

# **ANNUAL SYNAR REPORT**

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

OMB № 0930-0222

**FFY 2026**

**State: MAINE**

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	i
FFY 2026: Funding Agreements/Certifications.....	1
Section I: FFY 2025 (Compliance Progress).....	2
Section II: FFY 2026 (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: 06/30/2026

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 2025 Compliance Progress) and future plans to ensure compliance with the Synar requirements to reduce youth and young adult tobacco access rates (FFY 2026 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<sup>1</sup> by supporting Synar activities and providing technical assistance helpful in determining the type of enforcement measures and control strategies that are most effective. This information is helpful to CSAP in improving technical assistance resources and expertise on enforcement efforts and tobacco control program support activities, including state Synar program support services, through an enhanced technical assistance program involving conferences and workshops, development of training materials and guidance documents, and onsite technical assistance consultation.

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

The information gathered for the Synar report can help states describe and analyze 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

---

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

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, 2025 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.

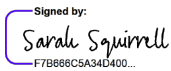
The state must upload one copy of the ASR using the online WebBGAS (Block Grant Application System). In addition, the following items must be uploaded to WebBGAS:

- FFY 2026 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 2026 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 2026: 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.

<b>PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ACT AND SYNAR AMENDMENT</b>	
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.	
<b>SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY</b>	
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 2026 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.	
<b>SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL</b>	
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 2026 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.	
<b>State:</b> Maine	
<b>Name of Chief Executive Officer or Designee:</b>	Sarah Squirrell
<b>Signature of CEO or Designee:</b>	 <small>Signed by: Sarah Squirrell F7B86C5A34D400...</small>
<b>Title:</b> Director	<b>Date Signed:</b> Nov-25-2025
<b>If signed by a designee, a copy of the designation must be attached.</b>	

FFY: 2026

State: Maine

### SECTION I: FFY 2025 (Compliance Progress)

#### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT ACCESS LAWS, ACTIVITIES, AND ENFORCEMENT

42 U.S.C. 300x-26 requires the states to report information regarding the sale/distribution of tobacco products to individuals under age 21.

**1. Please indicate any changes or additions to the state tobacco statute(s) relating to youth and young adult access since the last reporting year. If any changes were made to the state law(s) since the last reporting year, please upload a copy of the state law to WebBGAS. (see 42 U.S.C. 300x-26).**

**a. Has there been a change in the minimum sale age for tobacco products?**

Yes  No

*If Yes, current minimum age:*  19  20  21

**b. Have there been any changes in state law that impact the state’s protocol for conducting Synar inspections?**

Yes  No

*If Yes, indicate change. (Check all that apply.)*

- Changed to require that law enforcement conduct inspections of tobacco outlets
- Changed to make it illegal for youth and young adults to possess, purchase or receive tobacco
- Changed to require ID to purchase tobacco
- Changed definition of tobacco products
- Other change(s) *(Please describe.)* \_\_\_\_\_

**c. Have there been any changes in state law that impact the following?**

- Licensing of tobacco vendors  Yes  No
- Penalties for sales to minors  Yes  No
- Vending machines  Yes  No
- Added product categories to youth and young adult access law  Yes  No

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

- Placed on file for public review
- Posted on a state agency Web site *(Please provide exact Web address and the date when the FFY 2026 ASR was posted to this Web address.)*

*Web address:* <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/healthy-living/substance-use-and-behavioral-health/tobacco-use-prevention-and-treatment>

*Date published:* 11/26/2025

- 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:**

Tobacco and Substance Use Prevention and Control Program. Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services (TSUPCP).

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

Yes  No

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

TSUPCP in collaboration with The Maine Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

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):**

Office of the Attorney General

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).**

TSUPCP

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

Yes  No

**c. Describe the coordination and collaboration that occur between the agency responsible for tobacco prevention and the agency responsible for oversight of**

**the Synar requirements. (Check all that apply.) The two agencies**

- Are the same
- Have a formal written memorandum of agreement
- Have an informal partnership
- Conduct joint planning activities
- Combine resources
- Have other collaborative arrangement(s) *(Please describe.)* \_\_\_\_\_
- No relationship

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

- Yes  No (if no, go to Question 5)

