

The **National Institute on Drugs and Addiction<sup>^</sup>** (NIDA) advances science on substance use and addiction to improve individual and public health. After decades of research, addiction is now understood to be a chronic, treatable brain disorder. NIDA-supported research has led to effective prevention and treatment for substance use disorders (SUDs), helping millions of Americans reduce their risk of overdose and recover from addiction.

## The Addiction Public Health Crisis

**40.3 million** people in the United States had an SUD in 2020.\*

In 2020, only **6.5 percent** of people with SUD received treatment.\*

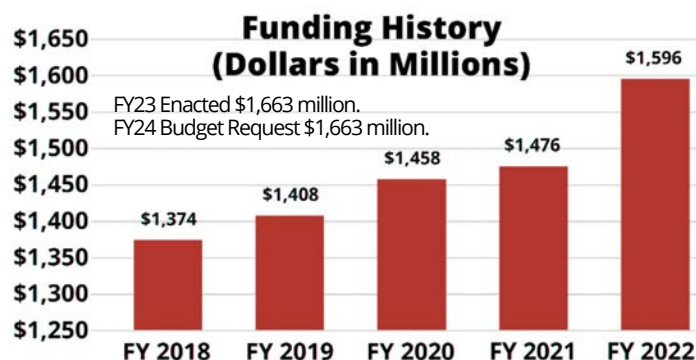
In 2021, about **107,000** people died of drug overdoses.\*\*

**Black and American Indian/Alaska Native** people had the highest rates of fatal overdose in 2021.\*\*\*

\* 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

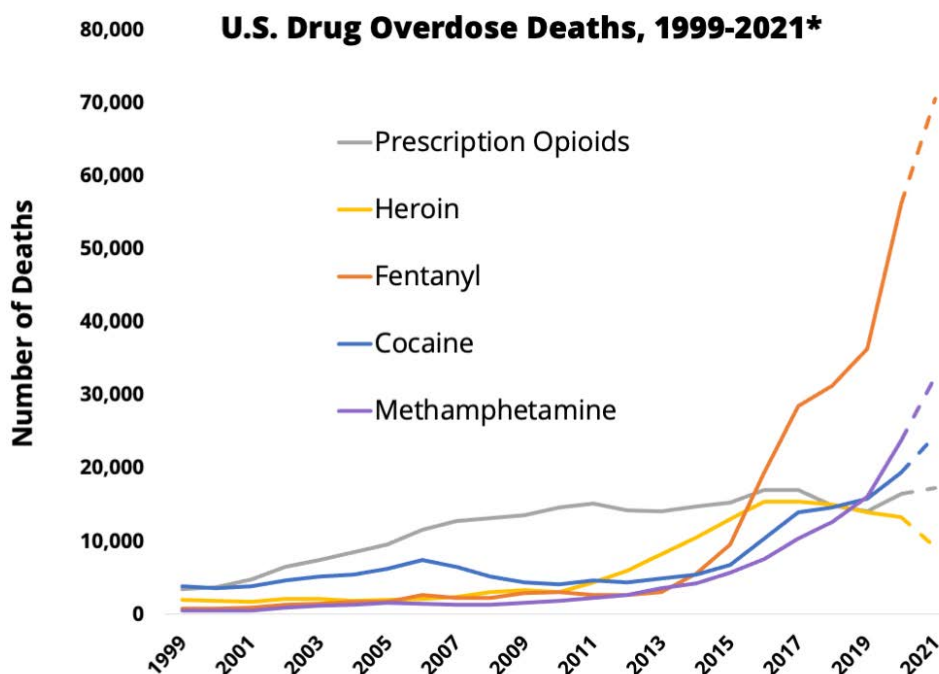
\*\* 2022 CDC/National Center for Health Statistics

\*\*\* CDC WONDER Provisional Mortality data



## NIDA's Research Portfolio

- Basic neuroscience to understand how drugs affect brain circuits and how addiction occurs.
- Prevention research to identify and address early life risk factors for drug use and SUD.
- Development and testing of new therapies to treat SUD and prevent overdose.
- Supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in addiction science.
- Bringing evidence-based interventions into practice and adapting them to community needs.
- Addressing the impact of structural racism on addiction and in addiction research.



Source: \*1999-2020 (Solid Lines): Final Multiple Cause of Death Files, CDC WONDER Online Data; \*2021 (Dashed Lines): National Vital Statistics System, Provisional Mortality on CDC WONDER Online Data, Accessed 10/4/22.

## FY 2022 Research Investment

- **396** Full-time equivalents (FTEs)
- **406** New research project grants
- **554** Unique investigators
- **118** Early-stage investigators
- **\$706 million** for opioid research
- **\$270 million** for HIV/AIDS research

## Recent Accomplishments and New Programs

### Basic Neuroscience

- New brain imaging studies suggest that addictions to nicotine and alcohol are associated with a shared brain circuit that could be an optimal target for neuromodulation therapies.
- Recent evidence shows that non-neuronal cells called astrocytes influence how we respond to drugs and our vulnerability to addiction.
- NIDA is increasing its funding for research on mechanisms of polysubstance addiction.

### Prevention

- The Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study (ABCD) study recently found that children exposed to cannabis prenatally were more likely to have mental health issues at ages 11-12.
- New research, including a collaboration with the ABCD study, will focus on addressing social determinants of health to prevent opioid use disorder (OUD).

### Therapeutics and Medication Development and Testing

- In a recent trial, combining a medication for OUD (naltrexone) with an antidepressant (bupropion) reduced drug use and improved depression for people with meth addiction.
- New therapies under development include monoclonal antibodies and sequestrants designed to prevent meth and opioids from entering the brain.
- NIDA-funded research has led to 30 Investigational New Drug applications for OUD since 2019.

### Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- NIDA provided early funding to startups tackling the overdose crisis in unique ways, such as by monitoring wastewater for patterns of drug use and providing SUD care by telehealth.
- NIDA is soliciting research from small businesses to investigate psychedelic drugs and related compounds as treatments for SUD.

### Bringing Interventions into Practice

- NIDA's Clinical Trials Network found that physician-pharmacist collaboration improves patients' access and adherence to medications for OUD.
- The Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network found that providing medications for OUD in prisons and jails reduces overdose and recidivism among incarcerated people.
- A new harm reduction research network supports research on interventions to reduce overdose and other harms from SUD, with a focus on reaching underserved populations.

<sup>^</sup>The FY24 President's Budget proposes to rename the National Institute on Drug Abuse to the National Institute on Drugs and Addiction.