ADVANCING SEXUAL & GENDER MINORITY HEALTH RESEARCH AT NIH & BEYOND

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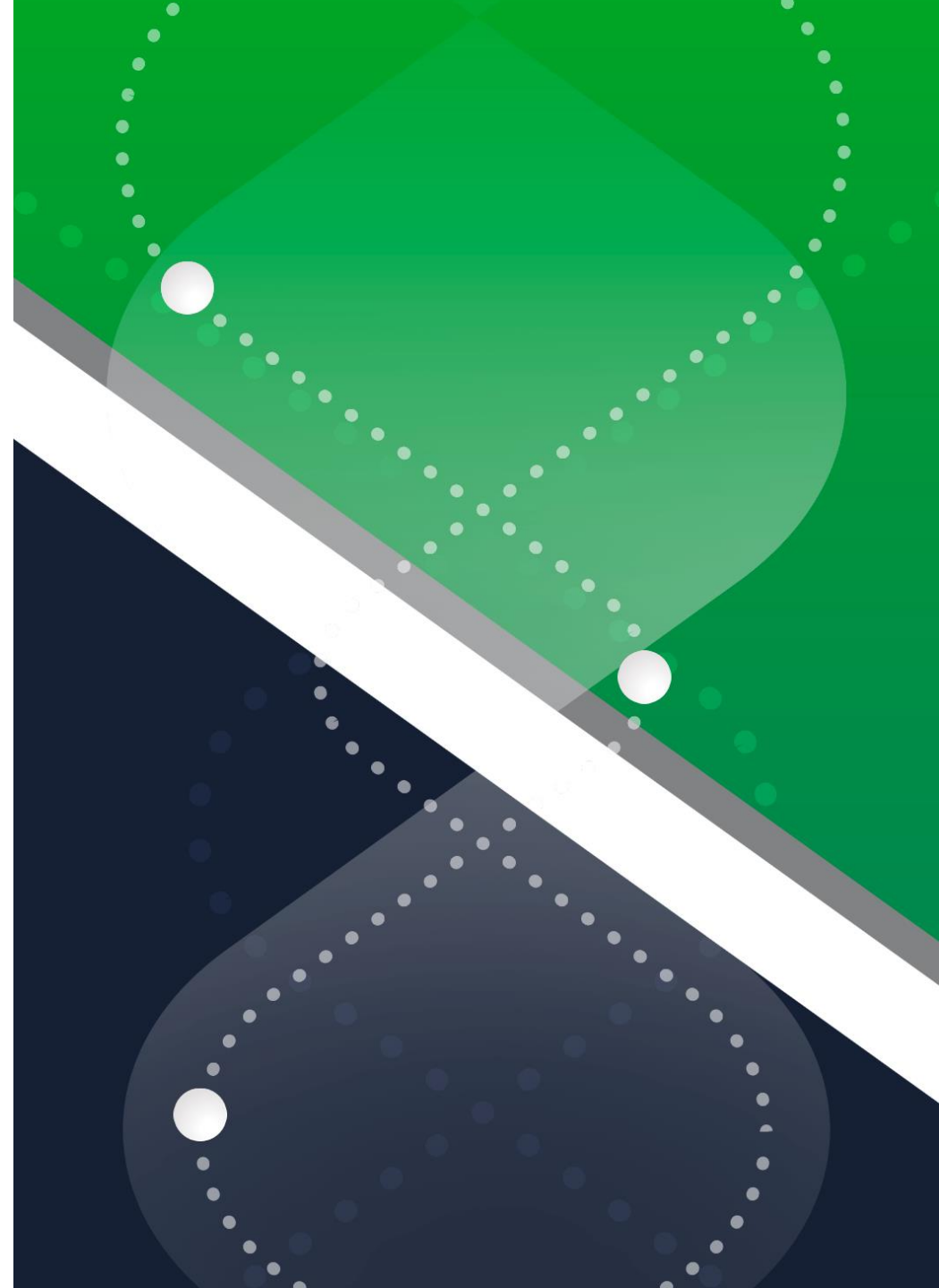Office of the Director
National Institutes of Health

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Overview of Presentation

- Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office
- NIH SGM Research Strategic Plan
- NIH SGM Grants Portfolio FY 2022
- Key Challenges & Opportunities

SEXUAL & GENDER MINORITY RESEARCH OFFICE

SGMRO – Who We Are & What We Do

- **Coordinate** sexual and gender minority (SGM) health research activities across NIH

- **Serve** as a resource about and **provide** technical assistance on SGM-related research activities, including measurement and data collection, for the extramural and NIH communities

- **Collaborate** with and **support** the NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices to develop initiatives to expand SGM health research and support the SGM health research workforce

