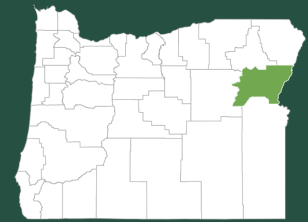




# BAKER COUNTY

## Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

16,090

### About the Summary

Oregon Voices began in summer of 2021 when The Ford Family Foundation invited 18,000 randomly selected households — 500 in each Oregon county — to complete a survey online or by mailing back a paper response. We then reached out to Ford Family friends and partners, encouraging them to participate and invite others to do the same. In total more than 4,300 Oregonians from all walks of life responded to the survey, generously sharing their honest reflections on the question we posed: *What is it like to live in your corner of the state?*

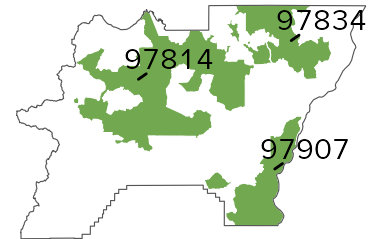
The following report provides a high-level summary of the survey data received from those who responded in Baker County. Here the number of random household respondents outnumbered the Ford Family respondents. For clarity, the two data sets have been combined in the visualizations below, even though the two samples show differences in demographics and response patterns. Please interpret the findings with this in mind. Data have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

**Total number of Baker County respondents: 110**  
Random household sample: 73, Ford Family sample: 37

### Key Highlights

- Baker County is located in the eastern most part of Oregon and shares a border with Idaho. Access to nearby outdoor beauty and recreation ranks highly among the characteristics Baker County respondents appreciate.
- Respondents feel strong community ties and sense the political polarization among residents.
- Those who responded express dislike of state-level politics and policies that they think do not accommodate rural areas.
- Respondents are concerned about the level of substance use in their communities.

### All reporting zip codes

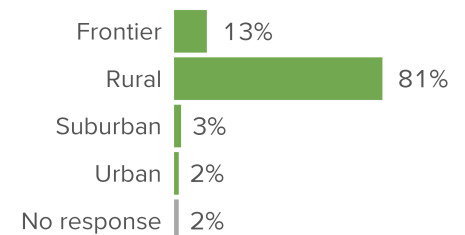


### Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97814
- 2 97834
- 3 97907

### Rural/Urban

How respondents described their community, the immediate area where they live



Two of the early survey questions asked people to name something they appreciate or that concerns them about where they live. Their open-ended responses were coded into categories. These are the top two results for Baker County.

What respondents **APPRECIATE** most about where they live



**Community, People**

Culture, relationships conflict, size, leadership, change



**Natural Environment**

Beauty, recreation, public land, parks, water, disasters, climate

What **CONCERNS** respondents most about where they live



**Community, People**

Culture, relationships conflict, size, leadership, change



**Services/Economy**

Housing, infrastructure, healthcare, education, jobs, industry, businesses, shopping, cultural events

*“We appreciate when we as a community are encouraged to make changes for ourselves as opposed to being told how we should live and do things from those not living in our area.”*

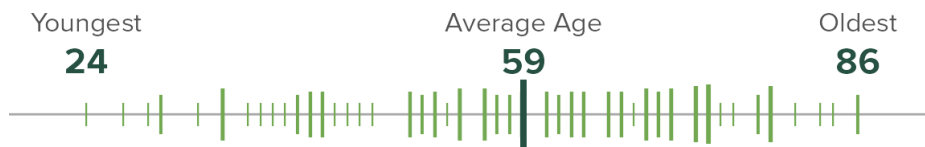
*“I thought that being LGBTQ and moving back to rural NE Oregon was going to be impossible, but the pandemic allowed us to give it a try. This community has been the same welcoming place I grew up in. I have not experienced hate, harassment or anything but love and acceptance.”*

*“I feel safe in my community and appreciate the people here. Most have been here a long time, but most that move here really appreciate and respect our beautiful town.”*

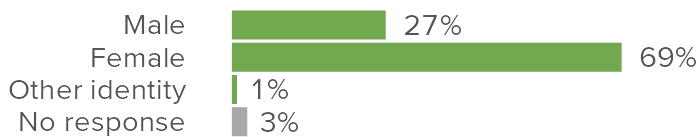
*“Businesses are struggling, having a hard time finding workers. People appear depressed (adults and kids), which translates into stress at home. To me, poverty is the primary problem area. I have found that people are burdened by a lot of unresolved trauma that gets passed on in their interactions with others.”*