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

Maine Office of the Attorney General

**f. Has the responsible agency changed since last year’s Annual Synar Report?**

- Yes  No

**g. Describe the coordination and collaboration that occur between the agency contracted with the FDA to enforce federal youth and young adult tobacco access laws and the agency responsible for oversight of the Synar requirements. (Check all that apply.) The two agencies:**

- Are the same
- Have a formal written memorandum of agreement
- Have an informal partnership
- Conduct joint planning activities
- Combine resources
- Have other collaborative arrangement(s) *(Please describe.)* \_\_\_\_\_
- No relationship

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

- Yes  No

**5. Please answer the following questions regarding the state’s activities to enforce the state’s youth and young adult access to tobacco law(s) in FFY 2025 (see 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 and 45 C.F.R. 96.130(e)).**

**a. Which one of the following describes the enforcement of state youth and young adult access to tobacco laws carried out in your state? (Check one category only.)**

- Enforcement is conducted exclusively by local law enforcement agencies.
- Enforcement is conducted exclusively by state agency(ies).
- Enforcement is conducted by both local *and* state agencies.

**b. The following items concern penalties imposed for all violations of state youth and young adult access to tobacco laws by LOCAL AND/OR STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (this does not include enforcement of local laws or federal youth and young adult tobacco access laws). Please fill in the number requested. If state law does not allow for an item, please mark “NA” (not applicable). If a response for an item is unknown, please mark “UNK.” The chart must be filled in completely.**

PENALTY	OWNERS	CLERKS	TOTAL
Number of <u>citations issued</u>	89	N/A	89
Number of <u>fin es assessed</u>	84		84
Number of <u>permits/licenses suspended</u>	1		1
Number of <u>permits/licenses revoked</u>			
Other (Please describe.)	N/A	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:*

*Maine’s Synar retail tobacco compliance checks are conducted at one hundred percent of youth accessible licensed retail tobacco establishments throughout the State of Maine and are conducted randomly. Agents may not issue the citation, a Notice of Civil Administrative Action (NCAA) against a retail tobacco establishment in high traffic or urban areas until the end of the work shift or until the violating retailer is beyond a ten-mile radius from the preceding retail inspection to minimize the risk of bias.*  
*LD 1170, An Act to Reduce Youth Access to Tobacco Products, affective November 1, 2017, a citation known as the NCAA shall only be issued to the retail establishment (See, 22 M.R.S. § 1555-B).*

**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

*TSUPCP provides retail tobacco establishments with a free web-based responsible retail tobacco training program called Blocking Underage Tobacco Sales (NO BUTS!). This training provides retail tobacco establishment owners and their salesclerks knowledge and understanding of Maine's retail tobacco sales act, a review and definition of tobacco products, and scenarios at the cash register to ensure compliance during retail tobacco sales. Clerks will complete a required post-test to ensure understanding and compliance and a dated certificate is generated. The OAG highly recommends retail tobacco establishments require owners and salesclerks to complete the NO BUTS training prior to selling retail tobacco products to consumers. This applies to all managers, new clerks, seasonal staff, as well as annually for seasoned staff.*

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)

*The major incentive for owners of retail tobacco establishments to require staff to take the NO BUTS training is that they could be offered a state compliance credit instead of a fine. The compliance credit can be offered to a violating licensed retail tobacco establishment owner if they provide a copy of the salesclerk's NoButs certificate dated prior to the sale violation. With the condition that the retail tobacco establishment's last three Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspections resulted in no sale violation, after review, the OAG can waive the retail tobacco establishment fine by issuing a state compliance credit instead. Maine tobacco retailers are recommended to set high standards to comply with Maine's*

*retail tobacco sales act, use NoButs training and ensure retail tobacco products are not illegally sold to minors.*

- Community education regarding youth and young adult access laws

*TSUPCP funds the Maine prevention store.com where retailers are provided with tobacco sales and prevention material, signage, and education. The NOBUTS web based training is also funded by TSUPCP. A program provided to retailers during licensing.*

- Media use to publicize compliance inspection results

N/A

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

See community education above.

