

JOSEPHINE COUNTY SURVEY 2004



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OREGON SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY
5245 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
EUGENE, OR 97403-5245
TELEPHONE: 541-346-0824
FAX: 541-346-0388
EMAIL: osrl@oregon.uoregon.edu
WORLD WIDE WEB: <http://osrl.uoregon.edu>

By Derek Darves and Woody Carter, Ph.D.

SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

- Survey respondents lived in Josephine County zero to 82 years. The mean number of years was 19, the median 15 years.
- Respondents' ages ranged from 18 to 99, with a mean age of 55 and median age of 56.
- Sixty-three percent of the sample was female and 37% male. This sex distribution is typical for random digit dial surveys. The sex distribution in Josephine County reported by the Census Bureau in 2002 was 51% female 49% male. We provide weights to equilibrate the sample sex distribution with the Census estimates. All statistical estimates presented in the executive summary are based on the *unweighted* data unless the weighted values differ by more than 3%.
- Seventy-eight percent owned their own homes or other property within the County.
- 47% of respondents reported living in Grants Pass, 6% in Cave Junction. Based on reported zip code, 4% of respondents live in Williams, 4% in Selma, 3% in Merlin, 0-2% each in Wolf Creek, Sunny Valley, Kerby, Murphy, O'Brien, and Wilderville, and 2% from other locations. The population distribution among the various zip codes of Josephine County compares favorably with the 2000 Census population estimates. The table below compares the percentage of the sample within each zip code to the actual population reported by the 2000 Census. For all zip codes where data are available from the Census (10 of 12 zip codes), the sample percentages differ by no more than 4%.

Zip Code	Number of Sample Respondents	Percent of Sample	Census Population Estimate	Percent of Josephine County Population ¹
97497	7	2%	1,586	2%
97531	5	1%	400	1%
97532	11	3%	2,163	3%
97533	2	0%		
97534	3	1%	546	1%
97538	16	4%	1,934	3%
97543	7	2%	83	0%
97544	15	4%	2,053	3%
97523	30	7%	6,020	8%
97526	154	38%	32,122	42%
97527	141	35%	29,117	38%
97528	3	1%		

1: Based on the 2000 Census Population estimate for Josephine County of 75,726

ISSUES FACING JOSEPHINE COUNTY

- Ninety-six percent of respondents felt that Josephine County should “strictly enforce laws that ban the dumping of garbage on public lands,” a finding consistent with previous surveys of the County.¹
- Sixty-seven percent of respondents reported that they believe their community is at risk to wildfires, while 42% of respondents believe their home is at risk to wildfire.
- Fifty-four percent are familiar with fire evacuation procedures in their area and 18% have participated in the Home Owner Fuel Reduction Program. Almost 95% remove brush and other flammable material from their property each year.
- Forty-six percent live in homes built with fire resistant building materials (59% when the data are weighted by sex) and 70% think that local government should require that new homes be built with fire resistant materials.
- Forty-five percent of respondents favored a **temporary Jail Operations Levy** to fund the County Jail (9% strongly, 36% somewhat); 48% opposed it (20% somewhat, 28% strongly); 4% volunteered that they lacked enough information to answer; and 2% said they did not know.
- Forty-nine percent of respondents favored a **permanent Jail Operations Property Tax District** to fund the County Jail (16% strongly, 33% somewhat); 43% opposed it (18% somewhat, 26% strongly); 7% said they lacked enough information to answer; and 1.5% did not know.
- Seventy-six percent of respondents support requiring sentenced prisoners to reimburse the County for time spent in County Jail (60% strongly, 16% somewhat), while 20% opposed such a measure (9% somewhat, 11% strongly).
- Sixty-seven percent support a temporary tax levy to maintain current library service levels (29% strongly, 38% somewhat), while 28% oppose a levy (14% strongly, 14% somewhat).
- After explaining the present decline of “O and C” funds, interviewers asked respondents how much they support the idea of paying for County services through user fees. Seventeen percent of respondents strongly supported user fees, 43% somewhat favor them, 18% were opposed to user fees and 18% were strongly opposed.
- Twenty-nine percent “somewhat” or “strongly” favor a statewide sales tax, while 67% “somewhat” or “strongly” oppose such a measure (3% volunteered that they did not have enough information to answer).
- Fifty-seven percent of the sample believed Josephine County government’s main funding source is property taxes, 6% said direct state funding, 3% federal funding, 9% O & C funds, 2% user fees, less than 1% special levies, and 5% other sources. Fifteen percent did not know.
- Eleven percent would *most* like firms in the service sector to locate in Josephine County. 26% would prefer light manufacturing, 6.7% heavy manufacturing, 14% tourism, and 23% high-technology
- Asked which industry they would *least* prefer to locate in Josephine county, 8.4% reported service sector. Less than one percent reported light manufacturing while fully 55% would least like heavy manufacturing firms to locate in Josephine County. Almost 8% reported tourism and 3.9% high-technology.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

- Forty-five percent of survey respondents were employed either part- or full-time – down 3% since the 2002-2003 survey of Josephine County but within the margin of error. Thirty-six percent of the sample was retired, 5% keeping house, 3% disabled, 5% unemployed and looking for work, 2% perform volunteer work only, 3% students, and 1% are unemployed and not looking for work.