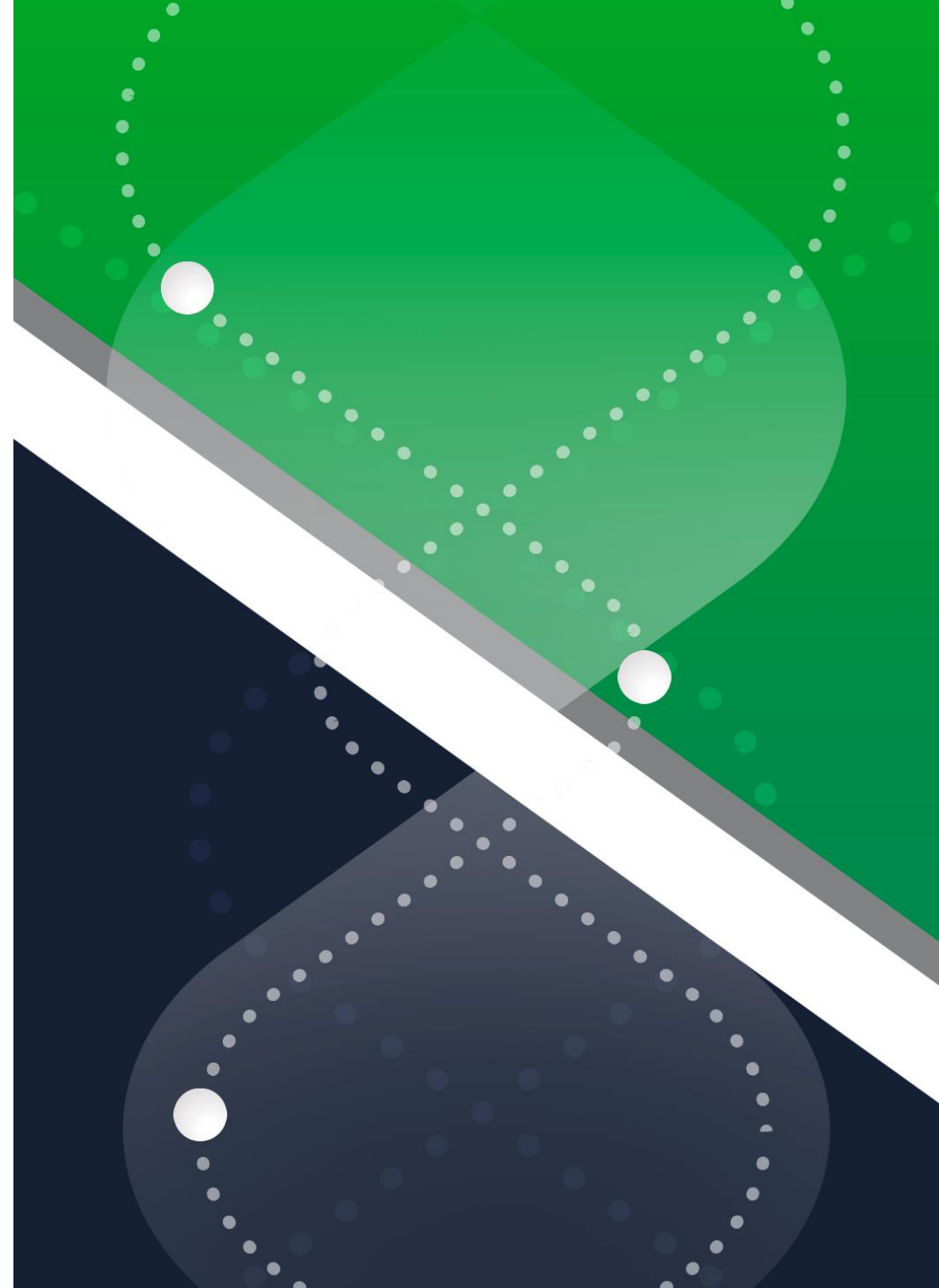**SGMRO does not have grant-making authority**

- NIH Sexual & Gender Minority **Research Coordinating Committee** (RCC)

- Sexual & Gender Minority **Research Working Group** (RWG) of the NIH Council of Councils

