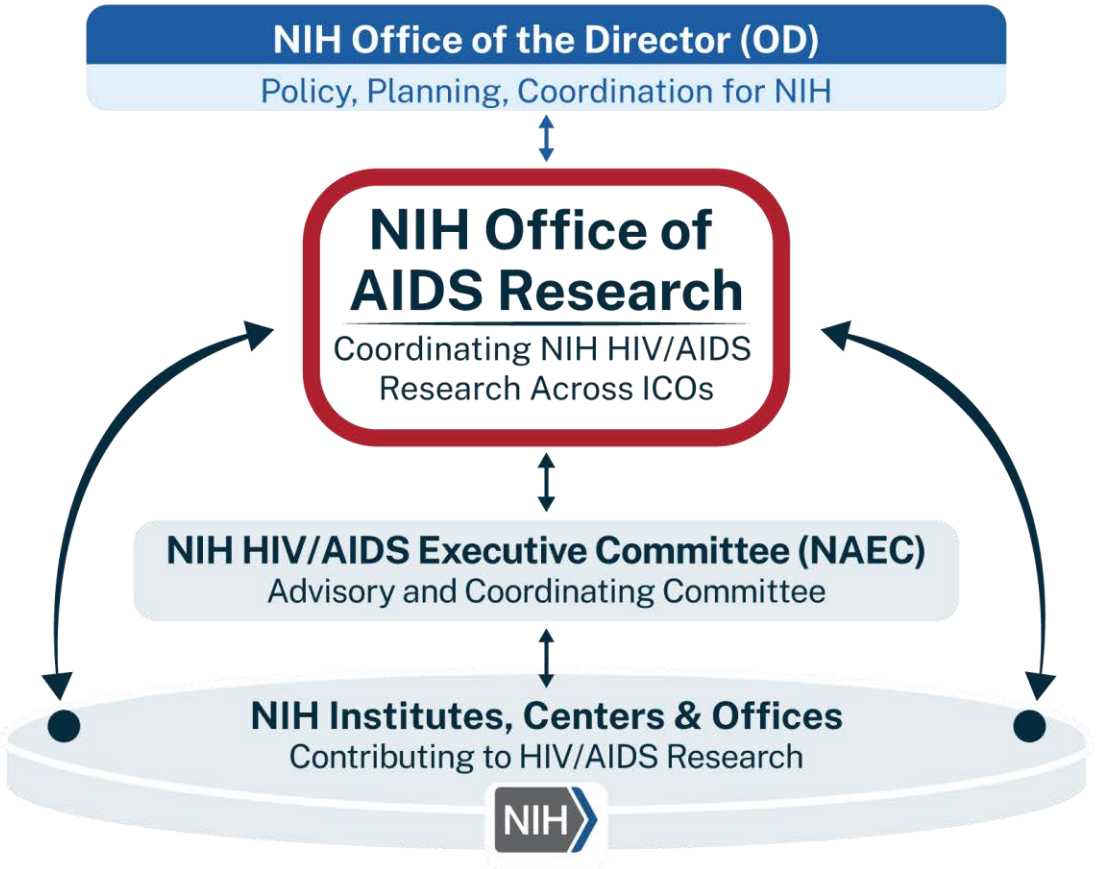
NIH Office of AIDS Research

May 20, 2026

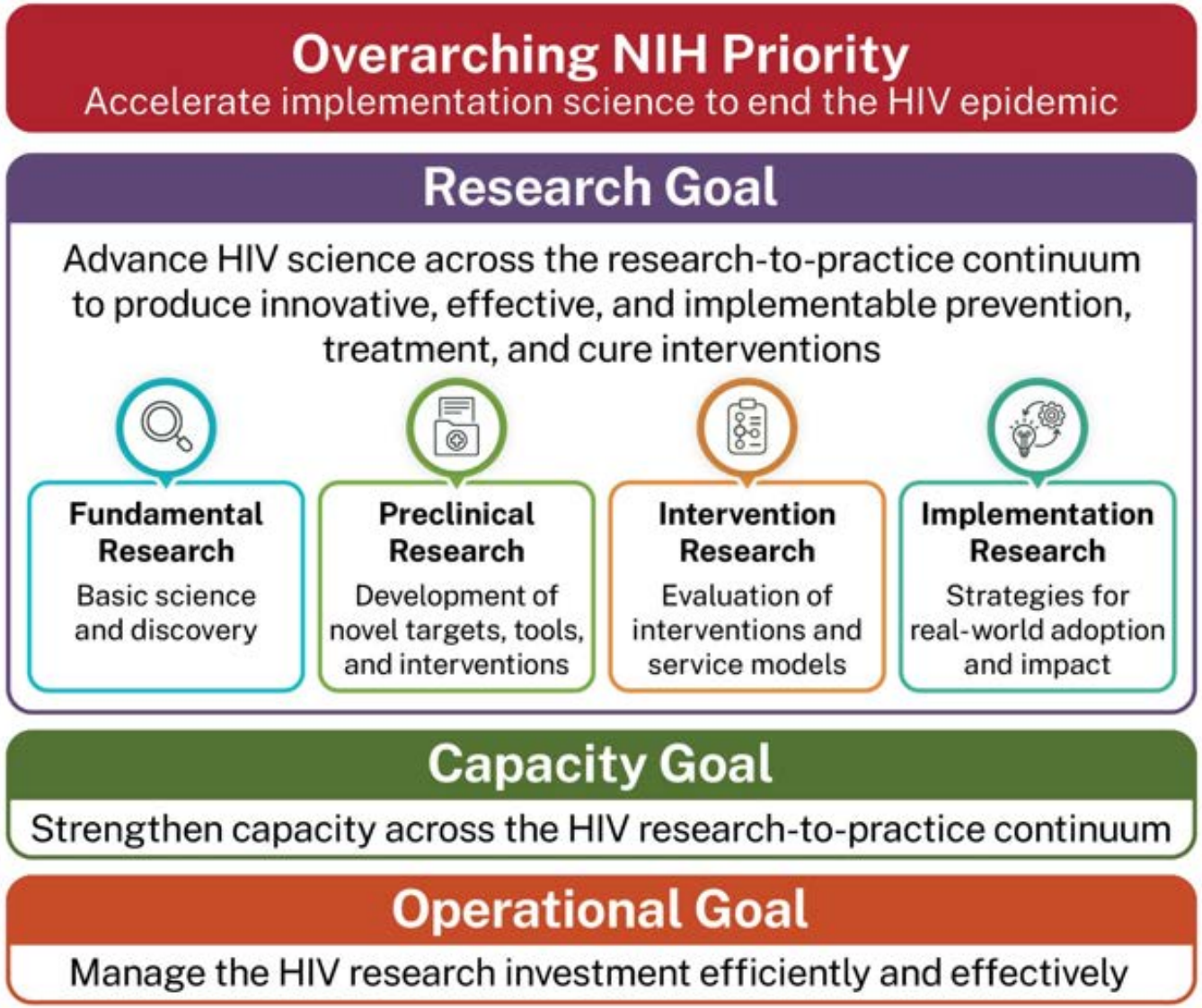
Geri R. Donenberg, PhD
Associate Director for AIDS Research
Director, Office of AIDS Research
National Institutes of Health

