

ANNUAL SYNAR REPORT

42 U.S.C. 300x-26

OMB No 0930-0222

FFY 2025

State: AK

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The Division of Behavioral Health has reformatted the original OMB No 0930-0222 form submitted as required by SAMSHA on December 15, 2025. This has been done to prioritize inclusive design, improve readability, navigation, and increase overall accessibility. This report contains the same statistical and related content as the original submission. This disclaimer is not intended to override any reporting or disclosure obligations related to the original content/submission.

To request a copy of the OMB No. 0930-0222 FFY25 submitted to SAMSHA by the State of Alaska (SOA), Department of Health (DOH), Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) on December 28, 2024, please contact Division at:

Division of Behavioral Health, Central Office
P.O. Box 110620, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0620
Main: 907.465.3370, Toll free: 800.465.4828, Fax: 907.465.2668
Email: doh.dbh@alaska.gov

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 2024 Compliance Progress) and future plans to ensure compliance with the Synar requirements to reduce youth and young adult tobacco access rates (FFY 2025 Intended Use Plan). These data are required by [42 U.S.C. 300x-26](#) and will be used by the Secretary to evaluate state compliance with the statute. Part of the mission of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) is to assist states¹ by supporting Synar activities and providing technical assistance helpful in determining the type of enforcement measures and control strategies that are most effective. This information is helpful to CSAP in improving technical assistance resources and expertise on enforcement efforts and tobacco control program support activities, including state Synar program support services, through an enhanced technical assistance program involving conferences and workshops, development of training materials and guidance documents, and onsite technical assistance consultation.

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

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 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 is submitted SAMHSA no later than December 31, 2024, and must be submitted in the format specified in the instructions. The chief executive officer (or authorized designee) of the applicant organization has signed page one of the ASR certifying that the state has complied with all reporting requirements.

States must upload one copy of the ASR using the online [WebBGAS](#) (Block Grant Application System) and the following items must be uploaded to [WebBGAS](#): FFY 2025 Synar Survey Results, Synar Inspection Form, Synar Inspection Protocol, and a scanned copy of the signed Funding Agreements/Certifications

Alaska uses the Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) and has uploaded a copy of *SSES Tables 1–8* (in Excel) to [WebBGAS](#) including one blank copy of the following:

The inspection form used to record the result of each Synar inspection.

The protocol used to train inspection teams on conducting and reporting the results of the Synar inspections.

A scanned copy of the signed FFY 2025 Funding Agreements/Certification.

FFY 2025: FUNDING AGREEMENTS/CERTIFICATIONS

The following form must be signed by the Chief Executive Officer or an authorized designee and submitted with this application. Documentation authorizing a designee must be attached to the application.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ACT AND SYNAR AMENDMENT

42 U.S.C. 300x-26 requires each state to submit an annual report of its progress in meeting the requirements of the Synar Amendment and its implementing regulation (45 C.F.R. 96.130) to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. By signing below, the chief executive officer (or an authorized designee) of the applicant organization certifies that the state has complied with these reporting requirements and the certifications as set forth below.

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 2025 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 2025 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

State: Alaska

Name of Chief Executive Officer or Designee: Tracy A. Dompeling

Signature of CEO or Designee: *Signature on file*

Title: Division Director

Date Signed: 12/24/2024

To request a copy of this form with signature, please contact Division at:

Division of Behavioral Health, Central Office
P.O. Box 110620, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0620
Main: 907.465.3370, Toll free: 800.465.4828, Fax: 907.465.2668
Email: doh.dbh@alaska.gov

Section I: FFY 2024 (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.

ASR Section I Question 1. 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:

ASR Section I Question 1a: Has there been a change in the minimum sale age for tobacco products?

No

ASR Section I Question 1b: Any changes in state law that impact the state's protocol for conducting *Synar inspections*?

No

ASR Section I Question 1c: Have there been any changes in state law that impact the following?

Licensing of tobacco vendors:

No

Penalties for sales to minors:

No

Vending machines:

No

Added product categories to youth and young adult access law:

No

ASR Section I Question 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.

Posted on a state agency Web site, Web address: <https://health.alaska.gov/en/services/tobacco-retailer-certification/>

Date published: **February 18, 2026.**

Other: Prior to submission of the ASR draft to SAMHSA, the same draft is placed on the state website identified above. Following SAMSHA approval of the ASR, the draft version on the website is replaced with the final ASR. The final approved ASR is also distributed at Tobacco Control Alliance events.

ASR Section I Question 3: Identify the following agency or agencies (see [42 U.S.C. 300x-26](#) and [45 C.F.R. 96.130](#)).

ASR Section I Question 3a: The state agency(ies) designated by the Governor for oversight of the Synar requirements: Department of Law, Office of the Attorney General and Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health

ASR Section I Question 3a supplemental: Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report?

No

ASR Section I Question 3b: The state agency(ies) responsible for conducting random, unannounced Synar inspections:

Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health

ASR Section I Question 3b supplemental: Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report?

No

ASR Section I Question 3c: The state agency(ies) responsible for enforcing youth and young adult tobacco access law(s): *Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health*

ASR Section I Question 3c supplemental: Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report?

No

ASR Section I Question 4: Identify the following agencies and describe their relationship with the agency responsible for the oversight of the Synar requirements.