- **Cross-Agency Collaboration**

SEXUAL & GENDER MINORITY RESEARCH STRATEGIC PLAN

Operational Strategic Goal Areas

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

Operational Goal 2: Expand SGM health research by fostering partnerships and collaborations with a strategic array of internal and external stakeholders
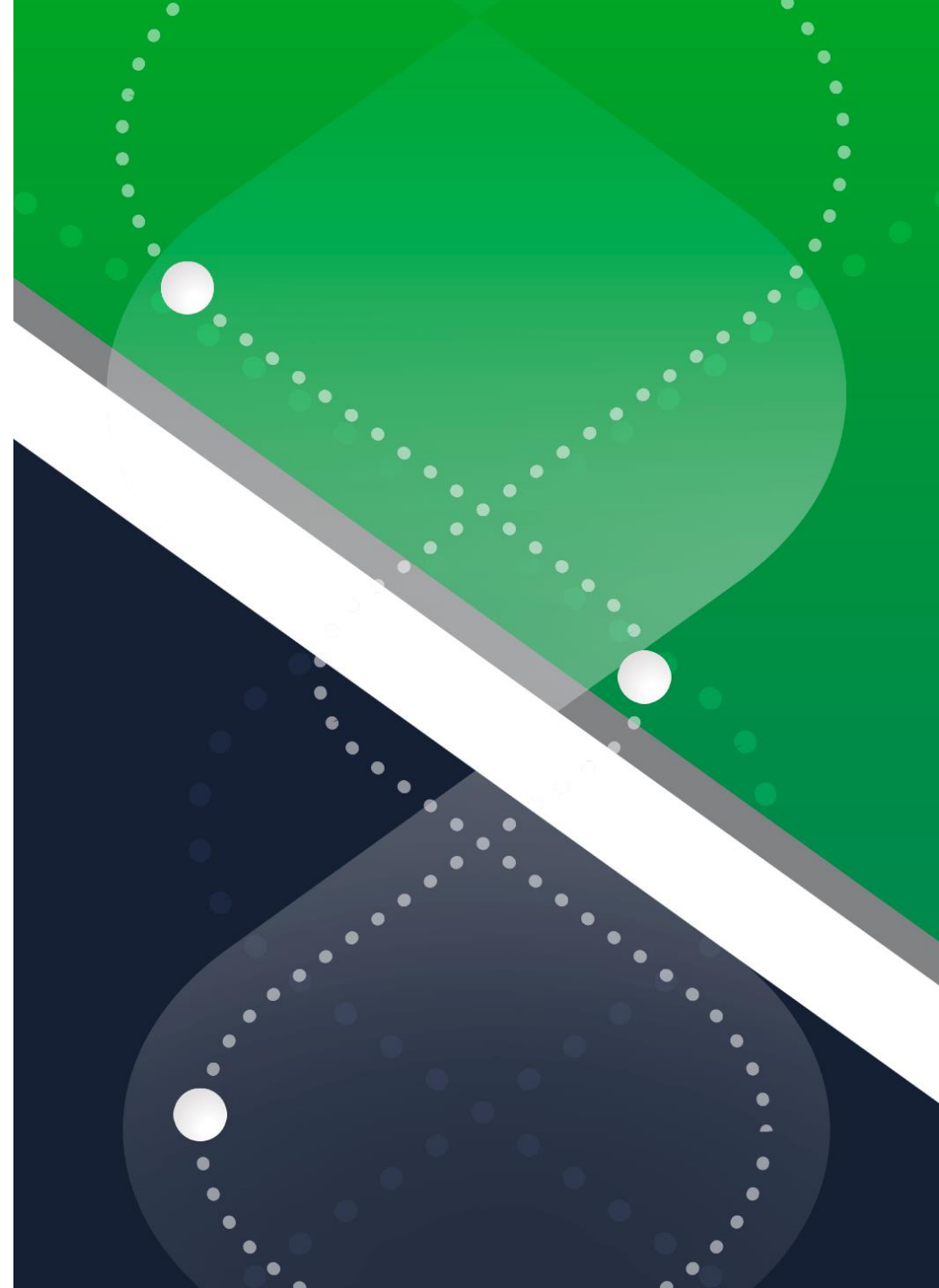
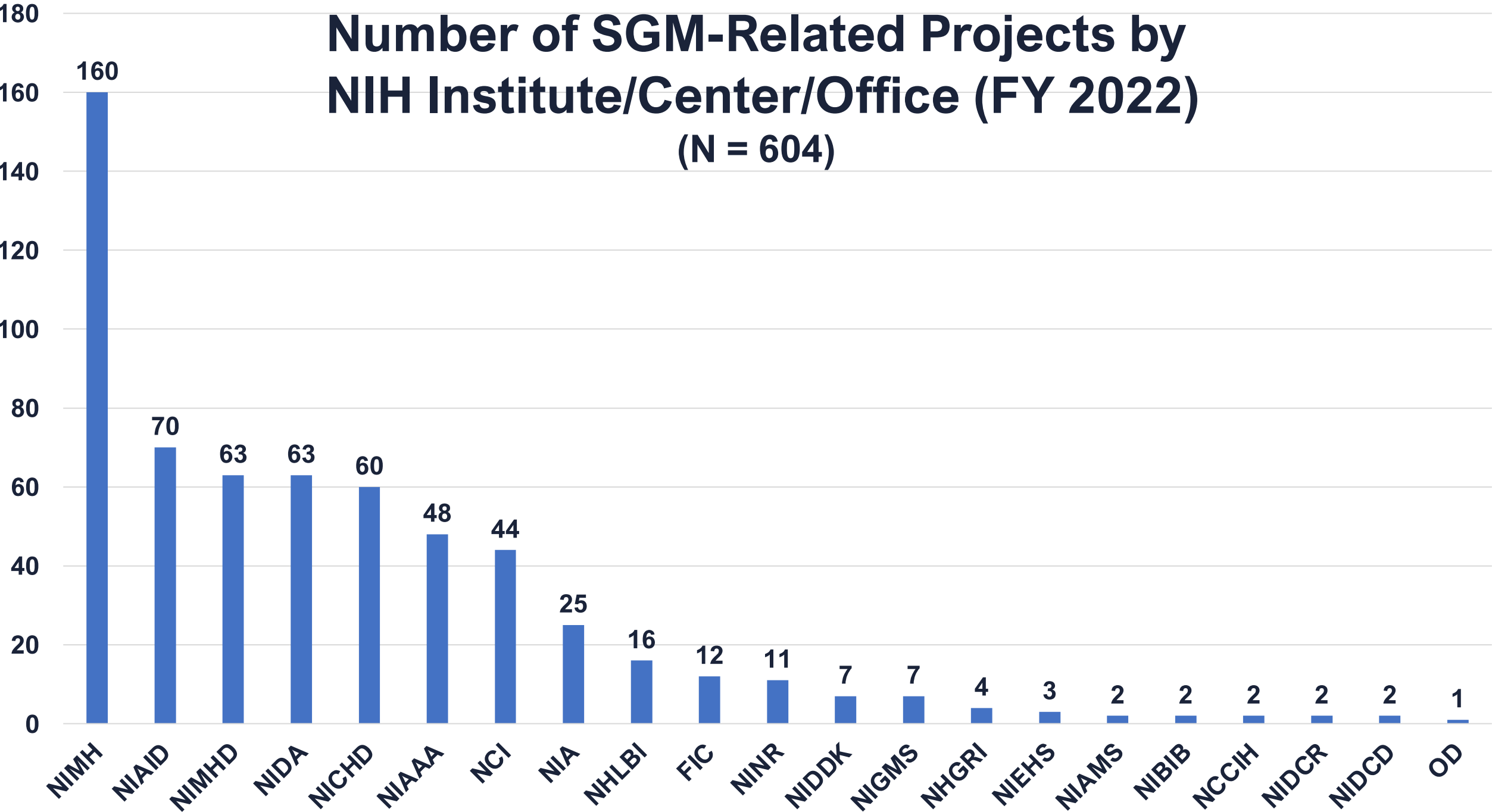**Operational Goal 3:** Foster a highly skilled and diverse workforce in SGM health research

