



June 9, 2025

Linda Shriver
Acting Unit Chief
Crime and Law Enforcement Statistics Unit
Federal Bureau of Investigation – CJIS Division
10000 Custer Hollow Road
Clarksburg, WV 26306

RE: [Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Extension of a Previously Approved Collection; National Use-of-Force Data Collection](#)

Dear Ms. Shriver,

NAMI appreciates the opportunity to submit comments in support of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) extension of the previous approved "National Use-of-Force Data Collection." NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for all people affected by mental illness. We do this by providing advocacy, education, support, and public awareness through our over 650 state and local organizations in communities in every state in America. NAMI believes that the FBI's collection of national data on the use-of-force within law enforcement is critical to transparency, accountability and can be used to improve policing practices.

NAMI cares about law enforcement data collection because people with mental illness are overrepresented in the criminal justice system and contact between law enforcement and people with mental illness is all too common. Estimates show that people with serious mental illness are **over ten times** as likely to experience use of force in interactions with law enforcement than those without serious mental illness. NAMI and its affiliates work closely with law enforcement in every state to improve policing, especially where people with mental illness are concerned. Part of this effort is to ensure that when law enforcement respond to people in mental health crisis, they have the training and resources to respond, so everyone involved goes home safely. Use-of-force data helps inform efforts to understand how and why force is applied and to develop trainings that provides frontline officers with the skills to minimize the use-of-force in the field. It also helps policymakers and law enforcement leadership know what types of scenarios officers are encountering, and the resources needed to avoid unnecessary use-of-force incidents. This data can also assist with a macro understanding of whether national, state and local policies to reduce use-of-force incidents are succeeding.

NAMI strongly supports the continuation of the National Use-of-Force Data Collection efforts. Specifically, NAMI believes this data collection is a very necessary part of the FBI's role, and the utility of the information outweighs any burden placed on state and local agencies to participate. Understanding law enforcement operations is essential to the work of policymakers and law enforcement leaders, as well as keeping the American public informed. Use of force disproportionately impacts people with mental illness. Law enforcement leaders and policymakers at all levels should prioritize policies that prevent use of force when law enforcement is responding to a person in a mental health crisis to reduce trauma and tragedy.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our comments further, please contact Shannon Scully, Director of Justice Policy & Initiatives at sscully@nami.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah Wesolowski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

Hannah Wesolowski
Chief Advocacy Officer
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)