ASR Section I Question 4a: 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):

Department of Health, Division of Public Health

ASR Section I Question 4b: Has the responsible agency changed since last year's Annual Synar Report?

No

ASR Section I Question 4c: Describe the coordination and collaboration that occur between the agency responsible for tobacco prevention and the agency responsible for oversight of the Synar requirements. The two agencies:

Have an informal partnership, Conduct joint planning activities, and Combine resources.

ASR Section I Question 4d: 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?

No (if no, go to Question 5)

ASR Section I Question 4e – h:

Not applicable

ASR Section I Question 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 2024 (see [42 U.S.C. 300x-26](#) and [45 C.F.R. 96.130\(e\)](#)).

ASR Section I Question 5a: Which one of the following describes the enforcement of state youth and young adult access to tobacco laws carried out in your state?

Enforcement is conducted exclusively by state agency(ies).

ASR Section I Question 5b: 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
Citations issued	0	23	23
Fines assessed	18	18	36
Permits/licenses suspended	5	NA	5
Permits/licenses revoked	0	NA	0
Other	NA	NA	NA

ASR Section I Question 5c: Are citations or warnings issued to retailers or clerks who sell tobacco to minors for inspections that are part of the Synar survey?

Yes

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:

To minimize risk of bias to the survey results from retailers alerting each other to the presence of the Alaska’s survey teams does the following: The enforcement team splits into groups and conducts simultaneous inspections. Throughout the inspection period, team members maintain contact via cell phones. If one team issues a citation, all other teams are immediately notified. Enforcement teams will conduct one or two more inspections and then terminate inspections for the day. During these post-citation inspections, enforcement teams want to specifically observe whether store personnel are talking among themselves of the tobacco citations just issued that day. If store personnel are aware of such citations, then stores most likely are passing this information among themselves. In these cases, the enforcement team will choose to reschedule investigations for a future date.

ASR Section I Question 5d: 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?

Enforcement is conducted at a combination of outlets randomly selected for the Synar survey and outlets not randomly selected for the Synar survey.

ASR Section I Question 5e: 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?

No

ASR Section I Question 5f: What additional activities are conducted in your state to support enforcement and compliance with state youth and young adult tobacco access law(s)?

Merchant education and/or training: Materials are available for all Alaska retailers related to the state's laws related to legal age for tobacco purchase/use, retailer responsibility to enforce youth access laws and suggestions to assist retailers in reducing violations of these laws. In recent years, the Alaska legislature has approved new funding to update, revise and reproduce new educational tobacco materials for retailers. DBH staff are available upon request to provide retailer/clerk training and send materials to retailers upon request and periodically to all Alaska retailers.

Community education regarding youth and young adult access laws: The Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance assists Behavioral Health in mobilizing community education, outreach, and support related to youth and young adult tobacco access laws and issues

Media use to publicize compliance inspection results: DBH uses the media to publicize and highlight compliance inspection results, the annual retail violation rates. and issues related to health issues for youth who choose to use tobacco.

Community mobilization to increase support for retailer compliance with youth and young adult access laws: The Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance assists Behavioral Health in mobilizing community education, outreach, and increase support for retailer compliance of youth and young adult tobacco access laws.

Synar Survey Methods and Results

The following information pertains to the survey methodology and results of the Synar survey used by the state to meet the requirements of the Synar Regulation in FFY 2024 ([42 U.S.C. 300x-26](#) and [45 C.F.R. 96.130](#)).

ASR Section I Question 6: Has the sampling methodology changed from the previous year?
No

ASR Section I Question 7: Please answer the following questions regarding the state's annual random, unannounced inspections of tobacco outlets (see [45 C.F.R. 96.130\(d\)\(2\)](#)).

ASR Section I Question 7a: Did the state use the optional Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) to analyze the Synar survey data?

Yes (If Yes, upload a copy of SSES tables 1–8 (in Excel) to [WebBGAS](#). Then go to Question 8.)

ASR Section I Question 7b – h:

Not applicable

ASR Question 8: Did the state's Synar survey use a list frame?

Yes (If Yes, answer the following questions about its coverage.)

ASR Section I Question 8a: The calendar year of the latest Sampling frame coverage study:
2024

ASR Section I Question 8b: Percent coverage from the latest Sampling frame coverage study:
98.45

ASR Section I Question 8c: Was a new study conducted in this reporting period?
Yes *(If Yes, please complete Appendix D (List Sampling Frame Coverage Study) and submit it with the Annual Synar Report.)*

ASR Section I Question 8d: The calendar year of the next coverage study planned:
2029

ASR Section I Question 9: Has the Synar survey inspection protocol changed from the previous year?
No

ASR Section I Question 9a:
Not applicable

ASR Section I Question 9b: Provide the inspection period:
From 06/01/24 to 09/30/24

ASR Section I Question 9c: Provide the number of youth and young adult inspectors used in the current inspection year:
8

ASR Section I Question 9d: Fill out and attach Form 5 in Appendix A (Forms 1–5).
Not applicable, Alaska used SSES to analyze the Synar survey data. *(Not required if the state used SSES to analyze the Synar survey data.)*

Section II: FFY 2025 (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.

