathering and maintaining the data needed. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer; Paperwork Reduction Project (0930-0222); 1 Choke Cherry Road, Room 7-1044, Rockville, Maryland 20857

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 2006 Compliance Progress) and future plans to ensure compliance with the Synar requirements to reduce youth tobacco access rates (FFY 2007 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 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) 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 SAMHSA/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 on-site 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 access laws.

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

Getting assistance in completing the Synar report

If you have questions about programmatic issues, you may call CSAP's Division of State and Community Assistance at 240-276-2570 and ask for your respective State Project Officer, or contact your State Project Officer directly by telephone or e-mail using the directory provided. If you have questions about fiscal or grants management issues, you may call the Grants Management Officer, Office of Program Services, Division of Grants Management, at 240-276-1404.

Where and when to submit the Annual Synar Report

The Annual Synar Report (ASR) must be received by SAMHSA no later than December 31, 2006. The ASR must be submitted in the **approved OMB report format**. 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 1 of the ASR certifying that the State has complied with all reporting requirements.

Submit one signed original of the report, one additional copy, and an electronic version on either CD-ROM or 3.5" diskette to the Grants Management Officer at the address below:

Grants Management Officer
Office of Program Services, Division of Grants Management
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Regular Mail:

1 Choke Cherry Road, Room 7-1091
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Overnight Mail:

1 Choke Cherry Road, Room 7-1091
Rockville, Maryland 20850

FFY 2007: 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 AMMENDMENT	
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 2007 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 2007 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.	
State: _____	
Name of Chief Executive Officer or Designee: _____	
Signature of CEO or Designee: _____	
Title: _____	Date Signed: _____
If signed by a designee, a copy of the designation must be attached	

SECTION I: FFY 2006 (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. Please attach a photocopy of the change(s) in the State law(s) if any was made since the last reporting year. (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 to possess, purchase or receive tobacco

Changed to require ID to purchase tobacco

Other change(s) (*please describe*): _____

c. Have there been any changes in the law concerning *vending machines*?

Yes No

If Yes, indicate change (check all that apply):

Total ban enacted

Banned from location(s) accessible to youth

Locking device or supervision required

Other change(s) (*please describe*): _____

d. 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

2. Describe how the Annual Synar Report (see 45 C.F.R. 96.130(e)) and the State Plan (see 42 U.S.C. 300x-51) were made public within the State. (Check all that apply)

Placed on file for public review

Posted on a State agency Web site (Specify Web site location: _ww.adph.org_)

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 SAPT Block Grant application process
- Distributed through the public library system
- Published in an annual register
- Other change(s) (*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(s) designated by the Governor for oversight of the Synar requirements:

Mental Health

Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report? Yes No

b. The State agency(s) responsible for conducting random, unannounced Synar inspections:

Alabama ABC Enforcement

Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report? Yes No

c. The State agency(s) responsible for enforcing youth tobacco access law(s):

Alabama ABC Enforcement

Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report? Yes No

4. Identify the State agency(s) responsible for tobacco prevention control activities.

Alabama Department of Public Health, ABC Merchant Education, and Mental Health

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

Yes No

a. Describe the coordination and collaboration that occur between the agency responsible for tobacco control and the agency responsible for oversight of the Synar requirements. The two agencies (*check all that apply*):

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*): _____

These agencies have worked as a task force on these issues since 1994. This collaboration is conducted by agency staff employees and continues, regardless of political turn-over.

5. Please answer the following questions regarding the State’s activities to enforce the youth access to tobacco law(s) in FFY 2006. (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 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(s).
- Enforcement is conducted by both local and State agencies.

b. The following items concern penalties imposed for violations of youth access to tobacco laws by LOCAL AND/OR STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. Please fill in the number requested or indicate if these data are unavailable or the item is not applicable.

