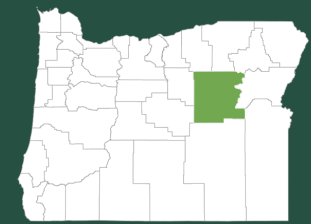




GRANT COUNTY

Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

7,174

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?*

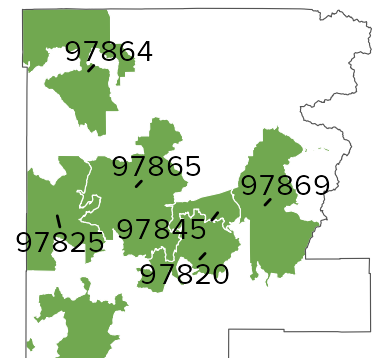
The following report provides a high-level summary of the survey data received from those who responded in Grant County. Here the number of random household respondents outnumbered the Ford Family respondents. For clarity, the two data sets have been combined in the visualizations below, even though 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 Grant County respondents: 76
Random household sample: 69, Ford Family sample: 7

Key Highlights

- Grant County respondents appreciate the natural beauty around them and are concerned about the continued drought and effects of wildfires. They note the local economy’s ongoing connection to the timber industry and forest management.
- Respondents share concerns about the lack of basic community infrastructure, such as housing or reliable internet and cell service.
- Respondents indicate they live in mostly small, tight-knit communities that can be resistant to change.

All reporting zip codes

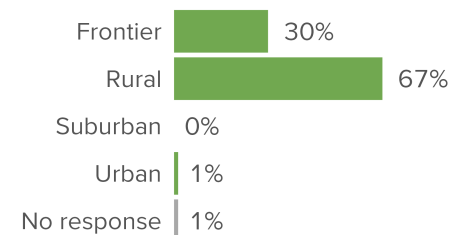


Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97845
- 2 97820
- 3 97865

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 Grant 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



Services/Economy

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



Community, People

Culture, relationships conflict, size, leadership, change

“Love the climate, friends and neighbors. Easy access to recreation.”

“People are friendly and interested in getting to know each other.”

“It’s a very supportive, delightful community.”

“Lack of stimulation, adult education, arts theatre”

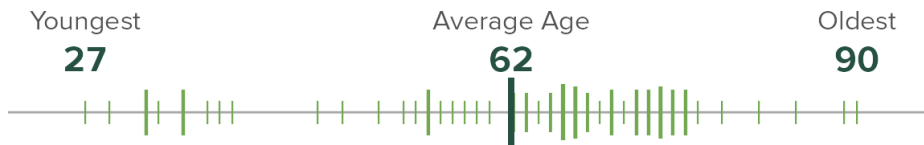
“People are turning against each other.”

“Friendly, lots of people know each other, and not a lot of traffic!”

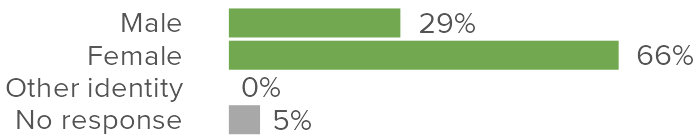
“Beauty of rural living, hunting, fishing, ranching, providing quality beef for so many, 4-H horse program.”

Respondent Demographics

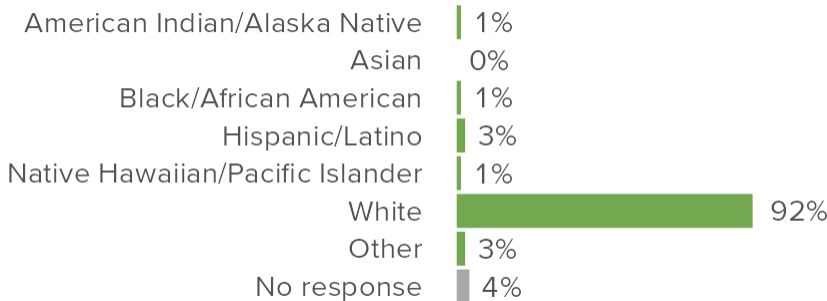
Age of respondents



Gender



Race/Ethnicity



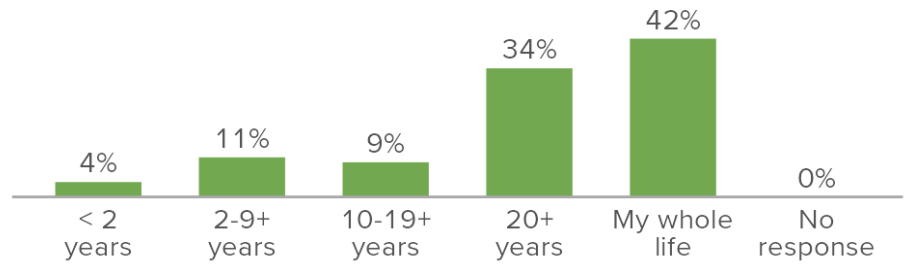
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



