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**Colt Gill**
Director of the Department of Education

**TO: Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, & Members of the Joint Subcommittee On Ways and Means On Education**
**DATE: Feb 13, 2023**

**FROM: Kai Turner, Assistant Superintendent Office of Finance & Information Technology**
**RE: Question posed to Youth Development Division on Day 2 of the Oregon Department of Education's Presentation**

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and Members of the Joint Subcommittee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide information about the Question posed to Youth Development Division on Day 2 of the Oregon Department of Education's Presentation. We hope this information provides additional insight and context around youth disconnection, and YDD's work to reengage these youth to education and reconnect them with training and employment. YDD would be please to answer any additional questions about youth disconnection or our programs.

With gratitude,
Kai Turner

**Questions & Answers**

**Question: Are there more disconnected Youths in some areas/demographics over others? Is there additional data that can be pulled?**

***Response:***
*Youth disconnection has been a critical data point driving YDD's funding priorities and providing opportunities for youth to reconnect with education and employment has been a focus of many YDD-funded programs. We have paid close attention to the places with the highest numbers and highest rates of disconnection. Alongside high school non-completion, this data is a strong indicator of the need for YDD workforce and reengagement programs for 16-24 year olds.*

*The communities with the highest numbers of disconnected youth are in the state's urban corridor. Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties alone generally account for 1/3 of the disconnected youth in the state. However some less populous communities have higher disconnection rates – a larger percentage of youth in these places are not connected to school or work. Southwestern Oregon and the Northwest Coast in particular have higher disconnection rates than the state as a whole, and YDD engaged in direct conversation with these and other communities experiencing the highest rates of disconnection as we developed the Oregon Youth Reengagement System. The Student Success Act directed YDD to create this system and organizations in these areas have received YDD grants to establish and strengthen effective reengagement efforts in their communities and regions.*

*The YDD uses American Community Survey (ACS) data to calculate the youth disconnection/Opportunity Youth count and rate, as has the practice nationally since this population became a focus of youth development work in the 2000s. The ACS is a program of the U.S. Census bureau, and data is collected via regular demographic surveys of individuals across the country. Yearly data is very accurate at the state level, while data on specific demographic groups and smaller geographical areas is more accurately calculated using 5-year samples.*

*The county/region and demographic data below uses the 2016-2020 5-Year Sample, as this is the most current reliable estimate. (Future 5-Year Samples will better capture the impact of COVID on disconnection at a local level). The tables below show youth disconnection by County or PUMA (Public Use Microdata Area, a census region that may include multiple counties with small populations) in Oregon.*

*The first table ranks PUMAs/counties by disconnection rate. The regions with disconnection rates higher than the overall state rate are shown in bold.*

***Youth Disconnection in Oregon 2016-2020, by County/Census Region***

Ranked by Rate/Percentage

| County/Area | Disconnected Youth Rate | Disconnected Youth Count | Total Population, Youth Ages 16-24 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *State of Oregon* | *12.0%* | *55,552* | *464,641* |
| **Douglas** | **18.6%** | **1,850** | **9,965** |
| **Klamath, Malheur, Lake & Harney** | **18.4%** | **2,228** | **12,130** |
| **Josephine, Coos & Curry Counties** | **17.7%** | **2,629** | **14,884** |
| **Columbia, Lincoln, Clatsop & Tillamook** | **17.1%** | **2,611** | **15,233** |
| **Jackson** | **15.4%** | **3,325** | **21,589** |
| **Marion** | **15.3%** | **6,317** | **41,406** |
| **Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, Jefferson, Grant, Wheeler & Crook** | **14.8%** | **1,745** | **11,806** |
| **Deschutes** | **14.4%** | **2,518** | **17,506** |
| **Umatilla, Union, Baker & Wallowa** | **13.1%** | **1,887** | **14,413** |
| Yamhill & Polk | 11.3% | 3,047 | 27,040 |
| Multnomah | 10.7% | 8,660 | 81,088 |
| Clackamas | 10.7% | 4,512 | 42,305 |
| Washington | 9.6% | 6,106 | 63,857 |
| Lane | 9.2% | 5,070 | 55,260 |
| Linn & Benton | 8.4% | 3,047 | 36,159 |

*The table below ranks PUMAs/counties by number of disconnected youth. It should be noted that the top 5 counties by number of disconnected youth are home to 30,665 (55%) of the state's disconnected youth in this estimate.*

***Youth Disconnection in Oregon 2016-2020, by County/Census Region***
Ranked by Disconnected Youth Count
(Top 5 Counties by disconnected youth population shown in **bold**)

| County/Area | Disconnected Youth Rate | Disconnected Youth Count | Total Population, Youth Ages 16-24 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *State of Oregon* | *12.0%* | *55,552* | *464,641* |
| **Multnomah** | **10.7%** | **8,660** | **81,088** |
| **Marion** | **15.3%** | **6,317** | **41,406** |
| **Washington** | **9.6%** | **6,106** | **63,857** |
| **Lane** | **9.2%** | **5,070** | **55,260** |
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| Jackson | 15.4% | 3,325 | 21,589 |
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| Josephine, Coos & Curry Counties | 17.7% | 2,629 | 14,884 |
| Columbia, Lincoln, Clatsop & Tillamook | 17.1% | 2,611 | 15,233 |
| Deschutes | 14.4% | 2,518 | 17,506 |
| Klamath, Malheur, Lake & Harney | 18.4% | 2,228 | 12,130 |
| Umatilla, Union, Baker & Wallowa | 13.1% | 1,887 | 14,413 |
| Douglas | 18.6% | 1,850 | 9,965 |
| Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, Jefferson, Grant, Wheeler & Crook | 14.8% | 1,745 | 11,806 |

