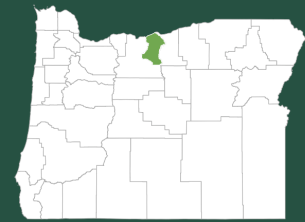




SHERMAN COUNTY

Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

1,686

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?*

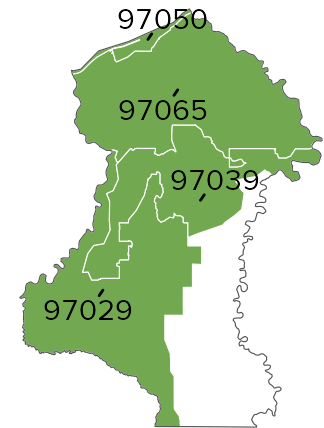
The following report provides a high-level summary of the survey data received from those who responded in Sherman County. Here the number of random household respondents outnumbered the Ford Family respondents. For clarity, the two data sets have been combined in the visualizations below, even though 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 Sherman County respondents: 72
Random household sample: 66, Ford Family sample: 6

Key Highlights

- Sherman County enjoys a border with three Oregon rivers: the Columbia, Deschutes and John Day.
- Respondents appreciate the smaller population size of their county, the sense of community closeness and social support networks they experience from their neighbors.
- Respondents from Sherman County sometimes struggle with their distance from necessities and amenities, including medical and emergency services.

All reporting zip codes

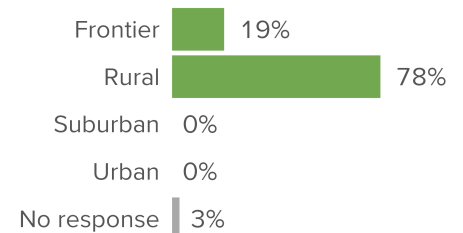


Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97065
- 2 97039
- 3 97029

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 Sherman 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

“I appreciate many things: The ‘small town’ atmosphere where I know the people in the community, the trust and relationships that knowing people leads to, a conservative attitude, and the space and freedom to live how I please.”

“We have beautiful geography, no traffic, no crowds, and great jobs.”

“I’m concerned about access to groceries, doctors and emergency services.”

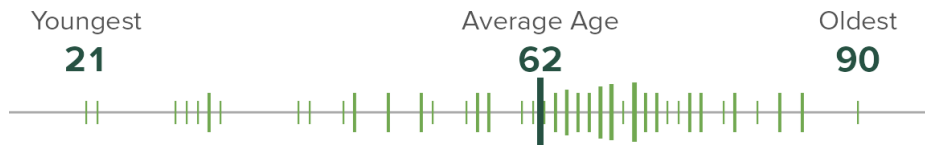
“I appreciate my view of the beautiful Columbia River and Klickitat Mountains.”

“Most who live here are honest, friendly — love their country, believe in the Constitution.”

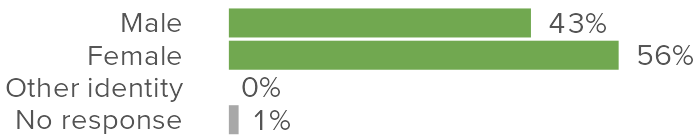
“There are not enough activities, not enough people and it’s too far to travel for necessities. But it’s home!”

Respondent Demographics

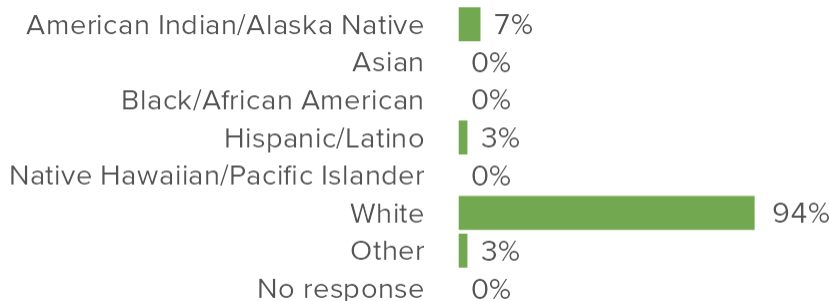
Age of respondents



Gender



Race/Ethnicity



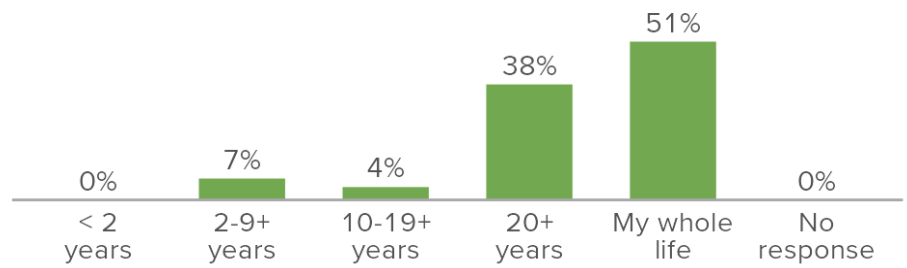
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



