





The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened mental health in the United States

Before COVID-19, US adults struggled with mental health issues.

In the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) nationally representative survey of 1862 adults, those seeking mental health services unrelated to COVID-19 reported^{1,2}

~ 1 in 4 couldn't afford the cost



~ 1 in 4 was unable to access a provider



~ 1 in 6 was unable to access services or medications

































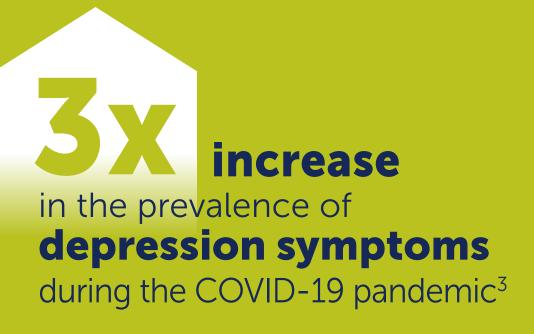








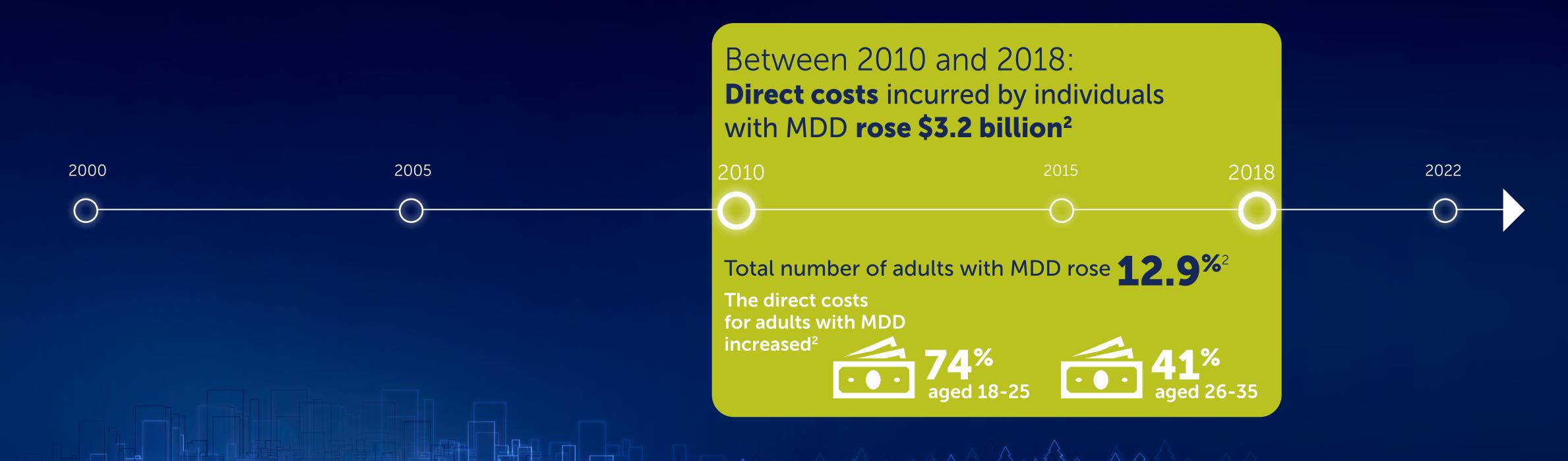




REFERENCES: 1. Kearney A, et al, Kaiser Family Foundation. Mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic: an update. https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic/. Published 2021. Accessed November 3, 2021. 2. Kearney, et al. Mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic: An update - methodology. KFF. https://www.kff.org/report-section/mental-health-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-an-update-methodology/.Published April 14, 2021. Accessed February 8, 2022. 3. Ettman CK, et al. Prevalence of depression symptoms in US adults before and during the COVID-19 Pandemic. JAMA Netw Open. 2020;3(9):e2019686.doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.19686