ASR Section II Question 1. In the upcoming year, does the state anticipate any changes in:
Synar sampling methodology:

No

Synar inspection protocol:

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. In the upcoming year, Alaska does not anticipate any changes in Synar sampling methodology or their Synar inspection protocol)

ASR Section II Question 2: Please describe the state's plans to maintain and/or reduce the target rate for Synar inspections to be completed in FFY 2025. 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:

Alaska anticipates the following statewide tobacco enforcement activities for FFY25:

Work with our partners in the Alaska Court System and the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), to process suspensions for vendors convicted of selling tobacco to youths in a timelier manner. Suspensions of tobacco endorsements block vendors from selling tobacco to the public for specified periods of time. Suspensions of tobacco endorsements have been slow due to high personnel turnover.

Continue efforts to educate vendors and communities about laws related to the sale of tobacco products to underage youth.

Updating new vendor education materials and exploring positive rewards for vendors that do not sell tobacco to youths during investigations (example: mailing thank-you letters to vendors or publishing in local papers the names of vendors who do not sell tobacco to youths). Additional funds have been provided by the Alaska legislature to update and revise our current vendor education materials.

Statewide Vendor Certification program. Upon completion of an on-site visit by State Investigators, tobacco retailer meeting the specified criteria, receive a certification as a responsible tobacco retailer.

Mail letters to all tobacco vendors at least once yearly to remind them of tobacco access laws and to inform them that investigators may visit their premises to conduct under-cover tobacco investigations.

Work in closer partnership with DBH community grantees and Division of Public Health Tobacco Prevention grantees to assist in educating the local community about the importance of retailer enforcement of tobacco access and sell laws. Alaska generally increases non-Synar compliance check inspections in communities and areas with high RVR rates in the prior year.

ASR Section II Question 2: 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:

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

Limitations on completeness/accuracy of list of tobacco outlets:

The completeness of our list of tobacco outlets is limited as the State was unable to add potential new vendors based on the knowledge of community leaders and corporate entities.

Limited expertise in survey methodology:

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

Difficulties recruiting youth and young adult inspectors:

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

Geographic, demographic, and logistical considerations in conducting inspections:

Alaska's transportation challenges continue to consume much of the time and funding for the enforcement program. Due to Alaska's size and lack of infrastructure, much of this cannot be helped; however, given these challenges, the enforcement teams plan inspections far in advance and combine travel with other activities within the community.

Alaska has over 160 small, remote communities with 1 or more tobacco vendors. These are known non-complete communities due to one or more factors, including: high risk of compromised anonymity; commercial lodging is not available; safety issues; travel mode is limited (charter flights, weather, high costs, etc.). This results in a low completion rate. The state continues to work on its corrective action plan revised in FFY 2018 which includes steps to correctly identifying vendors which may be Synar ineligible.

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

Cultural factors vary widely from town to town, not only relative to the population of Alaskan Natives but also relative to the population of Asian and Russian retailers in rural communities. To help address cultural challenges, the enforcement team engages in year-round enforcement activities along with retailer education and a newly developed tobacco retailer certification program.

Other challenges:

High seasonal turnover rate among retail clerks & vendors located on remote industrial sites. Seasonal activity and high turnover for store clerks in Alaska create an unusually chaotic retail environment. The enforcement team continually offers and provides training and education to retailers and as previously mentioned, has implemented a newly developed tobacco retailer certification program to help minimize the impact of these issues.

There are several mostly remote industrial sites (such as: oil and gas fields, mining operations, and fish processors) that provide or contract for a company commissary for employees. Due to workplace safety and security, these vendors (numbering around 50) are not open to the public nor to our tobacco enforcement team. They are, therefore, known non-complete and contribute to the state's low completion rate.

Appendix A: Forms 1–5

(The state of Alaska used SSES to analyze the Synar Survey data. The information provided in the following Appendix contains the same data that was submitted as SSES output tables 1-8, a Microsoft Excel file.)

FORM 1: Summary of Synar Inspection Results by Stratum

(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.

Alaska FFY 2025	Outlets in Sampling Frame	Estimated Number of eligible Outlets in Population	Outlets Inspected	Outlets found in violation during inspections
Over the Counter (OTC)	797	766	345	22
Vending Machines (VM)	0	0	0	0
Total Outlets	797	766	345	22

Form 2: Calculation of Weighted Retailer Violation Rate.

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

State of Alaska did not utilize this form in FFY 2025.

Form 3: Summary of Cluster Created and Sampled

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

State of Alaska did not utilize a cluster design in FFY 2025

Form 4: Inspection Tallies by Reason of Ineligibility or Non-Completion

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

For FFY 2025 Alaska inspection tallies by **reason of ineligibility** were:

Out of business: 16
Does not sell tobacco products: 0
Inaccessible by youth or young adult: 1
Private club or private residence: 0
Temporary closure: 3
Unlocatable: 6
Wholesale only/Carton sale only: 0
Vending machine broken: 0
Duplicate: 0
Other ineligibility reasons were:
 Only sells native chewing tobacco: 1
 Marijuana/Cannabis Dispensary: 3
 Seafood processing boat: 1

Total Ineligible were 31.

