

# Evaluating Oregon's Psilocybin Services Act

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### Introduction

- Psilocybin is a psychedelic drug produced by a variety of fungi.
- Mushrooms containing psilocybin are colloquially known as “mushrooms”, “magic mushrooms”, or “shrooms”.
- Psilocybin is a classic psychedelic, meaning that it acts as an agonist of 2A serotonin receptors in the brain and central nervous system (UC Berkeley Center for the Science of Psychedelics, 2024).
- By activating these serotonin receptors, psilocybin can modify someone’s emotions and perceptions. However, experiences between users can vary greatly. For some, it can distort their auditory, temporal, spatial, and visual perceptions, while others may experience hallucinations or events described as spiritual in nature (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2024).
- Psilocybin users usually consume fresh or dried mushrooms containing psilocybin to experience the effects of the mind-altering drug (National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, 2024).
- In a historic election in November 2020, Oregon became the first state to allow adults to consume psilocybin. ORS 475A, otherwise known as Oregon’s Psilocybin Services Act, allows adults to ingest the drug under supervision by state-licensed individuals called facilitators at regulated psilocybin centers.
- Federally, psilocybin is a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, reflecting its perceived high potential for abuse and lack of an accepted medical use
- Psilocybin is currently in Phase III clinical trials as a potential treatment for major depressive disorder across the United States (Usona Institute, 2025), and observational studies suggest it could potentially treat a variety of mental health conditions (Daniel & Haberman, 2018).
- The nonmedical consumption of psilocybin has risen in popularity, with an estimated eight million people having taken psilocybin in 2023 (Kilmer et al., 2024).

### Discussion

- The legalization of supervised adult use for psilocybin has created many fiscal, regulatory, and legal challenges.
- Psilocybin services can be expensive for psilocybin users and place heavy burdens on taxpayers, preventing access for the communities that might need these services most.
- Psilocybin sessions have proven to be expensive, with some sessions costing \$3000 or more, with little possibility of insurance coverage to ease the cost (Stringer, 2023).
- The number of centers in Oregon decreased from thirty-two to twenty-five as of May 2025, reflecting an oversaturated market, expensive operational costs, and inaccessible prices for the average consumer (Effinger, 2025; Hernandez, 2026).
- Consequently, consumers are led to pursue alternative, and potentially unsafe, treatments, endangering psychedelic users and encouraging illicit psilocybin distribution.

