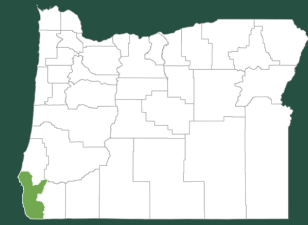




CURRY COUNTY

Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

22,889

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 Curry 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.

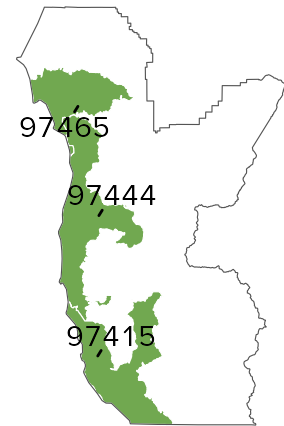
Total number of Curry County respondents: 98

Random household sample: 73, Ford Family sample: 25

Key Highlights

- Curry County is the southwestern most county in Oregon, bordering California and enjoying a long stretch of the Pacific coast line. Respondents appreciate the natural beauty of the coast and feel that people in their community are welcoming and helpful.
- Respondents in Curry County describe a lack of access to basic and specialized healthcare services and a shortage of healthcare workers.
- Respondents note that while tourism is the biggest local industry, they are frustrated by the proliferation of vacation rentals that appears to have contributed to increased housing prices and the cost of living. They feel tourists are intolerant of local values.

All reporting zip codes

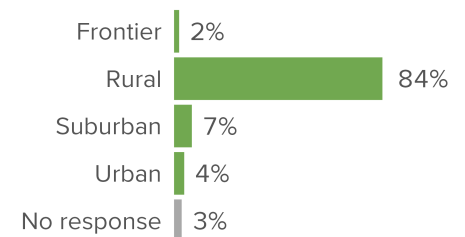


Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97415
- 2 97444
- 3 97465

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 Curry 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

“There is a lot to do for outdoor lovers. It is still relatively unspoiled and costs nothing to explore. There are a few really good places to eat and shop, especially as part of a coastal road trip, and significant crime is very low. Everyone generally knows what everyone else is doing.”

“We work hard.”

“It is quiet. The air is clean. People smile and wave.”

“Immediate access to nature, wildlife, rivers and lakes, state parks”

“It’s very hard to get help with work that I cannot do alone. Medical and dental services are limited.

Affordable housing is difficult to find.

Political climate is not pleasant.

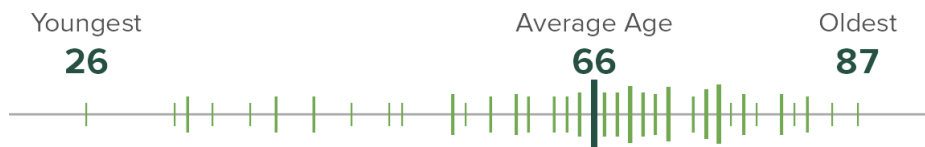
Diversity is limited. All consumer-oriented products are limited. Social connections are limited, and the workload is intense for my job.”

“Lack of family wage jobs and housing.”

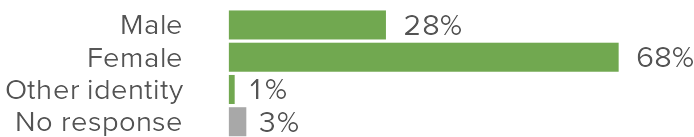
“Nice and quiet, hearing sirens is rare”

Respondent Demographics

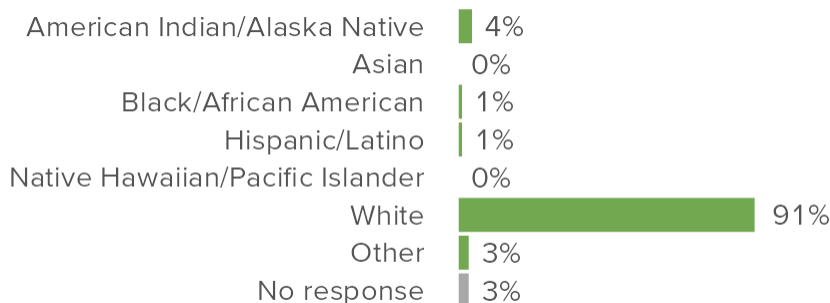
Age of respondents



Gender



Race/Ethnicity



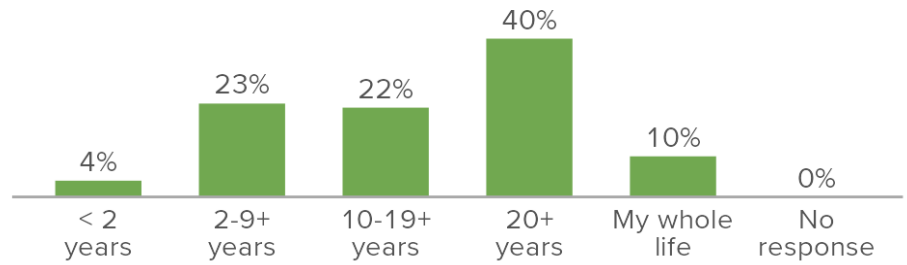
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



