



Behavioral Health Division
Child and Family Behavioral Health

2024

Suicide Prevention Training for Medical and Behavioral Health Providers

Data report to the Legislature

Executive summary

Oregon's suicide rate remains above the national average. Workforce training in suicide prevention is an essential part of Oregon's overall strategy to reduce suicide.

Since 2017, Oregon has recommended behavioral and medical health care workforces get training in suicide prevention. In July 2022, Oregon began to require suicide prevention training for several behavioral health care workforces upon license renewal. Medical providers continue to get recommendations for this training. However, it is not a requirement. Boards for the named workforces are required to submit data to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) about how many licensees reported taking a suicide prevention course or training. OHA is required to maintain a list of course options for licensees to take about suicide prevention.



This report shows:

- Among the licensing boards reporting, 45.1 percent of licensees took a course in suicide risk assessment, treatment or management.
- In the 2021–2023 reporting period:
 - 60.6 percent of licensees reported taking required suicide prevention training.
 - 42.4 percent of licensees not legislatively required to take training reported suicide prevention training. These results include data from chiropractors. Chiropractors have a self-imposed requirement for suicide prevention training.
- House Bill (HB) 2315 of 2021 has required and recommended licensing board reporting.
 - For reported training from 2019–2021 to 2021–2023 survey period:
 - Required boards saw an increase of about 10 percent.
 - Recommended boards saw an increase of about 8 percent.
 - For the 2021–2023 survey period
 - Licensees from required boards reported taking suicide risk training 19 percent more often than recommended boards.
- Concerning continuing education for chiropractors on suicide risk assessment, treatment or management:
 - For the first time since OHA has tracked this data, they had the highest percentage of licensees with training (93.9 percent). This is due to a self-imposed requirement that began in July 2021.
 - They reported the lowest percentages with training (6.1 percent) in 2020.
- In previous years, the following had the highest percentages of licensees completing continuing education on suicide risk assessment, treatment or management:
 - School counselors
 - School psychologists
- The physical therapist board reported having the lowest percentage of licensees taking a relevant course in the 2021–2023 reporting period (10.2 percent).

OHA recommends adding a requirement for medical health care providers to take suicide prevention training for relicensure. OHA also recommends increasing workforce training evaluation efforts to determine:

- Which courses increase provider confidence, and
- Competence by provider role.

For questions or comments about this report, or to request this publication in another format or language, please contact Chelsea Holcomb at kids.team@odhsoha.oregon.gov or (971) 719-026. We accept all relay calls.

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