Years living in Oregon

89%

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



Homeownership

8 out of 10

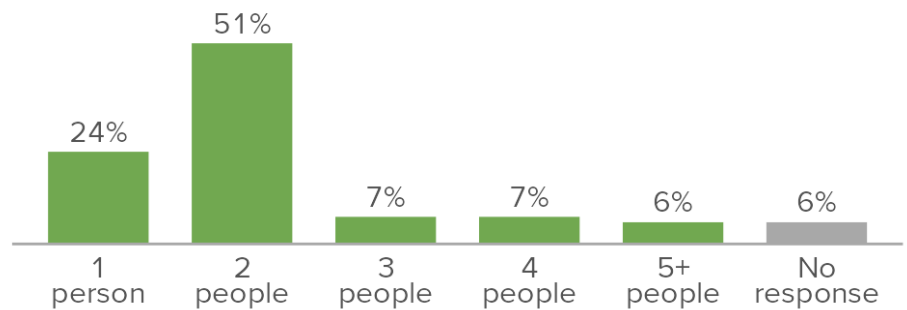
respondents own their home



Household size

2.1

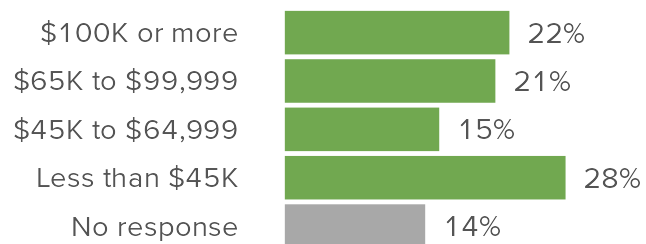
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



Household annual income

28%

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

25%

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

Homelessness

13%

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 kind and giving to ‘locals’ but can be unwelcoming to new families, especially if they don’t fit their ideal.”

“The community comes together in a time of need.”

“We are a very self-reliant community — solving our own problems — and we do not enjoy government mandates.”

“Ultimately the people here are good, hard-working people who care about their fellow man, but our society has become so divided and extreme. Sometimes I feel like an outcast because of the extreme conservative culture. I’m not very vocal about my values because I don’t want to make life harder for my kids.”

“I appreciate knowing nearly everyone here — and looking out for one another.”

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

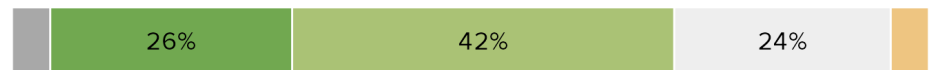
Take care of each other during hard times



Come together to solve community problems



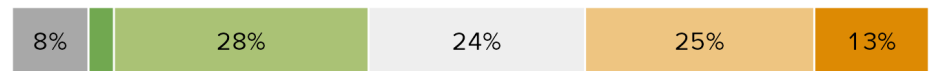
Attend community events



Go to church



Welcome newcomers



Community traditions

65%

of respondents participate in community traditions or annual events

Pride in community

75%

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

Voting

89%

of respondents report that they “always” vote

Community service

57%

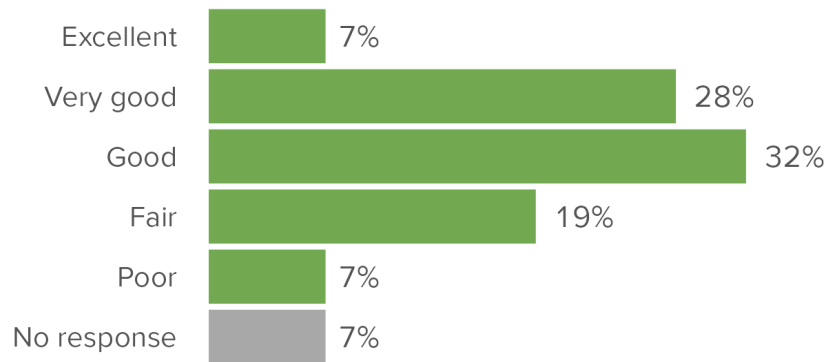
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



