Introduction

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) projects related to transgender1 health for fiscal year (FY) 2019 were a subset of the full portfolio of 408 sexual and gender minority (SGM) projects for the year. The full portfolio was identified using the SGM fingerprint, which includes a set of key terms specific to SGM populations. The full SGM portfolio was reviewed manually to determine which of the projects in the SGM portfolio were related to transgender health. Analysis of those 92 transgender-related projects is presented below. Transgender-related projects constituted approximately 22.6% of the SGM portfolio for FY 2019.

1 Transgender refers to gender identity and/or expression that does not correspond to sex assigned at birth.

Projects by Institute or Center

Almost half (47.9%) of transgender-related projects were administered by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) funded almost one in five projects (18.5%). The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) administered 10.9% and 8.7%, respectively.

Funding Amount by Institute or Center

NIAID was the largest single funder of transgender-related projects, accounting for 66.8% of the approximately $84.7 million spent. An additional four Institutes and Centers—NIMH, NICHD, NIDA, and NIMHD—funded more than $3 million each on transgender-related studies.
Projects by Location

In FY 2019, NIH funded transgender-related projects in 19 states and the District of Columbia. Organizations located in California administered 3 in 10 studies (30.4%). Almost 1 in 10 studies (9.8%) were administered by organizations located in New York.

The map indicates the location of the administering institution and not necessarily where activity on a project took place. Three projects (not included on the map) took place outside of the United States.

Projects by Disease Area/Health Condition

The majority of transgender-related projects (68.5%) pertain to HIV/AIDS. More than one third of transgender-related projects focused on mental health (38.0%), and more than one in five were related to substance abuse (use) (22.8%). Other health conditions explored in these projects include the following: sexually transmitted infections; cancer; aging; contraception/reproduction; alcoholism, alcohol use, and health; depression; suicide; and tobacco, tobacco smoke, and health. Please note that the total number across conditions is greater than 92 because projects may be counted in more than one category.

Projects by Funding Mechanism

The majority of transgender-related projects (66.3%) were research projects and included the R01 Research Project Grants, R21 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award, and R34 Research Project Planning Grant, among others.

Due to 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 2019 Portfolio Analysis.