- Other activities (Please list.) \_\_\_\_\_

*The OAG continues to research online tobacco sales and send compliance letters to retailers not in compliance with Maine laws. Maine law requires that all sales of tobacco products occur in direct, face to face exchanges. The OAG Tobacco Enforcement Coordinator (TEC) partners with the Assistant Attorney General for tobacco, completing research, compiling evidence to build an active case, and electronically sending compliance letters in violation of Maine's laws regarding online sales. The TEC monitors online compliance in efforts to minimize access for youth and Maine consumers to purchase tobacco products via internet web pages. TSUPCP has recently began a similar internet surveillance program still in the beginning stages.*

### 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 2025 (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**

N/A
-----

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

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

Yes  No

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

**b. Report the weighted and unweighted Retailer Violation Rate (RVR) estimates, the standard error, accuracy rate (number of eligible outlets divided by the total number of sampled outlets), and completion rate (number of eligible outlets inspected divided by the total number of eligible outlets).**

Unweighted RVR 7.60%

Weighted RVR 7.73%

Standard error (s.e.) of the (weighted) RVR .88%

Fill in the blanks to calculate the **right limit** of the right-sided 95% confidence interval.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 7.6\% & + & (1.645 & \times & .88\%) & = & 8.14\% \\
 \text{RVR Estimate} & \text{plus} & (1.645 & \text{times} & \text{Standard Error}) & \text{equals} & \text{Right Limit}
 \end{array}$$

Accuracy rate 93.1%

Completion rate 97.1%

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
<b>Effective sample size</b> (sample size needed to meet the SAMHSA precision requirement assuming simple random sampling)	1259
<b>Target sample size</b> (the product of the effective sample size and the design effect)	1259
<b>Original sample size</b> (inflated sample size of the target sample to counter the sample attrition due to ineligibility and noncompletion)	1259
<b>Eligible sample size</b> (number of outlets found to be eligible in the sample)	1207
<b>Final sample size</b> (number of eligible outlets in the sample for which an inspection was completed)	1172

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: 2005**

**b. Percent coverage from the latest Sampling frame coverage study: 94%**

**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: On March 19, 2008, CSAP approved the State of Maine’s coverage study waive request with the following condition. Every five years, Maine will be required to provide CSAP with a written document, which describes their statewide canvassing efforts to identify tobacco outlets that are accessible to youth but do not appear on state’s tobacco license list. The FFY 2025 approved ASR includes an updated Maine State Canvassing Plan.**

**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 10/1/2024 to 9/30/2025**  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

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

11

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 2026 (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 2026. 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 State of Maine intends to maintain a non-compliance rate of less than 10% for the current and upcoming contract year through the collaborative effort between TSUPCP and the OAG. These two agencies will continue to oversee the current contract with the subcontractor to execute Maine’s Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspections statewide at licensed retail tobacco establishments that are open and accessible to youth. Computer Evidence Specialists, CES, is the current subcontractor. They employ all Agents, Supervisors, Youth Interns, ages 16-17 years of age, and Young Adult Interns, ages 18-20 years of age, to carry out Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspections. The Department of Health and Human Services, Health Inspection Program (HIP), requires all establishments that sell tobacco products to consumers in Maine, to obtain a retail tobacco license. HIP staff work collaboratively with the OAG TEC. All retail tobacco licensees apply online now and licenses are issued through a new web based online system through ALMS. The OAG TEC also has access to ALMS. The OAG TEC sends weekly electronic responsible retail tobacco emails to these establishments which also includes signage for tobacco twenty-one products, tobacco compliance tips, workplace smoking laws, and education on Maine’s NOBUTS program. The MeCDC Synar Coordinator (Vacant Position) and OAG TEC oversee the day-to-day work conducted by its subcontractor. CES is provided with the most recent active retail tobacco license list on a weekly basis by the Synar Coordinator or OAG TEC, a report pulled from ALMS. CES also conducts canvassing efforts throughout the state while conducting Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspections to ensure retailers selling tobacco products are not operating without a license. If a retailer is found to be selling tobacco products and is not on CES’s assigned retail tobacco list, a photo of the power wall and the establishments’ information is immediately sent to the OAG TEC to follow up on licensure. TSUPCP Synar coordinator and OAG TEC collectively monitor, and review completed Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspections through weekly and monthly reporting to ensure Synar requirements are being met. Both agencies monitor program needs and manage challenges in the execution of retail tobacco compliance check inspections. The*

