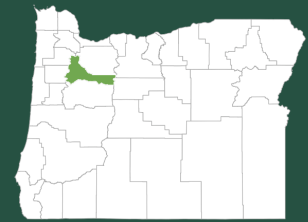




# MARION COUNTY

## Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

**343,742**

### 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?*

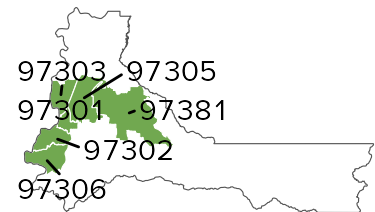
The following report provides a high-level summary of the survey data received from those who responded in Marion County. Here the number of Ford Family respondents outnumbered the random household respondents. For clarity, the two data sets have been combined in the visualizations below, even though 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 Marion County respondents: 206**  
Random household sample: 47, Ford Family sample: 159

### Key Highlights

- Marion County has the state capital of Salem as its county seat and is the fifth most populous county in Oregon.
- Respondents overwhelmingly consider homelessness the single biggest problem facing their community and associate the issue with increased crime.
- Respondents note a sizeable Hispanic population and some anti-immigrant sentiment.

### All reporting zip codes

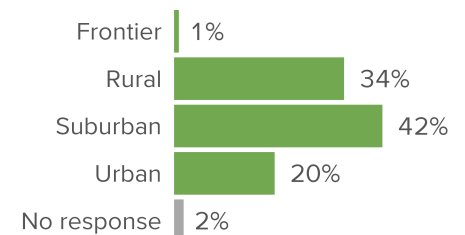


### Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97381
- 2 97302
- 3 97301

### 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 Marion 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

*“The environment out here is paradise.”*

*“It’s big enough to have exciting things going on, but small enough to bump into people you know at all fun things happening.”*

*“It is unique because we can have horses, goats and other animals within city limits. It is a mecca for hobby farmers who don’t want to live too far away from the conveniences of major medical and social benefits of neighboring big cities.”*

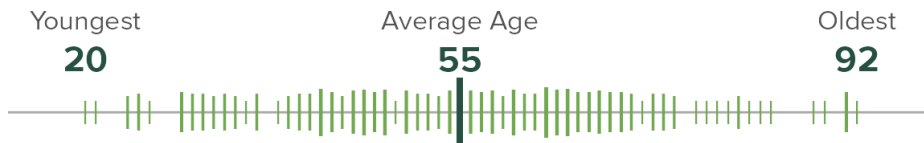
*“I appreciate the number of Hispanic businesses and authentic variety of food/product available.”*

*“Prices are going up, but wages aren’t.”*

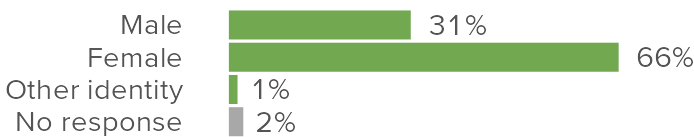
*“We have lots of discrimination from the police force and service providers.”*

**Respondent Demographics**

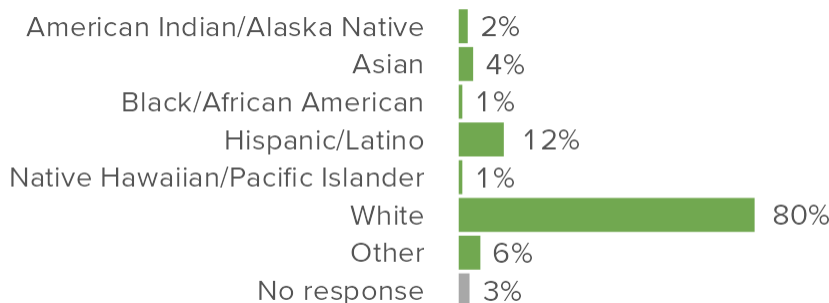
**Age of respondents**



**Gender**



**Race/Ethnicity**



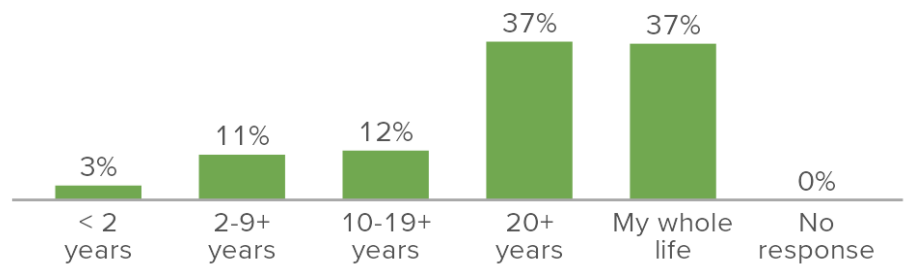
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