MDD is common and increasingly costly

ullet An estimated 19.4 million adults in the United States had at least one major depressive episode in 2019¹



Patients encounter barriers at every step of the treatment journey



DIAGNOSIS OF MDD

Of the estimated 7.8% of US adults that are affected by MDD every year¹

31% of adults did not seek treatment due to stigma²

Among racial and ethnic minority groups these rates vary from 29.4% to 47.4%²

Other obstacles to diagnosis included fear and hesitancy that may affect treatment access³



PHARMACOLOGIC INTERVENTION

Patients were ~5 times more likely to experience problems obtaining medications when step-therapy or fail-first protocols were required⁴

Patient were ~8 times more likely to experience problems obtaining medications when prior authorizations were required⁴



PSYCHOTHERAPY

2 out of 5 Americans live in areas with a shortage of mental health professionals⁵

42% of US adults saw cost and poor insurance coverage as top barriers to mental healthcare⁶

25% of Americans reported having to choose between mental health treatment and daily necessities⁶



ACUTE CARE

Mood disorders were the most common cause of hospitalization for all people in the United States under age 45, excluding hospitalization relating to pregnancy and birth⁷



Cost to Payer



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Every \$1 invested in prevention

could yield an estimated \$2.3-\$2.6 in saved costs8

Direct healthcare costs significantly increased with each successive line (up to 3 lines) of therapy highlighting the need for rapid and effective treatment options⁹

As of 2018, an estimated 54% of US counties do not have a single psychiatrist¹⁰

REFERENCES: 1. National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Major depression. https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/major-depression. Published 2021. Accessed October 17, 2021 2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Racial/ethnic difference in mental health service among adults and adolescents 2015-2019. https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/stigma-and-discrimination. Published 2022. Accessed January 13, 2022. 4. West J, et al. Medicaid prescription drug policies and medication access and continuity: findings from ten states. https://ps.psychiatry.org/patients-families/stigma-and-discrimination. Published 2021. Accessed November 30, 2021. 5. Hostetter, et al. In Focus: Leveraging Technology to Expand Access to Behavioral Health Care for Medicaid Beneficiaries. Published 2019. Accessed January 5, 2022, from https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/2019/jun/focus-leveraging-technology-expand-access-behavioral-health-care-medicaid?redirect_source=/publications/newsletter-article/2019/jun/focus-leveraging-technology-expand-access-behavioral-health-care-medicaid?redirect_source=/publications/newsletter-article/2019/jun/focus-leveraging-technology-expand-access-behavioral-health-care-medicaid?redirect_source=/publications/newsletter-article/2019/jun/focus-leveraging-technology-expand-access-behavioral-health-care-medicaid?redirect_source=/publications/newsletter-article/2019/jun/focus-leveraging-technology-expand-access-behavioral-health-care-medicaid?redirect_source=/publications/newsletter-article/2019/jun/focus-leveraging-technology-expand-access-behavioral-health-care-medicaid?redirect_source=/publications/newsletter-article/2019/jun/focus-leveraging-technology-expand-access-behavioral-health-care-medicaid?redirect_source=/publications/newsletter-article/2019/jun/focus-leveraging-technology-expand-access-behavioral-health-care-medicaid?redirect_source=/publications/newsletter-article/2019/jun/focus-leveraging-technology-expand-access-new-study-reveals-lack-of-access-a-root-ca

Groups that are less likely to obtain or receive mental healthcare¹

The rate of underdiagnosis or misdiagnosis is higher in diverse and underserved populations,
 which may be due to a lack of cultural understanding, language barriers, and cultural presentations of symptoms¹



18% Asian

10% Hispanic or Latino

− 5% Black or African-American

64% White

The diversity profile of mental health patients does not match that of the provider base



Only 33% of African Americans who need mental healthcare received it³



American Indian/
Alaskan Natives reported
higher rates of PTSD
and alcohol dependence
than any other ethnic/
racial group¹



