

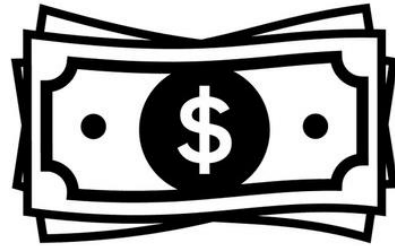
Chronic Pain is the Most Common, Costly & Disabling Chronic Disease in the U.S.

Key Statistics



PREVALENCE

1 in 4 adults



COST

\$560-635 billion/year



DISABILITY

Leading cause of disability
and workforce reduction



**FY24 NIH
RESEARCH
INVESTMENT**

\$1 billion total
\$15 / person with chronic
pain

(vs. \$120 / person with
heart disease)

1 in 5 children/adolescents

Rates of new cases exceed
that of other chronic
diseases

(e.g., diabetes, hypertension)

Chronic Pain in U.S. Servicemembers

Key Statistics



PREVALENCE

65% of Veterans
(rates are increasing)

Severe pain 40% higher in Veterans (esp. aged 18-39)

30% of active-duty military

Joint/back/musculoskeletal pain
most common diagnoses in Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans



DISABILITY

REDUCED READINESS

Leading cause of disability & reduced readiness for military duty



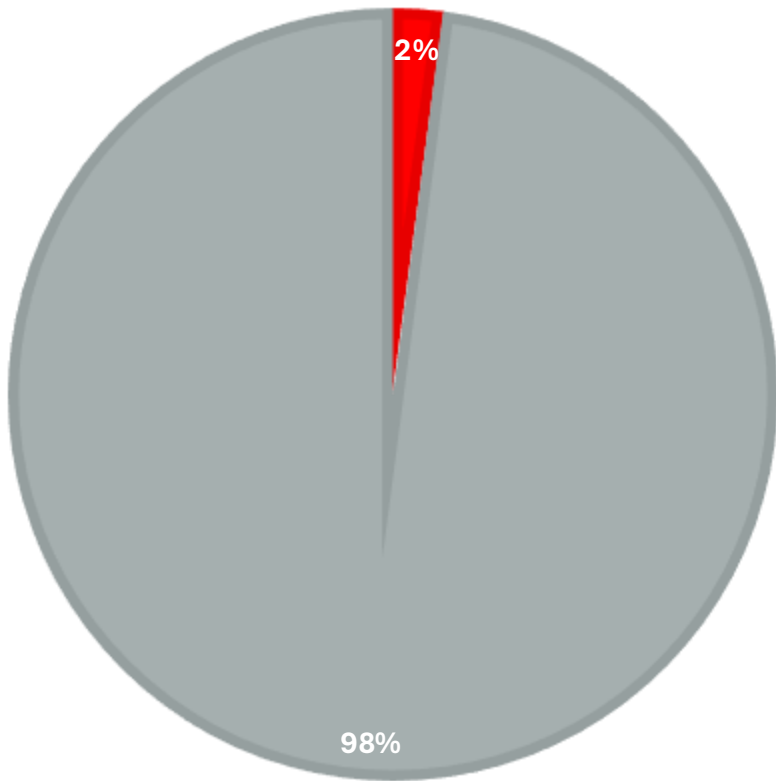
DoD/VA

RESEARCH INVESTMENT

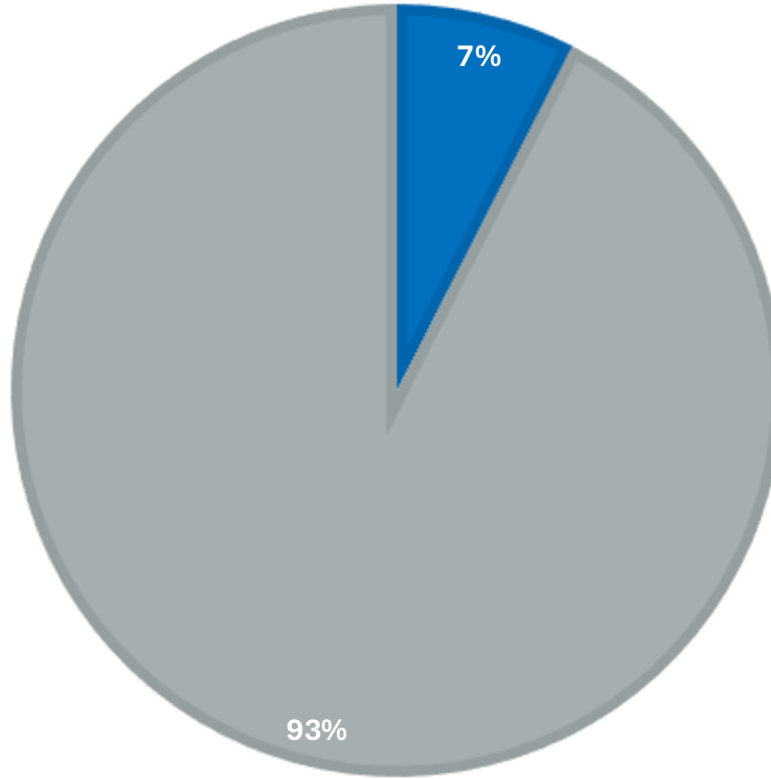
Funding amounts not public, but minimal investment