Physical health

67%

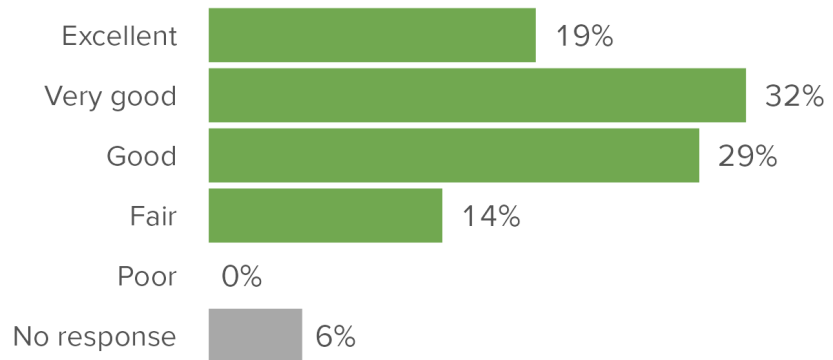
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



Mental health

81%

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



Medical and dental care

13%

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

4%

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

Substance abuse

24%

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

Mental illness

14%

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



Education

57%

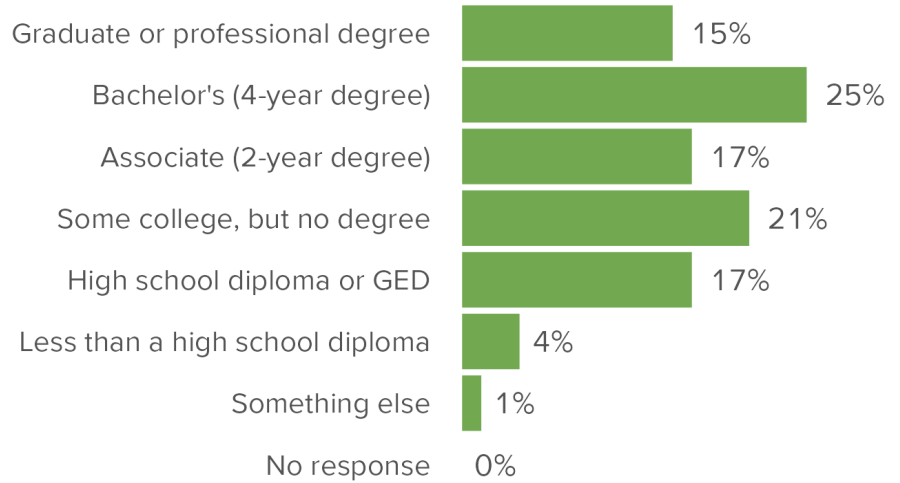
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

Students

1%

of respondents identified as a current student

Respondents' highest level of education completed



Employment

Wages

33%

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

Perception of unemployment

26%

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

Self-employment

36%

of respondents identified as self-employed

Employment status of respondents

Employed	44%
Full-time	35%
Part-time	10%
Unemployed	7%
Looking for work	0%
Not looking for work	1%
Unable to work due to disability	6%
Other	38%
Homemaker/manage your home	3%
Retired	32%
Something else	3%
No response	11%

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



Services

“There are no mental health [providers], hospitals, dentists or eye doctors in Sherman County — only one family medical provider. There are also no grocery stores or clothing stores, so for most shopping and medical needs, you must travel out of county.”

“We are used to traveling to receive services and to shop.”

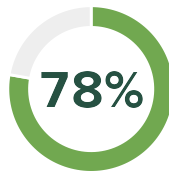
“There’s a lack of opportunities and housing for younger generations.”

“I wish we had more opportunities for activities for kids and more diversity and culture for them to experience.”

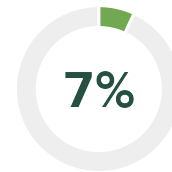
“We live 40 miles from the closest full grocery store and for many people that is a challenge.”

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

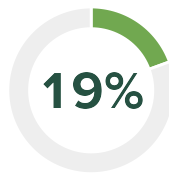
Good schools



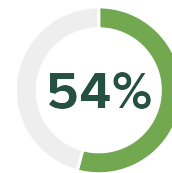
Enough places to shop



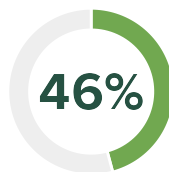
Affordable housing



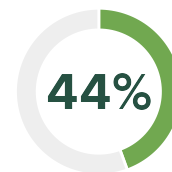
Good streets and roads



Reliable internet



Community-wide cell service



Healthy food

31%

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 Backyard or local garden
- 3 Superstores

Lack of child care

38%

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

Lack of places for youth to hang out

60%

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



April 2023

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Oregon Voices. www.orvoices.org.

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