



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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November 23, 2021

The Honorable Senator Sara Gelser Blouin, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Art Robinson, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and  
Recovery  
900 Court Street NE  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048



Re: Responses to additional questions raised during the Oregon LGBTQ+ Older  
Adult Survey on November 17, 2021

During the November 17, 2021 informational meeting on the Oregon LGBTQ+  
Older Adult Survey the below request for additional information was made.

**Request:** How does the data in the presentation, particularly around suicidal  
ideation, compare to the general population in Oregon?

**Response:** The LGBTQ survey indicated that 21% of the survey respondents  
reported past-year suicidal ideation. Data from additional sources shows this is  
significantly higher than the rest of the population.

Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) from 2017-  
2019 (OR report, pg. 31) shows changes in past-year serious thoughts of suicide  
among adults aged 18 or older in Oregon. Unfortunately, there is no age breakout  
provided. It states:

*Among adults aged 18 or older in Oregon, the annual average percentage with  
serious thoughts of suicide in the past year did not significantly change between  
2008–2010 and 2017–2019. During 2017–2019, the annual average prevalence of  
past-year serious thoughts of suicide in Oregon was 5.9% (or 191,000), similar to  
the regional average (5.6%) but higher than the national average (4.5%).*

“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”

2020 NSDUH data was just released but is not available by state. However, there is some more demographic data included. In the detailed tables (specific link [here](#), search “suicide” and look for table 8.54B), for *Had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year, among people aged 18 and older, percentages, 2019 and 2020*. The percentages for aged 50+ are 2019: 2.4%, 2020: 2.7%.

For additional information please contact:

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