ANNUAL SYNAR REPORT

42 U.S.C. 300x-26

OMB № 0930-0222

FFY 2027

State: WA

Yellow highlighting pertains to notes to aid the reviewer. They are removed prior to the report's submittal to SAMSHA.
The 'FFY 2027' noted above is correct, but can seem confusing. The compliance checks described in this report occurred between Oct '25 and Jun '26.
DOH = Department of Health LCB = Liquor and Cannabis Board

The next 3 pages are all ‘boilerplate’ language & information.

Table of Contents

Introduction i

FFY 2027: Funding Agreements/Certifications 1

Section I: FFY 2026 (Compliance Progress) 2

Section II: FFY 2027 (Intended Use) 11

Appendix A: Forms 1–5 13

Appendixes B & C: Forms 20

Appendix B: Synar Survey Sampling Methodology 19

Appendix C: Synar Survey Inspection Protocol Summary 21

Appendix D: List Sampling Frame Coverage Study 25

OMB No. 0930-0222
Expiration Date: 06/30/XXXX

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

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Synar Report (ASR) format provides the means for states to comply with the reporting provisions of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-26) and the Tobacco Regulation for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) (45 C.F.R. 96.130 (e)).

How the Synar report helps the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

In accordance with the tobacco regulations, states are required to provide detailed information on progress made in enforcing youth and young adult tobacco access laws (FFY 2026 Compliance Progress) and future plans to ensure compliance with the Synar requirements to reduce youth and young adult tobacco access rates (FFY 2027 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 states[1] 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, 2026 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 2027 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 2027 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 2027: FUNDING AGREEMENTS/CERTIFICATIONS

A signed copy of this page is uploaded as a separate document.

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 2027 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 2027 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.
State: Washington
Name of Chief Executive Officer or Designee: Teesha Kirschbaum
Signature of CEO or Designee: (see separate PDF for signature)
Title: Director, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery **Date Signed:**
If signed by a designee, a copy of the designation must be attached.

FFY: 2027

State: Washington

SECTION I: FFY 2026 (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**
   NOTE: 'Yes' was marked *three years ago* to reflect passage of legislation regarding PUP [Purchase, Use, Possession] laws.

   Vending machines ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
   Added product categories to youth and young adult access law ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

2. **Describe how the Annual Synar Report** *(see 45 C.F.R. 96.130(e))* **was made public within the state prior to submission of the ASR.** *(Check all that apply.)*

   ☐ Placed on file for public review
   ☒ Posted on a state agency Web site *(Please provide exact Web address and the date when the FFY 2027 ASR was posted to this Web address.)*
   Web address: www.theAthenaForum.org/FFY27ASR

Date published: 11/15/26

☐ 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:***

   Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA); Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR)

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

   ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

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

   Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB)

   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):***

   Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB)

   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).**
   Each year these responses are reviewed & any updates are made by staff at partners agencies.

   Washington State Department of Health (DOH) - using youth tobacco prevention account funding, DOH contracts with the LCB for Synar compliance checks. DOH also contracts with 16 regional and priority population partners for tobacco and

vapor prevention activities. Additional state tobacco funds under a nicotine addiction prevention and education account are also disseminated to the same partners, to support their tobacco and vapor product prevention activities.

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.)* *HCA/DBHR has developed a "role clarification" document. This one page Synar Overview describes the role HCA/DBHR, DOH and LCB have with Synar.*
☐ 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)).
Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB)

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.)* *HCA/DBHR has developed a "role clarification" document. This one page Synar Overview describes the role HCA/DBHR, DOH and LCB have with Synar.*

☐ No relationship

h. Does the state use data from the FDA enforcement inspections for Synar survey reporting?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

Explanation: While the LCB carries out compliance checks specifically for the FDA, those results are not included with the Synar checks.