*subcontractor is responsible for ensuring licensed retail tobacco establishments located on Maine Islands are inspected and work closely with CES to minimize challenges when dealing with seasonal establishments and ferry schedules/closures. CES are required on behalf of the OAG to issue an NCAA, a citation, to the owner or manager of the retail establishment after a sales violation. Annual renewal of licensed retail tobacco establishments ensures compliance inspection efficiency and allows for more precise inspections by tracking business types and operating hours throughout the inspection contract year. Additionally, TSUPCP staff and the OAG TEC will continue to provide retail tobacco establishments with the NO BUTS to help prohibit tobacco sales to minors.*

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

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

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

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

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

- Limitations on completeness/accuracy of list of tobacco outlets

*Within the past few years, the Maine Office of Marijuana Policy has issued hundreds of Retail Adult Use and Medical Marijuana establishment licenses around the State of Maine. These establishments sell paraphernalia to their patients under LD 83, these items include rolling papers, pipes and electronic devices that are used for cannabis. If these establishments sell tobacco, nicotine or synthetic nicotine, they are required to obtain a retail tobacco license. Given the many changes in Maine's marijuana industry, this may impact the completeness/accuracy of the license list. The subcontractor is responsible to ensure safety of teams at all times and only inspect the locations with tobacco, nicotine or synthetic nicotine. To report DNST if they have obtained a license but do not sell tobacco, nicotine or synthetic nicotine.*

- Limited expertise in survey methodology

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

Difficulties recruiting youth and young adult inspectors

*Recruiting young adults within the 16-17 year old range has been a struggle for our subcontractor. Most youths in school, only communicate via text, do not want to work more than a couple hours and often cancel runs at the last minute. Agents are required to be current or retired law enforcement or an approved contract officer, whom work a full time job mostly. This effects the timeframe inspections are conducted, and the job is not a definite 25-40hrs a week. During the school year sports and weekends are reasons youths and young adults do not work making runs irregular. CES recently added a few young adults in the criminal justice field which has helped the program succeed this past year.*

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

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

Geographic, demographic, and logistical considerations in conducting inspections

*Maine's seasonal establishments are only open a few months a year. Some are located coastal, on islands, campgrounds and in northern Maine. This makes organizing the inspection runs a little more difficult.*

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

Issues regarding sources of tobacco under tribal jurisdiction

Other challenges (Please list.) \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX A: FORMS 1–5

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

Complete Form 1 to report sampling frame and sample information and to calculate the unweighted retailer violation rate (RVR) using results from the current year’s Synar survey inspections.

**Instructions for Completing Form 1:** In the top right-hand corner of the form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2026). Provide the remaining information by stratum if stratification was used. Make copies of the form if additional rows are needed to list all the strata.

Column 1: *If stratification was used:*

- 1(a) Sequentially number each row.
- 1(b) Write in the name of each stratum. All strata in the state must be listed.

*If no stratification was used:*

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

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

- Column 2: 2(a) Report the number of over-the-counter (OTC) outlets in the sampling frame in each stratum.  
 2(b) Report the number of vending machine (VM) outlets in the sampling frame in each stratum.  
 2(c) Report the combined total of OTC and VM outlets in the sampling frame in each stratum.

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

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

- Column 4: 4(a) Report the number of eligible OTC outlets for which an inspection was completed, for each stratum.  
 4(b) Report the numbers of eligible VM outlets for which an inspection was completed, for each stratum.  
 4(c) Report the combined total of eligible OTC and VM outlets for which an inspection was completed, for each stratum.

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

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

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

Summary of Synar Inspection Results by Stratum													State: <u>ME</u>
													FFY: <u>2026</u>
(1)		(2)			(3)			(4)			(5)		
STRATUM		NUMBER OF OUTLETS IN SAMPLING FRAME			ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE OUTLETS IN POPULATION			NUMBER OF OUTLETS INSPECTED			NO. OF OUTLETS FOUND IN VIOLATION DURING INSPECTIONS		
(A) Row#	(b) Stratum Name	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines (VM)	(c) Total Outlets (2a+2b)	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines	(c) Total Outlets (3a+3b)	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines	(c) Total Outlets (4a+4b)	(a) Over-the-Counter (OTC)	(b) Vending Machines	(c) Total Outlets (5a+5b)
1	Androscoggin			119			113			110			5
2	Aroostook			44			41			40			3
3	Cumberland			217			205			196			9
4	Franklin			49			47			46			2
5	Hancock			46			43			42			7
6	Kennebec			132			126			124			3
7	Knox			41			40			39			5
8	Lincoln			42			42			42			3
9	Oxford			67			63			59			4
10	Penobscot			182			177			170			26
11	Piscataquis			21			21			21			3
12	Sagadahoc			29			29			28			1
13	Somerset			63			60			58			3
14	Waldo			30			30			30			0
15	Washington			20			20			20			1
16	York			157			150			147			11
<b>Totals:</b>		0	0	1259	0	0	1207	0	0	1172	0	0	86

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

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

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

**Instructions for Completing Form 2:** In the top right-hand corner of the form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2026).

