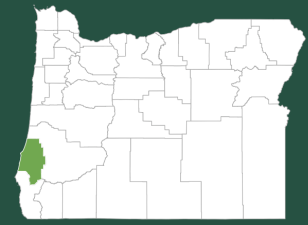




COOS COUNTY

Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

64,175

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?*

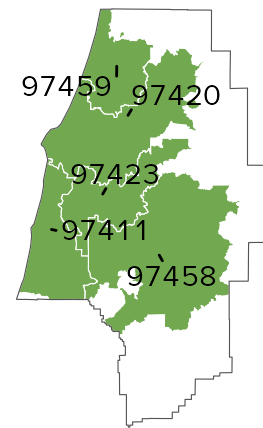
The following report provides a high-level summary of the survey data received from those who responded in Coos County. Here the number of Ford Family respondents outnumbered the random household respondents. For clarity, the two data sets have been combined in the visualizations below, even though the 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 Coos County respondents: 148
Random household sample: 67, Ford Family sample: 81

Key Highlights

- Coos County is home to Southwestern Community College and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.
- Respondents from Coos County appreciate the great people in their area, the quality of life and the natural environment they enjoy on the Oregon coast.
- Respondents indicate that there are not enough living-wage jobs or housing for their neighbors.
- Coos County respondents expressed a need for additional services and community infrastructure, noting the lack of child care and concerns about drugs and substance use.

All reporting zip codes

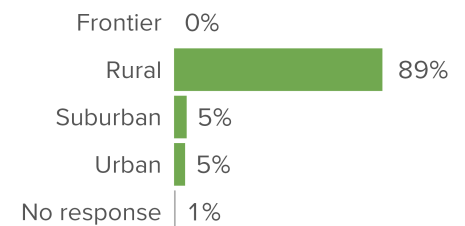


Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97420
- 2 97459
- 3 97411

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 Coos County.

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



Natural Environment

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



Community, People

Culture, relationships conflict, size, leadership, change

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



Services/Economy

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



Community, People

Culture, relationships conflict, size, leadership, change

“Quiet, friendly community”

“Outdoor activities like hiking, lakes, rivers”

“Our community collaboration. People genuinely care about one another.”

“We are older, and it is difficult to hire people to get things done mostly because we are put off a lot, and our resources are limited and hard to find, and a lot of people don’t take us serious.”

“The small town makes for an easy living, convenient lifestyle for those fortunate to be making an adequate living income.”

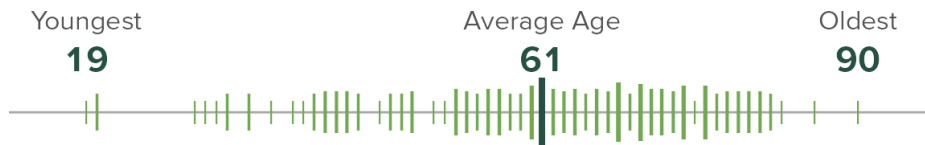
“I love it here. We have come a long way, but there is so much more work to do. The climate now makes even community events seem like a battleground of views, and we are seeing a decrease in volunteers because people just do not want to deal with the drama.”

“Homelessness and crime, both out of control, is a huge problem.”

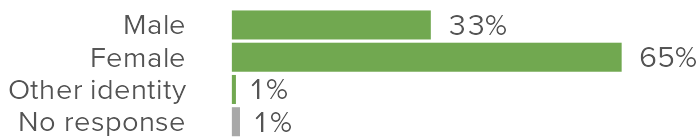
“Coos Bay is a much safer place overall, and the weather is much better than most of the state.”

