

# Transgender Research Portfolio

A Snapshot of the NIH Fiscal Year 2021

## SGM Portfolio Analysis



National Institutes of Health  
Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office

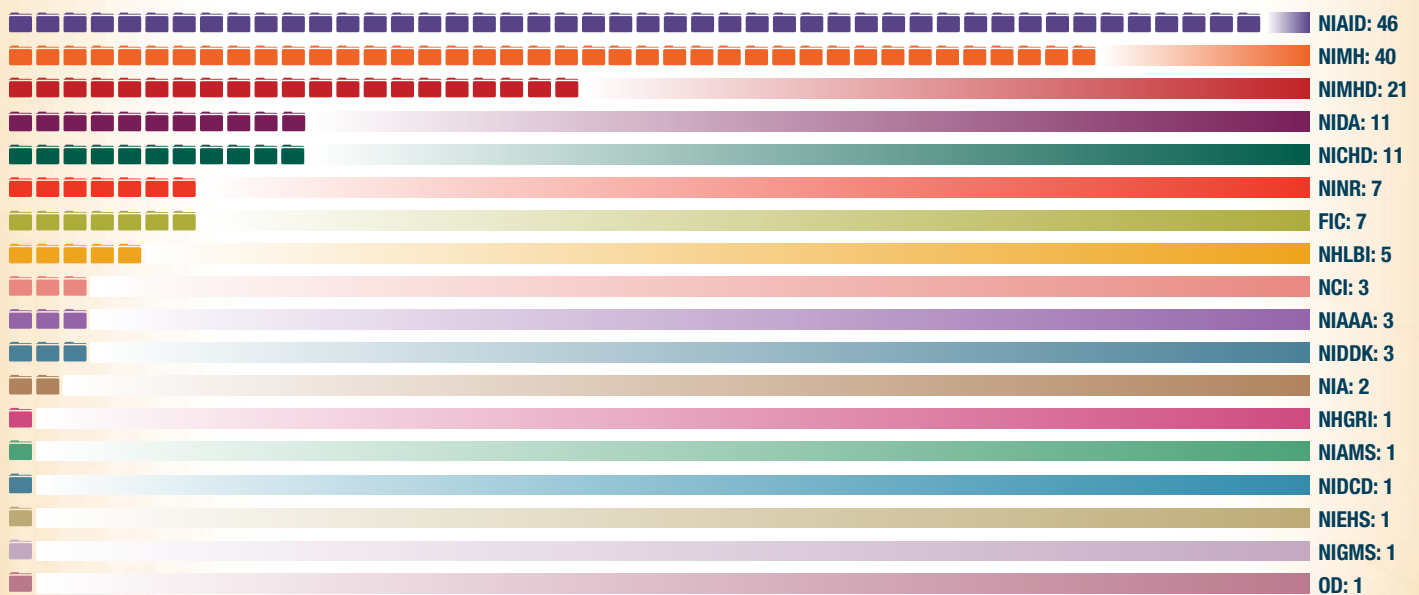
### Introduction

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 transgender<sup>1</sup> health for fiscal year 2021 (FY21) 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<sup>2</sup> or relevant for FY21. Analyses of those 165 transgender health-related projects are presented below. Transgender health-related projects constituted approximately 30.3% of the SGM portfolio for FY21 and were administered or funded by 18 different institutes, centers, and offices (ICOs).

<sup>1</sup> *Transgender* is a term used to describe individuals whose gender identity and/or expression does not correspond to their sex assigned at birth. Transgender does not include other gender identities, such as non-binary, which are categorized separately.  
<sup>2</sup> 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 focus is considered primary.

### Projects by Institute or Center

More than a quarter (27.9%) of the transgender health-related projects in FY21 were administered by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) administered more than 1 in 5 projects (24.2%), while the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) administered more than 1 in 10 (12.7%). The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) administered about 1 in 20 projects (6.7%), as did the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and Fogarty International Center (FIC) each administered seven transgender-related projects (4.2%). The remaining 22 projects were administered by an additional 11 ICOs.

