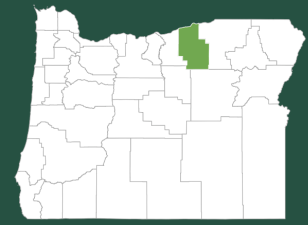




# MORROW COUNTY

## Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

11,425

### 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 Morrow 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.

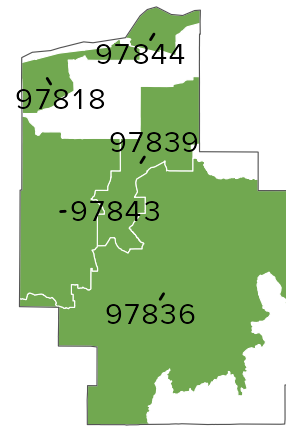
**Total number of Morrow County respondents: 54**

Random household sample: 42, Ford Family sample: 12

### Key Highlights

- Morrow County is bordered on the north by the beautiful Columbia River.
- Respondents from Morrow County enjoy their small, friendly, tight-knit community and being surrounded by wide open spaces.
- Respondents are concerned about the lack of business options nearby for shopping.

### All reporting zip codes

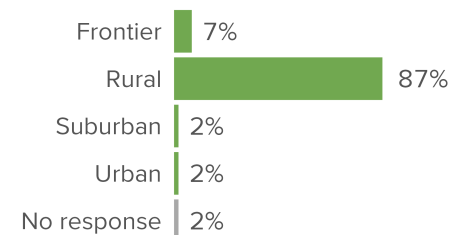


### Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97818
- 2 97836
- 3 97844

### 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 Morrow 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

*“It is diverse in ages and traditions. Some are very open to change and some are wholly against change. All agree we need to preserve our small town feel and not just develop for the sake of developing.”*

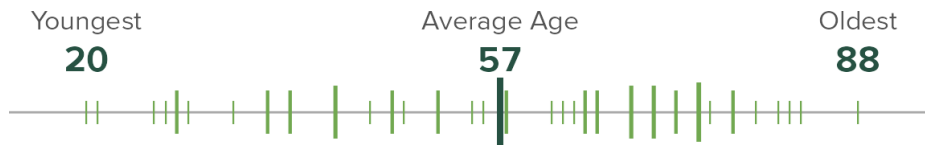
*“We are very closed off from the rest of the world that we don’t get to experience a lot of other cultures so for our kids to make it out of here and be able to see other parts of Oregon or other states would be wonderful. Our community is growing and our younger kids are changing. I would like to keep our old traditions alive and bring new ones in as well. We are a welcoming community.”*

*“It is small, friendly—we have no traffic to fight. We help each other when needed; everybody knows everybody.”*

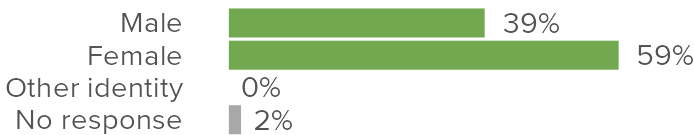
*“The quality of life is good for those financially stable. Many are not, however, and need to work multiple jobs to get by.”*

**Respondent Demographics**

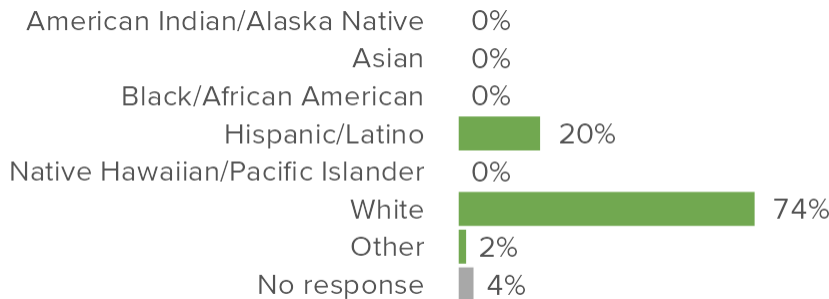
**Age of respondents**



**Gender**



**Race/Ethnicity**



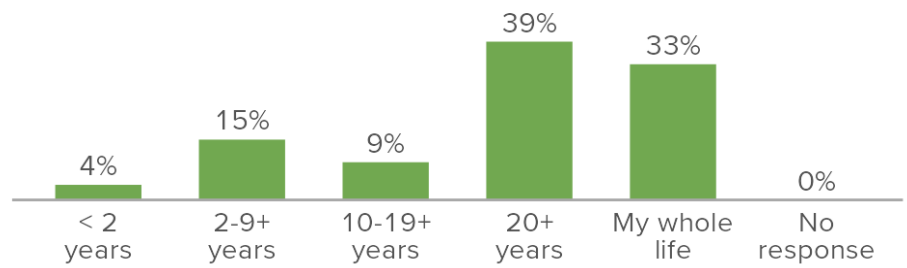
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