Respondent Demographics

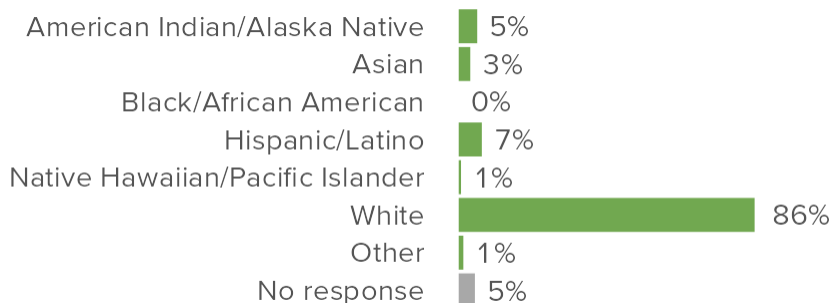
Age of respondents



Gender



Race/Ethnicity



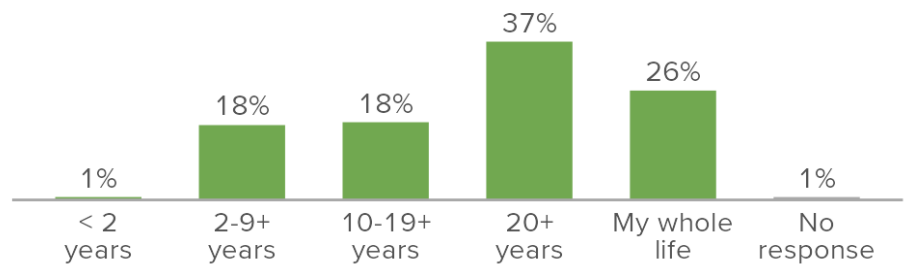
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



Years living in Oregon

63%

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



Homeownership

8 out of 10

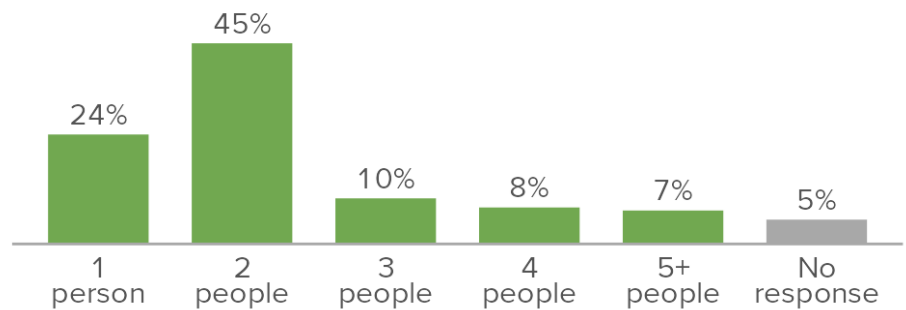
respondents own their home



Household size

2.3

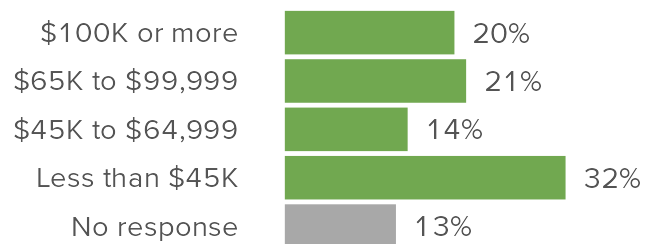
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



Household annual income

32%

of respondents reported household incomes falling under \$65K



Emergency funds

14%

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

Trouble making ends meet

67%

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

Homelessness

74%

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

“The people are nice and help one another, and of course the beach is beautiful and peaceful.”

“The residents seem to resist change, even if it means they sacrifice quality of life.”

“Basically nice people”

“It’s a nice small town, just has problems handling the bad situations such as affordable housing, homelessness and drug abuse.”

“There’s lots of ‘if only’ sadness at the community’s seeming incapacity to acknowledge or tackle fundamental issues due to widespread suspicion and fear of change or anything new plus the lack of enough capacity to sustain good initiatives.”

“There are a group of agencies and people who do their best to unify and strengthen our community. There is little tolerance or respect for different cultures or experiences.”