OAR coordinates the complex NIH HIV research program

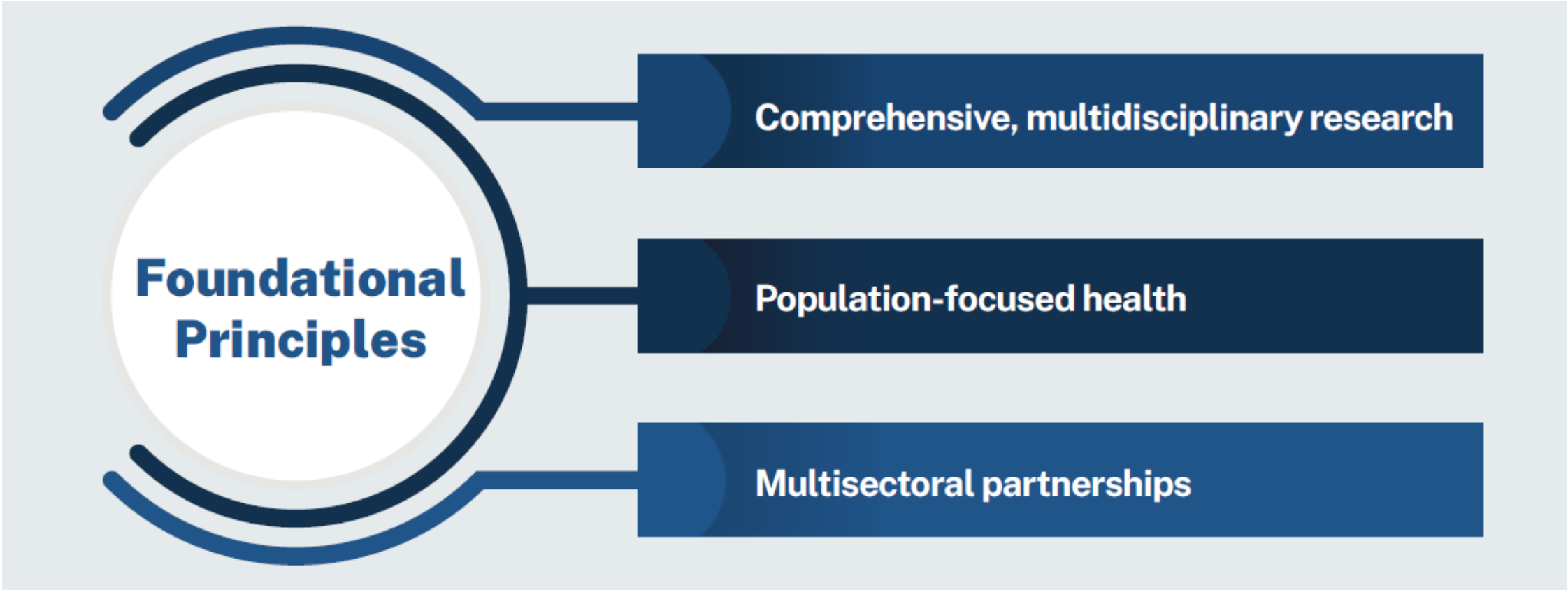


- More than 20 NIH Institutes and Centers award grants with HIV/AIDS funding.
- In FY25, $3.29B in HIV/AIDS funding supported more than 3,800 awards across NIH.