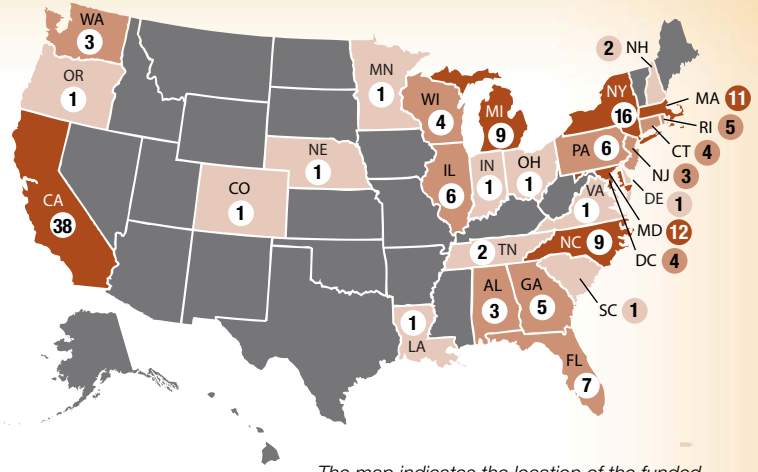


**N = 165**

**Key:** FIC = Fogarty International Center; NCI = National Cancer Institute; NHGRI = National Human Genome Research 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; NIAMS = National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; NICHD = *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; NIDA = National Institute on Drug Abuse; NIDCD = National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders; NIDDK = National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; NIEHS = National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; NIGMS = National Institute of General Medical Sciences; NIMH = National Institute of Mental Health; NIMHD = National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities; NINR = National Institute of Nursing Research; F = Office of the Director

## Projects by State

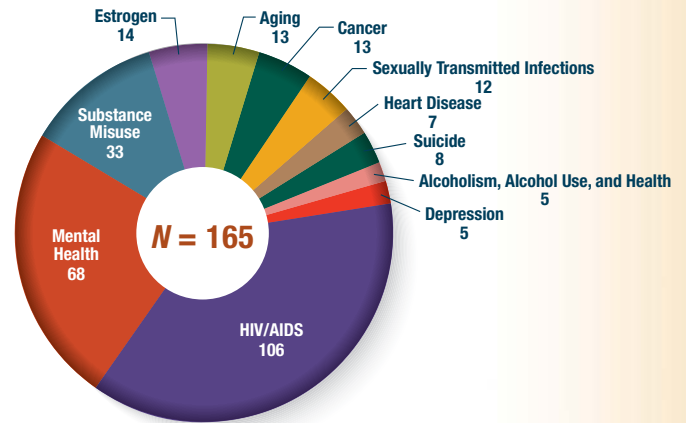
In FY21, NIH funded transgender health-related projects in 28 states and the District of Columbia, as well as Canada, South Africa, Peru, and Uganda. Organizations located in California managed roughly one in five studies (23.0%). Fewer than 1 in 10 studies (9.7%) were managed by organizations located in New York, while institutions in Maryland accounted for more than 1 in 5 projects (7.3%), followed by Massachusetts with 11 projects (6.7%). North Carolina and Michigan were the only two remaining states with organizations that administered more than 5% of the portfolio, with 5.5% each. The remaining 64 projects were administered in 22 additional states and the District of Columbia.



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

## Projects by Disease Area/Health Condition

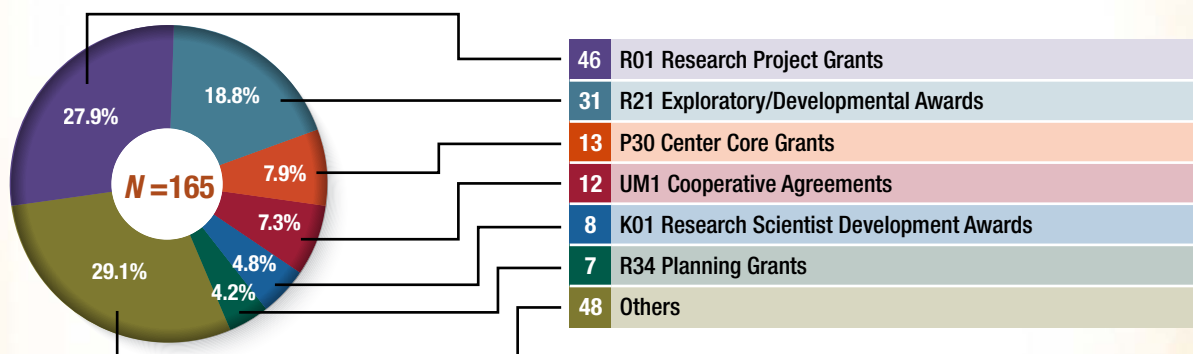
Nearly two-thirds (64.2%) of transgender health-related projects pertained to HIV/AIDS. More than two in five (41.2%) transgender health-related projects focused on mental health, and one in five (20.0%) related to substance misuse. Other health conditions and research areas explored in these projects include estrogen; aging; cancer; sexually transmitted infections; heart disease; suicide; alcoholism, alcohol use, and health; and depression.



The total number of projects across conditions and research areas is greater than 165 because projects may be counted in more than one category.

## Projects by Grant Type (Activity Code)

More than one-quarter (27.9%) of the transgender health-related projects were funded through the R01 Research Project Grants mechanism. More than one in six (18.8%) were R21 Exploratory/Developmental Awards, while more than 1 in 20 were either P30 Center Core Grants (7.9%) or UM1 Cooperative Agreements (7.3%). Fewer than 1 in 20 were K01 Research Scientist Development Awards (4.8%) or R34 Planning Grants (4.2%). The remaining 48 projects were supported by 22 other 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 FY21 Portfolio Analysis.