**Respondent Demographics**

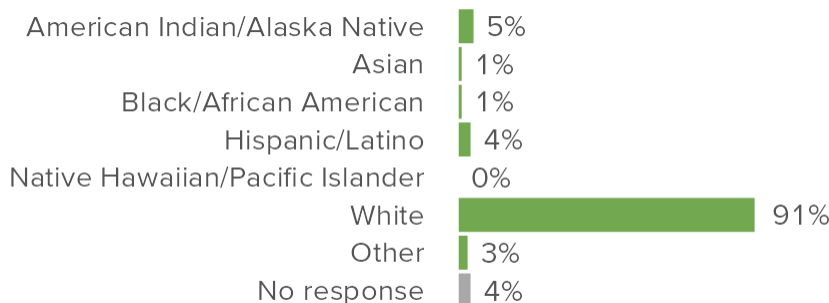
**Age of respondents**



**Gender**



**Race/Ethnicity**



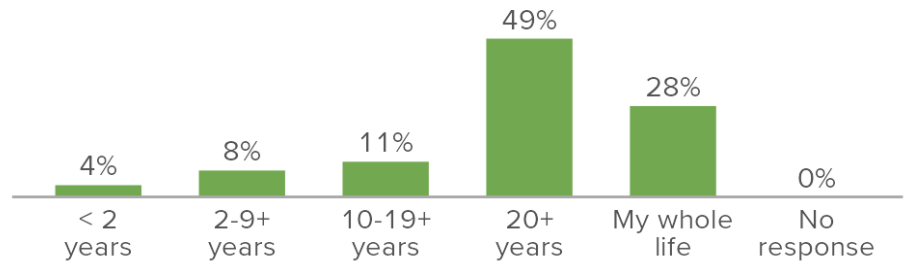
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



**Years living in Oregon**

**77%**

of all respondents report living in Oregon for their whole life or 20 years or more



**Homeownership**

**8 out of 10**

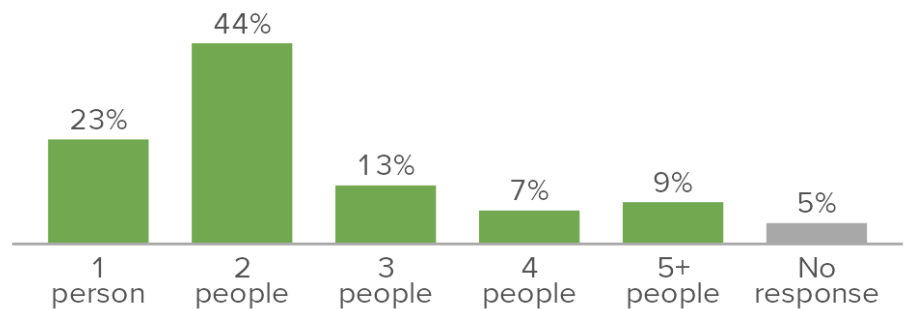
respondents own their home



**Household size**

**2.4**

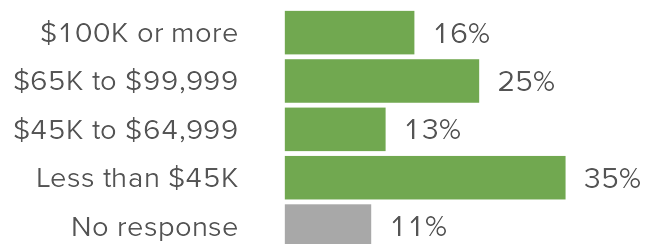
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



**Household annual income**

**35%**

of respondents reported household incomes falling under \$65K



**Emergency funds**

**25%**

of respondents would find it "difficult" or "very difficult" to get \$1,000 to pay for an emergency

**Trouble making ends meet**

**62%**

of respondents "agree" or "strongly agree" that "families are having trouble making ends meet"

**Homelessness**

**45%**

of respondents "agree" or "strongly agree" that "homelessness is a problem" in their community



# 5 out of 10

respondents  
LOVE where they live



## Community participation

*“Love the challenge of a remote small city that has a deep history and unique cultural DNA that is both very Oregonian and distinct at the same time.”*