- 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.**

<b>Calculation of Weighted Retailer Violation Rate</b>										
										<b>State:</b> ME
										<b>FFY:</b> 2026
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
	<b>N</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>n1</b>	<b>n2</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>p=x/n2</b>	<b>N'=N(n1/n)</b>	<b>w=N'/Total Column 8</b>	<b>pw</b>	<b>s.e.</b>
Stratum	Number of Outlets in Sampling Frame	Original Sample Size	Number of Sample Outlets Found Eligible	Number of Outlets Inspected	Number of Outlets Found in Violation	Stratum Retailer Violation Rate	Estimated Number of Eligible Outlets in Population	Relative Stratum Weight	Stratum Contribution to State Weighted RVR	Standard Error of Stratum RVR
Androscoggin	119		113	110	5	0.045	13,447.00	0.08941	0.0041	0.0199
Aroostook	44		41	40	3	0.075	1,804.00	0.01199	0.0009	0.0417
Cumberland	217		205	196	9	0.046	44,485.00	0.29578	0.0136	0.0150
Franklin	49		47	46	2	0.043	2,303.00	0.01531	0.0007	0.0301
Hancock	46		43	42	7	0.167	1,978.00	0.01315	0.0022	0.0576
Kennebec	132		126	124	3	0.024	16,632.00	0.11059	0.0027	0.0138
Knox	41		40	39	5	0.128	1,640.00	0.01090	0.0014	0.0536
Lincoln	42		42	42	3	0.071	1,764.00	0.01173	0.0008	0.0397
Oxford	67		63	59	4	0.068	4,221.00	0.02807	0.0019	0.0328
Penobscot	182		177	170	27	0.159	32,214.00	0.21419	0.0340	0.0280
Piscataquis	21		21	21	3	0.143	441.00	0.00293	0.0004	0.0764
Sagadahoc	29		29	28	1	0.036	841.00	0.00559	0.0002	0.0351
Somerset	63		60	58	3	0.052	3,780.00	0.02513	0.0013	0.0291
Waldo	30		30	30	1	0.033	900.00	0.00598	0.0002	0.0328
Washington	20		20	20	1	0.050	400.00	0.00266	0.0001	0.0487
York	157		150	147	12	0.082	23,550.00	0.15658	0.0128	0.0226
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,207</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0.076</b>	<b>150,400.00</b>	<b>1.00000</b>	<b>0.0773</b>	<b>0.0088</b>

- N - number of outlets in sampling frame
- n - original sample size (number of outlets in the original sample)
- n1 - number of sample outlets that were found to be eligible
- n2 - number of eligible outlets that were inspected
- x - number of inspected outlets that were found in violation
- p - stratum retailer violation rate (p=x/n2)
- N' - estimated number of eligible outlets in population (N'=N\*n1/n)
- w - relative stratum weight (w=N'/Total Column 8)
- pw - stratum contribution to the weighted RVR
- s.e. - standard error of the stratum RVR

**FORM 3 (Required when a cluster design is used for all states not using the Synar Survey Estimation System [SSES] to analyze the Synar survey data.)**

Complete Form 3 to report information about primary sampling units when a cluster design was used for the Synar survey.

**Instructions for Completing Form 3:** In the top right-hand corner of the form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2026).

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

Column 1: Sequentially number each row.

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

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

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

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

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

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

<b>Summary of Clusters Created and Sampled</b>				
				<b>State:</b> _____
				<b>FFY:</b> 2026 _____
(1) Row #	(2) Stratum Name	(3) Number of PSUs Created	(4) Number of PSUs Selected	(5) Number of PSUs in the Final Sample
<b>Total</b>				

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

Complete Form 4 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 2026).

