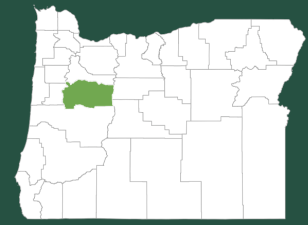




LINN COUNTY

Oregon Voices Data Summary



County Total Population

127,216

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?*

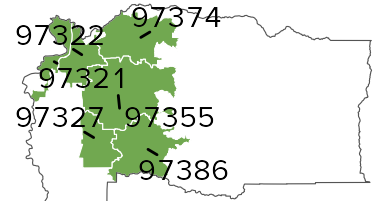
The following report provides a high-level summary of the survey data received from those who responded in Linn County. Here the number of random household respondents outnumbered the Ford Family respondents. For clarity, the two data sets have been combined in the visualizations below, even though the 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 Linn County respondents: 78
Random household sample: 50, Ford Family sample: 28

Key Highlights

- Bordered by the Willamette River, Linn County sits in the mid-Willamette Valley and is home to Linn-Benton Community College.
- Respondents in Linn County appreciate living in a small community with caring people.
- Respondents express the concern that state government does not represent the needs of their rural area.

All reporting zip codes

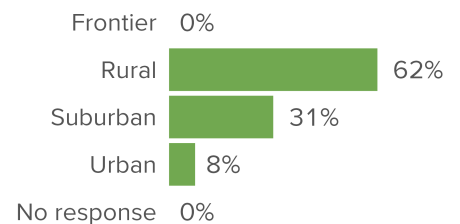


Top 3 reporting zip codes

- 1 97355
- 2 97322
- 3 97321



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 Linn 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

-  **Community, People**
Culture, relationships conflict, size, leadership, change
-  **Services/Economy**
Housing, infrastructure, healthcare, education, jobs, industry, businesses, shopping, cultural events

“I appreciate that it’s a small, caring community with a vibrant downtown.”

“I’m concerned that decisions and legislation aren’t made for our region but rather by the great state of Multnomah — and they are not appropriate for rural.”

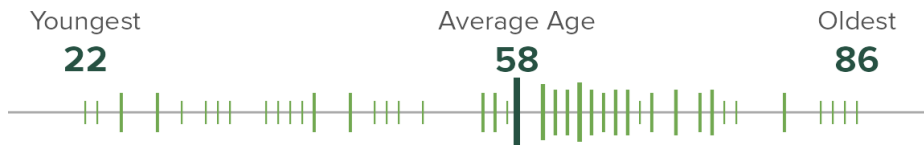
“I appreciate resources and opportunities available in the small rural community.”

“I’m concerned by rising housing costs and the ever-growing homeless issues.”

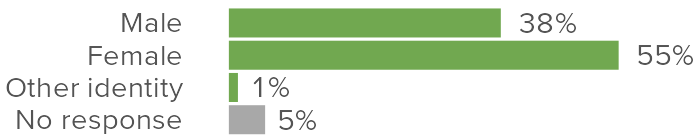
“I wish there were more opportunities for connection and open-mindedness in my community.”

Respondent Demographics

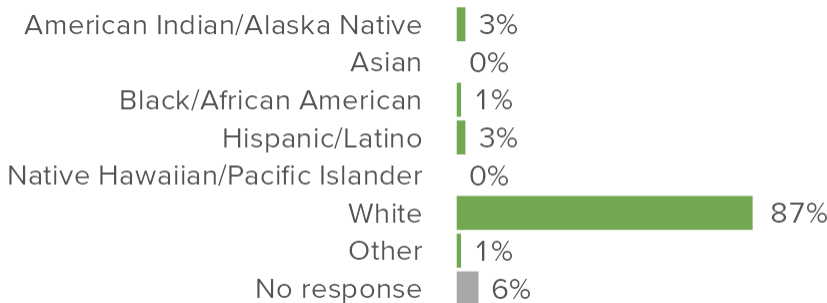
Age of respondents



Gender



Race/Ethnicity



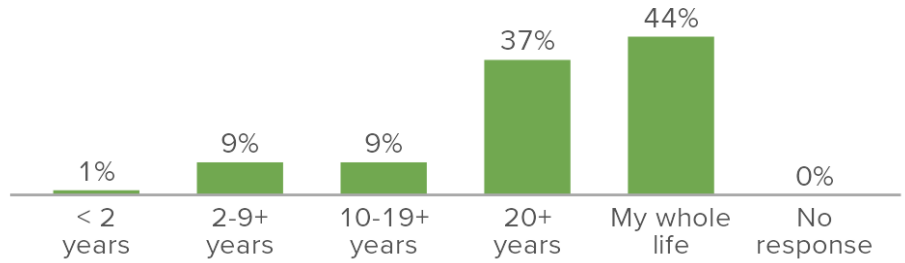
Percentages may sum to more than 100 if respondents selected multiple options.