*“I love the physical landscape, frontier resilience, access to the wilderness, community engagement and creativity.”*

*“There is narrow-mindedness and a dislike of different opinions.”*

*“Encroachment of social radicals”*

*“Like many communities, there are good and bad aspects. There are people who understand how to live in a small town, willing to help others and count many as adopted family. And there are those who move here and try to treat it like a city. They don’t know their neighbors or understand that their actions affect the whole.”*

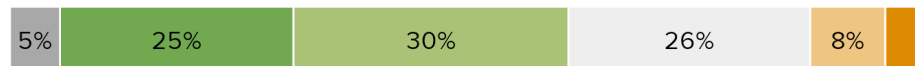
Respondents indicated the extent to which they perceive that people where they live participate in their community in the following ways:

Results below 5% are not labeled due to space constraints.

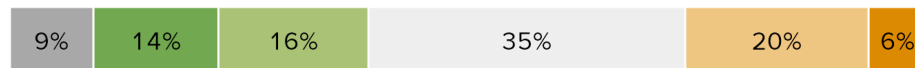
**STRONGLY AGREE**

**STRONGLY DISAGREE**

**Take care of each other during hard times**



**Come together to solve community problems**



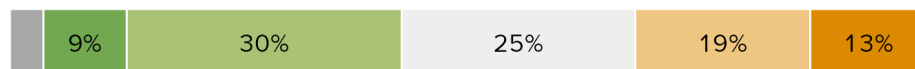
**Attend community events**



**Go to church**



**Welcome newcomers**



## Community traditions

**68%**

of respondents participate in community traditions or annual events

## Pride in community

**71%**

of respondents are “often” or “always” proud to tell others where they live

## Voting

**92%**

of respondents report that they “always” vote

## Community service

**45%**

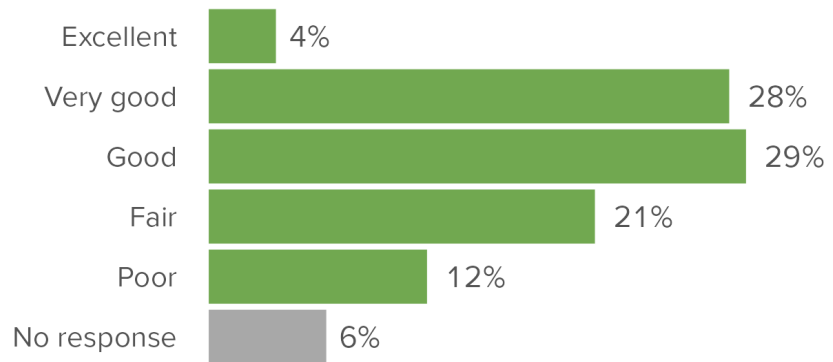
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



**Physical health**

**61%**

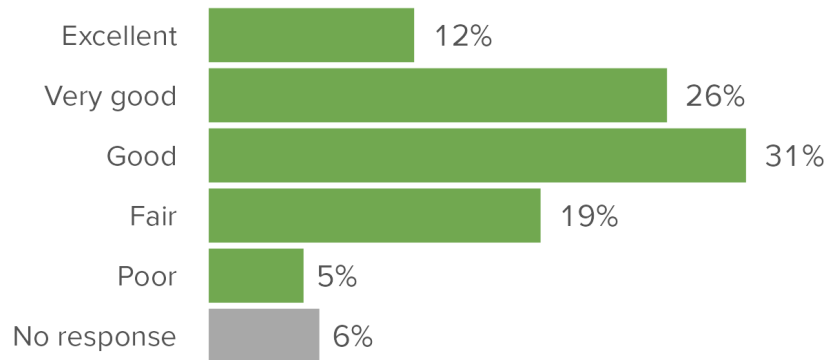
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



**Mental health**

**69%**

of respondents rated their mental health as “good” or better



**Medical and dental care**

**17%**

of respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that they have “enough medical and dental providers” in their community

**STRONGLY AGREE**

**STRONGLY DISAGREE**



Results below 5% are not labeled due to space constraints.