Example: DoD CDMRP \$14 million (FY23) – was not re-funded in FY24

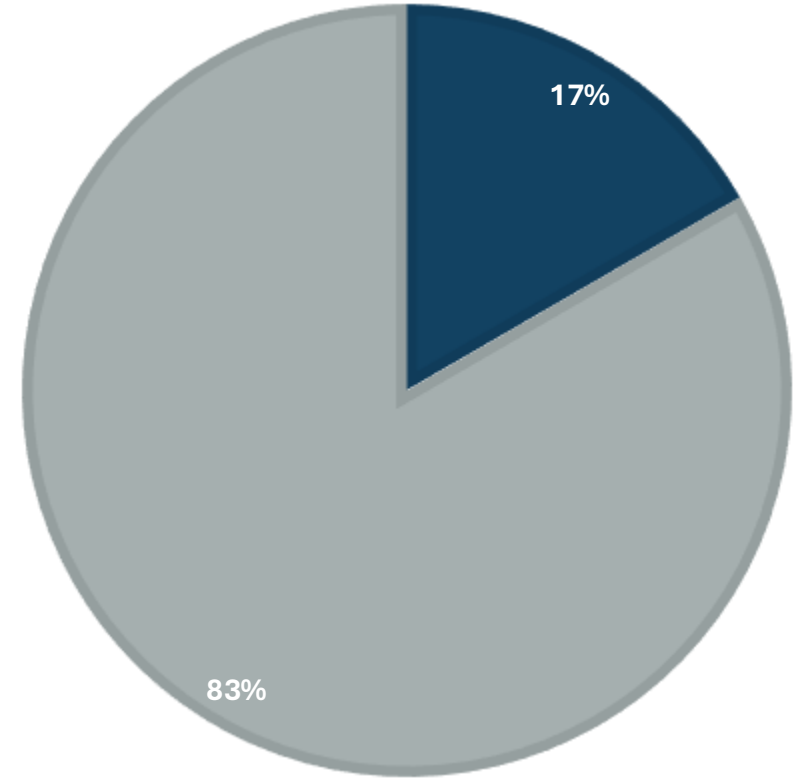
NIH Research Investment (FY24) Pain vs Other Diseases