Years living in Oregon

76%

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



Homeownership

9 out of 10

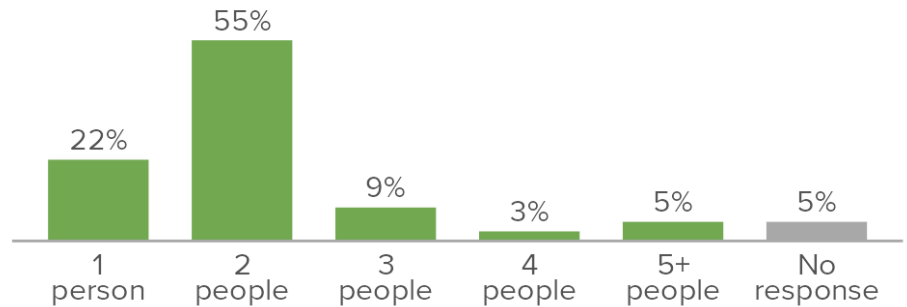
respondents own their home



Household size

2.2

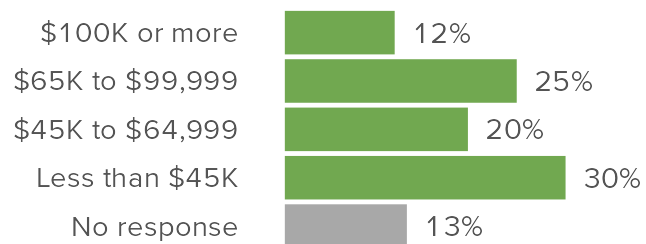
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



Household annual income

30%

of respondents reported household incomes falling under \$65K



Emergency funds

21%

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

Trouble making ends meet

51%

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

Homelessness

11%

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



7 out of 10

respondents
LOVE where they live



Community participation

“Very satisfying. I am proud of my community and my part in it.”

“Small community, low crime, friendly place, mostly Republicans”

“The recent presidential election changed the atmosphere in our community. It is very sad. Regardless of my opinions, I would never force them on others, but treat each person with respect and kindness. Our community used to be like that, however, it isn’t anymore. It is an area of civic unrest.”

“We are not rich but are good stewards of what we have and continue to work to improve what we have. We tithe and help many. We live very frugally. We sacrifice affluent living to help many in our county. We supply the horses, tack, training facilities and care of horses so children in horse 4-H can come and learn to ride here. We do this by working every day by selling custom order, grass fed, natural beef right out of our meadows.”

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

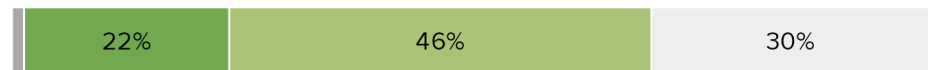
Take care of each other during hard times



Come together to solve community problems



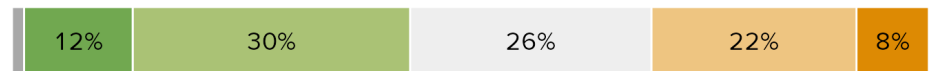
Attend community events



Go to church



Welcome newcomers



Community traditions

53%

of respondents participate in community traditions or annual events

Pride in community

79%

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

Voting

79%

of respondents report that they “always” vote

Community service

41%

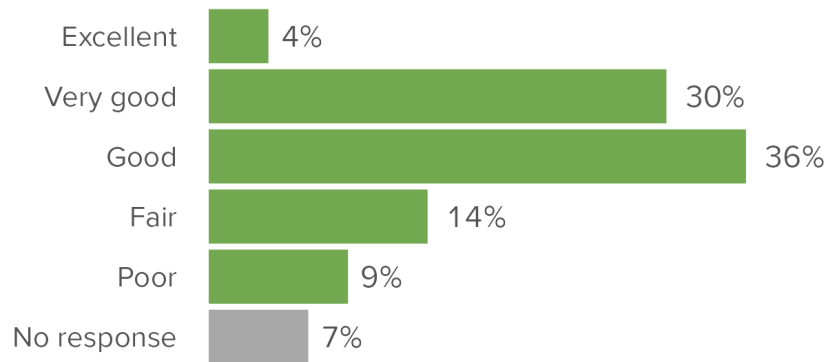
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



