

Child Abuse Prevention

Tracking Oregon's Progress

YES ON HB 4111



HB 4111 supports expansion of the Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study statewide (OCAPS).

It is a first-in-the-nation effort to directly ask youth about abuse and neglect they may have experienced – and taps their views about child abuse prevention and COVID impact. OCAPS can shape legislative decision making by measuring the impact of child and family legislative investments.

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A One-Time Ask

A one-time investment of \$700,000 will position the legislature to better help generations of children. It is:

- A well-timed investment. OCAPS is the most comprehensive child abuse prevalence study in the U.S. – and was piloted successfully in 5 Lane County school districts in 2019.
- A public-private partnership. The cost of the pilot was covered by The Ford Family Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust.
- Cost-efficient. Up-front costs have already been paid for, so OCAPS comes at a significant discount.

Why OCAPS?

In Oregon today, we cannot accurately answer any of these questions:

- Have Oregon's investments in kids and families contributed to lower rates of child abuse and neglect?
- Is child abuse and neglect higher or lower today than it was 5 years ago, 10 years ago, 20 years ago?
- Do Social Emotional Learning strategies reduce trauma's impact on Oregon kids?
- How does child abuse and neglect vary among diverse groups – including in rural and urban communities and by income, race, gender, and other factors?

OCAPS directly addresses these questions, among many others.

We Can't Fix What We Can't Measure

Oregon policymakers and funders depend on child welfare report data to make key and costly policy and funding decisions.

Report rates do not reflect the actual prevalence of child abuse, only the incidents that happen to get reported. The drop in reports during the pandemic has made it even clearer that reports to child welfare do not equal prevalence. OCAPS remedies this problem by getting information directly from the source.



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HB4111 lifts up youth voices and perspectives on prevention

“Since we’re giving you the information, I think it would be very useful if you use it to your max potential, and do as much as you can with the information as you possibly can – in every way that you can.”

– OCAPS Pilot Youth Participant

“[OCAPS is] a good way for students to say what they need to say when they can’t say it.”

– OCAPS Pilot Youth Participant

OCAPS and COVID

OCAPS investigates COVID’s impact from a youth perspective by measuring:

- Changes in youth physical and emotional health and well-being during COVID.
- Changes in overall household stress during COVID.
- Changes in emotional household climate during COVID.
- Changes in physical aggression and sexual violence during COVID.
- Resilience and protective factors.

Youth Felt Empowered and Supported

Students who took the survey felt:

- inspired (15%)
- hopeful (26%)
- “supported or validated because people are learning about child abuse” (39%)
- 43% felt neutral. Only 2% felt discouraged.

One participant said: “Thank you. Childhood abuse and trauma will likely affect me and a lot of adolescents I know for the rest of our lives. It is nice to be validated and to know people are taking steps to help prevent this.”

Please ask your colleagues to support HB 4111!

Find Out More

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