

Byrd, Kathy K. (CDC/NCHHSTP/DHP)

From: Byrd, Kathy K. (CDC/NCHHSTP/DHP)
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 3:12 PM
To: mazruia@hotmail.com
Subject: response to 60-day FRN public comment

Mr. Berger,

Good afternoon and thank you for your recommendations regarding the expansion of jurisdictional coverage and the inclusion of additional behavioral risk factors in the national HIV program data collection.

- **Regarding Jurisdictional Expansion:** We acknowledge that aligning with the Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (EHE) initiative is essential. The current participant sites offer a national overview of HIV programs while adhering to existing budget and resource constraints. The CDC regularly assesses its reporting frameworks and may consider including additional local jurisdictions in future data collection efforts, depending on available resources and programmatic needs.
- **Regarding Substance Use Questions:** We acknowledge that non-injection drug use, alcohol consumption, and tobacco use can adversely affect HIV prevention and care outcomes. Although the current data collection emphasizes primary risk factors and core clinical indicators, we will consider this suggestion during the next revision cycle to assess whether these variables can be included without significantly increasing the burden on respondents or duplicating data collected through other CDC systems (e.g., NHBS, MMP).

V/r,

Kathy Byrd

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services