Operational Goal 4: Encourage data collection related to SGM populations in research and the health research workforce
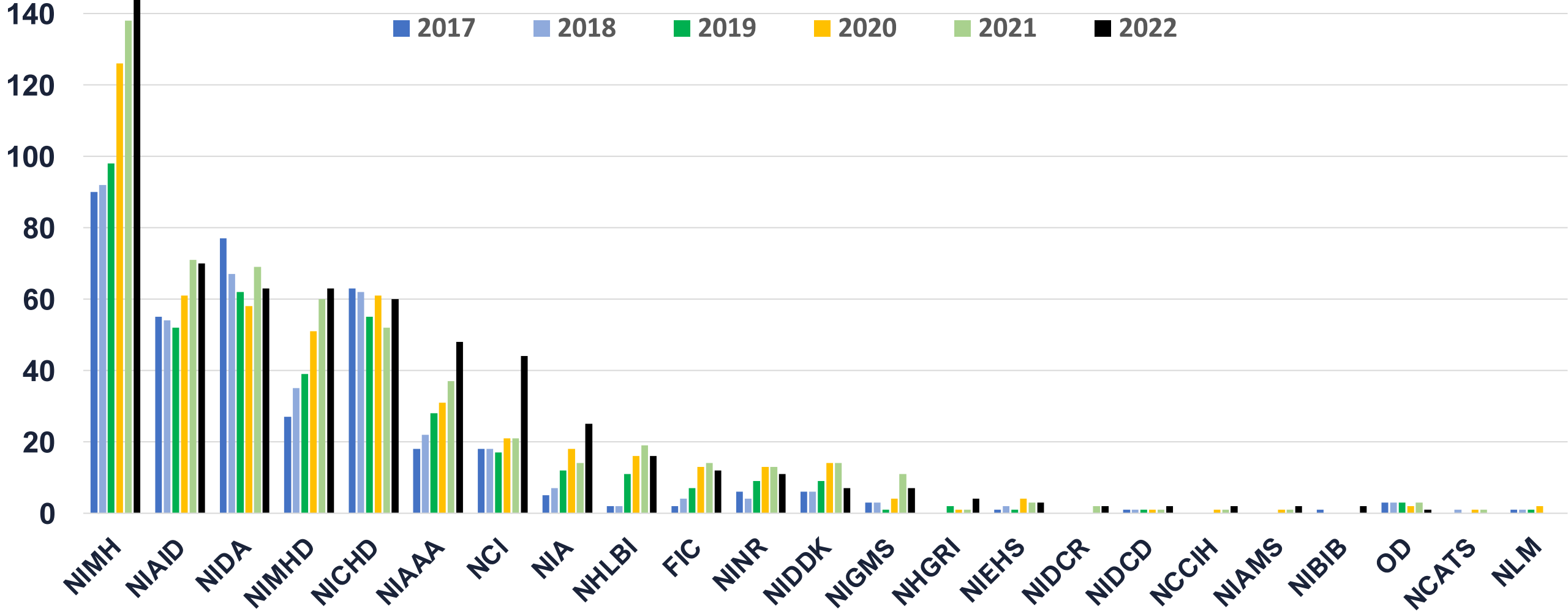
NIH SGM GRANTS PORTFOLIO
FY 2022