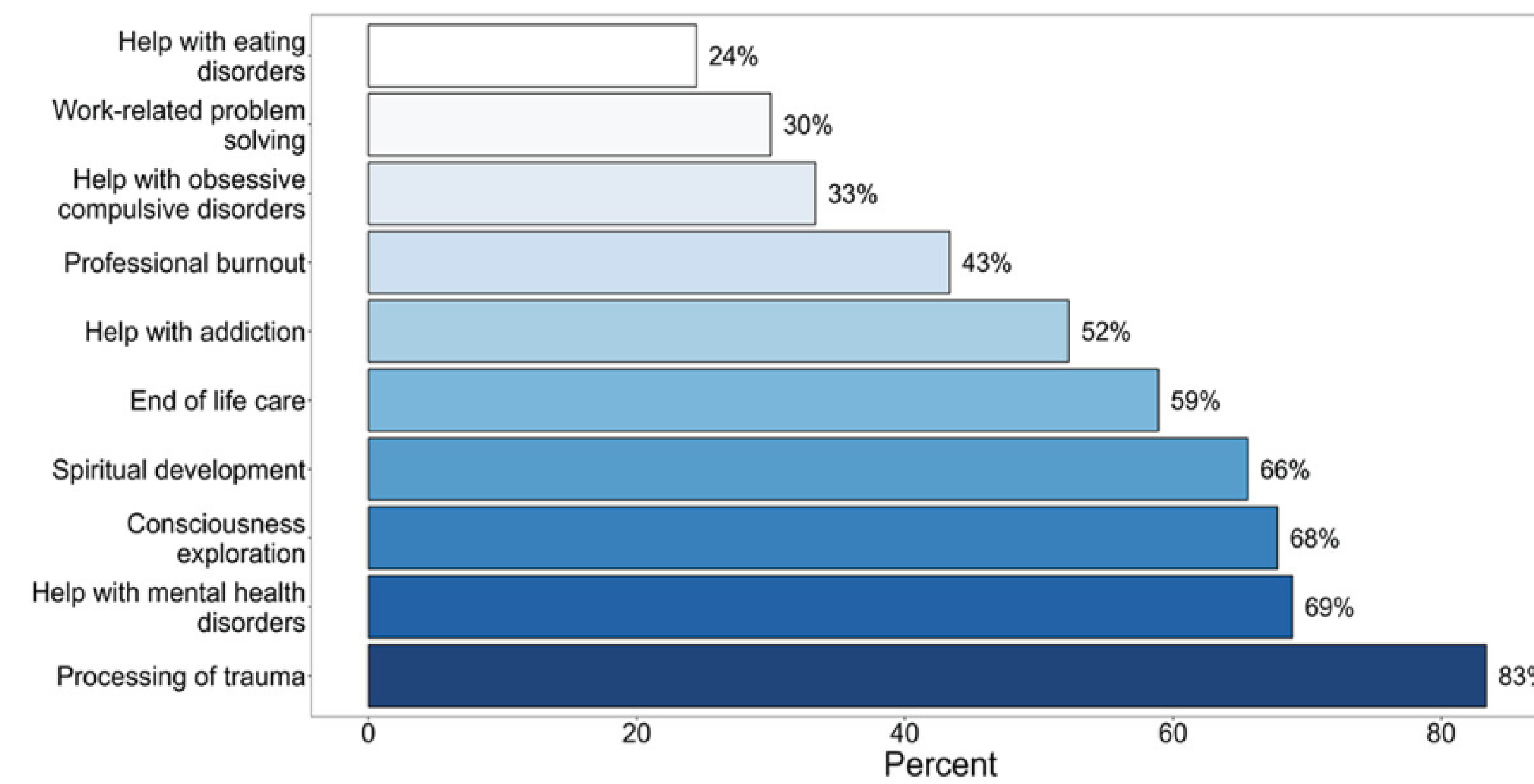


Figure 1: Client Goals of Interest as a Psilocybin Facilitator. Graph by Luoma et al., [https://fsu-flvc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01FALSC\\_FSU/1pc67ru/cdi\\_crossref\\_primary\\_10\\_1016\\_j\\_drugalcdep\\_2024\\_111569](https://fsu-flvc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01FALSC_FSU/1pc67ru/cdi_crossref_primary_10_1016_j_drugalcdep_2024_111569)