NIH HIV/AIDS Research Strategic Plan *draft*

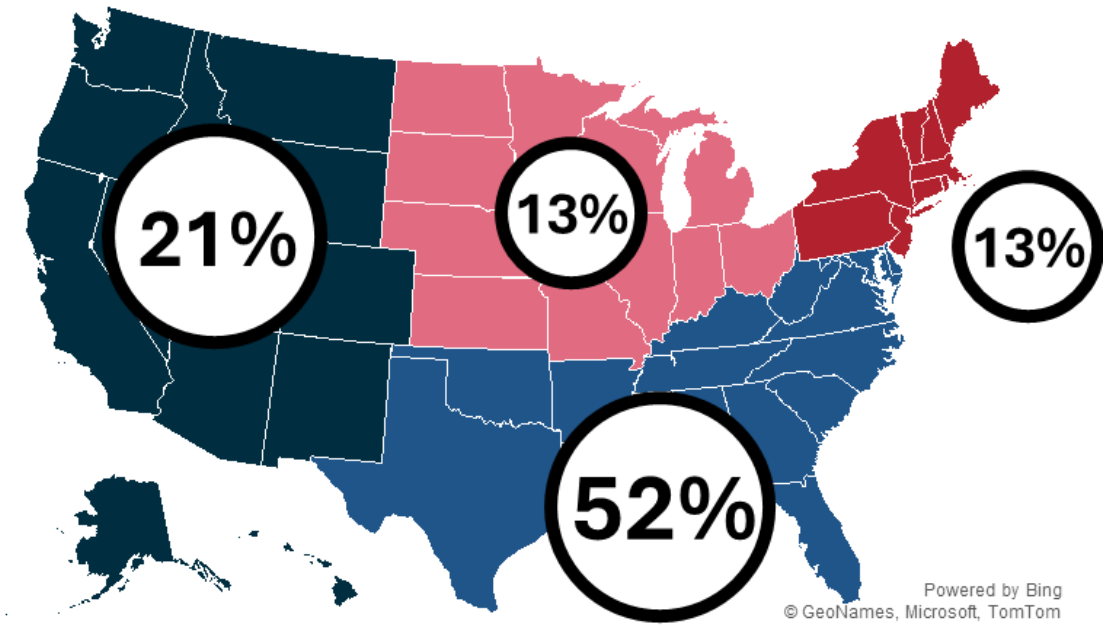


The Plan is grounded in three foundational principles



Nearly 40,000 new diagnoses per year

Majority of new cases are in the U.S. South



- Adolescents and young adults: 18%
- Women: 19%
- Heterosexual contact: 24%
- Breakdown by race and ethnicity
  - American Indians/Alaska Natives: 1%
  - Black or African Americans: 38%
  - Hispanic or Latinos: 34%
  - White people: 23%

2023 CDC data

HIV in the United States



- Despite effective prevention and treatment, **1.1 million** Americans have HIV.
- More than half are **age 50 or older**
- Nearly 1 in 4 are **women**

2023 CDC data

HIV Diagnoses and Trends Among AI/AN

- New HIV diagnoses increased by 30% from 2018 to 2022 (166 to 215 cases), whereas overall trend is decreasing.
- AI/AN children under age 12 were diagnosed with HIV three times as often as children nationwide.
- Roughly 1 in 4 new HIV diagnoses in women, same as nationwide numbers.

Uneven Reach of HIV Interventions Affects AI/AN Communities

For every 100 people with HIV



87 knew their HIV status.

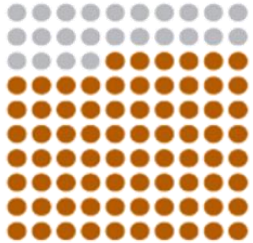
For every 100...



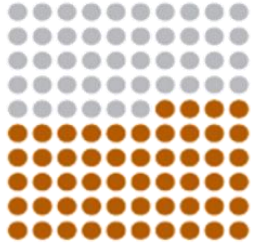
American Indian/Alaska Native people with HIV **77**

...knew their HIV status.

For every 100 **American Indian/Alaska Native people** with diagnosed HIV:



76 received some HIV care **



54 were retained in care ††



65 were virally suppressed ‡‡

Implementation science definition

The **study of methods to promote the adoption and integration of evidence-based practices and interventions** into routine health and public health settings to improve our impact on population health.

https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/is/about


ARISE-HIV
Advancing Research in Implementation Science to End HIV

Advancing **R**esearch in **I**mplementation **S**cience to **E**nd HIV **(ARISE-HIV)**

Advancing high-priority science	Institutional coordination	Engagement & partnership	Knowledge translation & dissemination	Training & capacity strengthening

