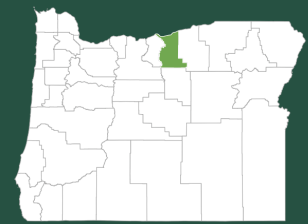




GILLIAM COUNTY

Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

1,896

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?*

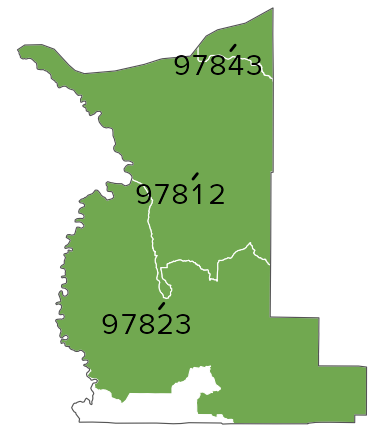
The following report provides a high-level summary of the survey data received from those who responded in Gilliam County. Here the number of random household respondents outnumbered the Ford Family respondents. For clarity, the two data sets have been combined in the visualizations below, even though 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 Gilliam County respondents: 62
Random household sample: 60, Ford Family sample: 2

Key Highlights

- Respondents from Gilliam County share feeling proud of their identity as a multi-generational farming and ranching community.
- Respondents say they need faster and more reliable cell and internet service outside city limits.
- Gilliam County respondents describe feeling distrustful of state-level government and would like more local control over decisions affecting their communities.

All reporting zip codes

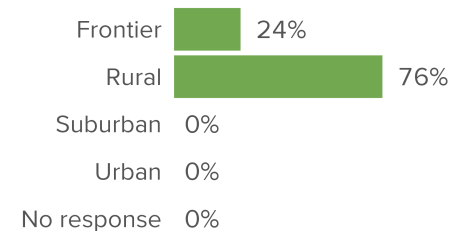


Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97823
- 2 97812
- 3 97843

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 Gilliam County.

What respondents **APPRECIATE** 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

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

“I am concerned about the lack of affordable, livable housing for young families with children who would like to live here.”

“Greatly worry about access to medical care and expenses. I make decisions on medical care based on what I can afford, not on what I need.”

“It’s calm, peaceful, slow-paced, comfortable, safe.”

“Limited growth will be the downfall of our small towns.”

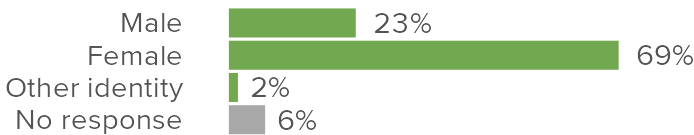
“Local government not being connected with community needs and growth opportunities.”

Respondent Demographics

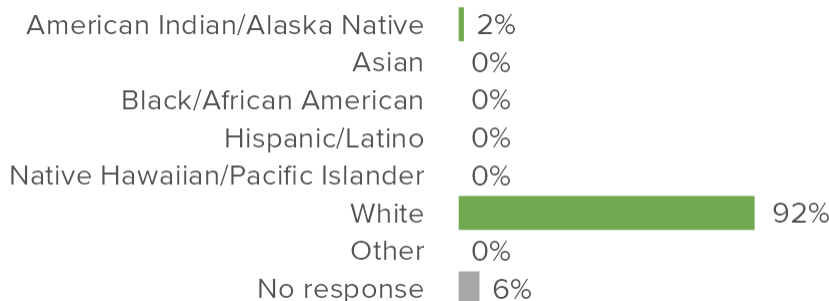
Age of respondents



Gender



Race/Ethnicity



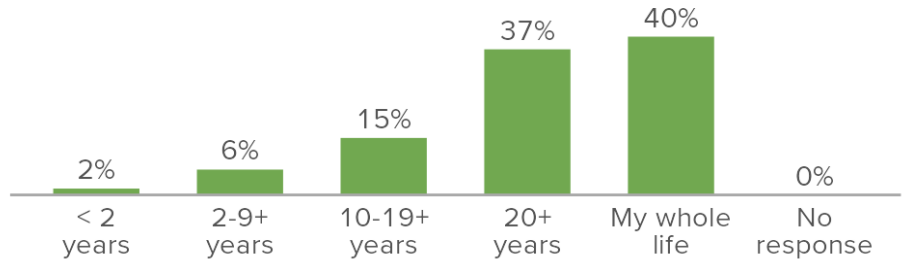
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