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.

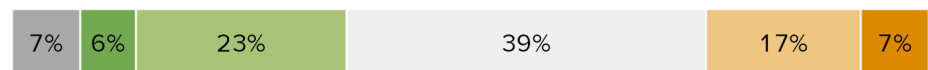
STRONGLY AGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

Take care of each other during hard times



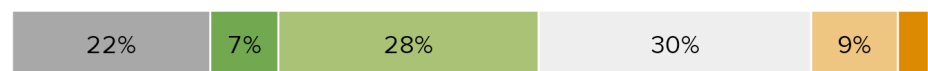
Come together to solve community problems



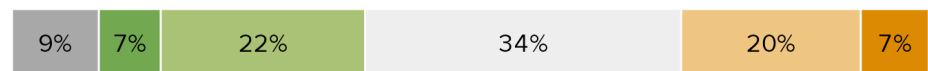
Attend community events



Go to church



Welcome newcomers



Community traditions

62%

of respondents participate in community traditions or annual events

Pride in community

69%

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

Voting

85%

of respondents report that they “always” vote

Community service

57%

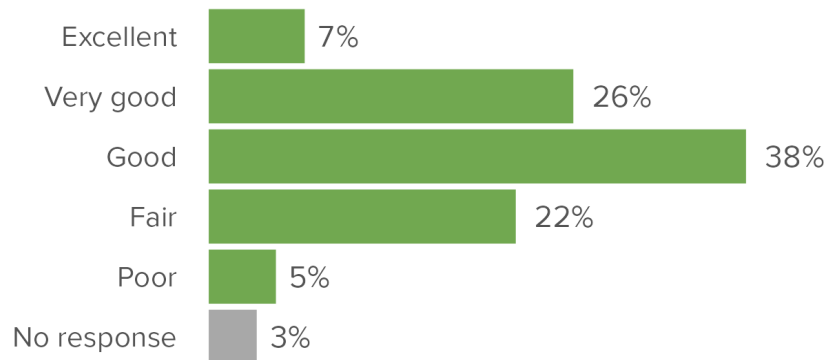
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



Physical health

70%

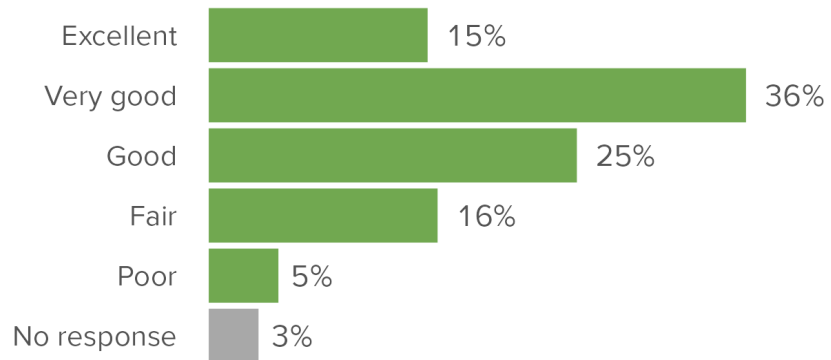
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



Mental health

76%

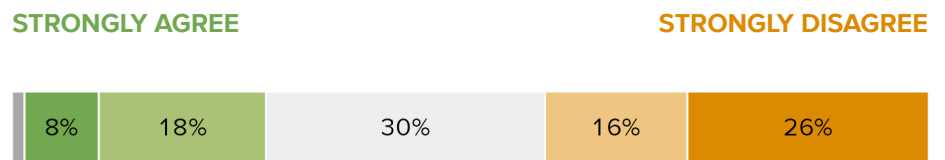
of respondents rated their mental health as “good” or better



