

Synar Overview – Washington State (with agency contacts)

The Synar Amendment requires states to enact and enforce laws prohibiting the sale or distribution of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 18. Each state is required to complete unannounced compliance checks of tobacco retailers and report the violation rate annually to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Department of Social and Health Services Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery



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- Single State Authority for the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant.
- State Agency responsible for ensuring and reporting Synar compliance to the federal government. (Includes compiling and submitting the Annual Synar Report to SAMHSA.)
- Ensure Synar needs are addressed within the larger tobacco prevention efforts.
- Leverage prevention system in the state to support larger tobacco prevention efforts.
- Coordinates and communicates with contracted prevention providers across the state for youth tobacco prevention activities.

Department of Health



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- Directs the funds in the Youth Tobacco and Vapor Product Prevention Account (YTVPP), per [RCW 70.155.120](#) to conduct random, unannounced, Synar inspections. (Up to 30% to LCB for compliance checks-not including King County which conducts its own compliance checks.) (Up to 70% to local health departments or other local community agencies for youth tobacco prevention.)
- Draws the random sample of retailers for the LCB to conduct unannounced Synar compliance checks.
- Prepares the Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) output report. Provides DBHR with county-level and state-level summaries of those data.
- Coordinates and communicates with regional and priority population contractors receiving YTVPP funding for youth tobacco prevention activities.

Liquor and Cannabis Board



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- Works with Dept of Revenue's Business Licensing Services on Tobacco and Vapor Retail Licenses.
- Authority to conduct Tobacco Compliance Checks (per [RCW 70.155.110](#)), via interagency agreement with the DOH (per [RCW 70.155.120](#)).
- Collects penalties for tobacco violations. Conducts administrative hearings on tobacco violations.
- Provides data on compliance checks to the DOH on a monthly basis.
- Conducts FDA-funded tobacco checks. (In Washington, Synar and FDA checks are tracked separately.)