Years living in Oregon

77%

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



Homeownership

7 out of 10

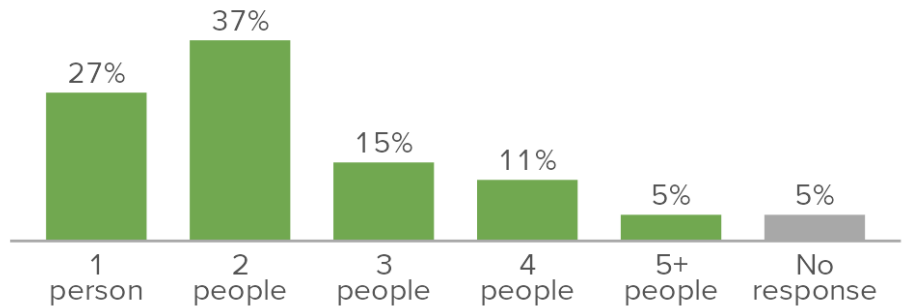
respondents own their home



Household size

2.3

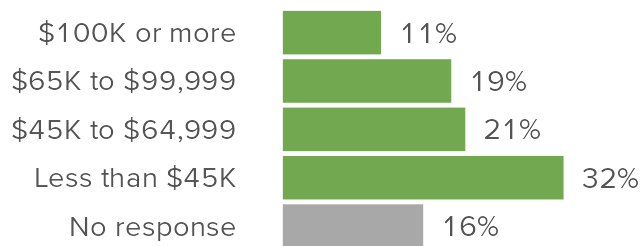
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



Household annual income

32%

of respondents reported household incomes falling under \$65K



Emergency funds

29%

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

Trouble making ends meet

34%

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

Homelessness

8%

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

“This town is quaint, simple and loving. We are very welcoming of newcomers.”

“This community is full of people who care about other people. In moments of difficulty, people come together to help one another and find a solution. I love the community I live in.”

“People stick by you when you need it. If someone dies, they all show up with food, help, etc.”

“Small community, friendly people. I know most of their names.”

“The sense of community and volunteerism to make our community a better place to live.”

“Not the most welcoming to newcomers”

“We have strong local leadership at the County, City, and Chamber of Commerce levels. These leaders help keep the community alive. Community members volunteer on numerous boards and committees to better our community.”

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

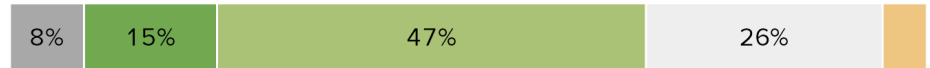
Take care of each other during hard times



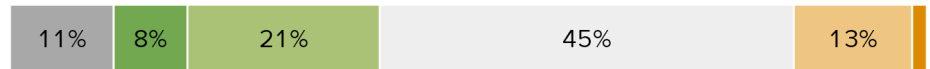
Come together to solve community problems



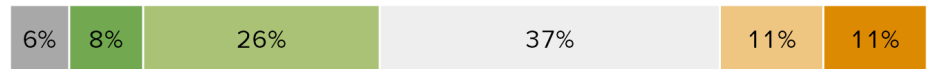
Attend community events



Go to church



Welcome newcomers



Community traditions

61%

of respondents participate in community traditions or annual events

Pride in community

73%

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

Voting

77%

of respondents report that they “always” vote

Community service

55%

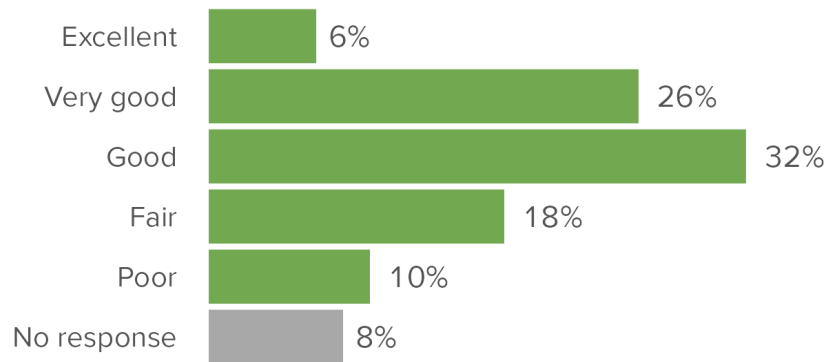
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



