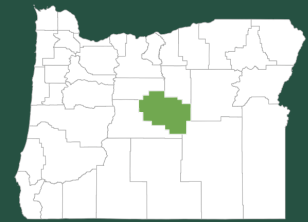




# CROOK COUNTY

## Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

**23,733**

### 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?*

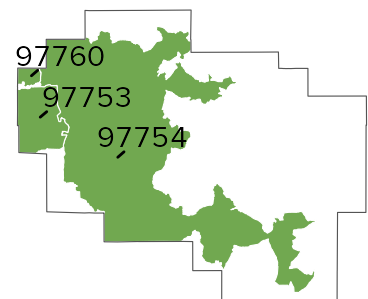
The following report provides a high-level summary of the survey data received from those who responded in Crook County. Here the number of random household respondents outnumbered the Ford Family respondents. For clarity, the two data sets have been combined in the visualizations below, even though 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 Crook County respondents: 80**  
Random household sample: 63, Ford Family sample: 17

### Key Highlights

- Located in the center of the state, Crook County shares a border with five other Oregon counties.
- Respondents appreciate the strong sense of community and friendliness among residents. They value the small county population and the natural environment that surrounds them.
- Crook County respondents report a lack of youth supports in the area, including insufficient mental health services.
- Survey respondents express concern that wages are too low and housing costs are unaffordably high.

### All reporting zip codes

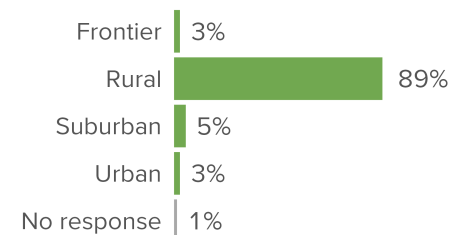


### Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97754
- 2 97753
- 3 97760

### 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 Crook 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 love our life. We love the concerts in the park. We love that the community values its children and its seniors and veterans. This is home!”*

*“People are friendly and generally upbeat. There is pride in the community and interest in improvement and innovation, while trying to maintain small town character.”*

*“The people are nice here, wildlife, the scenery”*

*“The outdoors and the general good nature of the community”*

*“I feel it is difficult to retain top quality employees in government, police, medical professions, recovery programs, etc. because pay is lower and opportunities in neighboring counties are greater. This results in greater turnover and generally lower quality of living.”*

*“I’m just concerned about the access to medical care and the lack of transportation to the medical care we do have, which is 35 miles away.”*

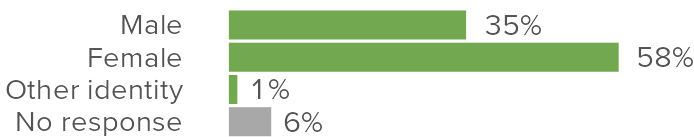
*“It’s a very white community and people of color are not treated well, neither are women.”*

**Respondent Demographics**

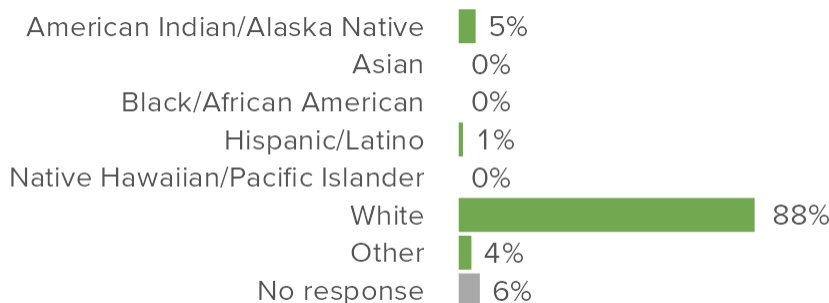
**Age of respondents**



**Gender**



**Race/Ethnicity**



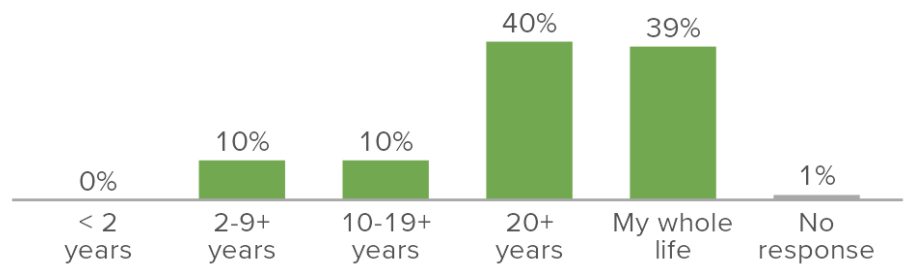
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