Number of SGM-Related Projects by
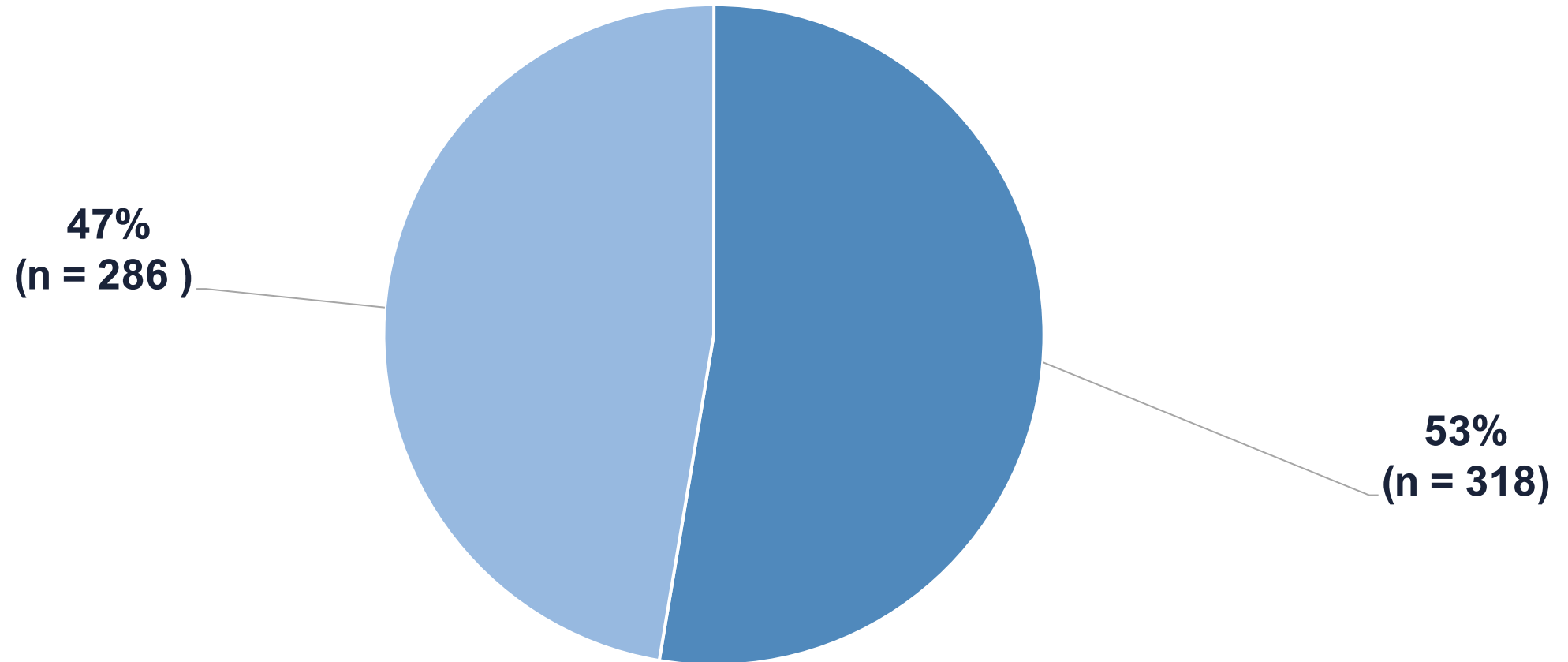NIH Institute/Center/Office (FY 2022)
(N = 604)

