

- Suicide is a complex and important topic to discuss
- There are loss survivors, attempt survivors and people with related trauma in our hearing today

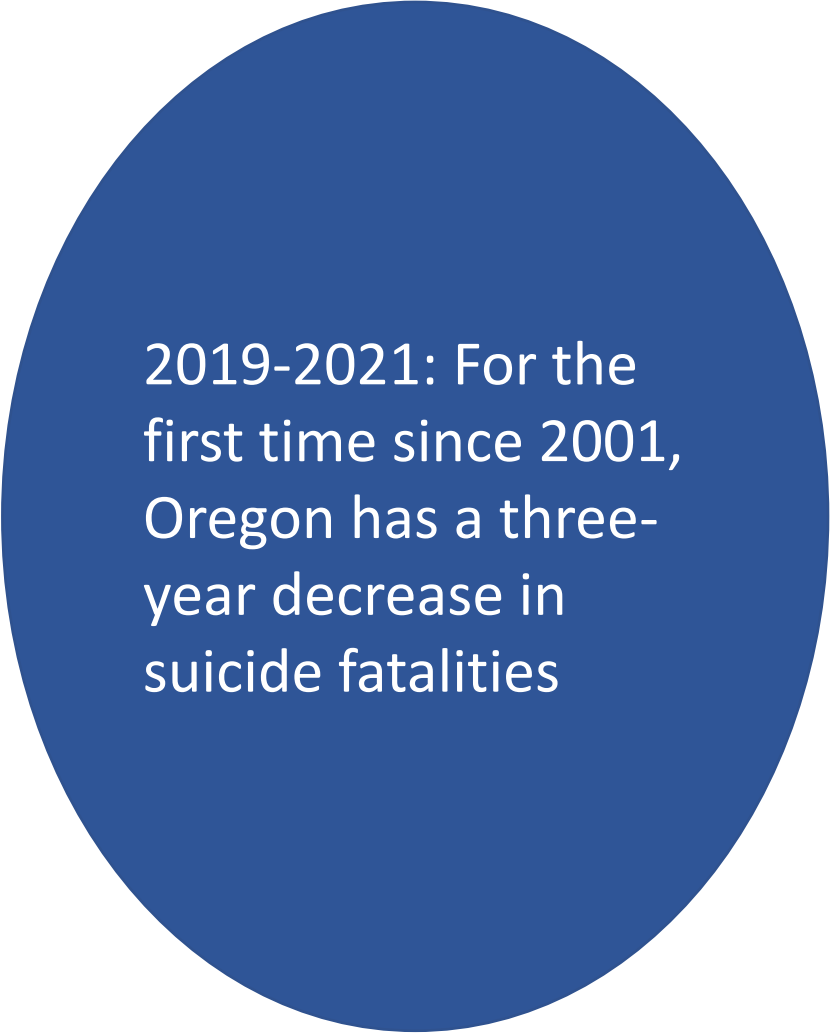


Testimony RE HB2643
February 8, 2023

Youth Suicide in Oregon

- 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10 -24
- 2020 –Lost 102 Youth/Young Adults Under 24
- 2020- 18th highest rate in nation

We strongly support investing in suicide prevention in schools, but have concerns about HB2643



2019-2021: For the first time since 2001, Oregon has a three-year decrease in suicide fatalities

Current Context: Suicide Prevention Policy in Oregon Related to Schools

- **HB4124 (2014)** Establishes OHA Youth Suicide Intervention Prevention Coordinator for youth 10 -24
- **Adi's Act SB52 (2019)** Requires School Districts to Adopt Policies Requiring a Comprehensive District Plan on Student Suicide Prevention
- **SB563 (2021)** – Adjusts YSIPP age range to 5 – 24
- **HB3139 (2021)** – Clarifies parental notification practices when a minor is at imminent risk of suicide

