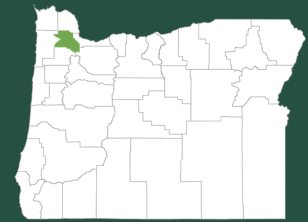




WASHINGTON COUNTY

Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

595,761

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?*

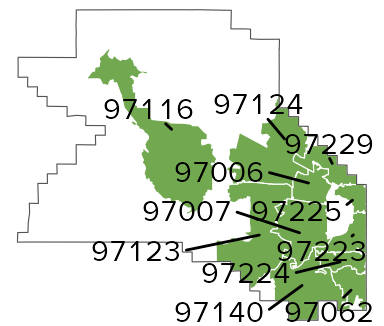
The following report provides a high-level summary of the survey data received from those who responded in Washington County. Here the number of Ford Family respondents outnumbered the random household respondents. For clarity, the two data sets have been combined in the visualizations below, even though 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 Washington County respondents: 78
Random household sample: 38, Ford Family sample: 40

Key Highlights

- Home to Nike, Pacific University and Lewis & Clark College, Washington County is the second most populous county in the state.
- Respondents indicate that the high cost of living makes day-to-day life difficult to survive.
- Respondents enjoy having access to parks, nearby green spaces and other amenities.

All reporting zip codes

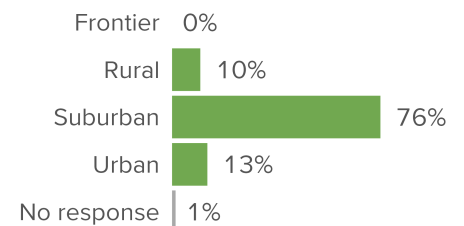


Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97123
- 2 97124
- 3 97062

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 Washington 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

“People are generally friendly. It feels safe to engage in outdoor activities. We have a park in the center of town with ready access to the river.”

“We have libraries, abundant nearby neighborhood parks, food options, a farmer’s market and forward-thinking leadership.”

“Hay mucha gente que vive en la calle.” (“There are many people living on the street.”)

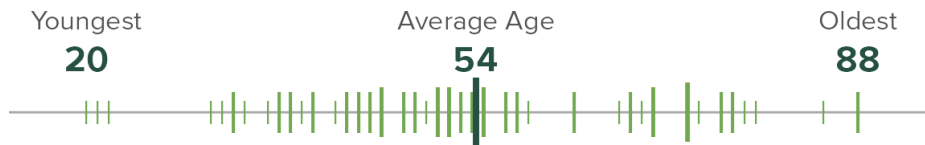
“We have clean air, beautiful outdoors, good people and good city management.”

“Inflation is making it harder to make ends meet.”

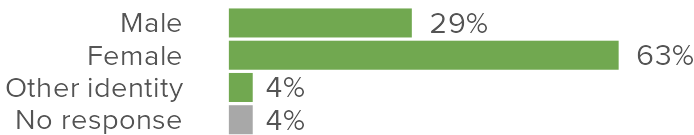
“I fear that our water will run out due to agriculture and more people moving out here. There is a battle going on in our community over our aquifer.”