**Child abuse and neglect**

**43%**

of respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that “child abuse and neglect is a significant problem” in their community”

**Substance abuse**

**72%**

of respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that their community has “many residents struggling with substance abuse”

**Mental illness**

**58%**

of respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that their community has “many residents struggling with mental illness”



**Education**

**66%**

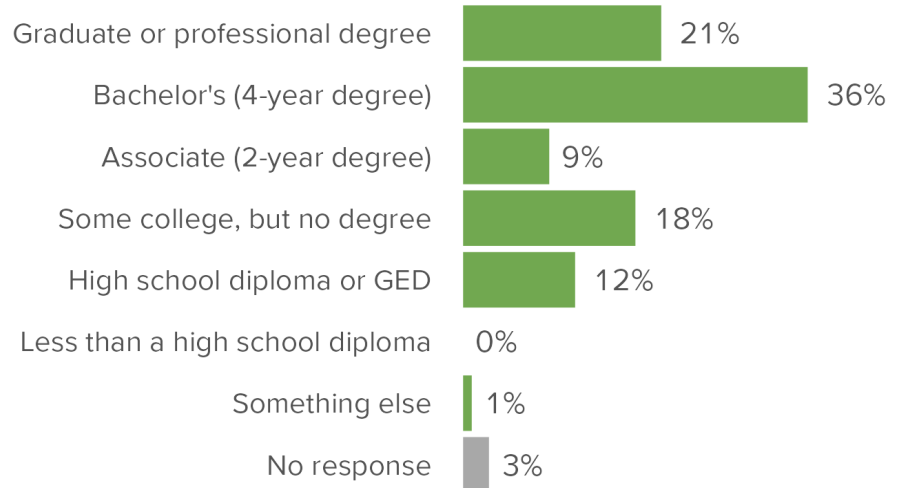
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

**Students**

**5%**

of respondents identified as a current student

**Respondents' highest level of education completed**



**Employment**

**Wages**

**57%**

of respondents "agree" or "strongly agree" that "jobs do not pay enough" in their community

**Perception of unemployment**

**46%**

of respondents "agree" or "strongly agree" that "a lot of people are unemployed" in their community

**Self-employment**

**13%**

of respondents identified as self-employed

**Employment status of respondents**

<b>Employed</b>	<b>48%</b>
Full-time	41%
Part-time	7%
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>8%</b>
Looking for work	2%
Not looking for work	0%
Unable to work due to disability	6%
<b>Other</b>	<b>39%</b>
Homemaker/manage your home	5%
Retired	33%
Something else	1%
<b>No response</b>	<b>5%</b>

Due to rounding, percentages in grouped rows may differ from the sum of the individual rows below it.



**Services**

*“The most difficult [service] to access is healthy food. Since we have winter, access is even harder and gets more expensive due to our geographic disadvantage.”*

*“My town is very discouraging to any new business.”*

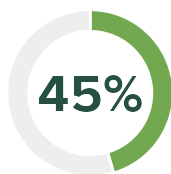
*“Cell service is inconsistent. Some areas are really bad, like by the high school and hospital.”*

*“We have a good clinic, library and snow removal.”*

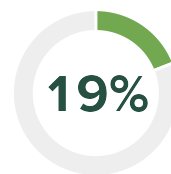
*“There are many things to do if people seek out the opportunities.”*

**Respondents who reported they “agree” or “strongly agree” the following services are available where they live:**

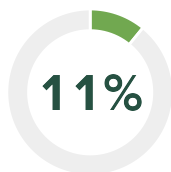
Good schools



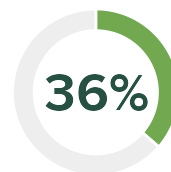
Enough places to shop



Affordable housing



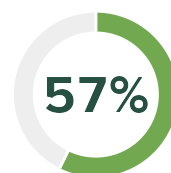
Good streets and roads



Reliable internet



Community-wide cell service



**Healthy food**

**55%**

of respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that they have easy access to healthy foods

**Top 3 places respondents get food for weekly meals**

- 1 Grocery stores
- 2 Restaurants
- 3 Backyard or local garden

**Lack of child care**

**62%**

of respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that “child care is hard to find”

**Lack of places for youth to hang out**

**65%**

of respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that “youth do not have places to hang out”



For data summaries for each county in Oregon,  
more research and to explore the data on your own, visit

**orvoices.org.**



Research conducted in partnership with ECONorthwest and  
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April 2023

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*Oregon Voices*. [www.orvoices.org](http://www.orvoices.org).

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