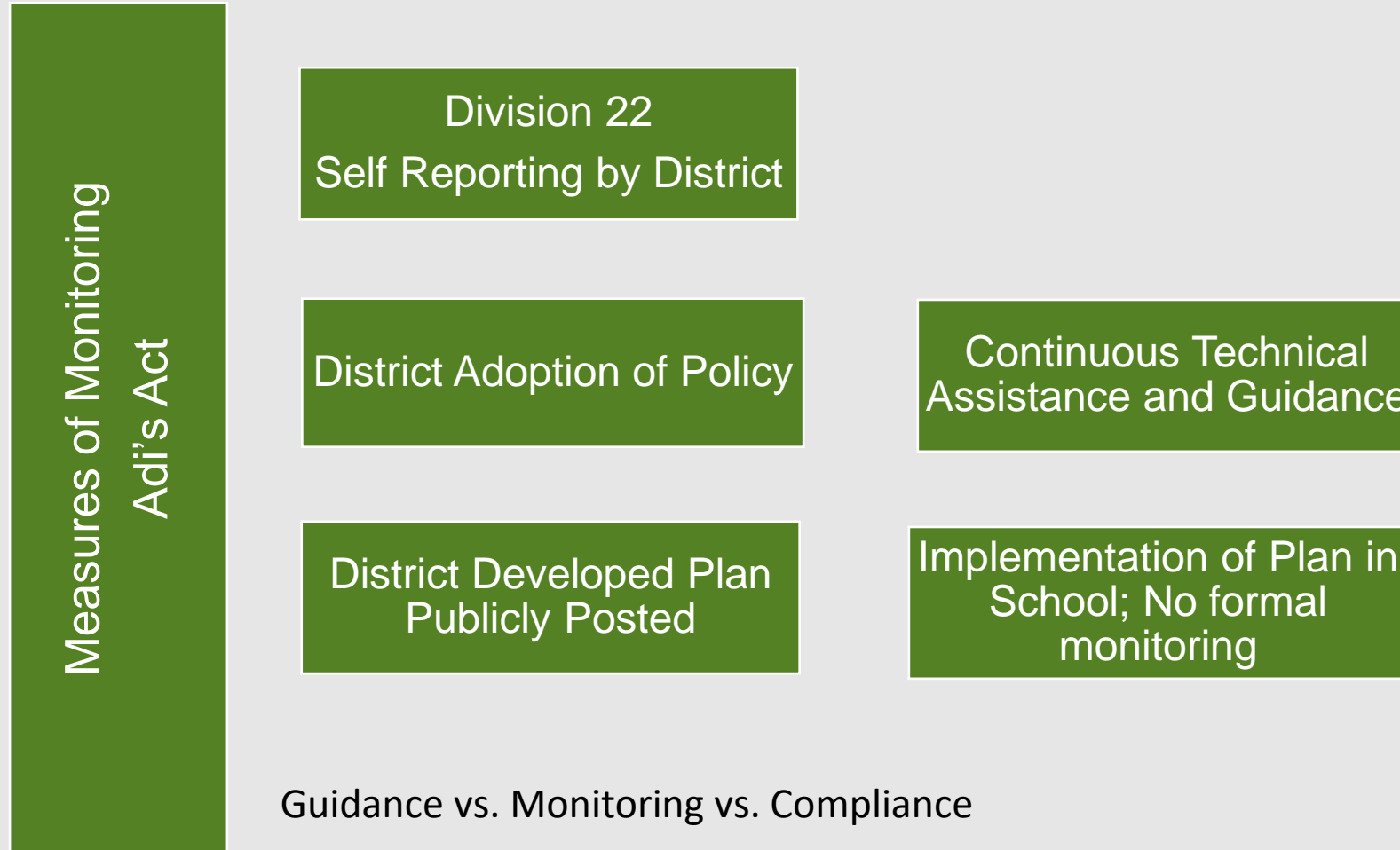
Adi's Act: School district policy requiring a comprehensive district plan on suicide prevention K-12

- Plan: Prevention, intervention, activities that reduce risk after a suicide (postvention)
- Descriptions and materials for school employee training that include:
 - When and how to refer youth and families to mental health services
 - Programs that be completed through self-review
- Methods to address high-risk groups (loss survivors, disabilities, substance use, being unhoused, foster care, LGBTQ+)

Plan must:

- Be written so school employee only acts within authorization and scope of license
- **Made available annually to the community, including students of the district, parents, employees and volunteers; readily available at the district office and on district website, if applicable.**

How are we monitoring Adi's Act?