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

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

<b>Inspection Tallies by Reason of Ineligibility or Noncompletion</b>			
		State: <u>Maine</u>	
		FFY: <u>2026</u>	
(1) INELIGIBLE		(2) ELIGIBLE	
Reason for Ineligibility	(a) Counts	Reason for Noncompletion	(a) Counts
Out of business	18	In operation but closed at time of visit	27
Does not sell tobacco products	26	Unsafe to access	1
Inaccessible by youth or young adult	1	Presence of police	0
Private club or private residence	0	Youth or young adult inspector knows salesperson	4
Temporary closure	5	Moved to new location	0
Unlocatable	2	Drive-thru only/youth or young adult inspector has no driver’s license	0
Wholesale only/Carton sale only	0	Tobacco out of stock	2
Vending machine broken	0	Ran out of time	0
Duplicate	0	Other noncompletion reason(s) <i>(No employees were present when intern entered establishment, no sale.)</i>	1
Other ineligibility reason(s) <i>(Describe.)</i>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>

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

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

**Instructions for Completing Form 5:** In the top right-hand corner of the form, provide the state name and reporting federal fiscal year (FFY 2026).

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

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

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

<b>Synar Survey Inspector Characteristics</b>		
<b>State:</b> <u>Maine</u>		
<b>FFY:</b> <u>2026</u>		
	(1) Attempted Buys	(2) Successful Buys
<b>Male</b>		
15 years	0	0
16 years	0	0
17 years	164	4
18 years	555	34
19 years	29	5
20 years	0	0
<b>Male Subtotal</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Female</b>		
15 years	0	0
16 years	0	0
17 years	94	4
18 years	32	1
19 years	168	19
20 years	130	22
<b>Female Subtotal</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Other</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1172</b>	<b>89</b>

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

### Instructions

Appendix B (Sampling Design) and Appendix C (Inspection Protocol) are to reflect the state's CSAP-approved sampling design and inspection protocol. These appendixes, therefore, should generally describe the design and protocol and, with the exception of Question #10 of Appendix B, are not to be modified with year-specific information. Please note that any changes to either appendix must receive CSAP's advance, written approval. To facilitate the state's completion of this section, simply cut and paste the previously approved sampling design (Appendix B) and inspection protocol (Appendix C) and respond to Question #10 of Appendix B to provide the requested information about sample size calculations for the Synar survey conducted in FFY 2025.

## APPENDIX B: SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

State: Maine  
 FFY: 2026

**1. What type of sampling frame is used?**

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

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

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

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

Name of Frame Source	Type of Source	Description	Updating Method and Cycle
<i>The Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Health Inspection Program (HIP) issues retail tobacco establishments annually through a web-based program named ALMS.</i>	3	<i>Maine retail tobacco licenses are issued annually from April 1 and expire March 31. The retailer is emailed a reminder to renew 60 days prior to the expiration date. All new applicants are also processed through ALMS and approved by HIP staff. A weekly updated retail tobacco license list is emailed by the Synar Coordinator or OAG TEC to the subcontractor to filter for new and closed locations to meet the necessary attempt to inspect all locations throughout Maine’s sixteen counties. All seasonal, store hours, product type and island information is also included and researched.</i>	

**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.)**

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

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

- b. Is clustering used within the stratified sample?**

**Yes** (Go to Question 8.)

**No** (Go to Question 9.)

**8. Provide the following information about clustering.**

- a. Provide a full description of how clusters are formed. (If multistage clusters are used, give definitions of clusters at each stage.)**

- b. Specify the sampling method (simple random, systematic, or probability proportional to size sampling) for each stage of sampling and describe how the method(s) is (are) implemented.**

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

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

**Yes** (Respond to part b.)

**No** (Respond to part c and Question 10c.)

- b. SSES Sample Size Calculator used?**

**State Level** (Respond to Question 10a.)

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

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

**10. Provide the following information about sample size calculations for the Synar survey conducted in FFY 2025.**

- a. If the state uses the sample size formulas embedded in the SSES Sample Size Calculator to calculate the state level sample size, please provide the following information:**

**Inputs for Effective Sample Size:**

RVR:

Frame Size:

**Input for Target Sample Size:**

Design Effect:

**Inputs for Original Sample Size:**

Safety Margin:

Accuracy (Eligibility) Rate:

Completion Rate:

- b. If the state uses the sample size formulas embedded in the SSES Sample Size Calculator to calculate the stratum level sample sizes, please provide the stratum level information:**