Years living in Oregon

81%

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



Homeownership

8 out of 10

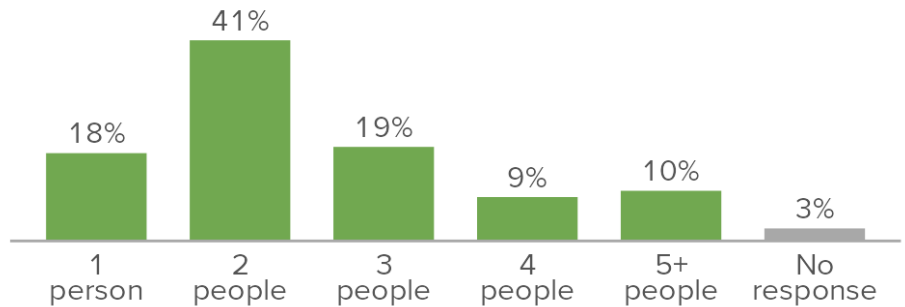
respondents own their home



Household size

2.6

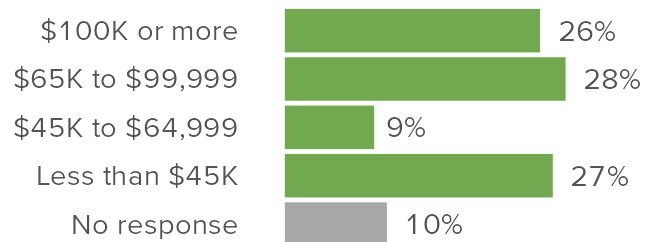
average number of people who live in the respondent's household



Household annual income

27%

of respondents reported household incomes falling under \$65K



Emergency funds

12%

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

Trouble making ends meet

51%

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

Homelessness

50%

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

“Community members know each other well and can be kind and helpful.”

“These past years have divided folks. There’s less understanding for people with different ways.”

“I’m happy here. Of course I see plenty of places where we need improvements, and I try to volunteer to help make that happen. I hope all others feel welcome here, but I think that the bullying towards newcomers and people of color makes that hard. I wish our local public officials would have more empathy.”

“People have become so divided and so much has changed, not always for the better. Our politicians need to start working for the people again and not just themselves. They do not live hand to mouth as so many people do and have lost touch with how things really work for the common folks out here.”

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.

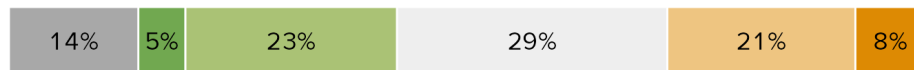
STRONGLY AGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

Take care of each other during hard times



Come together to solve community problems



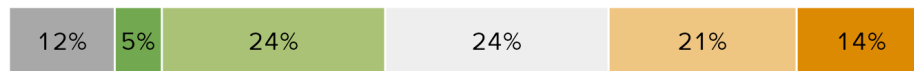
Attend community events



Go to church



Welcome newcomers



Community traditions

51%

of respondents participate in community traditions or annual events

Pride in community

62%

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

Voting

90%

of respondents report that they “always” vote

Community service

44%

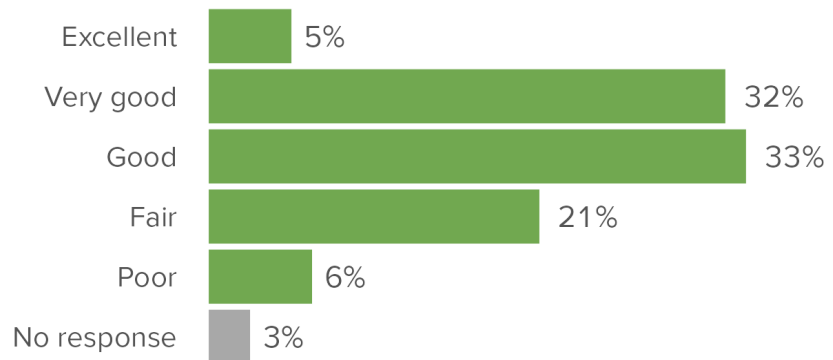
of respondents report that they volunteer at least once a month