Number of SGM-Related Projects by NIH Institute/Center/Office
(FY 2017 N = 379, FY 2018 N = 384, FY 2019 N = 408, FY 2020 N = 502, FY 2021 N = 546, FY 2022 N = 604)

Comparison of Non-HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS Related SGM-Related Projects (FY 2022)
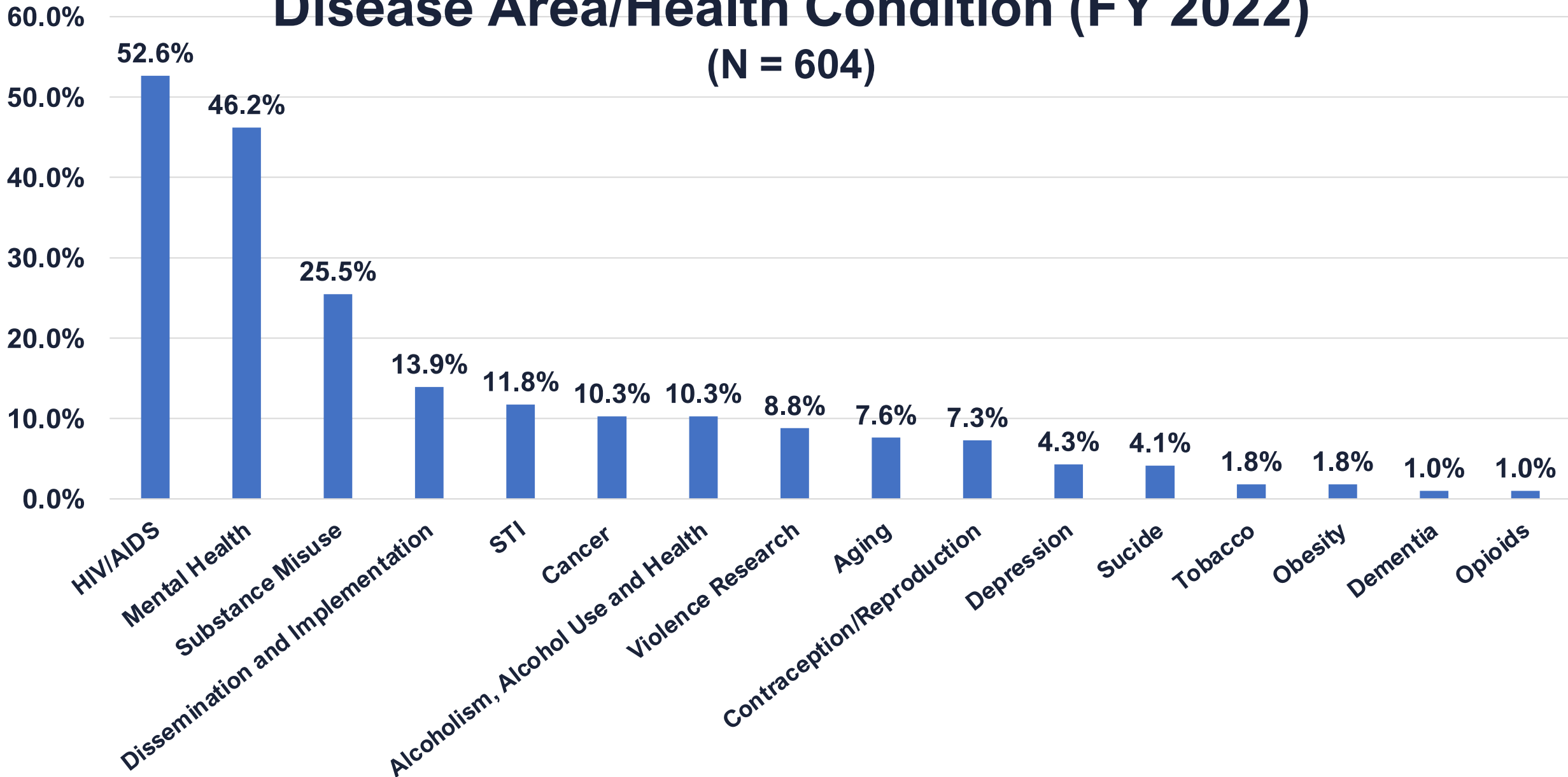## (N = 604)

47%
(n = 286)

53%
(n = 318)

