

Note to reviewer:

CDC received a total of 10 comments in response to the CDC National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System (NHBS) published in the Federal Register on November 21, 2025, Volume 90, Number 223, Pages 52670-52671 (Docket No. CDC-2025-0753).

Summary of Public Comments Types Received

1. **Non-substantial Comments:** 4 comments expressing support for the continuation of NHBS, with contact information provided.
 - a. Please see “General Response Note” below for additional information on response template.
 - b. All commenters provided email addresses; emails will be sent once approved.
2. **Substantial Comments:** 1 comment required a detailed response.
3. **Comments from Private Citizens:** 5 comments were received that do not require a response due to lack of contact information.
4. **Excluded Comments:** 0 comments were excluded.

Responses will be sent by email to the 4 non-substantial comments, all from national organizations, local community-based organizations, or State health departments. Email response will also be sent to the substantial comment. Draft general response for non-substantial and substantial comments are presented below for clearance review and approval.

General Response Note: This will be customized for non-substantial comments of support where contact information was provided (4 total). These comments did not provide any specific recommendations. The highlighted portions below will be customized, as needed.

NOTE: All commenters provided email addresses; no hard copies will be sent. Date and recipient addresses will not be included in the email.

Subject: Response to Comments on NHBS Docket No. CDC-2025-0753

Dear _____,

On behalf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), thank you for your comments made in support of continuing the data collection for the CDC National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System (NHBS) published in the Federal Register on November 21, 2025, Volume 90, Number 223, Pages 52670-52671 (Docket No. CDC-2025-0753).

CDC appreciates your insights and recognizes the critical role that NHBS plays in monitoring behaviors of persons disproportionately affected by HIV that are related to HIV transmission and prevention in the United States. Your emphasis on the importance of maintaining a robust surveillance system aligns with CDC's commitment to effectively monitor trends and allocate resources for HIV prevention and care. Your support reinforces the critical role of NHBS by enabling surveillance to describe and monitor the HIV risk behaviors, HIV seroprevalence and incidence, and HIV prevention experiences of persons disproportionately affected by HIV.

Thank you again for your comments. Your perspective is valuable as CDC reviews the proposed data collection for NHBS. CDC appreciates your support of NHBS data collection and continued commitment to end HIV in the United States.

Sincerely,

Behavioral and Clinical Surveillance Branch

Division of HIV Prevention

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Department of Health and Human Services

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Subject: Response to Comments on NHBS Docket No. CDC-2025-0753

Dear Satyadhar Joshi,

On behalf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), thank you for your comments submitted in response to the Federal Register notice published on November 21, 2025 (Volume 90, Number 223, Pages 52670–52671) regarding the proposed continuation and revision of the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System (NHBS) (Docket No. CDC-2025-0753).

CDC acknowledges and appreciates the time, expertise, and thoughtful consideration reflected in your detailed submission and accompanying paper, *“Advancing U.S. Public Health Surveillance: Leveraging Generative AI and Agentic Systems for the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Program.”* Your proposal presents a comprehensive and forward-looking perspective on opportunities to modernize surveillance methodologies, including potential approaches to improving data quality, timeliness, efficiency, and respondent experience while emphasizing validation, ethical safeguards, and human oversight.

CDC recognizes the importance of exploring innovative methods, including emerging technologies, to strengthen public health surveillance. As part of ongoing efforts across the Department of Health and Human Services, CDC has implemented multiple initiatives related to artificial intelligence, including staff training, participation in data upskilling programs using tools such as Python and R, and the responsible exploration of AI-assisted tools within approved governance frameworks.

We also acknowledge your comments regarding respondent burden. In the current NHBS data collection request, CDC has taken steps to reduce burden through

question removal and revisions intended to improve survey efficiency and data quality. Your proposed framework and observations related to data flow, privacy considerations, validation and monitoring, and quality assurance offer valuable ideas that will be considered as CDC continues to evaluate and refine surveillance approaches.

Public comments such as yours play an important role in informing CDC's review of information collection activities. All comments received are carefully reviewed and considered in accordance with applicable federal requirements.

Thank you again for your engagement, thoughtful input, and continued interest in the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System and in advancing efforts to end HIV in the United States.

Sincerely,

Behavioral and Clinical Surveillance Branch
Division of HIV Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services