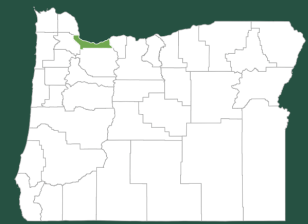




MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

809,869

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?*

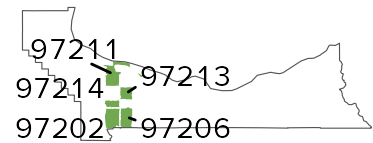
The following report provides a high-level summary of the survey data received from those who responded in Multnomah County. Here the number of Ford Family respondents outnumbered the random household respondents. For clarity, the two data sets have been combined in the visualizations below, even though 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 Multnomah County respondents: 165
Random household sample: 63, Ford Family sample: 102

Key Highlights

- Respondents appreciate having access to a diversity of arts and cultural experiences, businesses and outdoor spaces.
- Nearly 3 in 4 respondents agree that homelessness is a challenge, expressing frustration with rising crime and the lack of help for those who are homeless.
- Respondents feel state and local government are unable to take care of problems, with those living outside of Portland sensing the city’s needs are perpetually the first priority.

All reporting zip codes

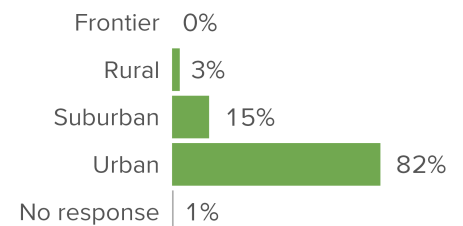


Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97206
- 2 97202
- 3 97214

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 Multnomah County.

What respondents **APPRECIATE** 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

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 appreciate the access to natural spaces, nice people, amazing food.”

“Most people live from paycheck to paycheck. There is a fine line between surviving and struggling.”

“I appreciate that neighborhoods are different, vibrant, and are filled with small businesses.”

“There are families asking for money at the side of the road, but police just drive by. I feel unsafe at night with a lot of shootings happening – once in broad daylight.”

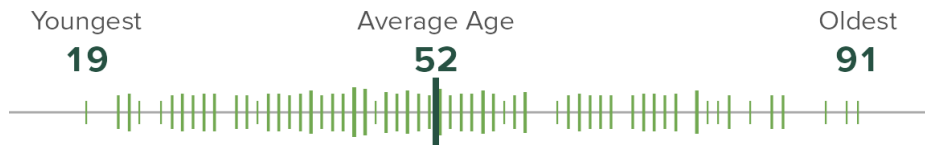
“Though it is very populous, it is also isolating. I’m a person of color and don’t see many people like me in my community. I’ve experienced discrimination and many of the people in power around me are white... I don’t think most people understand how they can make the world better for people who are not like them but nevertheless deserve a strong shot at being safe and happy.”

“I appreciate being near family and friends, an hour away from the forest, mountains and beach.”

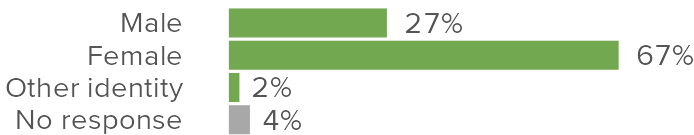
“I’m concerned about living in a high crime area, with car thefts, home invasion, car break-ins and shootings.”

Respondent Demographics

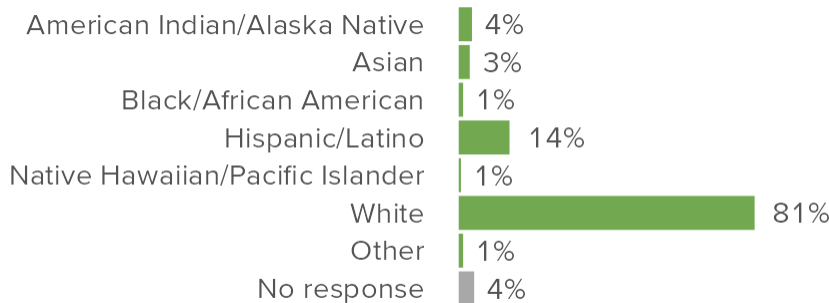
Age of respondents



Gender



Race/Ethnicity



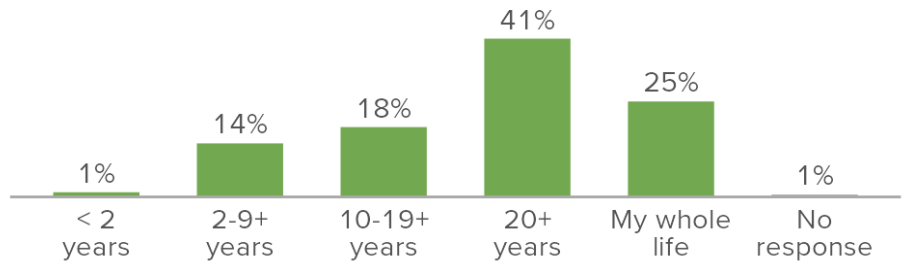
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