**Years living in Oregon**

**79%**

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



**Homeownership**

**8 out of 10**

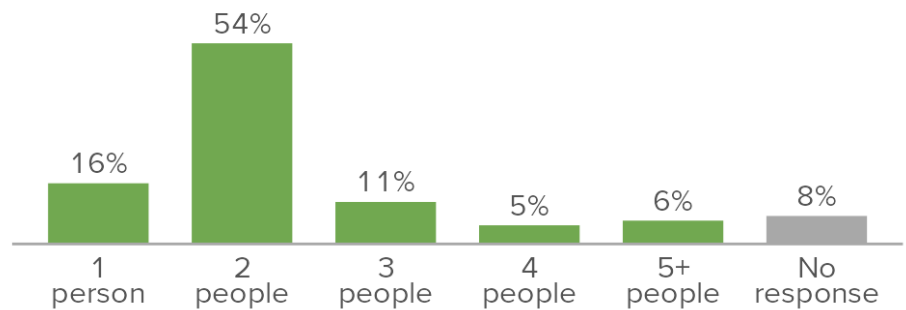
respondents own their home



**Household size**

**2.3**

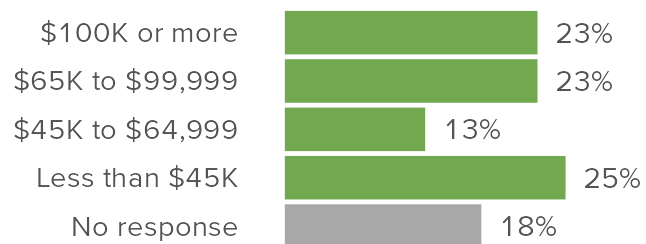
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



**Household annual income**

**25%**

of respondents reported household incomes falling under \$65K



**Emergency funds**

**18%**

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

**Trouble making ends meet**

**46%**

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

**Homelessness**

**41%**

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 friendly, helpful and interested in their community.”*

*“Just about everything is within walking distance. It is a very friendly town, and everybody knows everybody.”*

*“If we could begin conversations toward unity instead of towards othering and division, I think we could move towards our shared values and heal much of what is hurting.”*

*“Lack of educated people resulting in poor decisions that affect our community”*

*“Our community has a can-do attitude, is friendly and has some multi-generational businesses.”*

*“Politically divided, some with strong anti-government sentiments.”*

*“The community can come to together to solve problems very easily. Our community struggles with the government telling us how to solve the problems, as it generally doesn’t solve the issue.”*

*“When the community works together, they accomplish good things.”*

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**

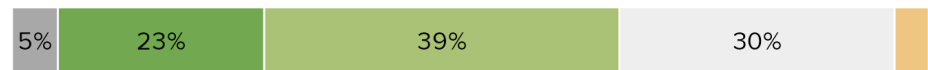
### Take care of each other during hard times



### Come together to solve community problems



### Attend community events



### Go to church



### Welcome newcomers



## Community traditions

**51%**

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

**50%**

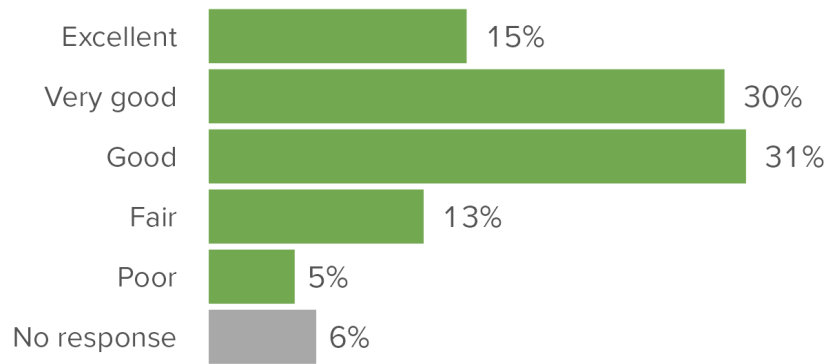
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



**Physical health**

**76%**

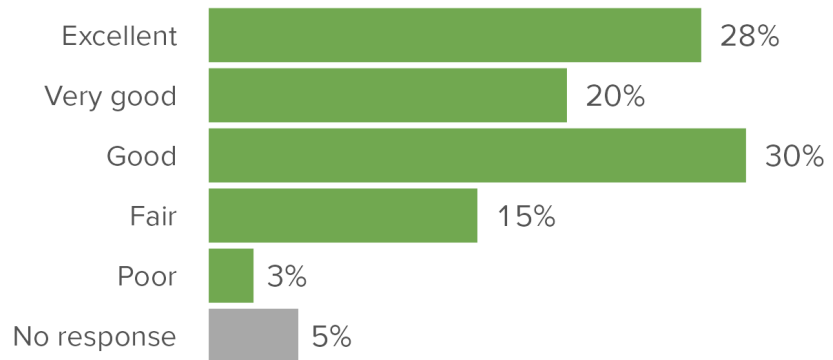
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