Building on existing implementation science investment

AHISA

PATCH-IN

LISN

CFAR
CENTERS FOR AIDS RESEARCH



Clinical Trial Networks

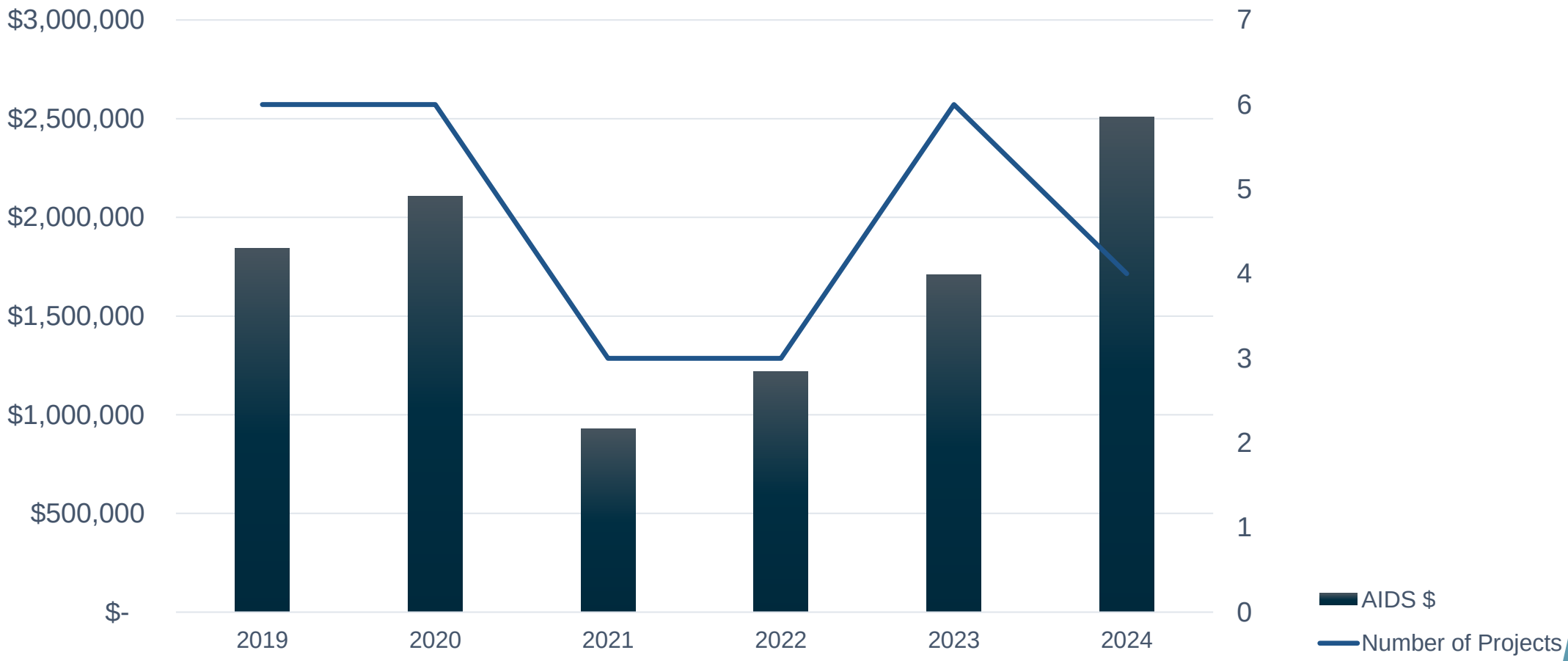
CHESHIRE
Capacity-building Hubs to Enhance the Science of HIV Implementation REsearch



Some ongoing projects

- Collaboratively describing community-informed social drivers of health for patients living with HIV—PI: Oliver John Bear Don't Walk
- The ITZA Program: Indigenous HIV/AIDS Research Training 3 Program—PI: Michelle Johnson-Jennings
- Linkages between HIV/STI prevention and syndemic behaviors in high risk youth—PI: Sarah Feldstein Ewing
- Intersectional approaches to population-level health research: role of HIV risk and mental health in alcohol use disparities among diverse sexual minority youth—PI: Gregory Philips

NIH HIV and AI/AN Investment FY19-FY24



Summary

- Although NIH's HIV research investment in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations has steadily increased over time there is a clear opportunity for growth and expanded engagement.

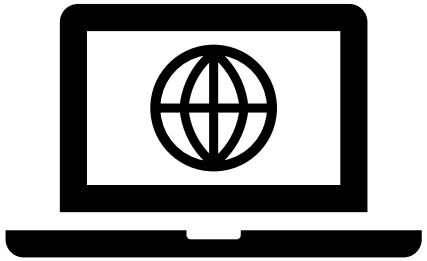
- OAR aims to expand engagement with AI/AN partners through continued listening sessions, site visits, and community-driven collaboration.

- Workforce development remains a priority, including supporting Indigenous scholars and expanding Early Career Investigator (ECI) opportunities.

Thank you

Visit our website

https://www.oar.nih.gov/



Sign up for email updates

bit.ly/emailoar