Years living in Oregon

50%

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



Homeownership

8 out of 10

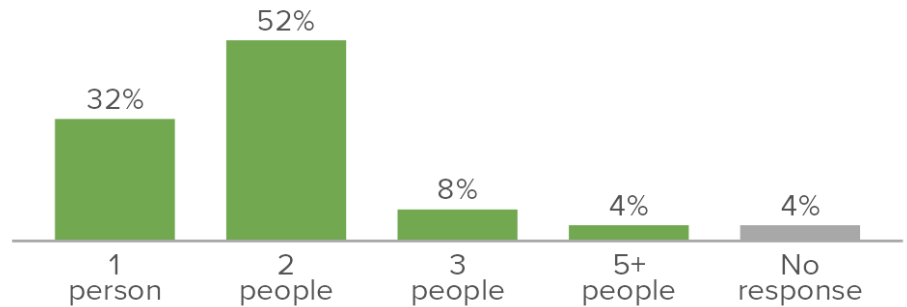
respondents own their home



Household size

1.9

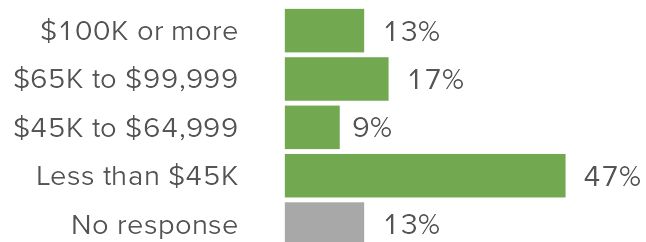
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



Household annual income

47%

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

59%

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

Homelessness

73%

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



6 out of 10

respondents
LOVE where they live



Community participation

"I think what's interesting about living here is that community frequently seems to come before cultural/political differences. Although we don't talk about the topic directly, I know quite a few people on the other side of the political spectrum, and I can talk with them freely, respect them, and empathize with them because I know them. I'm almost certain they would say the same about me. We're different in many ways, but we have the common tie of community to bring us together."

"[Moving here] has been a major improvement in quality of life. No grid lock traffic means less stress overall."

"Racism, bigotry and radical anti-government sentiment"

"Socially isolated, secluded and quiet with few, yet friendly, neighbors"

"People are kind. Being in a small town makes us less anonymous."

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.

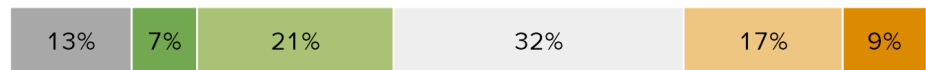
STRONGLY AGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

Take care of each other during hard times



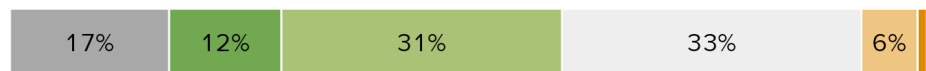
Come together to solve community problems



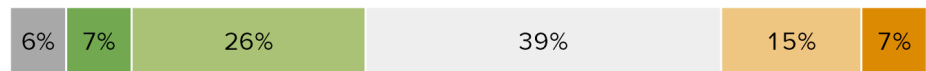
Attend community events



Go to church



Welcome newcomers



Community traditions

60%

of respondents participate in community traditions or annual events

Pride in community

78%

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

Voting

80%

of respondents report that they "always" vote

Community service

51%

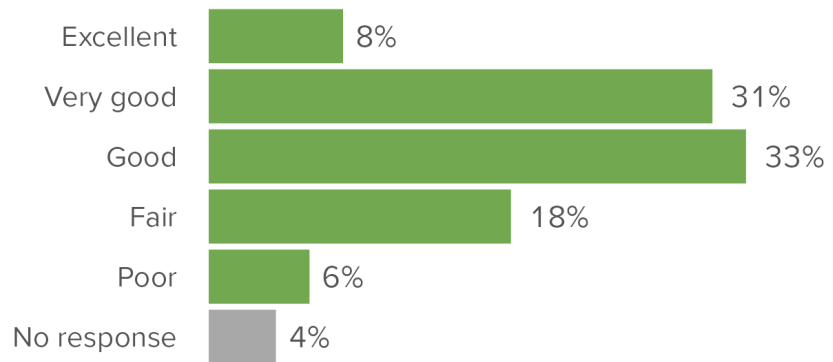
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