■ HIV/AIDS Projects   ■ Non HIV/AIDS Projects

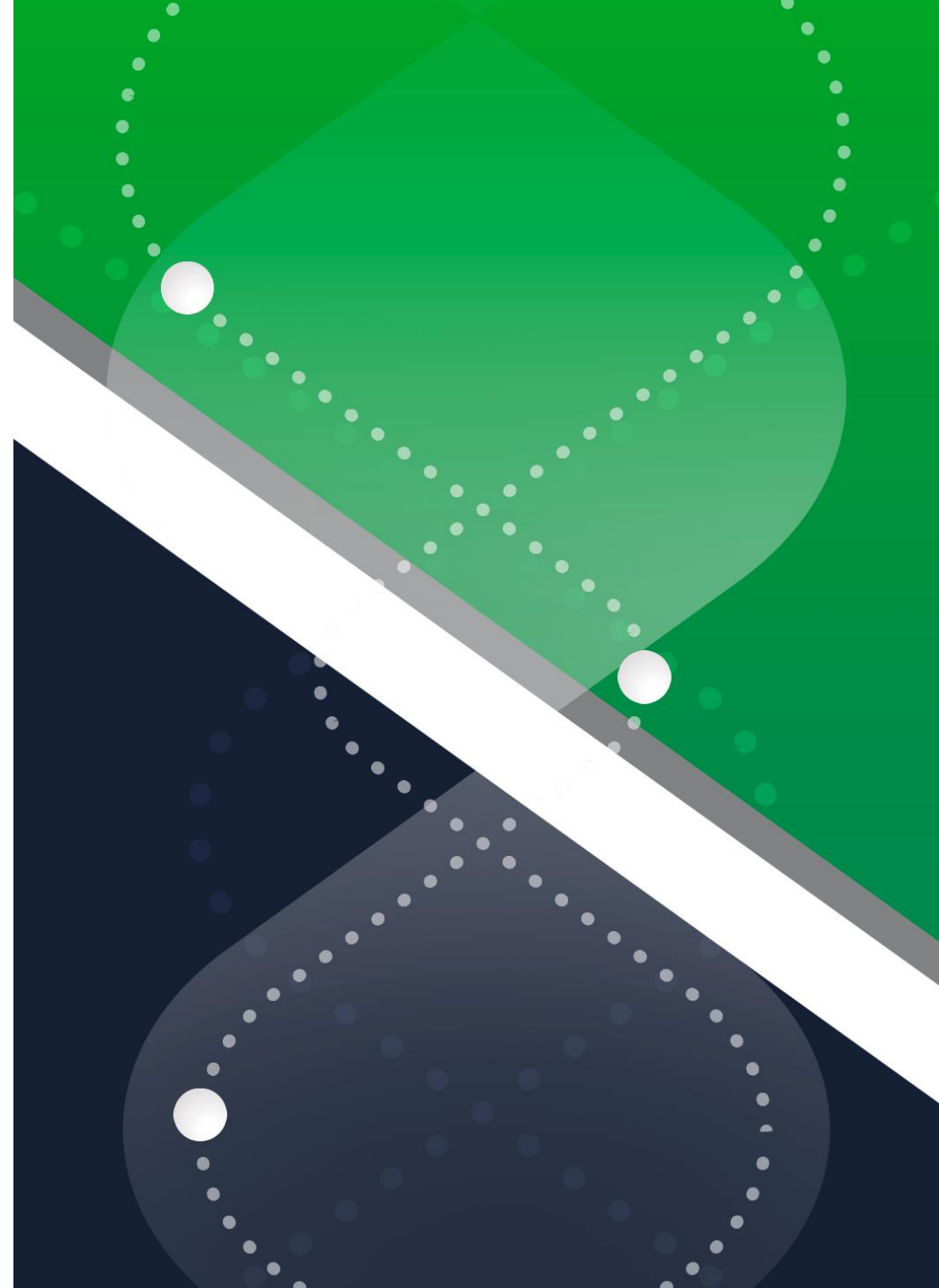# Proportion of SGM Projects by Disease Area/Health Condition (FY 2022)
(N = 604)

FY 2022 Portfolio Analysis Key Takeaways

- **100.6% increase** in the number of funded SGM-related projects from FY 2015 to FY 2022

- **171.4% increase** in the number of SGM-related training and career-related awards from FY 2015 to FY 2022

- **253.1% increase** in the number of non-HIV/AIDS funded SGM-related projects from FY 2015 to FY 2022