For FFY 2025 Alaska eligible inspection tallies by **reason of non-completion** were:

In operation but closed at time of visit: 7
Unsafe to access: 0
Presence of police: 0
Youth or young adult inspector knows salesperson: 0
Moved to new location: 0
Drive-thru only/youth or young adult inspector has no driver's license: 0
Tobacco out of stock: 0
Ran out of time: 0
Other noncompletion reasons were:
 Known Non-Complete: High risk of compromised anonymity; commercial lodging not available in most communities where vendor is located; road closures/rental car restrictions on gravel roads prevent access: 370
 Industrial zone: access restricted to employees only: 51

Total (Eligible) Non-Completion: 421

Form 5: Synar Survey Inspector Characteristics

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

Alaska FFY 2025 Synar Survey Inspector Characteristics Frequency Distribution

Gender and Age	Inspectors	Attempted buys	Successful buys
Males Age 18 years	1	32	2
Females Age 17 years	1	265	13
Females Age 18 years	2	45	7
Females Age 19 years	1	3	0

Subtotals by gender	Inspectors	Attempted buys	Successful buys
Subtotals for Males	1	32	2
Subtotals for Females	4	313	20

Grand total of males and females:

5 Inspectors
 345 Attempted buys
 22 Successful buys

Alaska FFY 2025 Synar Survey Inspector Characteristics Buy Rate in Percent by Age and Gender

Males: 6.3 Percent
 Males Age 18: 6.3 Percent

Females: 6.4 percent
 Females Age 17: 4.9 percent
 Females Age 18: 15.6 percent
 Total Females: 6.4 percent

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 2024.

-

Appendix B: Synar Survey Sampling Methodology

Alaska's Synar Survey Sampling Methodology for FFY 2025

Appendix B: Question 1: What type of sampling frame is used?

List frame sampling. *(Go to Question 2.)*

Appendix B: Question 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.)*

Name of Frame Source:

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (DCCED), Division of Corporation, Business & Professional Licensing

Type of source:

3 (Statewide tobacco license/permit list)

Description:

Tobacco vendor business license endorsement list. Tobacco vendors are required to have a valid business license and tobacco endorsement

Updating Method and Cycle:

See below

List Frame Data Source:

Alaska uses a list of tobacco vendors generated annually by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development (DCCED).

Tobacco vendors must possess a valid business license and tobacco endorsement (per AS 43.70.075. License Endorsement), both of which are issued by the DCCED. Both business license and endorsement are valid through December 31 of the year in which the license expires. At the beginning of each year, the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) Analyst will access the DCCED website at: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/cbp/main/> to obtain a full download of the business licensing database, including vendor endorsements for which the business license and endorsement have an expiration date greater than or equal to December 31 of the prior year.

Preparing the List Frame:

The DCCED list of tobacco vendors is reviewed and “cleaned” in preparation for its use as the Synar list frame. These “clean-up” efforts include the following steps: The DCCED list of tobacco vendors is reviewed and “cleaned” in preparation for its use as the Synar list frame. These “clean-up” efforts include the following steps:

License Status a:

Vendors with a license status of “inactive” are removed from the list frame. A vendor may choose to inactivate a business license prior to its expiration date. A license status of inactive denotes that the vendor voluntarily ceases all business activity allowed under the license.

Business Physical Address b:

Vendors with a business license that does not include an Alaska physical address are removed from the list frame (for example, cruise ships or fishing boats that have a home port in Seattle, WA)

Tribal Lands c:

Tobacco endorsements associated with vendors on tribally controlled lands over which the State of Alaska has no jurisdiction are removed from the list frame. At present, the Annette Island Reserve (i.e. the community of Metlakatla) is the largest federal reservation for indigenous peoples in Alaska. In addition, the communities of Craig and Klawock each have a small area of about an acre with reservation status.

NAICS Codes d: When applying for a tobacco endorsement, a vendor identifies up to two NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) codes that generally describe the type of commercial activity in which the vendor is engaged. Vendor endorsements with the following NAICS codes are identified as youth-inaccessible and are removed from the list frame:

NAICS Code - NAICS Descriptions:

424810 - Beer and Ale merchant wholesalers

424940 - Tobacco product and electronic cigarette merchant wholesalers

445310 - Beer, wine, and liquor stores

445320 - Beer, wine, and liquor retailers

452910 - Warehouse clubs and supercenters

452991 - Tobacco stores

722410 - Drinking places (alcoholic beverages)

813410 - Civic and social organizations (Endorsements with this NAICS code that are private clubs with bars are identified as youth-inaccessible)

A list of vendor endorsements with a NAICS code for Beer, Wine, and Liquor Stores is reviewed by enforcement staff; if enforcement staff know or believe that an outlet is or might be youth accessible (e.g., based on the business name), the outlet is kept on the list frame.

If a vendor endorsement has more than one NAICS code, and one or more of the codes identifies the endorsement as youth-accessible, then the endorsement is included in the list frame. The following Alaska state statutes are used as a basis for determining youth-inaccessibility:

[AS 11.76.100](#). Selling or Giving Tobacco to a Minor.

[AS 11.76.106](#). Selling Tobacco Outside Controlled Access.

[AS 11.76.107](#). Failure to Supervise Cigarette Vending Machine.

[AS 04.16.049](#). Access of Persons Under the Age of 21 to Licensed Premises (Regulation of Sales and Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages).

[AS 04.16.060](#). Purchase By or Delivery to Persons Under the Age of 21 (Regulation of Sales and Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages)

SAMHSA/CSAP provided the following guidance regarding [AS 04.16.049](#). Access of Persons Under the Age of 21 to Licensed Premises as it pertains to identifying youth-inaccessible endorsements:

Vendor endorsements that sell alcoholic beverages and are identified as full-service restaurants (NAICS code 722511) are removed from the list frame. These endorsements can be considered youth-inaccessible due to the statutory requirement that individuals under 21 must remain in the restaurant area and cannot enter the bar area.