Physical health

71%

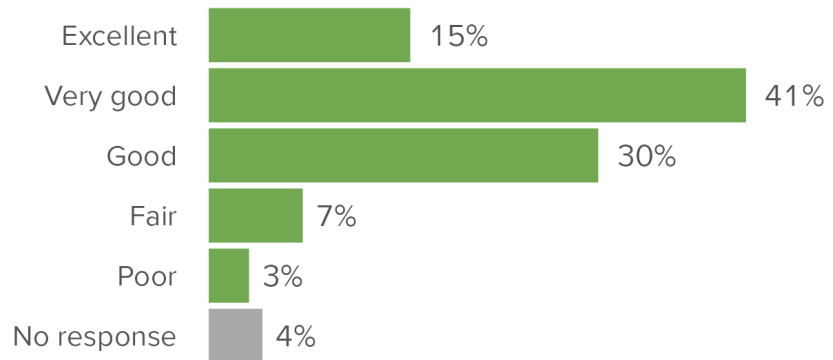
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



Mental health

86%

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



Medical and dental care

10%

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

33%

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

Substance abuse

57%

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

Mental illness

49%

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



Education

58%

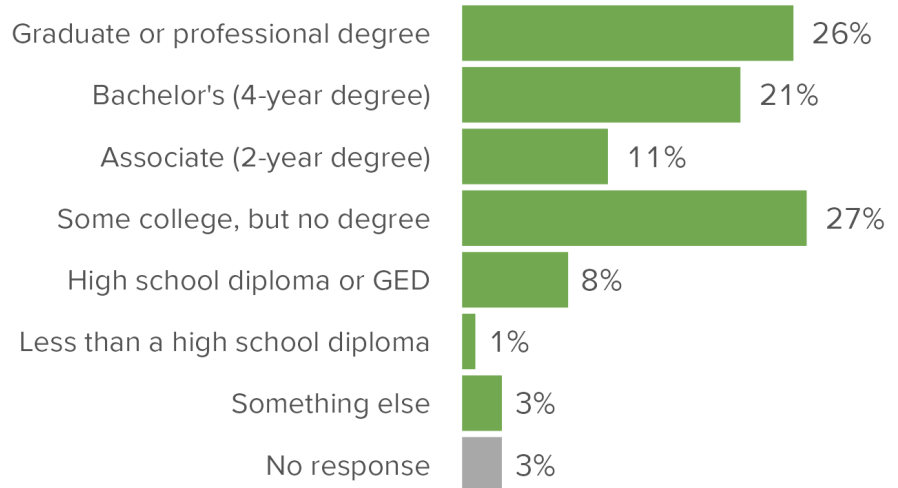
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

Students

2%

of respondents identified as a current student

Respondents' highest level of education completed



Employment

Wages

56%

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

Perception of unemployment

48%

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

Self-employment

24%

of respondents identified as self-employed

Employment status of respondents

Employed	30%
Full-time	22%
Part-time	7%
Unemployed	5%
Looking for work	0%
Not looking for work	0%
Unable to work due to disability	5%
Other	59%
Homemaker/manage your home	1%
Retired	56%
Something else	2%
No response	6%

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



Services

“We are in desperate need of help with our water system. We have 50% leakage! No one knows where the leaks are let alone how to fix it. We pay eight times the national average water bill, and you can’t even drink it.”

“We need laws to remedy the cancer of non [local] resident-owned vacation rentals that are ruining the town.”

“Transportation is a big problem. I have a very costly commute. Limited mass transit. No taxi.”

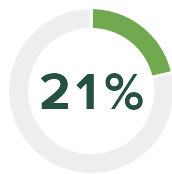
“We do lack good medical choices. We have to go to Medford — a long drive — for specialists. And it’s VERY lacking in alternative medicine.”

“I can live on the salary I have for now but will be in huge trouble when retirement comes along, which is not very far off. I may become homeless then!”

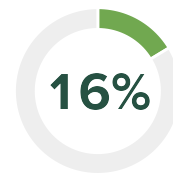
“No job”

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

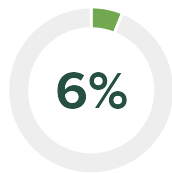
Good schools



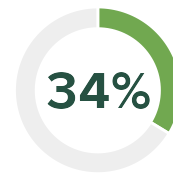
Enough places to shop



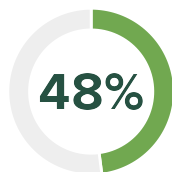
Affordable housing



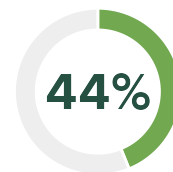
Good streets and roads



Reliable internet



Community-wide cell service



Healthy food

49%

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 Backyard or local garden
- 3 Farmers markets

Lack of child care

43%

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

Lack of places for youth to hang out

62%

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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Oregon Voices. www.orvoices.org.

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