**Years living in Oregon**

**74%**

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



**Homeownership**

**8 out of 10**

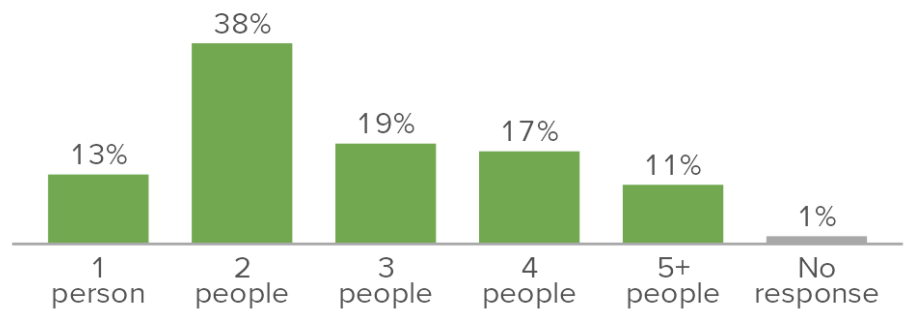
respondents own their home



**Household size**

**2.8**

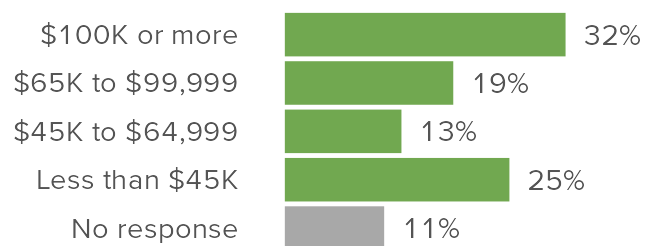
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



**Household annual income**

**25%**

of respondents reported household incomes falling under \$65K



**Emergency funds**

**17%**

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

**Trouble making ends meet**

**58%**

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

**Homelessness**

**72%**

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



# 4 out of 10

respondents  
LOVE where they live



## Community participation

*“Family, whether by blood or just the sense of family created from our community. People really do pull together to support each other, despite the negativity and hard times over the past couple of years.”*

*“Neighbors are supportive. There is a vibrant (though small) arts community. However, the pandemic has affected community life.”*

*“Everyone is friendly, waves hello while walking, stops to talk.”*

*“There are many people who do really good work and pull together to support our community. At the same time, there is a long, quiet history of racism that is becoming more and more apparent and, seemingly, creating more and more of a divide in our community. This is concerning. All in all, though, I believe this community is rich with love and kindness. It’s just that everyone is tired.”*

*“Finally the city and school representation more closely reflect the Latinx majority.”*

*“My community is an adequate place to live, but families with children of all ages need to get more involved in City Council meetings and decisions to make sure their needs are heard and acted on as well as those 50 and older.”*

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



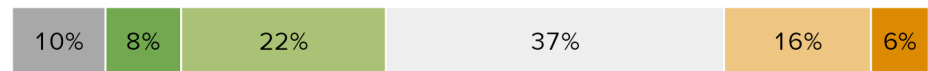
### Attend community events



### Go to church



### Welcome newcomers



## Community traditions

**61%**

of respondents participate in community traditions or annual events

## Pride in community

**68%**

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

## Voting

**84%**

of respondents report that they “always” vote

## Community service

**46%**

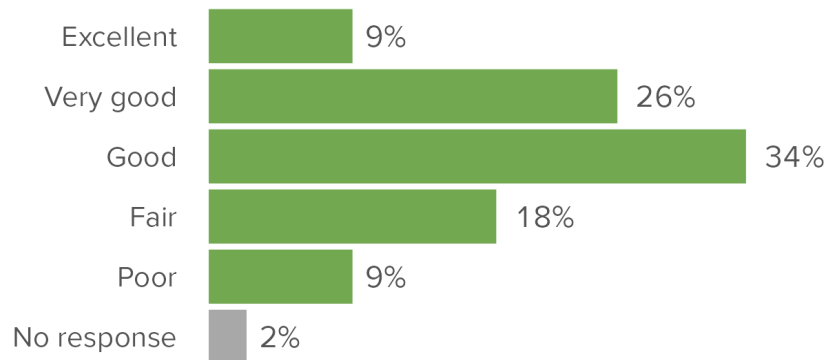
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