Vendor endorsements that sell alcoholic beverages and are not identified as full-service restaurants are removed from the list frame. These endorsements can be considered youth-inaccessible due to the statutory requirement that a person under 21 may enter the premises only if accompanied by a parent, guardian, or spouse who has attained the age of 21.

Note: this includes establishments that sell alcoholic beverages and are identified as limited-service restaurants (NAICS code 722513).

Additional Clean-Up Efforts e:

Prior Year Ineligibles:

Tobacco endorsements are removed from the list frame if they were identified in the prior year Synar investigation as: *Disposition Code (letter and number)–Disposition Description*.

Disposition Code	Disposition Description
I3	Inaccessible by Youth
I4	Private club or residence
I6	Unlocatable
I7	Wholesale only/carton sale only
I9	Duplicate (i.e., two distinct endorsements IDs referencing the same point of sale)

Synar Ineligibility Confirmation. Tobacco endorsements are removed from the list frame if tobacco enforcement staff has knowledge, based on information obtained since June 1 of the prior year that the endorsement would be disposed of in a Synar investigation with one of five ineligible disposition codes (I3, I4, I6, I7, and I9). Knowledge of the ineligible disposition status is based on the following:

An education effort or tobacco investigation at the business site.

A Synar eligibility on-site survey for vendors identified as being youth inaccessible (i.e., one or both NAICS codes indicates the vendor is youth inaccessible). For these vendors, eligibility status is confirmed on-site for each point of tobacco sale.

A Synar eligibility phone survey for vendors identified as being youth accessible (i.e., each NAICS code indicates the vendor is youth accessible). For these vendors, eligibility status is confirmed based on a phone survey of the owner or employee of the business, or a phone survey of a public official (city or tribal administrator or a city or tribal clerk) who has direct knowledge of tobacco sales in the rural village where a vendor is located. If the surveyed individual states that the business is closed, doesn't sell tobacco products, is not accessible to youth under 21 years of age, is unlocatable or is a private club/residence, then the endorsement is removed from the list frame.

Appendix B: Question 3 – 3a: If an area frame is used, describe how area sampling units are defined and formed:

Not Applicable

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

No, State law bans vending machines from locations accessible to youth and young adults.

Appendix B: Question 5: Which category below best describes the sample design?

Census

Appendix B: Question 6 – 10:

Not Applicable

Appendix C: Synar Survey Inspection Protocol Summary

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."

Alaska's Synar Survey Inspection Protocol FFY 2025 Summary

Appendix C: Question 1: How does the state Synar survey protocol address the following?

Appendix C: Question 1a:

Consummated buy attempts – Required

Appendix C: Question 1b:

Youth and young adult inspectors to carry ID – Required

Appendix C: Question 1c:

Adult inspectors to enter the outlet – Required

Appendix C: Question 1d:

Youth and young adult inspectors to be compensated – Required

Appendix C: Question 2: Identify the agency(ies) or entity(ies) that actually conduct the random, unannounced Synar inspections of tobacco outlets: State or local government agency(ies) other than law enforcement.

List the agency name(s): The Alaska Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH)

Appendix C: Question 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?)

Usually

Appendix C: Question 4: Describe the type of tobacco products that are requested during Synar inspections.

Appendix C: Question 4a: *What type of tobacco products are requested during the inspection?*

Cigarettes, Small Cigars, Cigarillos, Smokeless Tobacco

Appendix C: Question 4b: Describe the protocol for identifying what types of products and what brands of products are requested during an inspection:

Factors that influence the types of tobacco products requested by the youth include: gender, age, ethnic group, location within Alaska, and vendor type. Product types mainly include cigarettes and smokeless/spit tobacco, Electronic Cigarettes (ENDS), with an occasional request for cigars. (Reference the Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System [YRBSS].)

Youths are instructed to request either cigarettes (usually female) or chewing tobacco (usually males). When requesting cigarettes, youths ask for "Camels" first, which is a popular brand and can easily be pronounced by youth from diverse cultural backgrounds. If "Camels" are not available, youths ask for another brand of available cigarettes. When requesting chewing

tobacco, youth ask for "Skoal," "Copenhagen," "Kodiak" or "Grizzly" brands, depending on retailer availability.

Appendix C: Question 5a: Describe the methods used to recruit, select, and train adult supervisors:

The adult supervisors are full-time State employees within the Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health. They are investigators who are recruited, selected, and hired in compliance with State hiring laws and regulations.

Appendix C: Question 5b: Describe the methods used to recruit, select, and train youth and young adult inspectors:

The student interns are recruited through local law enforcement and public health employees and school intern programs. They are not chosen solely on their enthusiasm or dedication to the program or upon their capability to purchase tobacco. The physical appearance of their age to everyday people is a major factor regarding whether they are hired. They should look their age. They are instructed on the manner of dress, make-up and accessories worn during survey activities. The protocol for investigators includes requirements for shaving (males should have clean shaven faces). Investigators having consistently high buy-rates for a particular community are carefully re-evaluated to ensure that they do not look older than 19 years of age. The protocol covers training requirements for the student interns. It includes how to act, what to say, and how to respond to a variety of questions. Student interns are given the opportunity to practice the protocol in role-play exercises. When possible, provision is made for them to watch, or participate with, another student intern attempting a tobacco purchase as part of an actual investigation prior to working alone. Student interns are told never to entice an employee to sell through word or action. Student interns must answer truthfully if asked their age and must produce an ID if requested. Student interns are advised that they do not have to attempt a purchase if they know someone else in the business (they may, if they choose to do so), and they must NOT attempt a purchase from an employee whom they know. Student interns are trained to know they can always decline to go into a business or to leave a business if they feel uncomfortable or for any other reason.