*Using the same 2016-2020 data, here are the disconnection counts and rates for Oregon, disaggregated by race. As can be seen from this table, several racial groups experiencing higher disconnection rates compared to the overall population, most notably, American Indian and Alaskan Native youth, who have a disconnection rate of 18% vs.12% for all youth.*

***Youth Disconnection in Oregon 2016-2020, by Race/Ethnicity***

| Race/Ethnicity | Disconnected Youth Count by Population | Disconnection Rate by Population |
|---|---|---|
| All Oregon Youth, 16-24 | 55,552 | 12.0% |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 1,080 | 18.0% |
| Asian & Pacific Islander | 1,512 | 5.2% |
| Black/African American | 1,967 | 13.6% |
| Hispanic (Any Race) | 12,326 | 13.5% |
| Other Races | 3,543 | 14.4% |
| Two or more Races | 4,937 | 12.0% |
| White | 42,916 | 12.2% |

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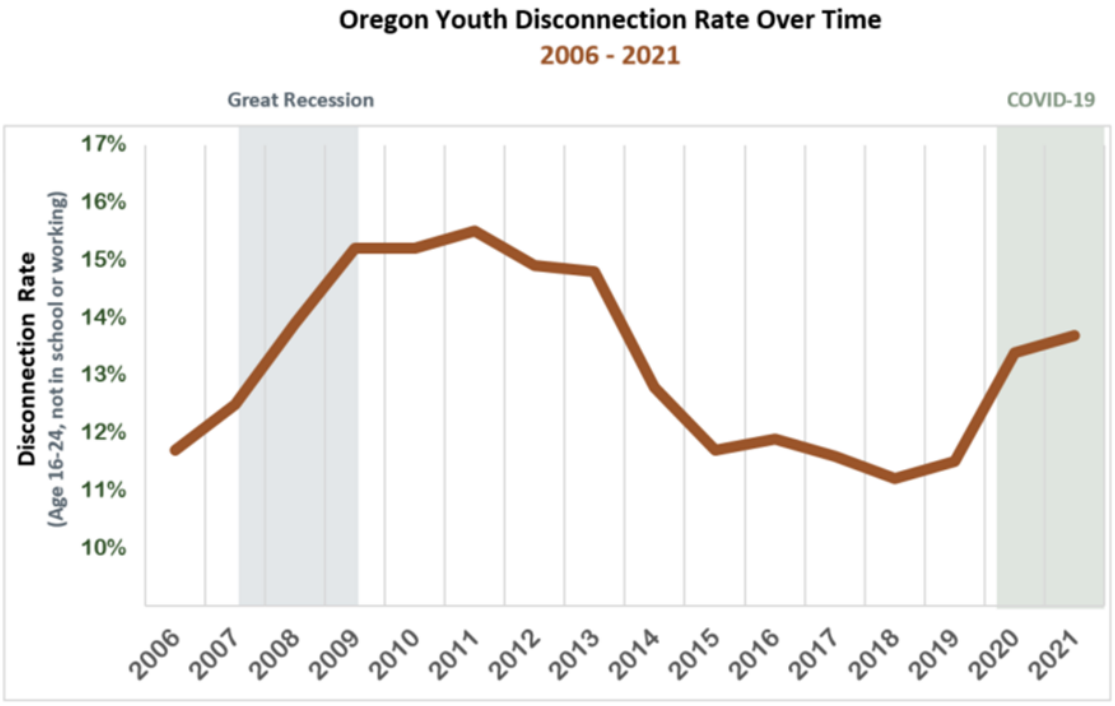
**Question: 13.6% of youth were disconnected from School and Work in Oregon. Can more historical data be provided?**

***Response:***

*The chart below shows the change in the rate of youth disconnection in Oregon from a baseline pre-Great recession, from 2006 through the most recent year for which data is available, 2021. The two events that may be correlated with jumps in disconnection, the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic, are juxtaposed on the chart. The slow drop in disconnection in the early 2010s reflects the tendency for youth employment to recover more slowly post-recession than unemployment rates for adults 25 and older.*



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*The table below shows the annual rates and counts of disconnected youth in Oregon since 2006, as well as the change in count per year. The 17% increase in the number of disconnected youth from 2019 to 2020 represents the largest increase in the count of disconnected youth since 2009 (following the steep increase in unemployment during Great Recession), and largest single year percentage increase during this 16-year period.*

**Oregon Youth Disconnection Count, Rate and Change by Year, 2006 - 2021**

| Year | Disconnected Youth Count | Disconnection Rate | Change in Count from Prior Year | Percentage Change from Previous Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 51,425 | 11.7% | | |
| 2007 | 55,572 | 12.5% | 4,147 | 8.1% |
| 2008 | 61,168 | 13.9% | 5,596 | 10.1% |
| 2009 | 71,210 | 15.2% | 10,042 | 16.4% |
| 2010 | 69,359 | 15.2% | -1,851 | -2.6% |
| 2011 | 71,541 | 15.5% | 2,182 | 3.1% |
| 2012 | 68,214 | 14.9% | -3,327 | -4.7% |
| 2013 | 69,090 | 14.8% | 876 | 1.3% |
| 2014 | 58,724 | 12.8% | -10,366 | -15.0% |
| 2015 | 54,612 | 11.7% | -4,112 | -7.0% |
| 2016 | 56,534 | 11.9% | 1,922 | 3.5% |
| 2017 | 54,478 | 11.6% | -2,056 | -3.6% |
| 2018 | 51,501 | 11.2% | -2,977 | -5.5% |
| 2019 | 52,904 | 11.5% | 1,403 | 2.7% |
| 2020 | 61,876 | 13.4% | 8,972 | 17.0% |
| 2021 | 62,211 | 13.7% | 335 | 0.5% |