**Mental health**

**78%**

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



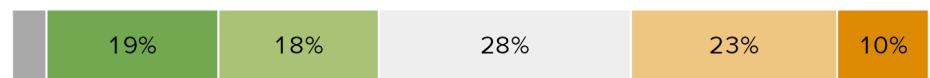
**Medical and dental care**

**36%**

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**

**29%**

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

**Substance abuse**

**54%**

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

**Mental illness**

**35%**

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



**Education**

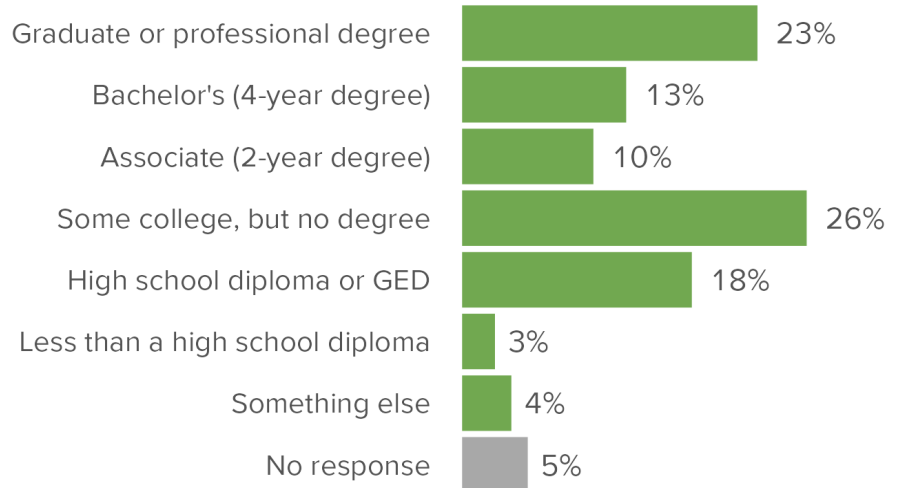
**45%**

of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

**Students**

of respondents identified as a current student

**Respondents' highest level of education completed**



**Employment**

**Wages**

**40%**

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

**Perception of unemployment**

**36%**

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

**Self-employment**

**10%**

of respondents identified as self-employed

**Employment status of respondents**

<b>Employed</b>	<b>31%</b>
Full-time	21%
Part-time	10%
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>8%</b>
Looking for work	4%
Not looking for work	0%
Unable to work due to disability	4%
<b>Other</b>	<b>55%</b>
Homemaker/manage your home	1%
Retired	51%
Something else	3%
<b>No response</b>	<b>6%</b>

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



**Services**

*“Only satellite internet is available, and it’s EXTREMELY slow — as in kilobytes instead of megabyte speeds.”*

*“The county is upgrading many things: roads, streetlights, sidewalks, select areas like the skate and bike park.”*

*“The housing prices — both buying and renting — are too high for this small town.”*

*“The wages are too low for the cost of housing. There is no housing available for anyone [living] on the local wage.”*

*“The schools provide many activities but always need family support.*

*“Facebook has made a real change in our community. Some say in bad ways; some say they are a financial boost to the community’s schools.”*

*“I was tired of the complaints when our children were young that there was nothing to do. I am exhausted now in being the support for our grandchildren to get to all of their activities.”*

*“We have no options for garbage, so service is unreliable. Our internet is very poor also.”*

*“It’s hard to make ends meet at times.”*

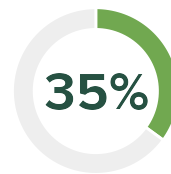
*“Most assistance programs require a very low income to qualify. Those of us at moderately low income rarely qualify for help, but we struggle to pay bills every month.”*

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

Good schools



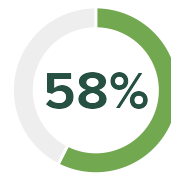
Enough places to shop



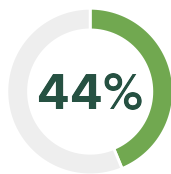
Affordable housing



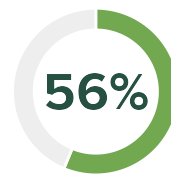
Good streets and roads



Reliable internet



Community-wide cell service



**Healthy food**

**60%**

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 Farmers markets

**Lack of child care**

**46%**

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

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

**48%**

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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April 2023

Preferred citation:

The Ford Family Foundation. (2023). Oregon Voices Data Summary: Crook County.  
*Oregon Voices*. [www.orvoices.org](http://www.orvoices.org).

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