Appendix C: Question 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?

Appendix C: Question 6a:

Legal – No

Appendix C: Question 6b:

Procedural – Yes. Student interns are instructed to cooperate when challenged by Retail Store Employees. An adult investigator is in close proximity to supervise the buy attempt and to account for the tobacco products.

Appendix C: Question 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?

Appendix C: Question 7a:

Legal – No.

Appendix C: Question 7b:

Procedural – Yes. Student interns are instructed to cooperate when challenged by Retail Store Employees. An adult investigator is in close proximity to supervise the buy attempt and to account for the tobacco products.

Appendix C: Question 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)?

Appendix C: Question 8a:

Legal – No.

Appendix C: Question 8b:

Procedural – Yes. Alaska protocol allows for the enlistment of 15 through 18-year-old student interns. Alaska law prohibits the sale of tobacco to persons less than 19 years of age, so including 18-year-old student interns is satisfactory protocol for both enforcement and Synar survey objectives.

Appendix D: List Sampling Frame Coverage Study (*List Frame only*)

A copy of Alaska's 2025 FFY List Sampling Frame Coverage Study (List Frame only) in its submitted format is available through a public information request. The following is a copy of the information contained on that form reformatted in a question-and-answer style for ease of reading, and accessibility.

Appendix D Question 1: Calendar Year of the coverage study? 2024

Appendix D Question 2: Coverage Study Summary Statistics

Appendix D Question 2a: Unweighted percent coverage found: 94.12

Appendix D Question 2b: Weighted percent coverage found: 92.69

Appendix D Question 2c: Number of outlets found through canvassing: 85

Appendix D Question 2d: Number of outlets matched on the list frame: 80

Appendix D Question 3a: Describe how areas were defined. (*e.g., census tracts, counties, etc.*)

The Calendar Year (CY) 2024 coverage study sampling areas generally were the same as those used for the CY 2011, 2014 and 2019 coverage studies, with some adjustments reflecting changes in US Census tracts and vendor density. For the coverage study, the CY 2024 sampling areas were defined based on CY 2019 sampling areas or merged sampling areas.

The following guidelines were used for merging sampling areas.

All sampling areas with 3 or fewer outlets were merged with one other adjacent sampling area.

All sampling areas with 4 to 6 outlets were considered for merging with one adjacent sampling area; a few of these were merged with an adjacent sampling area.

For 1 and 2 above, the following factors were considered when determining which adjacent sampling areas would be merged into another area: Population centers, military bases, geographic features, number of outlets, road connectivity, road miles and road density.

Currently, Alaska is comprised of 177 census tracts; these 177 census tracts were rezoned into 84 sampling areas in CY 2019. These 84 areas were then rezoned into 78 sampling areas for CY 2024. Statewide, for the 78 sampling areas, the average number of outlets per sampling area was estimated to be approximately 11 across the six coverage study strata, the average number of outlets per sampling area ranged from 8.4 to 14.1.

Appendix D Question 3b: Were any areas of the state excluded from sampling?

No

Appendix D Question 4: Please answer the following questions about the selection of canvassing areas.

Appendix D Question 4a: Which category below best describes the sample design?

Stratified Sample – Simple random sample (Respond to parts b and d.)

Appendix D Question 4b: Describe the sampling methods: Sample areas were selected for canvassing using a simple random sample from each of six coverage study strata. The number of sample areas was determined by using the suggested number of areas recommended for the state's average area size in Table 1 in Appendix B of SAMHSA's 2006 Guide for a Synar Sampling Frame Coverage Study. All strata were equally weighted. This resulted in a statewide target of 14 of 78 areas to be sampled, a sampling weight of 6.33, and a sampling fraction of 0.16. A Research Unit analyst developed a script using RStudio to randomly select sample areas within each stratum. To select the number of areas to sample per stratum, the determination was made by calculating the number of sampling areas within stratum and dividing by the sampling weight. This yields the number of areas to be sampled, rounded to the whole number. The calculation resulted in a total of 12 areas. Two areas were added to reach the recommended 14 areas recommended in the table provided by SAMHSA. One area was added to the Southeast Stratum, and one area was added to the Rural/Remote Stratum.

Appendix D Question 4c: Provide a full description of the strata that were created:

The CY 2024 coverage study used roughly the same stratification scheme that was used for the CY 2011, 2014 and 2019 coverage studies. This is the same stratification scheme used for the Synar Survey with each of the six coverage study strata as described below; urban area status is based on the 2020 US Census designation.

Anchorage Municipality:

Anchorage Municipality is on the "connected surface transportation network" (defined as road and/or marine highway network) and includes the following Urban Areas: Anchorage and Anchorage Northeast.

