

March 6, 2023

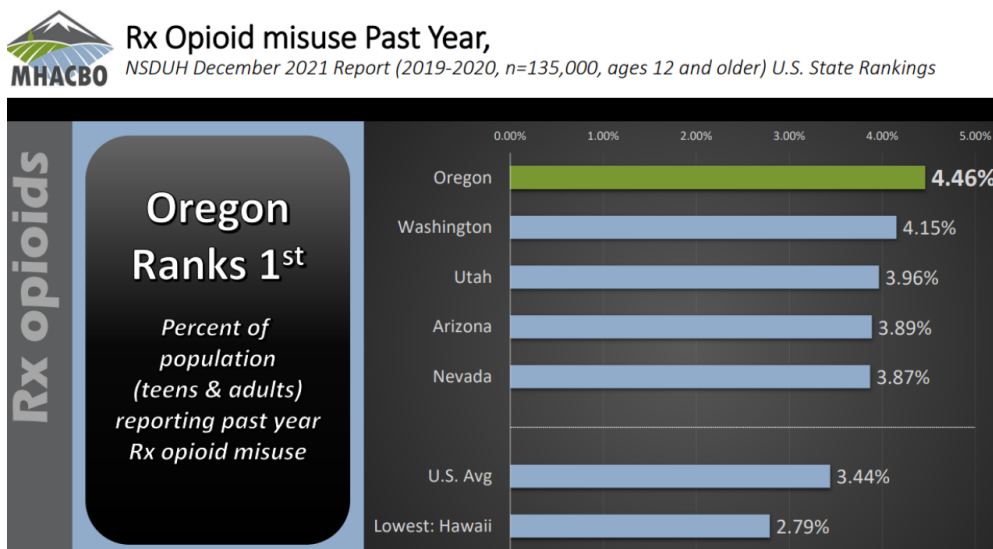
Senate Committee on Health Care / Senate Bill 559 / Oppose

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the presentation submitted by the Secretary of State Audit Manager Mr. Green. The report is inaccurate and misleading.

Following are a few examples:

1)



No link provided for this dataset. The title “NSDUH December 2021 Report...” leads SAMHSA information, clearly stating the reports should not be relied on:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2019-2020-nsduh-national-maps-prevalence-estimates-state>

2019-2020 National Survey On Drug Use And Health National Maps Of Prevalence Estimates, By State

Description:

State estimates for these years are no longer available due to methodological concerns with combining 2019 and 2020 data. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may cause

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, most respondents answered the survey via the web in Quarter 4 of 2020, even though all responses in Quarter 1 were from in-person interviews. It is known that people may respond to the survey differently while taking it online, thus introducing what is called a mode effect.

When the state estimates were released, it was assumed that the mode effect was similar for different groups of people. However, later analyses have shown that this assumption should not be made. Because of these analyses, along with concerns about the rapid societal changes in 2020, it was determined that averages across the two years could be misleading.

For more detail on this decision, see the 2019-2020 [state data page](#).

Publication Date: December 29, 2021

Collection Date: 2019-2020

Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Report Type: Annual Report

Part of Collection:

2019-2020 NSDUH State Estimates Of Substance Use And Mental Disorders

2)

Findings from Original Audit (#2018-40)

Figure 7: Individuals in potential doctor shopping cases far exceeded the average number of prescribers and pharmacies over three years



Source: OAD analysis using PDMP data, calendar years 2015 through 2017, provided by OHA PDMP staff.

Data from the 2018 Audit report cited should be dismissed. The entire report is ridden with confirmation bias and dubious reporting. I will be happy to provide examples upon request.

The reality is that patient care, and especially pain management, is extremely inadequate. It is a challenge to find 1 practitioner to prescribe opioids, let alone multiple. Pharmacies are not filling prescriptions as requested, some even straight out declining. **Where is the current data???**

In a verbal testimony, Mr. Green mentioned West Virginia as one of the states requiring veterinarians to use PDMP. This was disputed in testimony by Mr. Kolb. Has Mr. Green bothered to obtain accurate data, he might have mentioned Colorado.

The above are only a few glaring examples. It is disheartening that the governing bodies of our state have to rely on the subpar reports and inaccurate data.

In the database world, we have a saying "garbage in – garbage out". I mean no offense, but the report submitted is very close to this saying.