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 2026 *(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 citations issued	116	106	212
Number of fines assessed	115	106	211
Number of permits/licenses suspended	2		2
Number of permits/licenses revoked	0		0
Other *(Please describe.)* *Dismissed*	1	n/a	n/a

c. Are citations or warnings issued to retailers or clerks who sell tobacco to minors for inspections that are part of the Synar survey?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If "Yes" to 5c, please describe the state's procedure for minimizing risk of bias to the survey results from retailers alerting each other to the presence of the survey teams:

The checks are typically performed over a period of 9 months (Oct-Jun). This extended time reduces the effect of any warnings.

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

There is an agreement between LCB and DOH on the development of merchant education materials including a training video, year-to-date stickers, signage, and other informational materials.

☐ 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)

☒ Community education regarding youth and young adult access laws

Contracted regional and priority population partners for the Department of Health deliver multiple community education activities regarding youth access and other tobacco related issues.

☒ Media use to publicize compliance inspection results

Contracted regional and priority population contractors, depending on capacity, will identify earned media opportunities to publicize compliance results.

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

Utilizing the youth tobacco and vapor product prevention account funding and nicotine addiction prevention and education account funding, DOH currently contracts with 16 regional and priority population partners to engage in community mobilization efforts, including providing retailer education and conducting decision-maker outreach as resources permit.

HCA/DBHR supports community-based substance use disorder prevention coalitions in nearly 90 communities with higher need across the state. Each of these communities engages in community mobilization and are able to support Synar compliance activities locally.

☐ Other activities *(Please list.)* _____

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 2026 (see 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 and 45 C.F.R. 96.130).

6. Has the sampling methodology changed from the previous year?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

The state is required to have an approved up-to-date description of the Synar sampling methodology on file with CSAP. Please submit a copy of your Synar Survey Sampling Methodology (Appendix B). If the sampling methodology changed from the previous reporting year, these changes must be reflected in the methodology submitted.

a. If yes, describe how and when this change was communicated to SAMHSA

7. Please answer the following questions regarding the state's annual random, unannounced inspections of tobacco outlets *(see 45 C.F.R. 96.130(d)(2)).*

a. Did the state use the optional Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) to analyze the Synar survey data?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

*If **Yes,** upload a copy of SSES tables 1–8 (in Excel) to WebBGAS. Then go to Question 8. If **No,** continue to Question 7b.*

NOTE: Rest of 7 blank, since "Yes" marked in 7a.

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 <u>right limit</u> of the right-sided 95% confidence interval.

RVR Estimate	+ **plus**	(1.645	× **times**	) **Standard Error)**	= **equals**	**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.*

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

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

h. Fill out Form 4 in Appendix A (Forms 1–5).

8. Did the state's Synar survey use a list frame?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

*If **Yes,** answer the following questions about its coverage.*

a. The calendar year of the latest Sampling frame coverage study: 2022

b. Percent coverage from the latest Sampling frame coverage study: 96.7%

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: 2027

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 10/1/2025 **to** 6/30/2026
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

c. Provide the number of youth and young adult inspectors used in the current inspection year: 21

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 2027 (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 2027. 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.**

The next four pages are another section where partners review & provide any needed updates.

The Department of Health's Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program contracts with 16 regional and priority population partners who represent all 39 Washington state counties; and specific priority populations with higher rates of risk and use of tobacco products.

Contracted partners have several required contract deliverables relating to youth access such as educating and informing decision-makers about evidence-based policies, systems and environmental changes to prevent the initiation of tobacco and vapor product use among youth and young adults, and retailer engagement and education.

King County, in collaboration with Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB), conducts retailer education on tobacco sales laws and the impact of illegal sales to minors in their respective regions and communities. King County will send retailer educational information such as signage and other point of sale tools in FFY 2027. There are about 1,300 total retailers in King County on the Synar list frame. King County has also developed and launched an online training module that is available for tobacco/vapor product retailers focused on the point of sale interaction. This training module is also being shared with other state regions for their potential use.