Only 19% of
Hispanic adults with
a mental illness were
likely to use outpatient
mental health services⁴



Transgender and nonbinary individuals were twice as likely to experience depression⁵



6 million men are affected by depression per year, but are less likely to acknowledge it⁶

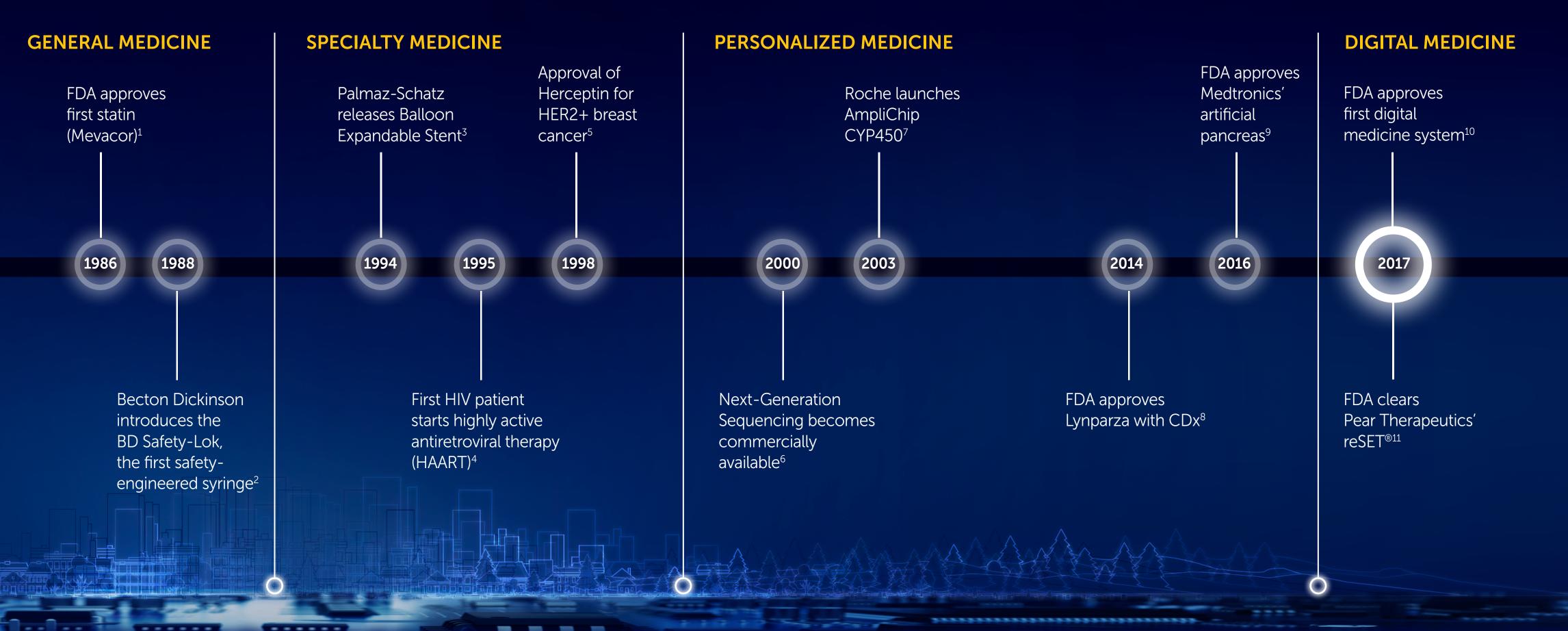
This information is intended to bring awareness to diverse and underserved populations, but is not meant to be exhaustive

PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder.

