Introduction

The NIH projects related to transgender health for fiscal year (FY) 2018 were a subset of the full portfolio of 384 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 manually reviewed to determine which of the projects in the SGM portfolio were related to transgender health. Analysis of those 76 transgender-related projects is presented below. Transgender-related projects constituted 19.8% of the SGM portfolio for FY 2018.

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

Projects by Institute or Center

The majority (51.3%) of transgender-related projects were funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) funded 18.4% and 11.8%, respectively.

Funding Amount by Institute or Center

NIAID was the largest single funder of transgender-related projects, accounting for 51.9% of the approximately $49.2 million spent. An additional four Institutes and Centers—NICHD, NIMH, NIDA, and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)—funded more than $2 million each on transgender-related studies.
Projects by State

In FY 2018, NIH funded transgender-related projects in 16 states and the District of Columbia. More than one in three studies, 36.8%, were administered by organizations located in California. More than one in 10 (11.8%) were administered by organizations located in New York.

The map indicates the location of the funded institution and not necessarily where activity on a project took place. Three projects (not included on the map) took place on the NIH campus in the intramural program.

Projects by Disease Area/Health Condition

Three-quarters of transgender-related projects (75.0%) pertain to HIV/AIDS. More than two in five transgender-related projects focused on mental health (42.1%), and more than one in five were related to substance abuse (22.4%). Other health conditions explored in these projects include the following: sexually transmitted infections; cancer; alcoholism, alcohol use, and health; contraception/reproduction; depression; and suicide. Please note that the total number across conditions is greater than 76 because projects may be counted in more than one category.

Projects by Funding Mechanism

The majority of transgender-related projects (72.4%) were research projects and included the R01 Research Project Grants, R21 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award, and R34 Research Project Planning Grant, among others.