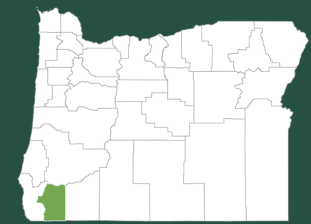




# JOSEPHINE COUNTY

## Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

**87,097**

### 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?*

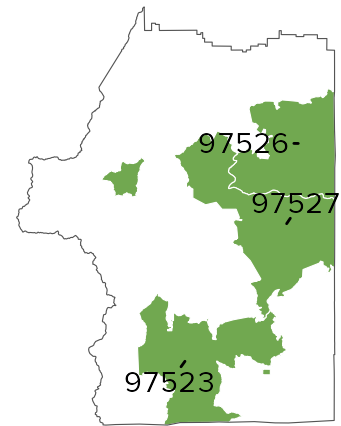
The following report provides a high-level summary of the survey data received from those who responded in Josephine County. Here the number of Ford Family respondents outnumbered the random household respondents. For clarity, the two data sets have been combined in the visualizations below, even though 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 Josephine County respondents: 147**  
Random household sample: 60, Ford Family sample: 87

### Key Highlights

- Known for its temperate climate, Josephine County is home to the world-famous Rogue River. Respondents feel that many in the community are supportive; people are kind and generous and many non-profits work in the area.
- Respondents note the lack of affordable housing and the connection to poverty, increasing homelessness, mental health issues and substance abuse.
- Respondents describe many negative experiences with the cannabis industry, including illegal growing.

### All reporting zip codes

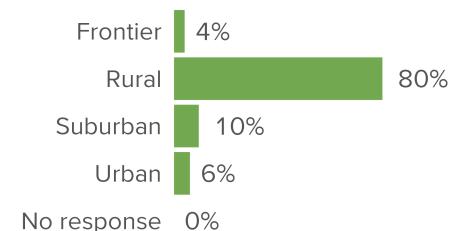


### Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97526
- 2 97523
- 3 97527

### 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 Josephine 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

*“The weather is wonderful, including winters — although there are changes in the weather that have affected how it used to be. The people we meet and socialize with are all kind and friendly. Neighbors watch out for each other.”*

*“It’s a friendly place to live for the most part.”*

*“The land, the river, the mountains, and access to the coast, Crater Lake and other places to hike and love the outdoors.”*

*“The number of homeless people is disheartening.”*

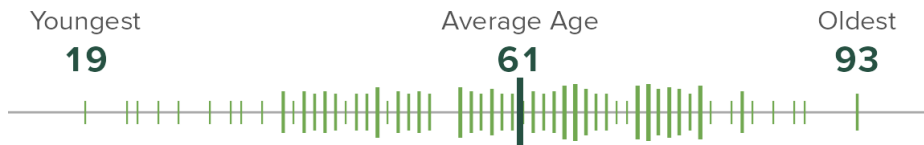
*“Lower cost of living. The actual town is nice and has some good amenities.”*

*“I appreciate the people who are kind, generous and open minded.”*

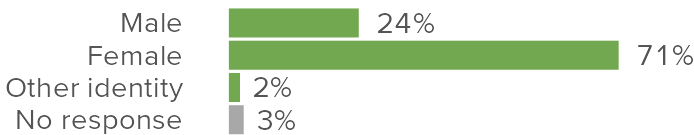
*“I appreciate that there are basically great people who try to check in and take care of neighbors.”*

**Respondent Demographics**

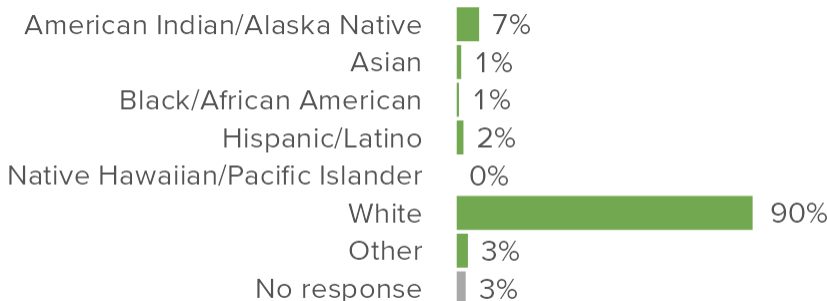
**Age of respondents**



**Gender**



**Race/Ethnicity**



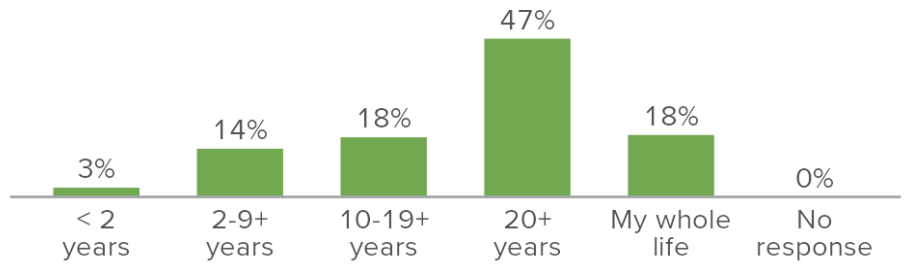
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