- **21 NIH ICOs** funded SGM health-related research in FY 2022
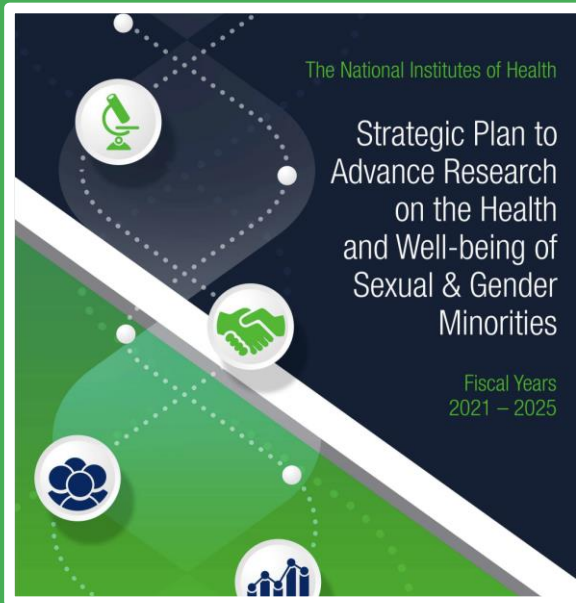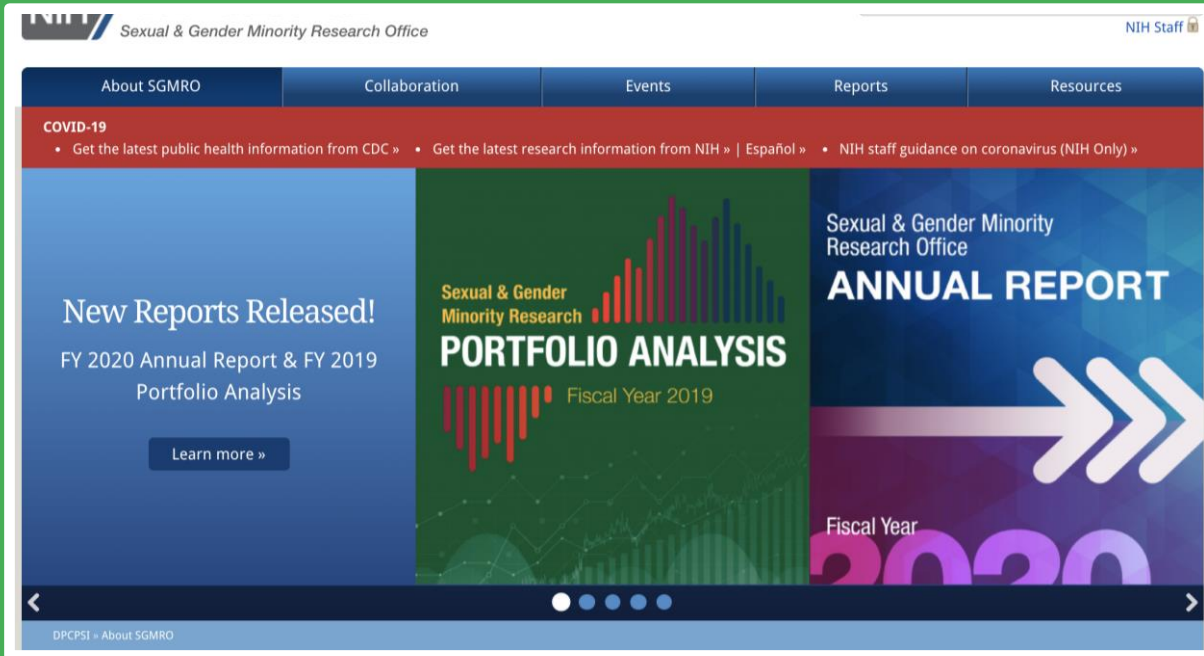
CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Current Challenges

- **Dearth of Research that Focuses Solely on SGM women**
  - According to the NIH RCDC Inclusion Statistics Report, only 24% of SGM Research Focused on Women as of 2021

- **Lack of Adequate and Accurate Data Collection on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Sex Characteristics (SOGISC)**
  - Key to Ensuring Scientific Rigor

- **NIH Sex as a Biological Variable (SABV) Policy**
  - Reinforces Sex as a Binary Construct

- **NIH Inclusion Policy and Reporting**
  - Reinforces Gender as a Binary Construct

- **Experiences of SGM Women in STEM and in the Health Science Workforce**
  - Elevated Marginalization at the Intersection of Gender and SGM status

Opportunities

- **Increasing Precision in Language Related to Sex and Gender**
  - More Nuanced Language Supports Scientific Rigor (e.g., Sex Characteristics)

- **Expanding SOGISC Data Collection**
  - Efforts to Expand Measurement Research
  - Enhanced Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting in Human Studies
  - Data Collection with the Health Research Workforce
  - HHS SOGI Data Action Plan

- **Fostering Inclusion in Research and Workforce**
  - Recruitment and Retention in Research Studies and the Workforce to Increase Scientific Rigor
  - Centering Research Questions Around the Health Needs of SGM Women

Connect with Us

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Sign-up for NIH SGM Listserv:
https://tinyurl.com/NIHSGMLIST

Sign-up for SGM Health SIG Listserv:
https://tinyurl.com/SGMHSIG