Pain Research
2% of NIH Budget



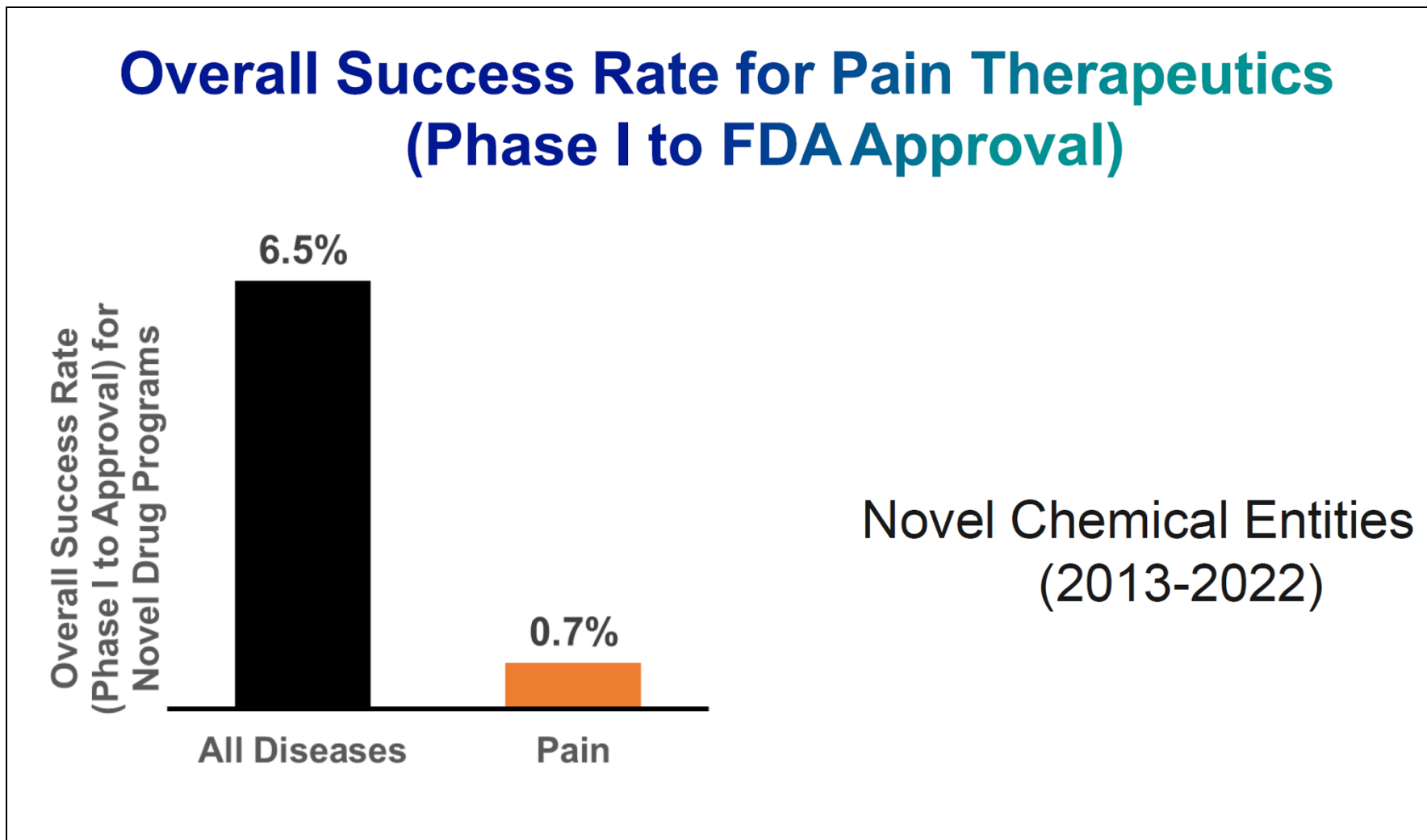
Alzheimer's Research
7% of NIH Budget



Cancer Research
17% of NIH Budget

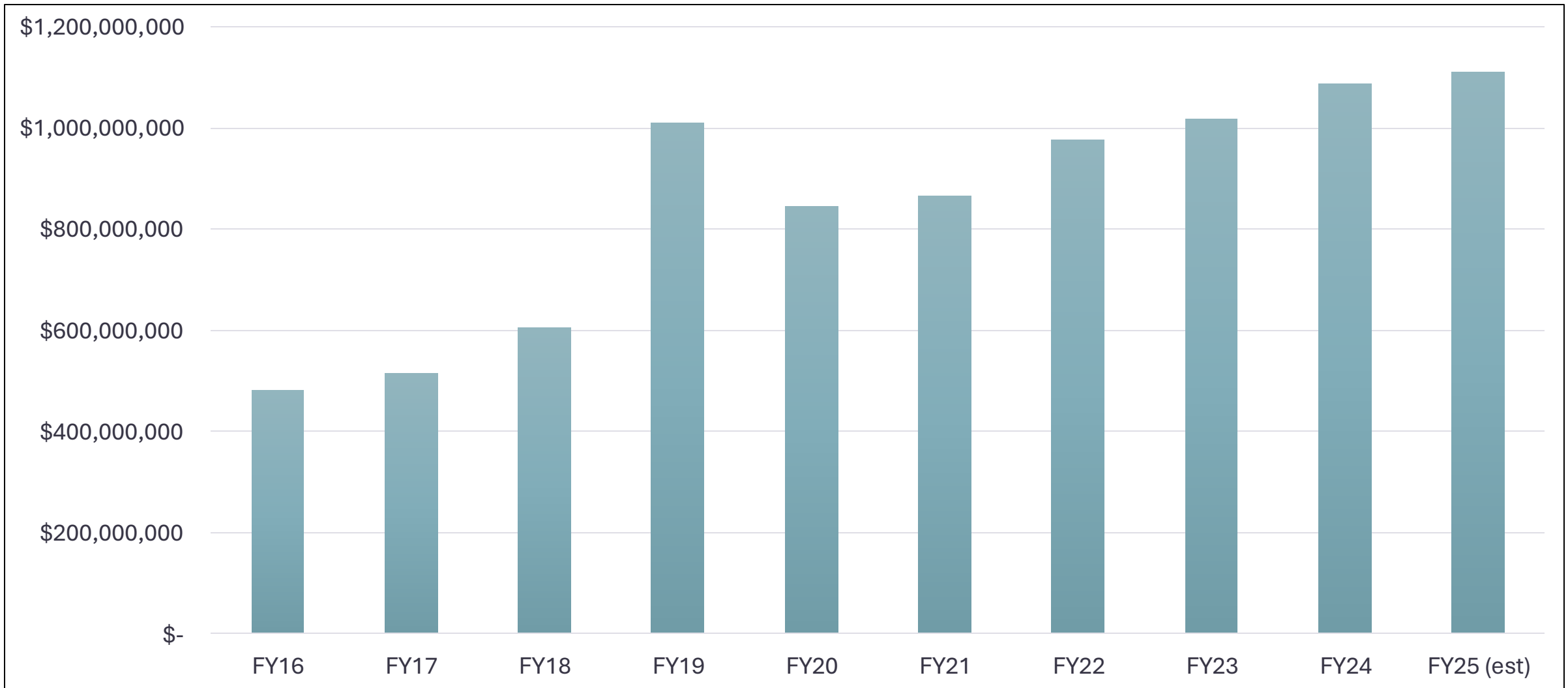
Urgent Need for Novel Non-Addictive Therapeutics

*Very Few Safe, Effective Therapeutic Options for the Treatment of All Types of Acute & Chronic Pain
Drug Development Success Rates for Pain Therapeutics Are Lower Than Other Disease Indications*



Total NIH Pain Research Budget (FY16-25)