Respondent Demographics

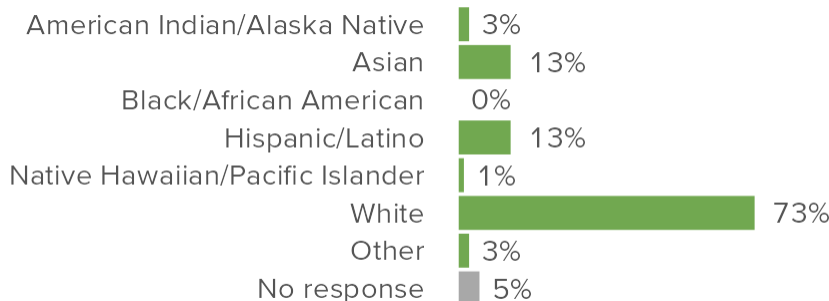
Age of respondents



Gender



Race/Ethnicity



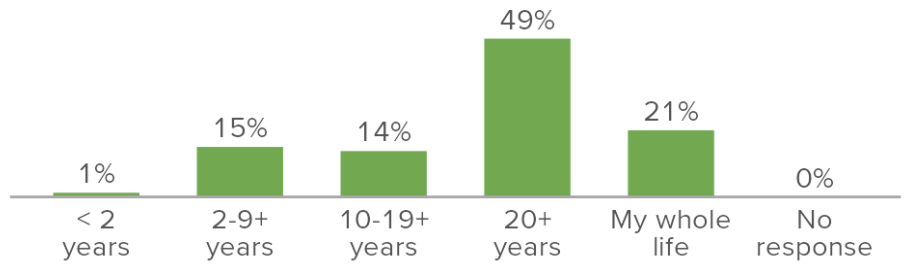
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



Years living in Oregon

69%

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



Homeownership

7 out of 10

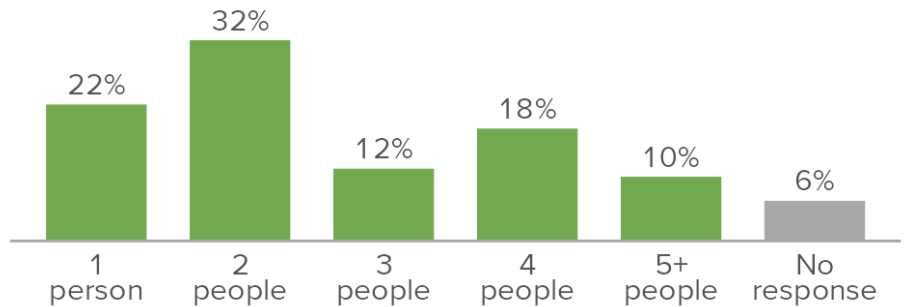
respondents own their home



Household size

2.7

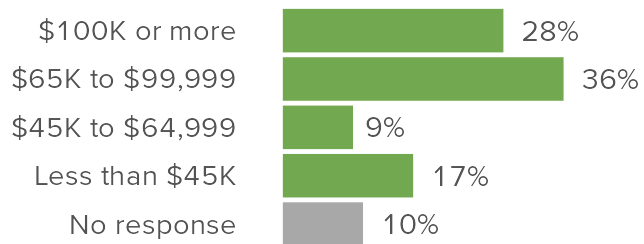
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



Household annual income

17%

of respondents reported household incomes falling under \$65K



Emergency funds

15%

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

Trouble making ends meet

53%

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

Homelessness

56%

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

“Community members are working closely with the city to raise and address resident concerns.”

“If I didn’t volunteer, I wouldn’t have food.”

“People in my community are very kind and intelligent. I can speak with them about topics ranging from the refugee crisis and structural racism to the stress of trying to raise decent human beings as parents.”

“I feel a bit isolated because I don’t know a lot of people my age... I’m not really in touch with what’s going on in our community.”

“My neighbors really look out for one another and take care of 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

46%

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

73%

of respondents report that they “always” vote

Community service

46%

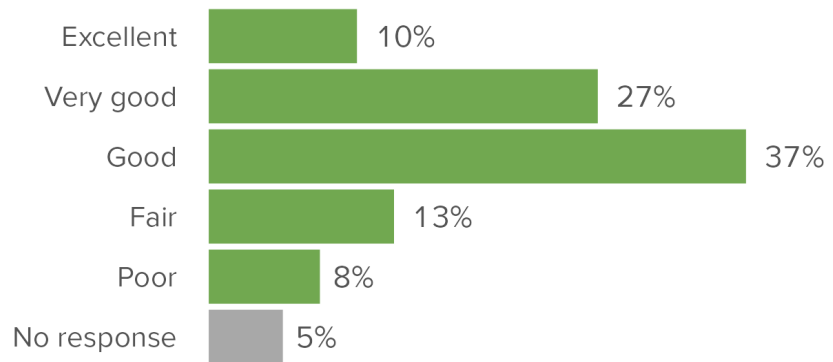
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



