

National Institutes of Health Strategic Plan to Advance Research on the Health and Well-being of Sexual & Gender Minorities

Fiscal Years 2021 – 2025

This handout highlights the overarching considerations, scientific themes, and the operational strategic goal areas of the [NIH Strategic Plan to Advance Research on the Health and Well-being of Sexual & Gender Minorities \(SGMs\) for FY 2021–2025](#).

OVERARCHING CONSIDERATIONS

Key examples of overarching considerations for sexual and gender minority (SGM) research are presented below. These considerations should be incorporated into the pursuit of each of the scientific themes and operational goals presented in the strategic plan whenever applicable and appropriate.

- Intersectionality
- Life Situations
- Aging
- SGM Subpopulations
- Relevant Research Frameworks

SCIENTIFIC THEMES AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The strategic planning process yielded several overarching scientific themes and research opportunities to be considered for the field of SGM health research:

Scientific Theme 1: Clinical Research

Various opportunities have been identified that could help to develop critical infrastructure and fill key knowledge gaps for SGMs in clinical settings.

Scientific Theme 2: Social and Behavioral Research

Further social and behavioral research is needed to strengthen our grasp of how these phenomena interoperate among themselves and with other factors and, ultimately, exert their effects on the health outcomes of SGM individuals.

Scientific Theme 3: Research in Chronic Diseases and Comorbidities

Increased and expanded research is needed to elucidate the full extent of the impact of chronic diseases and comorbidities for SGM populations and subpopulations.

Scientific Theme 4: Methods and Measurement Research

Improved and tailored sampling methodologies are required to thoroughly explore research questions on the health and well-being of SGM populations.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGIC GOAL AREAS



Goal 1: Advance rigorous research on the health of SGM populations in both the extramural and intramural research communities.

- Objective 1:** Develop scientific workshops to identify SGM research opportunities.
- Objective 2:** Encourage Institutes, Centers, and Offices (ICOs) to set SGM health-specific and relevant research as a priority.
- Objective 3:** Expand awareness of SGM-relevant research initiatives at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- Objective 4:** Increase grant support for SGM health-specific research.



Goal 2: Expand SGM health research by fostering partnerships and collaborations with a strategic array of internal and external stakeholders.

- Objective 1:** Increase communications and training with ICOs and external stakeholders.
- Objective 2:** Increase SGM expertise in NIH review panels and study sections.
- Objective 3:** Encourage cultural competency training opportunities on the specific characteristics of SGM health research for NIH-funded extramural and intramural clinical trainees and researchers.



Goal 3: Foster a highly skilled and diverse workforce in SGM health research.

- Objective 1:** Develop resources and tools related to SGM health research for internal and external stakeholders.
- Objective 2:** Continue to conduct regional workshops focused on building capacity in SGM health research.
- Objective 3:** Develop a grant mechanism to support institutional training efforts.
- Objective 4:** Encourage the recruitment and retention of SGM researchers in the health research workforce.
- Objective 5:** Collaborate with NIH training and workforce offices on SGM diversity issues to address the [NIH Workplace Climate and Harassment Survey](#) results concerning SGM populations to create a more welcoming environment.



Goal 4: Encourage data collection related to SGM populations in research and the health research workforce.

- Objective 1:** Encourage the expansion of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data collection and subsequent analyses in health care and related settings through such mechanisms as surveys, national data sets, and administrative data collection.
- Objective 2:** Leverage existing data sets by engaging with ICOs and external organizations to collect SOGI data.
- Objective 3:** Enhance SOGI-related data resources and data sharing, ensuring data privacy and security.