Physical health

71%

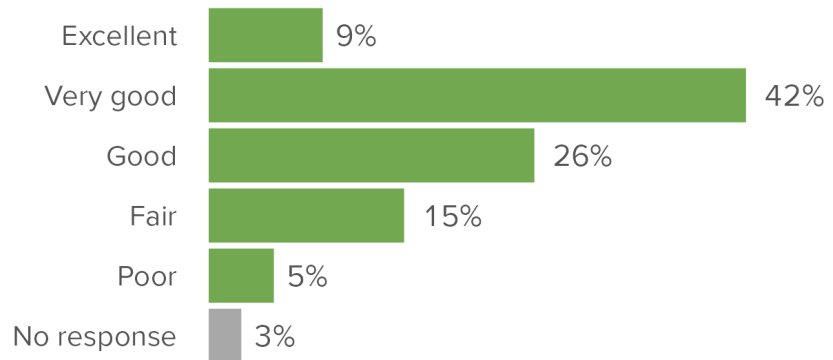
of respondents rated their physical health as “good” or better



Mental health

77%

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



Medical and dental care

58%

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

41%

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

Substance abuse

50%

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

Mental illness

46%

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



Education

54%

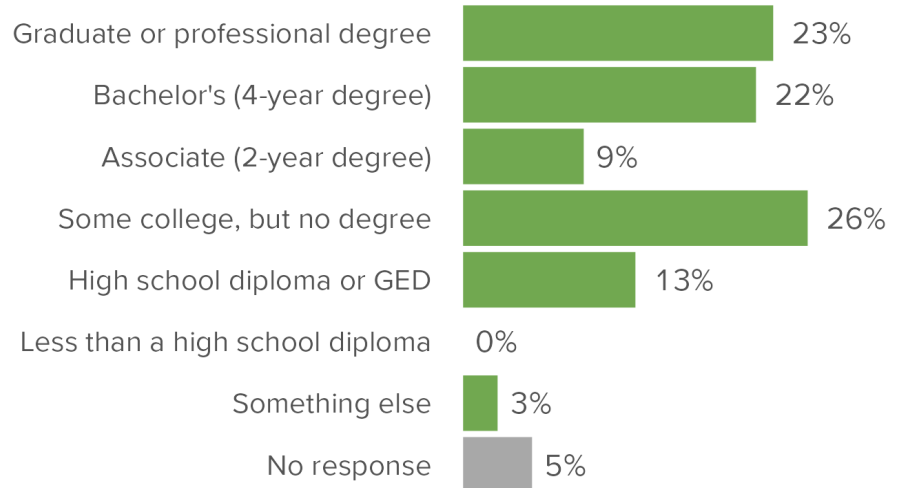
of respondents report having completed an associate degree or above

Students

6%

of respondents identified as a current student

Respondents' highest level of education completed



Employment

Wages

50%

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

13%

of respondents identified as self-employed

Employment status of respondents

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Employed | 50% |
| Full-time | 44% |
| Part-time | 6% |
| Unemployed | 9% |
| Looking for work | 1% |
| Not looking for work | 3% |
| Unable to work due to disability | 5% |
| Other | 36% |
| Homemaker/manage your home | 3% |
| Retired | 33% |
| Something else | 0% |
| No response | 5% |

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



Services

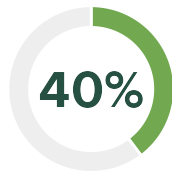
“We need more activities for the youth and more diversity of choices. We need to bring back core classes that really prepare our youth to deal with the future that is in front of them. We are more than a university town and need more help to make things better.”

“It’s a small town with the minimum amenities. We have a grocery store, gas, city water and sewer, a fire department and a city park.”

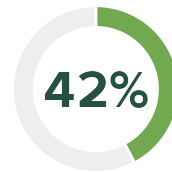
“There’s a lack of sidewalks and safe places for people to get exercise.”

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

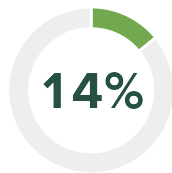
Good schools



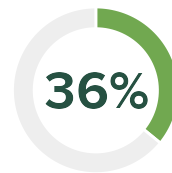
Enough places to shop



Affordable housing



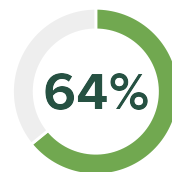
Good streets and roads



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 Backyard or local garden
- 3 Superstores

Lack of child care

44%

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

Lack of places for youth to hang out

55%

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



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Oregon Voices. www.orvoices.org.

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