Still, only 2% of Total NIH Budget – Totally Incommensurate with National Burden

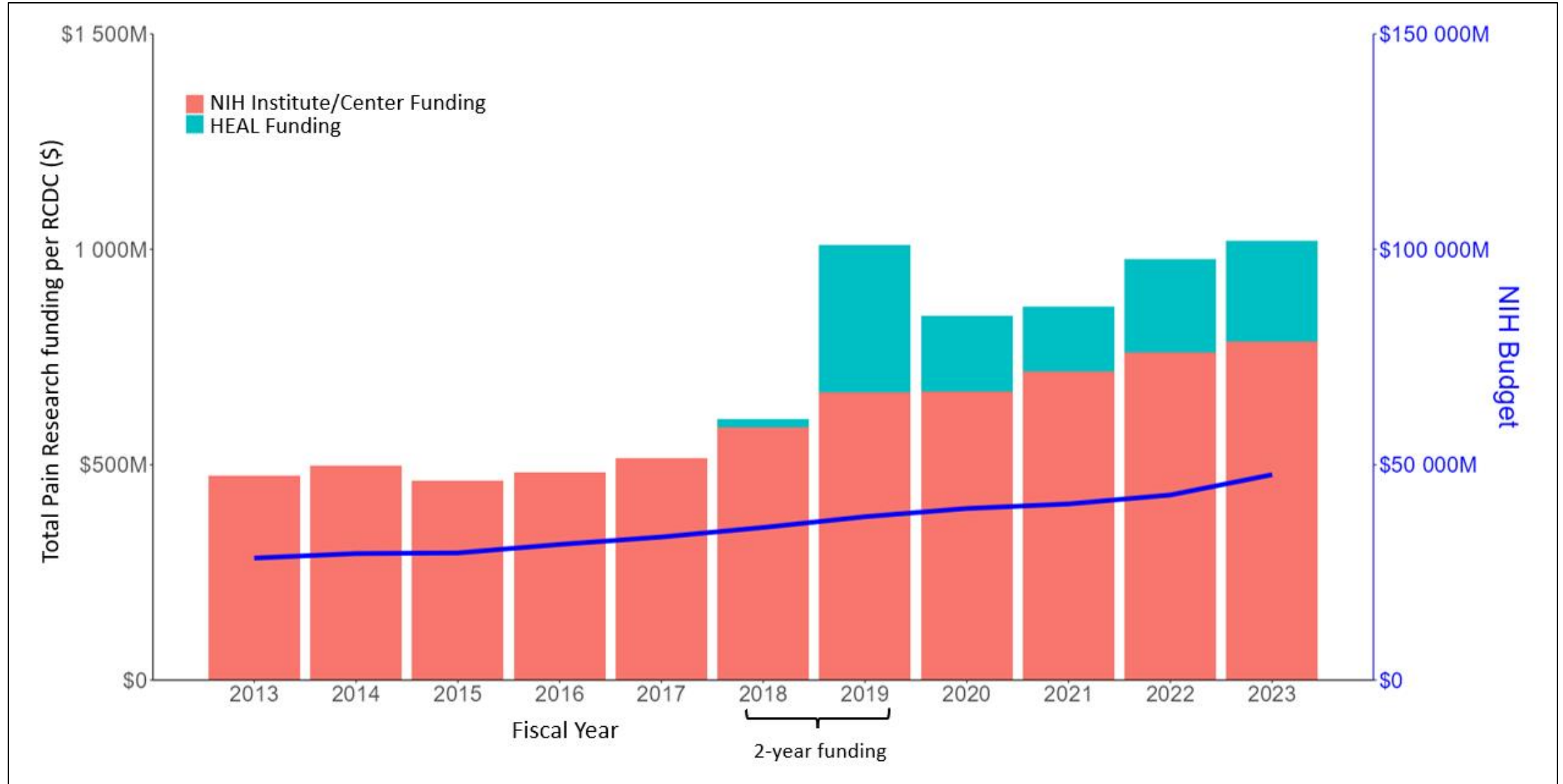


HEAL Earmark \$250M HEAL Earmark \$250M HEAL Earmark \$266.3M HEAL Earmark \$269.5M HEAL Earmark \$270.3M HEAL Earmark \$280.3M HEAL Earmark \$285.3M HEAL Earmark \$285.3M