Physical health

74%

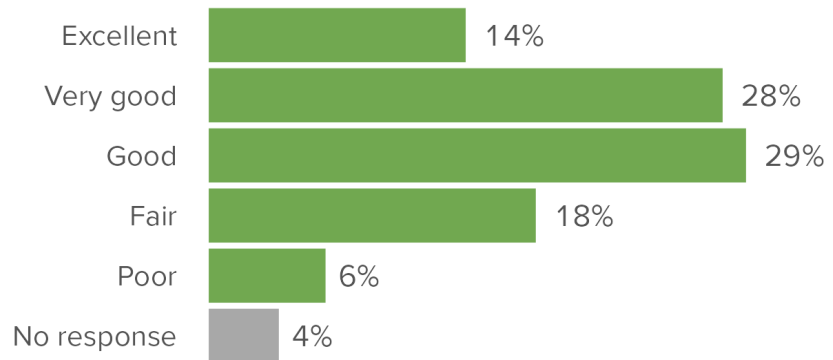
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



Mental health

72%

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



Medical and dental care

63%

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

21%

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

Substance abuse

27%

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

Mental illness

38%

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



Education

74%

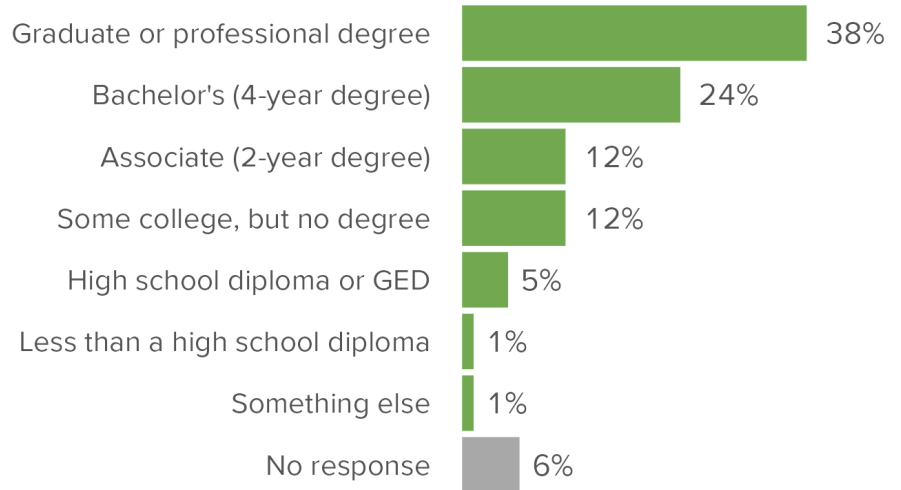
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

Students

9%

of respondents identified as a current student

Respondents' highest level of education completed



Employment

Wages

45%

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

Perception of unemployment

18%

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

Self-employment

18%

of respondents identified as self-employed

Employment status of respondents

Employed	62%
Full-time	46%
Part-time	15%
Unemployed	5%
Looking for work	4%
Not looking for work	1%
Unable to work due to disability	0%
Other	27%
Homemaker/manage your home	5%
Retired	22%
Something else	0%
No response	6%

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



Services

“I appreciate living close to transportation and other amenities — medical, groceries, etc.”

“There are not a lot of assistance programs in this area. I understand that there are limited resources and unlimited needs. I could at least breathe if housing was affordable.”

“Home prices are keeping certain groups out from owning a home.”

“There’s growing houselessness and desperation in many people.”

“We enjoy many of the amenities available in Portland without the inconveniences of residing in the city.”

“I’m concerned about transportation, traffic and road quality. Travel is much more dangerous now.”

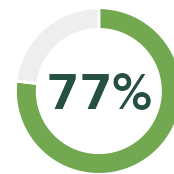
“We need so much more child care. It costs as much as our mortgage to pay for child care.”

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

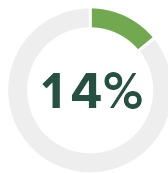
Good schools



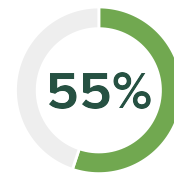
Enough places to shop



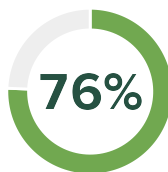
Affordable housing



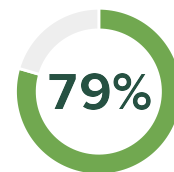
Good streets and roads



Reliable internet



Community-wide cell service



Healthy food

82%

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

27%

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

Lack of places for youth to hang out

33%

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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