Years living in Oregon

66%

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



Homeownership

7 out of 10

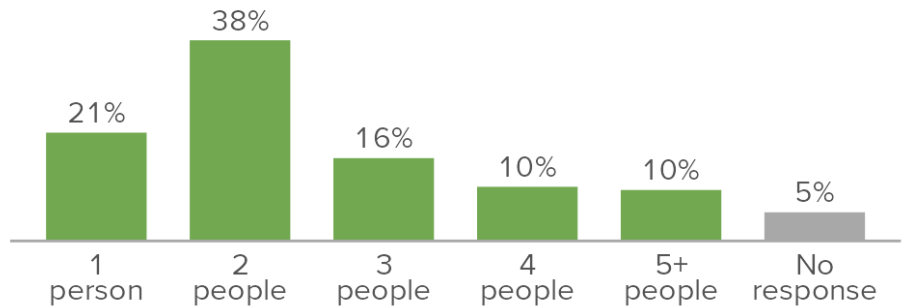
respondents own their home



Household size

2.5

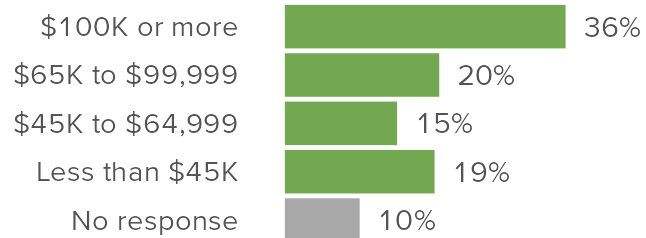
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



Household annual income

19%

of respondents reported household incomes falling under \$65K



Emergency funds

10%

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

Trouble making ends meet

61%

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

Homelessness

90%

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



3 out of 10

respondents
LOVE where they live



Community participation

“We have annual neighborhood block parties which are a good way to network and meet the people in the community.”

“I love the sense of community I have with my neighbors.”

“I am not happy with the fact that so few of our citizens get involved these days... Leaving it to others seems to be the role of most of our community citizens.”

“Portland has a greatly supportive queer community, and I’ve gotten more help from them than I ever have from any government or organization.”

“Diversity of opinion is a shared value, however, that is more in theory than in actual practice. People seem to feel they have more permission these days to share their opinions but in a mean-spirited and aggressive manner — effectively nullifying a meaningful exchange of information.”

“It deserves better. The city and the state are floundering in their duty and opportunity to uphold the promise of this region.”

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.

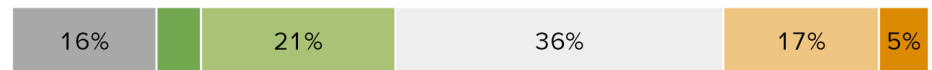
STRONGLY AGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

Take care of each other during hard times



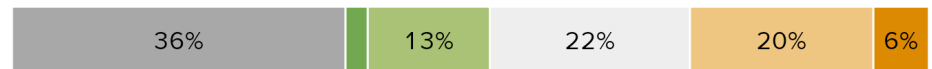
Come together to solve community problems



Attend community events



Go to church



Welcome newcomers



Community traditions

50%

of respondents participate in community traditions or annual events

Pride in community

56%

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

Voting

82%

of respondents report that they “always” vote

Community service

42%

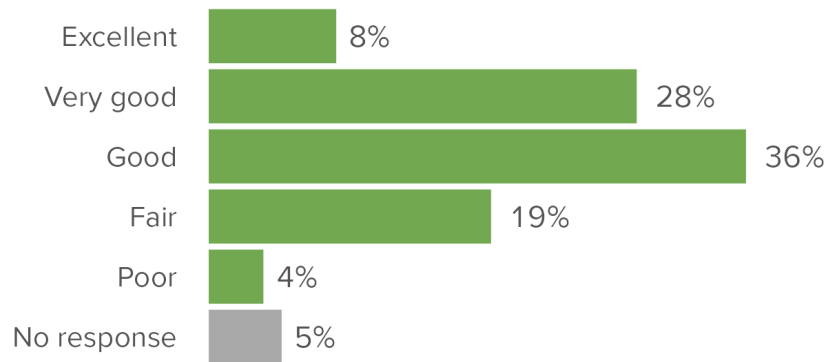
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