PENALTY	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT AVAILABLE	TOTAL	If Available	
				OWNERS	CLERKS
Number of <u>citations issued</u>			57	19	38
Number of <u>finest assessed</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Number of <u>permits/licenses suspended</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Number of <u>permits/licenses revoked</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<i>Other (please describe):</i>					

c. What additional activities are conducted in your State to support enforcement and compliance with State tobacco access law(s)? (Check all that apply)

- Merchant education and/or training
- Incentives for merchants who are in compliance (e.g., Reward and Reminder)
- Community education regarding youth access laws
- Media use to publicize compliance inspection results
- Community mobilization to increase support for retailer compliance with youth access laws
- Other activities (please list): _____

Briefly describe all checked activities:

The Restriction of Youth Access to Tobacco Advisory Board which meets quarterly includes retailers, enforcement, prevention, and public health. The Retailer campaign recognizes the clerks that successful complete a compliance check and offers them the opportunity to win a cruise. This is a partnership with nontraditional stakeholders, MADD, ABC Board, retailer associations, and

WeCard. All alcohol sales prevention materials are offered at no charge to retailers include tobacco information also.

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 2006. (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.

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, attach SSES summary tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 and go to Question 8.

If No, continue to Question 7b.

b. Report the weighted and unweighted Retailer Violation Rate (RVR) estimates, and the standard error.

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.

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

- c. **Fill out Form 1 in Appendix A (Forms).** *(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) *(Attach completed Form 2)*
 Other *(Please specify. Provide formulae 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 No, go to Question 7g.

If Yes, fill out and attach Form 3 in Appendix A (Forms), and answer the following question:

Were any certainty primary sampling units selected this year?

- Yes No

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

SECTION II: FFY 2007 (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 the:

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 retailer violation rate for Synar inspections to be completed in FFY 2007. 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.

Alabama has maintained a fairly low retailer violation rate over the past few years using a fairly simple formula, which seems to be effective. The main component of this plan is to conduct a substantial number of additional non-Synar compliance checks. Coupled with these checks is a robust merchant education component. This together, along with the ADPH's area staff work with local coalitions seem to be an effective strategy to maintain low non-compliance rates

3. Describe any challenges the State faces in complying with the Synar regulation. (Check all that apply)

- Limited resources for law enforcement of youth access laws
- Limited resources for activities to support enforcement and compliance with youth tobacco access laws
- Limitations in the State youth tobacco access laws
- Limited public support for enforcement of youth tobacco access laws
- Limitations on completeness/accuracy of list of tobacco outlets
- Limited expertise in survey methodology
- Laws/regulations limiting the use of minors in tobacco inspections
- Difficulties recruiting youth inspectors
- Geographic, demographic, and logistical considerations in conducting inspections
- Cultural factors (e.g., language barriers, young people purchasing for their elders)
- Issues regarding sources of tobacco under tribal jurisdiction
- Other challenges (*please list*): _____
- No challenges (*please explain*): _____

Briefly describe all items checked above:

The base of all the challenges is limited financial resources. The ABC enforcement division runs on a bare bones budget. This makes their job difficult. Considering their prominent role in Alabama's Synar Project, these limited financial resources are and will continue to be, a major challenge for the state.

APPENDIX A: FORMS

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 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 2007). 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 sub-column (a-c) in Columns 2-5, provide totals for the State as a whole in the last row of the table. These numbers will be the sum of the numbers in each row for the respective column.

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

Complete Form 2 to calculate the weighted RVR. This table (in Excel form) is designed to calculate the weighted RVR for stratified simple or systematic random sampling designs, accounting for ineligible outlets and non-complete 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 2007).

- 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 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>2007</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 ($w=N'/\text{Total Column 8}$)
- pw - stratum contribution to the weighted retailer violation rate
- 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 2007).

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: <u>2007</u>
(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 2007).

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 2007
(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		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		Run out of time	
Duplicate		Other noncompletion reason(s) <i>(describe)</i>	
Other ineligibility reason(s) <i>(describe)</i>			
Total		Total	

FORM 5 (Required for all States not using the Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) to analyze the Synar survey data)

Complete Form 5 to show the distribution of outlet inspection results by age and gender of the youth 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 2007).