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

## APPENDIX C: SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

State: Maine  
FFY: 2026

*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: *Agents are required to observe and accompany or observe unaccompanied. Observe and accompany means the agent accompanied the youth intern into the retail establishment separately. Observe unaccompanied means the agent viewed the retail tobacco compliance check inspection from outside the retail establishment, looking in. During observe unaccompanied, the agent is required to be able to externally view the sales register area and transaction of potential tobacco product delivery from the salesclerk to the youth intern.*)  
 Not permitted

#### d. Youth and young adult inspectors to be compensated?

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

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

- Law enforcement agency(ies)

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

List the agency name(s): *TSUPCP posts a proposal for a five-year contract. Currently, the contractor is Computer Evidence Specialists, LLC, who is responsible for employing as subcontractors Agents, Supervisors, Youth Interns and Young Adult Interns.*

**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: Nicotine pouches, cigars, smokeless tobacco, hookah, chewing tobacco, snus, snuf and dissolvables.

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

*The agent will assign which tobacco product to purchase at the time of inspection. Each team has a tobacco product guide to follow, and it is reviewed in the Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspection training. At the beginning of an inspection the agent confirms the type of tobacco product the intern shall attempt to purchase. The tobacco product selected is based on Maine's retail tobacco product definition, Synar Regulations, and the type of tobacco product the licensed retail tobacco establishment sells. The intern attempts the purchase of nicotine pouches, cigarettes, small cigars, cigarillos, smokeless tobacco, but mostly electronic cigarette/electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), including e-liquids, depending what products are popular in the geographic area. The purchase of cigars or cigarillos are attempted at cigar shops and golf courses.*

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

*TSUPCP contracts with a contractor, currently CES, LLC, to recruit and hire supervisors to conduct retail tobacco compliance checks throughout Maine. CES is solely responsible for the recruitment and retention of supervisors. Supervisors are required to participate in Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspection trainings and conduct a ride along with an inspection team (Agent, Supervisor, and experienced Intern) prior to actively participating in*

*any retail tobacco compliance check inspections. The Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspection training was created and is maintained by the OAG TEC and facilitated by the contractor Project Manager. The training includes the description of tobacco, tobacco products and its health consequences, history of Synar, retail tobacco sales laws, retail compliance check inspection procedures, protocols, canvassing, product guides, scenarios, safety, and confidentiality. An annual Synar retail tobacco compliance check annual training is also required for all actively employed staff.*

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

*TSUPCP is contracts with a contractor, currently CES, LLC, to recruit and hire both Youth Interns ages 16-17 and Young Adult Interns ages 18-20 to conduct Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspections throughout the State of Maine.*

*The contractor is solely responsible for the recruitment and retention of all interns. CES is required to maintain a 60% to 40% gender ratio of interns while conducting compliance inspections. Interns are required to represent a cross section of the community in which the inspections are carried out. All participating interns are afforded equitable opportunities to conduct Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspections throughout the State of Maine. Interns are not allowed to conduct Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspections within thirty days of their twenty first birthday.*

*The contractor's Project Manager recruits' interns from Maine communities, schools, recreational programs and with posting job recruitment advertisements. To comply with U.S. Department of Labor, Fair Labor Standards Act, the subcontractor employs Interns from 16 to 20 years of age. CES works to retain and employ 16-17-year-old Interns until they are within thirty days of their eighteenth birthday. If they want to continue with the program, CES begins conducting a background check sixty days prior to their eighteenth birthday. If the background check is successful, they transfer into the Young Adult Interns role and continue conducting inspections. CES also employs Interns from 18-20 years of age who are retained after a successful approved background check.*

*Interns are required to participate in a Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspection training and conduct a ride along with an inspection team (Agent, Supervisor, and experienced intern) prior to actively participating in inspections. The Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspection training was created and is maintained by the OAG TEC and facilitated by the CES project manager. The training includes the description of tobacco laws, retail compliance check inspection procedures, protocols, canvassing, product guides, scenarios, safety, and confidentiality. An annual refresher Synar retail tobacco compliance check training is also required for all actively employed Interns.*

**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.)*

*In 1996, the OAG determined that youth interns working under the supervision of a law enforcement or contract officer to attempt the purchase of tobacco products solely for the purpose of checking and enforcing retail tobacco compliance with underage sales restrictions were not subject to civil proceedings under the purchase and possession statute.*