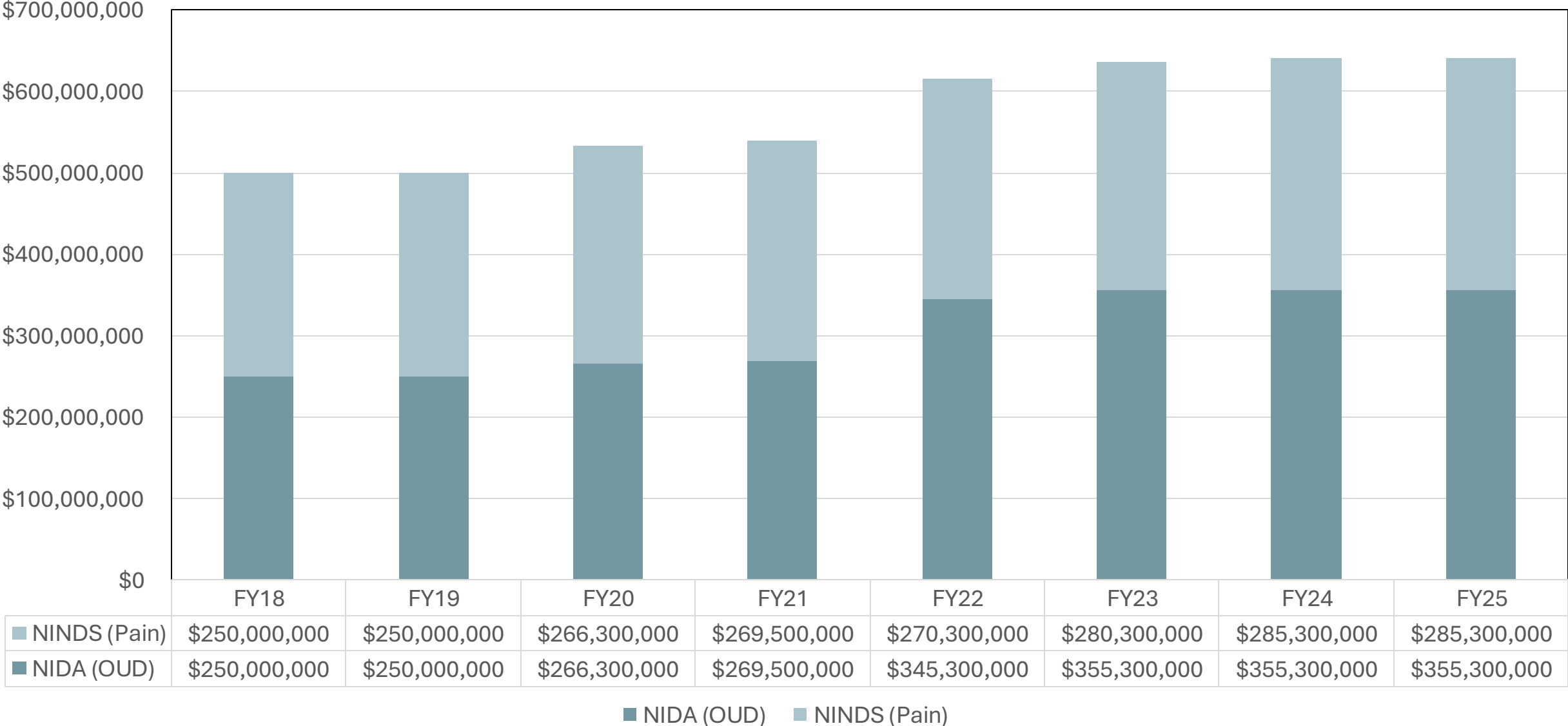
Source: RCDC, "pain research," 5/30/25

HEAL vs Regular NIH IC Pain Research Funding

Since 2018, HEAL Accounts for ~ 20% of the Overall Pain Research Budget