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 SUBTOTALS. 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 equal 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 <u>2007</u>
	(1) Attempted Buys	(2) Successful Buys
<u>Male</u>		
14 yrs		
15 yrs		
16 yrs		
17 yrs		
18 yrs		
MALE SUBTOTAL		
<u>Female</u>		
14 yrs		
15 yrs		
16 yrs		
17 yrs		
18 yrs		
FEMALE SUBTOTAL		
OTHER		
TOTAL		

APPENDIX B

STATE: _____

FFY: _____

SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

1. What type of sampling frame is used?

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

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

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

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

Name of Frame Source	Type of Source	Description	Updating Method and Cycle
Tobacco License List	3	The Tobacco List is maintained by the ABC.	This list is continually maintained, with the list frame created in September.

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 they are not included in the Synar survey.

- State law bans vending machines
- State law bans vending machines from locations accessible to youth
- State has SAMHSA approval to exempt vending machines from the survey
- Other (*please describe*): _____

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

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

Unstratified State-wide sample:

- Simple random sample (*go to Question 9*)
- Systematic random sample (*go to Question 6*)
- Single-stage cluster sample (*go to Question 8*)
- Multi-stage 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*)
- Multi-stage 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 OTC frame is stratified into 11 ABC enforcement districts, while the vending machine is a simple random sample.

- 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 multi-stage 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 formulae for determining the effective, target, and original outlet sample sizes.

The effective sample size = target sample size, because design effect=1.

$$n = \frac{1}{\frac{(.0182) \times (.0182)}{P(1-P)} + \frac{1}{N}} = 453$$

**Whereas P=.20
N= 7367**

Alabama rounded this to 450 checks.

Due to greatly differing eligibility rates of OTC versus VM, Alabama divides the checks proportionately prior to incorporating the success rate into sample size calculations. For 2006, vm made up 1.0% (75/ 7367) of the total reatail population. Using this rate would indicate that Alabama needed 5 (4.5) (450*.010) completed vending machine checks, and 443 completed OTC.

Alabama used a 80% completion rate for OTC and a 33% completion rate for VM.

OTC 443/.8= 553

VM 5/.33=15

Note the OTC was proportionally sampled by district. With rounding a total of 550 OTC's were given as well as the 20 VM checks.

APPENDIX C

STATE: _____

FFY: _____

SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL

Note: Attach a copy of the inspection form and protocol used to record the inspection result.

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

a. Consummated buy attempts?

- Required Not Permitted
 Permitted under specified circumstances Not specified in protocol

b. Youth inspectors to carry ID?

- Required Not Permitted
 Permitted under specified circumstances Not specified in protocol

c. Adult inspectors to enter the outlet?

- Required Not Permitted
 Permitted under specified circumstances Not specified in protocol

d. Youth inspectors to be compensated?

- Required Not Permitted
 Permitted under specified circumstances Not specified in protocol

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

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

List the agency name(s): _____

3. Are Synar inspections combined with law enforcement efforts (i.e., do law enforcement 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 methods used to recruit, select, and train youth inspectors and adult supervisors.

Community, schools, and civic contacts. MADD referrals.

5. 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):

Covered by Alabama Supreme Court decision and ABC policy.

b. Procedural Yes No (If Yes, please describe):

Covered by ABC protocol

6. 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):

Covered by ABC policy and protocol

b. Procedural Yes No (If Yes, please describe):

Covered by ABC protocol

7. 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):

Covered by Alabama Supreme Court decision and ABC policy.

b. Procedural Yes No (If Yes, please describe):

Covered by Alabama Supreme Court decision and ABC policy.

APPENDIX D

STATE: _____

FFY: _____

List Sampling Frame Coverage Study
(LIST FRAME ONLY)

1. Calendar year of the coverage study: On-going

2. Percent coverage found: 95+ %
(Provide calculation of the percent coverage)

3. Provide a description of the coverage study methods and results.

The concept of list frame coverage and accuracy has been a concern for some time for us at the Alabama Department of Public Health. In the early days of Alabama’s SYNAR program, we relied upon a retailer list developed by the Alabama Department of Revenue. Due to various factors, this list was found not to be comprehensive or accurate. Each year we struggled with refining the list and were never satisfied with it. This changed several years ago after passage of a state law which required vendors who sold tobacco in the state to have a tobacco permit. The Alabama Beverage Control Board, Enforcement Division (ABC), is responsible for providing permits to vendors, conducting on-site inspections of permitted vendors, and identifying and administering penalties for non-permitted vendors. The Enforcement Division carries out its activities statewide and is identified in the SYNAR report from Alabama as the state’s enforcement entity.