¹ “Don’t knows,” no answers, and refusals complete totals of less than 100%. Typically fewer than 3% of respondents answered questions in this manner.

- The typical respondent reported achieving some college but no degree, 33%. Nine percent left school before completing a high school diploma and 26% completed high school. Six percent obtained an Associate's degree (11.5% in the weighted dataset), while 15% of the sample held a Bachelor's degree. Seven percent of respondents held graduate degrees.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Asked how involved they are "in helping Josephine County government make the County a better place to live," 6% said they were "very involved," 40% said "somewhat involved," and 54% reported no involvement.

LIFE IN JOSEPHINE COUNTY

- Sixty-one percent of residents felt positive about the County, 11% felt negative, and 28% felt neutral.
- Rating the livability of Josephine County, 18% found it an excellent place to live, 32% as very good, 37% good, 11% fair, and 3% poor.
- Forty-seven percent of the sample feel "very safe" living in Josephine County, 44% "somewhat safe," 7% "not very safe," and 2% felt "not at all safe."
- Fifty-eight percent of respondents offered suggestions for how to make the County safer.
- 51% believe the County is growing "too fast," 40% said growth was "just right," and 7% "too slowly."
- Overall, 5% of the sample said that County government does an "excellent" job, 46% said "good," 35% "fair," 11% "poor," and 2% did not know.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY SERVICES

As with previous study years, a large portion of the survey concerned respondents' visits to a variety of County offices in the past five years. (For those respondents who moved to the County in the past five years, 20% of the sample, these questions were re-phrased to ask about since they arrived.) For each office a respondent visited, interviewers asked them to rate the "quality of customer service they received from staff members there" as excellent, good, fair, or poor.

- Sixty-six percent of the sample visited the **County Library**. Among library visitors, 53% rated its service excellent, 42% good, 3% fair and less than one percent poor.
- Thirty-five percent visited the **County Public Health and Community Action Department**. Of visitors to that department, 36% rated customer service excellent, 44% good, 9% fair and 10% rated it poor. Less than one percent voluntarily reported that "service varied."
- Fifty-four percent visited the **County Clerk and Recorder's Office**. Of visitors, 38% rated service there as excellent, 48% good, 9% fair, and 5% poor.
- Thirty-seven percent visited the **County Planning Office**. Among visitors, 34% rated the service excellent, 33% good, 15% fair, and 17% poor. Less than one percent voluntarily reported that "service varied."
- Thirty-one percent visited the **County Sheriff's Department**. Twenty-four percent of visitors rated service excellent (down from 36% in the previous survey), 38% good, 13% fair, 23% poor (up from 16% in the previous survey), and 1% said it varied.
- Thirty percent of the sample had contact with the **Animal Protection and Regulation Department**. Of those, 30% rated service excellent, 43% good, 11% fair, and 14% poor.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION

- Thirty-six percent of the sample expressed "a lot" of interest in keeping up-to-date on County government issues, activities and plans, 38% expressed "some" interest, 17% "a little" interest and 9% said they were "not at all" interested.
- Among those interested in keeping up to date, 5% rated County government "excellent" in its public communication, 32% "good," 39% "fair," and 20% "poor."
- Again, among those interested in County government, 61% named daily or weekly newspapers as their main source of information on County government issues. Another 10% get information

through word of mouth, 9% rely on television, 3% on the County newsletter, 5% from the radio, and 12% get information from schools, the workplace, Internet, a combination, or other sources.

- Among those interested in keeping up to date with County issues, activities and plans, 26% (97 individuals) reported ever having watched Channel 14, the Government Access Channel.
- Thirty-three percent of the sample “trust Josephine County government to do what is right” often or always (30% “often,” 4% “always”). 44% trust the County “sometimes,” 10% “rarely,” 5% “never,” and 7% volunteered that they “don’t know.”

METHODOLOGY

- The University of Oregon Survey Research Laboratory completed 406 anonymous telephone interviews with adult residents in Josephine County between January 8-30 of 2004.
- One percent of the survey sample corresponds to approximately 757 Josephine County residents.
- The AAPOR response rate was 53% and the refusal rate was 10%.²
- For the total sample, the margin of error for a variable with a 50-50 proportional split is 5 percentage points, at the 95% confidence level. This means readers can be 95% sure that the true population figure is between 45% and 55% (i.e., 50% \pm 5 percentage points). For a variable with a 90-10 proportional split the margin of error is 3 percentage points (i.e., 90% \pm 3 percentage points). To assess the margin of error for regional, education, voting, or other subsamples, see:
<http://osrl.uoregon.edu/papers/sampler/>

² See the accompanying “AAPOR Outcome Rate Documentation” for a detailed description of how response and refusal rates are calculated.