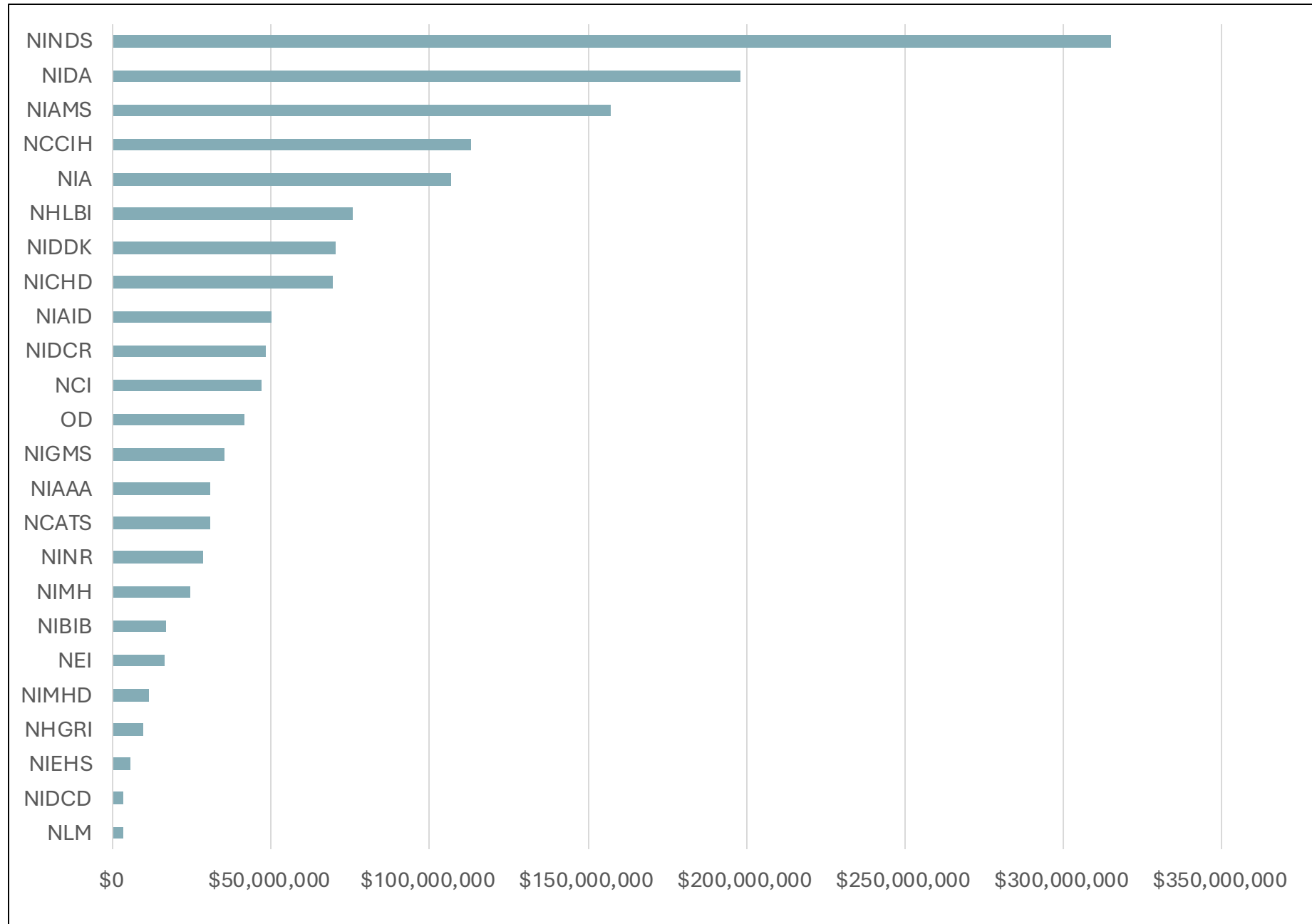


FY18-25 HEAL Appropriation for NINDS (Pain) & NIDA (OUD)



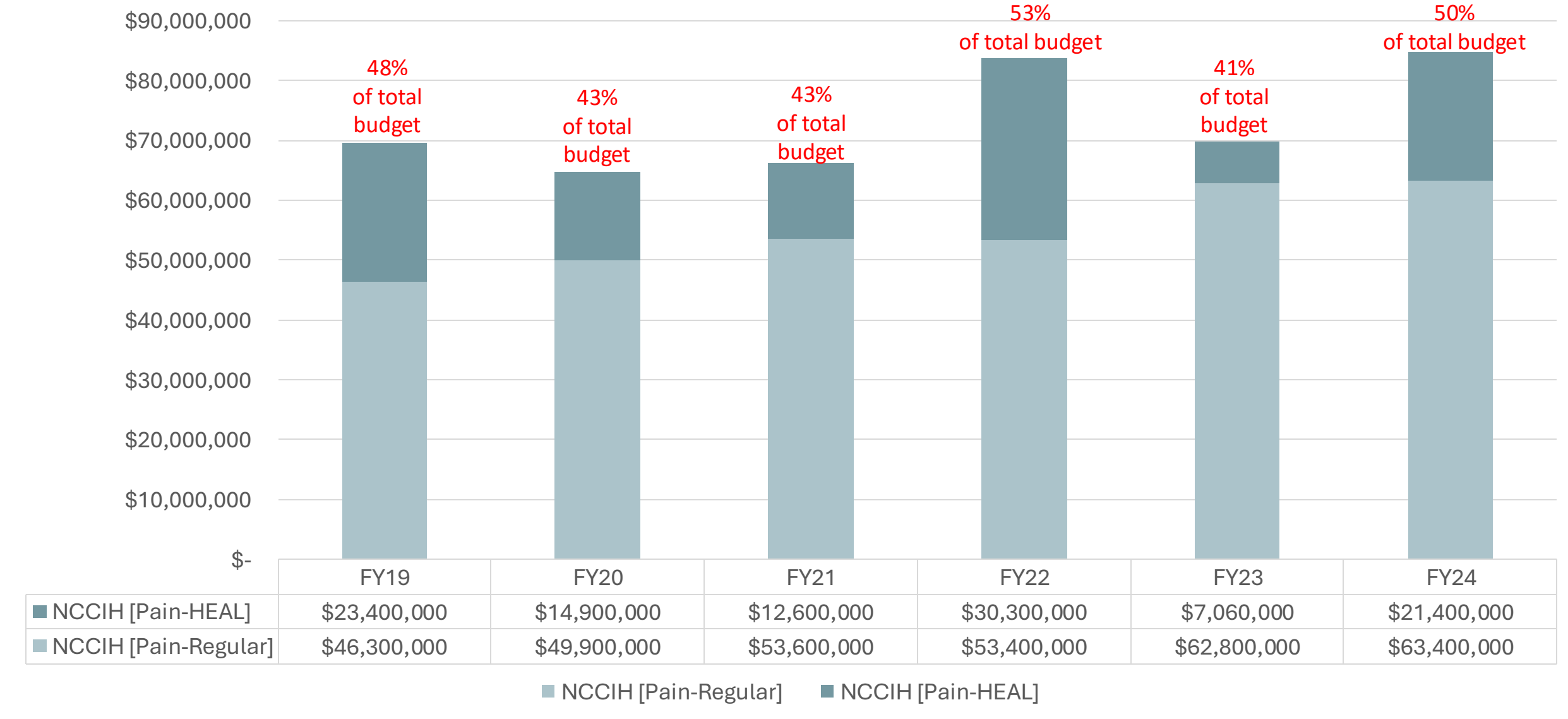
Nearly Every NIH Institute, Center & Office Funds Pain Research