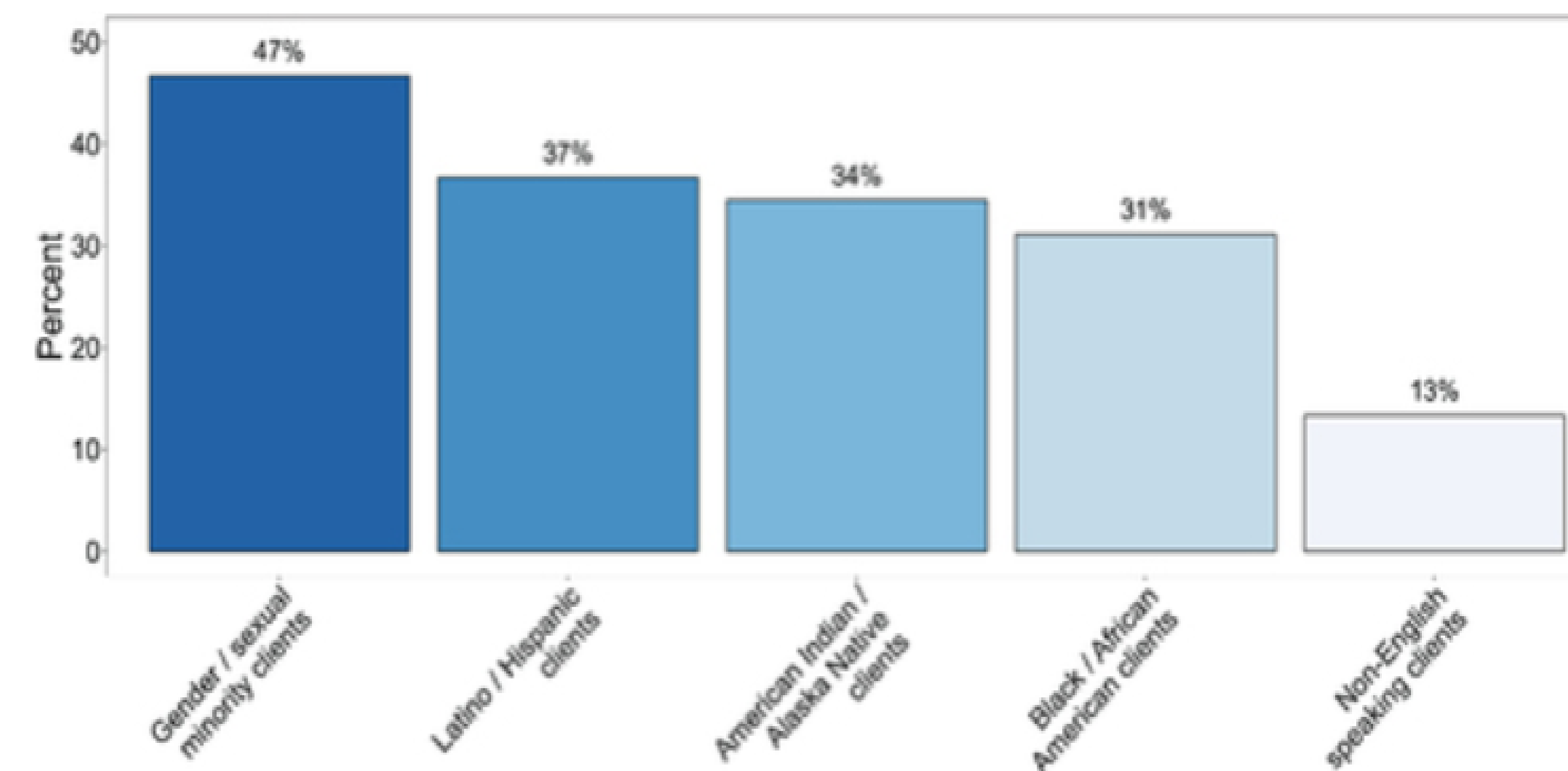


Figure 2: Populations of Interest as a Psilocybin Facilitator. Graph by Luoma et al., [https://fsu-flvc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01FALSC\\_FSU/1pc67ru/cdi\\_crossref\\_primary\\_10\\_1016\\_j\\_drugalcdep\\_2024\\_111569](https://fsu-flvc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01FALSC_FSU/1pc67ru/cdi_crossref_primary_10_1016_j_drugalcdep_2024_111569)



Figure 3: Psychedelic Mushrooms. Photo by Eric Koch, <https://flic.kr/p/2pj3Qjm>



Figure 4: Dried Psychedelic Mushrooms. Photo by Laura E. Lauterbach, <https://flic.kr/p/sD2mk>

### Acknowledgments

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### Criticisms of ORS 475A

- ORS 475A’s original intention of serving Oregonians and reducing mental illness prevalence among all Oregonians has not been fulfilled.
- Oregon’s psilocybin centers have failed to attract low-income, veteran, minority, and/or LGBTQ+ customers, even as centers offer substantial discounts to these groups.
- Taxpayer burden/inability to operate without fees (Effinger, 2023).
- ORS 475A’s data collection amendment has led to increased costs and privacy issues for consumers (Oregon Health Authority, 2026).
- Lack of racial and sexual orientation diversity among facilitators.
- Need to expand facilitator training to focus more on deescalation techniques, hands-on experience, and harm reduction to better prepare facilitators for psilocybin administration sessions (Luoma et al., 2025; Pertl et al., 2025).
- Limited job market for those with licenses and limited demand for services (Stringer, 2024).
- Safety concerns / informed consent’s role in psychedelic usage (Smith, Sisti, & Appelbaum, 2024).
- Large paperwork burden for consumers seeking psilocybin services (Effinger, 2025).
- Counties are voting to not allow psilocybin centers in their counties, and there have been numerous attempts to ban the opening of centers at the municipal level (DiCarlo, 2022).

### Conclusion

- To improve current legislation, lawmakers must prioritize cost-reduction measures and increase access for marginalized communities.
- There needs to be more nuance in the current administrative rules, especially when it comes to microdosing and customer paperwork requirements.
- Oregon must also focus on better preparing facilitators to care for their customers after psilocybin administration and increase access to certification programs for minority facilitators.
- Oregon should shift its focus away from data collection to protect consumers from potential privacy issues and reduce the financial burden of the program.

### References

