

Transgender Research Portfolio

A Snapshot of the NIH FY 2020 SGM Portfolio Analysis



National Institutes of Health
Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office

Introduction

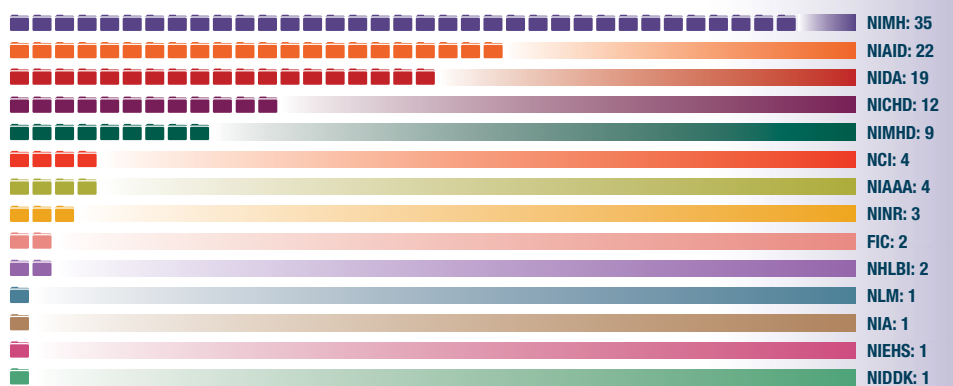
The full portfolio of NIH-supported research projects on sexual and gender minority (SGM) populations was initially identified using a set of key terms specific to SGM populations. Projects related to transgender¹ health for fiscal year (FY) 2020 were a subset of this portfolio. The SGM portfolio was reviewed manually to determine which of the projects therein were related to transgender health, and the results were compiled with projects reviewed in previous years to identify those that were transgender-specific or -relevant² for FY 2020. Analyses of those 116 transgender health-related projects are presented below. Transgender health-related projects constituted approximately 21.9% of the SGM portfolio for FY 2020.

¹ Transgender is a term used to describe individuals whose gender identity and/or expression does not necessarily correspond to their sex assigned at birth. Transgender does not include other gender identities, which are categorized separately.

² We generally use the terms “specific” and “relevant” to distinguish between these two broad categories of relevance. *Specific* refers to a project focused primarily on a pertinent disease, condition, or population; *relevant* means that a project pertains to a category, but another disease area, condition, population, or other focus is considered primary.

Projects by Institute or Center

Almost half (49.1%) of the transgender health-related projects in FY 2020 were administered by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) administered 16.4% of the transgender health projects. The *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) funded 1 in 10 projects (10.3%), and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) administered 7.8% of this segment of the SGM portfolio.

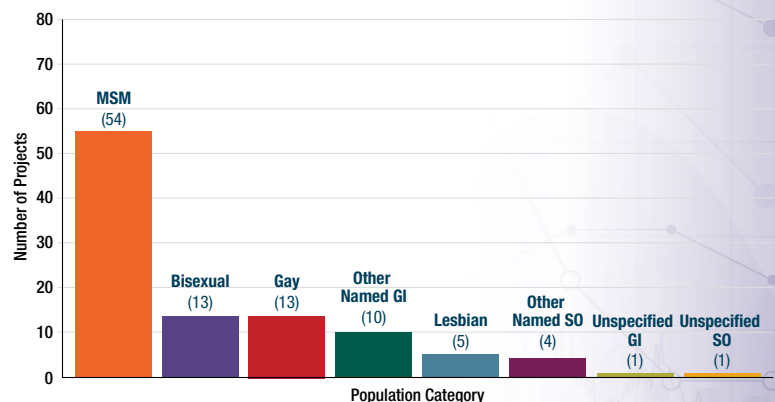


N = 116

Key: FIC = Fogarty International Center; NCI = National Cancer Institute; NHLBI = National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; NIA = National Institute on Aging; NIAAA = National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; NIAID = National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; NICHD = *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; NIDA = National Institute on Drug Abuse; NIDDK = National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; NIEHS = National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; NIMH = National Institute of Mental Health; NIMHD = National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities; NINR = National Institute of Nursing Research; NLM = National Library of Medicine