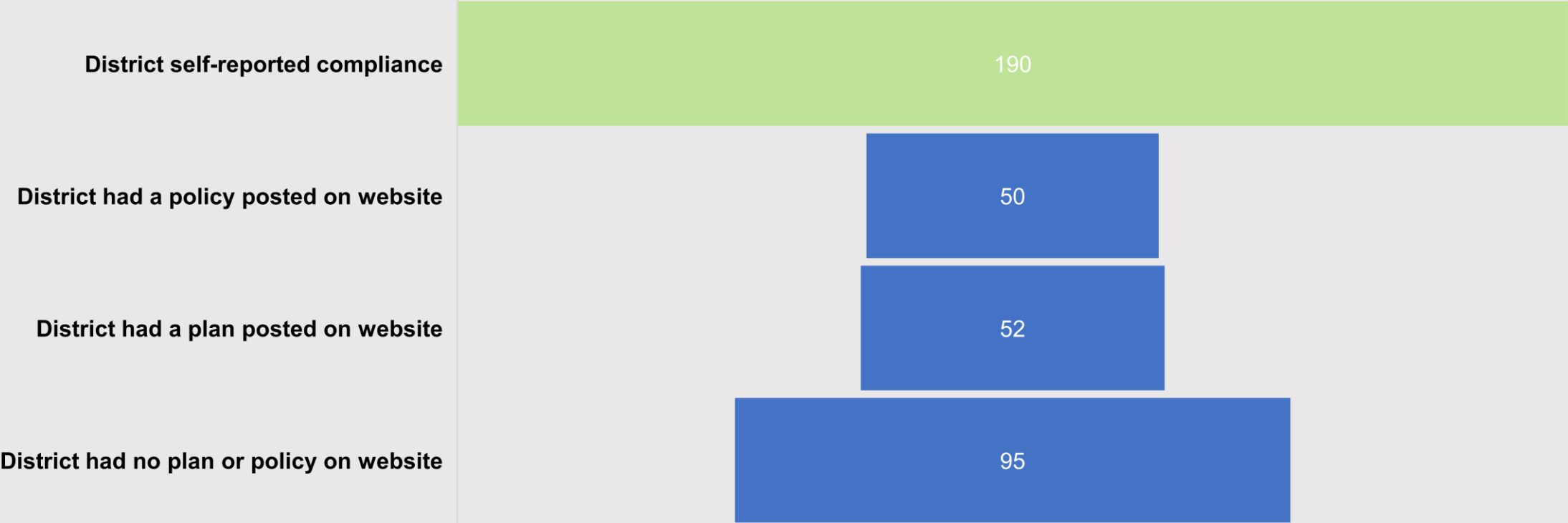


In addition to...

Knowledge from providing direct support to district and schools

- Lines for Life
- OHA
- ODE
- U of O
- OAPS

August 2022 Highlights Adi's Act



Experience With Adi's Act

GUIDANCE AND MONITORING

- Disjointed guidance in requirements of a school suicide prevention
- Oregon school districts vary widely in size, staffing, demographics, mental and behavioral health resources locally, and community culture and well being

LIMITED TIME TO DEVELOP A SUICIDE PREVENTION PLANS

- Training, professional development, district and school alignment, documentation, systems in place to support implementation

NATURAL BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES FOR SCHOOLS

- Staff capacity, time, challenges with parent-school relationships, lack of funds, culture and stigma when talking about mental health, staff follow through in documentation requirements

A School District Perspective

- Concerns re real world application of HB2643
 - Online classes and aid to supervise
 - Seems based on IEP's which are quite different model
 - Team to develop Suicide Prevention Plan
 - Annual meetings K-12 – my small district this would be 200 meetings a year
 - Suicide prevention is a health issue and should not be combined with concerns re disruptive classroom environments