Fairbanks North Star Borough:

Fairbanks North Star Borough is on the "connected surface transportation network" and includes Fairbanks Urban Area and surrounding rural areas.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough:

Matanuska-Susitna Borough is on the "connected surface transportation network" and includes Wasilla, Knik-Fairview, North Lakes Urban Area and surrounding rural areas.

Rural/Remote Census Areas and Boroughs:

This stratum is the same as Synar Survey Stratum number 4, Rural/Remote, previously used in CY 2014 and 2011. The four census tracts that were previously moved into a separate stratum in CY 2019 have now been reintegrated into Stratum 4 due to the removal of the Urban Cluster designation in 2020 Census data. Stratum 4 includes: Aleutians East Borough, Bethel Census Area (including Bethel Urban Area), Bristol Bay Borough, Denali Borough, Dillingham Census Area, Kusilvak Census Area, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Nome Census Area, North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area.

Gulf Coast Census Areas and Boroughs:

The Gulf Coast Stratum is on the “connected surface transportation network” and includes: Chugach Census Area, Copper River Census Area, Kenai Peninsula Borough including Soldotna and Kenai Urban Areas, Kodiak Island Borough including Kodiak, Mill Bay Urban Area, and surrounding rural areas.

Southeast Census Areas:

The Southeast Stratum is on the connected surface transportation network and includes: Haines Borough, Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, City and Borough of Juneau (including Juneau Urban Area), Ketchikan Gateway Borough (including Ketchikan Urban Area), Petersburg Borough, Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, City and Borough of Sitka (including Sitka Urban Area), Municipality of Skagway Borough, City and Borough of Yakutat, City and Borough of Wrangell, and surrounding rural areas.

Appendix D Question 4d: Provide a full description of how clusters were formed:

Not Applicable

Appendix D Question 5: Were borders of the selected areas clearly identified at the time of canvassing?

Yes

Appendix D Question 6: Were all sampled areas visited by canvassing teams?

No (Respond to Parts a and b.)

Appendix D Question 6a: Was the subset of areas randomly chosen?

No

Appendix D Question 6b: Describe how the subsample of visited areas was drawn. Include the number of areas sampled and the number of areas canvassed:

Communities with a population of less than 10 were not canvassed.

For Stratum 4 “Rural/Remote Census Areas”, within the five randomly selected sample areas, a subsample was selected using a convenience sample, i.e., communities with a population of less than 10 were not canvassed.

“Proxy Canvassing” was used to canvass remote, very rural communities that Tobacco Enforcement staff were not able to field canvass, primarily because overnight lodging was not available in the community. Proxy canvassing also was used to canvass a few communities that could not be field canvassed due to road closures or unsafe travel conditions (e.g., when a community access road was closed due to seasonal closures or temporary closures due to weather conditions). A total of 18 communities were proxy canvassed. Proxy canvassing of 7 communities failed; 1 of the small communities refused the survey. Initially, the process for proxy canvassing, as approved by SAMHSA/CSAP, involved a coordinated effort with State Troopers, Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs), Village Health Aids (VHAs), and/or Public Health Nurses (PHNs) to identify all vendor outlets in the community that sell tobacco products to the public and are accessible by youth. One of the proxy canvassing requirements is that the canvasser must have a thorough knowledge of the community based on a recent visit, or by living in the community within the past 6 months. In some cases, however, the “proxy canvassers” do not have enough knowledge of vendors located in the community. Research Unit staff conducted the proxy canvassing by talking directly to community contacts, typically community public officials or employees, other governmental agency staff, or other

organizational staff. Community contacts were identified primarily by using the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) on-line community database. Proxy canvassing was used for one stratum, Stratum 4 - Rural/Remote Census Areas. 10 communities in the Northwest Arctic Synar Area and 8 communities in the Yukon Flats Synar Area were proxy canvassed.

Appendix D Question 7: Were field observers provided with a detailed map of the canvassing areas?

Yes

Appendix D Question 8: Were field observers instructed to find all outlets in the assigned area?

Yes (*If Yes, describe any instructions given to the field observers to ensure the entire area was canvassed, then go to Question 10.*)

“Field canvassing” of selected areas will be done by driving. “Proxy canvassing”, as approved by SAMHSA/CSAP, will be used to canvass remote, very rural communities that Tobacco Enforcement staff are not able to field canvass, primarily because overnight lodging is not available in the community.

All canvassers are instructed to identify all outlets that sell tobacco products to the public and are accessible by youth (excluding outlets that are in private homes). The following definitions are provided to canvassers: i. Tobacco products - cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco products, cigarette papers, cigars, snuff, and chewing tobacco. Youth - a person under 21 years of age.

Field Canvassing Procedures

Tobacco Enforcement staff conducts the field canvassing.

Research Unit staff provides field canvassers with an overview and detailed PDF (portable document format) and ArcGIS Online map sets of the sample areas.

Area boundaries are clearly marked on the maps. If a road serves as an area border, only the “inner” side of the road is canvassed for that specific area. The canvassing teams are instructed to review the maps and plan their travel route prior to canvassing. Every map contains a “Notes” section for canvassing teams to write notes regarding their actual travel route. Canvassers are instructed to mark the maps indicating the “canvass status” of each public road: canvassed roads are marked with a blue highlighter; roads not canvassed were marked with a pink highlighter. Each map contains a “Roads Not Travelled” section for canvassers to document why a road was not canvassed. Online maps are enabled to track the routes of each investigator where GPS and/or internet connectivity is available. General canvassing instructions read as follows:

An attempt should be made to canvass all public roads within the selected sample areas.