DOH contracts with the Liquor and Cannabis Board to conduct Synar checks and enforcement activities utilizing funding provided by the state Youth Tobacco and Vapor Product Prevention Account. Up to 23 percent of account funding is provided to LCB for this work. Some other efforts include DOH facilitating cooperative and collaborative efforts between locals and LCB, and coordinating with LCB to develop retailer education materials.

LCB is required to conduct Synar compliance checks at all locations included in the clean list of tobacco retailers (random sample).

Typically, Synar Compliance Checks are performed between October 1 and June 30.

We anticipate enforcement officers to conduct approximately 4,500 premises checks annually.

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

The Food and Drug Administration funding allows for dollars to specifically target youth access and compliance enforcement associated with federal tobacco laws, which define specific protocols and training requirements.

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

Historically, retailer education was done in conjunction with other strategies, managed by local public health departments. These activities declined after funding was reduced in 2009. Limited resources are available to allow for support activities statewide.

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

Washington State law preempts local governments from enacting any licensing or regulation of tobacco or vapor product sales or promotions in the retail setting.

☐ Limited public support for enforcement of youth and young adult 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 and young adult inspectors

☐ Issues regarding the balance of inspections conducted by youth inspectors aged 15 and under

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

As this occurs, LCB staff work to address this issue on a local basis.

☒ Geographic, demographic, and logistical considerations in conducting inspections

Washington State has many lightly populated areas that require extensive time and resources in order to complete the checks. The plan is to continue to combine resources with Department of Health, Liquor Cannabis Board and HCA/DBHR in order to reach as many retailers as possible for education purposes, in conjunction with Synar compliance checks.

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

Washington State's population is quite varied. Residents come from a variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds, which influence and inform social norms around tobacco use. As evidenced by differing compliance rates, the salience or understanding retailers maintain on ensuring compliance with minimum legal sales age laws varies by retailer and by retailer communities. A central challenge is ensuring compliance among retailers who may come from countries that have higher tobacco prevalence among youth, lower minimum legal sales age laws, sales laws that are not enforced, or where substantial consequences for retailers are not associated with non-compliance. Addressing illegal sales to minors, who may be purchasing tobacco products for their older relatives, is another added challenge. While signage that is required to be posted by licensees is translated into multiple languages, it can be challenging to provide additional materials for retail owners/employees for whom English is their second language.

☒ Issues regarding sources of tobacco under tribal jurisdiction

There are 29 Federally Recognized Native American Indian Tribes in Washington State. State Laws, including youth access laws, cannot be enforced on reservations. Most tribes collect tribal cigarette and sales tax in place of the state taxes pursuant to tax agreements between the tribes and the state. Anyone of legal age may purchase or possess cigarettes from tribal retailers covered by one of these contracts. Enrolled tribal members may purchase cigarettes within their tribe's jurisdiction without paying state taxes. Tribal retailers are obligated to collect tax on sales to individuals who are not enrolled members of the tribe. If state tax or tribal tax is not collected, non-tribal members who purchase cigarettes on reservations may pay state cigarette and use taxes on their purchases. Tribes are sovereign nations.

☐ Other challenges *(Please list.)*_____

APPENDIX A: FORMS 1–5 Page blank.

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 2027). 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.) **Page blank.**

Summary of Synar Inspection Results by Stratum

State: _____

FFY: 2027

(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) Page blank.
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 2027).

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. Page blank.

Calculation of Weighted Retailer Violation Rate State: _____ FFY: 2027										
(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.) **Page blank.**

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 2027).

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: 2027

(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) Page blank.

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 2027).

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:	2027
(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) *(Describe.)*	
Other ineligibility reason(s) *(Describe.)*			
Total		**Total**	

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

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 2027).

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

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

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

Synar Survey Inspector Characteristics **State:** **FFY:** 2027		
	(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 2026.