**Physical health**

**70%**

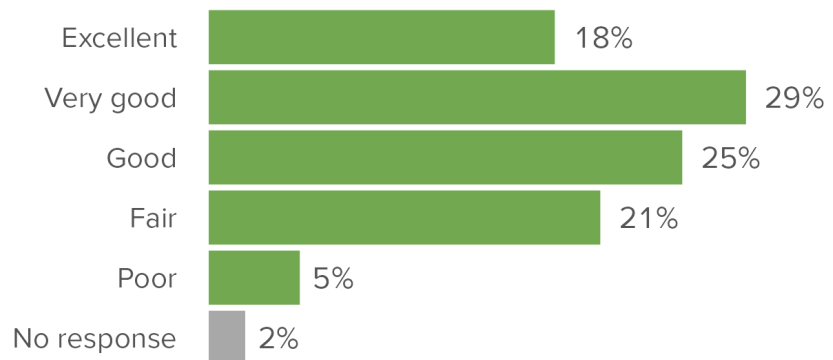
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



**Mental health**

**72%**

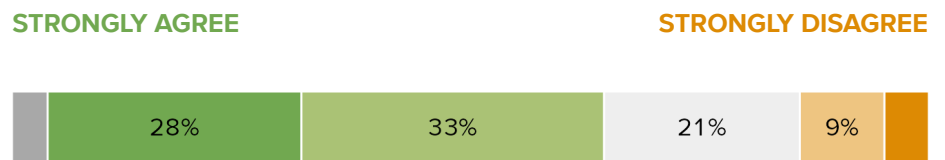
of respondents rated their mental health as “good” or better



**Medical and dental care**

**61%**

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**

**27%**

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

**Substance abuse**

**41%**

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

**Mental illness**

**44%**

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



**Education**

**72%**

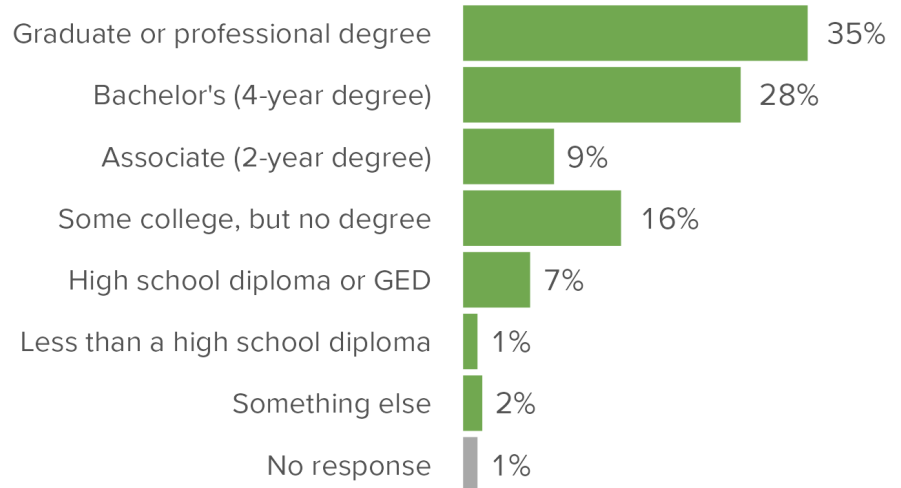
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

**Students**

**7%**

of respondents identified as a current student

**Respondents' highest level of education completed**



**Employment**

**Wages**

**54%**

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

**Perception of unemployment**

**25%**

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

**Self-employment**

**12%**

of respondents identified as self-employed

**Employment status of respondents**

<b>Employed</b>	<b>61%</b>
Full-time	51%
Part-time	10%
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>5%</b>
Looking for work	1%
Not looking for work	0%
Unable to work due to disability	3%
<b>Other</b>	<b>32%</b>
Homemaker/manage your home	3%
Retired	25%
Something else	4%
<b>No response</b>	<b>2%</b>

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



**Services**

*“The rent prices are too high.”*

*“We’re financially challenged and there is a severe shortage of housing.”*

*“Everything is close by. There are stores and gas stations nearby beside other amazing, creative departments.”*

*“The area where I live have to many homeless people on the street, and it is difficult to see the need when we don’t have the resources to help – mental health resources, drug treatment, shelters, or food.”*

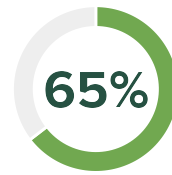
*“We’re close to basic services like groceries and healthcare.”*

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

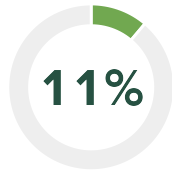
Good schools



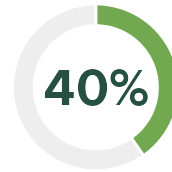
Enough places to shop



Affordable housing



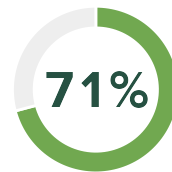
Good streets and roads



Reliable internet



Community-wide cell service



**Healthy food**

**69%**

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**

**52%**

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  
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*Oregon Voices*. [www.orvoices.org](http://www.orvoices.org).

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