**Years living in Oregon**

**65%**

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



**Homeownership**

**9 out of 10**

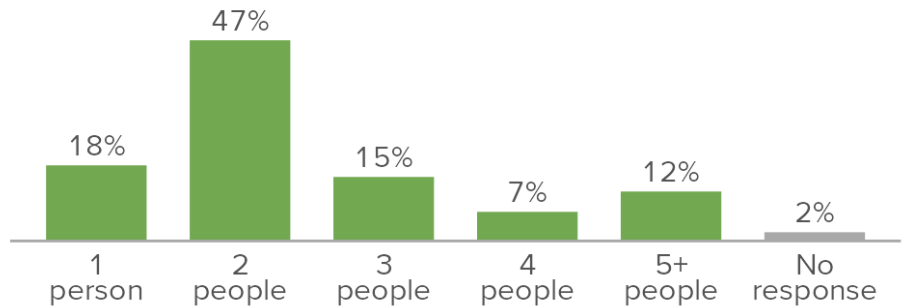
respondents own their home



**Household size**

**2.6**

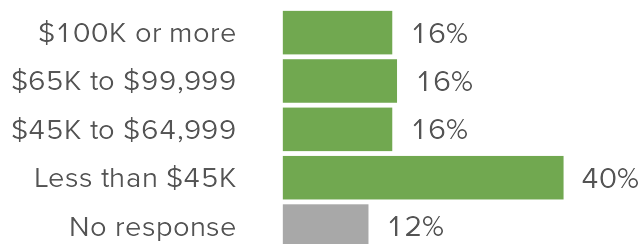
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



**Household annual income**

**40%**

of respondents reported household incomes falling under \$65K



**Emergency funds**

**16%**

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**

**86%**

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 community is very vibrant; there are a lot of ‘small town’ events and actions, even though in town things have gotten much bigger, because everyone is very caring.”*

*“There is a lot of unnecessary divisiveness such as homophobia and a lack of general discourse between people.”*

*“The people are great, but we have a LARGE amount of crime.”*

*“We have some great non-profits looking after our community.”*

*“I have a good job, and it is a fine place for us, but if you are BIPOC or poor you are not going to have your needs met. People in general look down on those who have more challenges, blame the victim, refuse to acknowledge they got where they are due to privilege, and generally don’t take into account that with freedom comes duty to [take] care of our community and the others in it.”*

*“The arts have improved in the last 40 years, and it has helped the community in many ways. We need more activities for both kids and adults besides drinking in bars.”*

*“There are opportunities for community engagement, but many families are distracted with everyday stressors.”*

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.

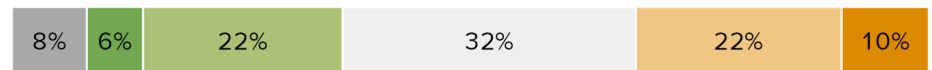
**STRONGLY AGREE**

**STRONGLY DISAGREE**

### Take care of each other during hard times



### Come together to solve community problems



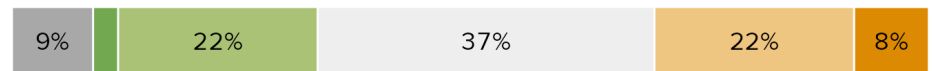
### Attend community events



### Go to church



### Welcome newcomers



## Community traditions

**63%**

of respondents participate in community traditions or annual events

## Pride in community

**58%**

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

## Voting

**83%**

of respondents report that they “always” vote

## Community service

**54%**

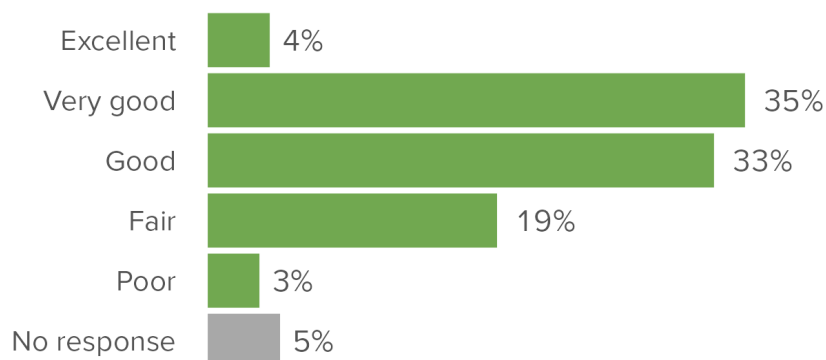
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