Medical and dental care

26%

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



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

Child abuse and neglect

50%

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

Substance abuse

74%

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

Mental illness

64%

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



Education

62%

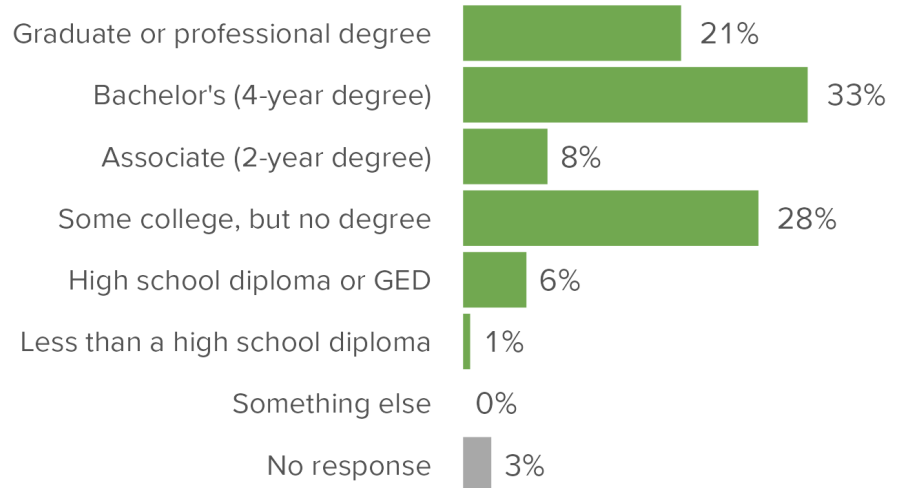
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

Students

5%

of respondents identified as a current student

Respondents' highest level of education completed



Employment

Wages

58%

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

Perception of unemployment

57%

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

Self-employment

16%

of respondents identified as self-employed

Employment status of respondents

Employed	51%
Full-time	39%
Part-time	11%
Unemployed	6%
Looking for work	3%
Not looking for work	1%
Unable to work due to disability	3%
Other	39%
Homemaker/manage your home	2%
Retired	34%
Something else	3%
No response	5%

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



Services

“Roads are falling apart. We’re lacking in sheriff deputies in rural areas. Homeless people are living in the woods, which doesn’t feel safe.”

“Lots of things to do here for adults and youth, but seniors in our area are against allowing new business in.”

“Investments in high-speed, reliable internet access, vocational training and mental health access are the needs I am most aware of in my surrounding community.”

“Businesses need employees, but there aren’t enough places for the employees to live. We have too many vacation homes here that are rented out for travelers.”

“We are at a critical point. Mortgages and rents are extremely high, while wages remain low with limited job benefits. Many properties are owned by out-of-town investors who are looking for a profit.”

“Medical care is challenging as many doctors don’t stay. One of the reasons is actually limited shopping.”

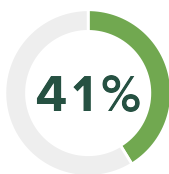
“We have an extremely high percentage of people with addictions and/or mental health diagnoses and few resources to help them. Our community needs a lot of help.”

“Quality day care and affordable housing are big issues.”

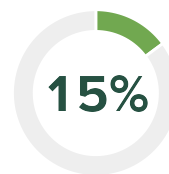
“It’s a great place to live, with great schools, but we need more jobs and more affordable housing.”

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

Good schools



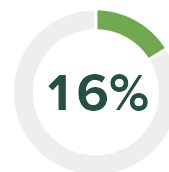
Enough places to shop



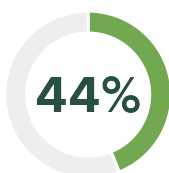
Affordable housing



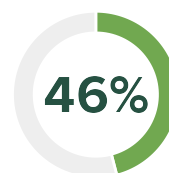
Good streets and roads



Reliable internet



Community-wide cell service



Healthy food

57%

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 Superstores
- 3 Restaurants

Lack of child care

64%

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

Lack of places for youth to hang out

66%

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
the Regional Research Institute for Human Services at Portland State University



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