**Years living in Oregon**

**72%**

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



**Homeownership**

**7 out of 10**

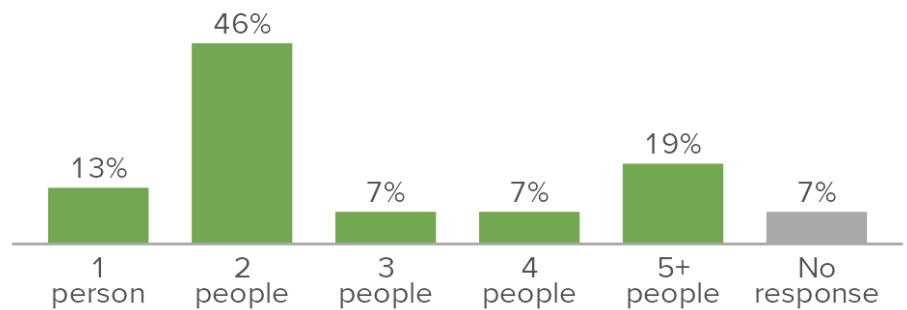
respondents own their home



**Household size**

**2.9**

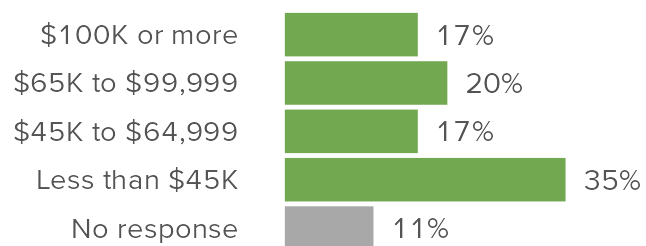
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



**Household annual income**

**35%**

of respondents reported household incomes falling under \$65K



**Emergency funds**

**24%**

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

**Trouble making ends meet**

**35%**

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

**Homelessness**

**17%**

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

*“We have a lot of the same challenges in our small town as large communities do, only on a smaller scale. But we don’t have anonymity, so we are fortunate to be able to show care. We make eye contact, smile, say hello, ask about each other’s families, and help out quickly when needed. We choose to live here.”*

*“Our rural community has people that are polite, caring, volunteer frequently, and keep our small community an enjoyable place to live.”*

*“We are thoughtful of other people and we strive to be good people with good morals.”*

*“We appreciate a simple life with common sense decisions and heavy community involvement through volunteerism, giving, helping, etc. If an elderly person needs leaves raked, we make that happen. If a family is struggling after their house burns down, we help them... We try our best and always put our best foot forward to do so when we aren’t over-regulated by state and federal government telling us what they think we should do in our own local area.”*

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.

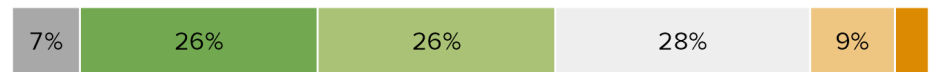
**STRONGLY AGREE**

**STRONGLY DISAGREE**

### Take care of each other during hard times



### Come together to solve community problems



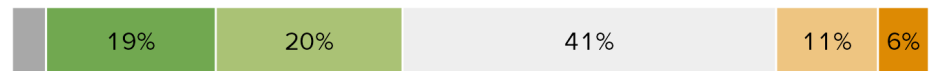
### Attend community events



### Go to church



### Welcome newcomers



## Community traditions

**56%**

of respondents participate in community traditions or annual events

## Pride in community

**67%**

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

## Voting

**72%**

of respondents report that they “always” vote

## Community service

**35%**

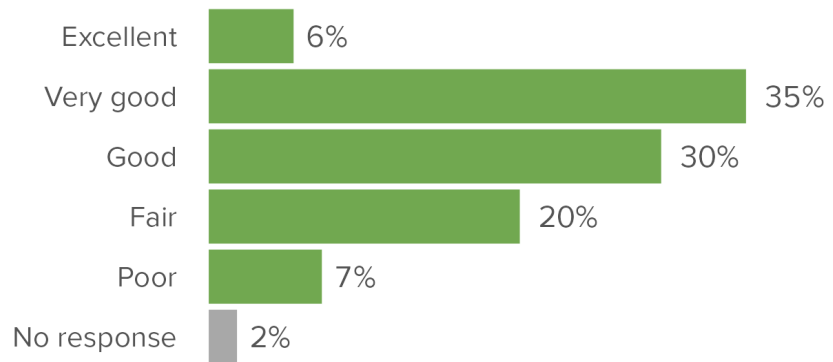
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