The tobacco licensee list we use is that which is provided by the Enforcement Division.

For at least the last five years, the Enforcement Division has generated permits for active vendors. Additionally, upon looking for unlicensed vendors, the Enforcement Division states its agents' identify less than ten such stores each year, with zero being found this year. The main impetus of the frame coverage study seems to be identifying those vendors who sell without a license. To make sure we are getting a true sample, as we understand the study, we need to ensure that our list includes at least 80%, if not 90%, of all tobacco vendors.

It is our opinion that the current efforts in Alabama meet or exceed those expectations, and may not require a formal study. Each year, in addition to our SYNAR checks, our ABC officers conduct an additional 1500- 2000 tobacco compliance checks. There are three purposes for that:

- (1) to enforce the law.
- (2) to aid in the SYNAR project. We have found that the best way to keep the SYNAR violation rate low is to maintain a large number of total tobacco checks.
- (3) To find store selling tobacco without a license. To do this, the ABC officers physically canvas areas across the state, throughout the whole year, looking for outlets which are selling tobacco without a license.

Furthermore, all tobacco permits are renewed annually by the permit holders to insure that correct information is maintained and those businesses that have stopped selling tobacco or have changed ownership is updated. ABC's delinquent list from the renewal process also allows them to verify that businesses have stopped selling tobacco if their permit expires. In addition to the compliance checks and renewal process, ABC agents conducted 4,892 physical inspections of permitted locations during the past fiscal year. This is a part of their process to both insure that store owners were complying with the law, and rules and regulation, and also to identify those locations that were not permitted. If a location is found without a permit and selling tobacco

products, ABC agents will bring them into compliance with the completion of a permit application and have the option to criminally charge the store owner in district court.

Considering this process, it is not easily conceivable that Alabama's current tobacco list misses up to 20% of the vendors. If this were the case, we would be finding each year over 200 stores without licenses. We acknowledge that the list does not have 100% coverage, but the true coverage is well over 95%, which clearly exceeds the minimal standards determined by SAMSHA. Since we have demonstrated the value of our coverage list for many years, it does not seem logical to require us to undertake the burden of additional formal coverage study, to prove at least 80% coverage. Our tobacco list has greater coverage than the desired minimum and proves it yearly with an additional 1800 plus tobacco compliance checks.

We do not see any productive benefit in conducting this study. As we understand it, the sampled areas would require physical inspection along every roadway in an area to determine the presence/absence of any business (depending on hours of operation) and the presence/absence of tobacco products for sale with a permit. This frame study seems like a large burden for the state, with a great likelihood of proving to be a duplication of activities as well as not adding any findings beyond what we know about our non-permitted vendors. The ABC agents are already over-burdened with their current enforcement activities, they might have to forgo tobacco compliance activities, which could hurt Alabama's SYNAR rate. This is not a desired outcome, based on the joint desire by the state and SAMSHA, to keep tobacco purchase non-compliance levels for Alabama youth at the lowest level possible.

In summary, it is our belief that for Alabama, the intent and usefulness of this frame coverage study provides no additional benefit to the knowledge we have about the current frame coverage status. We believe that our list far exceeds the minimum standards developed by

SAMSA and have concerns that undertaking this study could interfere with the accomplishment of the additional 1800 non-SYNAR tobacco compliance checks. This formal coverage study would seem to yield no benefit to the state, to be duplication of ongoing efforts, and results in a large burden to a resource-limited state.

We would request that Alabama's ongoing efforts be substituted for any additional requirements as we believe we have exceeded your stated expectations.