Transgender Projects by Population

Many projects investigating transgender health also may include other SGM populations. The single largest population studied in conjunction with transgender individuals was men who have sex with men (MSM) at 46.6%, followed by bisexual and gay populations at 11.2% each. The fourth largest category was Other Named Gender Identity, which could include gender nonconforming, genderfluid, gender non-binary, and other identities.

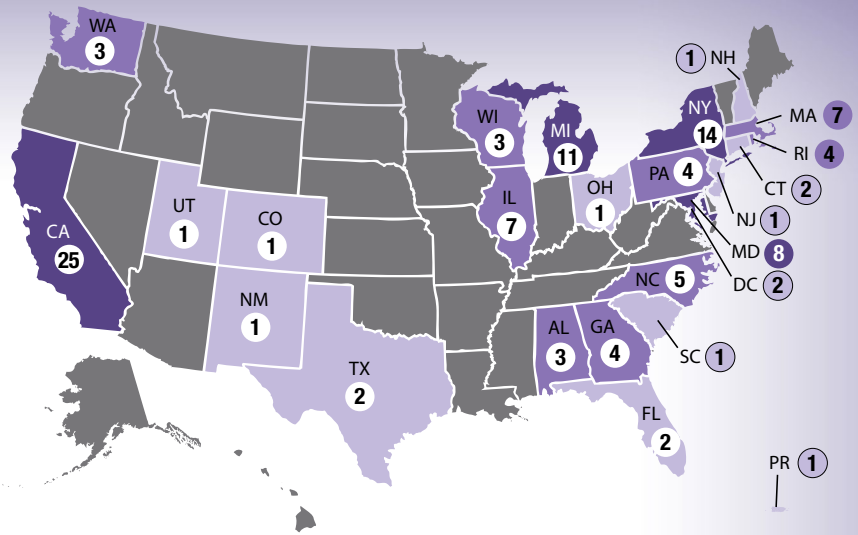


Key: MSM = men who have sex with men; Other Named Gender Identity = gender identity other than transgender (e.g., non-binary, gender non-conforming, etc.); Other Named Sexual Orientation = other named sexual orientation categories not previously listed (e.g., queer, pansexual, etc.); Unspecified Gender Identity = the project conceptually investigates gender identity but does not specify a gender minority identity; Unspecified Sexual Orientation = the project conceptually investigates sexual orientation but does not specify a sexual minority identity.

Projects by State

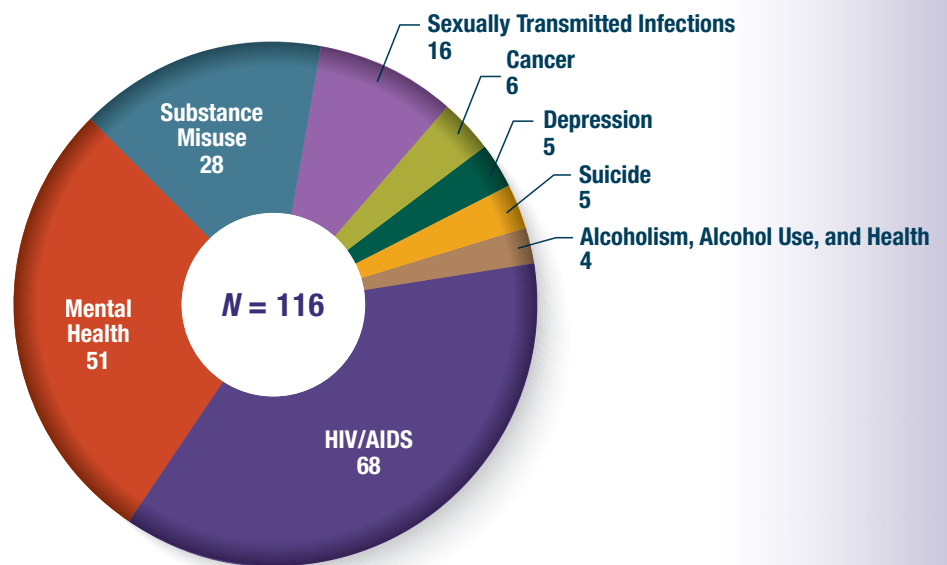
In FY 2020, NIH funded transgender health-related projects in 22 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, as well as Canada, Thailand, and Uganda. Organizations located in California managed roughly one in five studies (21.6%). More than 1 in 10 studies (12.1%) were managed by organizations located in New York, while Michigan accounted for nearly 1 in 10 projects (9.5%).