REFERENCES: 1. Pyschiatry.org. Mental health disparities: diverse populations - mental health facts for diverse populations. https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/cultural-competency/education/mental-health-facts. Published 2021. Accessed December 2, 2021. **2.** Psychiatrist demographics and statistics in the US. Zippia. https://www.zippia.com/psychiatrist-jobs/demographics/. Accessed February 28, 2022. **3.** Psychiatry.org. Mental health disparities: diverse populations - African Americans. https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/cultural-competency/education/mental-health-facts. Published 2021. Accessed December 2, 2021. Accessed December 2, 2021. Accessed December 2, 2021. Accessed December 2, 2021. Accessed December 3, 2021. Accesse



Digital health may be an extension to conventional medicine



REFERENCES: 1. Drugs@FDA: FDA-Approved Drugs. Accessed at. fda.gov. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov. https://peartherapeutics.com/fda-obtains-fda-clear-ance-fi

DTx are increasingly available

Digital therapeutics (DTx) deliver medical interventions directly to patients using evidence-based, clinically evaluated software to treat, manage, and prevent a broad spectrum of diseases and disorders.¹

- DTx Alliance

Globally, as of 2020, 25 DTx products

have been granted market authorization.

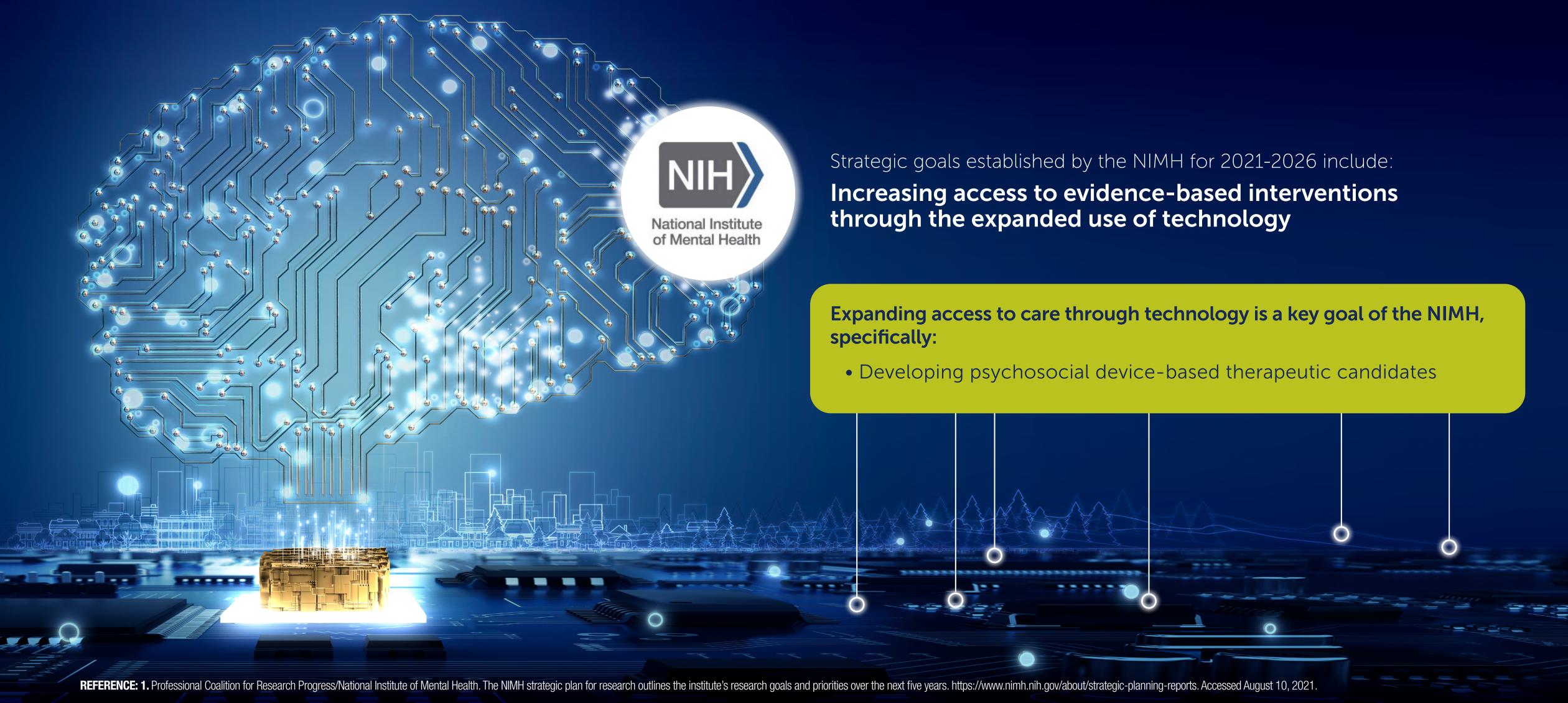
Another 23 are commercially available, with indications predominantly in the mental health and behavior modification areas.