Physical health

73%

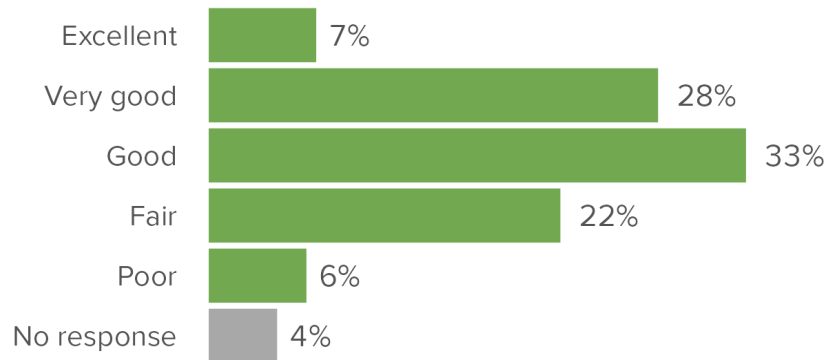
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



Mental health

68%

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



Medical and dental care

65%

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

25%

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

Substance abuse

56%

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

Mental illness

64%

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



Education

79%

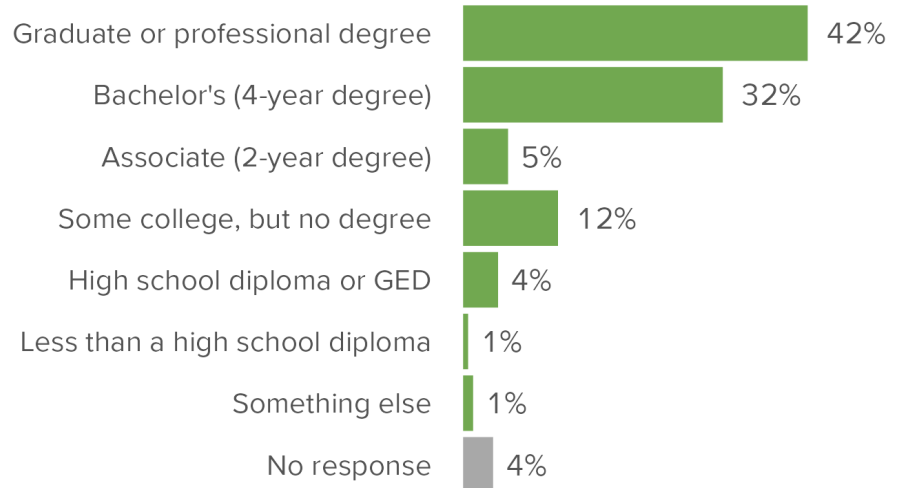
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

Students

13%

of respondents identified as a current student

Respondents' highest level of education completed



Employment

Wages

56%

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

Perception of unemployment

28%

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

Self-employment

20%

of respondents identified as self-employed

Employment status of respondents

Employed	69%
Full-time	55%
Part-time	14%
Unemployed	5%
Looking for work	1%
Not looking for work	2%
Unable to work due to disability	1%
Other	22%
Homemaker/manage your home	2%
Retired	15%
Something else	5%
No response	4%

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



Services

“The disparity between wages and housing costs has displaced so many people and we don’t have funded infrastructure to support mental health and addictions.”

“Sería bueno tener un lugar donde puedan cuidar a niños para bajos ingresos y así las familias saldrían adelante. Porque las guarderías son muy caras para pagarse.” (‘‘It would be nice to have a place where they can take care of children for [people with] low incomes and thus the families would get ahead. Because daycare is too expensive to pay for.’’)

‘‘I’m concerned about a lack of investment from the city. We need help for houseless folks, mental health care, housing (#1) and substance abuse treatment.’’

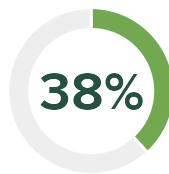
‘‘There’s a lack of mental health care, a healthy sense of community, and affordable housing.’’

‘‘I’m concerned about building equity for all in a housing market that prices many out of home purchases and some out of renting.’’

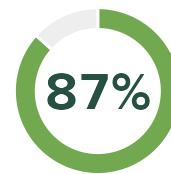
‘‘I am in walking distance from resources like grocery stores, performance halls, galleries and restaurants.’’

Respondents who reported they ‘‘agree’’ or ‘‘strongly agree’’ the following services are available where they live:

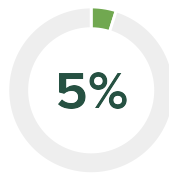
Good schools



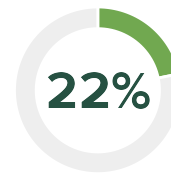
Enough places to shop



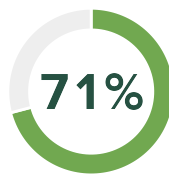
Affordable housing



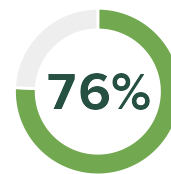
Good streets and roads



Reliable internet



Community-wide cell service



Healthy food

75%

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** Restaurants
- 3** Farmers markets

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

30%

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.



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the Regional Research Institute for Human Services at Portland State University



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