Source: NIH Project Reporter; keyword "chronic pain"; active projects; 5/22/25



President's FY26 Budget Proposes to Eliminate NCCIH

~ 50% of Total NCCIH Budget is Spent on Pain Research



NIH Office of Pain Policy and Planning (OPPP) Terminated

NIH Office of Pain Policy and Planning

Functioned as an NIH/HHS service center for pain research



14 staff members (8/9 GS employees RIF'ed and 2/5 contractors terminated)

Including key subject matter experts in pain research and clinical care across HHS



~ \$1.7M Operating Budget

Functioned efficiently and effectively on minimal funds



Managed & Coordinated Pain Research Across NIH & HHS

Including the NIH Pain Consortium, Common Data Elements program, and collaborations with the FDA, CMS, and Healthy People 2030



Organized Congressionally-Mandated Pain Research Initiatives

Including the NIH Helping to End Addiction Long-Term (HEAL) Initiative & HHS Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee



Facilitated Policy Requests Related to Pain Research & Clinical Care

Including timely responses to Congressional staff about pain research



Built Public Trust in NIH/HHS Pain Research

Led public engagement & communications initiatives for NIH/HHS pain research

Terminated NIH Pain Research Grants

(as of 5/30/2025)

Project Title	Institution	NIH IC	State	Total Award
PURPOSE: Positively Uniting Researchers of Pain to Opine, Synthesize, and Engage	Neuroventions	NINDS	CA	\$ 7,732,800
Spinal Cord Nociceptive Circuits that Deliver Outputs to the Brain to Initiate Pain	Harvard	NCCIH	MA	\$ 5,343,393
Modulation of local adenosine signaling to attenuate fracture pain	Duke	NIAMS	NC	\$ 2,650,768
Ion Channel Pharmacology for Pain and Epilepsy	Harvard	NINDS	MA	\$ 2,475,651
Development, Evaluation and Translation of Robotic Apparel for Alleviating Low Back Pain	Harvard	NIAMS	MA	\$ 2,253,986
Combination of THC and CBD as a Novel Treatment for Co-Occurring Opioid Addiction and Chronic Pain	Yale	NIDA	CT	\$ 1,782,520
Partnerships for Prevention: A plan for managing student stress, anxiety, and pain through interactive media.	Duquesne	NIGMS	PA	\$ 1,640,962
Sex, Hormones and Identity affect Nociceptive Expression (SHINE)	UA-Birmingham	NINR	AL	\$ 1,528,769
Cellular and circuitry mechanisms of NRTI-induced pain pathogenesis in the context of opioids and HIV	NY Stony Brook	NIDA	NY	\$ 1,211,638
The Role of Testosterone on Mediating Sex and Gender Influences on Chronic Orofacial Pain Conditions	UM-Baltimore	NIDCR	MD	\$ 933,423
SF2UF: The Bridges to the Baccalaureate partnership between Santa Fe College and the University of Florida	U-FL	NIGMS	FL	\$ 857,803
Roles of neutrophil-sensory neuron interactions in dental pulp inflammation and pain	Harvard	NIDCR	MA	\$ 241,116
Building an interprofessional and diverse workforce in substance use and pain	U-Pitt	NIDA	PA	\$ 202,337
Real-world Evidence Study with Patient Input to evaluate Treatment Effects in Trigeminal Neuralgia (RESPITE-TN)	UNC - Chapel Hill	NIDCR	NC	\$ 154,958
Fibroblast-mediated inflammatory resolution of rheumatoid arthritis	Harvard	NIAID	MA	\$ 147,825
Regulation and function of CCR2 on T cells in Rheumatoid Arthritis	Harvard	NIAMS	MA	\$ 78,532
Evaluating Multilevel Factors that Predict Physical Activity Among Latinos with Chronic Spine Pain: A Mixed -Methods Study	San Diego State	NIMHD	CA	\$ 76,152
TOTAL				\$ 29,312,633