APPENDIX B: SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

State: WA
FFY: 2027

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
Washington State Department of Licensing	3	List of tobacco retailers, cleaned of duplicates, ineligibles (such as adult only venues, golf course, seasonal, wholesalers, tribal, and discontinued businesses) and vending machines since they are inaccesible for youth	All retailers are required to renew their tobacco license no later then June 30th of each year. The license list is updated on an ongoing basis throughout the year to reflect new applications for licenses that have been submitted, accepted, and approved.

3. **If an area frame is used, describe how area sampling units are defined and formed.**

   N/A

   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

☐ Vending machines are sampled together with over the counter outlets, so it is possible that no vending machines were sampled, however they are included in the sampling frame and have a non-zero probability of selection

☐ Other reasons *(Please describe.)* _____

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

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

Unstratified statewide sample:

☐ Simple random sample *(Go to Question 9.)*

☐ Systematic random sample *(Go to Question 6.)*

☐ Single-stage cluster sample *(Go to Question 8.)*

☐ Multistage cluster sample *(Go to Question 8.)*

Stratified sample:

☒ Simple random sample *(Go to Question 7.)*

☐ Systematic random sample *(Go to Question 6.)*

☐ Single-stage cluster sample *(Go to Question 7.)*

☐ Multistage cluster sample *(Go to Question 7.)*

☐ **Other** *(Please describe and go to Question 9.)* _____

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

N/A

7. **Provide the following information about stratification.**

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

Stratum 1 - King County

Stratum 2 - Non-King County (the state's 38 other counties)

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.)*

N/A

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.

N/A

9. Provide the following information about determining the Synar Sample.

a. Was the Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) used to calculate the sample size?

☐ **Yes** *(Respond to part b.)*
☒ **No** *(Respond to part c and Question 10c.)*

b. SSES Sample Size Calculator used?

☐ **State Level** *(Respond to Question 10a.)*
☐ **Stratum Level** *(Respond to Question 10a and 10b.)*

c. Provide the formulas for determining the effective, target, and original outlet sample sizes.

The effective sample size is determined by:

S = (Z*Z*p*(1-p))/(D*D)

where D = 0.03(3%), Z = 1.96 and P = estimated noncompliance rate of previous year.

The target sample size is the effective sample size multiplied by the design affect is assumed to be 1.1.

The original sample size is the target sample size adjusted for ineligibility rate (R1) and non-completion rate (R2). Then, the original sample size = [(target sample size) /(R1R2)] + additional oversampling.

NOTE: R1 is a constant accounting for ineligibility (.70) and R2 is a constant accounting for non-completion (.90). See below for oversample rationale. Oversample rationale: Under current protocol, we guarantee our local tobacco contractors that we will oversample as necessary to obtain a total sample that is at least 9% of the King county sampling frame strata and at least 11% of the non-King county sampling frame strata - as long as this total sample is equal to or greater than the sample size calculation that accounts for ineligibility and non-completion.

10. Provide the following information about sample size calculations for the Synar survey conducted in FFY 2026.

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: N/A
Frame Size: N/A

Input for Target Sample Size:
Design Effect: N/A

Inputs for Original Sample Size:
Safety Margin: N/A
Accuracy (Eligibility) Rate: N/A
Completion Rate: N/A

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:

N/A

c. If the state does not use the sample size formulas embedded in the SSES Sample Size Calculator, please provide all inputs required to calculate the effective, target, and original sample sizes as indicated in Question 9.

The inputs are as follows:

D (confidence interval) = 0.03

Z (95% confidence level) = 1.96

P (estimated noncompliance from FFY 2026) = 0.132

Design effect assumed: 1.1

Eligibility rate: 0.70

Non-completion rate: 0.90

Frame size: 5,098

ADDENDUM: In the attempt to reduce the number of ineligibles, we are working with the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) to clean the list before we draw the sample. We have removed retailers that have been previously identified by LCB as ineligible (adult only venues, golf course, seasonal, wholesalers, vape/hookah shops, tribal, duplicates, and discontinued businesses). We also account for ineligibles when we calculate the original sample size with a conservative eligibility rate of 70% - smaller than the 81.5% identified.

