

Create the Central Oregon you want to live in.

In 2023, community-engaged researchers from OHSU & OSU-Cascades set out to measure community belonging to:

Learn what creates a sense of belonging among people living in Central Oregon.

Share the results to inform future public health policies, programs, and initiatives to promote sense of belonging and improve community health.

Responses were collected between January and July 2023 from people 18 years and older using a survey and focus groups.

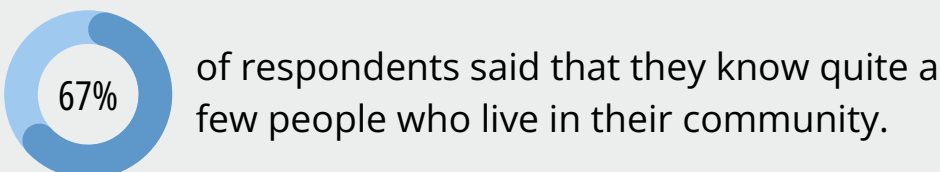
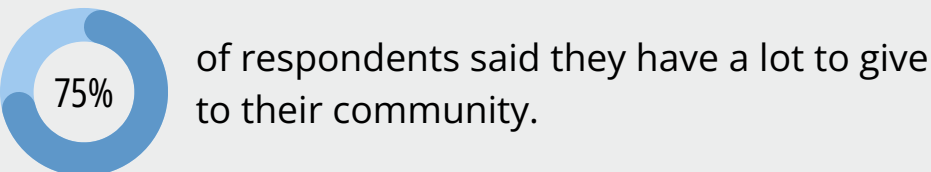


Here's what we learned from Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC).

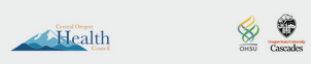
Belonging is...

- Feeling a sense of safety.**
- Connecting with new faces.**
- Using stories to create connection.**
- Conversing in a shared language.**
- Engaging in curiosity.**

What strengths stand out for BIPOC community members?



Learn more about the project results and resources at <http://belongingcentraloregon.org>



What barriers to belonging did Black, Indigenous, People of Color identify?

Without a sense of **safety**, it is challenging to feel accepted and valued.



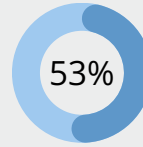
35% of respondents may not feel safe in public spaces.

Politics can be polarizing and disruptive to creating positive community connections.

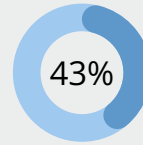
The region is **lacking gathering spaces** for varied ages and experiences.

Intentional and unintentional **discrimination** continues in Central Oregon.

“Supporting minorities who are willing to share their culture & traditions so they are not tokenized increases partnership and community.”



53% of respondents believe they are treated fairly in their community.



43% of respondents feel they belong in their community.

About the Sample

- 1,019 total survey respondents
- **195 (19%)** identified as **BIPOC**

“Broader representation in cultural events, along with spaces to educate community members can help lessen the impact of discrimination.”

“Interrupt harm by encouraging peers from within similar communities to be brave & speak up so others have representation.”

“Language is central to connecting with others and in feeling a sense of belonging, it makes you feel at home.”

Let's create belonging.

Community Recommendations:

- Use inclusive language.
- Create connection through storytelling.
- Amp up access to educational tools.
- Create spaces that encourage connection.

Thank you to all the community partners who shared their perspectives on the study findings. Special thanks to the [Restorative Justice & Equity Group](#) for contributing to the creation of these materials.