An additional 89

are in earlier stages of development and evidence generation.²

REFERENCES: 1. Digital Therapeutics Alliance. Understanding DTx: a new category of medicine. https://dtxalliance.org/understanding-dtx/. Published 2021. Accessed December 23, 2021. 2. IQVIA. Digital health trends 2021. https://www.iqvia.com/insights/the-iqvia-institute/reports/digital-health-trends-2021. Accessed December 20, 2021.

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has recognized the need to integrate technology into mental healthcare



Digital solutions differ in their levels of regulatory validation

MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL AND CAREGIVER USE:

DIGITAL PHARMACIES

Solutions that offer prescription sorting, packaging, and same-day prescription delivery services.

DIAGNOSTIC TOOLKITS

Guided medical exams with a remote physician/healthcare professional from anytime and anywhere.

DIGITAL BIOMARKERS

Physiological and behavioral measures, generated by patients and collected through a variety of digital tools.

REMOTE MONITORING

Devices and software that help patients self-manage conditions and allow healthcare professionals to monitor patients remotely.

CARE COMPANIONS

Digital solutions designed to support the care needs of patients during treatment and rehabilitation.

TRIAGE TOOLS

Software that guides patients on their care pathway and provides support for frontline workers.

CAREGIVER TOOLS

Digital solutions designed to help caregivers perform daily operations more effectively in their workplace.

PATIENT USE:

PRESCRIPTION

DIGITAL THERAPEUTICS (PDTs)

FDA authorized software as medical device (SaMD), evaluated and clinically validated for safety and efficacy. Delivers disease-specific, evidence-based treatment. By Rx Only.

NONPRESCRIPTION

DIGITAL THERAPEUTICS

Non-FDA authorized SaMD, with limited clinically validated safety and efficacy. Delivers disease-specific treatment.

WELLNESS

APPS

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Nonregulated solutions designed to coach, educate, and provide feedback to help people lead healthier lives and avoid stress-related illness.

Rx, medical prescription

REFERENCE: 1. Dtxalliance.org. https://dtxalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DTA_FS_DTx-Product-Categories_010521.pdf. Published 2022. Accessed January 18, 2022.

PDTs are clinically validated tools designed to support treatment engagement

DIGITAL MENTAL HEALTH TOOLS (DMHTS)

PRESCRIPTION

DIGITAL THERAPEUTICS (PDTs)

FDA authorized software as medical device (SaMD), evaluated and clinically validated for safety and efficacy. Delivers disease-specific, evidence-based treatment. By Rx Only.¹

NONPRESCRIPTION

DIGITAL THERAPEUTICS

Non-FDA authorized SaMD, with limited clinically validated safety and efficacy. Delivers disease-specific treatment.¹

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Non-regulated solutions designed to coach, educate, and provide feedback to help people lead healthier lives and avoid stress-related illness.

PROVIDER-DRIVEN INITIATIVES

Clinician training in behavioral and primary care

Patient content (pamphlets, web sites, publications, etc.)

Electronic medical record (EMR) functionality to support workflow integration

Patient use of DMHTs was 2 to 3 times

the expected rate of similar apps downloaded from general app stores.

