



Satyadhar Joshi <satyadhar.joshi@gmail.com>

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

NHBS (CDC) <nhbs@cdc.gov>

Mon, Mar 30, 2026 at 10:16 AM

To: "satyadhar.joshi@gmail.com" <satyadhar.joshi@gmail.com>

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