If a road serves as a sample area border, only the “inner” side of the road should be canvassed.

If a public road is not on the map, draw it on the map and canvass the road.

If a public road (or part of a public road) cannot be canvassed for any reason, complete an entry in the “Roads Not Travelled” section; include the road name and the reason the road cannot be

canvassed. If only part of the road can be canvassed, describe the location where the canvassing stopped.

After all canvassing trips have been completed for an area, any public road (or part of a public road) that could not be canvassed should be highlighted pink on the detailed canvassing maps and documented in the “Roads Not Travelled” section.

Before canvassers leave an area, they should conduct a “Map Review” to make sure that all public roads on the map are highlighted appropriately and all roads not canvassed are addressed in the “Roads Not Travelled” section.

Any business establishment that is accessible by youth and has a reasonable potential for tobacco sales should be checked, unless the business establishment is within a private home.

A “Tobacco Vendor Canvassing Form” must be completed for each business establishment (and point of sale) that is Synar eligible (i.e., the vendor sells tobacco products, is accessible by youth, and is not located in a private home). This form is used to collect vendor identification information (e.g., name and address) and Synar eligibility information. If a business establishment has a reasonable potential for tobacco sales but is close at the time of canvassing, a “Tobacco Vendor Canvassing Form” must be submitted with a note that indicates follow-up confirmation is needed.

After field canvassing was completed, Research Unit staff performed the following activities:

Reviewed each marked-up map set and accompanying notes/documentation to determine if there were any communities that were inaccessible due to road closures or unsafe travel conditions. These communities were then canvassed using “proxy canvassing” procedures.

Reviewed each Tobacco Vendor Canvassing Form to determine if any establishments needed follow-up confirmation regarding Synar eligibility status. Field canvassing identified 85 vendors; only 1 vendor required follow-up.

Proxy Canvassing Procedures

Research Unit staff conducted proxy canvassing by talking directly to community contacts. Contacts are typically community public officials or employees, other governmental agency staff, or other organizational staff. The proxy canvasser called the community contact and asked about the contact’s knowledge of tobacco vendors in the community. The contact was asked to identify tobacco vendors in the community and to confirm that each establishment was accessible by youth and not located in a private home. The proxy canvasser also worked with lists of known business establishments in the community (based on the Synar sampling frame, Synar Eligibility Survey results, and/or the DCRA community database listing of business licenses) as information resources for the proxy canvass effort. A canvassing form was completed for each community to identify vendors who were Synar eligible. In addition, a few vendors were identified as ineligible and will be removed from future list frames.

There were 28 eligible vendors identified through the proxy canvassing effort, but only 2 whose Synar eligibility status could not be confirmed via the study’s list frame where community contacts were unable to confirm youth access at vendor location.

Appendix D Question 9a – e: If a full canvassing was not conducted:

Not Applicable

Appendix D Question 10: Describe the process field observers used to determine if an outlet sold tobacco:

Field canvassers use offsite and onsite confirmation to determine if an outlet sells tobacco products and is youth accessible. Field canvassers are provided with the following general instructions:

Offsite direct knowledge-based confirmation. If a canvasser has direct knowledge (i.e., through prior tobacco enforcement or education activities) that an outlet sells tobacco products and is youth accessible, then the canvasser does not need to physically enter the vendor's premises. Onsite confirmation and follow-up phone confirmation. If there is reasonable potential that an outlet sells tobacco products and is youth accessible, and the canvasser does not have direct knowledge of the outlet (as described in 1. above), then the canvasser should attempt to enter the premises and confirm eligibility status by questioning vendor staff or noting physical evidence of tobacco sales (e.g., the presence of tobacco products or advertising). If the establishment is closed at the time of canvassing, the canvasser should follow up with a second visit or phone call. If field canvassers are not able to confirm Synar eligibility status, they should indicate on the "Tobacco Vendor Canvassing Form" that follow-up confirmation is needed. As noted earlier, Research Unit staff follow up with these vendors or community contacts to confirm vendor Synar eligibility status.

For proxy canvassing, Synar eligibility status was determined based on information provided by community contact. The community contact is asked if the vendor sells tobacco products, if the establishment is accessible by youth, and if the vendor's location is a private home.

Canvassing identified a total of 20 vendors that did not match our working list frame. 11 vendors are new businesses and will be included on future list frames, after canvassing is completed.

Appendix D Question 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.):

A "match" between a Synar eligible outlet identified through canvassing and an outlet on the Synar sampling frame was determined based on comparing the business name, physical address, and/or the business license number/endorsement number. Outlets identified through canvassing that could not be matched to the Synar sampling frame were identified as "not matched" and were classified as missing from the sampling frame.

Appendix D Question 12: Provide the calculation of the weighted percent coverage (if applicable):

The sample weights were determined by dividing the number of expected sample outlets to be present in the sample areas for each Synar region by the number of expected total outlets in the entire Synar region. After canvassing is completed, the computed weight for each region is multiplied by the number of canvassed outlets in that region. Next the number of matches found during canvassing is also multiplied by the sample weight. The sum of products for the matches are then divided by the sum of products for outlets canvassed and then multiplied by 100 to yield a percentage.