Physical health

70%

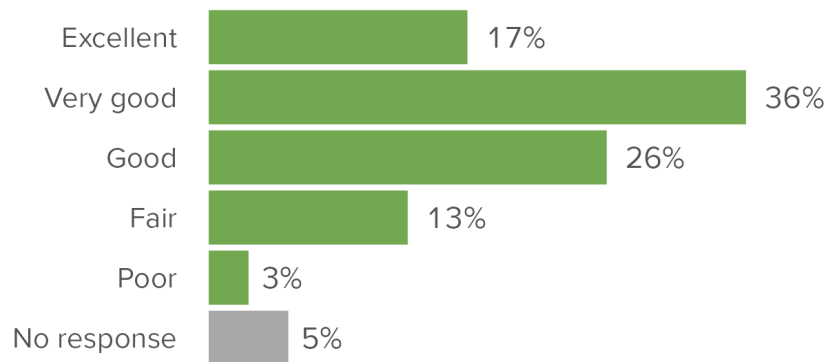
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



Mental health

79%

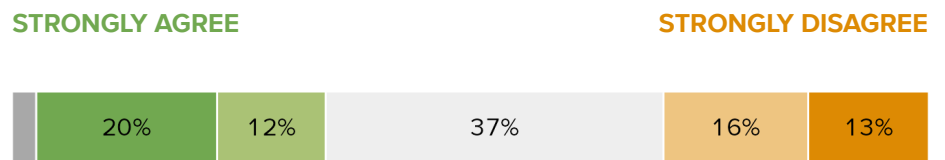
of respondents rated their mental health as “good” or better



Medical and dental care

32%

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

30%

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

39%

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



Education

43%

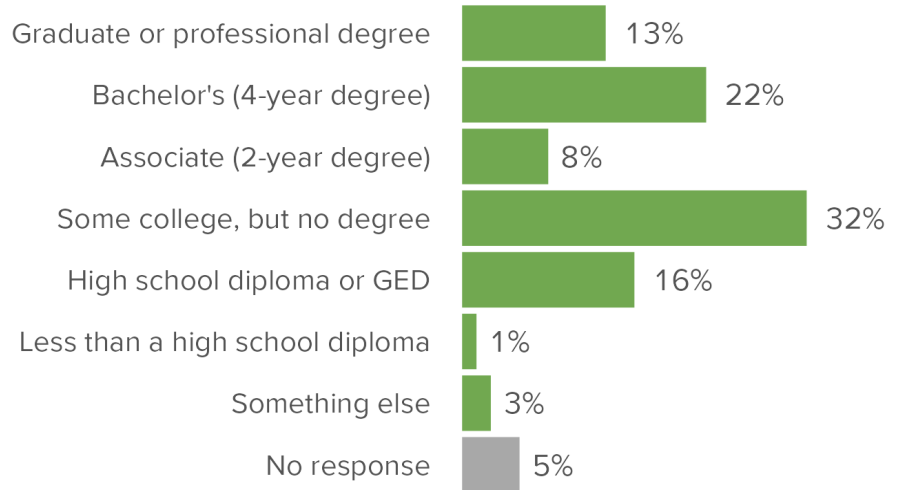
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

Students

4%

of respondents identified as a current student

Respondents' highest level of education completed



Employment

Wages

39%

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

Perception of unemployment

59%

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

Self-employment

17%

of respondents identified as self-employed

Employment status of respondents

Employed	45%
Full-time	42%
Part-time	3%
Unemployed	5%
Looking for work	3%
Not looking for work	0%
Unable to work due to disability	3%
Other	45%
Homemaker/manage your home	4%
Retired	38%
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

“It is a depressed economic area.”

“The internet is terrible, but otherwise I love it here.”

“Towns like this have limited resources and no monies to help with the limited water supply, emergency services, or maintain the city streets.”

“Not enough shopping for food or prescription drugs”

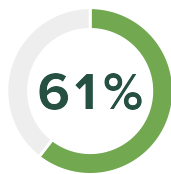
“Lack of investment into keeping the community up with the twenty-first century”

“Families are struggling due to the lack of child care.”

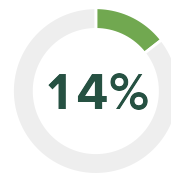
“School enrollment is dropping. There are no jobs.”

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

Good schools



Enough places to shop



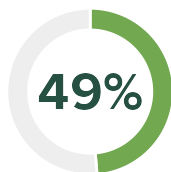
Affordable housing



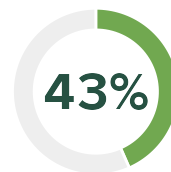
Good streets and roads



Reliable internet



Community-wide cell service



Healthy food

54%

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

46%

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

Lack of places for youth to hang out

63%

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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