**b. Procedural**

Yes  No

*(If Yes, please describe.)*

*Agents receive a photographic DHHS tobacco agent badge that also includes the DHHS commissioners name, signature, tobacco Agent Synar ID number, full name and title. The badges are updated annually to match contract renewal periods and issued by the OAG TEC after each contract period is renewed. Tobacco agents use their DHHS issued badges to de-escalate atypical situations, such as when a youth intern attempts to purchase a tobacco product is questioned by a local municipality, retail tobacco establishment owner or salesclerk.*

**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.)*

*See contractual requirements in next section, b. Procedural.*

**b. Procedural**

Yes  No

*(If Yes, please describe.)*

**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.)*

*Under the contract between TSUPCP and the contractor, currently CES, LLC, both Agents and Supervisors are required to have current automobile insurance policies that comply with Maine law. In addition, CES maintains both general*

*liability and workers compensation insurance policies, both of which provide additional coverages to Agents, Supervisors and Interns working under this program pursuant to the terms and conditions of those policies. Agents and Supervisors are responsible for assuring the safety of interns while conducting Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspections. All interns ages 16-17 must submit a signed Parental Authorization, Parent Agreement, Emergency Medical Release, Youth Intern Agreement, Youth Intern Application and a copy of the Youth Intern's birth certificate before employment is effective or a Youth Intern ID number is issued by CES, LLC. All Young Adults ages of 18-20 must submit a signed Emergency Medical Release, Young Adult Intern Agreement, Young Adult Intern Application and a copy of a government issued ID or birth certificate and pass the background check before employment is effective, or a Young Adult Intern ID number is issued by the OAG TEC. When a violation occurs, the assigned agent will issue a citation, NCAA, to the licensed retail tobacco establishment, only after the supervisor and interns are safely located off-site of the violating retail tobacco establishment premise. Agents are required to intervene if any confrontation occurs between the interns and the licensed retail tobacco establishment or salesclerk. Supervisors are trained to remove interns from confrontation to allow the assigned agent to address any atypical situations with the violator. All personal information regarding the intern is confidential and cannot be released without the approval of the OAG Assistant Attorney General. The NCAA civil violation paperwork issued to the retail tobacco establishment may only contain the minor's age.*

**b. Procedural**

Yes  No

*(If Yes, please describe.)*

*Agents, Supervisors, and Interns ages 16-20 years of age, are required to participate in Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspection training and conduct a ride along with an inspection team prior to actively participating in any Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspections. The Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspection training was created and is maintained by the OAG TEC and facilitated by the contractor's Project Manager. The training includes the description of tobacco, tobacco products, and its health consequences, history of Synar, Maine's retail tobacco sale laws, retail compliance check inspection procedures, protocols, canvassing, scenarios, safety, and confidentiality. An annual refresher Synar retail tobacco compliance check training is also required for all actively employed team members. Inspections shall occur during the retail establishment's hours of operations as listed on the HIP retail tobacco license list which is received by CES from the Synar Coordinator or OAG TEC on a weekly basis. When an Intern successfully purchases a tobacco product, the Intern is required to retain the tobacco product, remaining currency, and register receipt, if applicable, exit the retail establishment immediately, and enter either the Agent or Supervisor's vehicle. The Agent and Supervisor shall meet at a safe off-site location. At this location, the Intern will hand over the tobacco product, remaining currency, and inspection details to the Agent. The Intern will then re-enter the Supervisor's vehicle. The agent must return to the violating store to issue a citation, NCAA,*

*citing the violation of Maine's retail tobacco sale law to the licensed retail tobacco establishment. However, when licensed retail tobacco establishments are close in proximity to one another or located in an area known by the agent that the violating retailer will contact adjourning retailers to notify the presence of the inspection team, the Agent shall return to the violating retail tobacco establishment only after all retail tobacco establishment inspections within a ten mile radius have been inspected to decrease bias. LD 1170, An Act to Reduce Youth Access to Tobacco Products, effective November 1, 2017 for the 2018 Synar retail tobacco compliance check inspections, the Tobacco Agent shall only issue a NCAA to the retail establishment (See, 22 M.R.S. § 1555-B.*

## APPENDIX D: LIST SAMPLING FRAME COVERAGE STUDY

(LIST FRAME ONLY)

State: \_\_\_\_\_  
FFY: 2026

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).**