APPENDIX C: SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

State: WA
FFY: 2027

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: Most often, the Adult inspectors enter the outlet to purchase a pack of gum. This allows them to observe the Synar check.))
☐ Not permitted

d. Youth and young adult inspectors to be compensated?

☐ Required
☒ Permitted under specified circumstances (Describe: LCB pays youth inspectors.)
☐ 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):

Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB), through a contract from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

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

The next 3 pages describe elements of the compliance check process, as carried out by the LCB.

b. Describe the protocol for identifying what types of products and what brands of products are requested during an inspection.

Per the protocol, youth Select the tobacco from a "self serve" display and set it down on the counter or if the tobacco is sold "over the counter", then ask the clerk for the specific brand name

Inspectors attempt to buy cigarettes unless given alternative instructions. While Synar inspections are primarily used to make cigarette purchase attempts, other tobacco products can be targeted by the compliance check at the discretion of the LCB adult inspector.

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

The LCB does not use adult supervisors, since they require two Law Enforcement Officers [LEOs] if the minor is of opposite gender.

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

The LCB hires Investigative Aides (IA) through paper application or on-line application (careers.wa.gov).

Minor must submit application and complete an interview. Within the application, the minor must secure parental consent and agree to drug testing.

Upon hire, the IA qualifies for social security, Medicare, and worker's compensation.

Recruitment occurs through contact with local law enforcement Explorer programs, Public School networks (Prevention Coordinators, Counselors, School Resource Officers, etc.), Associations, DUI Target Zero taskforces, and Health County networks. We also receive referrals by word of mouth from current staff – e.g. IAs will refer siblings, friends, or school classmates.

All IAs once hired must complete training prior to any fieldwork.

The training sessions are delivered by a LCB Enforcement Officer (LEO) in a face-to-face session (about 1 to 1 ½ hours) at the closest enforcement office.

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.)*

   Youth inspectors must be accompanied by a LCB agent, or carry a letter of immunity from the Local Health Jurisdiction's (LHJ) Health Officer (authorized to grant immunity by state law).

   b. **Procedural**

   ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

   *(If **Yes,** please describe.)*

   Youth inspectors must be accompanied by a LCB agent, or carry a letter of immunity from the Local Health Jurisdiction's (LHJ) Health Officer (authorized to grant immunity by state law).

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.)*

   Statutory authority in RCW 70.155.080 to allow youth to conduct purchases. LCB adopted policies (#285 Compliance Checks and #287 Investigative Aides).

   b. **Procedural**

   ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

   *(If **Yes,** please describe.)*

   Youth and local health staff are instructed not to enter any establishment where the youth feels uncomfortable. LCB, health staff, or adult volunteers are in the

immediate vicinity during any compliance check operation. The safety of the youth operative always takes priority over protocol or completion of the inspection. Each local health jurisdiction (LHJ) is required, per their contract with the DOH, to conduct a criminal background check on all adult volunteers or chaperones prior to conducting any inspections.

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.)*

Statutory authority in RCW 70.155.080 to allow youth to conduct purchases. LCB adopted policies (#285 Compliance Checks and #287 Investigative Aides).

State follows Labor and Industries standards that limit hours of work with youth (e.g. during school year, etc.)

b. Procedural

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

*(If **Yes,** please describe.)*

Synar inspections are conducted according to a statewide protocol for inspections that is followed by local health jurisdictions. It specifies the age of inspectors and provides a framework from which training is conducted for youth inspectors.

APPENDIX D: LIST SAMPLING FRAME COVERAGE STUDY

NOTE: Appendix D not completed this year. Only in years the Coverage Study is completed.

(LIST FRAME ONLY)

State: _____
FFY: 2027

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).