**Physical health**

**73%**

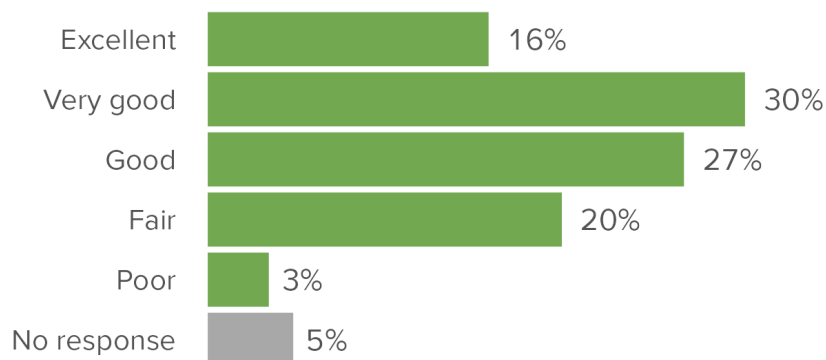
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



**Mental health**

**72%**

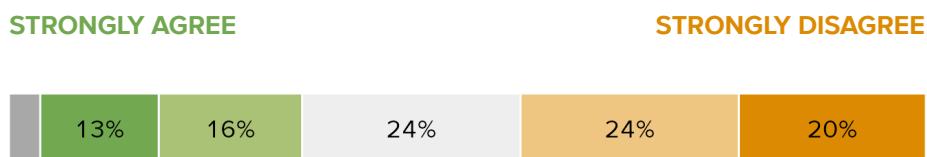
of respondents rated their mental health as “good” or better



**Medical and dental care**

**29%**

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**

**73%**

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

**Mental illness**

**66%**

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



**Education**

**57%**

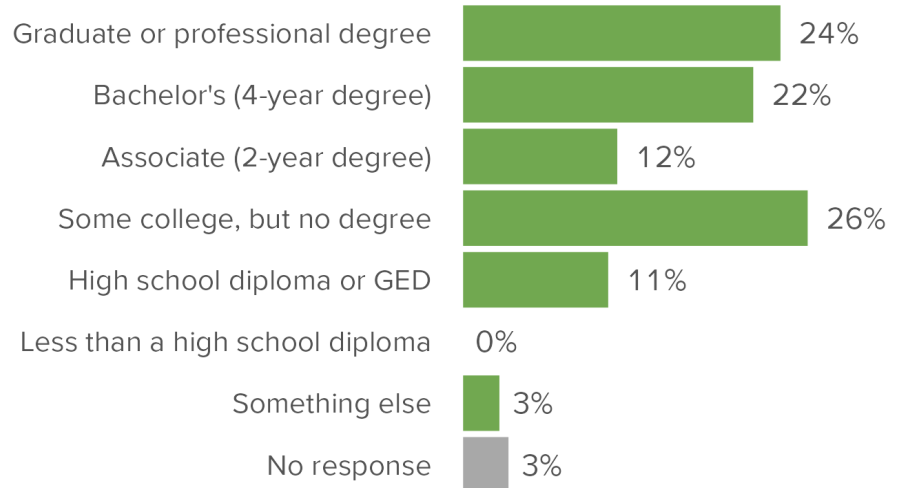
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

**Students**

**5%**

of respondents identified as a current student

**Respondents' highest level of education completed**



**Employment**

**Wages**

**57%**

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**

**22%**

of respondents identified as self-employed

**Employment status of respondents**

<b>Employed</b>	<b>48%</b>
Full-time	34%
Part-time	14%
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>6%</b>
Looking for work	2%
Not looking for work	1%
Unable to work due to disability	3%
<b>Other</b>	<b>41%</b>
Homemaker/manage your home	3%
Retired	36%
Something else	2%
<b>No response</b>	<b>5%</b>

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



**Services**

*“More than half of residents have no access to cell or internet networks except to drive to the library.”*

*“We need affordable housing, better sex education, more rehabilitation services, and a humane and safe way to help the homeless population. We need higher paying jobs that treat their employees fairly.”*

*“I am most frustrated by the lack of cell service and low broadband reception.”*

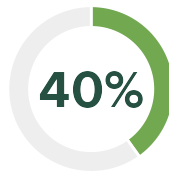
*“Almost impossible to obtain housing, and when you do it’s rarely affordable. I am thankful every day for my affordable blessing in the center of our concrete jungle. I miss having a lawn.”*

*“There is a lot of desperation. Lack of affordable housing is huge in our area, so there’s no need for more jobs because we can’t house people.”*

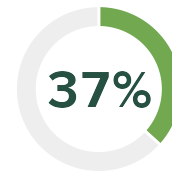
*“Cave Junction needs a tenfold increase in internet speeds now and storefront and Main Street grants. We also very urgently need a 4-star hotel chain.”*

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

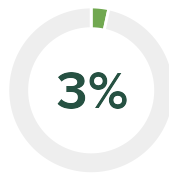
Good schools



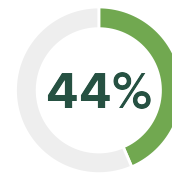
Enough places to shop



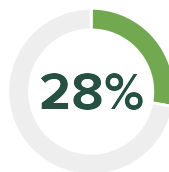
Affordable housing



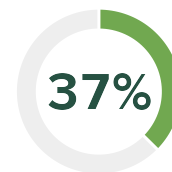
Good streets and roads



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**

**57%**

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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April 2023

Preferred citation:

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

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