The map indicates the location of the funded institution and not necessarily where activity on a project took place. Three projects conducted outside the United States are not depicted.



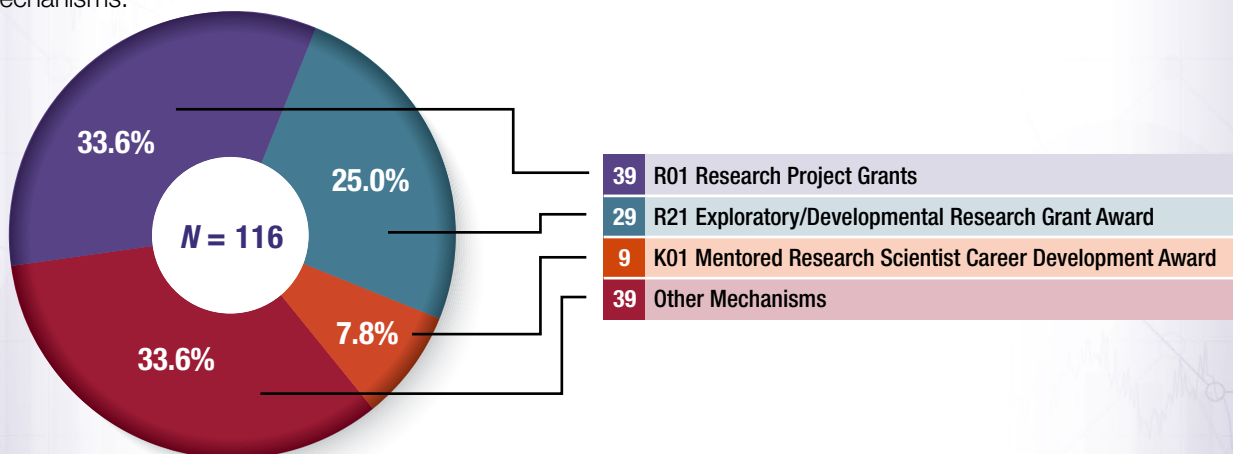
Projects by Disease Area/Health Condition

The majority of transgender health-related projects (58.6%) pertain to HIV/AIDS. More than two out of every five transgender health-related project focused on mental health (44.0%), and more than one in five were related to substance misuse (24.1%). Other health conditions explored in these projects include sexually transmitted infections; cancer; depression; suicide; and alcoholism, alcohol use, and health. Please note that the total number across conditions is greater than 116 because projects may be counted in more than one category.



Projects by Funding Mechanism

More than one in three (33.6%) transgender health-related projects were funded through the R01 Research Project Grants mechanism. One in four (25.0%) were R21 Exploratory/Developmental Awards, while more than 1 in 20 (7.8%) were K01 Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Awards. The remaining 39 projects were supported by a variety of 19 different funding mechanisms.



Because of changes in the administration of projects from year to year, the number of projects for the Snapshots may differ somewhat from those published in the corresponding FY 2020 Portfolio Analysis.