Up to **1/3** of clinician-referred DMHT users were still actively

using apps 3 months after initiation²



MENTAL

HEALTH

PDTS

REFERENCES: 1. Dtxalliance.org. https://dtxalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DTA_FS_DTx-Product-Categories_010521.pdf. Published 2022. Accessed January 18, 2022. 2. Histon, T. Delivering health care through digital mental health ecosystems. Accessed January 3, 2022, from https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/view/delivering-health-care-through-digital-mental-health-ecosystemsRx, medical prescription

DIGITAL

MENTAL HEALTH

TOOLS (DMHTs)

PDTs may help overcome a variety of patients' obstacles to treatment



DIAGNOSIS OF MDD

Innovative treatment tools may enable patients with MDD to access treatment more quickly



PHARMACOLOGIC INTERVENTION

PDTs may bridge the gap between patient and provider



PSYCHOTHERAPY

PDTs may be beneficial to patients who cannot easily access providers



ACUTE CARE

Innovative interventions may have potential cost-savings with improved treatment outcomes



How do YOU anticipate this will impact you and your plan?

Innovative interventions may increase the percentage of patients successfully treated for MDD²

The above is a representation of how PDTs may support overcoming treatment obstacles, identified in the previous section



ER, emergency room.

REFERENCES: 1. Ta J. et al. Health Care Resource Utilization and costs associated with nonadherence and nonpersistence to antidepressants in major depressive disorder. *Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy.* 2021;27(2):223-239. doi:10.18553/jmcp.2021.27.2.223 2. Greenberg PE, et al. *Pharmacoeconomics*. 2021;39(6):653-655.

SaMDs must follow one of these regulatory pathways to obtain marketing authorization



Prescription Digital Therapeutics (PDTs) are subjected to FDA regulation and can be authorized as a device

Software as a Medical Device

Software intended to be used for one or more medical purposes, intended to perform these purposes without being part of a hardware medical device¹



PDTS ARE CONSIDERED SOFTWARE
AS A MEDICAL DEVICE (SaMD) AND
NEED TO MEET GENERAL CONTROLS

These controls are the basic authorities of the Medical Device Amendments that provide the FDA with the means of regulating devices to ensure their safety and effectiveness.

Additional **special controls** must also be met, as general controls are considered insufficient to classify these devices.

The special controls for SaMD are²:

- Clinical data describing and validating the device and its purpose
- The label must include instructions for use, list of compatible devices, and a warning that the device is not intended for use as a standalone therapy and does not represent a substitution for the patient's medication
- Physician and patient labeling must include a summary of the clinical testing with the device
- Software description including verification, validation, and hazard analysis

REFERENCES: 1. Software as a medical device (SaMD): Key definitions. International Medical Device Regulators Forum. https://www.imdrf.org/sites/default/files/docs/imdrf-tech-131209-samd-key-definitions-140901.pdf. Published December 18, 2013. Accessed February 2, 2022.

2. Title 21--Food and Drugs Chapter I--Food and Drug Administration Department of Health and Human Services Subchapter H - Medical Devices. CFR - Code of Federal Regulations Title 21. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfcfr/cfrsearch.cfm?fr=882.5801. Published December 27, 2017. Accessed January 7, 2022.

PDTs may hold promise in the treatment of MDD

- Despite advances in treatment, MDD remains a costly and growing population health issue
- O Some patients experience less than optimal response to current treatments
- Psychotherapy may be difficult to access due to time constraints or coverage limitations, and may be impractical for some patients
- Provider shortages create significant barriers to treatment



PDTs are FDA-authorized SaMD, evaluated and clinically validated for safety and efficacy

- PDTs may offer a feasible, stigma-reducing option for patients
- Flexible provider engagement may lead to more access to treatment
- PDTs are designed to address current barriers to treatment
- Consistent in approach and practical, this alternative may increase treatment participation

How could Prescription Digital Therapeutics add value for your members?