**Physical health**

**70%**

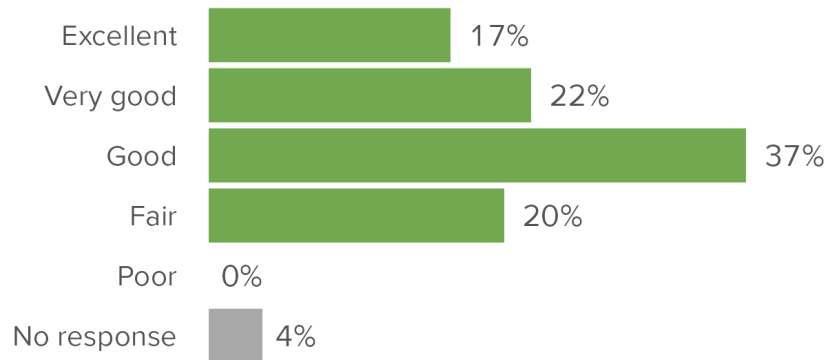
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



**Mental health**

**76%**

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



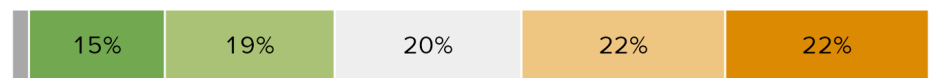
**Medical and dental care**

**33%**

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**

**13%**

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

**Substance abuse**

**30%**

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**

**37%**

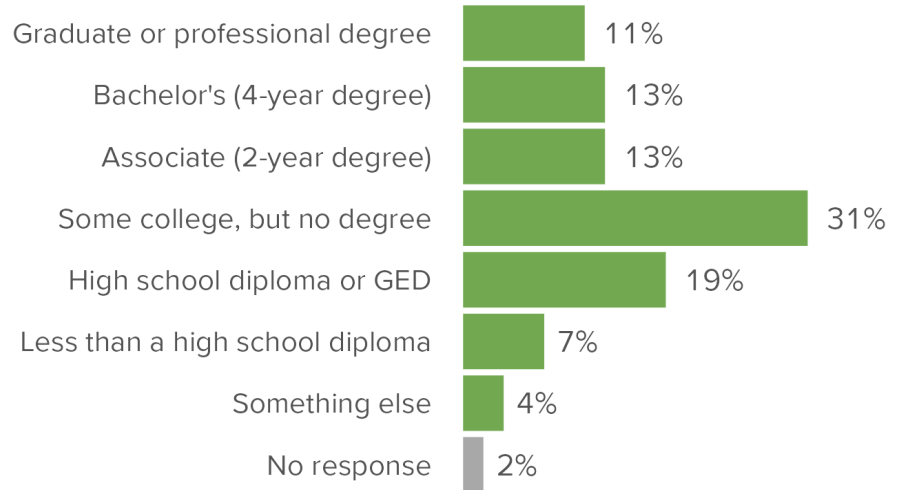
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

**Students**

**6%**

of respondents identified as a current student

**Respondents' highest level of education completed**



**Employment**

**Wages**

**35%**

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

**Perception of unemployment**

**24%**

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**

<b>Employed</b>	<b>50%</b>
Full-time	35%
Part-time	15%
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>9%</b>
Looking for work	4%
Not looking for work	4%
Unable to work due to disability	2%
<b>Other</b>	<b>37%</b>
Homemaker/manage your home	7%
Retired	30%
Something else	0%
<b>No response</b>	<b>4%</b>

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



**Services**

*“There is nothing for young people to do in town unless they are active in school activities. There are no jobs for them either — all minimum-wage and entry-level jobs are held by adults.”*

*“Housing is affordable, there just isn’t enough of it.”*

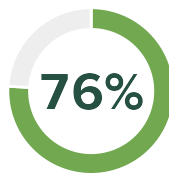
*“Some of our teens and high school seniors are the best volunteers in town and are always willing to help when needed. We just don’t have the resources to open up an arcade or a roller skating rink or something along those lines.”*

*“The elderly need more amenities — a retirement home, housing for those over age 55.”*

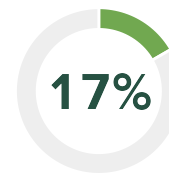
*“We respect our police, they keep us safe, and our crime rate is very low.”*

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

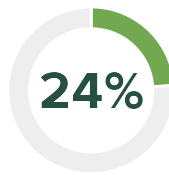
Good schools



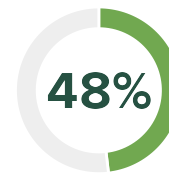
Enough places to shop



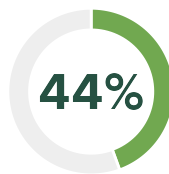
Affordable housing



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 Backyard or local garden

**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**

**61%**

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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April 2023

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

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