Physical health

65%

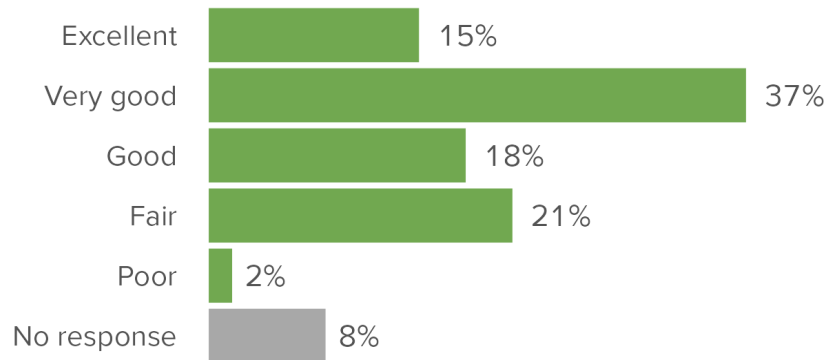
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



Mental health

69%

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



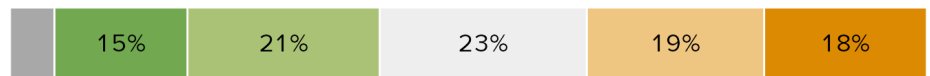
Medical and dental care

35%

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

10%

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

Substance abuse

27%

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

Mental illness

19%

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



Education

35%

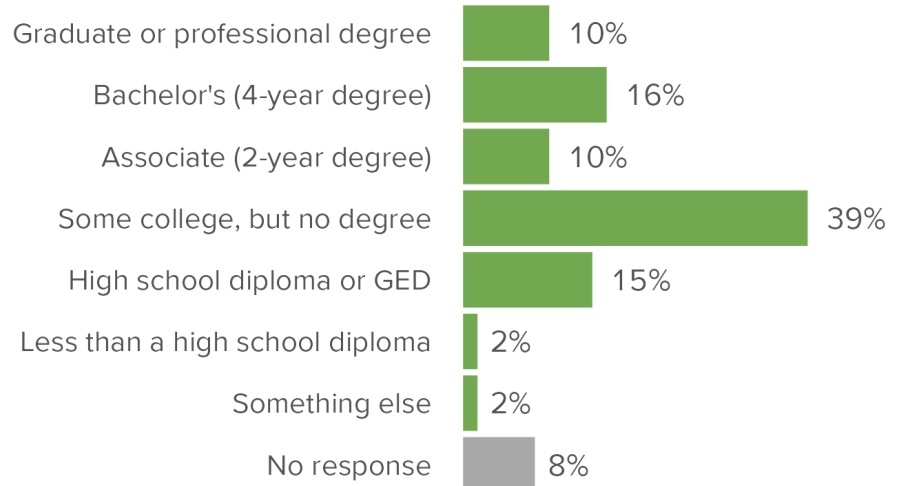
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

Students

3%

of respondents identified as a current student

Respondents' highest level of education completed



Employment

Wages

50%

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

Perception of unemployment

18%

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

Self-employment

18%

of respondents identified as self-employed

Employment status of respondents

Employed	47%
Full-time	29%
Part-time	18%
Unemployed	8%
Looking for work	5%
Not looking for work	0%
Unable to work due to disability	3%
Other	37%
Homemaker/manage your home	2%
Retired	35%
Something else	0%
No response	8%

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



Services

“Things to do for kids seem to keep disappearing. Summer activities are few and far between.”

“Child care in general is a real issue. Even if you take a job, you just may not be able to find the support that you need with child care. Our center is full.”

“Internet service must be improved.”

“Lack of housing and employment opportunities”

“We are barely able to pay all bills and send our kid to school.”

“Can’t survive working part-time for \$14 an hour”

“This is a great place to live and raise kids, although we have lost so many things from our schools over the years like FFA and agriculture programs. Fewer and fewer kids are doing 4-H it seems.”

“We are fairly safe, and we are able to let our kids out to ride their bikes and don’t worry if you take your eyes off of them for one minute that they won’t still be there.”

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

Good schools



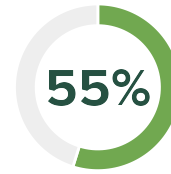
Enough places to shop



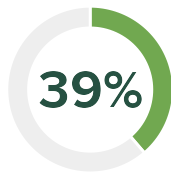
Affordable housing



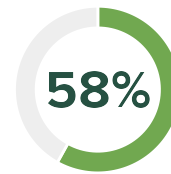
Good streets and roads



Reliable internet



Community-wide cell service



Healthy food

52%

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 Food banks or pantries

Lack of child care

42%

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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